



City residents won't have higher school taxes this time

Money from the state budget will help the school district.

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The York City School District will receive more money than anticipated next school year, cementing the district's tax-increase-free spending plan.

Under the state budget that Gov. Ed Rendell signed last week, the city school district will get an estimated \$5.6 million in funding, a nearly 16 percent increase.

That's enough money to keep the district's approved budget of almost \$88 million with no planned tax increase, officials said during Monday's finance committee meeting.

The district's budget was passed before the state budget, so officials had to estimate the amount the district would receive from the state.

The concern, said Jon Boyer, the district's director of business and finance, was that if the state significantly cut its allocation to the district, the board might have had to reopen its budget to approve a tax increase.

During the finance committee meeting, board Vice President Tom Foust said the district had calculated that it would get about \$20,000 less in special education funding next year.

However, the district will in fact get an estimated \$103,220 increase.

Statewide, all school districts will get a minimum 2 percent increase in special education funding and a minimum increase of 3 percent in basic education funding, according to the state Department of Education.

This is also the first year that state residents who qualify will see tax relief from the Homestead Tax Relief Act. In York, that means approved homeowners will see a \$525 decrease in their bills. For those whose property-tax bills totaled less than \$525, they will pay nothing.