

The unofficial date of Graduation 2017 will be Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Congratulations to our 2017 Illinois State Scholars: John Cramsey, Cole Eilers, Madison Fox, Brittany Twidwell, and Spencer Lee. This is based on grade point average and ACT score.

What is the County School Facility Occupation Tax? A 1% sales tax on the same general merchandise base as the state sales tax.

Are there any kinds of sales that are not subject to this tax? Yes

1. Licensed and titled vehicles.
2. Boats and RVs.
3. Unprepared food intended for home consumption.
4. Drugs, including vitamins and over the counter medications.
5. Farm equipment, parts, and inputs like fertilizer and seed.

How many counties in Illinois have passed the County School Facility Occupation Tax? 44

How can this sales tax be spent? On school facilities only.

1. Pay for approved facility needs on a "pay as you go" basis.
2. Accumulate funds for future building or facility improvement projects.
3. Issue bonds to pay for facility improvements.
4. Abate taxes on bonds issued for the facility improvements.
5. Any combination of the above.
6. Interest earned on monies in the County School Facility Occupation Tax may be transferred to the education and building funds.

What can this sales tax not be spent on?

1. Buses, trucks, mowers, etc.
2. Computers.
3. Salaries, benefits, utilities, supplies, etc.

Is voter approval needed? Yes.

What steps must be taken to establish this tax?

1. Resolution by school district boards that represent more than 50% of the student enrollment within the county.
2. Placed on ballot by the regional office.
3. Majority of the electors voting on the proposition vote in favor of it.

What counties in our school district currently impose this tax? Schuyler and McDonough (passed in

November 2016).

Will this issue be on the April 2017 ballot for Adams County? No.

Will this issue be on the April 2017 ballot for Hancock County? Yes. All county school boards passed the resolution (with the exception of Southeastern); therefore, the 50% requirement has been met, and the issue will be on the April 2017 ballot.

If approved, will the tax apply to businesses, etc. in our school district since the Southeastern Board of Education did not pass a resolution? Yes. It still applies AND the school district will receive the generated revenue.

What is the estimated amount of revenue for Southeastern from the county facilities tax in Hancock County? \$113,178 per year.

What would this money be used for?

1. Air conditioning for the Bowen building.
2. Locker room and gym upgrades in the Augusta building.
3. Roof improvements for the Bowen building.

Why did the Southeastern Board of Education not pass a resolution? After a high level of discussion on the issue at multiple board meetings (see board agendas), a motion was not made to pass a resolution. Why? This sales tax makes sense on a lot of levels and the benefits to our school district are undeniable. But, when it came down to passing a resolution, the following combination of factors played a role in no motion being made.

1. New high school facility.
2. We have no debt.
3. Property tax reduction cannot be guaranteed.
4. Did not pass resolutions for Schuyler and McDonough.
5. Obligation and responsibility to our taxpayers.
6. Future tax increases could potentially be necessary.

What will the issue look like on the April ballot? *"Shall a retailers' occupation tax and a service occupation tax (commonly referred to as a 'sales tax') be imposed in The County of Hancock, Illinois, at a rate of 1% to be used exclusively for school facility purposes."*

If you are interested in being employed as a substitute cook or bus driver for the Southeastern School District, please contact me at 217-392-2172 or shsprin@southeastern337.com.

Budget Summary FY2017

- FY16 Revenue = \$5,519,575
- FY16 Expenses = \$5,389,637
- Beginning Fund Balance = \$2,730,010
- FY17 Predicted Revenue = \$5,662,450
- FY17 Predicted Expenses = \$5,592,289
- FY17 Revenues minus Expenses = \$70,161

February / March 2017 School Calendar

- Monday, February 20 - No School (President's Day)
- Thursday, March 9, 2017 - 2:05 Dismissal
- Friday, March 10, 2017 - 2:05 Dismissal
- Friday, March 10, 2017 - End of Quarter # 3

Southeastern Board of Education Meetings. Meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Board of Education Office at 90 West Green Street, Augusta, Illinois.

Monday, February 27, 2017

Monday, March 13, 2017

Monday, March 27, 2017

Monday, April 24, 2017

Monday, May 15, 2017

Monday, June 26, 2017

Key Phone Numbers:

Southeastern Elementary: 217-842-5236

Southeastern Junior/Senior High School: 217-392-2125

Southeastern District Office: 217-392-2172

Two-Hour Delayed Start. At the October 2015 Board Meeting, the Board of Education "approved the use of a two-hour delayed start procedure when deemed necessary by the administration." In a nutshell, this two-hour delayed start will give us another option when dealing with weather conditions. Over the past three years, we have canceled school several times because at the time of travel (6:30-8:30), conditions were not considered safe for students and staff. Usually this was due to wind chill temperatures, but could also be for dense fog, light freezing rain, etc. On several of these days, if school would have started two hours later, we could have had school. Therefore, a two-hour delayed start will be an option for the 2016-2017 school year.

Why is this important?

- 1) A day of teaching/learning in February is not the same as a day of teaching/learning in May/June.
- 2) Missing multiple days of school prior to state testing and then adding multiple days after state testing does not help state testing.

It is my plan to primarily use the two-hour delayed start to battle dangerous wind chill temperatures AND to make the announcement the night before. This gives everyone a chance to prepare and make the necessary and appropriate arrangements. Obviously, it could be used for other scenarios, but for the most part it will have a very targeted purpose.

Two-Hour Delayed Start Questions and Answers

1. How will parents be notified of a two-hour delayed start? Parents will be notified by School Messenger, television, and radio.
2. What time does school start on a two-hour delayed start? Everything will be two hours later. Southeastern Junior/Senior High classes will begin at 10:15 (Students will report to their third period class which starts at 10:20). Southeastern Elementary classes will start at 10:00.
3. What time will the bus pick up my child? Everything will be two hours later. If the bus usually picks your

child up at 7:25, then the bus will pick up your child at 9:25.

4. What time do employees start? Everything will be two hours later. If an employee usually has to be at school at 7:55 regularly, then they will have to be at school at 9:55.

5. Will there be Pre-K on a two-hour delayed start? There will be **NO** Pre-K (morning or afternoon).

6. Will breakfast be served on a two-hour delayed start? Only cereal or pop tart, milk, and juice will be served.

7. Can parents drop their children off early? No. Parents should make the necessary arrangements to ensure their children arrive at school at the appropriate time. Please do not leave younger children home alone or drop children off early.

8. When will school be dismissed on two-hour delayed start? School will be dismissed at regular school dismissal times.

9. I have stated that the primary use of the two-hour delayed start is to battle dangerous wind chill temperatures AND to make the announcement the night before. What is the rationale for such a targeted purpose? Obviously, the safety of our students is the primary reason for any weather-related cancellation or delay. Making the call the night before ensures that parents have the opportunity to make the necessary arrangements especially for elementary students. A decision made the morning of may result in students being left unsupervised at home or cause them to have even greater exposure to the elements. For example, a student whose parents have already left for work may have to walk to school instead of being dropped off. I realize there are going to be mornings where it appears the two-hour delayed start would be ideal. However, for the reasons previously stated as well as the uncertainty in predicting improved road conditions and/or weather changes, I will not be making the two-hour delayed start call the morning of. I am sure there are exceptions, but that is the rule.

Please Check Out and Use Our School Website: www.southeastern337.com.