



# WESTBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUILDING A FUTURE-READY DISTRICT

## BOND REFERENDUM 2018

### THE CHALLENGE: SEVERE OVERCROWDING AT WESTBURY HIGH SCHOOL AND WESTBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### *Student Enrollment Far Exceeds State Guidelines for Building Capacity*

Overcrowding at Westbury Middle School and Westbury High School is at a CRISIS level. At the middle school, we are already at 118% of what the state has set as a guideline for maximum student capacity for that building. **In just three years, projections are that we will be at 138% of the middle school's capacity.**

**At the high school, the overcrowding is even more dramatic.** Current student enrollment is at 137% of the state's guidelines. In three years, projections are that our high school enrollment will bring the building to over 148% of the state's guidelines. **By the 2023-2024 school year, without any intervention, the high school is projected to be at 173% of capacity.**

**For both schools, for our students... this is unacceptable.**



**SEVERE OVERCROWDING AT BOTH WESTBURY HIGH SCHOOL AND WESTBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL NEGATIVELY IMPACTS OUR STUDENTS' EDUCATION, THE RESOURCES AND DIVERSITY OF CLASSES THE DISTRICT CAN OFFER, AND CREATES A POTENTIALLY UNSAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND VISITORS TO THE DISTRICT'S SECONDARY SCHOOLS.**



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## BUILDING A FUTURE-READY DISTRICT

### ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS PROVIDE A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE CHALLENGE

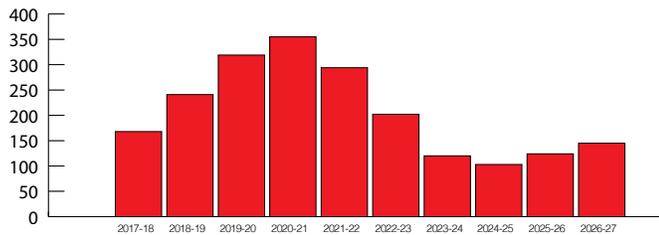
#### STUDENT ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS AND BUILDING CAPACITY

##### ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

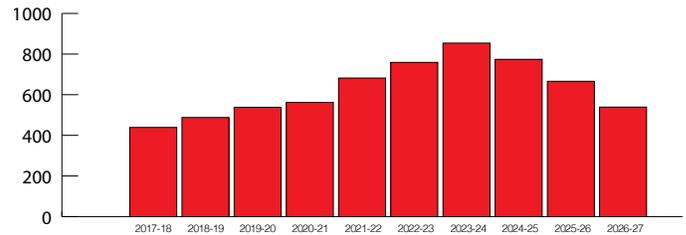
	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27
<b>Middle School</b>	1,110	1,183	1,261	1,297	1,236	1,144	1,062	1,045	1,066	1,087
<b>High School</b>	1,608	1,657	1,707	1,731	1,851	1,928	2,023	1,943	1,835	1,708

**Westbury Middle School Building Capacity: 942 • Westbury High School Building Capacity: 1,169**

NUMBER OF STUDENTS OVER CAPACITY AT MIDDLE SCHOOL



NUMBER OF STUDENTS OVER CAPACITY AT HIGH SCHOOL



#### AT WESTBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL:

- Current enrollment is more than 150 students over state student capacity guidelines.
- By the 2020-2021 school year, the middle school is projected to have more than 350 students over building capacity.

Even with a projected decrease in student enrollment at the middle school nine years out, there will still be almost 150 more students in the building on a daily basis than state guidelines have established as the maximum number of students for a school building the size of the District’s middle school.

#### AT WESTBURY HIGH SCHOOL:

- Current enrollment is more than 435 students over state student capacity guidelines for a building the size of the District’s high school.
- By 2023-2024, the high school is projected to have more than 850 students over the state’s student capacity guidelines.

“*In the first semester of 2017-2018, we actually had three classes in my office because we simply did not have any other space for them.*

*We utilize the library, the stage, the auditorium, the band room is for multiple classes, and we have classes in the cafeteria at the same time teachers are in the cafeteria for their planning sessions. There are times we have three classes in the cafeteria at the same time because we do not have any other space for them.*

— Fernando Agramonte, Westbury Middle School Principal

“*Here at Westbury High School, over just the past three years, we have had an increase of over 300 students. We were overcrowded before, but this has truly put a strain on how we deliver a quality, future-ready education to our students. It has created overcrowded classrooms, overcrowded hallways, and overcrowded cafeterias.*

*If you look at the excessive overcrowding in our high school hallways between classes, it poses an unsafe situation. Any small incident could potentially cause a panic and be potentially dangerous.*

— David Zimpler, Westbury High School Principal



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### THE SOLUTION:

## MODULAR CLASSROOMS AT WESTBURY HIGH SCHOOL AND WESTBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Modular classrooms at Westbury High School and Westbury Middle School would provide 26 additional classrooms. This would effectively alleviate overcrowding and with strategic construction planning, will not impact school schedules or student learning. Modulares have an expected lifespan of 20-30 years and offer many of the advantages of brick and mortar construction at less cost and faster project start-finish completion time.

The proposed plan will provide 12 modular classrooms at Westbury Middle School and 14 modular classrooms at Westbury High School. These modular will be fully integrated into the existing buildings, with covered walkways connecting the modulares to the existing buildings. This will be a seamless integration.

#### WESTBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL 12 Modular Classrooms



#### WESTBURY HIGH SCHOOL 14 Modular Classrooms



### PROPOSED BOND PLAN IS EXPENSE NEUTRAL FOR THE DISTRICT AND TAX NEUTRAL FOR WESTBURY RESIDENTS

Approval of the proposed bond plan on May 15th will not incur additional expenses for the District over current District annual operating expenses. As a result, approval of the bond will not increase residents' school taxes as they directly relate to funding the proposed bond plan projects.

#### *Q. How can a \$58+ million bond not increase District spending or school taxes?*

**A.** The District's state aid rate for qualifying projects is at an all-time high of 82.4%. The District is conservatively projecting 90% of all projects proposed will qualify for principal and interest funding with state aid.

The balance of principal and interest, to be paid by the District, will be covered by repurposing current expenditures:

- The District is currently paying leasing costs for the Ninth Grade Academy at Nassau Community College. There are also bus transportation costs associated with transporting the District's ninth graders to the Nassau Community Academy location. These expenses, in the District's current operating budget and covered by current District taxes, will be redirected to help fund the District's portion of bond principal and interest payments.
- Additionally, current District debt service scheduled to retire in 2020 will be reallocated to funding the new debt service if the bond is approved on May 15th.

Simply put, approval of the bond on May 15th will not add to the District's current operating expenses. As a result, approval of the bond on May 15th will not add to residents' school taxes. A detailed review of the proposed bond plan scope at Westbury Middle School and Westbury High School, and a review of the proposed bond finances, can be found under the Bond Scope and Bond Finances sections respectively of this website.