

# School District of Westfield

## 2019-2020 Financial News

October 17, 2019

### Introduction

In this column, information will be shared with you about the financial picture of the School District of Westfield. The district-wide tax levy increased while the mill rate decreased this year. However, residents living in different municipalities will be affected differently. To ensure that the public has an opportunity to understand this, detailed information will be provided for you in this article. As always, if you should have any questions, please contact the district office.

### Background

The mill rate is a calculation of taxes per \$1,000 of property value. The mill rate in the School District of Westfield for the 2019-2020 fiscal year is \$6.78 per \$1,000 of property value. This is down from \$7.08 per \$1,000 of property value for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. This means that the property taxes will decrease \$30 on a \$100,000 home. The 2019-2020 tax levy is \$7,499,258 compared to the 2018-2019 tax levy of \$7,455,969. The increase in Total state aid (+\$187,070) compared to the increase in the revenue limit (+\$235,359) is the primary cause for the modest tax levy increase (+\$43,289). However, the relatively large increase in district-wide equalized valuation (+5.0%) combined with the modest increase in the levy amount (+0.6%) contributed to the significant decrease of the mill rate (-4.2%).

### Property Values: Equalized Versus Assessed

Equalized Value of Property (EVOP) is determined by the State Department of Revenue and is intended to be an estimate of the fair market value of property relative to other property throughout the state. It takes into account variations across the state and assessment practices.

## Tax Invoice From Schools To Municipalities

To collect taxes, school districts use the EVOP to determine how to divide property taxes between the municipalities in their district in a way that is reasonable.

Municipality	2018-2019 EVOP (\$)	2018-2019 % of Total	2019-2020 EVOP (\$)	2019-2020 % of Total	EVOP Change (\$)
T. COLBURN	\$408,894	0.039%	\$103,696	0.009%	-\$305,198
T. JACKSON	\$63,057,916	5.985%	\$67,045,575	6.062%	\$3,987,659
T. NEW CHESTER	\$721,571	0.068%	\$746,788	0.068%	\$25,217
T. NEW HAVEN	\$220,029	0.021%	\$173,845	0.016%	-\$46,184
T. RICHFIELD	\$1,151,511	0.109%	\$4,030,901	0.364%	\$2,879,390
T. CRYSTAL LAKE	\$126,536,900	12.009%	\$124,495,300	11.257%	-\$2,041,600
T. DOUGLAS	\$9,177,996	0.871%	\$9,587,777	0.867%	\$409,781
T. HARRIS	\$72,369,200	6.868%	\$76,101,700	6.881%	\$3,732,500
T. NESHKORO	\$73,321,206	6.959%	\$76,710,815	6.936%	\$3,389,609
T. NEWTON	\$66,755,200	6.336%	\$69,393,500	6.275%	\$2,638,300
T. OXFORD	\$114,412,000	10.859%	\$117,660,700	10.639%	\$3,248,700
T. PACKWAUKEE	\$14,191,777	1.347%	\$14,571,052	1.318%	\$379,275
T. SPRINGFIELD	\$134,521,400	12.767%	\$145,704,600	13.175%	\$11,183,200
T. WESTFIELD	\$104,539,700	9.922%	\$110,977,500	10.035%	\$6,437,800
V. NESHKORO	\$21,859,300	2.075%	\$22,888,400	2.070%	\$1,029,100
V. OXFORD	\$27,133,800	2.575%	\$27,437,500	2.481%	\$303,700
V. WESTFIELD	\$49,237,800	4.673%	\$50,842,300	4.597%	\$1,604,500
T. COLOMA	\$97,668,800	9.270%	\$105,245,600	9.517%	\$7,576,800
T. DAKOTA	\$4,814,184	0.457%	\$5,272,243	0.477%	\$458,059
T. MARION	\$35,163,475	3.337%	\$37,180,279	3.362%	\$2,016,804
T. RICHFORD	\$14,153,855	1.343%	\$14,821,483	1.340%	\$667,628
V. COLOMA	\$22,232,200	2.110%	\$24,919,400	2.253%	\$2,687,200
<b>TOTAL EVOP</b>	<b>\$1,053,648,714</b>	<b>100.000%</b>	<b>\$1,105,910,954</b>	<b>100.000%</b>	<b>\$52,262,240</b>

The school district informs each municipality how much in taxes to collect on behalf of the school using this method. Each municipality divides the school tax among the property owners in the municipality based on the assessed property values. For example, if landowner X had property equal to 0.10% of the total assessed property in the village, the property tax for that individual would be 0.10% of the total tax levy.

