

Operating Levy | Restoring Our Strength

Question 2 on the ballot requests to increase the Lakeville Area Public Schools general education revenue by \$100 per pupil to address class size and restore programming.



How would approval of this operating levy support learning?

From 2003-2013, Lakeville Area Public Schools was unsuccessful in passing an operating levy to assist in balancing its overall budget. The district was forced to adjust its budget by \$26 million, reduce programming, raise fees, and lay-off 20 percent of its workforce, resulting in higher class sizes and fewer student opportunities.

In 2013, the community supported a successful levy referendum to restore \$5.6 million, helping the district avoid an additional \$4 million in reductions. This successful levy referendum also allowed the district to reduce overall class sizes at the elementary level and introduce STEAM (integrated, hands-on science, technology, engineering, arts and math) programming for students in grades 1-5.

The 2015 operating levy referendum further restores the district's strength as an educational leader by reducing high school class sizes as well as restoring the elementary art and 5th grade band programs, which were eliminated in 2010.



If approved, the additional revenue would support:

High School Class Size

Provide resources to:

- Reduce average class sizes in core high school subjects
- Add 6 additional high school teachers (30 sections across English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies)
- Add 1 career/trades teacher to provide additional student opportunities at the high school level

Elementary Art

Restore programming by:

- Adding 5 licensed elementary art teachers
- Providing one hour of art instruction per week for students in grades 1-5

5th Grade Band

Restore programming by:

- Adding 2.2 licensed music teachers
- Providing a before- or after-school opportunity for 5th grade band