

Whitman-Hanson Regional School District
FY2011 Budget Fact Sheet (5/25/10)

- Q. What is the per pupil cost in Whitman-Hanson? How does this compare to the rest of the state?
- A. In FY2009, the average per pupil in Whitman-Hanson was \$10,012 per student. Whitman-Hanson is ranked 308 out of 328. The overall state average was \$13,055.32.
- Q. How does Whitman-Hanson rank in administrative costs?
- A. Whitman-Hanson spent \$237.61 per student on administrative costs in FY2009. Only eight school districts spent less, 319 school districts spend more. The state average is \$439.82.
- Q. What is the current operating budget for Whitman-Hanson? What is the proposed budget for the 2010-2011 school year?
- A. The current operating budget for Whitman-Hanson for the 2009-2010 school year is \$46,802,850. The proposed level service budget for 2010-2011 is \$48,103,694. Current revenue is \$45,938,956.
- Q. Did the Whitman-Hanson budget increase this year, 2009-2010?
- A. No, this year's budget is 1% lower (\$475,352) than the 2008-2009 budget. However, enrollment increased by 40 students district-wide. That is below a level-funded budget.
- Q. How did the district manage to provide services for students and staff?
- A. A furlough day, no course reimbursement, and no new uniforms for custodians. Van transportation was outsourced. Some positions were eliminated and consolidated. Retirees' positions were not filled whenever possible.
- Q. What is the estimated revenue for the 2010-2011 budget as of May 25, 2010?
- A. When the district budget is presented, estimates are made in revenue. Major sources of funding for the Whitman-Hanson budget come from state aid. Chapter 70 – state aid to schools (51% of the WH budget), regional transportation reimbursement, and Circuit Breaker – offsets special education tuitions. Revenue from the state has been reduced to levels lower than in previous years. State revenue is down. Other revenue sources include interest, school district reserves, and local assessments. On March 10, 2010, the Regional School Committee voted to use half of the district's reserves (\$800,000) to fund the FY2011 budget. On March 17, 2010, the Regional School Committee voted to increase the operating assessment by 6%. At this time, the current revenue estimate is **\$45,938,956**. A level service budget (Same services next year as this year) equals \$48,103,694. A level funded budget would be \$46,802,850.
- Q. What do increases in operating assessments mean to local taxpayers?
- A. 1% = adds approximately \$146,810 to revenue. This adds \$15.60 to the average Whitman tax bill, and \$16.27 to the average Hanson tax bill. (Increases are based on homes valued at \$300,000 - \$325,000). 6% = Voted by School Committee on 3/17/10. For every dollar paid in local taxes, taxpayers in Whitman would pay about 21 cents and taxpayers in Hanson would pay about 17 cents for education. On May 4, 2010, the voters in Whitman approved a 3% increase in the operating assessment for schools. This would increase the Whitman assessment for schools by \$236,125. A 3% increase in Hanson would increase the local assessment for schools by \$204,304. This adds about \$50 to the average annual tax bill for schools.