



Wissahickon School District

True Blue with a Heart of Gold

Budget Status

Fiscal Year 2026-2027

February 09, 2026



Finance Committee Purpose & Outcomes

Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget – February Update

Tonight's focus for the committee:

- Confirm shared understanding of budget assumptions and fiscal constraints.
- Discuss key pressures that will shape staffing and facilities decisions.
- Provide guidance on whether administration should pursue planning at the tax-rate exception.



Wissahickon School District
True Blue with a Heart of Gold

The Act 1 Index for 2026-2027

PDE set the Act 1 Index at 3.5%. This is the limit a school district can increase real estate taxes.

To exceed the Act 1 Index, a district must go out to referendum or qualify for an exception.

Wissahickon School District qualified for the Special Education Exception, and at the January 27 Board Meeting, the School Board authorized Administration to apply for this exception. If approved, the District can increase local real estate taxes by 5.1%.

NOTE: This does not set the tax rate. It only provides the flexibility for the District to exceed the Act 1 Index.



2026-2027 Budget Timeline

- 01/29/2026 – Deadline to advertise for the Act 1 Exception or approve resolution not to exceed the Act 1 Index.
 - **The Wissahickon School Board approved Administration to apply for the exception. As such, the required advertisement was completed.**
- 02/18/2026 – Deadline to adopt Preliminary Budget.
- 02/23/2026 – Deadline to submit Preliminary Budget to PDE.
- 02/26/2026 – Deadline to advertise filing for exception.
 - **This was included in the 01/29/2026 advertisement and is completed.**
- 03/05/2026 – Deadline to complete exception request.
- 03/25/2026 – Deadline for PDE to notify the District if the exception is approved.
- 06/30/2026 – Deadline to approve Final Budget.

