

Mark Your Calendars!

Grand Opening of Anpétu Tēča Education Center

- Join us for a celebration of the completion of Roseville Area Schools' new building, Anpétu Tēča Education Center!
- When: 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 5, 2021
- Where: Anpétu Tēča Education Center, 1910 County Road B West, Roseville, MN 55113
- The new building, located on the former site of the Fairview Community Center, is a state-of-the-art facility that will serve community members of all ages. Learn more about the building and event on Page 3.



Myriam Castro's Spanish-English dual-language immersion classroom at Little Canada Elementary School on the first day of school.

Beginning the School Year with Kindness and Care



**OUR STUDENTS
OUR COMMUNITY
OUR FUTURE**

Vote November 2, 2021

Operating Referendum - Vote on Nov. 2

- On November 2, 2021, Roseville Area School district residents will vote whether to renew and increase local funding for our schools through our operating levy. Funds would support and enhance students' classroom experiences and provide more financial stability for the district. Learn more about the referendum on Pages 4-5!



What a joy it has been to see students, staff and families together again in our buildings! You can feel the excitement and enthusiasm spread across faces, even with masks on. With new routines around our COVID-19 health and safety measures, our schools are quickly feeling like the familiar, safe spaces that we are all accustomed to.

I have been reflecting on why I'm so very proud to lead Roseville Area Schools. I continue to be grateful for the care and kindness our staff show our students on a daily basis. Their care is demonstrated in the little things like high fives, mask smiles, and a great deal of encouragement.

Their care is also seen in the thoughtful planning it takes to deliver high-quality, relevant learning opportunities that embody our district's commitment that we will pursue equity in all that we do.

Our students and families expect and deserve excellence. I am confident that our dedicated staff is ready to meet these high expectations, and create an atmosphere that supports every student's educational and social-emotional needs. I hope the images of students' return to school this fall gives you as much joy as it does to me.

Jenny Loeck, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Schools

Safe and Healthy Return to School

Back to School!

Students in Roseville Area Schools are back to school in-person! For some students, this marked the first time they have been in a school building since early 2020, because of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Staff were well prepared for students and families to arrive with questions about health and safety procedures, and were ready



to pay extra attention to the social and emotional needs students may have after experiencing 18 months of disruption to traditional schooling.

Worries that masks would stifle student enthusiasm were put to ease as school buildings buzzed with the energy of students filling the hallways and classrooms, their eyes displaying the joy of seeing classmates and supportive adults all around them.

Ways Roseville Area Schools are Promoting Health and Safety During COVID-19

Below are some of the mitigation strategies that we are implementing in Roseville Area Schools for student and staff safety for the start of the 2021 – 2022 school year:

- Staff and students use a daily screening tool at home to identify COVID-19 symptoms so that everyone with symptoms stays out of school.
- Directional use of hallways, whenever possible.
- Three feet or greater spacing between people, to the extent possible.
- Office space and small group plexiglass shields remain in place.
- Social distancing markers and posters in hallways remind everyone to keep a little distance from each other.
- Spacing of students in hallways, lunch lines, recess lines and drinking fountains to avoid crowded lines.
- Breakfast and lunch may have various adjustments in each school, depending on the physical structure and schedules, in an effort to reduce crowding.
- Visitors for lunch are not allowed at this time, so we can

maintain as much space as possible between students in the cafeteria.

- Limiting whole-school assemblies indoors, shifting to smaller outdoor assemblies when possible.
- Move some activities and lessons outdoors, when possible.
- Continuing hand hygiene routines.
- Continuing cleaning of high-touch surfaces, daily or as needed.
- Promoting increased ventilation, when possible, including open windows in spaces that allow it.
- Vaccination clinics and community COVID-19 testing clinics are widely available and we strongly endorse the use of these public health resources. COVID-19 testing kits can be ordered from the Minnesota Department of Health and sent to your home (visit <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/athome.html>).



Following the Guidance of Experts

Roseville Area Schools will continue to use guidance from Minnesota Department of Health,

Minnesota Department of Education, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We will also closely monitor community case rates of COVID-19 and community vaccination rates in our safe learning plan decisions.

We began the school year with masks required for all students and staff when indoors and on buses, regardless of vaccination status. Universal masking is just one of several strategies for

keeping students healthy, safe and learning in school. Beginning this school year, students wearing masks will not need to quarantine when exposed to someone with COVID-19, and may continue coming to school. Masks are a part of layered mitigation to reduce transmission between staff and students. Masks do not need to be worn outdoors.

Some strategies from last school year are no longer in place, such as separating students into cohorts and use of the blended learning model, but many good strategies will continue for 2021 – 2022 in an effort to reduce transmission and to keep students in school.



