

MEMO

DATE: October 8, 2025

TO: Doug Eccarius, Superintendent

FROM: Maureen A. Jones, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

SUBJECT: 2025 TENTATIVE TAX LEVY

Summary

Attached is the tentative levy that we are required to prepare annually. School districts and other governmental bodies are required to publish levy information in a newspaper of general circulation and to hold a public hearing prior to the adoption of the final levy if the tax levy request exceeds 105% of the extension from the previous year. We are not required to hold a public hearing this year because the proposed increase in the operating funds levy is not over 105% over the prior year's extension. The final levy must be filed with the DuPage County Clerk by the last Tuesday in December. As shown in the summary (Exhibit A), I am recommending a levy, excluding Debt Service, of \$36,580,500, a 4.54% increase over the prior year extension. The Debt Service levy will be preliminarily set at \$2,240,681, as called for in the debt service schedule, for the 2022 and 2023 general obligation bond issues. This represents a total levy increase of 4.38%.

Because of the way the tax cap formula works, the District must ensure that every available dollar is captured. If the levy is less than the maximum, the dollars for that year are lost for that year as well as every year in the future. The actual increase is expected to be lower than the levy request, however it is largely dependent on the value of new property in the District. Most of D89's property base lies within Milton Township. Preliminary numbers from the Milton Township Assessor's Office were not obtained prior to this levy request and therefore, estimates were based on historical information.

Detail

The initial levy is filed in December, and it is that year that we use for labeling the levy. The 2025 levy is the levy that will initially be filed in December of 2025, finalized in March of 2026, and collected primarily in June and September of 2026. Since the first installment of the tax levy is received near the last day of school, this money is not available to finance the operations of the fiscal year in which received. For this reason, the June collections are usually referred to as "early taxes" for the subsequent school year and deferred as such. These funds are expected to be utilized to finance the operations of the 2026-2027 school year.

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Briar Glen School
Mitch Dubinsky, Principal
Park View School
Kristie Mate, Principal

Westfield School

Kristen Ulery, Principal
Glen Crest Middle School
Brett McPherson, Principal
Samantha Smith, Assistant Principal

The certificate of tax levy form is the first document after this memorandum.

Exhibit "A" is the levy calculation page. The 2024 total equalized assessed value of all District property of \$1,053,640,641 is entered into the worksheet. We are estimating a 3.0% increase in the value of existing property based on historical averages. We input into this spreadsheet the estimate of new property for 2025, at \$4,000,000. This estimate was obtained from historical estimates since the Milton Township assessor does not yet have the figures available. The spreadsheet then calculates the estimated 2025 EAV at \$1,089,249,860 given these assumptions.

The estimated preliminary rate as a result of the 2025 levy in the Debt Service Fund is 0.2078. Recall that during the referendum campaign for the bonds, the Board committed to tax relief for the community by allowing older bond issues to "fall off" the levy and then issuing \$27M in bonds to address the long-term capital projects and facilities plan. The Debt Service tax rate was reduced by \$0.1746 to \$0.2370 for the 2021 levy. The sale of the 2022 bonds reduced that rate to \$0.2214 for the 2022 levy, a further reduction of \$0.0156. The Debt Service tax rate for the 2024 levy year was \$0.2088 and is estimated at \$0.2078 for the 2025 levy year.

Exhibit "B" shows the levy by line item. This exhibit breaks out each component of the levy. It shows last year's actual final levy and the proposed 2025 levy. Please note the "PLUS" column; in the past, the County Clerk added 1% to the proposed levy to cover rounding, refunds and other costs. Beginning with the 2021 levy, this practice was discontinued for all funds except the Bond & Interest Fund. Alternatively, the law now allows for boards of education to access an "Aggregate Refund" levy, which amounts to the total amount districts paid for objections or refunds in the prior twelve-month period. This amount is automatically applied to the extension by the County Clerk. Column D and column E show the statutory rate limits, if any, and the calculated rates if the District were not subject to tax caps. The final column is not known until March, when the extension is finalized by the County Clerk. These worksheets are estimates only and are used to complete the tentative levy as required by law.

Of particular note this year is there will be no levy in the transportation fund. The district has received tax levy objections in that fund due to our Miller Ratio for the individual fund being above 2.5 for several years. After speaking with our attorney, this is common practice to spend down that fund balance and insulate the district from further objections.

Board of Education	Superintendent	Arbor View School	Westfield School
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