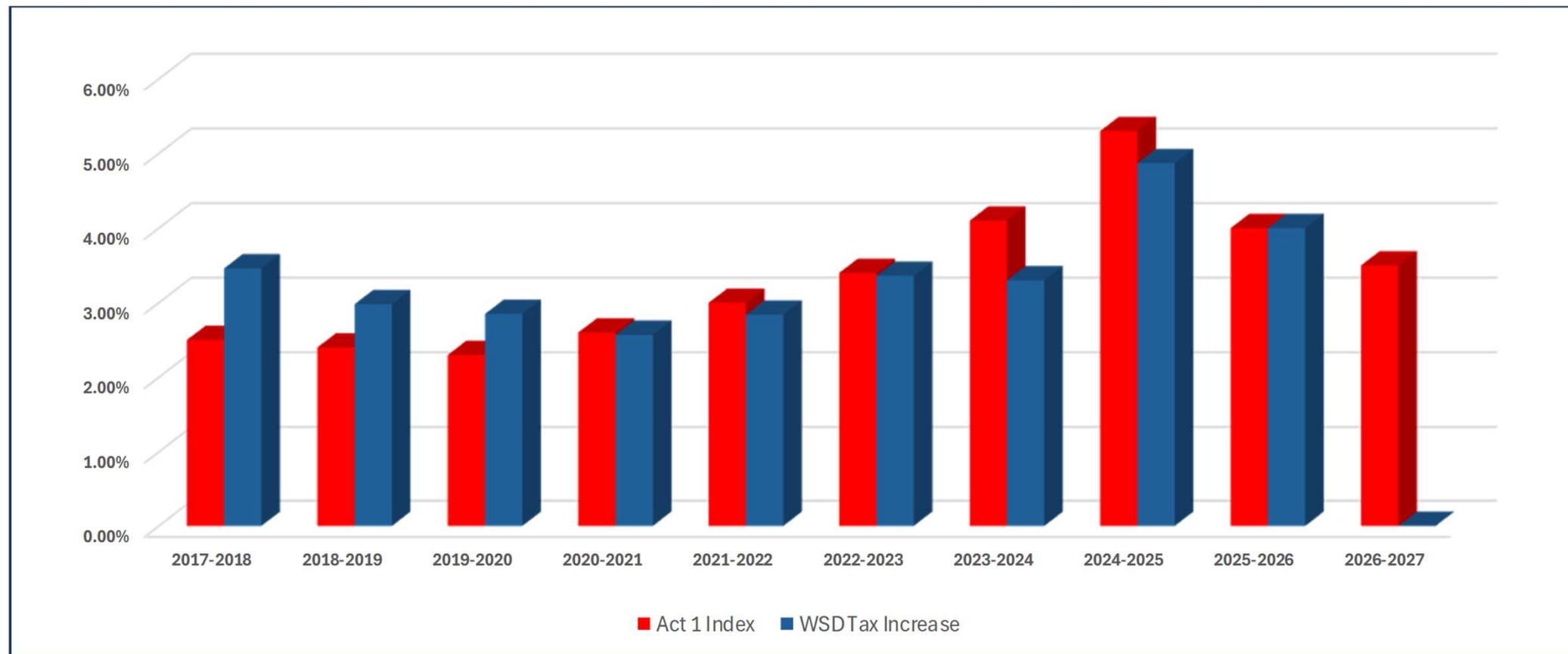


2026-2027 Budget Meetings

- 02/09/2026 – Finance Committee Meeting.
- **02/18/2026 – Special Meeting to Approve Preliminary Budget.**
- 03/10/2026 – Finance Committee Meeting.
- 04/13/2026 – Finance Committee Meeting.
- **04/27/2026 – Board Work Session - Approve Proposed Final Budget.**
- 05/11/2026 – Finance Committee Meeting.
- **06/01/2026 – Board Voting Session - Approve Final Budget.**



Wissahickon Millage Increase v Act 1 Index

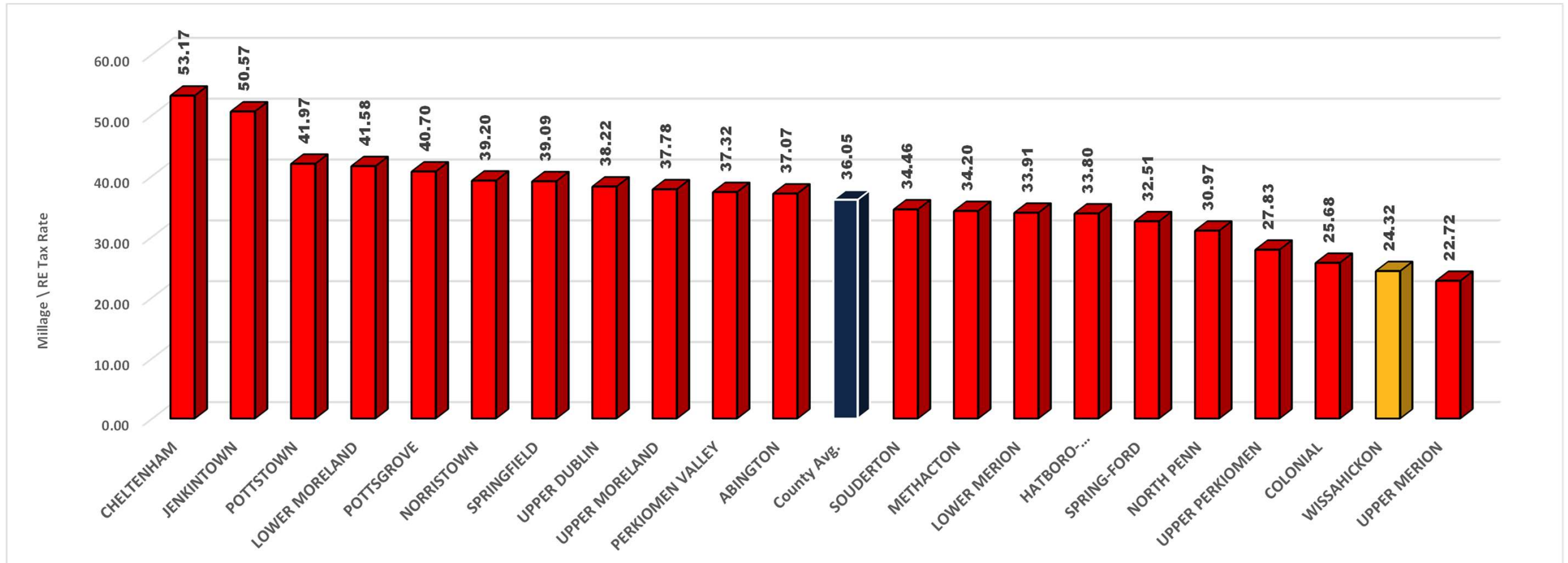


Fiscal Year	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
Act 1 Index	2.50%	2.40%	2.30%	2.60%	3.00%	3.40%	4.10%	5.30%	4.00%	3.50%
WSD Tax Increase	3.46%	2.98%	2.85%	2.57%	2.84%	3.36%	3.30%	4.87%	4.00%	



County Millage Rate Comparison FY 2025-2026

Wissahickon School District is the 2nd lowest millage (real estate tax rate) in the county.





