

**Wellesley Public Schools School Committee**  
**Operating Budget Guidance FY2017**

The following guidance is meant to assist the Wellesley Public Schools administration in preparing the budget for Fiscal Year 2017. The School Committee directs the administration to prepare a budget within the Board of Selectmen's recommended guideline of a 4.0 percent increase over the FY2016 operating budget. The Committee is sensitive to the Town's fiscal short-and long-term challenges, and will strive to develop a budget within this guideline while balancing the expectations of the community to provide an educational system that meets our core values of Academic Excellence, Cooperative and Caring Relationships, Respect for Human Differences and Commitment to Community.

Within the 4% increase budget, the Committee places priority on the following objectives:

- Meeting legal mandates.
- Supporting the achievement of our system goals, including the 2013-19 WPS Strategic Plan.
- Offering appropriate regular and special education programs and services.
- Supporting enrollment increases and/or decreases by maintaining class size guidelines and student options accordingly.
- Providing competitive compensation and programming to support the recruitment, hiring, retention and development of quality professional and other instructional and administrative staff.
- Providing adequate supplies and equipment to support the educational program.
- Reducing or eliminating fees charged to families for cocurricular and extracurricular activities.
- Diligently searching for cost savings that can be realized without adversely affecting delivery of the educational program.