

State aid drop causes Dist. 20 tax increase

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Friday, 09 September 2011 13:47 -



Higher tax bill likely, especially for property owners with increased valuations.

A substantial rise in property valuation in District 20 means school patrons have the means to pay more to support education.

At least that's how the state-aid formula works, according to superintendent Mike Teahon.

Because of the formula and a 9% increase in district property values, District 20 will receive \$566,413 less in state aid in the coming budget year.

The proposed 2011-12 budget calls for a spending increase of \$479,254.

That budget is 2.4% over 2010-11 expenditures which, because of the drop in state aid, will require an increase of 9.4% in the property tax request.

What that means for property owners is that a tax payment on a \$100,000 home, which was \$1,194 last year, will increase \$1 this year if property valuation remains the same.

The difference will be more substantial for owners of properties that have increased in value.

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2011-12 SCHOOL BUDGET			
	2011-12	2010-11	Difference
Valuation	\$484,766,851	\$444,695,814	9%
Budget	\$10,000,000	\$8,200,000	21.5%
Tax selling	\$5,650,450	\$5,121,198	8.4%
Levy	1.194	1.193	1%

*The sizeable increase is due to unused budget authority that is now included in school budgets. In the past, the figure was calculated outside the budget. It gives schools the authority to budget for allowable growth but doesn't represent real dollars unless accessed. Without inclusion of \$1.2 million in unused budget authority, and \$500,000 in cash reserve, District 20's proposed budget is \$9,100,898 which represents a 2.4% increase over the current budget.

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