2026-2027 Budget Considerations

Budget Development

- Budgets aligned to actual expenditures.
- Budgets created by Building Principals and Department Heads.
- Staffing requests included; however, still under review by administration.
- Revenue projections recalibrated.
- Interest income volatile.
- Uses Act 1 Exception .
- Assessed Values are decreasing causing a drop in Real Estate Tax Revenue.

Major Cost Drivers

- Contractual salary increases included in the budget.
- Utilities projected +25%.
- Transportation contract +8%.
- Facilities funding gap (\$200k insufficient).
- Inflation/tariffs affecting goods and services.
- Prescription costs increased by 40%.
- Increasing staff to meet the growing student needs.



2026-2027 Budget Summary

Revenue

Local Revenue totals \$111.9M.

- \$93.5M coming from Real Estate Taxes (83.6%).
- \$11.9M generated from Earned Income Tax (10.7%).
- \$1.8M derived from Interest Income (1.6%).

State Revenue totaling \$26.9M.

- \$11.6M State Subsidy for PSERS reimbursement (43.0%).
- \$4.8M Basic Education Subsidy (17.9%).
- \$4.5M Tax Relief allocation (16.7%).

Federal & Other Revenue

- \$0.8M in total from all sources.



2026-2027 Budget Summary

Expenditures

Salary \$70.0M (49.7% of Total Expenditures).

Benefits \$41.7M (29.6% of Total Expenditures).

- \$26.8M associated with PSERS (\$21.8M/55.5%) and Social Security (\$5.0M/12.5%).
- \$8.8M of Medical coverage costs (21.2%).

Buildings & Departments \$24.5M (17.4% of Total Expenditures).

- \$6.7M attributed to Transportation costs (27.2%).
- \$3.9M makes up the Student Services budget (16.1%).
- \$3.7M of Facility costs covering custodial, maintenance & ground (15.2%).

Debt Service & Transfers \$4.7M (3.3% of Total Expenditures)

- \$2.9M of Bond Payments & \$1.7M transfer to Capital.



2026-2027 Budget Summary

Budget Overview High Level

Revenues total \$139.6M.

- 4.6% increase from current budgeted revenue.

Expenditures amount to \$140.9M.

- 5.7% increase from current budgeted expenditures.

Budget shortfall of \$1.4M.



