

**Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District  
Board of Education  
Referendum Tax Impact Fact Sheet**

**Introduction**

The Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District Board of Education is preparing for a bond referendum scheduled to go before voters in the constituent communities of Egg Harbor City, Galloway Township, Hamilton Township, and Mullica Township on **September 25, 2007**. To provide facts about the proposed referendum, the district has developed this FAQ fact sheet. As the need arises, the fact sheet will be updated to ensure that residents' concerns are addressed in a timely and comprehensive manner.

The Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District Board of Education welcomes your questions and/or comments via email, phone, or in person.

Web site: [www.gehrhsd.net](http://www.gehrhsd.net)  
E-mail: [newgehrhsreferendum@geh.nj.k12us.com](mailto:newgehrhsreferendum@geh.nj.k12us.com)  
District telephone information line: **609-625-0657, ext. 2732**

**Overview**

Currently, the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District consists of two schools serving students in grades 9-12 at Absegami High School and Oakcrest High School.

Students from Hamilton Township, Mullica Township, the City of Port Republic and Washington Township attend the Oakcrest High School located in Hamilton Township; students from Galloway Township and Egg Harbor City attend the Absegami High School located in Galloway Township.

Students residing in the City of Port Republic and Washington Township (Burlington County) attend Greater Egg Harbor Regional High Schools through a sending-receiving relationship.

**Facility Planning Overview**

For a number of years, the district has been closely monitoring demographic projections, current enrollment, and existing facility conditions in the two schools. Through a long range facility planning process required by the New Jersey State Department of Education, the district identified a shortage of classrooms and core facilities not adequate to accommodate existing and projected enrollment.

In light of this required analysis and legislation providing funding assistance to school districts enacted in July 2000, and to qualify for State funding assistance for which we are eligible, the Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School Board of Education approved a referendum plan to be voted on by residents in September 2007.

**Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District  
Board of Education  
Referendum Tax Impact Fact Sheet**

The long range planning process has been focused and deliberate. Many meetings over a period of years and discussions with a variety of individuals, including a community task force, has culminated into the proposed new high school project.

**Tax Impact Information**

**Q1. How will property revaluations affect my taxes?**

Essentially, revaluation ensures that all property owners are paying a proportional share of the taxes to fund on-going municipal services. The law requires a revaluation program to fairly distribute the tax burden among all property owners based upon the true value of their property.

Once the revaluation is completed, the tax rate will most likely go down to reflect the increased value of the community's base of ratables. Typically, one-third of the taxes increase, one-third decrease, and the remaining one-third remain the same.

**Q2. What is the total dollar amount we will vote on, and how will my property taxes be affected if the referendum passes?**

The total estimated cost for the proposed new high school is **\$81,710,636**. The NJ Schools Development Authority will fund 64.87% of this amount, or \$53,001,187 and a State grant will fund \$1,300,000 for a total State share of the project of 66.46%.

The district has prepared estimates based on a commitment letter received from the State as follows:

<b>Community</b>		<b>Average Tax Rate Increase per \$100,000 Assessed Home Value</b>	<b>Average ANNUAL Tax Impact on Assessed Home of \$100,000</b>	<b>Average MONTHLY Tax Impact on Assessed Home of \$100,000</b>
<b>Egg Harbor City</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$0.0302</b>	<b>\$30.20</b>	<b>\$2.52</b>
<b>Galloway</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$0.0490</b>	<b>\$49.00</b>	<b>\$4.08</b>
<b>Hamilton</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$0.0506</b>	<b>\$50.60</b>	<b>\$4.22</b>
<b>Mullica</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$0.0522</b>	<b>\$52.20</b>	<b>\$4.35</b>

*Note: The estimates indicated above are based on the following assumptions: a 25-year bond and an interest rate of 4.6 %. Interest rates are subject to the market conditions at the time of the sale of bonds.*

**Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District  
Board of Education  
Referendum Tax Impact Fact Sheet**

**Tax Programs for Senior Citizens**

**Q3. Are there programs available for Senior Citizens to offset the tax increases of a proposed referendum?**

Under the Property Tax Reimbursement Program, eligible senior citizens and disabled persons are reimbursed by the State for the difference between the amount of local property taxes paid in the “base year” (the year they became eligible and first filed for the program) and the amount of property taxes paid for the reimbursement year.

Residents applying for the 2006 reimbursement must have total income for 2005 that is less than \$41,972 for single applicants and \$51,466 (combined income) for married couples, and total income for 2006 that is less than \$43,693 for single applicants and \$53,576 (combined income) for married couples.

**Eligibility Requirements (first time filers)**

For 2005 and 2006, you have been age 65 or older or receiving Federal Social Security disability benefits as of December 31. If receiving Federal Social Security disability, you must have received such benefits for yourself (you do NOT qualify if you are receiving Social Security disability benefits on behalf of someone else); and

- Have lived in New Jersey continuously since before January 1, 1996, as either a homeowner or a renter; and
- Have owned and lived in the home for which the reimbursement is being claimed since before January 1, 2003; and
- Have total income for 2005 that is less than \$41,972 for single applicants and \$51,466 (combined income) for married couples, and total income for 2006 that is less than \$43,693 for single applicants and \$53,576 (combined income) for married couples; and
- For both 2005 and 2006, have paid the full amount of the property taxes (or mobile home park site fees) due on the home by December 31.

For more information on the filing of the Property Tax Reimbursement, or to obtain an application, contact the New Jersey Property Tax Reimbursement Hotline at 1-800-882-6597. Information about the Program is also available on the Division of Taxation’s Web site at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/>.

**Greater Egg Harbor Regional High School District  
Board of Education  
Referendum Tax Impact Fact Sheet**

**Sources for Additional Information**

**Q4. Where can I get additional information about the referendum plan?**

- ❑ Look for information sent through the **mail**, including special referendum edition Regional Reporter newsletters.
- ❑ Attend **Board of Education** meetings and/or presentations throughout the community. *Board meetings are conducted at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted, on the first and second Monday of the month.*
- ❑ Attend **Open Houses** to see the plans and meet the administrators, architect, financial adviser and others with information about the proposed plan. Dates and times to be determined.
- ❑ Call the Referendum Information **Hotline** at 609-625-0657, ext 2732.
- ❑ Request a **presentation and/or tour** for your group or organization by calling the hotline at 609-625-0657, ext 2732.
- ❑ Visit the district's **Web site** at [www.gehrhsd.net](http://www.gehrhsd.net)
- ❑ Watch for periodic updates or coverage in the *Press of Atlantic City, The Current, The Record Journal* and other media.
- ❑ Speak to members of the Board of Education about the plan details.