



WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
We are the future.

Winooski School District Budget 2021

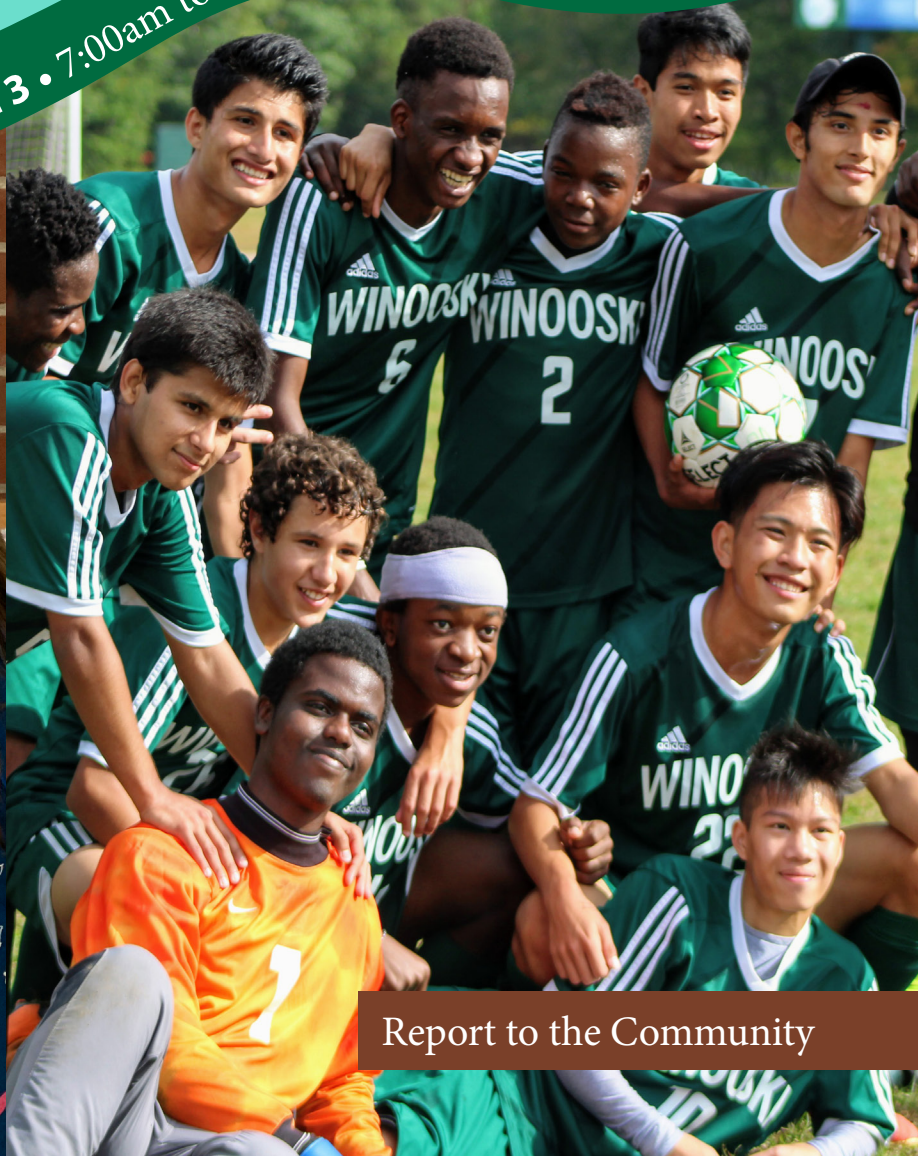
* DO YOUR PART *

VOTE! ★

MARCH 3, 2020



VOTING DAY is on **Tuesday, March 3** • 7:00am to 7:00pm • Winooski Senior Center



Report to the Community

College and Career Readiness - “I am confident that the students who pass this project will write and speak well enough to succeed in college and in any job they choose,” said Brenton Litterer, who is teaching the Communication Capstone this year. The class involves three phases. First, students choose a topic they are curious about then are connected with opportunities to learn about their topic through experiences, interviews and research. This semester, topics ranged from Nepali dancing to fly fishing. Student pursuits are not necessarily professional internships but could develop into career explorations if the students so choose. In phase two students write a 8-15 page informational and engaging essay about what they learned. Their essays are submitted to a committee of teachers for review and analysis. In addition, students must present their learning in a formal, 8-minute speech graded by a panel of teachers. Penny Ly, an 11th grade student, decided to study something totally new. “I spent 50 hours in the studio this summer, learning how to throw, trim and glaze pottery. I wrote a 16-page paper about my experience which was challenging, because I’m not a natural writer. I plan to go into the medical field. To be successful, I need to be cognitively present at all times when treating a patient. That will be very demanding, so learning pottery was good for me to learn how to focus and manage stress.”

