

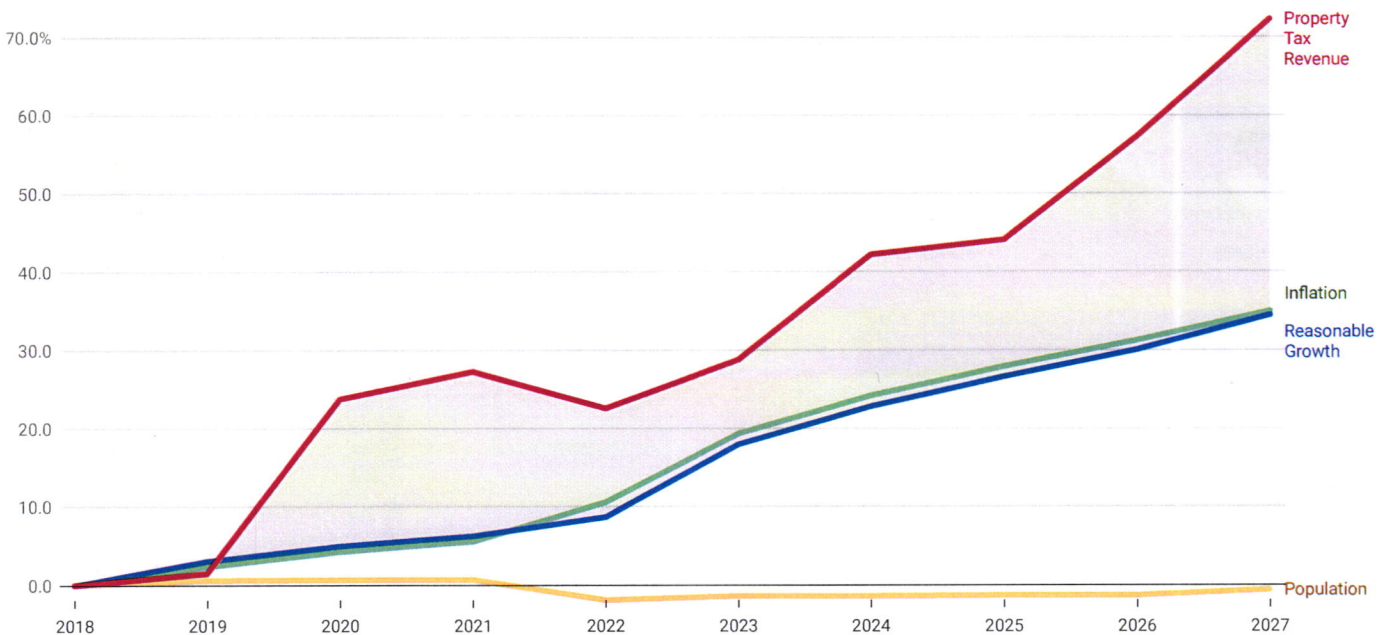
Buchanan County

Counties are the third largest part of your property tax bill, just behind school districts and cities.

Your property tax bill is determined by how much local governments choose to spend, not assessments, taxable values, rollbacks, or credits. A reasonable property tax growth rate would be one that is close to the combined percent change of inflation and the county's population. If your taxes are unreasonable, take advantage of public hearings to let your county supervisors know how you feel.

