

MAHOPAC CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Ron Clamser, Jr.
Assistant Superintendent for Business

Dr. Brian D. Monahan
Superintendent of Schools

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brian Monahan, Interim Superintendent of Schools
FROM: Ron Clamser, Jr., Assistant Superintendent for Business
RE: Alternative Veterans' Exemption
DATE: September 19, 2014

On December 18, 2013 Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law legislation authorizing school districts to offer the Alternative Veterans' Tax Exemption (RPTL 458-a). In general, only those that have served during wartime are eligible. The following are highlights of the new law:

- Requires affirmative action by Board resolution in order to provide the tax exemption.
- Requires a public hearing prior to adopting the exemptions.
- Establishes 3 eligibility categories and basic maximum exemption limits which are cumulative:
 - Basic War Time Exemption: 15% of assessed value, not to exceed \$12,000
 - Combat Zone: 10% of assessed value, not to exceed \$8,000
 - Disabled Veterans: 50% of veterans disability rating, not to exceed \$40,000

If the Board wished to adopt the Alternative Veterans' Exemption so that it is applicable to 2015-16 school taxes, action should be taken before March 1, 2015.

Additionally, if the Board wishes to either increase or reduce the maximum exemption levels, a second public hearing must be held and a new resolution must be approved.

Furthermore, the Board may adopt a resolution to include a "Gold Star Parent" within the definition of a qualified property owner. A Gold Star Parent is a parent of a child who died in the line of duty while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces during a period of war.

Based on eligible veterans currently filed, here is the data for Mahopac CSD at the **Basic Maximum Exemption** level:

Source: Putnam County Real Property Office, 2014-15 assessment data

	Number of Parcels*				Estimation Only	
	Basic (War Time)	Combat Zone	Disabled	Eligible (not filed)	Assessment Value of Exemption	Cost per \$100,000 of Assessed Value
Town of Carmel	298	204	61	206	\$7,867,568	\$16.35
Town of Putnam Valley	21	13	4	0	\$672,000	\$10.71

* Number of Parcels only identifies the number of properties owned by eligible veterans and does not reflect the number of eligible veterans.