

# NYS Dept. of Finance Announces Changes to STAR Benefit Eligibility

New York State Department of Taxation & Finance has announced changes to STAR eligibility which may result in an increase in the benefits for qualified participants.



If you currently receive your STAR benefit as a reduction on your **school tax bill** (the STAR exemption), you may receive a greater benefit if you switch to the STAR credit to receive a check instead.

## Recent changes in the law beginning this year:

- The value of the STAR credit savings may increase by as much as 2% each year, but the value of the STAR exemption savings will not increase.
- The income limit for the Basic STAR exemption is now \$250,000.

If your income is more than \$250,000, you **must** switch to the STAR credit to continue receiving a STAR benefit.

If your income is \$250,000 or less, you have the option to switch.

**The income criteria for the STAR credit and the STAR property tax exemption has changed . You can't receive both the credit and the exemption.**

## Eligible types of property

- houses, condominiums, cooperative apartments, manufactured homes, and farm houses
- mixed-use properties, including apartment buildings (but only the owner-occupied portion)

## Requirements for Basic & Enhanced STAR (for Home Owners)

Factor	Basic STAR	Enhanced STAR
Residency	You <b>MUST</b> own your home and it must be your primary residence	
Age	No Age Restriction	65 or older  For jointly owned property, only one spouse or sibling must be at least 65 by December 31 of the year when the benefit will begin.
Income**	\$500,000 or less for the STAR credit (\$250,000 or less for the STAR exemption)  The income limit applies to the combined incomes of only the owners and owners' spouses who reside at the property.	For 2019 benefits, \$86,300 or less.  For 2020, \$88,050 or less.  The income limit applies to all owners (residents and non-residents), and any owner's spouse who resides at the property.

**\*\* Income eligibility :** Eligibility in 2019 is based on income information from the 2017 tax year. Income means federal adjusted gross income minus the taxable amount of total distributions from IRAs (individual retirement accounts and individual retirement annuities).

For more information on special eligibility rules (e.g. re surviving spouses, nursing home residents, trusts & live estates), visit the New York State Department of Taxation & Finance Department Website at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/eligibility.htm>

To switch to the STAR Credit go to notify your assessor to withdraw from the STAR exemption and register for the STAR credit at <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/default.htm>