Buchanan County

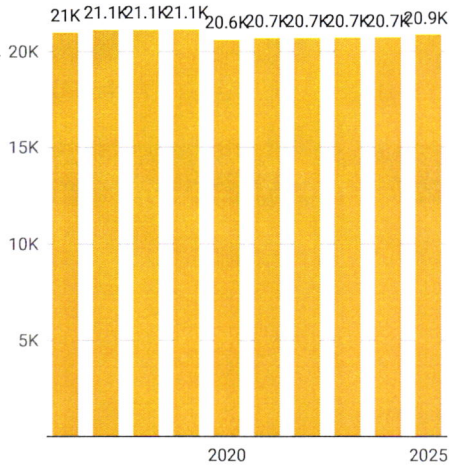
Percent change over 10 years



County	Population Change	Inflation	Reasonable Tax Growth	Property Tax Growth	Is Tax Growth Reasonable or Unreasonable? *	Contact Your County Supervisors
Buchanan	-0.6%	35.0%	34.5%	72.3%	Taxes are increasing 37.9% faster than the combined growth of population and inflation. This is unreasonable.	Click to Contact Supervisors
Statewide Average	3.3%	35.0%	38.3%	39.5%	Taxes are increasing 1.1% faster than the combined growth of population and inflation. This is unreasonable.	

* Reasonable property tax growth is the combined percent increase of population and inflation.

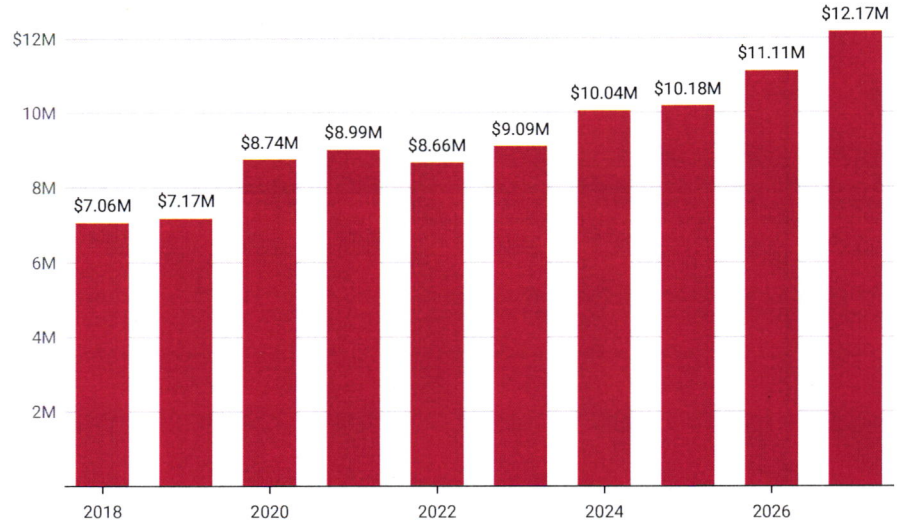
Buchanan County Population



Population when that fiscal year's county budget was created.
2020 is the actual census population. All other years are US Census Bureau estimates.

[Get the data](#)

Buchanan County Property Tax Revenue



Buchanan County Levy Rates

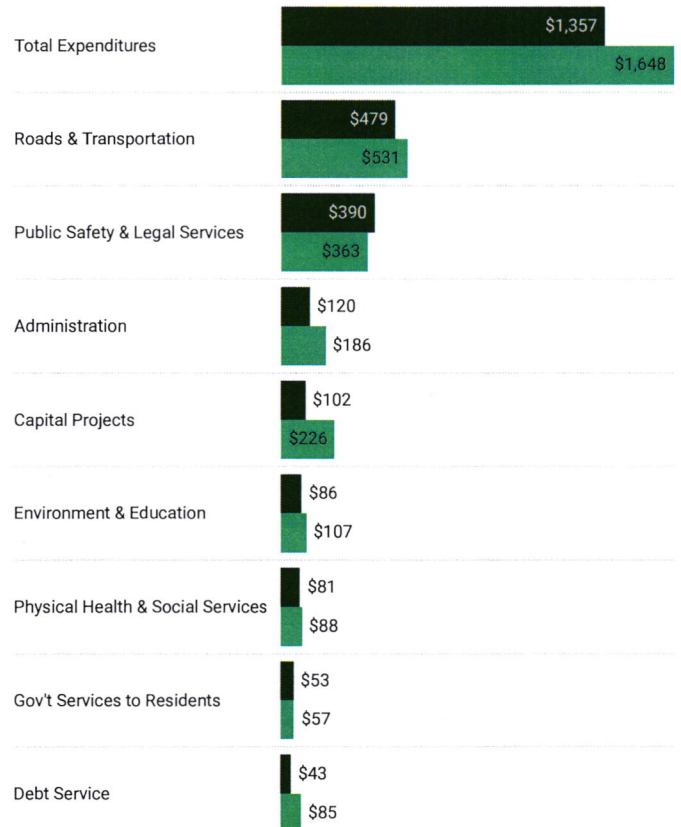
Amount paid for each \$1,000 of taxable value

Levy	Rate	Statewide Average
General Basic Levy	\$3.73798	\$3.61041
Pioneer Cemetery Levy	\$0.00456	\$0.00254
General Support Levy	\$1.71158	\$1.94816
Debt Service Levy	\$0.61528	\$0.39028
EMS Levy	\$0.72971	\$0.14626
Total County-Wide (All County Residents)	\$6.79911	\$6.09765
Rural Basic Levy	\$2.87394	\$3.19044
Rural Supplemental Levy	\$0.00000	\$0.07176
Unified Law Levy	\$0.00000	\$0.01924
Total Rural (Rural Residents Only)	\$2.87394	\$3.28144

Non-rural residents pay only the total county-wide levy. Rural residents pay the total county-wide and the total rural levy.

Buchanan County Per Capita Spending

■ Buchanan County ■ Statewide Average



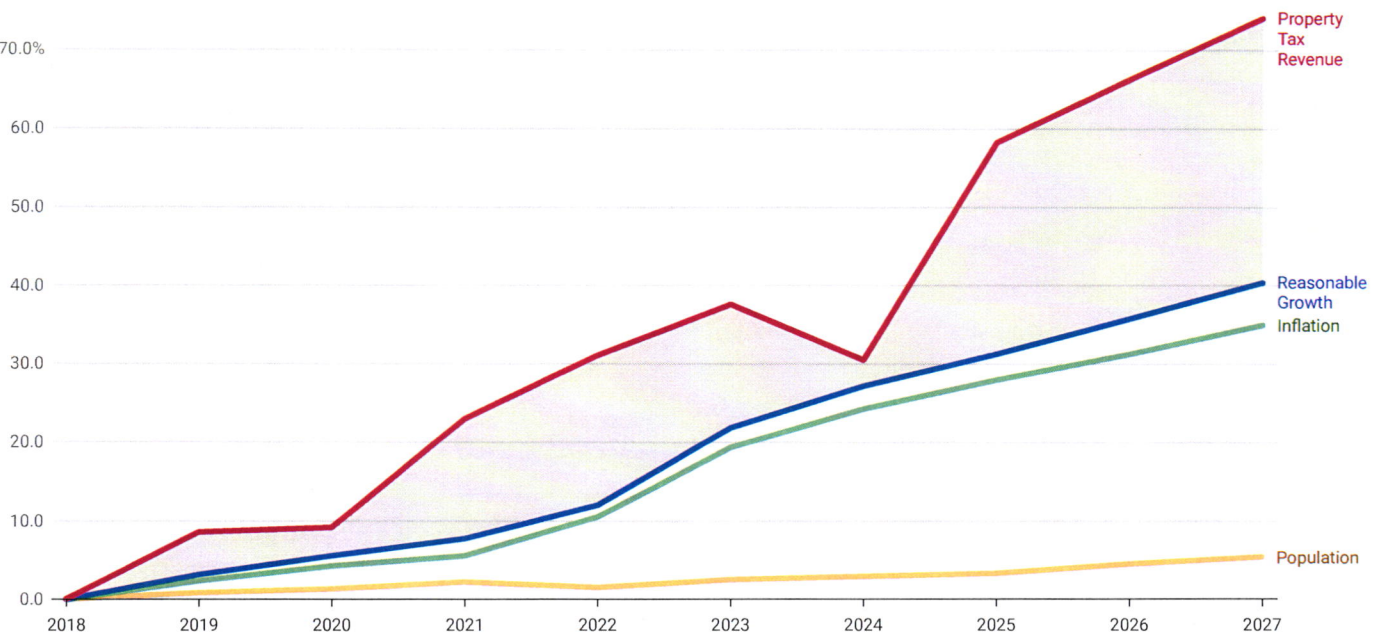
Independence

Cities are the second largest part of your property tax bill, just behind school districts.

