

**May 31, 2019**

**For Immediate Release**

The New York State department of Taxation and Finance has made some additional changes to the STAR program to those property owners who:

- A. Initially enrolled in STAR prior to 2015 and
- B. Receive the STAR as a reduction on their School Tax Bill they receive in September.

**This does not apply to owners who enrolled in STAR credit/check after 2015 and receive the STAR Exemption payment in a form of a check**

If you currently receive your STAR benefit as a reduction on your School Tax Bill, you may receive a greater benefit if you switch to the STAR credit to receive the check. The value of the STAR savings may increase up to 2% versus the previous year. In order to be eligible for the possible increase, you have the option to convert to the STAR credit program to receive the check. If you chose not to convert, the value of the STAR will be locked in at the current level. If you choose to convert to the STAR Credit program, you will not be able to go back to the STAR Exemption program. In addition, if your income is above \$250,000, it is mandatory to be in the STAR Credit program and receive the check. The maximum income to receive the STAR credit remains at \$500,000.

The process to switch programs is handled directly with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, and not the local Assessor. You can do so by going to [www.tax.ny.gov/star](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star), or call (518)-457-2036.

**Please note:** For those who currently have an escrow account with the STAR exemption, the escrow account will be adjusted accordingly.