Vaccinations Strongly Encouraged for Everyone Ages 12 and Up

Along with public health experts, we strongly encourage vaccinations for all people 12 years and older, and for younger students as soon as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Minnesota Department of Health. Getting students vaccinated will help protect

those who are not yet able to be vaccinated, like younger siblings. Minnesota's Vaccine Connector (<https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/index.jsp>) will help you find a location to access a vaccine and answer questions you may have about the COVID-19 vaccine.

OUR STUDENTS OUR COMMUNITY OUR FUTURE

Vote November 2, 2021

On November 2, 2021, Roseville Area School district residents will vote whether to renew and increase local funding for our schools through our operating levy. Funds would support and enhance students' classroom experiences and provide more financial stability for the district.

What's on the ballot?

There are two questions on the ballot:

- **Question 1:** Requests a renewal of the district's operating levy. This no-tax-increase renewal would lessen but not eliminate major cuts in the future.
- **Question 2:** Requests an increase in the district's operating levy. The increase of \$905 per student would generate approximately \$7 million per year.

Question 2 can only pass if voters first approve Question 1.

The additional funds from Question 2 would be used to:

- ✓ Lower class sizes
- ✓ Invest in student mental health and social-emotional needs
- ✓ Maintain academic programs
- ✓ Expand career pathways to better prepare students for various careers after graduation
- ✓ Help maintain financial stability

Why now?

The school board unanimously approved placing these requests on the ballot after more than a year of discussion and planning as expenses continue to outpace revenue.

Some reasons why financial pressures are increasing:

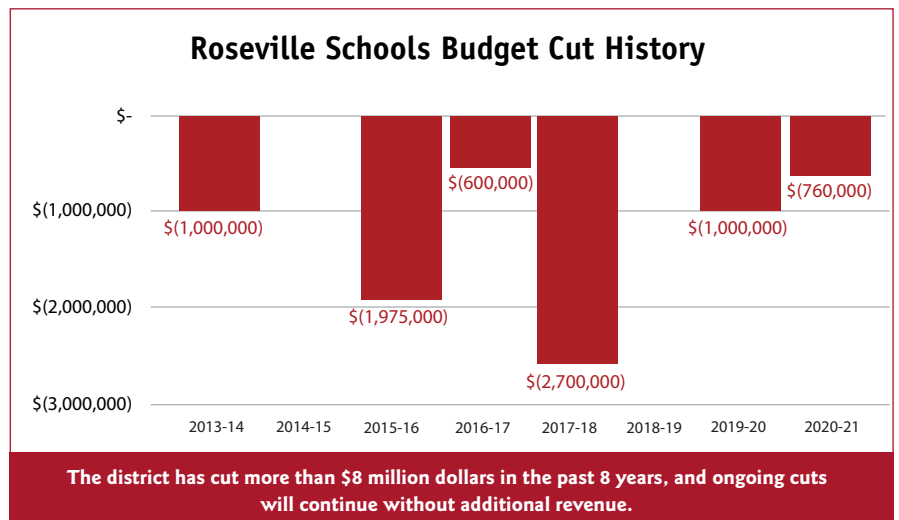
- For nearly two decades, **state funding has not kept pace** with inflation or increasing educational costs.
- Critical special education programs **cost the district nearly \$10 million more than it receives** each year from the state and federal governments.

- Over the last eight years, we have **cut our operating budget by \$8 million**, resulting in teacher cuts, increased class sizes and cuts to student and classroom support and administration.
- While the federal COVID relief dollars for schools will help cover pandemic-related costs, they are one-time funds with specific rules and timelines, and they **will not help with our long-term budget sustainability.**

If voters do not approve both requests,

there would be significant financial repercussions, including:

- Reductions in educational and co-curricular programming
- Staff cuts
- Rising class sizes
- Fewer supports for students
- The district's financial health would deteriorate, including a lack of contingency funds for emergencies



