

NEWPORT – Property owners in Newport will now pay lower school taxes following a vote by the Newport Board of Education.

Following the recommendation of Newport Independent Schools Superintendent Tony Watts, the board voted Aug. 31 to lower the real estate tax rate while simultaneously increasing tax revenue by four percent.

The board was able to lower the rate from \$1.017 to \$1.012 per \$100 of assessed property value while also increasing revenue by nearly \$305,000 due to higher property assessments that were determined by the Campbell County Property Value Administrator (PVA).

“I always work to balance the cost to taxpayers while providing the district with the revenue needed to support our students’ education,” said Newport Board of Education Vice Chair Julie Smith-Morrow. “With the new tax rate, the positive impact on the district’s general fund will be nearly \$305,000. An individual taxpayer who owns a property valued at \$150,000 will have their real estate tax reduced from \$1,525 to \$1,518. This proves the positive impact of increased real estate values throughout the City of Newport.”

The increase in revenue will help the district meet financial obligations the board has approved for teacher retention and attraction, including \$1.1 million in salary increases, more than \$130,000 for school performance incentives, an estimated \$160,000 for individual personnel attendance incentives and an estimated \$200,000 in tuition reimbursements for teachers and teacher advancement programs.

“We are working hard to attract and keep good teachers during a severe teacher shortage,” Vice Chair Smith-Morrow said.

Other major expenditures include approximately \$20 million for facilities upgrades over the next 2 years, including the potential construction of new athletic facilities, and an estimated \$60,000 annually for the Northern Kentucky University Young Scholars program and tuitions, fees and books for Newport students taking classes at Gateway Community and Technical College.

Once approved by the Kentucky Department of Education, information on the new tax rate will be posted on the district's [website](#).