



Muscofee County School District Columbus, Georgia

Dr. David F. Lewis
Superintendent of
Education

Motto

“Just as the lighthouse guides the ships at sea channels, the Muscofee County School District must carefully guide the students through the channels of learning enlightenment.”

For Immediate Release

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Muscofee County Board of Education today announced its intention to adopt a millage rate for fiscal year 2017 that will require an increase in property taxes by 1.50 percent.

The Board has determined the proposed mill levy is necessary to provide the resources needed for *all* students to achieve as the district continues its efforts to become a premier school district. Recent achievements include:

- Continued year-over-year increase in graduation rate. The District’s graduation rate increased 8% from 76.6% in 2014, to 84.6% in 2015, which exceeds the State graduation rate, which only increased 6.2% from 72.5% in 2014 to 78.7% in 2015.
- Gains in Scholastic Attitude Test (SAT) Composite score. The District’s SAT score increased to 1432 for 2015, from 1429 for 2014.
- An increase in the American College Test (ACT) Composite score of 18.6 for 2014 to 19.0 for 2015.
- Increased high school course offerings at the middle school level.

The proposed levy will assist with efforts to restore some of the shortfalls faced by the District as a result of fifteen consecutive years of the State’s inability to fully fund its share of public education. The funding shortfalls or State Austerity Reductions from fiscal year 2003 through fiscal year 2017 now total \$189.7 million.

The state budget cuts are compounded by the fact that the property tax digest for Muscofee County has not increased significantly in recent years. The property tax digest for the current year is projected to be a nominal increase again. The Board of Education must then levy 6.10 mills of tax to provide the local five-mill share revenue required for participation in the state education funding program.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 23.37 mills, an increase of 0.053 mills. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 23.317 mills. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$125,000 is approximately \$1.93 and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$175,000 is approximately \$3.71.

The proposed millage rate requires a millage rate higher than the rollback mill rate. Georgia law requires that before the Board can set a final millage rate, it must hold three public hearings to allow for public input.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held in the Board Room on the first floor of the Board of Education, 2960 Macon Road, at the dates and times indicated below.

- Monday, May 9, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.
- Monday, May 16, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.
- Monday, June 13, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

The millage rate for 2016 will be set at a meeting held in the Board Room on the first floor of the Muscofee County Public Education Center, which is located at 2960 Macon Road on Monday, June 20, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.

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