



SCHOOL REPORT

EASTERN CARVER COUNTY SCHOOLS  SEPTEMBER 2021

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Lisa Sayles-Adams

Investing in our future



There is nothing quite like the excitement and energy of students reconnecting with their friends and favorite teachers during the first days of school. Helping kindergarteners learn how to open their milk cartons, navigating opening lockers for the first time with our middle schoolers, all of these interactions fill my bucket. I cannot begin to express how proud I am of our students, staff, families, and broader community for the ways in which we continue to come together to support each other.

While we had all hoped to start the school year with the pandemic behind us, our students' resilience, courage, and character continue to shine through. Our staff is focused on the important work of providing our students with a quality education while supporting them through whatever else this year brings. After last year's challenges, I know there is nothing we cannot achieve when we work together.

OUR STAFF IS FOCUSED ON THE IMPORTANT WORK OF PROVIDING OUR STUDENTS WITH A QUALITY EDUCATION WHILE SUPPORTING THEM THROUGH WHATEVER ELSE THIS YEAR BRINGS.

That does not mean there aren't still challenges ahead. This fall is an important one for our district. On November 2, district voters will be asked to decide on a critical operating levy that will make a huge impact on our district's future. After years of budget cuts, \$9 million in the last two years, we are asking our community to make an investment in our most precious resource: our children.

The failure of the referendum in 2019 had a significant impact on every part of our district. Elementary class sizes increased, our secondary schools shifted from a 7-period to a 6-period day, we lost amazing staff, and more. The referendum ask detailed in the pages of this school report will not restore all that we lost. It will, however, help us bring elementary class sizes back to where they were, provide more opportunities for our students, and prevent future budget cuts.

I take very seriously my responsibility as this district's leader not just to our students, staff, and parents, but to our district's taxpayers. This is not a request we make lightly. I can say with absolute confidence that the dollars are necessary to maintain the level of education our community deserves and expects.

Please remember to vote on or before November 2.

Lisa Sayles-Adams

November Referendum addresses critical need for operating revenue

The School Board has approved one question to be placed on a Nov. 2nd Referendum Ballot to address the need for operating revenue for Eastern Carver County Schools. The Operating Levy would provide an increase in operating revenue of \$550 per pupil, which equates to approximately \$5.2 million of additional revenue in the first year. The estimated tax impact on the average homeowner would be \$20/month, based on a \$375,000 home, or \$242/year.

The 2021 operating referendum would provide resources the district needs to continue to deliver the excellent educational experience the community deserves and expects, ensuring a strong future for our schools and our community.

If the Nov. 2nd referendum is not approved, the district's fund balance will fall below 5% within three years and future budget cuts would be necessary. A successful referendum will help prevent future cuts to programs and services our community values such as 5th grade band, gifted and talented services, and athletics and activities.

Read more on page 3, or visit ECCSvote.org.

STRONG
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COMMUNITIES
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VOTE NOV. 2 2021

Community Info Session

Join us for a community presentation and a chance to ask questions about the Nov. 2nd Referendum.

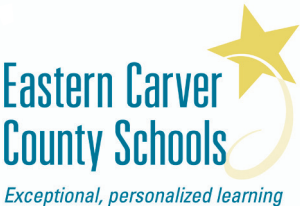
Tuesday, Sept. 28
6:30-7:30 pm
Chaska High School Auditorium

Zoom Webinar offered at noon on Sept. 29. Advance registration is required for the webinar—learn more at ECCSvote.org.



WELCOME CLASS OF 2034!

Victoria Elementary kindergarteners were eager to start their 13-year educational journey after gathering with classmates on the first day of school. The district welcomed more than 9,200 students as the 2021-22 school year got underway on Sept. 7. this year.



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NEWS BRIEFS

Summer Learning by the Numbers

- ▶ More than **530** elementary, middle and high school students attended **summer school** learning programs.
- ▶ **426** children enrolled in elementary **Club Care** at Bluff Creek, Carver, La Academia and Victoria Elementary schools.
- ▶ **70** middle school students attended **The Pulse** program at Pioneer Ridge Middle School.
- ▶ **68** preschool-aged children participated in full-day **Summer EdVentures** at the Family Learning Center and Victoria Elementary.
- ▶ **40** young learners participated in **early childhood family education** classes.
- ▶ Nearly **150** special education students attended **Extended School Year** programs at Chanhassen High School.
- ▶ More than **5,800** kids enrolled in one of Community Education’s **youth enrichment classes** or programs.
- ▶ **192** adults enjoyed summer learning through an **adult enrichment** class.
- ▶ **205** children joined the **Celebrate Summer** activities offered in community neighborhoods this summer.