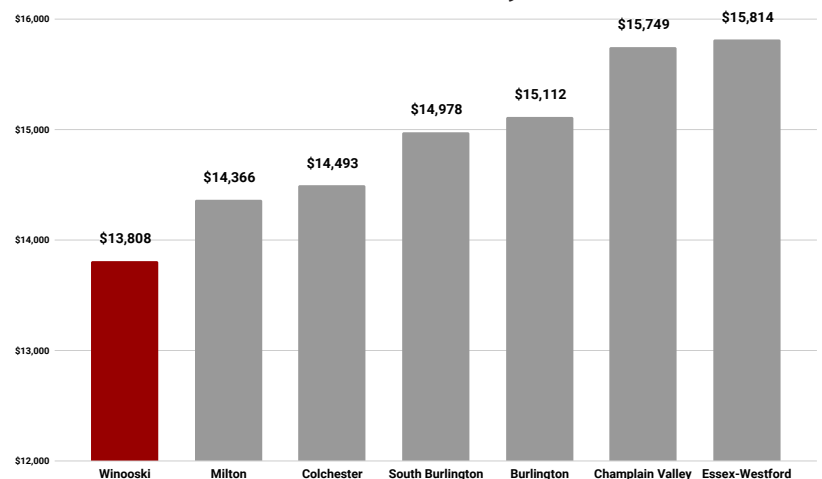


Student Penny Ly learns about the art of throwing pottery for her Communication Capstone project.

Healthy, Productive, and Successful Lives - JFK Elementary School is celebrating the positive outcomes of their commitment to social and emotional learning. Principal Raabe has noticed improved self-regulation, self-image and peer interactions among students since adopting social skills curriculum, Second Step, and holding weekly school-wide social skills lessons. “Students feel that they are a positive part of our community and that in turn creates positive community support,” said Raabe. Data shows that there has been a sharp decrease in behavior incidents as well as bullying and harassment investigations. 2nd-grade student, Zinnia Pregger, is proud of how she and her class follow school-wide expectations. “Because all of the students are helping the class and the teacher do the right thing, that makes it easier for everyone to do the right thing,” Zinnia said. “The right thing is saying what you need and helping to clean up and telling the truth and if you make a mistake, don’t be upset, because you are still learning! Everybody doing the right thing makes it easier for everybody to learn.”



Spending Per Equalized Pupil by PreK-12 District in Chittenden County



WSD spends less per equalized pupil than any other PreK-12 district in Chittenden County.

Source: <https://education.vermont.gov/documents/data-per-pupil-spending-fy2019>

Community Engagement - Winooski is redesigning the educational experience to keep students in the center of learning. In the middle school, Expeditions of Learning bring students to new places, involve community members in presentations and residencies and have our students present their learning in meaningful ways. The component of Expeditions our middle schoolers say they enjoy most is making community connections — getting out of the classroom and into the “real world” and “meeting new people”.

This year, Team Journey 7th and 8th grade students visited the Statehouse to watch a naturalization ceremony. Coincidentally, a student’s parents were becoming citizens at this ceremony, along with several Winooski community members. When educators talk about relevance, authenticity, and community engagement in education, this is it! The trip launched students into their fall Expedition, Becoming an American: the Road to Citizenship. Students studied the process and challenges of naturalization and then created a website to support people’s understanding of the process. The students’ families and other community members came to the culmination event to learn about the project.



