



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Education and Administration
From: Rob Grossi
Date: December 10, 2019
Re: Property Tax Relief Grant

For the second consecutive year, the State of Illinois will be allocating funds to school districts to be used to provide property tax relief in their communities. This year, the State will be allocating \$53,650,000 towards the Property Tax Relief Grant Program. The allocation of the funds will be based off a system that ranks school district tax rates compared to all other school districts in the State by type of school (elementary, high school, unit).

This year, Oak Park Elementary School District 97 is ranked 100th on the list, which means it is unlikely that funds will be available to be awarded the grant. Last year the District did apply for the grant and it seems prudent for the District to again apply for the grant. If awarded the grant, the District would receive a grant up to \$5,012,828 from the State, which would become part of their Evidenced-Based Funding base in future years. In turn, the District would have to commit to abating \$6,261,045 in taxes for two consecutive years.

The application must be submitted to ISBE in early January. If awarded the grant, the school district would need to abate the taxes in March 2020. ISBE does not require that the application be approved by the Board of Education. Last year, the business manager discussed the matter under Administrative Items and asked the Board for feedback. I suggest the same course of action.

The recommendation is that the Board of Education apply for the maximum amount of property tax relief. With the blessing of the Board of Education, the business office will coordinate the submission of the application prior to the deadline.

If you have any questions or desire any additional information or clarity before the meeting, please contact Dr. Kelley and I will respond accordingly.