



# DID YOU KNOW?

## Fees could cost you more than an override.

The School Committee is asking residents at Town Meeting and the subsequent Town Election to support an override request for \$1,683,119. This request is included as part of a total town-wide override for \$1,933,119. Whether the override passes or fails, parents of school aged children are likely to pay more in either fees or taxes.

If the override passes, our fees will remain the same. If it fails, fees will increase dramatically. The potential impact on a parent with **two** children in grades 7-12 who play one sport, ride the bus/drive a car, and participate in one club can be seen in Table 1 below:

**Table 1: Potential Fee Increases**

Fees	If Override Passes	Parent Cost	If Override Fails	Parent Cost	Difference
<b>Athletics</b>	\$125 per sport	\$250	\$225, \$275 or \$325 per sport	\$450-\$650	\$200-\$400
<b>Bus/Parking</b>	\$100	\$200	\$180	\$360	\$160
<b>Clubs/Activities</b>	\$0	\$0	\$25	\$50	\$50
<b>Total</b>		\$450		\$860-\$1060	<b>\$410-\$610</b>
<b>NON-TAX DEDUCTIBLE</b>					

If your children participate in programs sponsored by community groups, you may be further impacted by fees. If the override fails, facility use rental fees for community groups such as the Hopkinton Basketball Association and Hopkinton Youth Soccer will triple from \$5/hour to \$15/hour.

If an override passes, parents will face increased costs in taxes. The tax implications for parents are highlighted in Table 2 below:

**Table 2: Tax Increase with a \$1,933,119 Override**

Equates to \$0.64 per thousand of assessed value	
Home Value	Annual Cost
\$350,000	<b>\$224</b>
\$500,000	<b>\$320</b>
\$650,000	<b>\$416</b>
\$800,000	<b>\$512</b>
<b>TAX DEDUCTIBLE</b>	

For Fiscal Year 2007, parents will face increased costs in either fees or taxes. In weighing the different costs, there are two major factors to consider: 1) the overall cost to you as a taxpayer, and 2) whether the cost is tax deductible. Property taxes are tax deductible; fees are not. Fees or taxes, you decide.

Sincerely,

John E. Phelan, Jr., Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools