

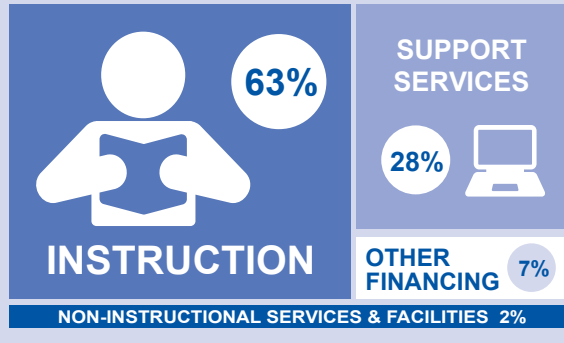


DISTRICT News

WEST SHORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Spring 2015

How Expenditure Funds Are Used



2015-2016 Budget Update

Initial estimates used to build the District's 2015-2016 budget showed expenditures exceeding revenues by approximately 6.3 million dollars. These estimates incorporated several unknowns, including state and federal allocations, which account for 29.08 percent of the preliminary budget.

It was necessary for the Board to approve a preliminary budget on February 12, despite these unknowns, in order to meet Act 1 requirements. Under Act 1, each school district must prepare a preliminary budget by

February 18, 2015, or adopt a resolution by January 29, 2015, stating that the real estate tax increase will not exceed the 1.9% base index. The approved budget includes the District's anticipated need for additional tax revenues beyond the base index through the use of exceptions. Specifically, the District believes it will qualify for retirement and special education exceptions. It is important to note, although the preliminary budget includes the base index plus referendum exceptions, this does not obligate the District to increase taxes to or beyond the 1.9% index; it merely keeps this option open until more detailed figures are available.

Presentations made to the Board during the budget process are available on the District website on the Business Office Department page. The page is periodically updated as additional information is shared with the Board and currently includes the adopted 2015-2016 Preliminary General Fund Budget. The Final General Fund Budget will be available on this page for review prior to its approval in June.

To further discuss budget concerns, the Board recently formed a Finance Committee. Members meet at the Administration Center the first Thursday of the month at 4:30 p.m. Meetings are open to the public.

Technology Integration in the Classroom

After a successful pilot program funded by the West Shore Foundation, this summer the District purchased 270 Chromebooks for use in the middle schools. Once the Chromebooks were acquired, a cohort of teachers was formed and professional development activities held to assist staff in finding ways to integrate the Chromebooks into the curriculum. We are excited to see staff using the Chromebooks in their classrooms and students using Google Apps to prepare documents, presentations, spreadsheets, etc.

Thanks to private donations, we have been able to expand this initiative and bring Chromebooks to Fairview Elementary School. Additionally, the generosity of donors provided iPads at Newberry Elementary School and PTOs at several schools have funded SmartBoards and other technology. We are grateful for these and all past and future donations made to support our students.





Kindergarten Registration for the 2015-2016 School Year

The District will conduct kindergarten registration for next school year, from March 23-26, 2015 at the Administration Center.

Contact the elementary school your child will be attending to obtain a packet of registration materials and secure a registration appointment.

All students will be registered by appointment only. If you are not certain which school your child will attend, please call the Registration Office at 938-9577, ext. 124.

To be admitted to kindergarten, children must be at least five years of age prior to October 1, 2015, possess an official birth certificate, and proper immunization records. Students registering for first grade must be six years of age prior to October 1, 2015.

A student attending a private kindergarten must meet West Shore's age requirement for entering first grade unless the student was awarded early admission to kindergarten by the District for the 2014-2015 school year.

We look forward to meeting the class of 2028!

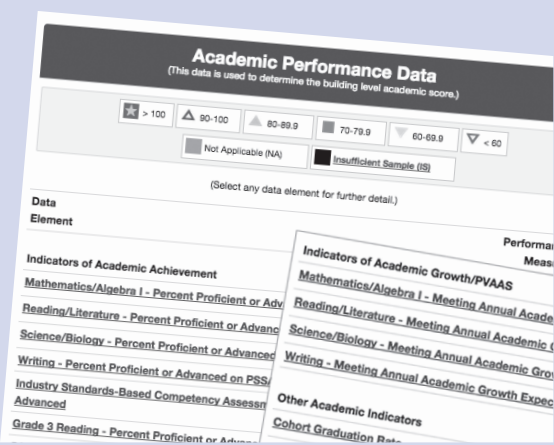
District School Performance Profiles

Pennsylvania School Performance Profiles (SPP) are released by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) for each public school in the state. Links to West Shore's profiles, a presentation made to the Board looking at achievement and growth, and two fact sheets are available on the District website (use the Performance Profiles Quick Link on the main page). Parents are encouraged to review this information to learn more about the profiles and how our schools are performing.

Profiles are based upon many data points. State assessment scores like PSSAs and Keystone exams, college readiness tests, industry standards-based assessments, progress in closing achievement gaps, and degree of student growth over time are factored into the scoring while other identifiers of high-achieving schools are also considered: graduation, promotion, attendance rates, and evidence of rigorous course offerings.

The District received several honors this year which correlated to some of the indicators on the SPP. West Shore is one of 547 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 5th Annual AP District Honor Roll. Both high schools earned this honor for increasing access to AP course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of three or higher on AP Exams. This success is reflected in our high school SPP building scores. Two of our elementary schools also received recognition for their achievements in regards to their SPP scores. Hillside and Rossmoyne Elementary Schools were both named as Reward High Achievement schools based on their 2013-2014 SPP results.

