

Ask the Treasurer – Community FAQ

Property & Income Taxes

Q: How often does the District receive property tax revenue?

A: Twice a year, through distributions from Wyandot, Crawford, and Seneca County Auditors.

Q: Does Mohawk Local Schools also receive income tax revenue?

A: Yes. The District collects a 1% income tax, distributed quarterly by the Ohio Department of Taxation. The current income tax levy expires December 31, 2030.

Q: How do schools raise additional funds?

A: The main funding tool is the property tax. Operating levies pay for day-to-day needs like salaries, textbooks, and utilities. Permanent improvement levies and bond issues pay for buildings, renovations, and long-term equipment. The District also receives revenue from an income tax levy.

Q: What are the different types of school levies?

A: -Regular operating levies – fund general operations, adjusted under HB 920.

-Bond issues – finance major construction projects or additions.

-Permanent improvement levies – fund long-term capital improvements. Mohawk Local Schools has a Classroom Facilities Maintenance levy, which is a type of permanent improvement levy dedicated to maintaining the school building constructed through the state facilities program.

-Emergency levies – raise a set dollar amount for 1–5 years (not currently in place at Mohawk).

-Incremental levies – phase in funding over time (not currently in place at Mohawk).

-Replacement levies – replace an expiring levy at its original rate (not currently in place at Mohawk).

-Substitute levy – replaces one or more expiring emergency or substitute levies. It allows districts to continue collecting the same revenue but also capture additional revenue from new construction added to the tax base (not currently in place at Mohawk).

Q: What does all this mean for county taxpayers?

A: Public schools depend on local taxpayer support. While the state provides some funding, local property and income taxes are essential to maintain quality education for students.

Property Tax Reappraisals & Updates

Q: How do county reappraisals affect school taxes?

A: County auditors reappraise property every six years, with updates every three years. House Bill 920, passed in 1976, ensures that voted levies do not automatically increase revenue as property values rise. Instead, the millage rate is reduced (called “effective millage”) so the District collects only the amount originally approved by voters. Inside millage, however, is not reduced and can generate some additional revenue.

Q: How are property tax bills calculated?

A: Taxes are based on the assessed value (35% of the appraised value) and the millage rate. For example, a home appraised at \$100,000 has an assessed value of \$35,000.

Q: What does a “mill” mean?

A: One mill equals \$1 of tax for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. So, a property valued at \$100,000 generates \$35 in taxes per mill.

Q: What is the difference between inside and outside millage?

A: Inside millage is set by the Ohio Constitution and does not require a vote. Outside millage must be approved by voters and is typically used to fund schools and other local services.

Q: Are there credits that lower property tax bills?

A: Yes. The 12.5% rollback credit reduces a homeowner’s property tax bill by 12.5% on voted millage. The State reimburses schools so the District still receives the full levy amount.

Tax Budget

Q: What is a tax budget?

A: The tax budget is a document the Board must approve each January and submit to the County Auditor. It estimates revenues, expenditures, and fund balances. The County Budget Commission reviews it and issues the official Certificate of Estimated Resources, which sets the legal spending authority for the District.

Q: How does it connect to property taxes?

A: The tax budget aligns the District with amounts certified by the County Auditor and ensures the Board formally accepts tax rates and amounts.

Forecast

Q: What is a forecast used for?

A: A forecast projects revenues, expenditures, and fund balances for the current year plus three future years. It helps the Board and community understand financial health and plan for staffing, programs, and levies.

Q: How is the forecast prepared?

A: The Treasurer’s Office uses past financial data, current budgets, tax collections, and known future changes to prepare the forecast. The Board adopts it and submits it to the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW).

Q: Where can the forecast be found?

A: The forecast is posted on the Mohawk Treasurer’s webpage and also on the ODEW website under Financial Forecasts.

Appropriations & Revenue Monitoring

Q: Why is monitoring appropriations and revenues important?

A: Appropriations are the Board’s legal spending authority, and revenues are the funds

available to support spending. If appropriations exceed revenues, the District could face deficits. Careful monitoring ensures fiscal responsibility.

Q: How often are they monitored?

A: The Treasurer's Office provides monthly budgetary reports to the Board to ensure compliance and transparency.

Intergovernmental & Grant Funds

Q: What is the State Foundation?

A: The State of Ohio funds schools through a foundation formula, which balances a state-set minimum with each district's ability to raise local taxes. Districts with lower property wealth receive more aid. Some districts are on the formula, while others are on a guarantee, meaning they receive at least as much aid as in prior years. Mohawk is currently a guarantee district.

Q: How are state and federal funds received?

A: Most state and federal funds are deposited electronically and verified through state systems before being posted by the Treasurer's Office.

Q: Do Ohio Lottery proceeds provide significant funding?

A: No. Lottery funds account for only 6–8% of school expenses statewide and have largely replaced, not added to, state funding. They do not eliminate the need for local taxpayer support.

Tuition & Preschool Payments

Q: How does the District collect preschool tuition?

A: Tuition is paid through PaySchools. The Fiscal Office monitors payments, and funds are deposited daily.

Food Service

Q: How are cafeteria payments handled?

A: The District uses PaySchools for lunch payments. Lunch prices are set and approved by the Board.

Student & Extracurricular Activities

Q: How are athletic ticket sales managed?

A: Ticket sellers complete a sales report that reconciles cash and tickets. The Athletic Director deposits the funds, and the Treasurer's Office verifies and records them.

Purchasing

Q: What is the purchasing process?

A: Purchases require approval by supervisors, the Superintendent, and the Treasurer before a purchase order is issued and payment is made. Once approved, a purchase order is created and purchases or commitments can be made. Once the purchase is complete, the

invoice is forwarded to the Treasurer's office where it is cross-checked to the approved purchase order. It is then processed in our system for payment.

Payroll & Leave

Q: How is payroll processed?

A: Hourly staff submit timesheets, while salaried staff are paid according to board-approved contracts. Employees are paid through direct deposit or checks issued by the Treasurer's Office.

Q: How are leave requests handled?

A: Employees submit leave requests for supervisor and Superintendent approval, and approved leave is then processed by the Treasurer's Office.

Debt & Transfers

Q: How are debt proceeds and payments managed?

A: Debt proceeds are deposited into District accounts and tracked in separate funds. Payments follow established schedules with oversight by bond counsel.

Q: Who approves transfers between funds?

A: All transfers must be approved by the Board of Education and recorded in the official minutes.

Bank Reconciliations

Q: How often are bank accounts reconciled?

A: The Treasurer's Office reconciles accounts monthly, and reports are provided to the Board as part of the financial package.