

# Marshall Public Schools: Financial Update

Marshall Public Schools continues to take proactive and fiscally responsible steps to maintain high standards of education while navigating a challenging financial landscape. At the October 22, 2025 meeting, Business Manager Brian Zacho presented the 2025 Levy and Mill Rate information, with the School Board certifying the levy in advance of the November 1, 2025 state deadline.

## 2025–2026 Tax Levy Overview

The total certified tax levy for the 2025–2026 school year is \$7,140,943, representing a 14.99% increase from the previous year. The school portion mill rate is projected at \$8.79 per \$1,000 of equalized property value, a 9.10% increase over the 2024–2025 rate of \$8.08.

This final mill rate is slightly higher than the initial projection of \$8.13 noted in the district's referendum materials. The change is directly related to the actual 5.76% growth in equalized property values within the district. Because the levy represents a fixed total amount, spreading that levy over a smaller-than-expected property base resulted in the higher final mill rate of \$8.79.

For a home valued at \$300,000, the estimated school portion of property taxes will increase by approximately \$228.14 annually, or about \$19.01 per month for the 2025–2026 tax year.

Although there is an increase in both the mill rate and total levy, it is important to remember that Marshall Public Schools is one of only 111 districts statewide that received additional state aid this year. With the recently passed referendums, the district is positioned to continue seeing increases in state aid over the next several years. These additional resources will help the district stabilize future budgets, hold the mill rate in check, and keep property taxes as controlled as possible while maintaining strong educational programs for students.

## Marshall's Value Compared to Dane County Trends

Marshall Public Schools remains a prudent financial steward, maintaining a stable and competitive position within Dane County.

- **Controlled Impact:** While overall tax levies across Dane County rose by 5.7% last year, and Madison's portion grew by 5.1%, Marshall's mill rate of \$8.79 remains well within a reasonable range for a district of its size and resources.
- **Targeted vs. Major Increases:** Larger metropolitan areas, including Madison, have seen far more significant property tax impacts due to recent city and school district referendums. Those combined measures are expected to raise property taxes on the average Madison home by over \$1,000 annually, compared to Marshall's \$228 annual increase.
- **Fiscal Stability:** Marshall continues to focus resources directly on students while maintaining predictable and sustainable financial planning, demonstrating sound fiscal management within the high-growth environment of Dane County.