



St. David Unified School District

Where Students Are Our Primary Focus

August 21, 2014

RE: 2014-15 Tax Rates

The St. David Governing School Board and administration believe that we have an important responsibility to be good stewards of the public money provided by our taxpayers to support and educate the children within our district. We believe that district resources must be allocated to support the mission and values while meeting the legal requirements and adhering to cost effect management procedures. We have worked hard to maintain a level and consistent tax rate each year. However, Arizona's tax system is designed to fluctuate based on many factors.

The tax rate is derived from formulas and worksheets developed by the state and which are statutorily required to be used by the school district. In our effort to maintain a stable tax rate and be fiscally responsible, we carefully examine budget and practices.

This school year we will see an increase in our tax rate due to several factors, including:

1. Decrease of cash reserves
2. Lower property values
3. Unusually low tax rates for Fiscal years 2013 and 2014. (District delayed increasing the tax rate)
4. An increase in the Qualified Tax Rate (State Legislature placed more of the burden on the local tax payer)
5. State Rollovers(holding some of the district funding until after the start of a new fiscal year)*

Almost every district statewide has seen increases in their property taxes for many of the same reasons. The rate of increase will vary from district to district based upon their current tax rate and cash on hand. It has become necessary for St. David to increase the primary tax rate to 4.3732. The Arizona State Legislature has slowly transferred the burden of paying for public schools to local taxpayers; however, we are dedicated to seeking additional cost savings while being fiscally responsible. We remain committed to providing an outstanding education to our children while being mindful and respectful to our community taxpayers.