

New \$500,000 income limit for Basic STAR property tax exemption

Beginning this year, legislation requires that taxpayers who earn more than \$500,000 will no longer receive the Basic STAR exemption.

To confirm your eligibility, your assessor may ask you to provide information about your income (see below for income definition).

The **STAR (School Tax Relief) program** reduces qualifying homeowners' school property tax bills each year.

The **Middle Class STAR Rebate program** was eliminated in 2009.

What to do next

If your assessor notifies you that you're **ineligible** for the Basic STAR exemption:

- If you agree that you're ineligible, you don't need to do anything. However, if your income drops below the limit in the future, you'll need to re-apply for the exemption.
- If your household income is below \$500,000 and you believe that you're eligible for the exemption, contact your assessor. The assessor may advise you to file a formal assessment grievance.

If you receive a notice from your assessor requesting **more information**:

- Provide the assessor with your 2009 federal and state income tax returns.
- If you didn't file a tax return for 2009, you'll need to provide the assessor with all of your 2009 income statements (1099 statements, W-2 forms, etc.).

If you **don't receive a notice** from your assessor

- There's no need to do anything – you'll continue to receive the Basic STAR exemption.

More information

To learn more about the STAR program and the assessment grievance process, visit the Tax Department's property tax website:

www.orps.state.ny.us

How income is defined

For 2011, income for Basic STAR purposes is based on the 2009 tax year, and is the combined income of:

- all owners who reside at the property, and
- any owner's spouse who resides at the property.

