

Lower school levies reduce property taxes for many area districts

School tax levies in 21 southeastern Wisconsin communities dropped — some by more than 11 percent — thanks to increased state aid and controlled school district spending.

The Southeastern Wisconsin Schools Alliance (SWSA) conducted a survey of area school districts and compiled data showing tax levy drops in 21 out of 34 districts. SWSA officials credit Governor Jim Doyle's budget veto as the single greatest factor in the tax levy reductions.

The additional state aid provided by the Governor's budget reduced school tax levies in southeastern Wisconsin by more than \$2.2 million from 2004-05 to 2005-06. While school districts in the region continue to cope with tight budgets, the additional state aid helped some school districts avoid more dramatic cuts.

Tax levy reductions ranged from .2 percent to more than 11 percent. The biggest percent levy drop — 11.2 percent — was in the Greendale School District which saw its levy go from \$15 million to \$13.4 million. In the Waukesha School District alone, the tax levy dropped by more than \$3.1 million.

The overall tax levy drop is dramatic in comparison to last year's 7 percent increase in statewide levies.

Loss of state aid or increased spending for local referendum projects or facility upgrades were the primary reasons school levies increased in 13 of the surveyed districts. The increases ranged from less than 1 percent to 4.5 percent.

Mill rates in 33 of the 34 school districts also dropped. SWSA officials point to increased property values and real property growth as positive economic indicators for the region.

SWSA was formed to proactively influence public policy related to education through legislative advocacy for the benefit of students, families and communities. A SWSA tenet is that a strong educational system contributes to a vibrant economy. SWSA further believes that the welfare of communities and businesses throughout the state depends on the success of the public schools to educate its future citizens and workers.

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN SCHOOLS ALLIANCE
Tax/State Aid Survey

District	STATE AID				TOTAL NET TAX LEVY				MILL RATE			
	2004-05	2005-06	\$ Difference	% of Change	2004-05	2005-06	\$ Difference	% of Change	2004-05	2005-06	\$ Difference	% of Change
Brown Deer	\$4,227,932	\$5,067,950	\$840,018	19.87	\$10,611,549	\$10,884,638	\$273,089	2.57	\$11.24	\$11.32	\$0.08	.71
Cedarburg	\$9,831,768	\$10,836,887	\$1,005,119	10.22	\$18,487,470	\$18,621,991	\$134,521	.73	\$9.98	\$9.37	-\$0.61	-6.11
Elmbrook	\$8,350,250	\$7,843,039	-\$507,211	-6.07	\$66,353,033	\$68,684,340	\$2,331,307	3.51	\$10.05	\$9.61	-\$0.44	-4.38
Fox Point/ Bayside	\$1,412,918	\$1,370,265	-\$42,653	-3.01	\$8,137,798	\$8,382,464	\$244,666	3.01	\$7.57	\$7.49	-\$0.08	-1.06
Franklin	\$16,771,882	\$18,502,452	\$1,730,570	10.3	\$23,562,904	\$23,516,671	-\$46,233	-0.2	\$11.76	\$10.63	-\$1.13	-9.6
Glendale/ River Hills	\$415,813	\$377,081	-\$38,732	-9.31	\$9,121,674	\$9,421,530	\$299,856	3.28	\$5.82	\$5.55	-\$0.27	-4.64
Grafton	\$5,609,132	\$7,243,421	\$1,634,289	29.1	\$13,582,902	\$12,739,029	-\$843,873	-6.21	\$11.03	\$9.47	-\$1.56	-14.14
Greendale	\$8,291,766	\$9,176,806	\$885,040	10.67	\$15,090,404	\$13,398,442	-\$1,691,962	-11.21	\$13.13	\$10.37	-\$2.76	-21.02
Greenfield	\$11,356,216	\$11,362,699	\$6,483	.05	\$17,424,589	\$18,124,384	\$699,795	4.02	\$9.46	\$8.89	-\$0.57	-6.01
Hamilton	\$17,867,013	\$20,355,627	\$2,488,614	13.93	\$22,893,190	\$22,425,229	-\$467,961	-2.04	\$10.78	\$9.50	-\$1.28	-11.9
Hartford UHS	\$7,415,352	\$8,065,126	\$649,774	8.76	\$10,515,806	\$10,438,656	-\$77,150	-.73	\$4.20	\$3.71	-\$0.49	-11.7
Kenosha	\$117,826,640	\$127,651,415	\$9,824,775	8.33	\$67,137,077	\$66,553,032	-\$584,045	-.87	\$9.06	\$8.16	-\$0.90	-9.95
Kettle Moraine	\$14,753,989	\$16,381,747	\$1,627,758	1.03	\$27,172,174	\$26,832,327	-\$339,847	-1.2	\$9.91	\$8.65	-\$1.26	-12.71
Maple Dale Indian Hill	\$159,461	\$129,153	-\$30,308	-19.01	\$5,847,314	\$5,708,561	-\$138,753	-2.37	\$6.59	\$6.03	-\$0.56	-8.5
Meno. Falls	\$12,907,762	\$16,843,033	\$3,935,271	30.49	\$31,428,589	\$29,160,838	-\$2,267,751	-7.22	\$11.06	\$9.40	-\$1.66	-15.01
Mequon/ Thiensville	\$2,005,258	\$1,771,316	-\$233,942	-11.67	\$36,354,766	\$37,470,563	\$1,115,797	3.07	\$9.08	\$8.82	-\$0.26	-2.86
Milwaukee	\$616,772,454	\$633,300,902	\$16,528,448	2.7	\$219,291,446	\$226,360,163	\$7,068,717	3.22	\$9.63	\$8.95	-\$0.68	-7

