

Warren Hills Regional Schools



April 2011

2011-2012 School Budget Information

NEW JERSEY SCHOOL AID BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- ⇒ In February 2010, in order to fix its own budget shortfall, the state **took back \$1,742,818** from Warren Hills (by withholding payments) of previously committed and budgeted aid, forcing the district to adjust its 2009-2010 budget.
- ⇒ This withholding represented 15.7% of the district's 2009-2010 state aid.
- ⇒ In 2009-2010, the state used \$1.057 billion in federal stimulus money toward its aid to schools to fill a budget gap. This money was not available last year which resulted in a 7.4% decrease in federal and state dollars available for school funding. As a result, the 2010-2011 state aid to each school district was reduced by an amount equal to 4.994% of their original 2009-2010 operating budget.
- ⇒ **At Warren Hills, this resulted in a 14.9% reduction in our 2010-2011 state aid or \$1,648,948 less than the district received from the state in 2009-2010.**
- ⇒ When the voters did not approve the 2010-2011 budget, the municipal leaders agreed to cut an additional **\$500,000** from the budget.
- ⇒ This cut, combined with the 2009-2010 state aid take-back, and the cut in 2010-2011 state aid left the Warren Hills School District with a \$3.89 million dollar loss of revenue to offset.
- ⇒ Cuts were made to nearly all areas of the 2010-2011 budget. There were cuts to administration, teaching staff, programs and activities for the students. Also some maintenance projects and purchases of needed supplies were postponed or cut.
- ⇒ **We are proud to report that each and every Warren Hills employee voluntarily accepted a wage freeze for the 2010-2011 school year. Warren Hills is one of only a few districts in the state that can make this claim. This accomplishment made it possible to save several teaching positions and many programs for our students.**

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The school budget reflects our educational program in dollars. It is the basis for every phase of the district's operation - personnel, curriculum, buildings, instructional materials, equipment, transportation, extra-curricular activities, etc. Many difficult choices were weighed as we prepared the 2011-2012 budget.

The proposed 2011-2012 budget maintains the district's current programs and staffing levels. In keeping within the state mandated 2% cap on any increases to last year's tax levy, we have not budgeted for any new programs. This budget reflects an increase of just 1.48% over last year's budget.

The state would have allowed the district to ask the voters to approve a general fund tax levy with a permitted adjustment that would raise an additional \$258,459 in taxes, but out of respect and concern for our taxpayers, we opted not to do so.

The proposed 2011-2012 general fund budget of \$32,092,580 is actually \$925,999 or 2.8% less than the 2009-2010 budget the voters approved at the polls in April 2009.

It is our duty to provide a high quality educational program for the students that is fiscally responsible to the taxpayers of our communities and within the fiscal parameters set by the state. The Board commends Interim Superintendent Dr. William Caldwell and Business Administrator Maureen Joyce for their diligence in developing this budget.

We encourage you to take the time to read over the information included in this budget flyer. If you have any questions, please call 689-3143 ext. 1045 or email questions to caldwellw@warrenhills.org.

Warren Hills Regional Board of Education

ITEMS TO BE VOTED UPON

Appropriations to be raised by local taxes for general fund.

