

Millage FAQ's

What millage increase is available to the Board with a referendum and without a referendum? For operational millage, the limits are set by State law, specifically Section 6-1-320 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended and cannot be modified by a referendum. On the debt side, there is no limit on debt service millage on general obligation debt whether approved by referendum or not. Without a referendum, the Board can only borrow up to its 8% constitutional debt limit. As long as the amount borrowed is within the 8% limit, the Board has not limitation on how much millage can be imposed to repay it. The Board controls the millage by setting the debt service schedule.

Are we within our current bonding capacity, do we have any available, and can it be extended with a bond referendum. Are there any threshold numbers concerning the referendum amounts? The School Board always has an option of ordering a bond referendum which if successful would authorize the Board to borrow the amount approved for the projects approved.

What is the operational limitation on Millage? Is there a limit for Debt Service? Under Act 388 and subsequent legislative amendments, the annual millage increase is limited to a total of the percentage of population growth and the consumer price index, as identified by the State. Beginning in 2011, local governments were authorized to add to the increase allowed in a year any increases allowed but not imposed for three preceding years.

In the attached a worksheet for Millage Analysis, what would be the maximum millage that could be levied for 2017-18? We have looked at your millage analysis and we agree that for the millage that will be set this year, the School District will be entitled to its annual increase together with a look back from 2016, 2015 and 2014 tax years. The percentage increase allowed for this year is not known and our calculation of the look back is 12.84 mills.