



**Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing
Monday, September 28th, at 6:00 p.m.
Freedom High School – Lecture Hall**

Since 1993 public school districts have been driven by the ebb and flow of the state imposed revenue limit formula. In Freedom this calculation makes up 90.6% of the revenue budget. It is driven by the number of resident students a district has on a three year rolling average. As this changes so will the amount of the formula. In Freedom our three year rolling average for 2014-2015 was 1635 and for 2015-2016 we are projecting it to be 1662, an increase of 27. Each of these students is worth \$9,205 (no increase over 2014-2015) resulting in \$15,299,973 in revenue. The increase in the number of pupils will generate an additional amount to the revenue limit of \$248,555 over 2014-2015. This revenue limit value is then supported by equalization aid and property taxes.

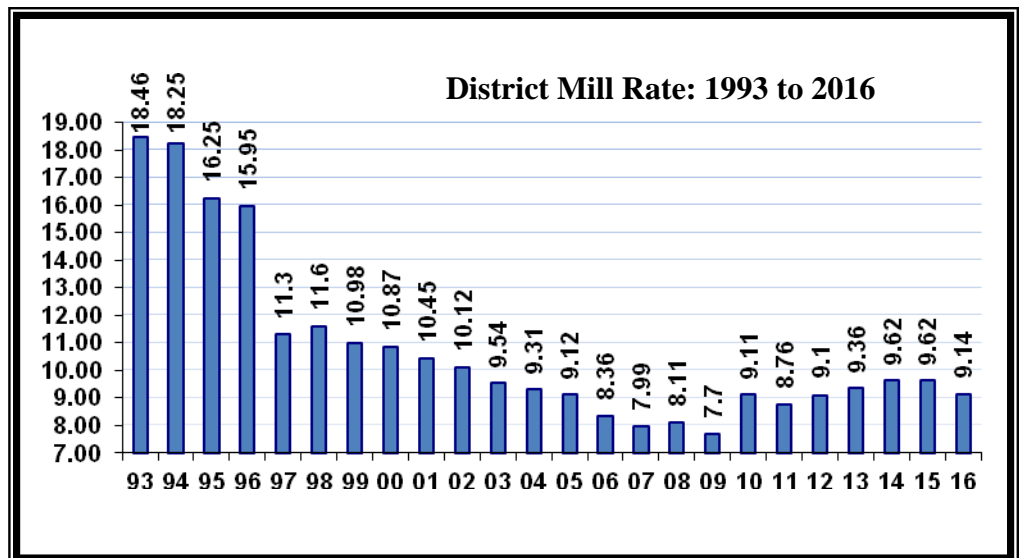
The District is receiving a projected increase in equalization aid of \$496,000 which will help hold the tax levy down as the difference between the limit total and equalization aid is the value of the tax levy.

A tax levy of \$6,848,038 will be presented by the Board of Education to district taxpayers at the District’s School Budget Hearing on Monday, September 28, 2015. This levy is a decrease of \$306,325 over the 2015 total levy; \$75,000 of this decrease relates to debt service payment. This includes the debt for the technology resolution. The other \$231,325 is a decrease to the general (10) fund levy. The Mill Rate necessary to support this levy will be 9.14 per \$1,000, which is a \$.48 per thousand decrease from 2014-2015.

The Mill Rate is derived from dividing the Total Tax Levy by Equalized Valuation (e.g. 6,848,038 / 748,745,803=.00914) which is the rate per \$1,000 of equalized valuation. A property with a valuation of \$100,000 would pay taxes for school purposes of \$914.00 (9.14 x 100 = 914.00). Equalized value: This is estimate assumes no increase in equalized value for the District. The final number will not be known until October. If the valuation increases greater than this estimate, the Mill Rate will be lower than estimated above.

The last few years instead of increasing this per pupil value they instituted a revenue sources called per pupil aid adjustment. This year at an increase of \$150 per student for \$249,300 over last year, half of this will be new money to the District.

