

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT NEW STAR PROGRAM CHANGES

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS!

WHAT IS THE STAR PROGRAM?

The School Tax Relief (STAR) program provides eligible homeowners in New York State with relief on their property taxes through the Basic STAR and Enhanced STAR programs. If you're a recipient, you may be receiving the benefit in one of two ways:

The STAR exemption program (now closed to new applicants after fiscal year 2015-16):

→ You receive a direct reduction on your school tax bill in the form of a property tax exemption.

The STAR credit program:

→ You receive a check in the mail from the Tax Department to apply to your school taxes. If you are in this program, you will continue to pay your taxes and receive your check as normal.

BASIC STAR

- Available for owner-occupied, primary residences
- The income limit for the Basic STAR credit is \$500,000 (the new income limit for the Basic STAR exemption is \$250,000).
- Reduces the first \$30,000 of the full value of a home.

ENHANCED STAR

- Provides an increased benefit for the primary residence of senior citizens (age 65 and older).
- The income limit for Enhanced STAR benefit is \$86,300 or less for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Reduces the first \$68,700 of the full value of a home for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Enhanced STAR recipients are required to enroll in the Income Verification Program (IVP). To learn more, please go to: www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star/ivp.htm.

BEFORE YOU MAKE THE SWITCH

Before registering, be sure to have the following information on hand for reference:

- The names and Social Security Numbers of all owners of the property and their spouses
- The primary residence of the owners and their spouses
- Approximate date the owners purchased the property and the name of the sellers (This information is on file with your Town Clerk if you do not have it)
- 2018 school tax bill, if the current owners received one
- Address of any residential property owned in another state
- The legal name of the trust, if applicable
- 2017 federal or state income tax returns for all owners

NOTE: If you weren't required to file a 2017 income tax return, you will need the following information for all property owners: total wages, salaries, and tips; taxable interest income and dividends; unemployment compensation; total pensions and annuities, Social Security benefits; and other income.

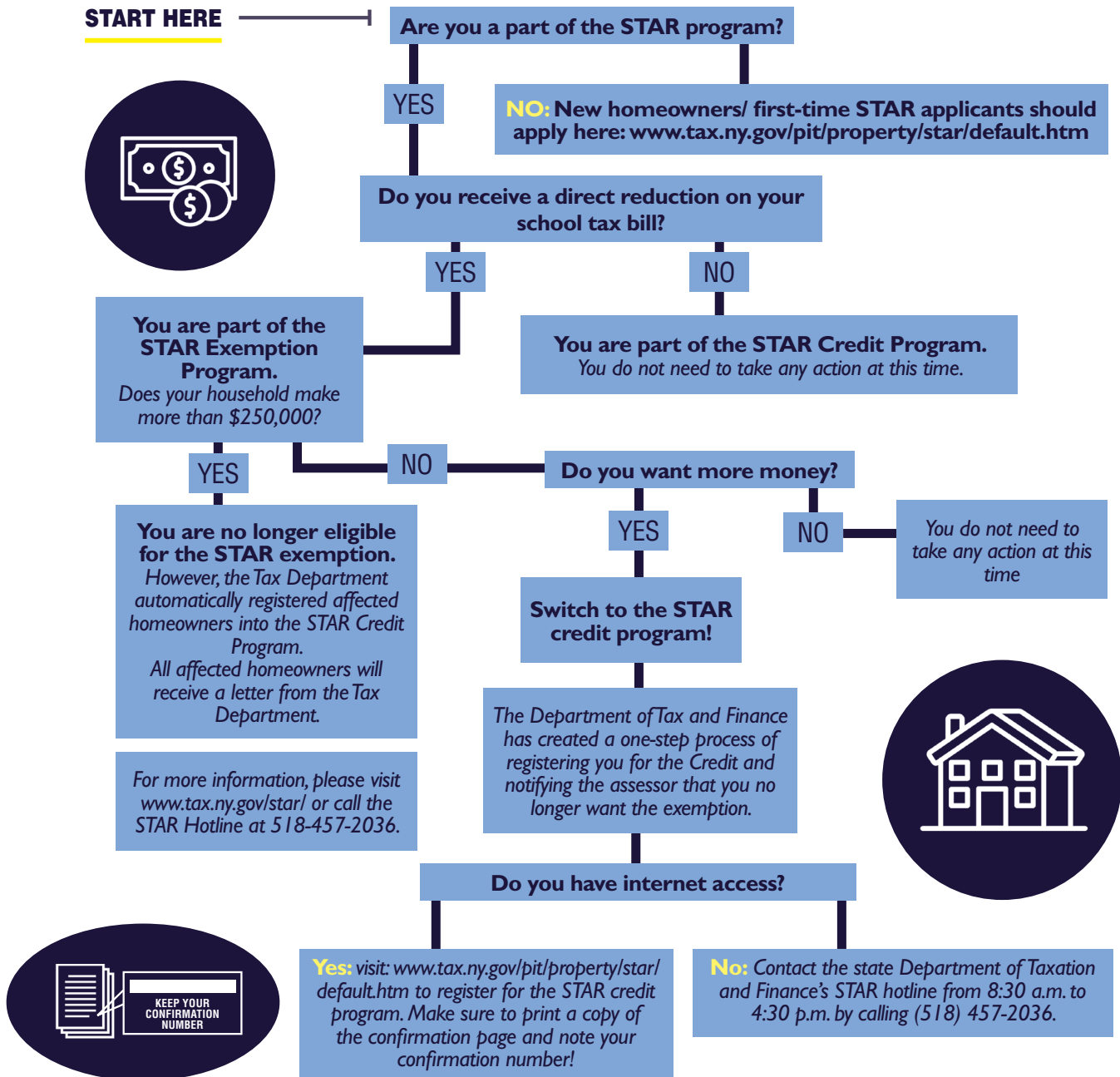


ASSEMBLYMAN
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WHAT ARE THE CHANGES TO THE STAR APPLICATION PROCESS?

Beginning in 2019, homeowners with an income greater than \$250,000 and less than or equal to \$500,000 must join the STAR credit program to be eligible to receive their STAR benefit. This is because for homeowners in that income range, the law ended the STAR exemption program that reduced property tax bills before they were paid.

Secondly, recipients of the STAR credit program may see their savings increase by as much as 2% each year; however, there will be no increase for those who participate in the STAR exemption program. If you currently receive your STAR benefits as a reduction on your school tax bill (the STAR exemption), you may receive greater benefit if you switch to the STAR credit.



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