

Dear Spring Branch ISD (SBISD) Taxpayers,

Enclosed please find your 2021 SBISD tax bill. **The district’s tax rate has been reduced from \$1.3073 last year to \$1.3043, per \$100 of taxable valuation.** SBISD’s total tax rate represents the lowest district tax rate since 2007-08 and the second lowest tax burden in the Houston area.

The district’s **General Fund** is financed largely through the Maintenance and Operations tax (\$0.9998) but also relies on state funds and a small amount of dollars from other sources. The General Fund covers the day-to-day operations of the district.

Debt Service, financed through the Interest and Sinking tax (\$0.3045), pays for the district’s debt, previously approved by voters. The sale of bonds funds capital improvement projects such as new school buildings, renovations, school buses, etc. **Funds for Debt Service cannot be used for operational expenses and are not subject to recapture.**

RECAPTURE ON THE RISE


The state of Texas takes a portion of your tax dollars through **recapture** to help fund the state’s share of public education, freeing up state dollars to be used elsewhere, such as roads, health care, prisons, and other state services. While the legislature provided adjustments to the school funding model in 2019, recapture continues to have **an outsized impact on SBISD**. Our recapture payment is **right back to where it was in 2018**.

Every dollar we have to send back to the state is a dollar that can’t be used to support the education of our SBISD students. This is not sustainable.

Thank you for your continued support!

We’ve had a strong start to the 2021-22 school year. We welcomed students back to two newly-rebuilt campuses, Hunters Creek Elementary School and Landrum Middle School. These projects and other rebuilds and facilities upgrades underway are possible because of voter support for our 2017 Bond program.

We continue to keep our students at the heart of all we do – providing great educational experiences to prepare them for success in school and in life.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Blaine, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

We remain singularly focused on our T-2-4 goal for Every Child to successfully complete a technical certification, military training, or a 2-year or 4-year degree.

During the 2020-21 school year, SBISD responded to the pandemic with funds to support health and safety measures, expanded digital access and providing excellent instruction. **We are proud of our results!**

- SBISD student performance on the spring 2021 state STAAR exam exceeded state results on every measure.
- Our Class of 2021 students outperformed their peers across the state on the SAT college entrance exam.
- In spring 2021, 2289 students took 4812 AP exams, and more than 60 percent of the exams scored a three or higher.
- Over 80 percent of SBISD students were back on campus learning in person during the second semester.

This year, federal ESSER funds will address investments in teacher supports, instructional materials, and programs to ensure rigorous learning experiences as well as increased social emotional supports and parent and family engagement.