Our students, staff, administrators, and parents work hard every day to support each child's learning. We are extremely proud of these achievements and will continue to engage in thoughtful analysis of all of the SPP data, identifying both areas of strength and areas of need, as we create even stronger learning plans for all our students.



What is PBIS?

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and school culture needed for all students to achieve social, emotional, and academic success. Attention is focused on creating and sustaining primary (school-wide), secondary (classroom), and tertiary (individual) systems of support.

Research has shown that the implementation of punishment, especially when it is used inconsistently and in the absence of other positive strategies, is ineffective. Introducing, modeling, and reinforcing positive social behavior is an important step of a student's educational experience. Teaching behavioral expectations and rewarding students for following them is a much more constructive approach than waiting for a misbehavior to occur and then responding. The purpose of school-wide PBIS is to establish a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm.

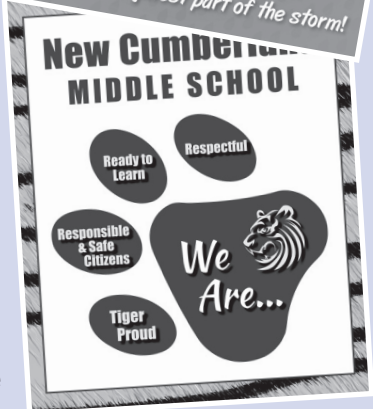
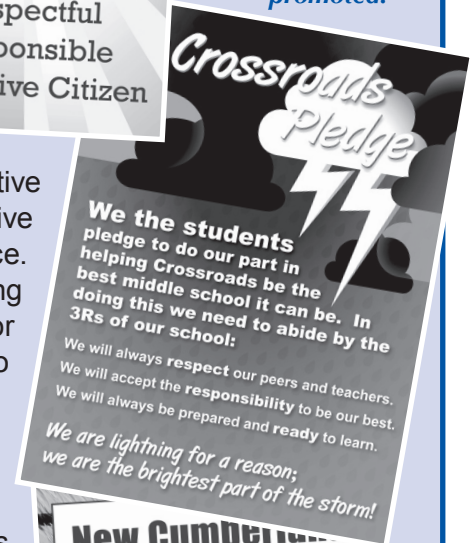
This school year, each of the District's middle schools formed a team of five to eight members who attended a training provided by PBIS skilled trainers from the Capital Area Intermediate Unit. These teams are comprised of administrators, guidance counselors, regular education teachers, and special education teachers. Each school team identified three to five behavioral expectations for their students that are positively stated and easy to remember. Rather than telling students what not to do, each school is focusing on the preferred behaviors they believe are important.

After the teams established behavioral expectations to best meet the needs of their school, they took this information back to the staff to ensure consistency from class to class and adult to adult throughout the school. The teams then created a matrix of what the behavioral expectations look like, sound like, and feel like in and around the school in order to teach these positive behaviors to the student body.

As we strive daily to create a safe, student-centered environment that is conducive to the growth of the whole child, we are excited by the positive response the PBIS initiative has had from our middle school students and staff. If you would like more information about the PBIS program, please contact Dr. Tammi Jones, Director of Secondary Education. To learn more about a specific middle school program, please contact that building's principal.



Each school had posters made to remind students of the positive behaviors being promoted.



Special Education Public Notice

Each school district and public agency in Pennsylvania must establish and implement procedures to identify, locate, and evaluate all children who may need special education programs and services. Once identified, free appropriate public education (FAPE) can be made available to these children. Visit the District website and select Special Education under the Departments tab to view the District's Public Notice for Child Find. If you have difficulty accessing the notice online or have questions, please contact Mr. Timothy Dorsey, Coordinator of Special Education, at 938-9577 or email tdorsey@wssd.k12.pa.us.



Mission Statement

The West Shore School District is committed to providing this generation with a quality education serving as a foundation for responsible and successful citizenship.

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West Shore School District

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The West Shore School District will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, marital status, or disability in accordance with state and federal laws governing educational and vocational programs and in its recruitment and employment practices. Inquiries concerning the application of Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, the ADA, and the implementing regulations may be referred to the Director of Human Resources, 507 Fishing Creek Road, P.O. Box 803, New Cumberland, PA 17070-0803, telephone (717) 938-9577. Revised 12-2015

Comprehensive Planning – Starting the Conversation

Three years ago, the District developed a Comprehensive Strategic Plan to shape the District's educational programs through 2016. This plan contains the District's mission and vision statements and details the District's shared values as we work to provide a quality education for our students in a fiscally responsible fashion. We are currently in the second year of that three year plan and are starting the planning process again.

The 2016-2019 Comprehensive Plan will be developed through the work of a committee whose members represent school staff, parents, community members, and business representatives. The first meeting of this committee was held on February 2, 2015. After a brief overview of the process, committee members broke into subcommittees to begin the process of completing a needs assessment which will be used to identify goals for success that will lead to the development of action plans.

More information about the Comprehensive Planning process will be shared as we work cooperatively to develop the new plan. Based on the state's Comprehensive Planning process, the intent is to share the proposed 2016-2019 Comprehensive Plan with the Board and community in October 2015, for adoption in November 2015, and implementation in July 2016.

Keeping Connected

In addition to being on twitter,
the West Shore School
District is now on facebook!

twitter.com/WestShoreSD
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We hope to see you online!