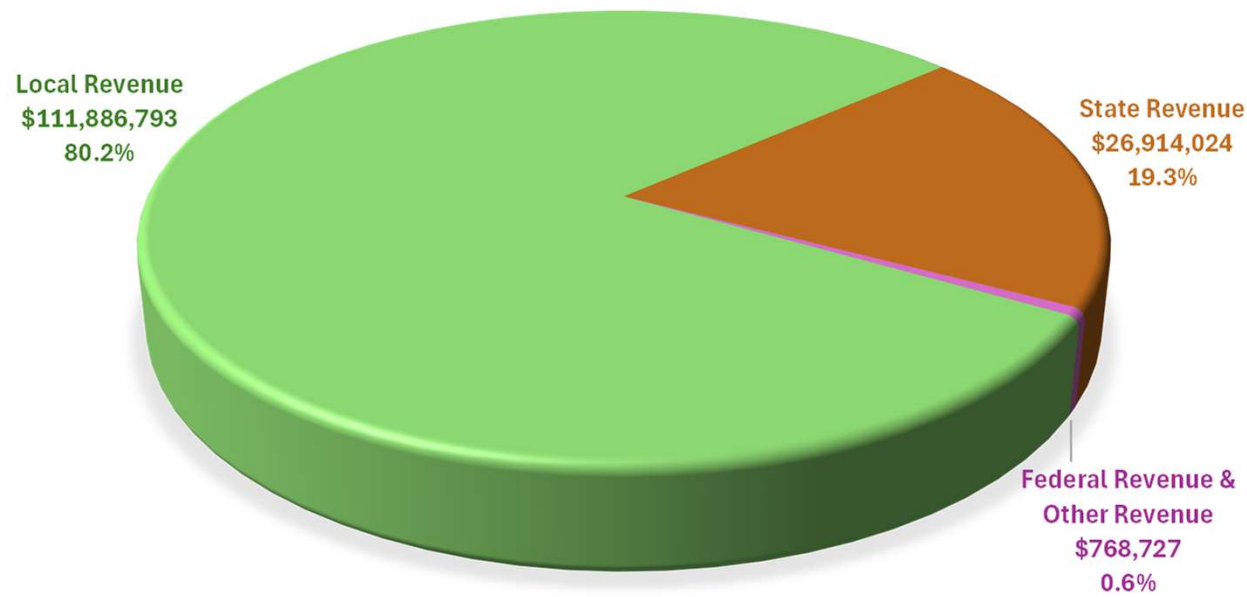
2026-2027 Preliminary Budget Summary

Revenue	2021-2022 Actual	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Actual	2025-2026 Budget	2026-2027 Budget
Local Revenue	\$93,732,194	\$96,182,999	\$100,650,194	\$104,757,696	\$106,534,093	\$111,886,793
State Revenue	\$21,442,476	\$23,242,945	\$23,813,375	\$25,688,753	\$26,012,665	\$26,914,024
Federal Revenue	\$1,395,200	\$1,561,544	\$1,348,183	\$881,741	\$823,934	\$756,727
Other Revenue	\$47,691	\$48,197	\$12,590	\$43,126	\$12,000	\$12,000
Total Revenue	\$116,617,561	\$121,035,684	\$125,824,342	\$131,371,316	\$133,382,693	\$139,569,544

Expenditures	2021-2022 Actual	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Actual	2025-2026 Budget	2026-2027 Budget
Salary	\$55,763,208	\$58,894,638	\$60,628,890	\$62,905,213	\$65,868,301	\$70,033,312
Benefits	\$33,786,028	\$34,441,513	\$35,454,900	\$36,718,916	\$40,843,964	\$41,724,126
Buildings	\$1,377,010	\$1,371,013	\$1,628,765	\$1,630,131	\$1,520,591	\$1,638,985
Departments	\$18,951,093	\$19,506,516	\$21,458,978	\$20,802,380	\$20,618,122	\$22,887,964
Debt Service \ Transfer	\$5,229,281	\$5,795,976	\$5,812,830	\$3,672,640	\$4,531,714	\$4,654,893
Total Expenditures	\$115,106,619	\$120,009,656	\$124,984,363	\$125,729,280	\$133,382,693	\$140,939,281



2026-2027 Budgeted Revenue Summary



Budgeted Revenue Sources

Local Revenue	\$111,886,792.57	80.2%
State Revenue	\$26,914,024.18	19.3%
Federal Revenue & Other Revenue	\$768,727.36	0.6%

TOTAL REVENUE **\$139,569,544.11**

Top 5 Budgeted Revenue Sources

Real Estate Taxes	\$93,549,537.27	67.0%
Earned Income Tax	\$11,937,172.44	8.6%
Retirement (PSERS) Reimbursement	\$11,585,954.10	8.3%
Basic Education Subsidy	\$4,808,566.00	3.4%
Property Tax Relief	\$4,487,780.41	3.2%
All Other Revenue Sources	\$13,200,533.89	9.5%