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	2004-05	2005-06	\$ Difference	% of Change	2004-05	2005-06	\$ Difference	% of Change	2004-05	2005-06	\$ Difference	% of Change
Mukwonago	\$21,887,466	\$24,296,043	\$2,408,577	11	\$21,136,336	\$20,815,672	-\$320,664	-1.52	\$8.47	\$7.38	-1.09	-12.87
Muskego/ Norway	\$19,204,408	\$21,684,297	\$2,479,889	12.91	\$27,094,454	\$26,510,696	-\$583,758	-2.15	\$11.03	\$9.79	-\$1.24	-11.24
New Berlin	\$4,185,481	\$5,612,728	\$1,427,247	34	\$42,481,267	\$42,289,462	-\$191,805	-.45	\$11.74	\$10.89	-\$0.85	-7.2
Nicolet	\$2,403,849	\$2,391,000	-\$12,849	-.53	\$15,541,508	\$15,798,980	\$257,472	1.66	\$4.40	\$4.20	-\$0.20	-4.55
North Lake	\$1,000,500	\$849,785	-\$150,715	-15.06	\$2,598,928	\$2,715,803	\$116,875	4.5	\$7.18	\$6.75	-\$0.43	-5.99
Oak Creek/ Franklin	\$21,458,789	\$23,991,272	\$2,532,483	12	\$22,988,622	\$23,495,644	\$507,022	2.21	\$8.23	\$7.87	-\$0.36	-4.37
Oconomowoc	\$5,812,311	\$10,959,353	\$5,147,042	89	\$33,281,825	\$31,968,021	-\$1,313,804	-3.95	\$8.91	\$7.48	-\$1.43	-16.05
Pewaukee	\$1,305,783	\$1,195,108	-\$110,675	-8.48	\$21,006,870	\$21,956,634	\$949,764	4.52	\$10.98	\$10.44	-\$0.54	-4.93
Port Wash. Saukville	\$13,275,831	\$14,908,052	\$1,632,221	12.29	\$12,498,832	\$11,559,237	-\$939,595	-7.52	\$10.63	\$9.14	-\$1.49	-14.02
St. Francis	\$5,047,606	\$5,167,903	\$120,297	2.38	\$4,708,785	\$4,652,843	-\$55,942	-1.19	\$9.94	\$8.59	-\$1.35	-13.58
Shorewood	\$3,936,114	\$4,813,870	\$877,756	22.30	\$14,737,259	\$14,200,787	-\$536,472	-3.64	\$12.03	\$10.68	-\$1.35	-11.22
South Milwaukee	\$19,811,564	\$20,444,783	\$633,219	3.20	\$10,875,233	\$11,306,814	\$431,581	3.97	\$10.39	\$9.73	-\$0.66	-6.35
Waukesha	\$44,696,590	\$51,867,193	\$7,170,603	16	\$69,713,554	\$66,568,292	-\$3,145,262	-4.51	\$8.94	\$7.78	-\$1.16	-12.9
Wauwatosa	\$16,734,858	\$18,268,845	\$1,533,987	9.17	\$34,202,601	\$34,074,897	-\$127,704	-0.37	\$7.73	\$6.79	-\$0.94	-12.16
West Allis/ West Milw	\$38,148,922	\$41,360,535	\$3,211,613	8.42	\$38,334,450	\$36,200,052	-\$2,134,398	-5.57	\$9.63	\$8.31	-\$1.32	-13.70
Whitefish Bay	\$9,541,431	\$10,685,759	\$1,144,328	11.99	\$18,109,043	\$17,613,693	-\$495,350	-2.74	\$11.07	\$9.90	-\$1.17	-10.57
Whitnall	\$8,785,313	\$9,690,576	\$905,263	10.3	\$14,303,279	\$13,962,116	-\$341,163	-2.39	\$10.36	\$9.13	-\$1.23	-11.86
TOTAL					\$1,006,625,532	\$1,004,412,501	-\$2,213,031	-.22				