

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 196
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools
Educating our students to reach their full potential

Why a Local Levy Vote in 2010?

OUR DISTRICT

- Fourth largest district in Minnesota, with 152,000 residents, 27,000 students, 32 schools, 3,500 employees and an annual operating budget of \$300 million.
- A record of outstanding achievement both in and out of the classroom. Test scores are consistently well above state averages, many programs are recognized at the state level and some nationally.
- Nearly 9 out of 10 school-age children who live in District 196 attend District 196 schools. Realtors sell “District 196 schools” in printed property listings and conversations with clients. Apple Valley and Eagan were both ranked in the top 20 in *Money* magazine’s August 2010 list of America’s Best Places to Live.



OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION

- The state provides nearly three-fourths of all general fund revenues that school districts receive; education spending represents 40 percent of the total state budget. The state deficit will be approaching \$6 billion – 18 percent of the state budget – by the time the Legislature convenes the 2011 funding session in January.
- The district is planning for a 7 percent cut in state funding for education based on the budget and deficit numbers above. If state funding is cut by 7 percent (a decision which won't be known until next spring) it would translate to \$22.8 million in additional budget adjustments for District 196 next year (2011-12).
- The district made \$25 million in budget adjustments (cuts and new revenue) in its last two budgets. Of the \$15 million for the current 2010-11 school year, cuts included 144 jobs (with a 2.0 increase to the classroom teacher ratio), reductions to many programs, higher student participation fees and elimination of transportation for after-school activities at all levels.

OUR LOCAL LEVY OPTION

- State law gives school boards the option to ask resident voters for additional local operating revenue, up to a cap of \$1,554 per pupil. Ninety percent of Minnesota’s 340 school districts have at least one levy in place and more than 10 percent are at or within \$100 per pupil of the state cap.
- District 196 currently receives \$1,042 per pupil from levy questions approved in 2005. If a new levy is approved up to the cap, this additional local revenue would be used to avoid \$15 million of the cuts that would be needed for 2011-12 with a reduction in state funding. Fifteen million dollars would mean elimination of at least 200 more jobs; another increase to the classroom teacher ratio of at least 2.5; additional program reductions, with some eliminated, and reduced transportation service for students at all levels.
- The estimated tax impact of a 10-year levy question up to the state cap would be no more than \$280 per year or \$5.38 per week to the owner of an average-value home in District 196 (\$238,500).

For more information, go to www.District196.org or call the Levy Information Line at 651-423-7811.

Prepared and paid for by Independent School District 196 (Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools), 3455 153rd St. W., Rosemount, MN 55068. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.