



School District 622

NORTH ST. PAUL | MAPLEWOOD | OAKDALE

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School District 622 voters approve increase in school levy to support academic programs and services

(11.9.16) - North St Paul, MN:

With all 33 precincts reporting, School District 622 (North St Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale) voters have approved the levy referendum on the ballot for District 622 Schools.

By a margin of 54.5% yes (22,081 votes) to 45.5% no (18,409 votes)*, voters approved the school district's funding request to increase its operating levy by \$630 per student for ten years, adjusted annually for inflation. The increase was needed due to inadequate state funding that resulted in nearly \$34 million cut from the district budget since 2005-06.

The increased levy funding will help:

- maintain existing academic programs
- support struggling learners
- improve student and school safety
- expand accelerated learning opportunities

"We are very grateful to our community for their support of our nearly 11,000 students and 1,500 staff," said Superintendent Christine Osorio. "Increased funding will enable us to invest in academic programs that work for students at all levels. We will work hard to stretch these dollars as far as we can to meet our students' broad range of needs."

This will be the first time School District 622 has increased its operating levy since 2002. Even with the increase, the District's operating levy will still be lower than the average of the Twin Cities' 20 largest districts.

Examples of how the funds will support each of the four areas identified:

- **Existing academic programs:** Maintaining class sizes, course offerings, support and training for teachers
- **Struggling learners:** Direct instruction, interventions and small group support in math, reading and behavior for struggling learners
- **Student and school safety:** Additional mental health and behavior staff, anti-bullying training, safety and emergency upgrades, security cameras and more integrated system with local authorities
- **Accelerated learning:** Additional opportunities for advanced learners at all grade levels: skip grades in math, gain more college credit while in high school, increase program offerings and stay competitive with neighboring school districts



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School District 622 has worked hard to effectively and efficiently manage taxpayer funds. Examples of the district's recent financial accountability:

- Worked together with employee groups to hold salary schedule increases at 0% for contract year 2015-17
- Independent audit showed business operations are “well managed and consistent with national accounting standards”
- Negotiated savings in many insurance and vendor contracts
- Will save taxpayers approximately \$4.5 million in interest due to an upcoming bond refinancing by the school district

More information: <http://www.isd622.org/levy2016>.

**Results are unofficial until canvassed by school board on Tuesday, November 15.*

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