



Harrisburg Community Unit School District #3

411 W. Poplar St.
Harrisburg, IL 62946

Dr. Amy L. Dixon, Superintendent

Website: harrisburg3.org

Phone: 618.253.7637

Fax: 618.253.2095

Dear Harrisburg Unit 3 Community Members,

Tax bills will be delivered to district property owners later this week, and we want to share some context regarding the school district's portion of your property tax bill.

Property tax bills are complex documents. It is important to know that Harrisburg Unit 3 controls only the school district portion of your total tax bill. We do not control the tax rates set by other taxing bodies, property assessments, reassessments, county exemptions, or increases in assessed value resulting from new construction and property improvements.

The Board of Education has worked diligently to remain fiscally responsible while maintaining strong educational programs for our students. Since joining the district in January 2023, we have collaborated closely with community stakeholders to develop a District Strategic Plan designed to strengthen academic programs, support students inside and outside the classroom, and maintain safe facilities that encourage learning and growth.

At that time, Harrisburg Unit 3 was on the state's Financial Watch List, the lowest financial rating in Illinois. Through the Board's dedicated efforts including reducing costs, bidding out services, joining buying cooperatives, securing competitive grants, and reducing staffing across administrative, licensed, and support positions, we have successfully proposed a balanced budget for the FY27 school year.

Demonstrating our commitment to local property owners, we have abated a total of \$3,331,550 back to local taxpayers over the past four years. Furthermore, as a result of our recent audit, we were able to reduce our levy by an additional \$300,000 prior to these tax bills being sent out. Because of these fiscally responsible actions and our balanced budget, the Board of Education will not be conducting a Truth in Taxation hearing for Tax Year 2026.

Managing our finances has required tough decisions amid significant external pressures. Reductions in state and federal reimbursements for transportation, special education, and Title funding have created real financial hurdles. Additionally, our district faces the same inflationary pressures as our local households, including rising costs for food, insurance, and fuel. As one of the largest employers in the county, we eliminated ten positions prior to this school year alone, and we will continue to review each position as staff retire or leave the profession.

Despite these challenges, our students and staff continue to achieve remarkable things. We strive every day to provide opportunities so our students are fully prepared to enter the workforce or succeed in higher education. A point of pride for our district is the opening of our new Career and Technical Education (CTE) building, a facility built entirely with grant dollars that will serve local students for generations to come.

Our students, staff, administration and Board strive to make Harrisburg proud and to reflect the best of this incredible community. We appreciate the generous support our schools receive, and we consider ourselves fortunate to serve within a community that values the education and health of its youth. We cannot do this vital work alone; our strength lies in unity and in our strong community partners.

My door is always open to anyone interested in learning more about the programs and services we provide. Thank you for your continued partnership and support of Harrisburg Unit 3.

With Bulldog Pride,

Amy Dixon

Superintendent
Harrisburg Community Unit School District #3