

# REVENUE REPORT FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET

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The overwhelming majority of revenue sources for the Weston Public Schools come from local taxation, which accounts for more than 98% of our budget. The remaining 2% of revenue comes from state aid through the equalized cost sharing (ECS), Excess Cost and Transportation formula grants. The FY 2017 Budget Request does anticipate a reduction in ECS funding of \$103,036 based on estimated reductions from the Governor. Additionally the Excess Cost Grant, which is expected to go down based on a few high cost students that will be aging out of the program in FY 2016. In addition to the formula grants noted above, we expect to receive approximately \$604K in FY 2017 from state and federal aid in the form of special revenue grants (see pages 150-152).

The ECS grant is paid directly to the Town's general fund and does not affect the education budget directly. The Board of Education must request 100% of the amount needed to operate the school system for each succeeding year, with the exception of excess cost for high cost special education students, tuition from typical students who attend the pre-school program, gate receipts for athletic events, participation fees for interscholastic sports, parking fees and shared services revenue for both fields and technology. Accordingly, our budget request is reduced by the projected revenues from these sources.

The ECS grant formula was introduced in 1989-90, replacing the old GTB grant system. During the 1994-95 legislative session, the Legislature modified the ECS grant formula. Public Act 95-226 consolidated the special education categorical grant into the ECS grant. The act provides that the ECS formula shall be based upon local property taxes (per capita and per student), per capita income, median household income, AFDS populations and mastery test scores.

During the 1990s, the State of Connecticut consistently reduced the amount of State assistance to Weston because of the town's higher wealth indicators in relation to other communities. State assistance declined by more than one million dollars during this period. However, six years ago the State of Connecticut modified the grant formula by reducing the cap for wealthier communities. As a result, Weston's ECS grant increased by approximately \$300k, which increased the grant to more than \$900k. The Town should be aware that the State may reduce this grant in FY 2016-2017 through the legislative process. However, there is no indication at this time that this is likely to occur.

Weston also receives funding from donations. In the current fiscal year, the Weston Public Schools have benefited from gifts from parent-teacher organizations, the Weston Education Foundation, Weston Arts, booster clubs, civic organizations and private citizens. Since the awarding of such funding is not guaranteed, the District's operating budgets are not built upon these funding sources and are not accounted for in the annual general fund operating budget. Also, a partitioned accounting report is kept of all monies which flow to the Weston Public Schools which are reported annually in Schedule 8 in the annual ED-001 Report and included in the Town's annual financial audit.