



Muscogee County School District Columbus, Georgia

For Immediate Release

Dr. David F. Lewis
Superintendent of Education

Motto

“Just as the lighthouse guides the ships at sea channels, the Muscogee County School District must carefully guide the students through the channels of learning enlightenment.”

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Muscogee County Board of Education today announced its intention to adopt a millage rate for fiscal year 2016 that will require an increase in property taxes by 1.50 percent.

The Board has determined that this proposed mill levy is necessary to provide the resources needed for all students to achieve as we continue in our efforts to be a premier school district. For the past year, the district has realized an increase in its graduation rate to 76.6% (State average 72.6%), increased student enrollment of 331 FTEs, and introduction of new programs and enrichment initiatives that have propelled student learning to heighten levels. We don't plan to stop there.

This proposed levy will work to restore some of the shortfalls faced by the District as a result of fourteen consecutive years of the State's inability to fully fund its share of public education. The funding shortfalls or State Austerity Reductions from fiscal year 2003 through fiscal year 2016 total \$186.7 million.

These state budget cuts are compounded by the fact that the property tax digest for Muscogee County has not increased significantly in recent years. The property tax digest for the current year is again projected to realize a nominal increase. The Board of Education must then levy over 6 mills of tax to provide the local five-mill share revenue required for participation in the state education funding program.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 23.37 mills, an increase of 0.043 mills. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 23.327 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$100,000 is approximately \$1.14 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$150,000 is approximately \$2.58.

The proposed millage rate requires a millage rate higher than the rollback mill rate. Georgia law requires that before the Board can set a final millage rate, it must hold three public hearings to allow for public input.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held in the Board Room on the 1st floor of the Board of Education, 2960 Macon Road at the dates and times indicated.

- Monday, May 11, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 18, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 1, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

The millage rate for 2015 will be set at a meeting held in the Board Room on the 1st floor of the Board of Education, 2960 Macon Road on Monday, June 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

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