

# Our Kids. Our Community. Our Future.

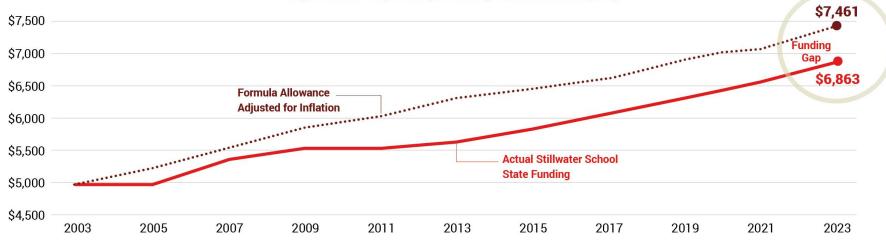
# **Funding Facts**

- Expiring levy currently generates about \$12 million
- State funding hasn't kept pace with inflation or increasing costs
- We've cut our budget 3 times since levy was approved in 2013 totaling \$7 million
- We lost 3% of our student enrollment in 2020-2021 due to COVID-19.



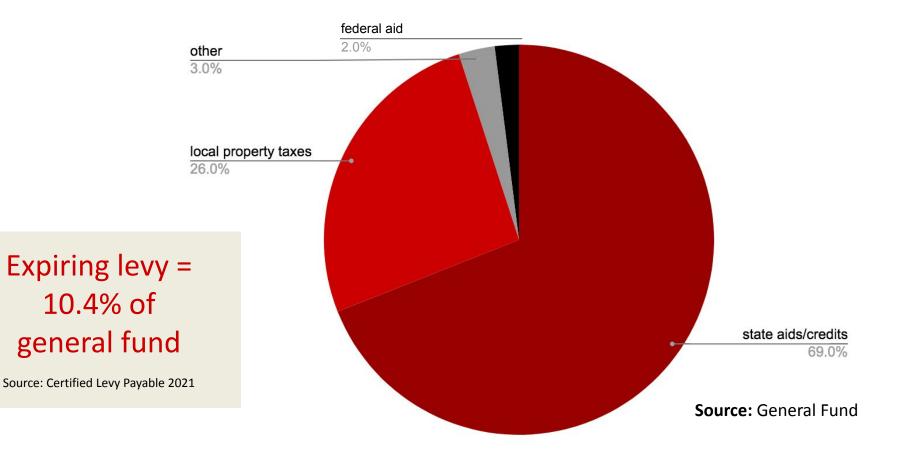
#### **General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2023**

Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)



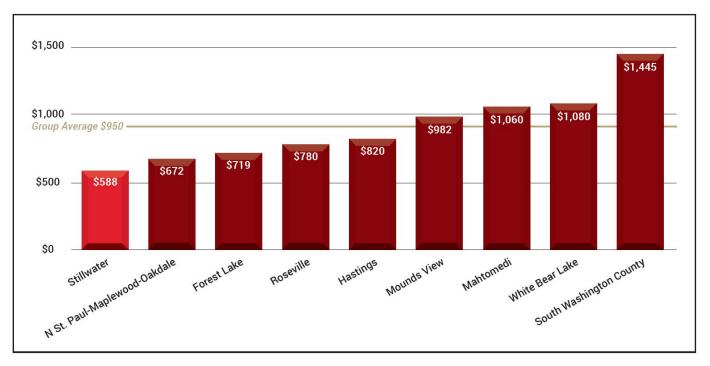
If state funding had kept up with inflation since 2003, our schools would receive \$500 more per student - for a total of \$4.2 million more this year. Source: Minnesota Department of Education and the Association of Metropolitan School Districts 2021 Inflation estimates

# Where Our Money Comes From



#### Stillwater Area Public Schools, ISD 834

Estimated Voter Approved School Property Taxes, Payable 2021, \$350,000 Residential Homestead



Tax Base Source: Final values from Washington, Dakota and Ramsey Counties.

Levy Source: Taxes Payable 2021 Levy Certification Reports for voter approved operating referendum, capital project levy and debt only

# Two ballot questions: Q1: Replacement Levy Q2: Technology Levy

### **Request is based on:**

- Needs of our students
- Expiring levy
- Years of inadequate state education funding leading to budget cuts
- Analysis of district finances
- Stakeholder feedback



# **Replacement Levy**

Maintain quality learning:

- Renew expiring levy
- Help stabilize the district's budget
  - Address state funding gap, enrollment change, rising costs/inflation

- Retain teachers, support staff
- Maintain existing programs and services
  - Continue to support academic achievement for all students
- Minimize but not eliminate future budget cuts



### If **APPROVED** by voters

- Address state funding gap, enrollment change, rising costs/inflation
- Retain teachers, support staff
- Continue to support academic achievement for all students
- Maintain existing programs and services
- Minimize but not eliminate future budget cut





### If NOT APPROVED by voters

Face a \$12 million deficit in 2022-2023 and more in future years

- Significantly higher class sizes
- Reduce more than 100 full time teachers and support staff
- Loss of academic and social/emotional interventions
- Loss of electives classes, specialized programs, as well as art and athletic opportunities



# **Technology Levy**

### Provide kids the tools they need to learn

- Provide classroom devices, teacher and student computers
- Keep technology up-to-date
- Give students reliable access to technology tools at school and at home
- Provide students and staff with technology support and training
- Support infrastructure, software and security needs



### **If APPROVED by voters:**

- Technology for classrooms
- Devices for students, teachers
- Technology support staff
- Dedicated funding source for technology





### **Consideration:**

Capital projects levy for technology is <u>NOT</u> based on enrollment

Stable and reliable funding for technology

### If NOT APPROVED by voters:

- No dedicated funding source for technology, equipment, support staff and purchases
- 10-year replacement cycle for classroom technology
- No funding for student device replacement
- Failure to meet future state testing requirements
- Minimal technology access for students



# Reinvesting In Our Kids

Priority is to use any new funds to improve academic achievement

- Stabilize the budget and avoid additional budget cuts
- Keep class sizes from growing
- Support quality learning for our students
- Provide more academic support for kids needing extra help
- Provide emotional and mental health support for students



# **Overview of Levy Request**

Election November 2, 2021

#### Two ballot questions:

- Para Lievy REALTER DATE AND A CONTRACT OF THE DA
- **Q1:** Replacement levy to maintain quality learning *Tax impact on average homeowner = \$0.17 more per month*
- **Q2:** Technology levy to provide kids the tools they need to learn *Tax impact on average homeowner = \$11.50 more per month*

Tax impact on average home (\$350,000) if voters approve both questions is less than \$12 more per month