

2012-2013 Property Tax Levy

The 2012-2013 property tax levy by municipality is available to the community on the school district website (www.waunakee.k12.wi.us), click business services, click tax levy. The 2012-2013 school district budget is available to the community on the school district web-site, click business services, click approved budgets. A version of the 2012-2013 budget in a more grammatical format is available to the community on the school district website, click business services, click budget planning, click 2012-2013 final version. This document provides additional information on the 2012-2013 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 significant increase in state equalization aid for the 2012-13 school year, the revenue cap formula requires a property tax levy decrease. In an effort to further decrease the property tax levy, the School Board approved a debt refinancing in the summer of 2012. The property tax levy for 2012-13 decreases by 0.80%. The 0.80% property tax levy decrease is the first tax levy decrease since 2001-02.

A 0.80% property tax levy decrease does not equate to an exact 0.80% decrease on the school portion of your property tax bill. This occurs for the following reasons:

1. The 0.80% property tax levy decrease 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. Individual properties can have a tax value increase or decrease based on property changes (like a basement remodel or a reassessment).
4. New properties built in 2011 are taxed for the first time in 2013 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 with any questions. Thanks for your time.