

## County School Facilities Sales Tax Fact Sheet

The option to use sales tax to fund facility improvements for schools went into effect in October of 2007. Since then 51 counties have voted to utilize the sales tax for this purpose.

Everything in the municipal and county sales tax base is included **except** cars, trucks, ATVs, boats, RVs, mobile homes, unprepared food, over the counter and prescription drugs, farm equipment and parts are not taxed. Services are not taxed. If it is not currently taxed, it will not be taxed.

The money can only be used for:

- New facilities
- Additions
- Renovations
- Security
- Disabled access
- Technology infrastructure
- Architectural planning
- Durable equipment
- Fire prevention and life safety
- Land acquisition
- Energy efficiency
- Parking lots
- Demolition
- Roof repairs
- Refund bonds or abate property taxes issued for capital projects

The money can NOT be used for:

- Instructional costs
- Textbooks
- Buses
- Detached furniture & fixtures
- Computers
- Moveable equipment
- Operating costs
- Salaries and overhead

How it can be used:

- Pay as you go for capital projects. It can be saved up over time.
- Issue new bonds for current capital needs
- Retire or pay off existing bonds to lower property taxes

Two ways to Decrease Property Taxes:

1. Reduce property taxes by using sale tax funds to pay off existing building bonds.
  2. A district can avoid levying property taxes by using sales tax money to pay for facility projects.
- Revenue from the county facilities sales tax are outside of the tax levy calculation. Alternative revenue bonds and debt certificates backed by the sales tax do not count against the debt service extension base.
  - Revenue is distributed equally for every pupil who lives in the county and attends public school, regardless of the location of the school.

Estimated figure based on current EAV and enrollment:

School	Estimated Sales Tax REvenue
Tri-City	\$ 401, 908
Rochester	1,550,448
Ball Chatham	3,248,358
Pleasant Plains	875,580
Auburn	932,006
Pawnee	317,216
Riverton	1,007,873
Williamsville	1,056,759
New Berlin	625,897
Springfield	10,997,004
A-C Central	9,918
Edinburg	309
Mt. Pulaski	9,090
Sangamon Valley	192,974
North Mac	154,461
Porta	9,818
Athens	283,888
Waverly	102,175
TOTAL	20,807,716

THE PROCESS:

1. School boards pass resolutions to place the question on the ballot.
2. When school boards represent more than 50% of the resident student enrollment in the county, the REgional Superintendent must certify the question to the COunty Clerk.
3. County Clerk will place the question on the ballot.

BALLOT LANGUAGE:

***Shall a retailer's occupation tax and service occupation tax (commonly referred to as a "Sales Tax") be imposed in (name of county) at the rate of \_\_\_\_ % to be used exclusively for school facility purposes?***

A simple majority of voters cast needed to pass.