



Building Bridges for today's students to cross into tomorrow's world with equity, innovation and optimism

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James Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

August 2017

A Message to our Community,

We want to make you aware that there will be a shift in school tax rates this year between Orangetown and Clarkstown, the two towns that comprise the Nyack School District. New York State school districts must use equalization rates, which are established annually by the NYS State Office of Real Property, a division of the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. When a school district encompasses two towns such as Nyack does, the equalization rates can sometimes cause a shift in the school tax rates between the two towns. This happens when one town's rate shifts disproportionately compared to the change in the other town's rate.

In 2017, the sharp drop in Orangetown's equalization rate is adversely impacting the Orangetown school tax rate while the relative stability of the Clarkstown equalization rate is positively impacting the school tax rate, resulting in a modest decline.

You can learn more about New York State equalization rates through their web site at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/learn/eqrates.htm>. Additionally, the District prepared a set of questions and answers regarding the 2017 tax rates which can be found on the Superintendent's Page on our website at www.nyackschools.org. We hope this information helps you understand the guidelines we must adhere to when setting annual tax rates and that there are many variables over which the District has no control.

If you have further questions, you may call the NYS Department Real Property Tax Services or visit their website at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/about/orpts/albany.htm> or direct your questions to the Orangetown Assessor's office.

Sincerely,

James J. Montesano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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