

Potential Cuts if the Levy Fails

This May Kings Local School District will have a 6.9 mill operating levy on the ballot. The money collected from operating levies helps support the day to day operations of our buildings. The decision to place this levy on the ballot did not come easily for our Board of Education. It has been six years since our last operating levy and we simply could not wait any longer to ask our taxpayers for additional funding.

The failure of this levy would require us to make more than \$3 million in reductions by the start of next school year in order to maintain a positive cash balance.

Our building administrators, central office staff and department heads all gave input into the development of this list. We looked at ways we can be more efficient and examined our purchases to determine where we could make reductions.

Reductions generally include:

- An administrative pay freeze (regardless if the levy passes or fails).
- Freeze and reduce building and department budgets by 10 percent. This will mean a significant reduction to professional development and purchases of new instructional materials.
- Institute a pay-to-participate program for all extracurricular activities: \$200 for high school and \$125 for junior high.
- Increase student fees and parking fees.
- Reduce or eliminate field trips.

Kings is a service organization and as a result, 83 percent of our expenditures are for personnel and transportation services. In order to make \$3 million in reductions, we had to examine our personnel expenses since we realize this is where most of the reductions will have to occur. We value all of our employees and appreciate the work they do to provide our children with an excellent education. Making these types of decisions is never easy.

Personnel cuts would include the following:

- Do not implement all day Kindergarten.
- Eliminate elementary supplemental positions.
- Reduce high school and junior high supplemental positions by 20 percent. This will be recommended by a Supplemental Review Committee.
- Eliminate 2.5 administrative positions.
- Eliminate 19 certified positions. Since the exact number of certified staff reductions is dependent upon class enrollments and scheduling the number may vary.

- Reduce gifted education services.
- Eliminate Transitional 1st grade.
- Increase class size: K=25; 4-6=28; and 7-12=30.
- Restructure the junior high schedule.
- Eliminate one nursing position and reduce nursing hours across the district.
- Eliminate one guidance counselor.

We will also eliminate nine support staff positions and reduce support staff hours. This includes:

- Eliminate in-school suspension.
- Reduce custodial staff, resulting in an every other day cleaning rotation in some locations.
- Eliminate and reduce hours of cafeteria staff.
- Reduce and share Media Center staffing.
- Eliminate one Maintenance position (remains unfilled since last year).
- Eliminate Central Copying.
- Reduce the number of special needs aides.
- Reduce secretarial work days requiring buildings to close over the summer months and during holiday breaks.

We continue to explore all aspects of our operations. These decisions were not arrived at easily, nor do they speak to the value we place on any person or program. We prefer not to have to develop this list or make this announcement, but the reality is that our community wants to know and deserves to know what is at stake in the event of levy failure. Our community has supported the district and for that we are grateful.

Levy FAQs

How much will this levy increase my taxes?

When was the last levy passed?

Where will my money go?

What happens if the levy does not pass?

Didn't we just give the district money?

How much will it cost to participate in extracurricular activities if the levy does not pass?

How does our budget compare to other similar districts?

When do we vote?