



# TOWN OF AMHERST

## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

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### **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 Property 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 Property 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 to receive the check. If you chose not to convert, the value of the STAR increase will be locked in at the current level. 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 is handled directly with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, and not the local Assessor. In order to receive the credit/check for the September 2019 School Property Tax bill, it must be done prior to June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. You can do it by going to [www.tax.ny.gov/star](http://www.tax.ny.gov/star), or call (518)-457-2036.