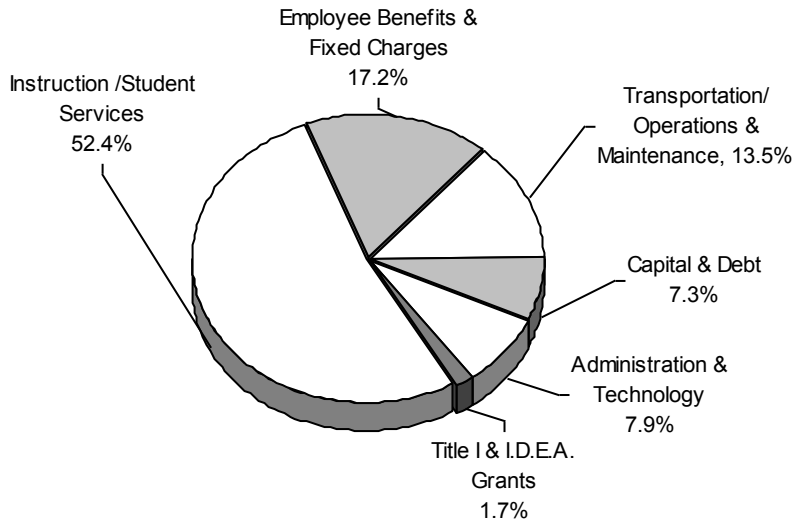
Members for the Board of Education

Franklin Twp. — one 3-year term
Mansfield Twp.—one 3-year term
Washington Boro — one 3-year term
Washington Twp. — one 1-year term
(unexpired)



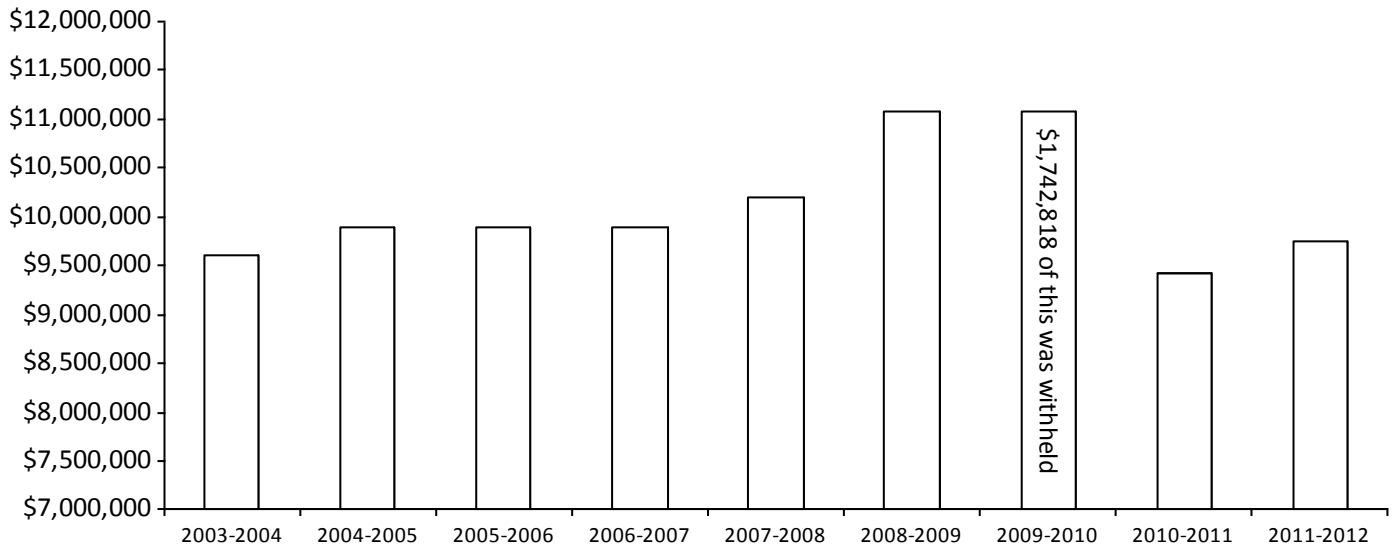
Please remember
to vote
Wednesday, April 27
2:00 - 9:00 PM

2011 -2012 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES — HOW WILL THE MONEY BE SPENT?



According to the NJ Department of Education's 2010 Comparative Spending Guide, Warren Hills was ranked the 19th lowest in per pupil spending of the 47 grade 7-12 and 9-12 school districts in the state. Our 2009-2010 budgeted per pupil spending was \$211 below the state median.

STATE AID SNAPSHOT — HOW DOES STATE AID COMPARE TO PRIOR YEARS?



