



**ALEXANDRIA**  
Public Schools

# VOTE

November 5, 2019

Our **Schools**. Our **Community**. Our **Future**.



## WHAT IS THE PLAN?

The Alexandria Public Schools will hold a one-question referendum on November 5, 2019 for a phased-in operating levy. If approved by voters, the additional funding would help the district:

- ✔ Maintain or reduce class sizes
- ✔ Expand mental health support
- ✔ Continue with special area teachers in elementary
- ✔ Maintain or expand real world work experiences at middle and/or high school
- ✔ Provide more financial stability

*“ We are only asking for what we need, as we need it. We feel this is the most respectful and fiscally responsible approach for our community. ”*

Julie Critz, Superintendent



After several months of community input, deliberation, budget review and discussion, the Alexandria School Board unanimously approved placing a school funding request on the November 5, 2019 ballot. They are recommending a solution that aligns district needs with community values and tax tolerance.

## WHY NOW?

- ✔ This year's budget had a \$1.1 million shortfall. To maintain a balanced budget, the school board cut more than half a million dollars, in addition to drawing down our fund balance, which is a critical safety valve for all districts.
- ✔ Deficit spending is not sustainable. We will have ongoing cuts without additional revenue.
- ✔ State education funding has not kept pace with inflation or increasing costs for the past 15 years. If it had kept pace, our district would have received nearly \$3 million more in 2018-19, and that gap is projected to increase.
- ✔ Our school district is in the bottom 10% of all Minnesota school districts for general education funding.
- ✔ We are one of the only school districts in the area without a voter-approved operating levy, which means we don't have the additional financial support that many communities provide to help operate our schools.

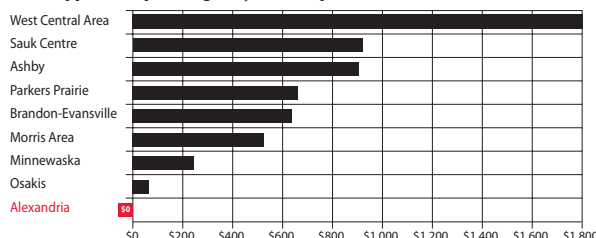
## WHAT IS THE PHASED APPROACH?

The district is proposing a \$595 per student operational levy. Instead of asking voters for this all at once, the district is proposing that voters pay for the increase incrementally over time.

In a phased-in levy, the request is broken down into three smaller amounts of \$375 per student in the 2020-21 school year, \$485 per student in the 2021-22 school year, and \$595 per student in the 2022-23 school year. The tax impact for homeowners would also be phased in over time. If approved by voters, the \$595 per student would then remain in place for the final seven years of the levy.

## Doing more with less

**Voter-approved Operating Levy (dollars per student, 2018-19)**



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PAST SUPPORT

Alexandria community residents have traditionally been supportive of their schools. We have not asked residents to provide additional support for our schools since the 2011 bond for our high school - and the last operating levy request was 15 years ago.