Our Community and Parents Support Our Schools

Community surveys consistently show that residents and parents believe our students receive high quality education from great teachers. An April 2021 survey provided these results:

- ▶ **94%** agree the community receives a **good value for its investment** in local schools.
- ▶ **89%** rate the **quality** of Eastern Carver County Schools as excellent or good.
- ▶ **91%** **trust the school board and administration** to do what is right for students.

Graduates return to build strong schools and community
Strong schools make strong communities isn’t just a tagline

Strong schools really do make strong communities. Eastern Carver County Schools is proud that so many of its graduates return to the communities we serve to live and work. In some cases, those promising young students become teachers and leaders in the very school buildings where they learned. Here is a snapshot of several of our homegrown educators, continuing to make a difference in our communities today.

JASON PELOWSKI
Chaska High School 1992



As a student I benefited from the quality education the district provided and the great community support for our schools, and that’s what drew me back to Eastern Carver County Schools. There are opportunities here few other districts can provide, including the chance to work with an already strong team of staff, students, families, and communities. This team shares the common goal of helping our students be successful in and out of the classroom and that’s very important to me.

I’ve worked in different roles during my time in the district, and I’m excited and amazed by how much I continue to learn from our staff, students, and families. As the Digital Learning Project Manager, I get to partner on a daily basis with excellent teachers and staff and see firsthand the passion they have for their students’ success. There’s nothing better than watching our staff and students make those lasting connections – it truly makes my day.

RAMIRO GOMEZ-DIAZ
Chaska High School 2015



One of the big reasons I wanted to come back to District 112 is the community. When I was in school here, I received a lot of support from my teachers, coaches, and administration. They showed me they truly cared about my future and were there to help me. I want to give back and do the same for my students. That experience I had as a student in the very same building I teach in today helps me connect with students I teach in a unique way. I’m excited about connecting with students and pushing them forward on their own path. It’s also nice to work as a colleague with some of the same teachers who I had back in the day. It’s exciting to be back in person with our buildings full.

CHRISTINA KEITH
Chaska High School 2008



I was eager to return to Eastern Carver County Schools because of the value they place on the arts. I felt excited to become part of such a dedicated and creative community who worked together to put students first. I can’t speak highly enough of the visual arts team that I work with here. They’re not only my colleagues, but also close friends who inspire me and challenge me to elevate my instructional practices. I’m grateful to have a career that allows me to get to know so many wonderful young people through the creative process and I wouldn’t trade the relationships that I’ve built through being a part of Chaska High School for anything.

STACIA BOECK
Chaska High School 2003



I’m in my 13th year in the district – and I’m currently teaching first grade at Chanhassen Elementary, where I was a student. I had so many wonderful teachers throughout my educational career in Eastern Carver County, and built lifelong friendships. My teachers made learning fun and exciting, and I love being a teacher here and giving back to the community that supported me.

This year is a special one because my daughter has started kindergarten at Carver Elementary. I am so excited to see her build relationships and a love for learning. I know from my own experience the teachers in this district are fantastic which makes me excited for her to experience that on her own. I am proud to be a resident, parent, and teacher in Eastern Carver County.

District welcomes new leaders

Eastern Carver County Schools welcomed two new staff to its leadership team in July



Ron Meyer
Director of Finance and Operations

Ron Meyer has over a decade of experience in school finance and operations, serving most recently as Executive Director of Finance and Operations at Osseo Area Schools. Prior to that, he was the director of finance for Eden Prairie Schools and director of transportation services at South Washington County Schools. In addition to his school operations and finance background, Meyer is a former Eastern Carver County Schools Board member and an active member of the Minnesota Association of School Business Officials.



Amy Nelson
Principal, Pioneer Ridge Middle School

Amy Nelson has almost two decades of experience in education at the middle level, serving most recently as principal of Sanford Middle School in Minneapolis. Prior to that, she worked as an assistant principal, instructional facilitator, summer school coordinator, teacher and in other roles within Minneapolis Public Schools. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Luther College and master’s degree from the University of Minnesota.

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Eastern Carver County Schools

The Eastern Carver County School Board unanimously approved putting an operating referendum in front of voters in the November 2, 2021 election.

The operating levy is a strategic investment in sustaining and building the district’s high quality educational and programming activities into the future.

BALLOT QUESTION:

10-year operating levy to increase the general education revenue by \$550 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation.