2020-21 Vision-Driven, Learner Investment

By Sean McMannon, Superintendent

Six years ago we began investing in creating a PreK-12 systemic approach to supporting student needs and monitoring student progress with positions such as Wellness Coordinator, Data Manager, Director of English Language Learning & Curriculum, and Reading, ELL and Special Education specialists. Now we can confidently say we have established a strong foundation that provides food security, wellness opportunities, access to technology and a system that tracks attendance, behavior, reading and math levels of every student while providing literacy, math and behavioral supports needed to help students grow. Also, we were an early investor in Pre-Kindergarten, with four half-day programs on campus, so we can begin to engage students and parents as soon as possible.

Overall, our enrollment is currently 855 PreK-12 students and we expect this number to stay relatively flat for the 2020-21 school year.

During this budget cycle I gave board members a baseline budget and data about enrollment, staffing, Special Education, English Language Learners (ELL), Information Technology and Operations. All of this information can be found on our website at wsdvt.org.

Over the years, your Board of Trustees has put forth fiscally conservative budgets when compared to the rest of the state. You will see that the Board of Trustees has constructed a thoughtful, vision-driven investment in Winooski children that continues to move us forward to meet the high expectations of our WSD Ends Statement! We are blessed with a diverse student population who also require a high level of support to meet our high standards. Our staff and leadership team clearly understand the strengths and challenges of our students and forge ahead with creativity, collaboration and compassion.

Thank you for working with WSD to benefit our students!



The FY21 budget reflects no new investments for the upcoming school year, in order to reduce the impact of the first bond for our capital project.

WSD Bottom Line:

- **Building Improvement Investment is 5%** (\$900,000)
- **All other expenses are .61%** (\$108,000, which includes salaries, benefits and transportation)
- **Total = 5.61% investment**



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MARCH 3, 2020

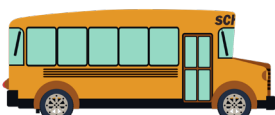
	Over 217,084 hearts handed out to acknowledge JFK students following school expectations.
	9th grade ELL students are exceeding state standards toward English proficiency.* <small>*Latest Vermont AOE Educational Quality Standards Snapshot</small>
	3rd through 5th grade students are excelling in performance change on English Language Arts and Math assessment tests compared to their peers across the state.* <small>*Latest Vermont AOE Educational Quality Standards Snapshot</small>
	600 students participate in 40 free afterschool classes offered each session with additional programming each summer.
	145 students are in orchestra, chorus, or band.
	250 students participate in afterschool athletic programs.
	45 middle school students had their art publicly displayed in formal art exhibitions.
	9,802 books have been checked out by students in the past year.
	The Abbey Group served 221,579 free meals to our students, supported by federal grant funds.

For more information about our proposed investment in Winooski students for the 2020-21 school year, join us:

- **Wednesday, February 19th** at 5:30pm at the O'Brien Community Center, or
- **Monday, March 2nd** at 7:30pm in the Winooski School District Performing Arts Center.

Wellness - meeting essential needs is a priority

- 150 bags of clothing, 100 pairs of shoes and boots, plus 200 winter jackets given away in 2019
- 105 students participated in the Backpack Program weekly (to close the weekend nutrition gap)
- 800 people receive fresh produce monthly
- 80,090 pounds of produce given away



This budget includes funds to transport students who live over .75 miles away from our campus to and from school each day for 80-90 days during the winter months.

Understanding

On January 8, the Winooski School Board approved a budget of \$19,005,064 for fiscal year 2021. This represents a spending increase of 5.61% over the current year's budget. The state formula calculates this to an estimated 7.4% tax increase. An approval by voters would allow the school board and administrators to continue providing high-quality instruction that ensures all students graduate from WSD college and career ready.



Capital Project: Building the Future of the Winooski School District



The voters of Winooski generously passed a vote last May that allowed the district to secure the funds to build a school that will match the quality of the education happening within our walls. Updates and information about the Capital Project, including a virtual tour of the new building, is available by visiting cp.winooski.org. Shovels-in-the-ground construction starts June 2020. Over the past five months our Communications and Development Director, Emily Hecker, has been working on a plan to support the costs of the project. The development plan includes philanthropic investments, private and federal grants, and grassroots fundraising. Reducing debt burden on taxpayers is a high priority for the school board and administration, while still balancing the need for high-quality construction that will create a healthy, engaging learning environment which will benefit generations of Winooski students.

