



Discover a World of Opportunity™

2016 MILL LEVY WHOLE CHILD

How does this investment support the district's strategic plan, the Denver Plan 2020?

This directly supports our Denver Plan goal, **Support for the Whole Child**.

This goal describes our commitment to schools that encourage students to pursue their passions and interests while supporting their physical health and building the social and emotional skills they need to succeed. And our focus on students living in poverty will help achieve our goal of **Closing Opportunity Gaps** for our kids.



For more information, contact Dustin Kress at dustin_kress@dpsk12.org



How will this investment help our kids?

We are committed to providing classrooms and schools where our students are healthy, supported, engaged, challenged, safe, and socially and emotionally intelligent. These six areas make up what we call the "whole child." Research shows a focus on these areas for our kids improves academic performance and helps ensure success in college, career and life. Of the six areas, teachers have identified social and emotional supports as our kids' greatest need.

Is the need for help greater among students living in poverty?

Yes. We see links between students in poverty and whole child concerns. For example, students living in poverty are more likely to miss school, to suffer ongoing trauma such as being homeless and to lack educational opportunities during the summer. In our schools with higher levels of student poverty, kids are more likely to report being bullied, to be removed from the classroom for behavior issues and to have less experienced teachers.

What will this funding look like in the classroom for our kids and schools?

All schools will receive additional

money to focus on whole child needs, with special attention to our youngest students. School leaders will be provided options and asked to focus first on the social and emotional needs of their kids. This might look like having a social worker or psychologist spend another day or two per week at a school.

We also will expand our summer school so that 2,500 students can receive five weeks of full-day learning. We'll offer a full-day camp for their siblings, since this is often a barrier to attending summer classes.

How are we targeting support to our kids and schools most likely to struggle?

An elementary school will receive \$189 for a student identified as having severe financial need, such as being homeless. The school will receive \$126 for a student who qualifies for the federal free- and reduced-price lunch program, an indicator of poverty. And the school will receive \$31 for a student who doesn't meet either of these criteria. Every elementary school will receive at least \$16,500.

Elementary schools will receive 15% more funding than middle schools and middle schools will receive 10% more funding than high schools.