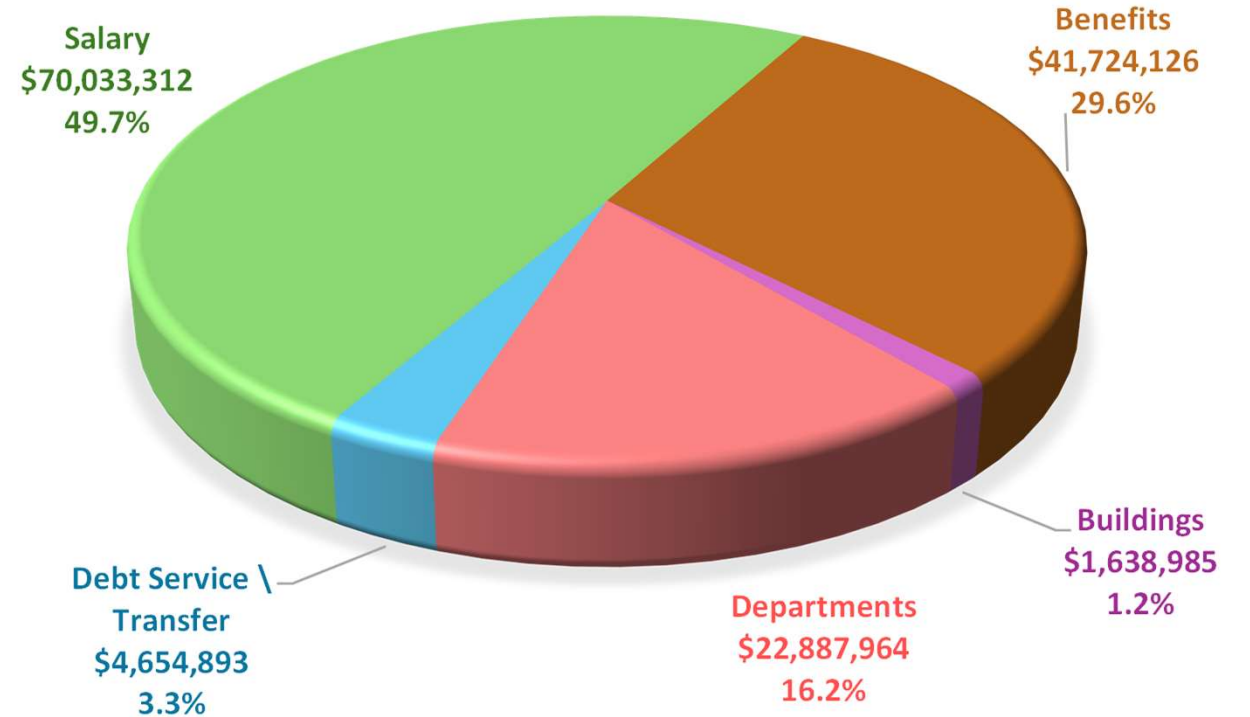
2026-2027 Budgeted Expenditure Summary

Budgeted Expenditure Categories

Salary	\$70,033,311.88	49.7%
Benefits	\$41,724,126.34	29.6%
Buildings	\$1,638,985.46	1.2%
Departments	\$22,887,964	16.2%
Debt Service \ Transfer	\$4,654,892.98	3.3%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$140,939,280.92	

Top 5 Budgeted Expenditures

Professional Educational - Reg Salaries	\$49,261,139.49	35.0%
PSERS Retirement Contributions	\$23,171,908.19	16.4%
Medical Insurance	\$8,842,944.61	6.3%
Administration - Reg Salaries	\$6,350,839.68	4.5%
Contracted Carriers	\$6,061,163.24	4.3%





2026-2027 Budget Process Next Steps

Committee Guidance

- Is the committee comfortable continuing planning at a 5.1% tax-rate assumption pending PDE approval?

Coming Days & Months

- 02/18/2026 – Special Public Board Meeting to Approve Preliminary Budget.
- 03/10/2026 – Finance Committee Meeting.
- 03/2026 – 06/2026 – Administration to refine and adjust the Budget.



Appendix

- Detailed local revenue sources
- Salary/benefit breakdowns
- Department and building expenditures
- Debt service details
- Property tax analysis



Wissahickon School District

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QUESTIONS?





2026-2027 Budgeted Local Revenue

LOCAL REVENUE

- Real Estate Taxes total \$93.5M.
 - **Millage Rate increased by 5.1%; ACT 1 is 3.5%.**
 - **Millage increased to 26.58.**
 - **3 Year Average Collection Rate is 97.2%.**
 - **Assessed Values total \$3.8B.**
- EIT projection by Berkheimer roughly \$11.9M.
- Interest Income estimated to be \$1.8M.
- RE Transfer Taxes are projected to be \$1.5M.
- Delinquent Real Estate Taxes anticipated to be \$1.2M.
- All Other Local Revenue total \$1.9M.

Local Revenue Sources		
Local Real Estate Taxes	\$93,549,537	83.6%
Earned Income Tax	\$11,937,172	10.7%
Interest Income	\$1,802,330	1.6%
Real Estate Transfer Taxes	\$1,452,821	1.3%
Delinquent Real Estate Taxes	\$1,204,690	1.1%
All Other Local Revenue	\$1,940,242	1.7%
Total Local Revenue	\$111,886,793	