2016 Proposed Tax Levy	
\$5,273,038	General Fund
1,330,000	Debt Service Fund
225,000	Non-Referendum Debt
20,000	Community Service
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\$6,848,038	Total Tax Levy



NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
Freedom Area School District
N4021 County Rd. E, Freedom WI 54130-7593 920/788-7944
2015 Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing Agenda
September 28, 2015, 6:00 pm
Freedom High School Lecture Hall

1. Call to Order by President of the School Board.
2. Pledge Of Allegiance, Opening Remarks & Introductions: President Bob Grode
3. Elect Chairperson: (May be President of Board of Education)
Appoint duty of keeping official minutes.
4. Approve minutes of Annual Meeting and Budget hearing of September 22, 2014.
5. Presentation and adoption of the Treasurer's Report and Summary for the 2014 -2015 school year.
6. Old Business: Consideration of old business from previous meetings.
7. New Business - Resolutions
 - A. *Motion to set salaries for the Board of Education and authorize for payment of their expenses.*
 - B. *Motion to authorize the school board to furnish textbooks at the fees the board designates.
(Fees set at the April regular Board meeting)*
 - C. *Motion to authorize the school board to furnish school lunches at the fees the board designates.
(Fees set at the April regular Board meeting)*
 - D. *Motion to authorize the Board to designate a place of Depository.*
 - E. *Motion to authorize the Board to obtain legal counsel for the school district as necessary.*
 - F. *Motion to authorize the Board to dispose of surplus property.*
 - G. *Motion to provide transportation services for students.*
8. The School District Budget Review for 2015 -2016 school year.
 - H. *Motion to approve the 2015 - 2016 Tax Levy*
9. Other New Business
 - I. *Motion authorizing the School Board to set the time and date for the 2016 Annual Meeting.*
10. Motion for Adjournment.

2015-2016 FASD Learning Initiatives

Who May Vote at Annual Meeting?

To be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting a person must be 18 years old, a resident of the Freedom Area School District and must have lived in the district for at least 10 days.

Senior Tax Exchange Program

The Freedom Area School District is offering the Senior Tax Exchange program (S.T.E.P.) at the Freedom Elementary School, for the 2015-2016 school year. Through this program senior citizens are given the opportunity to work in the district and apply their earnings toward payment of school property taxes. Any senior citizen 62 years of age or older who receives Social Security and has taxable property within the Freedom School District qualifies for this program. Interested Senior Citizens should call the Elementary School at 788-7950 for more information.

Community Service Fund

This fund is used to account for activities such as recreational or athletic outside of the regular curriculum: the fitness/weight room being made available to the public outside of the school day and the elementary and middle school athletic offerings. Also funded are extra curricular programs for students and adults such as the computer labs being made available after school hours. Included in this fund is the STEP program for our senior volunteers. To support this fund \$20,000 is part of the total 2015 tax levy.

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We hope that each of your families had a wonderful summer, and we look forward to working with you in the upcoming school year. As we reflect back on the past year, we were very pleased with your unwavering support of your child(ren), and our school district. We do truly appreciate your active involvement in your child(ren)'s education.

In the upcoming school year, we will again focus our collective efforts on improved student learning. We will continue to work on improving instruction, formative and summative assessments, and support systems for those students who need us most in the Response to Intervention (RtI) and enrichment programs. We will also continue to improve upon our Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) program which continues to be implemented in all of our schools.

As the 2015-2016 school year begins, we are also prepared to begin several new district-wide programs and continue to improve upon other recently started educational initiatives. We are beginning a new Teacher Mentor Program while continuing to fully implement all aspects of the CESA 6 Educator Effectiveness Model. We have adjusted staffing to try to better meet the needs of our students when it comes to nursing care here at school.

Financially, the Freedom Area School District continues to make every attempt to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars while maintaining and improving upon district programs and services. In challenging economic times, along with increased competition for public school student enrollments and subsequent dollars, we will not waver in our continued commitment to provide each of our children a world-class education...one child at a time.

As we begin this new school year, we again ask for your continued support as parents and guardians in our efforts to continue to collectively move our district forward. We sincerely look forward to working with each of you this upcoming school year. Again, we cannot thank you enough for your loyal support of the Freedom Area School District. Go Irish!!

Respectfully,
Kevin Kilstofte, FASD District Administrator

Freedom High School Graduation Date 2016
Saturday, May 28, 2016, 1:00 p.m. Field House

Freedom Area School District Board of Education

Bob Grode, President
Tom Harke, Vice President
Steve Garvey, Treasurer
Al Tiedt, Clerk
Kevin Schuh, Member
Gary Schumacher, Member
George Van Wychen, Member
Nicole Klitzke, Student Representative
Anthony Paustian, Student Representative

Kevin Kilstofte, Administrator

The District Offices are located on the
Freedom High/Middle School Campus
N4021 County Rd E
Freedom, WI 54130-7593

District Office (920)788-7944
High School (920)788-7940
Middle School (920)788-7945
Elementary School (920)788-7950

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