



Poudre School District 2019 Mill Levy Override Ballot Issue 4A



Why?

What is a mill levy override?

- A **voter-approved** mechanism to fund local schools.
- It is a **property tax increase**.
- It is **used for ongoing expenses**, such as teacher and staff salaries, technology upgrades and more.
- Local funds that **stay in PSD schools**.

How much would this cost me?

- For every \$100,000 of assessed home value the cost would be less than \$3 per month.

Example:

 =
\$400,000
Assessed Home Value

Approximately
\$137 increase
per year

Find your home's assessed value at
<http://larimer.org/assessor/search#/property/>

- **Colorado ranks among the lowest in the nation¹** in state K-12 education funding.
- **PSD gets the lowest amount of per-pupil revenue (PPR) allowed by law.** PSD is among about a dozen floor-funded districts² that receive less PPR from the state than the vast majority of Colorado's 178 districts.
- For the first time in recent history, **PSD's starting teacher salaries are less than in neighboring communities**, including Loveland and Greeley.

Starting* teacher salary with a bachelor's degree	
Poudre School District	\$38,731
Weld RE-4 (Windsor)	\$38,750
Weld District 6 (Greeley)	\$39,270
Thompson School District (Loveland/ Berthoud)	\$40,000
St Vrain Valley School District (Longmont)	\$43,500

*Districts' 2019-2020 licensed salary schedules

- **Demand in Colorado for qualified teachers is on the rise.** The state is also experiencing teacher shortages³ due to low teacher salaries, rising costs of college education, and increased student loan debt, among other reasons.
- **Recent state-level school funding fixes have been unsuccessful.** In past elections, PSD voters have approved tax increases, providing PSD with additional money on top of state-provided funding.

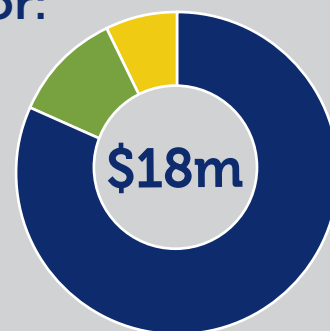
1 - Colorado School Finance Project state ranking info: <https://cosfp.org/student-funding-trends/colorado-rankings/>

2 - Colorado Department of Education "Understanding School Finance and Categorical Funding"

3 - Colorado Department of Higher Education, 2017 "Teacher Shortages Across the Nation and Colorado: Similar Issues, Varying Magnitudes."

\$18 million generated annually would be used for:

- **Increasing first-year teacher salaries** to a competitive level, beginning in the 2020-2021 budget year,
- Restructuring the teacher salary schedule to **maintain competitive wages** and allow PSD to recruit and retain high-quality teachers,
- **Maintaining competitive wages for support staff**, including classified employees such as bus drivers, paraprofessionals, child nutrition staff and custodians,
- **Supporting students' mental health**, by hiring mental health professionals, such as counselors, and
- Enhancing **safety and security**.
- **PSD-authorized charter schools** would receive their pro rata share per state statute.
- **No revenue** from this tax will be used for **administration salaries or capital improvements**.
- **PSD will collect \$18 million starting in the 2019-2020 budget year.** Amount adjusted annually.
- A **Mill Levy Override Committee** will monitor expenditures.



■ Salaries: **\$14.7m**
■ Safety/Mental Health: **\$2m**
■ Charter Schools: **\$1.3m**

Fast Facts About Your School District

Students



- 30,000+ students and growing
- 52 schools, including 5 charter schools

PSD students continue to have high levels of overall academic achievement⁴ and demonstrate measurably higher performance than grade-level academic peers in the state.



4 – PSD District Ends 1.0 Monitoring Report, approved Feb. 26, 2019

Staff

- 3,823 employees
- About 40% have a master's*



*Includes licensed, classified, administrative staff

9th
Largest

Rank in size of enrollment within the State of Colorado

1,856

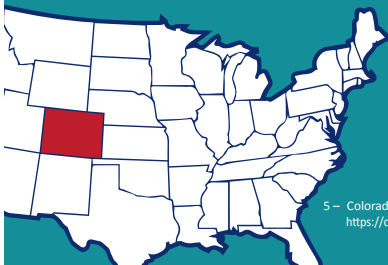
Size of PSD measured in square miles

8

Number of communities within PSD

Fort Collins, LaPorte, Timnath, Wellington, Red Feather, Livermore, Stove Prairie and parts of Windsor

How does Colorado rank nationally in education funding?



Colorado ranks among the lowest⁵ in the nation in state K-12 education funding.

5 – Colorado School Finance Project State Funding Rankings
<https://cosfp.org/student-funding-trends/colorado-rankings/>

PSD is a “floor-funded” district in our state. What does that mean?

PSD is a floor-funded district, which means it gets the lowest amount of per-pupil revenue (PPR) allowed by law. Compared to PSD, many other Colorado districts receive more additional state dollars for factors including enrollment, student population, district size and cost-of-living differences.



Greeley:	\$8,326 PPR
St. Vrain:	\$8,273 PPR
Windsor:	\$8,053 PPR
Thompson:	\$8,052 PPR
Poudre:	\$8,050 PPR

Source: Colorado Department of Education

Arguments “FOR” 4A

- The cost of living here is high. Yet, teacher salaries are lower in PSD than other neighboring school districts. PSD needs this funding to offer competitive salaries in order to attract and retain the high-quality teachers our students deserve.
- PSD must also ensure our support staff receive a salary that allows them to live in the communities they serve. These positions support our students every day.
- PSD must support our students’ mental health needs and enhance school safety and security to ensure students have a safe learning environment in order to thrive.
- This initiative will not fund administration salaries or capital improvements.

Arguments “AGAINST” 4A

- PSD voters approved a bond and mill levy override in the November 2016 election. It is too soon for the school district to ask voters to approve a tax increase.
- What teachers do for our community is critical. However, wages have been stagnant in our communities, and many people haven’t received raises.
- Mental health and school safety should be top priorities, but the solution is not to hire more personnel.
- PSD needs to manage its resources to live within its means and stop asking for more money.
- This creates an additional burden on taxpayers and will not guarantee improvement in academic achievement.

More Information?

Visit www.psdschools.org/MLO2019 or email info@psdschools.org

Poudre School District | 2407 LaPorte Ave. | Fort Collins, Colorado 80521

Educate...
Every Child, Every Day