The amount local governments choose to spend determines your tax bill, not assessments, taxable values, exemption or credits. A reasonable property tax growth rate would be one that is close to the combined percent change of inflation and the city's population. If your taxes are unreasonable, take advantage of public hearings to let your city council know how you feel.

Independence

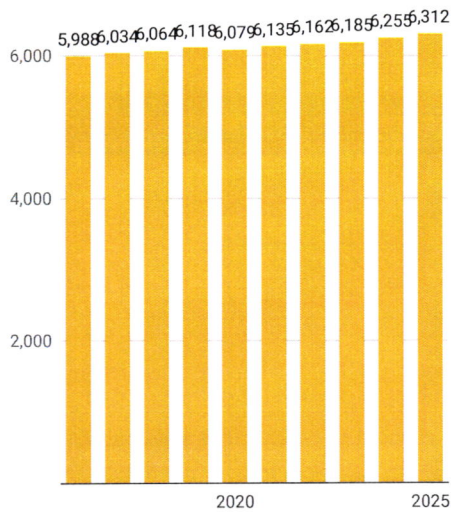
Percent change over 10 years



City	Population Change	Inflation	Reasonable Tax Growth	Property Tax Growth	Is Tax Growth Reasonable or Unreasonable? *	Contact Your City Council
Independence	5.4%	35.0%	40.4%	74.1%	Taxes are increasing 33.7% faster than the combined growth of population and inflation. This is unreasonable.	Contact Your City Council
Statewide Average	5.5%	35.0%	40.5%	47.4%	Taxes are increasing 6.9% faster than the combined growth of population and inflation. This is unreasonable.	

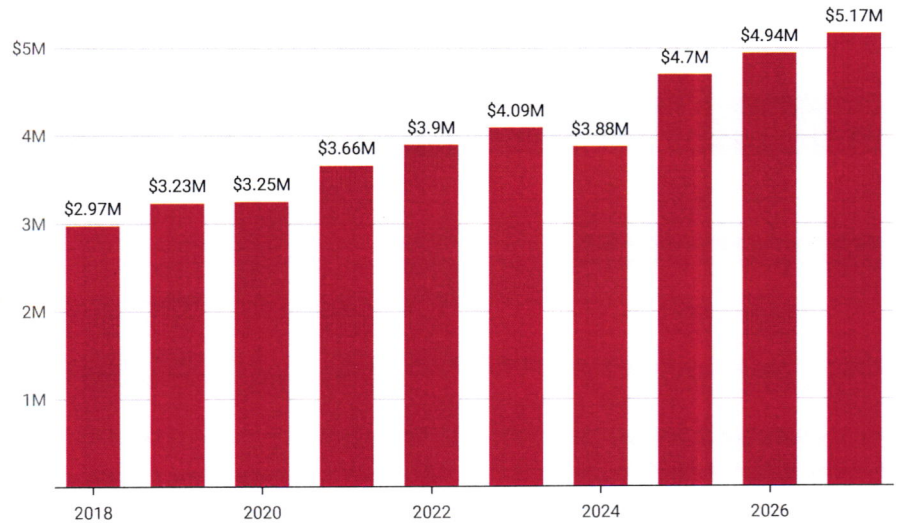
* Reasonable property tax growth is the combined percent increase of population and inflation.

Independence Population



Population when that fiscal year's county budget was created.

