

**School Board Meeting Agenda Item**

Topic: Truth in Taxation Process  
Presenter(s): Bob Jaszczak, Superintendent  
Chris Muhvich, Director of Finance & Operations

Nature of Action Requested

Board Action  
Board Information or Report      X

Background Information

Minnesota's **Truth in Taxation (TnT) law** is a public participation process that requires school districts, counties, and cities to hold a public hearing and adopt a proposed tax levy before setting their final property tax. This process allows property owners to comment on proposed budgets and tax increases.

**Key Aspects of Truth in Taxation for Minnesota Schools**

- **Requirement:** School districts are among the local government units required to follow the TnT process.
- **Notice of Proposed Taxes:** County auditors mail a parcel-specific "Notice of Proposed Taxes" (also known as the TnT notice) to every property owner in November of each year. This notice estimates the property taxes for the following year based on proposed levies from various taxing jurisdictions, including the local school district.
- **Public Hearings:** The notice includes the date, time, and location of public meetings held by the school district and other local governments. These meetings usually occur between late November and late December.
- **Purpose:** The primary goal is to provide a forum for residents to ask questions and provide input to school board members and other local leaders regarding the proposed budget and property tax levy.
- **Levy Limits:** A school district must first adopt a "proposed" (preliminary) levy in September. The final levy adopted after the public hearing may be equal to or lower than the proposed levy, but it cannot be higher.

- **Voter-Approved Levies:** A portion of a school district's tax levy often comes from voter-approved referenda, which are separate questions presented to voters on the ballot to increase funding for operations or building projects.
- **Compliance and Resources:** The Minnesota Department of Revenue provides instructions and forms for school districts to certify compliance with the TnT law. School-specific funding questions can be directed to the [Minnesota Department of Education](#).