



2016 Mill Levy Override and Bond Election Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is a Bond?

A **Bond** is a financial loan issued for the purpose of financing the infrastructure needs of the school district. These funds are typically used for capital improvements to buildings and construction of new schools.

What is a Mill Levy Override?

A **Mill Levy Override** is an assessed property tax rate used by school districts, local governments and other jurisdictions to raise revenue in order to cover annual expenses.

What is the purpose of the bond election?

The Poudre School District is seeking a \$375 million Bond, with a 24-year payback term, that would fund new school and district facility construction as well as improvements to PSD's current schools.

The bond funds will be used to:

- Construct a new addition for Zach Elementary
- Construct a new elementary school East of I-25 and south of Highway 392 near Windsor
- Construct a new middle school/high school East of I-25 off Prospect Road in Fort Collins
- Construct a new middle school/high school in/near Wellington
- Construct a new Athletic Complex at the Prospect Site (east of I-25 off Prospect Road)
- Replace the current transportation maintenance facility
- Provide for facility improvements to ALL 50 schools + PSD's 4 charter schools

For years, the district has made every effort to maintain facilities that average 30 years old. We've come to a point now, when the district's needs far exceed the funding raised through the 2010 bond. The general fund cannot cover the necessary improvements.

What is the purpose of the Mill Levy Override?

The mill levy will be phased in over four years, collecting \$2 million in the first year and gradually increasing to \$8 million. It will provide the necessary start up and operating funds for the district to ensure teachers have the wrap-around staff and administrative help they need to be effective in the classroom, and that children have the support they need to learn. It will also provide for equipment and technology to allow staff and administrators to effectively support teachers and students.

When will the election be held?

The election will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016. Mail-in ballots will be mailed during the week of October 17th.

Where can I register to vote?

You can register or update your voter information at www.sos.state.co.us/Voter/.

How will this benefit students?

- The new schools will relieve overcrowding at nearly ALL of PSD's schools. By relieving overcrowding, the Mill Levy Override will create more opportunities for School Choice within the district. (PSD's School Choice program allows families to select a school outside their neighborhood school that might better meet their child's educational needs based on space availability and eligibility requirements.)
- The facility improvements at existing schools will ensure all PSD students are learning in 21st Century classroom environments that promote engagement and take advantage of technology.
- The new Athletic Complex will relieve scheduling pressure at French Field where nearly all games are presently played and will allow teams to practice and play on home fields.

How much will the bond and mill levy cost?

Because of PSD's careful fiscal management, the district can afford BOTH the bond and mill levy override without raising the current tax rate of 52.63 mills. If passed, school tax rates for property owners in PSD will not change. School property taxes will increase only if a home or business' assessed valuation increases. Passing the bond and mill levy override will not raise school property taxes above current levels.

Will any improvements be made to current schools with this bond?

Yes, more than \$40 million is being designated for improvements to existing schools. Each PSD school identified facilities needs with their School Accountability Committee. The district's leadership team along with members of the Community Facilities Advisory Committee reviewed the entire list and made the final decisions regarding what would be funded based on need and the school's ranking of its improvement priorities. While the majority of the bond dollars for facility improvements will be allocated to schools that were built in the 1960s and 70s, all PSD schools will receive funding for maintenance and building improvements.

When will the new campuses be open for students?

If the bond passes, the southeast elementary school is slated to open in Fall 2018 and the two middle/high schools would open in 2020.

How will the new schools affect schools on the north and west side of the district?

The new schools will help alleviate pressure and overcrowding around the district. Currently, PSD's four comprehensive high schools average 102% capacity of their buildings. The new schools will allow for more seat availability that will have a ripple affect around the district. These new seats will also allow more opportunity for School Choice for students throughout PSD.

Will there be problems with 6-12 students on the same campus?

The middle school/high school concept is not new. When Fossil Ridge HS opened, Kinard Middle School was in the building for two years.

For the new schools, the schools will be designed so that the students will not intermingle, but staff can move between the two levels to allow for cost savings and for more course opportunities. When talking with other school districts with grades 6-12 campuses, they indicate that student behavior is not an issue and that role modeling between high school and middle school students is a benefit. In addition, other districts say that the transition from 8th grade to 9th grade is smoother for students when they are already familiar with the staff and the building.

Do all residents in PSD pay taxes to support bonds and mill levy overrides?

Yes. All residents who own property within Poudre School District boundaries pay school district taxes. PSD is a very large district, meaning that residents of Fort Collins, Timnath, Wellington, LaPorte, Red Feather Lakes, Stove Prairie, Livermore, parts of Windsor and unincorporated Larimer County all contribute to tax measures like bonds and mill levy overrides.

What will happen if the proposed 2016 bond and mill levy override do not pass?

If the proposed bond and mill levy override do not pass, the impact will be felt districtwide. PSD will have to implement an alternative accommodation plan to address growth in the district. If this happens, PSD will collaborate with the Community Facilities Advisory Committee and the Boundary Committee to develop a plan that will be shared with stakeholders at community forums.

Possible impacts of an alternative accommodation plan to address growth:

- Significant districtwide boundary changes are likely
- Disruption of family schedules to accommodate longer bus and car commutes from boundary changes
- Overflow bussing options
- Significant space modifications (i.e., relocation of certain types of classes or elimination of course offerings due to space restrictions)
- Significant increase in the number of modular classrooms at school sites
- Relocation of several district-placed programs
- Significantly fewer School Choice seats available throughout the district
- Joint use facilities (i.e., Wellington MS classes held at Eyestone ES)
- Split sessions within buildings (i.e., morning and afternoon sessions)

Additionally, given that there are no general fund dollars to buy modular classrooms, programmatic cuts may be necessary to pay for the additional space for new students.