

CAPITOL CONFIDENTIAL

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Here's your list of school tax overrides and decreases

By [Rick Karlin](#), Capitol bureau on March 8, 2016 at 2:06 PM

My colleague Bethany Bump recently **outlined** the approximately 6 percent of school districts planning to ask voters in May to override the state tax cap which is at a recent record low since it is tied to inflation.

Now, there's also a list of 76 districts that, short of an override and for a number of reasons, are on track for an actual decrease, at least in the overall levy or amount of property tax dollars they will pull from a given community.

Taxpayers may like the idea of a lowered levy, but school officials say it puts them in a bind due to rising costs they face, including contractual raises and increasing health care costs for employees such as teachers and administrators.

The state association of School Business Officials is out with a statement and list of districts seeking overrides and facing decreases.

Here are the details:

The New York State Association of School Business Officials (NYSASBO) released an analysis of tax cap data submitted by school districts to the State Comptroller on March 1st.

The 601 school districts that submitted their tax cap data propose an average increase of 0.9 percent in their tax levy. Tax cap changes reported by individual school districts ranged from -7.7 percent to 24.6 percent. The analysis has a breakdown by regions that shows the lowest regional increase of 0.7 percent on Long Island and the highest regional increase of 1.3 percent

in the Central region.

The report also highlights the difference in proposed tax levy increases by Need Resource Capacity category that shows low need (high wealth) school districts with an average 0.7 percent increase, average need school districts with an average 1.0 percent increase, and high need (low wealth) school districts with a 0.9 percent increase.

The tax cap data reveals 36 districts are proposing to override the tax cap this year, the highest number of overrides since the first year of the tax cap in 2012, when 52 districts proposed an override.

Another troubling trend is the significant increase in the number of negative tax levies imposed by the tax cap. Seventy-six (76) districts have calculated they will have negative tax levies for the coming year, meaning the district is restricted to raising less funds locally than the year before unless they seek an override.

“This year dramatically demonstrates fundamental flaws in the tax cap. A tax cap that is tied to an inflationary number that does not reflect school district costs and which results in negative levies should raise concerns with both state policymakers and the general public that want a quality education for our students”, stated Michael J. Borges, NYSASBO Executive Director.