

Poudre School District 2024 Mill Levy Ballot Issue 4A



POUDRE
SCHOOL
DISTRICT



Why is PSD asking for a mill levy increase?

The state of Colorado allows school districts to ask voters to approve additional funding as part of the Debt Free Schools Act.

- **4A** is a mill levy that will create a dedicated funding source to improve and extend the useful life of the district's buildings.
- **4A** will allow the district to reprioritize more of its general fund for teachers and staff, classroom resources, career and technical education, and neighborhood schools.
- **4A** will provide sustainable funding for the district's strategic priorities.
- **4A** requires local voter approval and will ensure that local funds are used for Poudre School District and its students.

How much would this cost me?

The Board of Education referred a question for the November election to provide \$49 million annually to maintain the district's schools as part of the state's Debt Free Schools Act.

Tax Estimate	
\$126.05 per year	Estimate for a \$500,000 value home in the district
\$113.92 per year	For every \$100,000 in commercial value

Please visit <https://www.psdschools.org/community/2024-mill-levy> for additional tax estimates and information.

The district's mill levy question will provide sustainable funding as part of the state's Debt Free Schools Act to improve and extend the useful life of the district's buildings. If approved, the mill levy will allow the district to reprioritize more of its general fund for staff recruitment and retention, classroom resources, career and technical education, and neighborhood schools.

Recruitment and Retention:

- Our district faces challenges attracting and keeping exceptional teachers and staff because of high cost of living and housing.
- Average PSD teacher salary is less than similar districts along the Front Range.
- First year teacher salaries are \$6,700 less than Cherry Creek and \$4,000 less than St. Vrain Valley Schools.
- PSD needs adequate funding to ensure we are paying all district staff at market rates and recognizing everything that all district employees do to provide innovative, healthy, and safe classrooms and learning environments for our students..

School maintenance:

- PSD currently has about \$800,000 annually available for building maintenance to address more than \$1 billion in facility maintenance needs.
- The district needs additional resources to replace outdated electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems and address routine repairs and renovations to extend the useful life of buildings.

Classroom resources:

- The district will expand classrooms for career, technology, and skilled trades classes that provide students with real-world job skills.
- PSD is committed to providing the highest quality, up-to-date, and innovative classroom materials at all grade levels so teachers and students have the best tools possible for learning.
- District needs to invest in books, technology, and other library materials and create replacement cycles for musical instruments, athletics equipment, and other necessary classroom materials.

Neighborhood schools:

- PSD wants to ensure that students have the individual attention and the greater sense of community they need to learn and thrive by supporting small, neighborhood schools.
- Board of Education has listened to community feedback about maintaining small, neighborhood schools and has made this a part of the mill levy question.

Learn more and FAQs: <https://www.psdschools.org/community/proposed-2024-mill-levy> or scanning the QR Code.



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PROPOSED FUNDING PRIORITIES



\$21.5 Million

General fund support for teacher and staff salaries, career and technical education, classroom materials/instruments, neighborhood schools



\$22.9 Million

School Maintenance and Renovations



\$4.6 Million

Charter school allocation*
*Required by Colorado statute

Those who support the mill levy say:

- PSD needs an ongoing, sustainable source of funding to pay for building maintenance, which is needed annually, and to fund necessary replacement cycles for things like school buses, musical instruments, curricular materials, physical education and athletic equipment, technology, and security equipment, etc.
- PSD's teachers and staff should be paid at market rates to attract and retain top talent to support our students.
- PSD needs funding to renovate classrooms and buildings to ensure that these spaces are adequately equipped, safe, and productive learning environments to best prepare students for the future.

Those who oppose the mill levy say:

- Taxes are already high for residents and businesses in the district and should not be increased any more.
- PSD has already received funding from local voters, for example in a bond measure in 2016 and in a mill levy override for increases to teacher and classified salaries in 2019. The district does not need additional funding.
- It would have been more fiscally responsible for PSD to close under-enrolled schools before asking voters for additional funding.



By the Numbers 2023-24 School Year

\$1 billion

Estimated amount of capital improvements and maintenance needs in school buildings with no dedicated funding to address these needs.

\$800,000

Annual amount available to Poudre School District in its general fund to maintain the district's schools and facilities. An estimated \$1 billion in funding for improvements and maintenance is needed.

32

Number of PSD schools that do not have mechanical cooling, with classroom temperatures reaching well above 85 degrees during the hottest months of the year.

92%

Retention rate for PSD's teachers and licensed staff. The district has a 78 percent retention for classified staff and 90 percent rate for its administration.

9% to 12%

Average Poudre School District teacher salary is 9 to 12 percent less than similar districts along the northern Front Range, presenting a challenge in recruiting and retaining exceptional teachers.

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