

# Comparing Costs: How Do Quaker Valley School Taxes and Spending Compare to other Schools Districts?

## Providing Excellence in Education to our Community’s Children

Quaker Valley School District earns a solid reputation as one of the best in the nation. Quaker Valley Schools are known for their high rankings and superb educational outcomes.

*Yet, while providing exceptionally high education outcomes, the district also has one of the lowest property tax millage rates in Allegheny County.*

For our investment in Quaker Valley Public Schools, our families, in turn, receive:

## Modern Facilities for our Elementary and Middle School Students

Every day, students benefit from learning in modern elementary and middle schools equipped with technology labs, STEM-focused “maker spaces,” libraries, and excellent physical education facilities.

## “Big School District Menu” in a Small School District Setting

Many families choose QVSD for its smaller school size yet benefit from the extensive QV educational offerings comparable to those provided to students in much larger school districts.

## Exceptional Special Education Services to Enhance Learning for all Students

QVSD funds professional staffing & services for early intervention and small-group learning opportunities for children with special needs or learning disabilities.

## Robust Advanced Placement Programming for Exceptional Students

Unlike many smaller school districts, Quaker Valley offers extensive advanced placement courses and educational instruction to better prepare students for college and other professional opportunities after graduation.

## The Best Educators Focused on Meeting Every Student’s Needs

QVSD offers competitive compensation to attract and retain highly-trained and experienced teachers. The quality of our educators produces better outcomes for our diverse student population.

### Current Millage Rates Allegheny County School Districts:

District	Tax Millage
Penn Hills	28.6646
E. Allegheny	26.9722
Upper St Clair	26.3775
Northgate	25.5000
Mt. Lebanon	24.7900
Steel Valley	24.2170
Shaler Area	23.5319
Moon Area	21.9200
Bethel Park	21.0000
Pine Richland	19.5867
Fox Chapel	19.5750
Avonworth	19.5300
<b>Quaker Valley</b>	<b>19.4711</b>
Hampton	19.3800
N. Allegheny	19.1408

### Niche School District Ratings

Overall: A+      Academics: A+

College Prep: A+

Teachers: A+

Clubs & Activities: A

“Great Schools” College Success Rating: 85% of Students Enroll in College or Vocational Program (State average: 66%)

## **Low Administrative Cost Structure, Focusing on Educational Programming**

Quaker Valley invests the overwhelming majority of its budget into student instruction and school facility modernization. Less than 6% of its annual budget funds administrative salaries and other expenses--among the lowest in the state.

## **A First-Rate Public Library for all Quaker Valley Residents**

Quaker Valley stands alone in Pennsylvania in funding its highly-regarded Sewickley Public Library. Unlike other communities, ours is funded through an annual appropriation of \$525,000 from the school district budget using our property tax dollars.

## **A few words about “Spending Per Student”**

The Quaker Valley School District is unique among its neighbors in Allegheny County in that it provides a “big school district menu” comparable to those with much larger student bodies. Thus, “spending per student” comparisons can be somewhat misleading.

For example, QVSD provides comprehensive AP and special education staffing, services, and class offerings not always offered in many similarly-sized school districts. QVSD, maintains a 13:1 student teacher ratio, improving educational outcomes.

At the same time, QVSD’s annual school budget contains debt service payments for the multi-million-dollar renovations of our middle school and both elementary schools—investments that most everyone agrees were necessary. As the debt service on these newer facilities continues to decline, resources will be freed up for the construction of a more , modern, new high school.

Several other factors make comparisons to other districts difficult. Some districts, like Mt. Lebanon, provide no bus transportation to their students—a necessity in the sprawling Quaker Valley district footprint.

Many other communities fund their public libraries out of their municipal budgets. However, in order to spread the cost across multiple municipalities whose citizens benefit from its use, the Sewickley Library is funded through the QV school district budget.

Finally, because of the age and poor condition of the century-old QV High School, our district must spend additional resources on costly repairs, maintenance and cooling and heating costs due to inefficient systems and aging infrastructure.

By accelerating the construction of a new high school, the district will be able to invest resources into a 21<sup>st</sup> century facility and classroom instruction rather than wasteful repairs and maintenance.

**For more information about the Quaker Valley High School Project, visit [QVStrong.org](http://QVStrong.org)**

### **U.S. News & World Report: Best High Schools Rankings**

**Quaker Valley High School Overall  
Rating: 95.55/100**

**#19 Ranked High School in  
Pennsylvania**

**#6 Ranked High School in Pittsburgh  
Metropolitan Area**

**#53 Ranked Top STEM High School  
in the Nation**

**Graduation Rate: 97%**

**College Readiness Index Rank #10 in  
Pennsylvania**

**College Curriculum Breadth Index  
Rank #9 in Pennsylvania**