Independence Property Tax Revenue



Independence Levy Rates

Amount paid for each \$1,000 of taxable value

Levy	Rate	Statewide Average
General Levy	\$7.93664	\$7.69283
Operation & Maintenance for Publicly Owned Transit	\$0.00000	\$0.01459
Aviation Authority	\$0.00000	\$0.00296
Liability, Property & Self Insurance Costs	\$0.91557	\$1.90435
Local Emergency Management Commission	\$0.00000	\$0.03425
Unified Law Enforcement	\$0.00000	\$0.02080
Debt Service Levy	\$4.53340	\$1.20570
Employee Benefits Levy	\$5.62664	\$1.59356
Capital Improvement Levy	\$0.00000	\$0.01525
Total Levy	\$19.01225	\$12.48430

6,000-8,000 Population City Levy Rates

City	Rate
Eldridge	8.13052
Asbury	8.32119
Clear Lake	9.85000
Bondurant	10.82493
Sioux Center	11.05000
Statewide Average	12.48430
Maquoketa	12.84866
Adel	13.43496
Hiawatha	13.78173
Orange City	14.00581
Nevada	14.58276
Creston	14.98603
Washington	15.21275
Decorah	15.52157
Charles City	15.94915
Webster City	16.51238
Knoxville	17.46500
Atlantic	17.48382
Perry	17.91073
Denison	18.69170
Independence	19.01225

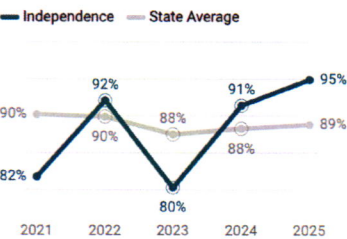


itrlocal.org

Independence School District

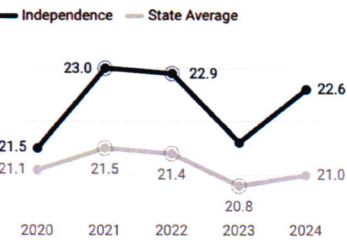
ITR Report Card provides key data on academic performance and spending so parents and school board members have the information they need to make decisions that support every child's academic success. This data aims to encourage more discussion and drive improved academic achievement while ensuring both students and taxpayers are receiving a valuable product.

Graduation Rate



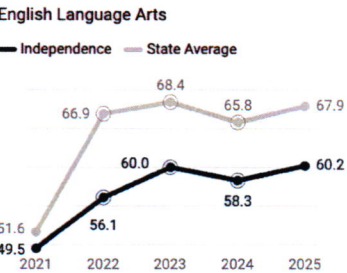
A zero or no line indicates that no data is available.

Average ACT Score



A zero or no line indicates that no data is available.

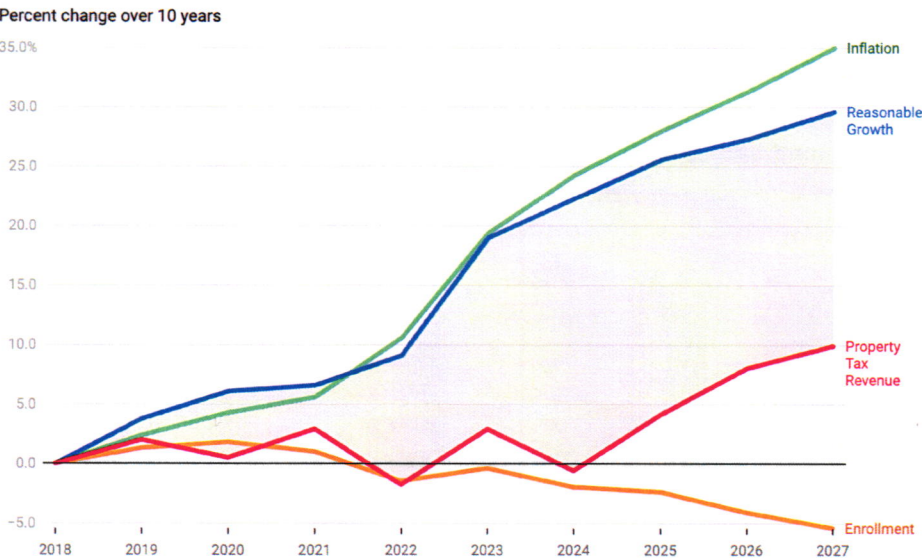
3rd Grade ELA Scores



A zero or no line indicates that no data is available.

