

BREAKING DOWN SCHOOL TAXES

The biggest chunk of your property tax bill goes to schools. The overall tax rate for your school district is a total of a rate associated with six or seven funds, including general fund, debt service fund, transportation fund, capital projects fund, bus replacement, special education/preschool fund and bond retirement fund.

The new legislation calls for wiping out the general fund tax rate and making the state fund it through an increase in the state sales tax, eliminating credits and then using the funds to pay for the services the state is taking on.

The general fund mainly pays for teachers' salaries and benefits.

Based on calculations, the general fund tax rate accounts for the largest percentage of the overall school rate, between 32 percent and 49 percent, in all of Johnson County's public school district except Clark-Pleasant. At Clark-Pleasant, the debt service fund makes up 39 percent of the tax rate, while the general fund accounts for 32 percent.

That means if nothing were to change, the school tax rate would drop by 32 percent to 49 percent at area school district's.

Here is a breakdown:

Fund	Franklin	Clark-Pleasant	Greenwood	Center Grove	Edinburgh	N-H-J
General fund	0.72	0.68	0.7	0.66	0.82	0.6
Debt service	0.68	0.84	0.26	0.41	0.32	0.36
Transportation	0.12	0.2	0.082	0.081	0.076	0.16
Capital projects	0.29	0.33	0.33	0.28	0.38	0.22
Other*	0.04	0.08	0.087	0.07	0.083	0.12
Total school tax rate	1.85	2.13	1.459	1.501	1.679	1.47
New rate (no general fund)	1.13	1.46	0.76	0.84	0.86	0.88
Current percentage of total tax rate — general fund	39%	32%	48%	44%	49%	41%
Current percentage of total tax rate — debt service	37%	39%	18%	27%	19%	24%

* Includes bus replacement, special education, preschool and retirement bond debt