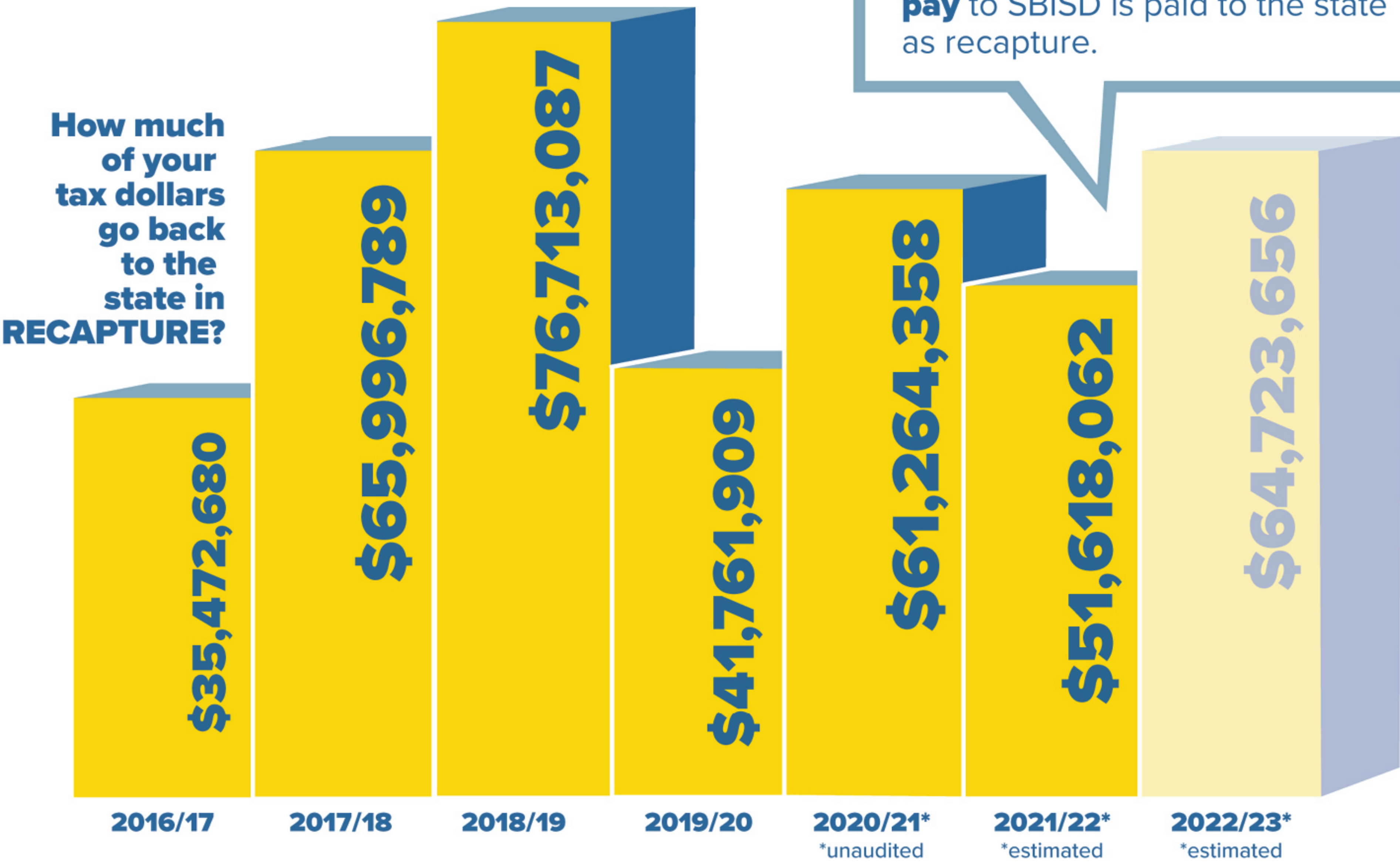
RECAPTURE* On the Rise

* Beginning the 2019-20 school year, recapture is now called Local Revenue in Excess of Entitlement.

Why should you care?

Even with 2019 legislative changes, SBISD’s recapture payment is right back to 2017-18 levels.

This year, we estimate SBISD will send **\$52 million** to the state of Texas – that means approximately **15 cents of every tax dollar you pay** to SBISD is paid to the state as recapture.



The higher our recapture payment, the fewer dollars we have remaining in SBISD to fund the high-quality educational experiences you expect and our students deserve. We believe your public education dollars should stay in your schools.

Tax Burden Comparison

Estimated tax on \$500,000 home
SBISD homeowners have a lower tax burden than homeowners in most other area school districts.

KATY ISD	\$6,421
SPRING ISD	\$6,433
CY-FAIR ISD**	\$5,009
SBISD**	\$4,891
HOUSTON ISD**	\$4,232

** 20% local optional Homestead Exemption

Money taken from Spring Branch ISD

Through recapture, the state takes away a portion of the local property tax revenue collected by school districts with relatively high property values per student. Recapture, which we have referred to as **“Robin Hood”** in prior years, is paid from the General Fund, reducing the dollars available for district operations.

A district’s General Fund tax rate is dictated by the state of Texas, and because **SBISD is a recapture district**, the state claims a larger portion of local tax dollars. **With recapture, the state takes away money it claims a school district has received that “exceeds” what the district should get.**

Homestead Exemption Reminder: Homestead taxes are frozen for our taxpayers with **the over-65 or disabled persons exemptions.**

Learn more about the SBISD tax rate at: <https://sbisd.tax>