

# Ag2School Tax Equity: School Bond Debt Taxes with Ag2School Tax Credit

## MREA

### March 23, 2015

The attached printout shows estimated general school debt service property taxes on selected properties under current law and two alternatives, described below. The tax amounts shown are estimated, but should provide a reasonable approximation of the change in school general debt service taxes that would result under the two alternatives relative to current law.

Under House, Garage 1 acre (HG 1A) for existing school debt, school agricultural land value is excluded from the general school debt levy. However, the level of state aid to school districts is not changed relative to current law, so the resulting school debt levy tax rate increases in each school district with agricultural land value, resulting in a shift of taxes on to other classes of property. Throughout this analysis, "agricultural land" refers to class 2a and 2b agricultural homestead and non-homestead land (excluding the house, garage, and 1 acre) and class 2d property.

Under Ag2School Debt Service Credit, the general school debt service tax rate will be the same as under current law, so there would be no change in debt service property taxes relative to current law for all classes of property with the exception of agricultural land. For agricultural land, a percentage of the school debt service property tax will be paid through a state school debt service credit. This credit will be funded through a combination of (1) a direct state appropriation and (2) a statewide tax levied against agricultural property at a uniform statewide rate. School general debt service property taxes paid by agricultural land will equal (1) the current law general debt service property tax minus (2) the school debt service credit plus (2) the statewide tax rate times the agricultural land tax capacity. The specific credit percentages, state payments, etc., are outlined in the table below.

Ag2School School Debt Service Credit Percentage	40%	← Credit will pay 40% of local general debt service property tax.
Total Estimated Statewide Credit Payment	\$35,193,402	
Amount of Credit from State Appropriation	\$30,000,000	
Percent of Credit from State Appropriation	85%	
Amount of Credit from State Agricultural Land Tax	\$5,193,402	
Percent of Credit from State Agricultural Land Tax	15%	
Uniform Statewide Agricultural Land Tax Rate	0.464%	
Ag2School Tax Equity Tax on a \$1 Million Agricultural Homestead Land Based on Uniform Statewide Rate	\$23.18	

#### Description of columns in printout:

- **Total Tax Capacity (Net).** Total taxable tax capacity after subtracting fiscal disparity contribution, captured tax increment, and excluded power line tax capacity and adding fiscal disparity distribution tax capacity, based on the 2014 assessment (corresponding to taxes payable in 2015).
- **Agricultural Land Tax Capacity.** Total tax capacity of all class 2a and 2b agricultural land (excluding the house, garage, and 1 acre) and class 2d property.
- **Current Law Debt Levy.** Projected current law school general debt service levy for taxes payable in 2016.
- **Debt Tax Rates: Current Law.** Estimated current law school general debt service tax rate, calculated by dividing "current law debt levy" by "total tax capacity (net)."
- **Debt Tax Rates: Excluding Agricultural Land (HG 1A).** Estimated tax rate under alternative #1, calculated by dividing (1) "current law debt levy" by (2) "total tax capacity (net)" minus "agricultural land tax capacity."
- **Debt Tax on a \$150,000 Homestead Under Current Law.** Estimated school general debt tax under current law for a residential homestead with a \$150,000 market value.
- **Debt Tax on a \$150,000 Homestead Under HG 1 A.** Estimated school general debt tax under alternative #1 for a residential homestead with a \$150,000 market value.
- **Debt Tax on a \$150,000 Homestead Under Ag2School Tax Credit.** Estimated school general debt tax under alternative #2 for a residential homestead with a \$150,000 market value (same as current law).
- **Debt Tax on a \$1 Million Business Under Current Law.** Estimated school general debt tax under current law for a commercial/industrial property with a \$1 million market value.
- **Debt Tax on a \$1 Million Business Under HG 1A.** Estimated school general debt tax under alternative #1 for a commercial/industrial property with a \$1 million market value.
- **Debt Tax on a \$1 Million Business Under Ag2School Tax Credit.** Estimated school general debt tax under alternative #2 for a commercial/industrial property with a \$1 million market value (same as current law).
- **Debt Tax on \$1 Million Agricultural Land Under Current Law.** Estimated school general debt tax under current law for agricultural land with a \$1 million market value.
- **Debt Tax on \$1 Million Agricultural Land Under HG 1A.** Estimated school general debt tax under alternative #1 for agricultural land with a \$1 million market value (\$0 in all school districts).
- **Debt Tax on \$1 Million Agricultural Land Under Ag2School Tax Credit.** Estimated school general debt tax under alternative #2 for agricultural land with a \$1 million market value.













