

## 2015-2016 Property Tax Levy

The 2015-2016 property tax levy by municipality is available to the community on the school district website ([www.waunakee.k12.wi.us](http://www.waunakee.k12.wi.us)), click business services, click tax levy. The 2015-2016 school district budget is available to the community on the school district web-site, click business services, click approved budgets. A version of the 2015-2016 budget in a more grammatical format is available to the community on the school district website, click business services, click budget planning, click 2015-2016 final version. This document provides additional information on the 2015-2016 property tax levy increase.

School district spending in Wisconsin is limited by a formula called the revenue cap. The revenue cap limits the amount of revenues available to a school district from the two main sources of revenues – property taxes and state equalization aid. The two sources of revenues work together in the formula. For example, when state equalization aid is reduced, property taxes go up. When state equalization aid is increased, property taxes go down.

Due to a decrease in state equalization aid for the 2015-16 school year and the November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 referendum, the revenue cap formula requires a property tax levy increase. The property tax levy for 2015-16 increases by 7.4%.

A 7.4% property tax levy increase does not equate to an exact 7.4% increase on the school portion of your property tax bill. This occurs for the following reasons:

1. The 7.4% property tax levy increase approved by the School Board is not a net change in your property tax levy. There are school levy property tax credits that offset a portion of the school district tax levy.
2. The school district is made up of 7 different municipalities. School property tax levies shift between municipalities depending on equalized property value changes.
3. The school tax on a \$200,000 home increases from \$2,272 to \$2,320 or \$48 higher (assuming home had assessment change of 0%).
4. Individual properties can have a tax value increase or decrease based on property changes (like a basement remodel or a reassessment).
5. New properties built in 2014 are taxed for the first time in 2016 and this shifts the school property tax between properties.

The impact of a School Board approved property tax levy increase cannot be calculated by the school district for an individual property based on the variables above. Please feel free to contact Steve Summers at 849-2491 or [ssummers@waunakee.k12.wi.us](mailto:ssummers@waunakee.k12.wi.us) with any questions. Thanks for your time.