



Discover a World of Opportunity™

2016 MILL LEVY

2016 BALLOT PROPOSAL BENEFITS ALL KIDS, TARGETS FUNDS FOR NEEDIEST STUDENTS

Will the additional funding benefit all students?

Yes. All students will benefit from the 2016 ballot proposal. These targeted dollars for kids in poverty are in addition to additional funds for all schools. For example, a school with a 40% poverty rate and a school with an 80% poverty rate will both receive additional funding. But the higher-poverty school will receive approximately 50% more in new funding.

The targeting of funds will send additional funds to students in poverty. In considering two similar schools – one with 40% students in poverty and second with 80% students in poverty – the latter school would receive approximately 50% additional funding.



For more information,
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Our mission in Denver Public Schools is simple: Every Child Succeeds. But despite strong gains in recent years, we still have far to go to complete this mission. And we are incredibly grateful Denver voters agreed in November 2016 to provide additional funding to make this happen.

One example of our progress and the work that remains:

In the past 10 years, the graduation rate in Denver Public Schools has increased by 26 percentage points – from 39% to 65% in 2015. That's over 800 more students earning a high school diploma every year.

Despite this, our students in poverty are still less likely to graduate from high school than other students. Students from low-income families have a 61% graduation rate compared to a graduation rate of 81% for students from higher-income families. That's a gap of 20 points.

What we're doing to address this issue:

Denver Public Schools has highlighted closing these kinds of gaps, which we call "opportunity gaps," as one of five key goals in our strategic plan, the Denver Plan 2020. We used these key goals as a starting point when we worked with school leaders and our community to

identify funding needs for our 2016 ballot proposal. The success of this proposal presents a unique opportunity to target our opportunity gaps by providing new supports to all students, while targeting additional funding for students in poverty.

Is the need greater for our students in poverty?

Yes. Our results – data such as our graduation rates – show gaps between students in poverty and those who are not. And we know that students in poverty often receive fewer academic opportunities. For example, research shows that, by the sixth grade, students from middle-income families have spent approximately 6,000 more hours learning than kids from low-income families.

How is DPS targeting funds for students in poverty?

Students in poverty now receive approximately 15% additional funding compared to their classmates. These extra funds are intended to provide students with more academic, social and emotional supports, including counselors and nurses. But research shows we should be doubling that amount – from 15% to 30% or more -- to close gaps.