## What Is The Impact Of The School Tax Levy Credit In My Municipality?

For school districts, this is the easiest part to answer because we have that data. The levy amount sent to each municipality compared to last year is:

Municipality	2018-2019 Levy (\$)	2019-2020 Levy (\$)	Levy Change (\$)
T. COLBURN	\$2,893	\$703	-\$2,190
T. JACKSON	\$446,219	\$454,641	\$8,422
T. NEW CHESTER	\$5,106	\$5,064	-\$42
T. NEW HAVEN	\$1,557	\$1,179	-\$378
T. RICHFIELD	\$8,148	\$27,334	\$19,186
T. CRYSTAL LAKE	\$895,417	\$844,211	-\$51,206
T. DOUGLAS	\$64,947	\$65,015	\$68
T. HARRIS	\$512,109	\$516,051	\$3,942
T. NESHKORO	\$518,845	\$520,181	\$1,336
T. NEWTON	\$472,382	\$470,562	-\$1,820
T. OXFORD	\$809,617	\$797,865	-\$11,752
T. PACKWAUKEE	\$100,426	\$98,807	-\$1,619
T. SPRINGFIELD	\$951,919	\$988,034	\$36,115
T. WESTFIELD	\$739,758	\$752,546	\$12,788
V. NESHKORO	\$154,684	\$155,208	\$524
V. OXFORD	\$192,008	\$186,056	-\$5,952
V. WESTFIELD	\$348,423	\$344,765	-\$3,658
T. COLOMA	\$691,137	\$713,678	\$22,541
T. DAKOTA	\$34,067	\$35,751	\$1,684
T. MARION	\$248,828	\$252,122	\$3,294
T. RICHFORD	\$100,157	\$100,505	\$348
V. COLOMA	\$157,322	\$168,980	\$11,658
<b>TOTAL LEVY</b>	<b>\$7,455,969</b>	<b>\$7,499,258</b>	<b>\$43,289</b>

  

County	2018-2019 Levy (\$)	2019-2020 Levy (\$)	Levy Change (\$)
ADAMS CO.	\$463,923	\$488,921	\$24,998
MARQUETTE CO.	\$5,760,535	\$5,739,301	-\$21,234
WAUSHARA CO.	\$1,231,511	\$1,271,036	\$39,525
<b>TOTAL LEVY</b>	<b>\$7,455,969</b>	<b>\$7,499,258</b>	<b>\$43,289</b>

Assuming no other changes, this is what one could expect the impact of the school tax levy to be on your property tax bill. The school tax lottery credit is a “school aid” that comes to school districts through the municipalities. The state sends the municipalities an amount used to pay part of the school levy for the municipality. This lowers the amount of the tax bill and that is

passed on to property owners. School districts are not informed of the amount of the levy credit payments; we simply receive it (state aid) as part of the payment municipalities send us with the tax payment. Property owners in the School District of Westfield also received an assessment from Madison Area Technical College.

### **Factors That Impact The School Portion Of Your Tax Bill**

- The three-year average FTE membership decreased from 1165 to 1163. Even though the FTE remained nearly flat, the revenue limit increased by \$235,359 because the per-pupil amount increased by \$300 for Westfield.
- The district-wide equalized valuation increased by 5.0%.
- The General state aid increase of \$112,256 means that Westfield will now receive a total \$3,780,442 this year. The District is also receiving \$76,961 in High Poverty state aid this year, which it did not receive last year.
- The increase in Total state aid (+\$187,070) compared to the increase in the revenue limit (+\$235,359) is the primary cause for the modest tax levy increase (+\$43,289).
- The mill rate decreased by \$0.30 from last year. This means that the property taxes will decrease by \$30 on a \$100,000 home. The current mill rate is \$6.78 (or \$678 per \$100,000 home). The relatively large increase in district-wide equalized valuation (+5.0%) combined with the modest increase in the levy amount (+0.6%) contributed to the significant decrease of the mill rate (-4.2%).

### **Other Financial Comments**

- The current budget for fund 10 expenditures is \$14,006,927 compared to \$13,839,226 last year.
- The projected fund balance on June 30, 2020 will be \$5,040,643 (or 36% of the operating budget). A healthy fund balance prevents short-term borrowing and can be helpful with maintenance projects, vehicle replacement, and other emergencies.
- The overall indebtedness for the district is \$700,000. The QZAB loan is the only remaining loan and will be paid off in the fall of 2026.