Our Students, Our Schools, Our Community

Our students and staff in Robbinsdale Area Schools are active, engaged and doing great things! To support our students, and the staff who work hard on their behalf every day, the Robbinsdale Area School Board voted unanimously to place a school funding request on the November 6, 2018 ballot.

If voters approve the request, the funding will support our community’s commitment to graduating every student career and college-ready and help the district:

- Maintain programming which supports students’ social-emotional needs and safe schools
- Maintain Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) programming
- Maintain arts programming and co-curricular offerings
- Support professional development for staff

If voters do not approve the request, we will face continued budget cuts of up to $11 million over three years, affecting the district’s ability to maintain our academic and co-curricular programming. These cuts could result in:

- Reduced choices in AP and IB
- Reduced elective offerings
- Reduced offerings in arts programming and co-curricular activities
- Increased class sizes
- Reduced ability to attract and retain quality staff

Why Now?

We have cut nearly $17 million in two years (2017-18 and 2018-19). Expenses continue to exceed revenue, causing us to be below our School Board-recommended fund balance target of 6.5%. This is no longer sustainable. Additional cuts will be needed without additional revenue.

*If state funding had kept up with inflation since 2003, we would receive nearly $620 more per student, or a total of about $7.4 million this year.

Source: Minnesota Department of Education June 2018 inflation estimates and AMSD
Did You Know?
Robbinsdale Area Schools has received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for 16 consecutive years, considered the Gold Standard in financial reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International. We also have streamlined our operations to generate $650,000 per year in utilities cost reductions, saving taxpayer dollars.

Our Community Values Our Schools
Based on a recent community survey of residents:
• 73% believe our schools are a good investment
• 84% agree that the high quality of our schools increases home values
• 90% support our district’s vision and goals
• 97% feel it is important for students to make a difference in this community - and 78% agree that our students are making a difference
• 97% of parents rate our teachers as excellent or good

Strong Schools Equal Strong Communities
Research shows that public school quality is one of the most important determinants of home value. Schools directly affect a community’s vitality and home resale values.

Where To Vote
Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on November 6, 2018. You can also vote early using an absentee ballot, starting in late September - early voting is handled by your city clerk.

Find your polling location online at www.mnvotes.org or call 763-504-8038.

Levy Facts:
• If approved, our operating levy would increase by $515 per student, bringing in nearly $6 million in additional annual revenue.
• The estimated tax impact on the average homeowner ($223,000 value home) would be less than $12.50 per month.
• The levy would last for ten years, with annual inflation adjustments.
• The school district has not asked voters for an operating levy increase in ten years. In 2014, voters approved a no-tax increase renewal of the existing levy, along with a technology levy to support personalized learning.
• Operating levies provide critical funding for classrooms, instruction and other operating costs.

Learn more:
www.rdale.org/referendum
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Prepared and paid for by the Robbinsdale Area Schools. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.