



Dear Smith Community,

This fall, the Denver Public Schools Board of Education is seeking voter approval of a bond and mill levy (known as the Debt-Free Schools ballot initiative) to increase funding for our schools. Past bonds and mill levies have provided critical funding for school infrastructure and programming. With the budget shortfalls that we face during our current economic crisis, this potential funding is more important than ever for our schools. We'd like to share the following information to address what this funding might mean for your school. Please share this information with your school communities so that they may understand the value of these ballot measures.

### **What is included in the 2020 bond proposal for my school?**

The \$795 million bond proposal includes the following investments for your school:

- **Cooling**, such as air conditioning
- **Code Updates**
- **General Renovation** - may include updates to paint, flooring, lockers and/or lavatories
- **Facility Maintenance** – Critical electrical, plumbing and/or mechanical upgrades
- **Quality Learning Environments** – \$125,000 to make school-determined, high-impact investments that may include areas such as classroom upgrades, furniture upgrades, or common space upgrades (front office, gymnasium, cafeteria)
- **Technology** - Additional/upgraded student devices, at-home internet, network and infrastructure
- **Safety** - Upgraded safety measures such as expanded security cameras and visitor management systems

### **What is included in the Debt-Free Schools ballot initiative for my school?**

This \$32 mill levy proposal includes these annual investments that will benefit all DPS schools:

- **Compensation:** \$15 million would be allocated for DPS employees, including an increased minimum wage of \$14.77 per hour and cost of living increases for teachers.
- **Mental health:** a \$3 million investment would increase school counselor and psychologist services, providing much-needed support to students.
- **Nursing:** A \$4 million investment in nursing services, with the goal of increasing the number of schools with a full-time nurse on staff.
- **Special Education services:** A \$2 million investment in some of DPS' most vulnerable students will increase supports and services within special education programs, including more paraprofessionals and speech language pathologists.

### **What are the costs associated with these proposals?**

If approved, the bond proposal will require an increase in the district's bond debt but is not expected to raise your property tax based on current and forecasted property values. The mill levy proposal, if approved, is expected to cost about \$4.25 per month or \$51 annually for owners of a Denver home valued at the median \$465,000.

If you have additional questions, please visit [bond.dpsk12.org](http://bond.dpsk12.org) or reach out to [bondmill@dpsk12.org](mailto:bondmill@dpsk12.org).

Warm regards,

Susana Cordova, Superintendent