Understanding the Ballot

WINOOSKI INCORPORATED SCHOOL DISTRICT	
FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEE	FOR SCHOOL TRUSTEE
Two Year Term (Mark One)	Three Year Term (Mark One)
TORI CLELAND	MICHAEL DECARREAU
(Write-In)	(Write-In)
ARTICLES	
<p>ARTICLE IV: Shall the District accept and expend the sum of Two million, Seven hundred ninety thousand, Five hundred twenty-five dollars (\$2,790,525) or whatever sum is provided by federal programs for the support of compensatory education and special programs? Said sum shall be exclusively federal funds received by the District. (No local or statewide school property taxes included in these funds.)</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>ARTICLE V: Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Nineteen million, Five thousand, Sixty-four dollars (\$19,005,064), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of Fifteen thousand, Eight hundred fifty-four dollars (\$15,854) per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 4% higher than spending for the current year.</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT	

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YES ☐
NO ☐

Article IV - This amount will not affect your tax rates. Approval allows us to accept and spend federal funds.

ARTICLE V:

Shall the voters of the school district approve the school board to expend Nineteen million, Five thousand, Sixty-four dollars (\$19,005,064), which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of Fifteen thousand, Eight hundred fifty-four dollars (\$15,854) per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 4% higher than spending for the current year.

YES ☐
NO ☐

Article V - \$19,005,064 operates the three schools in our district, and provides transportation and education for over 850 students. This amount also includes debt service for the Capital Project.

EXPLANATION OF TERMS: Equalized pupil - When calculating spending per student, Vermont uses "equalized pupils" rather than the actual headcount in each school. While based on a straight student count, the formula for "equalized pupils" gives less weight to pre-kindergarten pupils and extra weight to students in secondary school, those from economically deprived backgrounds, and those whose first language is not English. The principle behind the weighting is that it costs more to educate students in certain categories. *Source: Public Assets Institute* **NOTE: 3.6%** is the equalized pupil increase from the FY20 budget, not the tax increase.

the 2021 Budget

How Do Property Tax Credits Work?

Vermont Property Tax Credit assists many Vermont homeowners with paying their property taxes. You may be eligible for a tax credit on your property taxes if your property qualifies as a homestead and you meet the eligibility requirements.

To qualify, total taxable and non-taxable household income must be \$138,250 or less.

More info at tax.vermont.gov/property/tax-credit.

In Winooski,
59%
of homeowners
received
tax assistance
in 2019.

If your home
is valued at
\$200,000,
you should
pay \$3,478 in
education taxes.

However, if your
household income is
\$50,000, the property
tax credit would reduce
your tax bill by \$2,293,
making your total
education tax payment
\$1,185.



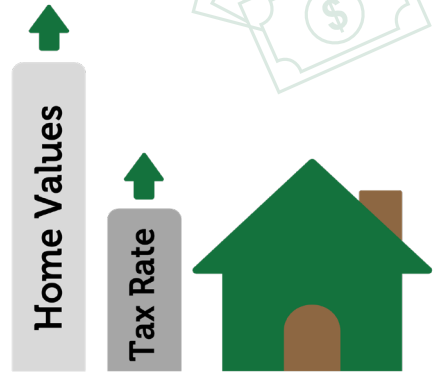
Understanding the Tax Increase

Public schools are funded in part through local property taxes.

Some areas have higher property values, so the Agency of Education designed the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) to ensure all districts receive a fair share of funding. Houses in Winooski have been selling for more than their appraised value. As the CLA comes down, property taxes go up because homes are worth more money. The CLA in Winooski dropped 5%, resulting in a 5.4% tax increase unrelated to education spending.

If you rent and
your household
income is
\$47,000 or less,
you may be
eligible for a
renter rebate.

*More info:
[tax.vermont.gov/
individuals/renter-
rebate](http://tax.vermont.gov/individuals/renter-rebate))*



This information
shows education
tax increases if your
household applies
for and receives tax
credits based on
income eligibility.

