



# Township High School District 211

## Community Connections: Finance Edition

July 2016

### District 211 Approved No Increase in Property Taxes

Property owners and businesses in District 211 recently received their property tax bill.

For the current property tax bill cycle, the District 211 Board of Education **did not increase property taxes** and took actions to collect the same property tax amount as 2015.

If the amount of a taxpayer's total property tax bill or the amount going to District 211 increases, one might falsely conclude that District 211 raised taxes. **District 211 did not raise property taxes** and any increase that appears on a property tax bill is not attributable to District 211. There are many factors that contribute to calculations of individual property tax bills.

#### The 5 Factors of a Tax Bill

Factors	Controlled by:
1) Property Value	Cook County
2) Assessment Level Per Classification	Cook County
3) State Equalization Factor	Cook County
4) Tax Rate	Taxing Jurisdiction – i.e. D211
5) Exemptions	Cook County

For example, a change in property values for your individual property and the collective values of properties in the community have an

impact on individual property tax bill amounts. Additionally, Cook County applies a factor to bring equity to home values in our community compared to those in other areas of the county. These factors can increase or decrease individual property tax bills without any change by a taxing jurisdiction. Please refer to the community education resources available at <http://adc.d211.org/operations/financial/> for additional information on property tax bill calculations.

When considering the past five years, the average annual increase in property taxes attributable to District 211 is 1.6%. Many are surprised to learn this fact because individual property tax bills or the amount attributable to District 211 on an individual tax bill may have increased more than this percentage. Factors outside the control of District 211 and other taxing jurisdictions also impact the amount of an individual property owner's tax bill.

Tax Year	D211 Tax Increase
2015	0.0%
2014	1.7%
2013	1.3%
2012	3.2%
2011	1.7%
<b>5-year Average Tax Increase:</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

**FACT:** District 211 did not increase property taxes this year. Over the past five years, on average, District 211 has increased annual property taxes by 1.6%.

### District 211 Provides Property Tax Relief for Ninth Consecutive Year

To provide tax relief, District 211 has taken steps to reduce property taxes over the past nine years.

For the current property tax bills, the District 211 Board of Education again took action to decrease the District's reserve funds (savings) in

order to reduce property taxes. **Over the past nine years, District 211 has reduced property taxes by more than \$30 million through the use of reserve funds.** Since 2008, District 211 has helped to reduce tax bills through these actions.

### Potential School Funding Challenges in the State of Illinois

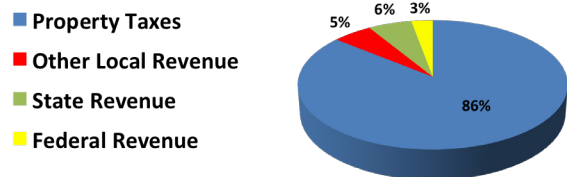
The State of Illinois recently passed a budget for education and District 211 will not lose any State funding for the 2016-2017 school year. We oppose proposed legislation that would significantly decrease the amount of State funds currently allocated to District 211 and continue to work with legislators for a future State funding solution. District 211 continues to manage future shortfalls in State funding by implementing multiple years of budget reductions and prioritizing future reductions, if necessary.

As a member of the District 211 community, your tax dollars ensure quality educational opportunities that annually support

the development of 12,000 students and help prepare them with skills to participate in our community, economy, and democracy.

#### D211 Budget Summary-Revenue

2015-2016 Budget



### Bond-Free Future Facility Improvements

Four years ago, District 211 issued bonds (debt) to pay for health and safety improvements to our school facilities required by the Illinois State Board of Education. This debt will be fully paid in the fall of 2017 and District 211 will have no more bonded debt, saving money for taxpayers on future property tax bills.

Improvements to District 211 facilities will continue to be necessary to provide safe environments that are conducive to learning and supportive of student opportunities. The District has a multi-year facility improvement plan. Currently, the District plans to use available resources

to pay for the upcoming facility improvement projects including:

- roof repairs;
- renovations to bathrooms and locker rooms original to the schools including plumbing, ventilation, and electrical;
- upgrades to original or aging mechanical equipment and systems; and
- renovation of outdoor multi-purpose spaces.

Continued prudent financial planning will allow District 211 to maintain and improve facilities while responsibly managing financial resources provided by community tax dollars.

For more information, visit the District 211 website at [adc.d211.org](http://adc.d211.org) or call the Business Office at 847-755-6613.