



Windsor Central School District

Home of the Black Knights

UNDERSTANDING THE 2026-27 SCHOOL TAX RATES

A District-Wide Overview of State Equalization, Approved Levy, and Individual Town Rates

On May 19, 2026, local voters approved a **2.11% increase** in the Windsor Central School District's total tax levy (a net increase of \$394,144, from \$18,656,541 to \$19,050,685). However, New York State's equalization process distributes this levy across our four constituent towns based on relative real estate market shifts. Because the school district has no control over state-calculated equalization rates, individual town tax rates can vary dramatically. This year, taxpayers in Colesville, Sanford, and Windsor will see **decreases** in their tax rates, while Kirkwood property owners will see an **increase**.

Town / Municipality	2025-26 State Equal. Rate	2026-27 State Equal. Rate	2025-26 Tax Rate (per \$1k Assessed)	2026-27 Tax Rate (per \$1k Assessed)	Year-to-Year Change (Dollar / Percent)
Colesville	5.50%	5.25%	\$275.48	\$267.09	-\$8.39 (-3.05%)
Kirkwood	54.25%	44.40%	\$27.93	\$31.58	+\$3.65 (+13.08%)
Sanford	41.20%	40.90%	\$36.77	\$34.28	-\$2.49 (-6.77%)
Windsor	42.50%	41.20%	\$35.65	\$34.03	-\$1.62 (-4.53%)

The Approved Tax Levy

The tax levy is the total dollar amount that a school district is authorized to collect from property owners. For the 2026-27 school year, Windsor Central School District voters approved a modest **2.11% levy increase**. The district's total budget did not increase by 13%; individual rates rose or fell strictly because of New York State's apportionment formulas.

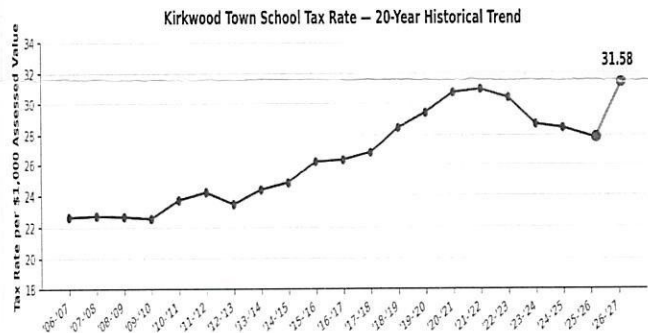
Role of NYS Equalization

Equalization rates are determined entirely by the NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services. They represent the ratio of assessed value to full market value in each town. The school district has **no control or influence** over these rates. A falling equalization rate indicates that a town's property values grew faster relative to others, causing that town to absorb a larger percentage share of the total tax levy.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO KIRKWOOD PROPERTY OWNERS

While taxpayers in Colesville, Sanford, and Windsor will experience school tax rate decreases, Kirkwood's rate will rise by **13.08%** to **\$31.58** per \$1,000 of assessed value. This shift is due solely to a significant **9.85 point drop** in Kirkwood's New York State equalization rate (from 54.25% to 44.40%). Because of this change, Kirkwood represents a larger relative market share of the overall district and is legally apportioned a larger percentage share of the voter-approved levy.

Historical Context: Despite this year's increase, Kirkwood's tax rate decreased in each of the past four years. The 2026-27 rate of \$31.58 is only 2.08% higher than the rate was five years ago (\$30.94 in 2021-22), demonstrating that tax rates naturally fluctuate over time.



Questions or Concerns? Please contact the Windsor Central School District Business Office:

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