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## Area school districts push for fees

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**EDWARDSVILLE** - The first of three public hearings was held Thursday to explain how school impact fees could help or hinder the future growth of Madison County.

During the hearing, school officials from Edwardsville District 7, Triad District 2 and Highland District 5 presented reasons why the county should implement the fee in unincorporated areas in their districts. They contend the fee, which would be collected from home builders, will help support the cost of much needed schools.

"Impact fees are not intended to place a burden on the developers or new home owners," said Craig Louer, assistant superintendent of District 7. "They are intended to assist the school districts with the construction of schools that are needed to accommodate the continue growth of our area."

District 7 is the only district of the three that currently collects impact fees. Last year, the district received agreements from Edwardsville, Glen Carbon and Hamel to impose the fees on new residential development. This impact fee requires builders to pay about \$2,000 for a two-bedroom home and about \$3,000 for a five-bedroom home.

District 5 and District 2 are seeking approval from the municipal governments in their jurisdictions as well as the county. The fee rates for the two districts have not been established.

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