

HAZLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2016 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of the Hazleton Area School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2016, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. **Aggregate amount available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction.** The following amounts are available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2016:

a. **Gambling tax funds.** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.505(b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of \$2,670,168.

b. **Remaining Property Tax Reduction Funds.** Funds will be available during the school year for real estate reduction as a result of undistributed funds from the property tax reduction funds received in 2015-2016. These funds will be added to the allocation for this school year in the amount of \$ -0- .

c. **Property Tax Reduction Funds Distributed Over the Allocated Funds.** During the 2015-2016 school year additional funds beyond those funds allocated for property tax reduction were distributed. As a result, those funds distributed in excess of the allocated funds will be deducted from the allocation for this school year in the amount of \$ -0- .

d. **Philadelphia tax credit reimbursement funds.** PDE has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.324(3), as reimbursement for Philadelphia tax credits claimed against the School District earned income tax by School District resident taxpayers, the amount of \$22,187.

e. **Tax shifting funds.** Based on the voter referendum directing School District levy of an increased earned income tax, and on calculations provided by the School District Business Office from the best available information and carefully evaluated by the School Board estimating Act 1 earned income tax receipts for real estate tax reduction of \$-0-, minus \$-0- representing 2% of such receipts retained to offset School District expenses, funds will be available from tax shifting during the school year for real estate tax reduction pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.334(a)(3) or (4), in the amount of \$-0-.

f. **Other sources.** Funds will be available during the school year for real estate reduction from other sources, namely Act 50 of 1998 due to the increase in the earned income tax from .5% to 1.0%, in the amount of \$4,469,210.

g. **Aggregate amount available.** Adding these amounts, the aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction is \$7,161,565.

2. **Homestead/farmstead numbers.** Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. § 8584(i), and Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.341(g)(3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and approved farmsteads as follows:

a. **Homestead property number.** The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 18,940 (Luzerne – 16,218; Schuylkill – 2,112; Carbon – 610).

b. **Farmstead property number.** The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 28 (Luzerne – 21; Schuylkill – 7; Carbon – 0).

c. **Homestead/farmstead combined number.** Adding these numbers, the aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 18,968.

3. **Real estate tax reduction calculation.** The school board has decided that the homestead exclusion amount and the farmstead exclusion amount shall be equal. Dividing the paragraph 1(g) aggregate amount available during the school year for real estate tax reduction of \$7,161,565 by the paragraph 2(c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 18,968 (before considering the assessed value of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads having an assessed value below the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate assessed value reduction amount to be established as the homestead and farmstead exclusion amount), the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$377.56.

Based on calculations provided by the School District Business Office from the best available information and carefully evaluated by the School Board, considering the assessed value of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads having an assessed value below the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate assessed value reduction amount to be established as the homestead exclusion and the farmstead exclusion amount, an additional aggregate amount of \$134,580 will be available during the school year for real estate tax reduction applicable to approximately 17,635 homesteads and farmsteads, resulting in an additional real estate tax reduction amount available for each homestead and farmstead of \$7.59. Adding this additional amount to the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$377.56, the final maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$385.15.

4. **Homestead exclusion calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$385.15 by the School District real estate tax rate of 9.6 mills for Luzerne County, the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is 40,120, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is 40,120.

Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$385.15 by the School District real estate tax rate of 34.979 mills for Schuylkill County, the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is 11,011, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is 11,011.

Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$385.15 by the School District real estate tax rate of 26.669 mills for Carbon County, the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is 14,442, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is 14,442.

5. **Homestead/farmstead exclusion authorization – July 1 tax bills.** The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of 40,120 (Luzerne County); 11,011 (Schuylkill County); and 14,442 (Carbon County). The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of 40,120 (Luzerne County); 11,011 (Schuylkill County); and 14,442 (Carbon County). For purposes of this Resolution, “approved homestead” and “approved farmstead” shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report referred to in paragraph 2 above and received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1 pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 6926.341(g)(3), based on homestead/farmstead applications filed with the County Assessment Office on or before March 1. This paragraph 5 will apply to tax notices issued based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1, and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills.

6. **Homestead/farmstead exclusion authorization – interim real estate tax bills.** No homestead or farmstead exclusion will apply to any interim tax bill except an interim tax bill applicable to a property that includes an approved homestead or approved farmstead listed in the report received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1, but not included in the tax assessment reflected in the July 1 tax bill for the property. In most cases, the assessment of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads will be reflected in July 1 tax bills. However, in any case when there is an approved homestead or an approved farmstead that is not included in the assessment reflected in the July 1 tax bill, and when an interim real estate tax notice is issued later based on an interim assessment including the approved homestead or approved farmstead, the interim tax notice shall reflect a homestead or farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction calculated under paragraph 5, except that the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will be prorated in the same manner as the real estate tax is pro rated. Assuming the interim tax notice reflects taxation as of July 1, as will occur in most such cases, the full amount of the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will apply. In the extraordinary case where the new interim tax assessment is effective after July 1, the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction will be pro rated in the same manner as the real estate tax reflected in the interim tax bill is pro rated.