Impact of Proposed Tax Increase *After Tax Credits*

Household Income	FY 2020 (current budget)	FY 2021 (proposed budget)	Difference per year	Difference per month
\$47,000	\$1,100	\$1,114	\$14	\$1
\$55,000	\$1,287	\$1,304	\$17	\$1
\$60,000	\$1,404	\$1,422	\$18	\$2
\$70,000	\$1,638	\$1,659	\$21	\$2
\$80,000	\$1,872	\$1,896	\$24	\$2
\$90,000	\$2,106	\$2,133	\$27	\$2
\$99,000	\$2,317	\$2,346	\$30	\$2

Impact of Proposed Tax Increase *Without Tax Credits*

This information
shows education
tax increases if
you don't receive
any tax credits
and pay solely on
property value.

Property Value	FY 2020 (current budget)	FY 2021 (proposed budget)	TOTAL INCREASE	MONTHLY INCREASE
\$150,000	\$2,427	\$2,609	\$181	\$15
\$175,000	\$2,832	\$3,043	\$211	\$18
\$200,000	\$3,236	\$3,478	\$242	\$20
\$225,000	\$3,641	\$3,913	\$272	\$23
\$250,000	\$4,046	\$4,348	\$302	\$25
\$300,000	\$4,855	\$5,217	\$362	\$30

Publication of the Winooski School District

60 Normand Street
Winooski, VT 05404

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Out of town on Town Meeting Day?

- **You can vote early** at the Town Clerk's Office (27 W Allen St) 7:30am to 4:30pm or call and request a ballot be sent to your home (802-655-6419) starting February 10, 2020.
- **Vote March 3, 2020** at the Senior Center at 123 Barlow Street, between 7am and 7pm.
- Did you know that **you can register to vote at the polls the day of the vote!**

POSTAL PATRON

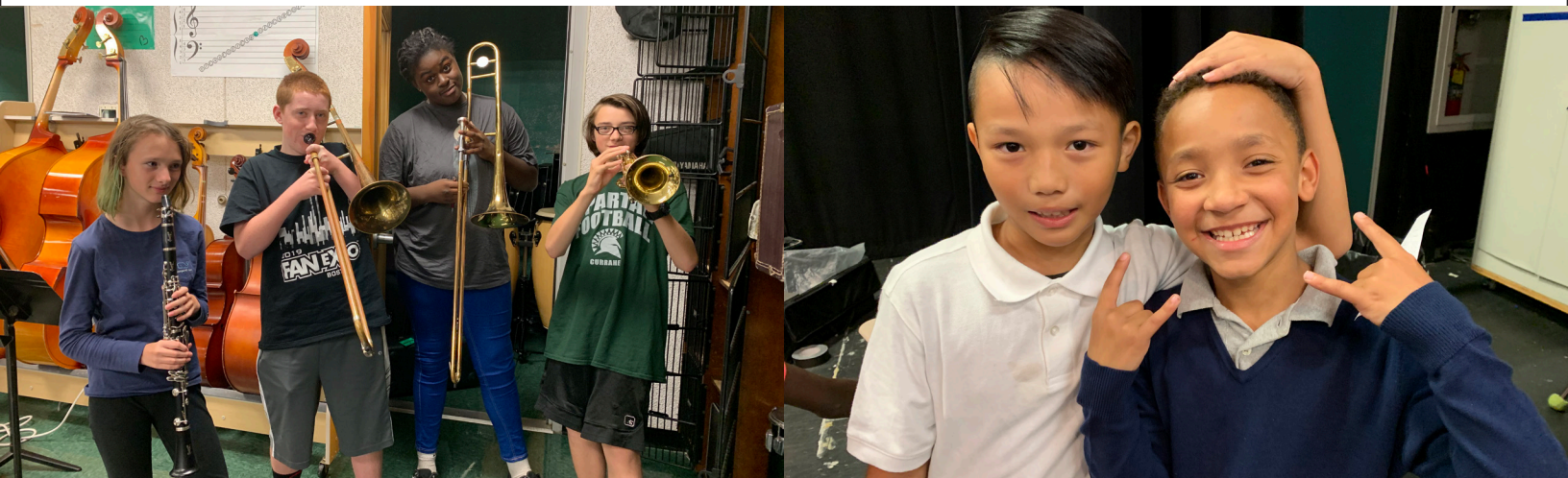
*****ECRWSS**

WINOOSKI, VT 05404



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*Cover photos by Rebecca Savage. Other
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Winooski School District
Budget 2021