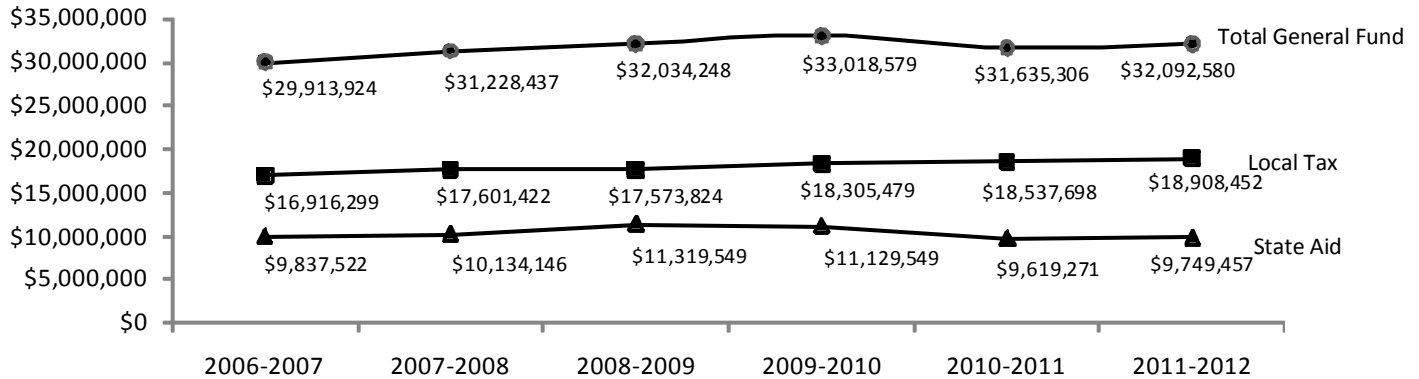
While the increase in state aid for the proposed 2011-2012 budget certainly helps, it does not make up for the reduction in 2010-2011 state aid or the withholding of \$1,742,818 of the district's 2009-2010 state aid. State aid numbers shown on this chart are from <http://www.state.nj.us/education/stateaid/>

Where Do I Vote?

Voters will be asked to cast ballots on Wednesday, April 27th. Polls will be open from 2:00-9:00 PM.

Franklin Township District 1: Municipal Building Franklin Township District 2: Asbury Fire House	Mansfield Township Districts 1-3: Municipal Building Mansfield Township Districts 4-6: Emergency Squad Bldg
Washington Borough: Fire Hall / Municipal Building	Washington Twp. Districts 1-3: Old Police Building Washington Twp. Districts 4-6: New Municipal Building

WHAT ARE THE DISTRICT'S PRIMARY REVENUE SOURCES?



This graph shows the total district operating budget since 2006-2007 along with our two major funding sources – state aid and local taxes. The state aid for the 2011-2012 budget amounts to 30.7% and the proposed local tax levy amounts to 59.7% of the proposed budget. The remaining 9.6% of funding, not indicated on this chart, includes tuition from Oxford, interest earnings, and rental fee income.

The proposed budget is within the state's 2% cap on the 2010-2011 tax levy and is actually \$925,999 **less than** the 2009-2010 operating budget. In comparison to last year's budget, the total general fund budget reflects a 1.45% overall increase. This budget will maintain existing programs and staffing levels at Warren Hills.

HOW ARE TAX RATES CALCULATED?

The dollar amount that each homeowner is taxed is based on their town's equalized valuation as established by the state and the following factors:

- ⇒ The amount of state aid and other revenues Warren Hills receives
- ⇒ The proposed tax levy needed to balance the budget
- ⇒ The total value of assessments in the town in which they reside
- ⇒ The assessed value of their home
- ⇒ The % of the students from their town in the Regional School District

The distribution of the Warren Hills Regional School District tax levy is determined by the State of NJ – not the school district.

