

New for the 2013-2014 School Tax STAR exemption

A property may lose its STAR exemption because of unpaid New York State tax debts.

If one or more of the owners of a property that receives a STAR exemption has unpaid New York State tax debt, the property's STAR (School Tax Relief) Program exemption will be suspended unless the owner with the tax debt pays the balance due or sets up a payment plan before **May 31, 2013**.

The STAR exemption reduces the property's school tax bill. If the exemption is suspended, you could lose hundreds (and in some cases, thousands) of dollars in STAR savings.

If the tax debt is not paid by May 31, 2013:

- The STAR exemption will be suspended unless the owner with the tax debt pays the balance due or sets up a payment plan before **May 31, 2013**.
- The amount of the STAR savings will be applied towards paying the owner's tax debts.
- If the owner pays in full (or sets up a payment plan) **after** May 31, 2013:
 - it will be too late for the owner to get the STAR exemption for this year, and
 - the owner can reapply for the STAR exemption for next year.

STAR; Removal for State Tax Liabilities

□ Chapter 59 (A.9509-d) ▪ RPTL §425(3)(f); Tax Law §171-y provides that a property's eligibility for the STAR exemption will be suspended if one or more of its owners have a past-due State tax liability.

DTF will notify the delinquent taxpayer of the impending suspension at least 45 days prior to the date the applicable assessor will be directed to suspend the exemption. Once DTF notifies the assessor that a taxpayer's STAR Exemption has been suspended, the assessor is directed to remove the STAR Exemption for the next school year, even if the assessment roll has been finalized. The taxpayer may not appeal the removal of the STAR Exemption to the local assessor. Any appeal by a taxpayer shall be made to the DTF. Once the suspension has been lifted by the Department, the assessor may reinstate the STAR Exemption, but only going forward. The reinstatement is not retroactive. Suspension notices may be challenged by a taxpayer only on grounds of mistake of fact. The amount by which a taxpayer's property tax liability increases as a result of losing the STAR Exemption will be applied to offset the amount of the taxpayer's past-due state tax liability.