

# FOX CHAPEL AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Book	Policy Manual
Section	600 Finances
Title	Local Taxpayer Bill of Rights
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## **Purpose**

As a local taxing authority, the Board recognizes the school district's responsibility to comply with the requirements of applicable law.[\[1\]](#)

## **Definition**

**Eligible taxes** shall be defined as all non-real estate taxes, including per capita; occupation, occupation assessment and occupation privilege; income and net profits; business gross receipts; privilege; amusements or admissions; and any other tax authorized by the Local Tax Enabling Law.[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

## **Authority**

The Board shall adopt a Local Taxpayer Bill of Rights that includes the following components in simple and nontechnical terms:[\[4\]](#)

1. Taxpayer rights and the district's obligation during an audit or administrative review of the taxpayer's books or records.
2. Administrative and judicial procedures for a taxpayer to appeal or seek review of any adverse tax decision.
3. Procedures for filing and processing refund claims and taxpayer complaints.
4. Enforcement procedures.

The Board shall ensure that taxpayers are notified about the district's Local Taxpayer Bill of Rights any time they are contacted regarding assessment, audit, determination, review and collection of any tax other than property taxes.[\[4\]](#)

## **Delegation of Responsibility**

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent, Business Manager, and/or other designated school district employee to develop administrative regulations to implement this policy which shall include:

1. Preparation and dissemination of the required notice of availability of the Local Taxpayer Bill of Rights.
2. Preparation of a Local Taxpayer Bill of Rights.
3. Preparation of a procedure for the district to request information from a taxpayer.
4. Establishment of an administrative appeals process.
5. Development of the form, content, process and deadlines for taxpayers to file a tax appeal petition.
6. Formulation of rules of practice and procedure for hearings.

The district shall respond to taxpayer requests for the Local Taxpayer Bill of Rights by making copies available at the district offices or mailing at district expense.[\[4\]](#)

### **Guidelines**

Information obtained by the school district as a result of an audit, return, report, investigation, hearing or verification shall be confidential. If a violation of confidentiality is committed by an officer or employee of the school district, they shall be subject to fines and dismissal from office or discharge from employment.[\[5\]](#)

### **Appeals Process**

The district establishes the following as the choices for an administrative process to receive and make determinations on petitions from taxpayers relating to assessment, determination or refund of an eligible tax:[\[6\]](#)

1. Review or hearing and decision by a local tax appeals board appointed by the Board, consisting of three (3) to seven (7) members, including joint local tax appeal boards with other political subdivisions.
2. Review and decision by the Board in executive session.
3. Hearing and decision by a hearing officer appointed by the Board, which shall determine the qualifications and compensation of the appointee.
4. Administrative review or appeal process currently in effect in the district that meets the requirements of applicable law.

Legal

- [1. 53 Pa. C.S.A. 8401 et seq](#)
- [2. 53 P.S. 6924.101 et seq](#)
- [3. 53 Pa. C.S.A. 8422](#)
- [4. 53 Pa. C.S.A. 8423](#)
- [5. 53 Pa. C.S.A. 8437](#)
- [6. 53 Pa. C.S.A. 8430](#)