

## Facts about Your School Taxes

### **How are my School Board taxes calculated?**

The School Board taxes are calculated based on the taxable value of the property. A millage rate is multiplied by the taxable value to determine the amount of the levy.

### **What is a millage rate?**

A mill is equivalent to \$100 per \$100,000 of taxable valuation. Therefore, a person with a \$100,000 taxable valuation would pay \$745.60 in School Board taxes for 2012 based on an approved School Board millage rate of 7.4560.

### **If I do not have children in public school why am I assessed a School Board tax?**

With few exceptions, state law requires that school districts assess a Required Local Effort (RLE) millage rate based on the taxable value of all property in their county.

### **How does the School Board determine the amount that must be assessed for the RLE?**

The RLE millage rate is established by the state and must be assessed in order for Broward County Public Schools to receive additional funds through the Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP). In the FEFP for 2012, property taxes account for 46% of the funding for Broward County Public Schools and the State provides the remaining 54%. State sales tax is the primary source of funds used for the State portion of the funding to school districts.

### **Besides the RLE, what other assessments does the School Board make?**

State law allows school districts to assess 1.5 mills that can only be used for capital needs, such as construction, renovation, remodeling, and equipment. In addition, the Legislature calculates the discretionary millage that School Boards may levy. In 2012-13, .748 mills was approved for discretionary purposes.

### **What will be the impact on my taxes?**

Overall, Broward property owners will pay \$11 million more in School Board taxes for 2012 than in 2011. The 2012 valuation for Broward County property has increased 0.63% when compared to 2011. This is the first increase in School Board taxes since 2008 and the first increase in property valuation since 2009.

### **Why is the Assessed Value of my property less than the Market Value?**

For those owners whose property market value is still higher than the assessed value, there is a 3% maximum increase that can be applied this year. "Save Our Homes" limits the amount of the increased tax valuation on homes from one year to the next to 3% or the rate of inflation, whichever is lower. People who have owned their homes for a number of years and enjoyed large price appreciations may still have a taxable value that is less than the market value. For 2012, this would lead to the maximum increase in taxes under "Save Our Homes" as the rate of inflation is 3% for this year.

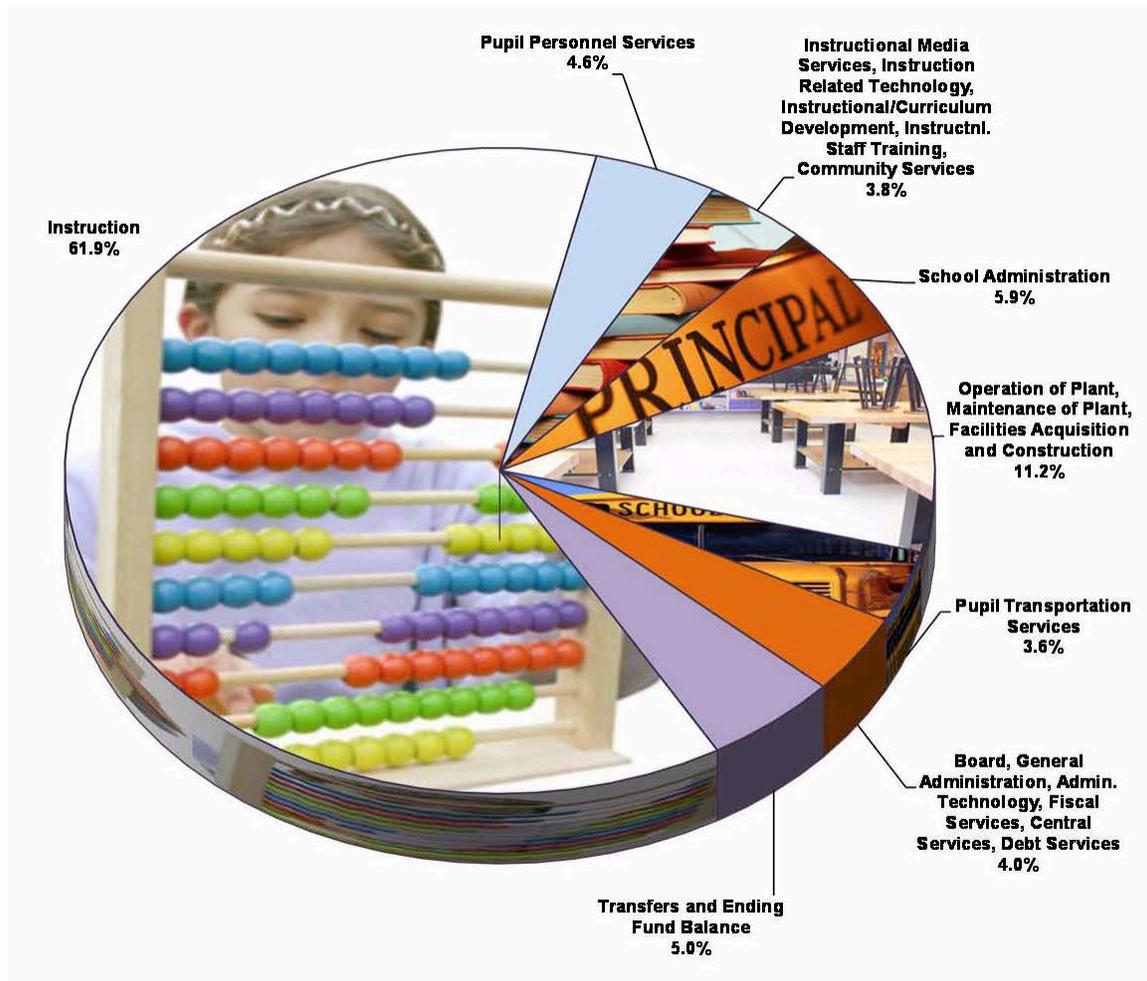
### **I have a second home in Broward County. Am I subject to the "Save Our Homes" legislation?**

No. Only those homeowners eligible for Homestead Exemption are subject to the "Save Our Homes" legislation. Second homes and businesses are taxed at the assessed value (less exemptions) of the property or business.

### **Why does my property tax notice show the Additional Homestead of \$25,000 for County, Municipal, and Independent but not School Board?**

The additional \$25,000 exemption does not apply to school taxes.

## How does the School Board spend the funds that they receive?



### Funding considerations for Broward County Public Schools in 2012-13:

- Funding has been provided to reinstate art, music, physical education, and media classes in elementary schools.
- School staffing patterns are being scrutinized to ensure that every dollar available is directed to meeting class size.
- A cost savings was realized by moving all high schools to a uniform schedule.
- By reducing budgets in the district departments, schools budgets were not reduced.
- The capital program previously included many major construction projects, such as remodeling, renovations, and replacement of outdated facilities. With the drastic reduction in capital outlay funding, these projects have been memorialized and the capital outlay funding priorities are now safety, Americans with Disabilities Act, indoor air quality, preservation of district assets, and replacement of obsolete vehicles, equipment, and technology.

### Where do the lottery dollars go?

Lottery funds comprise less than 1.0% of the general fund budget. Lottery dollars are used for rewards to schools eligible through the Florida School Recognition Program. Schools use these funds primarily for staff bonuses.

### What is the percentage of administrative staff positions?

Administrative staff positions are 3.5% of the total staff positions in the district. Of that 3.5%, 3.1% are administrative positions in schools and district administrative positions are 0.4%.