

ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET

The annual school budget is the core of the financial plans around which the Weston school system operates. It sets forth the approved allocation of funds for the various school programs, serves as a guide for spending for all school purposes through the year, and provides a profile of the sources of revenue for meeting the anticipated expenditures.

The budget for the school system shall be presented to the School Committee in a "program budget" format and in such other formats as may be requested by the School Committee to describe the various school programs and their attendant costs. Through use of the program format, the School Committee believes that the budgeting process will more effectively contribute to the attainment of the school system's goals and objectives and that the community will more readily understand how public funds are being allocated and used, and why they are needed for the schools.

The School Committee's vote on the operating budget generally will be taken on the "Summary of Proposed Expenditures by Cost Center." In so doing, the School Committee will in effect be acting on individual program budgets reviewed throughout the presentation and discussion processes.

In presenting the budget for action at the Annual Town Meeting, the School Committee shall abide by the budget format requirements of the State and Town, in particular in order to meet the statutory stipulation that the Town Meeting shall vote on the total amount of the appropriations requested and shall not allocate appropriations among accounts or place any restrictions on such appropriations. Notwithstanding this commitment, the School Committee will publish its budget message and details in accordance with the program budget approach.

Adopted: November 21, 2011

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