**VOTE NOV. 2
2021**



**IF THE REFERENDUM IS APPROVED
EASTERN CARVER COUNTY SCHOOLS CAN:**

RESTORE

lower class size at the elementary schools, opportunities for choice through electives at the middle and high schools, lower fees for high school athletics and activities

PROTECT

the student experience in the classroom and beyond by preventing future cuts to programs and services our community values like 5th grade band, gifted and talented services, athletics and activities

SUSTAIN

academic support for all learners through strong classroom instruction, targeted resources, and meaningful enrichment

INVEST

in stable funding for a strong future and priorities identified in the district's strategic plan

STRONG

If the referendum is not approved:

- › The fund balance would fall below 5% within three years
- › Future budget cuts would be necessary, possible impacts include: eliminating 5th grade band, reducing gifted and talented services, increasing class sizes at the elementary and secondary levels, and expanding bus walk zones.
- › Another operating levy would need to be pursued

If voters approve the referendum request, the average homeowner* would see a tax increase of about \$20/month.

Use the online tax calculator at eccs.mn/taxcalculator to find the tax impact for your property.

	TAX IMPACT	
\$150,000 home value	\$8/month	\$97/year
\$250,000 home value	\$13/month	\$161/year
\$375,000 home value	\$20/month	\$242/year
\$500,000 home value	\$27/month	\$323/year
\$750,000 home value	\$40/month	\$484/year

*Based on average home value of \$375,000

VOTING INFORMATION

EARLY VOTING BEGINS SEPTEMBER 17

at the Carver County Government Center (600 E 4th St, Chaska, MN 55318) or by mail. Request a ballot at eccs.mn/absenteeballot.

NOVEMBER 2 VOTING:

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on November 2. Polling locations for this special election may be different than where you typically vote, visit www.mnvotes.org to find your polling location.

RESIDENTS LIVING IN

CARVER:

Carver City Hall
316 Broadway, Carver

CHANHASSEN:

Chanhassen Recreation Center
2310 Coulter Blvd., Chanhassen

CHASKA:

Chaska Community Center
1661 Park Ridge Dr., Chaska

VICTORIA:

Victoria Recreation Center
8475 Kochia Ln., Victoria

**LEARN
MORE**

Visit: www.eccsvote.org
Email: eccsvote@district112.org
Call: 952-556-6107

Prepared and paid for by Eastern Carver County Schools. This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.

COMMUNITY INFO SESSION

Tuesday, Sept. 28, 6:30-7:30 pm
Chaska High School Auditorium

SAVE THE DATE

112 GIVES! SOIRÉE

Saturday, November 13, 2021

Hazeltine National Golf Club
Chaska, MN

district112foundation.org

DISTRICT 112
FOUNDATION
Serving Eastern Carver County Schools

Countdown to Kindergarten

Eastern Carver County Schools will share Kindergarten Registration information for the 2022-23 school year this fall. Help us update our census information for you and your family. If you live in the Eastern Carver County Schools district and have children in your home (age birth through 5 years old who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten), we need to confirm your child’s census information. Please contact us:

- ✦ Visit eccs.mn/census to submit electronically.
- ✦ Call our confidential census voicemail at **952-556-6137** (available 24/7).

An Early Childhood Screening is required before entering Kindergarten in a Minnesota public school. The screening is free and offers a simple check of how your child is growing and developing.

Learn more and schedule a screening appointment at eccs.mn/screening.

Eastern Carver County Schools

Community Education

fall 2021

ce4all.org

Community Education offers something for everyone!

Visit ce4all.org to view a current list of classes and programs for people of all ages.

Emergency? Look to district112.org

In the event of an emergency at a school or in our district you’ll find accurate and up-to-date information at district112.org or on Twitter or Facebook [@ISD112](https://twitter.com/ISD112). If a school is involved in an urgent event, school staff may not have time to answer phones or get information out to parents.

In order to provide the same information to parents, the media, and our community, district staff will post updates to the district home page at district112.org. Keep in mind that you may not be able to trust social media posts from non-district sources.

In the case of a weather-related school closing or late start/early release, we will contact parents/guardians with phone calls, emails, or text messages.




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eccs.mn/jobs





SCHOOL REPORT

Published by the Eastern Carver County Schools’ Community Relations Department.

We welcome questions or comments

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Lisa Sayles-Adams, *Superintendent*
952-556-6110

2021-22 District School Board

Jeff Ross, Ph.D., *Chair* | 763-458-8801
Lisa Anderson, *Vice-Chair* | 952-361-4267
Jenny Stone, *Treasurer* | 952-220-4136
Fred Berg, *Director* | 952-474-8394
Angela Erickson, *Director* | 320-491-9451
Tim Klein, *Director* | 952-513-8767
Sean Olsen, *Director* | 952-221-7745

VOTE

VOTE

VOTE

Early voting for the 2021 referendum now available by mail or in person at the Carver County Government Center.

Request a ballot at eccs.mn/absenteeballot