

OPERATING LEVY 2022

PACKER PRIDE • PACKER PROMISE



South St. Paul Public Schools is seeking an increase to the voter approved operating levy to support the needs of our students and staff.

HOW WILL THE FUNDS BE USED?

South St. Paul Public Schools is asking community members to:

QUESTION #1

Approve an increase of \$900 per student. The additional funds will enable the district to:

- Maintain small class sizes
- Avoid the potentially devastating impact of substantial budget cuts to programs and staff

QUESTION #2

Approve an additional increase of \$250 per student that the district will use to:

- Invest in much-needed academic and mental health support for students
- Expand programming opportunities for students
- Increase career and college readiness courses and experiences

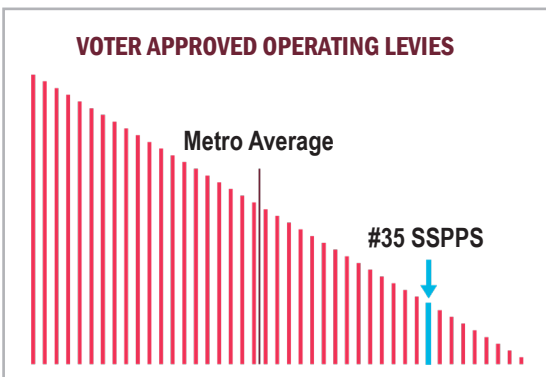
Question #1 must pass in order for Question #2 to pass

THE ONGOING FUNDING GAP

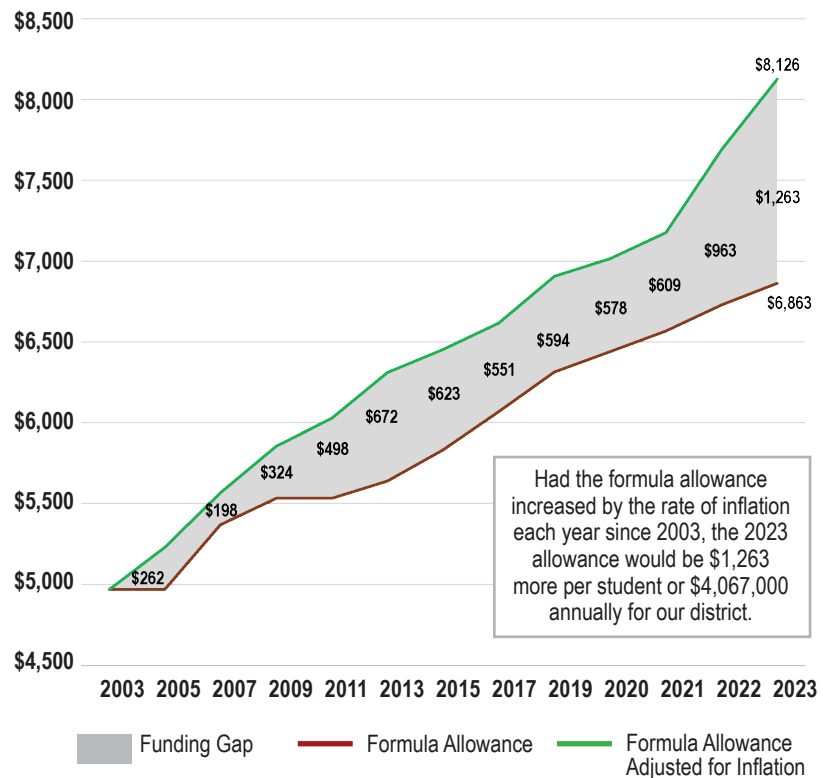
Education funding continues to not keep pace with the increasing costs necessary to operate our schools, creating a funding gap.

Districts rely on voter approved funds to narrow the funding gap needed to operate our schools.