The percentage of 3rd graders proficient in Reading/ELA on the Iowa State Assessment of Student Progress (ISAP). Research shows that reading at grade level by 3rd grade is the strongest predictor of future academic and life success.

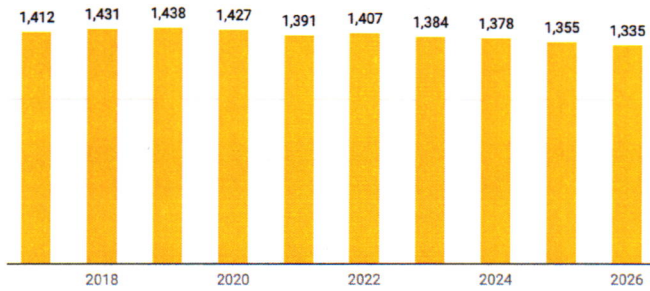
Is Independence's Property Tax Growth Reasonable?



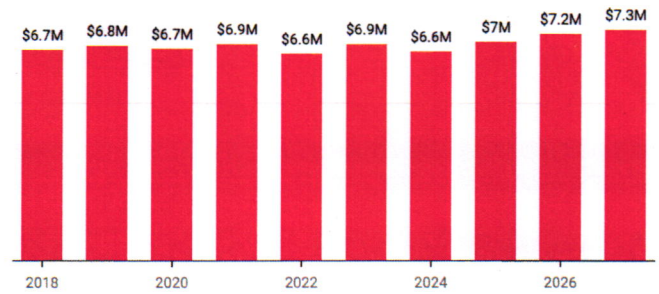
District Name	Enrollment Change	Inflation	Reasonable Tax Growth	Property Tax Growth	Is Tax Growth Reasonable or Unreasonable? *	Contact Your School Board
Independence	-5.40%	35.0%	29.6%	9.9%	Taxes are growing 19.7% slower than the combined growth of enrollment and inflation. This is reasonable.	Contact Your School Board
Statewide Average	-1.40%	35.0%	33.6%	43.8%	Taxes are increasing 10.2% faster than the combined growth of enrollment and inflation. This is unreasonable.	

* Reasonable property tax growth is the combined percent increase of enrollment and inflation.

