

Great Meadows Tax Levy Proposal

A CHANCE TO REGAIN SOME OF WHAT WAS LOST

Overview

STATE GUIDANCE

STATE AID LOSS EFFECTS

<p>Under P.L.2024, c.13: Stabilized School Budget Aid Grant Program and Increased Tax Levy Cap for Certain Districts - Great Meadows Regional was eligible to seek a one-time, \$1.2 million increase to the tax levy. This would allow GMRSD to regain AND sustain the proposed positions. While the district was eligible to seek \$1.2 million, Administration worked to find a number (\$500,000) that allowed for substantial growth within our district, while still being conscious of the effect on the taxpayers.</p>	<p>GMRSD has lost \$3.8 million in State Aid since 2018 due to the S2 State Aid cuts. This has resulted in the loss of 22 staff members due to budget cuts since 2017. Each department of the District has been affected by these cuts: Teaching Staff, Custodial Staff, Administrative Staff, and Support Staff.</p>
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Summary

TAX LEVY INCREASE	\$500,000 (out of possible \$1.2 million)
STAFFING PROPOSAL	<p>Central School - Two Teachers</p> <p>Middle School - Two Teachers</p> <p>District - One Assistant Principal</p>
WHY?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Decreased class sizes = better academic performance (test scores), more manageable classrooms, teachers can do their best work ● Increased Special Education program offerings = inclusive classrooms = students grow academically and socially ● Improved intervention Programs = fewer Special Education referrals, more personalized instruction ● Enhanced G&T program, Encore classes = provide well-rounded education ● Empower principals to focus on the long-term educational vision rather than disciplinary action = best teaching practices across grade levels ● Teacher Retention = keep the great ones and attract more
NEXT STEPS	<p>If the new proposed budget is approved: Hire staff, place in highest priority roles, continue to build back from the S2 hole</p> <p>If the new proposed budget is not approved: Maintain status quo, attempt to creatively address problem areas created by S2</p>

Tax Levy Side by Side

24/25 Budget

APPROVED TAX LEVY	PROPOSED TAX LEVY
\$16,608,103	\$17,108,103

	INDEPENDENCE	LIBERTY
APPROVED TAX LEVY INCREASE*	\$142.70	\$73.50
PROPOSED TAX LEVY INCREASE*	\$338.19	\$264.96
YEARLY DIFFERENCE	\$195.49	\$191.46
MONTHLY DIFFERENCE	\$16.29	\$15.95

*based on the average \$300,000 home

25/26 Budget & Beyond

	APPROVED TAX LEVY	PROPOSED TAX LEVY
2% RISE IN 25/26	\$16,940,265	\$17,450,265
DIFFERENCE	\$332,162	\$342,162

While this Tax Levy increase will be permanent and will cause an increase to the tax levies going forward, as you can see, the increase is minimal as we continue on a 2% increase model.