



### **3A: The Mill Levy Override**

Every student in Denver deserves an equal opportunity at a great education, no matter his or her background, zip code, or family circumstances. Seventy percent of Denver Public School students come from low-income backgrounds, many struggle with difficult home environments and 37 percent are learning English as a second language. This year Denver voters have an opportunity to provide classrooms, schools, and proven supports for all children, especially those who need extra help in their learning.

The Mill Levy Override (3A) on the November ballot looks to emphasize investments in proven programs that work to close the achievement gap and improve student learning. By increasing the property tax in Denver slightly, we can generate \$57 million for projects that directly benefits students and teachers. For Denver to be a truly great city that provides opportunity for every child and every family, it needs great schools. We're on our way, but we're not there yet. The Mill Levy Override takes a major step in reaching our goal to have a great school for every child.

#### ***3A – Focusing on Early Success***

The Mill Levy Override will seek to leverage dollars across the district to better improve the lives of students and educators. A community board made up of educators, parents, teachers, and community leaders, the district has pinpointed areas where investments will have the greatest impact. The Mill Levy Override will make investments to ensure that every teacher between pre-kindergarten and third grade are expertly trained in early childhood literacy instruction. This will help DPS meet the Denver 2020 goal of having all third grade students read at, or above, the third grade level upon graduation. It ensures that all educators have the best practices and tools for educating students on literacy, we will ensure our students are getting the best possible education.

#### ***3A – The Right Supports for our Kids to Thrive***

A critical area of investment from the Mill Levy Override (3A) is in mental health services and special needs councilors. The current state of mental health services and counseling staff is inadequate for the needs of the district. Many of Denver's kids come from difficult home environments or need additional academic or emotional support that is currently not available to them. The Mill Levy Override will allow every school to hire critical support staff so the district can better address the needs of students. Teachers in particular have indicated this as their top priority in creating better learning environments in their schools. Our schools should be places where the needs of all students are met. With this, the Mill Levy Override will help students become better learners and prepare them for world after their public school education.

#### ***3A – Modest Investment, Big Results***

The Mill Levy Override (3A) will be funded at a modest cost to the tax-base. The average home valued at \$310,000 – the median house value in the city – will only pay \$10 a month above their current tax level. For that modest sum, Denver Public School students will have better schools and better supports. This November 8<sup>th</sup> please vote YES on 3A, the DPS Mill Levy Override.



### **3B: The Bond**

The city of Denver is currently undergoing the largest expansion in history. The economy has taken off and the city has a record low 3% unemployment rate. While Denver may rank in the as one of the top cities people are moving to, it ranks among some of the lowest in terms of per pupil public school funding for major cities. This year, Denver's voters have an opportunity to modernize and provide public schools with the resources needed to succeed in the current education environment.

The proposed bond measure (3B) on the November ballot looks to address the funding gap that has been created by a reduction in state funding to Denver Public Schools, *with no tax impact* on Denver residents. The bond measure seeks to raise \$572 million dollars for priority projects to improve our schools and create new capacity for the district.

#### ***3B – A Big Boost for Buildings***

The bond (3B) will have the greatest impact on school buildings and quality learning environments. A total of \$252 million will be spent on critical infrastructure needs within the district. Over two-thirds of the district's square footage was built before 1964, leaving many of the buildings, classrooms, and facilities outdated and in desperate need of repairs. The bond (3B) will invest in critical improvements, such as repairing leaking roofs and replacing old galvanized pipe systems. These improvements will allow some of Denver's most famed campuses to continue effectively serving students for decades to come. In addition to improving Denver's current facility, thanks to the tremendous population growth, we need to expand our district's buildings. Additionally, new campuses will be constructed to keep up with population growth and trends. This new added capacity will continue to help reduce overall class size to increase the amount of individual attention each student receives.

#### ***3B – Better Classrooms, Better Students***

One of the largest impacts of the bond measure (3B) will be on reducing, what can be, sweltering heat levels in individual classrooms. Based on measurements taken by the district, many classrooms have temperatures that reach 80 degrees or higher in Denver's warmer months. Different cooling solutions will be implemented in the hottest classrooms. This ensures that students can focus on learning and teachers can focus on teaching in a comfortable and safe environment, while also bringing down the district's utility bills through energy efficient technologies.

#### ***3B – Creating 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools***

The bond measure (3B) makes sizeable investments in classroom technology. DPS is committed to increasing the availability and use of technology throughout our schools to provide students of all backgrounds with access to these powerful tools. \$70 million dollars will be directed toward expanding the role technology plays in the district. Many schools will receive either new computers and science labs, or classroom-based technologies that teachers and students can use during daily activities.

Together, all of the investments in the \$572-million-dollar bond package will create better learning environments for students. With no additional tax burden to Denver residents, this bond will help DPS continue to grow and flourish. This November 8<sup>th</sup> please vote YES on 3B, the DPS bond measure.