Our current operating levy is more than \$608 per student lower than the metro average, placing us near the bottom of all metro districts. (#35 of 43 districts)



GENERAL EDUCATION FORMULA ALLOWANCE, 2003-2023 ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION (CPI)



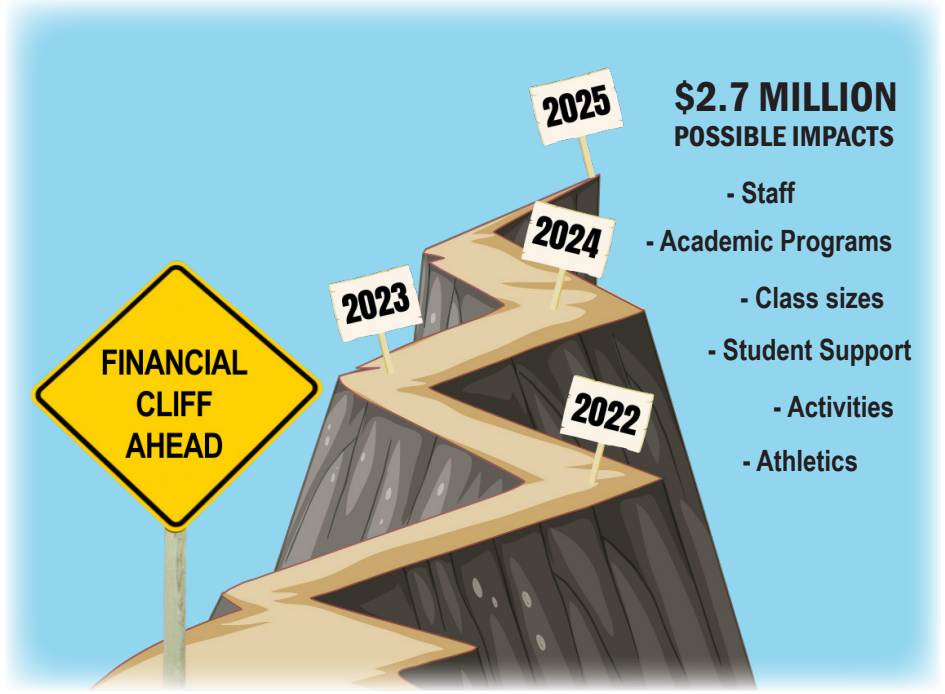
Had the formula allowance increased by the rate of inflation each year since 2003, the 2023 allowance would be \$1,263 more per student or \$4,067,000 annually for our district.

Less levy funding means the school district has less money to support students, staff, and programming.

FACING A FINANCIAL CLIFF

Over the years, South St. Paul Public Schools has been resourceful in creating a variety of partnerships to increase opportunities for students, creative in making needed budget adjustments, and mindful of the financial capacity of our taxpayers. Most recently, the district cut \$1.4 million from its 2022-23 budget with a focus on cuts that wouldn't significantly impact our classrooms.

Due to the ongoing lack of adequate funding paired with the end of one time COVID relief funds, the district is facing a devastating financial cliff.



BALLOT QUESTION	MONTHLY TAX IMPACT*	CALCULATE YOUR TAX IMPACT To calculate the tax impact for your property, visit www.sspps.org/levy2022 and use the Tax Impact Calculator.	
Question #1	\$29		
Question #2	\$8		
Total of Q1 and Q2	\$37		

*This amount is based on the average SSP home (\$275,000 home value).

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETINGS

Please join us for an upcoming in-person community information session where you can gather more information and ask any questions you may have.



Lincoln Center
 357 9th Avenue North
 6:30 pm



Kaposia Education Center
 1225 1st Avenue South
 6:30 pm

VOTING INFORMATION

- **Precinct 1:** St. John Vianney Church (789 17th Ave. N)
- **Precinct 2:** First Presbyterian Church (535 20th Ave. N)
- **Precinct 3:** Luther Memorial Church (315 15th Ave. N)
- **Precinct 4:** Dakota County Museum (130 3rd Ave. N)
- **Precinct 5:** Kaposia Education Center (1225 1st Ave)

General Election November 8

Find your polling location <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

If you have any questions or need additional information about the school funding request, please reach out via one of the following ways:

Visit www.sspps.org/levy2022 • email levy@sspps.org • Attend a community meeting