

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I am a senior citizen and do not have any children in the school district. Do I still have to pay real estate taxes?

Yes, you still have to pay school real estate taxes. There is no age limit.

When do I receive my school real estate tax bill(s) and when are my taxes due?

Tax bills are mailed out annually on July 1st and the deadline to pay is December 31st. To receive a 2% discount on your taxes, you must pay by August 31st and pay the amount on the tax bill under the Discount column. If you pay after October 31st, a 10% penalty will be added on to the face amount and you will have until December 31st to pay the penalty amount. Taxes not paid by December 31st will automatically be forwarded to the respective county collection department and payments will no longer be accepted at the school district.

My address changed. What should I do?

If tax bills were already mailed out, please contact the school district tax office at 570-398-5051 so that the address change can be forwarded to the county office as well as changed in the tax records of the school district.

I never received my tax bill. What should I do?

If you do not receive your tax bill after the first week of July, please call our office at 570-398-5051. We can either mail or email you a new copy. We will also check to see if we may have received the tax bill as "Returned" from the post office. Not receiving your tax bill is not a reason to not pay your taxes.

Can I make installment payments on my taxes? Can I still get the discount if paying my bill in installments?

*If you choose to pay your bill using installment payments, then you can no longer receive a discount. Installment payments are a good option if you do not want to pay the entire amount in full. There are 3 coupons to make 3 installment payments. You **must** make your first installment payment by July 31st as we cannot set up installment payments after that date. The second installment payment is due by September 30th and the third installment payment is due by November 30th. If your payment is late, a 10% penalty will be added on to the late installment payment. The payment amounts due are on each coupon, along with the penalty amount if you are making a late installment payment.*

Will you accept the postmarked date on the envelope as the payment date?

Yes, we will accept that date as your payment date.

Can I pay my tax bill using a credit card? Can I pay my tax bill at the school district?

No, you cannot use a credit card for payment. No, the school district does not accept the annual school real estate tax payments at any of the school district buildings.

What options do I have to pay my school real estate tax bill and what do I need to make my payment?

You will need your tax bill coupon and payment to pay your tax bill. If you would like a receipt and you are mailing your payment, also include a self-addressed stamped envelope and the “Tax Payer Copy” of your tax bill. If you are paying in person and you would like a receipt, bring your “Tax Payer Copy” with you to the bank. The “Tax Payer Copy” is the coupon on top and is what the bank will stamp as your paid receipt.

Options to pay your bill are as follows:

Mail to our Fulton Bank lockbox at:

Jersey Shore Area School District, PO Box 4455, Lancaster PA 17604-4455

Pay in person at:

Fulton Bank, 1732 E. Third Street, Williamsport PA 17701.

I received an “Interim” tax bill in the mail. What is this bill for?

Interim tax bills are generated by Lycoming county and mailed out by the school district in February and August. Interim taxes are assessed in the event of new construction or improvements to an existing property or for a new parcel of land which increases the assessed value of the property. The interim assessment is calculated by taking the difference between the previous assessment and the new assessment. The interim bill is based on when the improvements are completed or the home is occupied and is determined by months of actual use. The tax millage rate is the prior year’s millage rate. Interim tax bills do not replace any previous and/or future tax bills.

Example: In February 2023, Mr. Smith receives an interim tax bill for his property and is being billed for 10 months as stated on the tax bill. In this case, Mr. Smith is being billed for his assessment increase from September, 2022 thru June, 2023. On his original 2022 tax bill which covers from July 1, 2022 thru June 30, 2023, the taxpayer was only billed on the original assessment. He completed his project in August, 2022 but tax bills were already generated. The interim tax bill recovers the assessment difference that was not on the original bill for those 10 months. The millage rate is based on the 2022 millage tax rate.

I sold my house or property but received the new tax bill. Do I still have to pay the tax bill?

The tax bill you receive in July covers from July 1st of the current year through June 30th of the following year. So, if you receive your tax bill on July 1, 2023, this bill is for the school taxes from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. If you sell your home prior to July 1st and you receive the new tax bill, please contact the school district tax office at 570-398-5051 so that the new tax bill can be forwarded to the new/correct owner. This process is usually handled during the settlement closing but it is not always done in a timely manner or is too close to the time of the mailing of the new tax bills.

If you sell your house after July 1st, then you may be responsible for a “pro-rated” amount, depending upon your settlement agreement. Again, this should be handled at the time of the closing. Please reach out to the lawyer or closing agent if you have any questions. The school district does not get involved in closings other than telling the agent if the taxes have been paid upon request.

I enclosed a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) with my payment but never received my tax receipt.

The Fulton Bank lockbox processes tax payments on a daily schedule, Monday thru Friday, excluding holidays. If you have enclosed your tax bill AND the taxpayer copy of the bill and the SASE, then the lockbox will stamp your taxpayer copy as paid and mail it to you in the envelope you provided. If you sent in a SASE but forgot to send in the taxpayer copy of the bill, then Fulton Bank will return the SASE to the school district administrative office as unable to process. The school district will process these envelopes and manually print out tax receipts to send to the taxpayer as time allows, but it will not be as timely as when they are sent properly to Fulton lockbox. They will need to be researched as we will only have the name on the envelope to check our records against. The name on the envelope does not always match the "Taxpayer" on the tax bill. Please be patient.

What is the Homestead/Farmstead credit on my tax bill?

The Taxpayer Relief Act, Act 1 of Special Session 1 of 2006, was signed into law on June 27, 2006. The Taxpayer Relief Act provides for property tax reduction allocations to be distributed by the Commonwealth to each school district. Property tax reduction will be through a "homestead or farmstead exclusion." Generally, most owner-occupied homes and farms are eligible for property tax reduction. Only a primary residence is eligible for property tax relief and the amount will vary from year to year. Applications are mailed to property owners in November and are due to the county by March 1st. The county will process the applications and will notify you as to whether you qualify. If you do not currently receive the homestead/farmstead credit and did not receive the application, call the school district at 570-398-5051. Click [here](#) for further explanation of this credit.

[Property Tax Relief Through Homestead Exclusion - PA DCED](#)

I received a Statement of Taxes Due. What does this mean?

This notice is sent in November and is required by law to notify you that you have until December 31st to pay your tax bill. After that date, unpaid taxes are considered delinquent and turned over to the county collections with additional costs added by the county. The balance due on the statement is what was due as of the date on the notice. If you paid your tax bill, then you can disregard the notice.

I do not agree with the assessed values on my tax bill? What can I do?

All property owners have the right to appeal their assessment if they feel the assessment is not fair, uniform or at fair market value. Click on the links below for more information on appealing your assessment value in the county your property is located.

Lycoming County Appeals: [Lycoming County > Appeals](#)

Clinton County Appeals: [Appeals | Clinton County, PA \(clintoncountypa.gov\)](#)