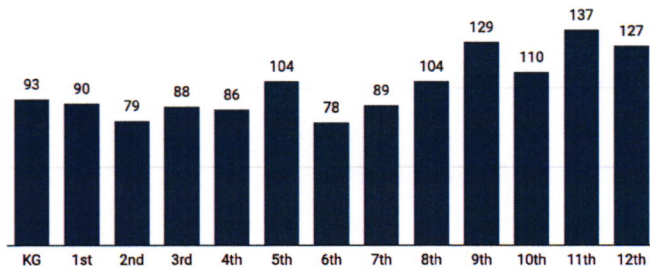
Independence K-12 Enrollment



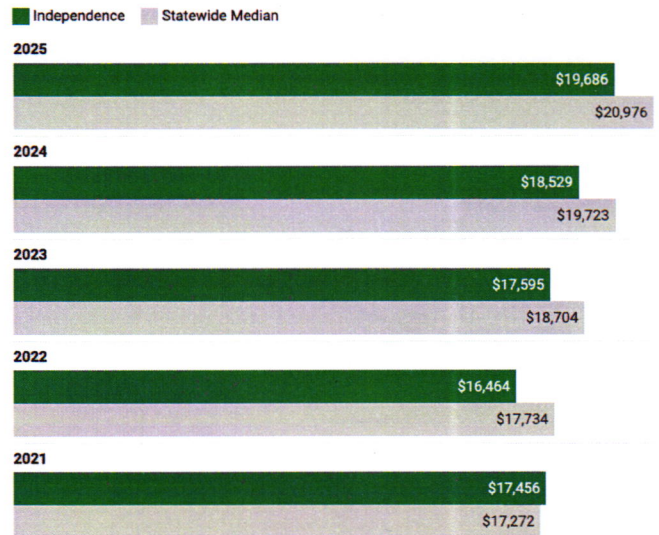
Independence Property Tax Revenue



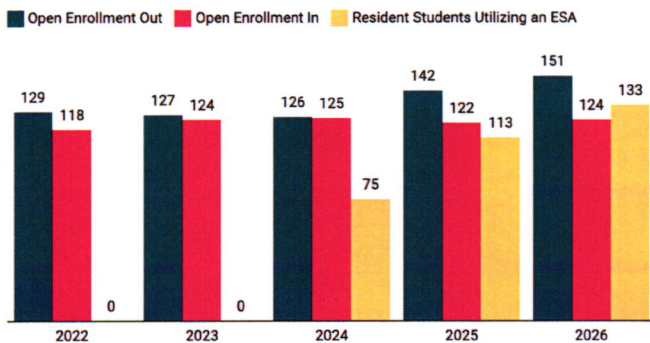
Independence Current Year Enrollment by Grade Level



Total Per Pupil Expenditures



Open Enrollment and Educational Savings Accounts



[Compare School District Per Pupil Expenditures](#)

Independence Levy Rates

Amount paid for each \$1,000 of taxable value

Levy	Levy Rate	Percent	Statewide Average
Uniform Levy	\$5.40000	41.7%	\$5.40000
Additional Levy	\$2.95550	22.8%	\$2.24565
Ed Improvement Levy	\$0.00000	0%	\$0.01238
Cash Reserve Levy	\$0.63842	4.9%	\$0.96252
Instructional Support Levy*	\$1.11809	8.6%	\$0.60286
Management Levy*	\$1.85207	14.3%	\$1.33581
Amana Library Levy	\$0.00000	0%	\$0.00061
Voted PPEL*	\$0.67000	5.2%	\$0.89014
Regular PPEL*	\$0.33000	2.5%	\$0.32899
Reorganization Equalization Levy	\$0.00000	0%	\$0.00000
Playground Levy	\$0.00000	0%	\$0.01197
Debt Service Levy*	\$0.00000	0%	\$1.39557
Total District Levy	\$12.96408	100%	\$13.18266

* Most property tax levies for Iowa's public schools are set by the state's funding formula. A few levies are set by each district's school board. Ask your board members about these levies and where they are spending your money:

Instructional Support Levy - Voter-approved for ten years or board-imposed for five years. Many boards have decided to bypass taxpayers and impose this levy on their own. Funds from this property tax go directly into a school's general fund. Statewide ranges for this levy are from \$0.00 to \$1.76671. Voters can force an election to repeal this levy.

Management Levy - The school board approves annually and is frequently used to pay for early retirement. Why are taxpayers funding early retirement when they have already funded a very generous pension for school employees? Statewide ranges for this levy are from \$0.00 to \$6.23167.

Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) - The school board approves the regular PPEL annually for a maximum rate of 33 cents. Voters must approve the voted PPEL and the maximum is \$1.34 for a ten-year period. The question is why the maximum rates are needed by so many school districts when the state provides funding for school infrastructure through the [Secure an Advanced Vision for Education \(SAVE\)](#) tax. SAVE is one penny of the state's current sales tax.

Debt Service Levy - Approved by voters for up to 20 years to pay for bonds issued by the district. Districts frequently hold an election for a new bond when an existing bond ends so taxpayers never see a tax savings. Statewide levy ranges are from \$0.00 to \$4.05. The SAVE tax goes to infrastructure and should offset a high debt service levy. Ask why this levy is needed.