

Treutlen County Schools Proposes Lower Millage Rate

The Treutlen County Board of Education has tentatively set the 2026 school millage rate at 12 mills, a reduction from the current rate of 13.987 mills.

We want our community to understand why upcoming state-required notices may refer to a property tax “increase” even though the Board is proposing to lower the actual millage rate.

Property values in Treutlen County have increased through reassessments. Georgia law requires the proposed millage rate to be compared to a calculated rollback rate—the rate that would offset the increased value resulting from reassessments. Because the proposed 12-mill rate is above the calculated rollback rate, the school system is required to advertise a tax increase and hold three public hearings.

The important distinction is that Treutlen County Schools is lowering its actual millage rate from 13.987 mills to 12 mills.

What Does That Mean for Taxpayers?

The proposed reduction from 13.987 mills to 12 mills is a decrease of 1.987 mills, or approximately a 14.21% reduction in the millage rate.

Even with this reduction, Georgia law requires the school system to advertise a property tax increase because the proposed 12-mill rate is higher than the calculated rollback rate.

So, what does that actually mean for a taxpayer?

According to the required tax notice, for a home with a fair market value of \$100,000, the proposed increase above the rollback rate is approximately \$24.66.

It is important to understand that the Board is still proposing to lower the actual millage rate. The advertised increase is based on the state-required comparison to the rollback rate, which reflects changes in property values due to reassessments.

Individual tax bills may vary depending on changes in property assessments and applicable exemptions.

Why 12 Mills?

Maintaining a 12-mill M&O rate is important to Treutlen County Schools' ability to qualify for Georgia's Low-Wealth Capital Outlay Program, along with meeting the program's other eligibility requirements.

This funding can save our local taxpayers significant dollars on major facility projects. A recent example is our HVAC replacement project, for which Treutlen County Schools received approximately \$1.2 million in state funding.

The Treutlen County Board of Education's goal is to help reduce the property tax burden on our local taxpayers while continuing to make responsible financial decisions for our schools. By tentatively reducing the millage rate from 13.987 mills to 12 mills, the Board is working to provide tax relief while maintaining the 12-mill threshold necessary to remain eligible for valuable state Low-Wealth Capital Outlay funding.

This approach allows the Board to balance two important responsibilities: reducing the millage rate for our taxpayers and protecting opportunities to bring state dollars back to Treutlen County for major facility needs. These state funds can significantly reduce the amount that would otherwise have to be funded locally.

If you have questions, you may contact Susan Stone, Superintendent or Mary Jane Corbin, Finance Director.