

# DOES YOUR PROPERTY TAX BILL HAVE YOU SEEING **RED**?



The **SOUTH EASTERN TAX REFORM COALITION** was founded in 2005 by a group of concerned citizens who were called to action by the devastating impact that yearly property tax increases have had on district taxpayers. While we have the utmost respect for the dedicated individuals who work for our school system, we want to educate and engage the public on the spending that directly impacts your taxes. We must elect school board members who will spend responsibly to provide our students a quality education and eliminate any frivolous spending.

## HOW DOES YOUR MONTHLY TAX BURDEN IMPACT YOUR BUDGET?

For property assessed at:	You Pay:	
	Per Month	Per Year
\$100,000.00	\$170.69	\$2,048.24
\$150,000.00	\$256.03	\$3,072.36
\$200,000.00	\$341.37	\$4,096.48
\$250,000.00	\$426.72	\$5,120.60
\$300,000.00	\$512.06	\$6,144.72

Look at your mortgage statement and see how much of your payment goes towards your property taxes. Even after you pay off your mortgage, you still have to budget this amount for your school property taxes!

**And taxes are going up again this year by 1.8%!**

## WHY ARE WE PAYING MORE TO EDUCATE FEWER STUDENTS?

Despite the fact that enrollment has steadily decreased over the past several years, taxes have gone up, not down. The numbers and some basic math tell the story:

	2005-2006	2010-2011
<b>Budget</b> (yes, <b>MILLIONS</b> )	\$34,169,057.00	\$47,152,841.00
<b>Enrollment</b>	3,292	2,985
<b>Cost per student</b>	\$10,379.42	\$15,796.60

It now costs us over **\$15,000** to educate one student! Our simple calculation divides the entire budget by enrollment. 63.5% of these costs are salaries, benefits, and pensions for all employees.

## IS THIS THE BEST EDUCATION OUR MONEY CAN BUY?

Standardized test scores for 11<sup>th</sup> graders rank SESD in the lower third for all of York County schools: \*

- 14<sup>th</sup> out of 16 schools for 'proficient and advanced' in math.
- 12<sup>th</sup> out of 16 schools for 'proficient and advanced' in reading.
- 48% of students are at 'basic or below basic' in math!
- 36% of students are at 'basic or below basic' in reading!

Despite increased spending, test scores have remained relatively static for our district.

## WHAT TYPES OF SPENDING CONTRIBUTE TO THE OUT OF CONTROL COSTS?

One example is tuition reimbursement. Our district pays for certain school employees to pursue up to 12 college credits *each year*. This is hard to justify especially at a time when the property tax burden has made it harder for families to save for their own children's educational future.

In the last three months of 2010, the district paid out over **\$80,000.00** for college tuition reimbursements!

## IS THERE ANY RELIEF IN SIGHT?

Yes, but we can't do it alone - we need your help! Your input and participation can help us make the needed changes to ensure fiscal responsibility and accountability by our School Board.

**GET 'ON BOARD' WITH THE  
SOUTH EASTERN TAX REFORM COALITION**

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