2026-2027 Budgeted Salary Expenditures

Salary Categories	2021-2022 Actual	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Actual	2025-2026 Budget	2026-2027 Budget
Administrative Salaries	\$4,736,383	\$5,106,299	\$5,085,243	\$5,949,577	\$6,234,467	\$6,808,340
Professional Salaries	\$41,555,475	\$43,027,432	\$44,343,954	\$45,421,410	\$47,592,851	\$51,145,963
Crafts & Trades Salaries	\$480,624	\$486,780	\$496,312	\$528,890	\$531,563	\$572,646
Operative & Labor Salaries	\$2,542,707	\$2,637,294	\$2,756,349	\$2,816,999	\$3,069,560	\$2,739,533
Technical Salaries	\$319,932	\$298,629	\$364,560	\$365,056	\$386,092	\$401,511
Instructional Assistant Salaries	\$3,693,679	\$4,545,326	\$4,736,507	\$4,822,788	\$5,292,523	\$5,563,864
Office & Clerical Salaries	\$1,989,227	\$2,201,052	\$2,245,962	\$2,355,349	\$2,379,913	\$2,432,616
Service Work Salaries	\$123,412	\$252,389	\$280,530	\$329,270	\$324,792	\$312,312
Tax Collectors	\$56,829	\$57,341	\$57,181	\$57,938	\$56,541	\$56,528
Cost Containment	\$264,939	\$282,097	\$262,291	\$257,935	\$0	\$0
Total of All Salaries	\$55,763,208	\$58,894,638	\$60,628,890	\$62,905,213	\$65,868,301	\$70,033,312

NOTE: Cost Containment was treated as a benefit previously, but has been correctly moved to salary in the 2025-2026 Budget.



2026-2027 Budgeted Benefit Expenditures

Benefit Categories	2021-2022 Actual	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Actual	2025-2026 Budget	2026-2027 Budget
PSERS Retirement Contributions	\$19,399,135	\$20,424,913	\$20,401,447	\$21,098,618	\$21,800,398	\$23,171,908
Social Security	\$4,121,212	\$4,310,437	\$4,468,126	\$4,619,884	\$5,036,747	\$5,221,692
Medical Insurance	\$7,356,540	\$6,629,460	\$7,701,414	\$7,694,658	\$9,885,241	\$8,842,945
Prescription Insurance	\$1,640,695	\$1,669,628	\$1,495,251	\$1,822,693	\$2,350,268	\$2,880,788
Dental Insurance	\$468,595	\$472,021	\$481,902	\$458,470	\$522,041	\$515,068
Eye Care Insurance	\$45,757	\$50,189	\$52,668	\$51,620	\$62,977	\$72,642
Unemployment	\$0	\$56,751	\$25,621	\$12,721	\$25,000	\$25,000
Workers Compensation	\$86,890	\$135,058	\$181,611	\$187,657	\$224,437	\$229,405
Income Protection Insurance	\$108,123	\$101,848	\$102,738	\$117,384	\$250,962	\$150,000
Life Insurance	\$96,929	\$103,885	\$84,581	\$94,933	\$191,966	\$100,000
403b Contributions	\$235,038	\$174,427	\$178,961	\$321,380	\$218,928	\$239,678
Tuition Reimbursement	\$227,115	\$312,897	\$280,579	\$238,899	\$275,000	\$275,000
Total of All Benefits	\$33,786,028	\$34,441,513	\$35,454,900	\$36,718,916	\$40,843,964	\$41,724,126



2026-2027 Budgeted Building Expenditures

Buildings	2021-2022 Actual	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Actual	2025-2026 Budget	2026-2027 Budget
Blue Bell	\$120,930	\$92,704	\$116,031	\$109,516	\$111,392	\$123,690
Lower Gwynedd	\$122,088	\$96,168	\$133,440	\$117,483	\$136,317	\$142,000
Shady Grove	\$140,600	\$94,292	\$153,581	\$150,064	\$142,480	\$153,200
Stony Creek	\$160,139	\$125,521	\$134,087	\$124,395	\$138,607	\$138,607
Middle School	\$204,746	\$194,266	\$290,929	\$224,901	\$237,758	\$265,912
High School	\$339,432	\$399,445	\$424,102	\$492,508	\$446,829	\$446,829
MS/HS Athletics	\$289,076	\$368,617	\$376,595	\$411,265	\$307,208	\$368,747
Total of Buildings	\$1,377,010	\$1,371,013	\$1,628,765	\$1,630,131	\$1,520,591	\$1,638,985