	Franklin	Mansfield	Washington Borough	Washington Township
Proposed tax levy by constituent	\$3,440,498	\$5,348,221	\$3,900,786	\$6,218,946
Property value assessments	\$421,131,591	\$650,697,604	\$372,149,461	\$678,031,004
% of regular budget	18.20%	28.28%	20.63%	32.89%
2010-2011 Tax rate per \$100 assessed value	79.6¢	80.9¢	\$1.02	90.2¢
2011-2012 Tax rate per \$100 assessed value	81.6¢	82.2¢	\$1.048	91.7¢
Change / \$100 assessed value	2.0¢	1.3¢	2.8¢	1.5¢

To calculate the Warren Hills Regional portion of your tax bill, divide your total assessment by 100 and then multiply by the tax rate / \$100 assessed rate listed for your municipality. This number is the Warren Hills Regional portion of your total tax.

TAX RATES: A FIVE-YEAR LOOK

	2007-2008 Tax Rate Per \$100,000	2008-2009 Tax Rate Per \$100,000	2009-2010 Tax Rate Per \$100,000	2010-2011 Tax Rate Per \$100,000	2011-2012 Proposed Tax Rate Per \$100,000	Total Change In Tax Levy over a 5- year period from 2007-2008	Average Yearly \$ increase in Taxes Per \$100,000
Franklin	\$682	\$692	\$740	\$796	\$816	\$134 or 19.6%	\$26.80
% tax levy	15.92%	16.43%	16.98%	18.15%	18.20%	Increase 2.28%	
Mansfield	\$795	\$798	\$833	\$809	\$822	\$27 or 3.4%	\$5.40
% tax levy	29.49%	30.06%	30.17%	28.44%	28.28%	Decrease 1.21%	
Wash. Boro	\$1,040	\$1,024	\$1,018	\$1,020	\$1,040	\$0 or 0.0%	\$0.00
% tax levy	22.37%	22.23%	20.93%	20.59%	20.63%	Decrease 1.74%	
Wash. Twp.	\$858	\$825	\$869	\$902	\$917	\$59 or 6.9%	\$11.80
% tax levy	32.33%	31.28%	31.92%	32.82%	32.89%	Increase 0.56%	

This table shows the tax rates and percentages of student enrollment for each of the constituent districts since 2007-2008. The average yearly increases have been modest, with the exception of Franklin Township whose higher average yearly increase is in a large part due to their increased percentage of total enrollment over that time frame. The proposed tax rate for Washington Boro is actually at the same rate as it was in 2007-2008.

WHAT WOULD BE THE IMPACT OF ADDITIONAL CUTS ON A DEFEATED BUDGET?

If a majority of voters vote "Yes", the district is authorized to adopt the proposed budget. If a majority of the voters vote "No", the district is denied this authorization and the budget goes to the constituent districts' municipal bodies for review and possible cuts.

Cuts made to a defeated budget have the potential for a negative educational impact on the district but only a relatively small savings for taxpayers.

It is important to note that voting "No" on April 27th will not restore money to the budget. In fact, defeated budgets have historically been subject to further and often significant reduction. For example, for every \$100,000 cut from the budget, the average property owner in each of the constituent communities would see a yearly savings of only \$10—\$12 on the Warren Hills Regional portion of their tax bill.

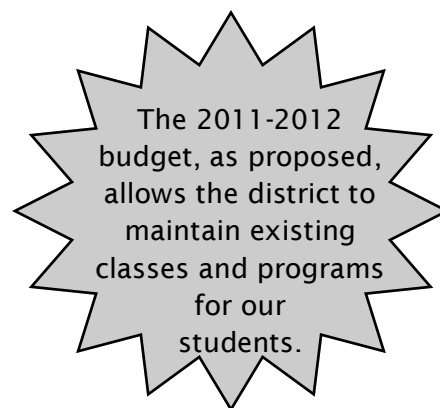
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2011-2012 School Budget Information

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For questions or more information, please call 908-689-3143 ext. 1045 or visit our website at www.warrenhills.org