

Whitman-Hanson Regional School District  
FY2011 Budget Fact Sheet (updated 4/24/10)

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.

Q. What is a level service budget? Why is it higher?

A. A level service budget provides the same services next year as this year. It is higher because costs are up. These costs include increases in salary and service contracts, utilities, technology, textbooks, supplies, and resource materials. Costs are up by 2.78%.

Q. How is the budget funded?

A. The budget is funded by revenue. Revenue is money coming into the District.

Q. What is the estimated revenue?

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%.

Q. Can the school district immediately add the increased revenue to fund the FY2011 budget?

A. The revenue from reserves of \$800,000 is available to fund the FY2011 budget. The revenue generated by an increase in the operating assessment is not available unless it is approved by voters at town meetings on May 3.

Q. What is the current estimated revenue?

A. The estimated revenue for the 2010-2011 budget is \$45,938,956 with a *reduction* to Chapter 70, \$800,000 from reserves, and no increase in operating assessments. This is a shortfall of **\$2,164,738 - about 40 staff positions**. Retirees' positions will not be filled, whenever possible. Cuts include classroom teachers, librarians, counselors, support personnel, related arts teachers, custodians and maintenance staff, technology equipment, supplies, and professional development.

Q. What do increases in operating assessments mean to local taxpayers?

A. 0% = Increase in operating assessment to schools for 2009-2010

1% = adds approximately \$146,810 to revenue. This adds \$15.60 to the average annual Whitman tax bill, and \$16.27 to the average annual Hanson tax bill. (Increases are based on homes valued at \$300,000 - \$325,000).

6% = Voted by School Committee on 3/17/10

An increase in the operating assessment of 6% adds \$880,858 to revenue. This adds \$93.60 to the average annual Whitman tax bill and \$97.62 to the average annual Hanson tax bill. (Increases are based on homes valued at \$300,000 - \$325,000). For every dollar paid in local taxes, taxpayers in Whitman pay about 21 cents and taxpayers in Hanson pay about 17 cents for education.