

Mill Levy Stabilization Common Questions

1. What does “stabilizing the mills” mean?

Stabilizing the mills means that the local portion of dollars supporting K-12 will not continue to drop in 175 of 178 school districts. This re-honors ballot measures already passed by voters in the 175 districts.

2. Why did some school district mills drop?

Past state tax laws created great disparities among local tax rates. Specifically, mill levies in Colorado ranged from under 2 to more than 38. An amendment to SB 07-199 capped all mills at 27, helping to decrease the disparity.

3. How much of an increase is this for K-12 funding?

SB 07-199 has a neutral fiscal effect on K-12 allocations. However, it stopped the erosion of local support and deflected potential cuts to K-12 and other parts of the state budget.

4. Who benefits from stabilizing the mills?

- Local school districts: Honors their votes supporting K-12 funding.
- The State: Reduces State liability for K-12 funding.
- Citizens of Colorado: Creates a mechanism to provide long-term solvency to the State Education Fund and other parts of the state budget.

5. May my school district ask voters for a funding override by way of a local election?

The mill levy stabilization amendment does not prevent local school districts from petitioning for an override election. The override provision in the state’s constitution is separate from the School Finance Act.

6. Will my taxes increase because of this policy?

Taxes are based on property valuations, which are calculated once every two years. As property values increase, tax dollars—but not necessarily tax rates—rise. The stabilization plan will become a component of each county’s tax formula, so increases are subject to local recalibrations.