2026-2027 Budgeted Department Expenditures

Departments	2021-2022 Actual	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Actual	2025-2026 Budget	2026-2027 Budget
Facilities	\$4,104,515	\$4,300,425	\$5,304,719	\$3,825,450	\$3,207,963	\$3,731,380
Business Office	\$2,020,363	\$2,209,231	\$2,452,243	\$2,396,590	\$2,207,768	\$2,504,958
Curriculum	\$590,405	\$599,537	\$540,803	\$743,530	\$663,574	\$436,733
Personnel - Non Salary	\$1,385,138	\$1,631,480	\$2,281,400	\$2,640,009	\$1,746,879	\$2,810,800
Student Services	\$3,950,429	\$4,203,763	\$3,349,726	\$3,323,092	\$4,414,033	\$3,937,640
Technology	\$1,628,754	\$1,473,061	\$1,440,030	\$1,520,316	\$1,636,099	\$1,704,959
Transportation	\$3,650,776	\$3,855,778	\$4,642,146	\$4,949,040	\$5,333,258	\$6,660,496
All Other Departments						
Superintendent	\$34,173	\$34,003	\$118,814	\$137,838	\$68,800	\$70,400
Assistant Superintendent	\$886,768	\$741,705	\$665,455	\$720,083	\$753,287	\$839,926
Federal Programs	\$677,423	\$457,532	\$663,641	\$432,340	\$396,642	\$0
State, Local, Security & Maj Impact	\$22,350	\$0	\$0	\$114,092	\$189,820	\$190,673
Total All Other Departments	\$1,620,714	\$1,233,240	\$1,447,909	\$1,404,352	\$1,408,549	\$1,100,998
Total of Departments	\$18,951,093	\$19,506,516	\$21,458,978	\$20,802,380	\$20,618,122	\$22,887,964



2026-2027 Budgeted Debt Service Expenditures

Debt & Transfers	2021-2022 Actual	2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Actual	2025-2026 Budget	2026-2027 Budget	% CHg
Serial Bonds – Principal Payments	\$802,592	\$1,049,371	\$1,111,049	\$1,338,685	\$1,394,644	\$1,431,562	2.6%
Interest – Serial Bonds	\$520,158	\$821,046	\$753,896	\$1,107,000	\$1,578,737	\$1,431,788	(9.3%)
Transfer to Capital Reserve	\$3,900,000	\$3,916,755	\$3,941,038	\$0	\$1,416,755	\$1,650,000	16.5%
Lease Payments (Pri & Int)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$131,578	\$131,543	(0.0%)
Pr Yr Refunds and Other Exp.	\$6,532	\$8,804	\$6,848	\$1,226,955	\$10,000	\$10,000	0.0%
Total of Debt & Transfers	\$5,229,281	\$5,795,976	\$5,812,830	\$3,672,640	\$4,531,714	\$4,654,893	2.7%



2026-2027 Property Tax Analysis

Current Real Estate tax rate 2025-2026 **25.29 mills**
 Current Real Estate tax rate 2026-2027 **26.58 mills**

- § Total Increase of 5.1000% (or 1.29 mills)**
- § Increase of 0.4000 mills for Special Education Exception**
- § Increase of 0.0000 mills for PESRS Exception**

Estimated increased tax bill for a home assessed at the district average of \$211,265 is \$272.53

Overall tax bill calculation: 26.5800 (millage) X \$211,265 = \$5,615.42

Estimated tax bill for other home assessed values (based on 5.1000% increase = 1.2900 mills or 26.5800 mills):

Value*	Assessment	Increase	Total Tax	
\$100,000.00	\$30,769.23	\$39.69	\$817.85	
\$200,000.00	\$61,538.46	\$79.38	\$1,635.69	
\$300,000.00	\$92,307.69	\$119.08	\$2,453.54	
\$400,000.00	\$123,076.92	\$158.77	\$3,271.38	
\$686,611.25	\$211,265.00	\$272.53	\$5,615.42	WSD Avg.
\$800,000.00	\$246,153.85	\$317.54	\$6,542.77	
\$1,000,000.00	\$307,692.31	\$396.92	\$8,178.46	
\$2,000,000.00	\$615,384.62	\$793.85	\$16,356.92	

[Find your home's assessed values in Montgomery County PA at www.propertyrecords.montcopa.org](http://www.propertyrecords.montcopa.org)

* Montgomery County Common Level Ratio is 3.25 as of July 1, 2025 (<https://www.montcopa.org/2710/Realty-Transfer-Tax>)