

How school tax bills would change

Here is a comparison of what residents paid for their schools in 2006 (the last year for which tax figures are available) and what they might pay in a countywide district. The numbers do not include potential cost savings. They are based on keeping all the same schools, teachers, employees and administrators the county has now.

Who would pay less?

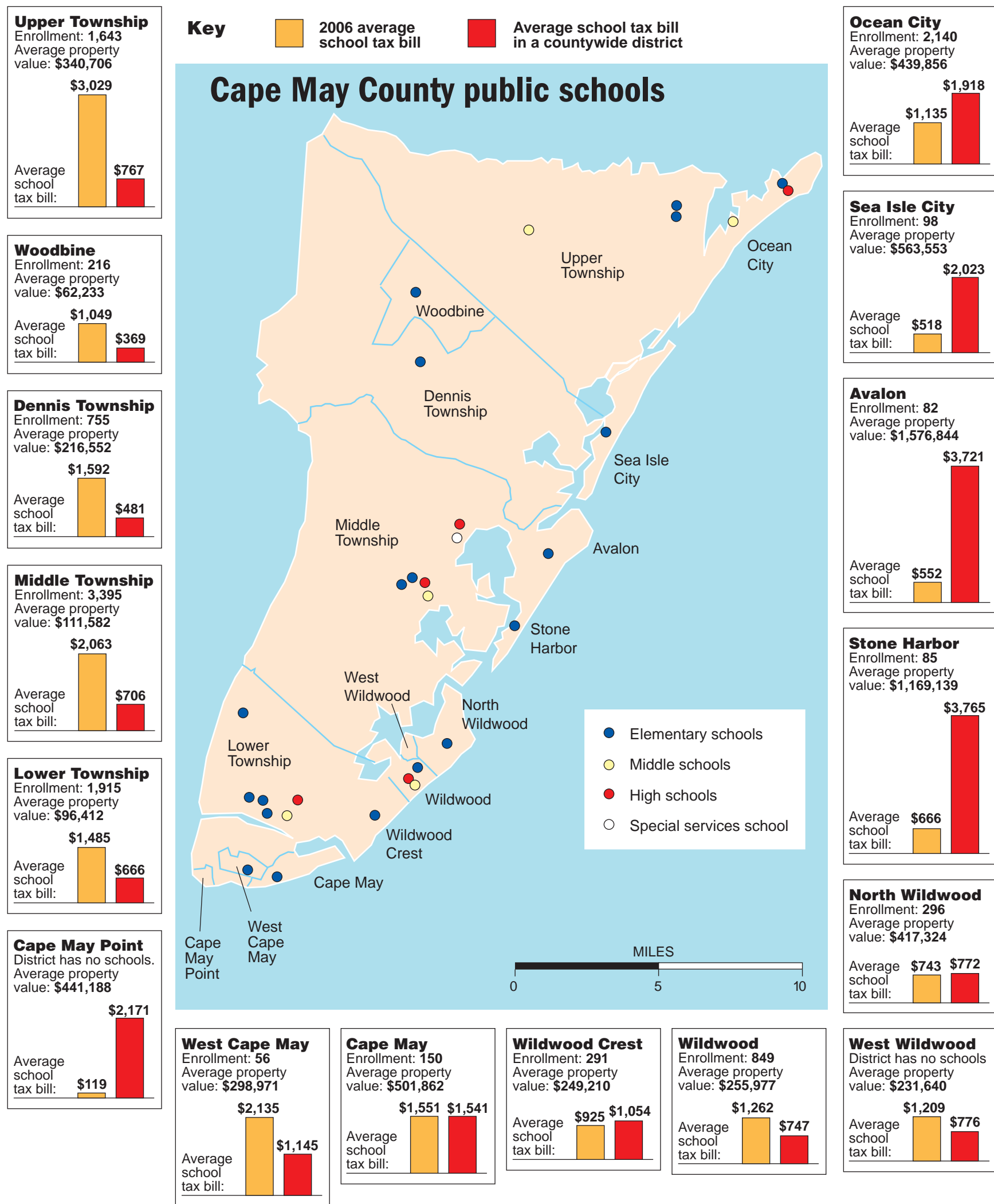
Taxpayers in Dennis Township, Lower Township, Middle Township, Upper Township, West Cape May, West Wildwood, Wildwood and Woodbine.

Who would pay more?

Taxpayers in Avalon, Cape May Point, Ocean City, Sea Isle City, and Stone Harbor. Those towns currently have low school taxes because of their small school populations and large ratable bases.

Others

School taxes in Cape May, North Wildwood and Wildwood Crest would remain about the same.



How these tax figures were calculated

■ Utilizing the same formula used to calculate the county tax, we determined a county school tax rate, which in 2006 would have been just less than 30 cents per \$100 of assessed value. The average statewide school tax rate is \$1.54.

■ This calculation does not include the budgets of the special services and vocational schools, which are already funded through existing local school and county taxes. Those two schools could be folded into the countywide district at no additional cost to property taxpayers.

■ Since not all towns are assessed at 100 percent of their true value, the countywide rate was then adjusted for each town using the Cape May County Office of Taxation's equalized value ratio. Individual school tax rates were calculated just as they are done for county taxes.

■ A sample property tax bill was created using the average assessed property value in each town. Individual property owners would pay more or less depending on the value of their home compared with the average.

What education costs in Cape May County, and what it might cost

Town	2005-06 enrollment	Average property value	2006 school tax rate	Average school tax bill	Consolidated tax rate	Consolidated tax bill	Difference
Avalon	82	\$1,576,844	0.035	\$551.90	0.236	\$3,721.35	\$3,169.45
Cape May	150	\$501,862	0.309	\$1,550.75	0.307	\$1,540.71	—\$10.04
Cape May Point		\$441,188	0.027	\$119.12	0.492	\$2,170.65	\$2,051.53
Dennis Township	755	\$216,552	0.735	\$1,591.66	0.222	\$480.75	—\$1,110.91
Lower Township	1,915	\$96,412	1.54	\$1,484.74	0.691	\$666.21	—\$818.53
Middle Township	3,395	\$111,582	1.849	\$2,063.15	0.633	\$706.31	—\$1,356.84
North Wildwood	296	\$417,324	0.178	\$742.84	0.185	\$772.05	\$29.21
Ocean City	2,140	\$439,856	0.258	\$1,134.82	0.436	\$1,917.77	\$782.95
Sea Isle City	98	\$563,553	0.092	\$518.47	0.359	\$2,023.16	\$1,504.69
Stone Harbor	85	\$1,169,139	0.057	\$666.41	0.322	\$3,764.63	\$3,098.22
Upper Township	1,643	\$340,706	0.889	\$3,028.87	0.225	\$766.58	—\$2,262.29
West Cape May	56	\$298,971	0.714	\$2,134.65	0.383	\$1,145.06	—\$989.59
West Wildwood		\$231,640	0.522	\$1,209.16	0.335	\$775.99	—\$433.17
Wildwood City	849	\$255,977	0.493	\$1,261.97	0.292	\$747.45	—\$514.52
Wildwood Crest	291	\$249,210	0.371	\$924.57	0.423	\$1,054.15	\$129.58
Woodbine	216	\$62,233	1.685	\$1,048.63	0.593	\$369.04	—\$679.59