



# Get the Facts

## Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools | Technology Levy

### Learning - Safety - Support

On November 2, 2021, Prior Lake-Savage Area School (PLSAS) district residents will be asked to vote on a Technology Levy funding request for our schools.

**Funds would help provide our students and staff with the tools, technology infrastructure and support they need to maximize classroom learning and enhance school safety and security.**

### What is a Technology Levy?

Technically referred to as a Capital Project Levy for Technology, a Technology Levy is a locally approved source of funding dedicated to technology-related needs, such as student and staff computers, online curriculum, classroom materials, communication tools and security systems.

### How is technology used in our schools?

We are proud to be an E-STEM district, and technology is a key part of how our teachers teach and our students learn. Technology allows students to learn at their own pace and enables teachers to individualize learning for their students.

- **Our teachers use technology** to provide innovative lessons in the classroom, monitor student learning, keep students engaged in their learning and communicate with families.
- **Our students use technology** to do research, create presentations, document their learning and collaborate with other students.
- **Up-to-date technology helps prepare students** for their future and is the key to ensuring our students have connection to anytime and anywhere learning.
- **Technology is also integrated** into our school safety and security systems.

### Survey says...

While nearly 90% of our community believes that **technology is absolutely essential or very important for our students**, the majority rate our students' technology opportunities as good, rather than excellent. A Technology Levy would enable us to enhance our technology offerings and stay current with ever-evolving technology to benefit classroom learning.

### What is the ballot request?

The request is for a 10-year levy of \$3.5 million per year. Technology Levy funding would help the district maintain and enhance technology for:

### Learning



- Up-to-date devices for all students and staff
- Instructional software and online resources
- Classroom equipment
- Student and family communication

### Safety



- School safety and security systems
- Crisis management

### Support



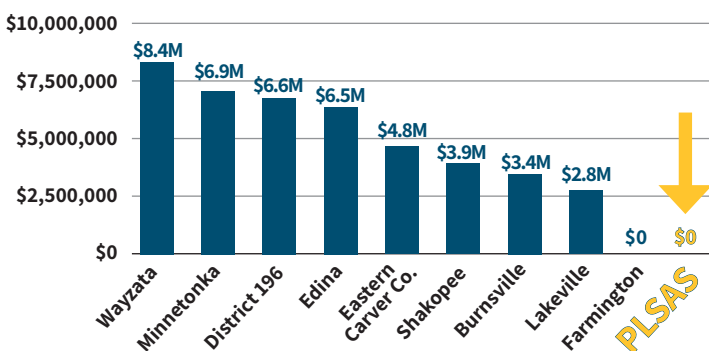
- Staff for technology training, troubleshooting and repairs
- Network infrastructure and operational software

### What is E-STEM?

E-STEM stands for Environmental Education, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. E-STEM is an interdisciplinary approach to instruction and learning focused on inquiry and real world problem-solving in the 21st Century. Students apply hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematical practices through projects and field experiences related to the environment.

## Annual Technology Levy: comparable districts

Amount



Source: MN Dept. of Education, 2020-21

We are one of the only neighboring and comparable districts without a locally approved technology levy, so our schools have less funding for up-to-date classroom technology and school security systems.

## Why now?

The School Board's decision to place the Technology Levy on the ballot is the culmination of a year of discussion, planning and listening to district staff, students and community.

Technology is currently paid for from our general operating budget. A dedicated source of technology funding would free up money for other student and classroom needs. Additional factors influenced the decision to put this request on the ballot:

- While we are grateful for any additional state funding, for nearly two decades **state funding has not kept pace with inflation or increasing educational costs.**
- Critical state-mandated programs to support student needs **cost the district millions more than it receives each year**, putting additional pressure on our general operating budget.
- **We have made \$5 million in budget adjustments** in the past two school years, and anticipate another \$2 million in adjustments in the year ahead.
- One-time COVID relief funds are specifically designated for COVID-related expenses and **do not solve our long-term technology needs.**

## Voting information

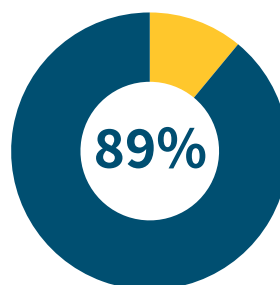
Polls will be open from **7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** on **Election Day, Nov. 2.** Polling locations are based on where you live. **Early voting begins September 17** at the District Services Center. Call 952-226-0010 with any voting questions or visit [mnvotes.org](https://mnvotes.org).

## What if the request is not approved by voters?

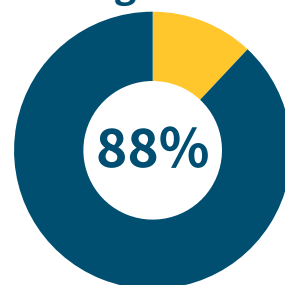
The costs of technology equipment and staff would continue to put pressure on the general operating budget, competing for dollars required for other classroom and school needs. We would be unable to keep up with technology updates, resulting in cuts that would impact our ability to provide personalized learning experiences for students.

- **Fewer devices:** We would no longer be able to provide all students with a device, limiting their access to updated devices that enhance personalized learning and support independent and collaborative work. Staff would have increasingly outdated classroom equipment and curriculum.
- **Outdated security equipment:** We would struggle to replace aging school safety and security equipment or fully implement our crisis management plan.
- **Limited technology support:** Technology support staff would be unable to keep up with requests for technology training, support, upkeep and troubleshooting. The network infrastructure would become outdated, slowing down systems districtwide.

## Parents Give Our Schools High Marks!



Believe our community receives a good value from its investment in local public schools



Rate the quality of education as excellent or good

## Tax impact

If approved by voters, the tax impact would be less than \$17 per month for the average homeowner (\$400,000 value home).

## Learn more

- **Visit** [www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us/referendum](https://www.priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us/referendum)
- **Email** [input@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us](mailto:input@priorlake-savage.k12.mn.us)
- **Call** 952-226-0814