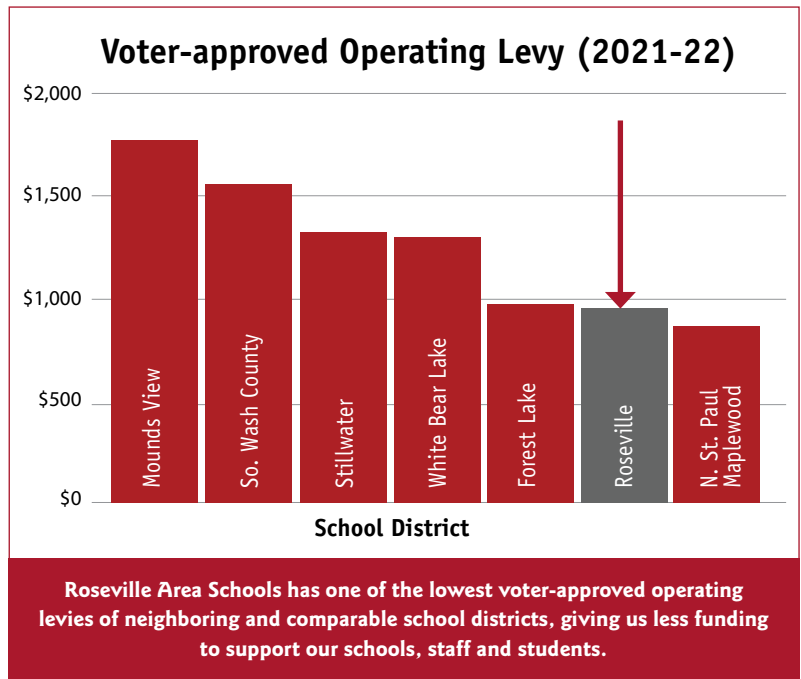
What's an operating levy?

Operating levies are funds approved by local residents for their schools. Levies provide additional funding for critical school operations, such as teachers, classroom supplies, instructional materials, other staff and more. The vast

majority of Minnesota school districts — including Roseville Area Schools — rely on operating levies to help fund their schools. After state funding, operating levies are the second largest part of our operating budget.

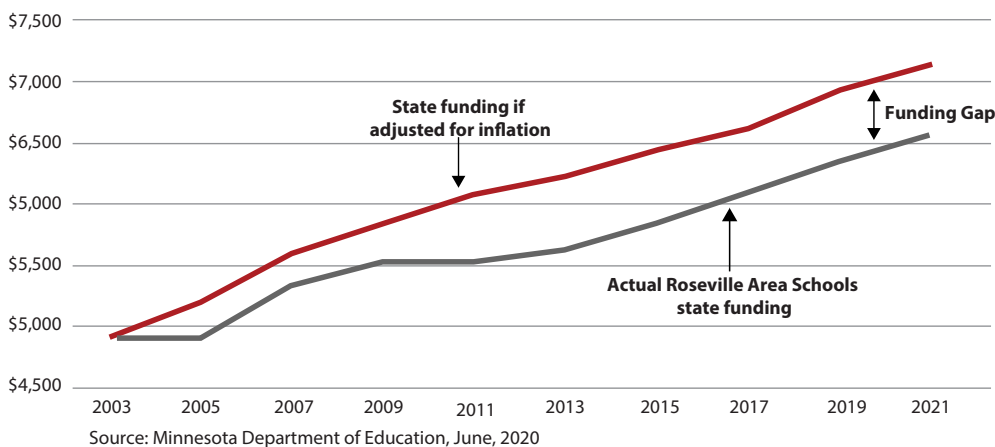
Finance Facts

- Our current voter-approved **operating levy will expire if not renewed by voters** in November 2021, which would result in a loss of \$8 million per year.
- Even with a levy renewal, funds would be insufficient to stop additional cuts and maintain existing programs and student supports. The **school board has determined an increase is needed** to address additional classroom needs.
- We **have not asked our community to increase the operating levy since 2006**. Our district has a history of only going to voters for additional revenue when it's necessary.
- Although voters approved bond funds for building construction four years ago, those funds cannot be used to help operate schools. **Bonds are for buildings, levies are for learning.**
- Students who come to our schools from outside the district (open enrolled students) are a **net financial benefit** to Roseville Area Schools. We gain more than we lose, and these students bring the same amount of per student state funding to our district as our resident students do.



State Basic General Education Funding

Per student funding allowance, 2003-2021



Parents Give Roseville Area Schools High Marks!

- **96%** believe our community receives a **good value from its investment** in local public schools.
- **93%** rate the **quality of education as excellent or good**.
- **94%** trust the school board and administration to **do what's right for children** in the district.

From a spring 2021 random sample phone survey conducted by Morris-Leatherman.

Estimated Net Monthly Tax Increase*

Q1: Renew levy	\$0	Q2: Increase levy	\$22
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*Estimated tax increase is based on the district's median value home of \$281,000.

Strong schools = Strong communities

Research shows that public school quality is one of the most important determinants of home value. Schools directly affect a community's vitality and home resale values.

Voting information

Polls will be open on November 2 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Absentee and early voting begins September 17. Learn more about voting options and locations at www.isd623.org/voting.

Learn more

- **Visit** www.isd623.org/levy2021
- **Email** levy2021@isd623.org
- **Call** 651-635-1651

Join us for a celebration of the completion of Roseville Area Schools' new building, Anpétu Téča Education Center

Anpétu Téča Education Center

When: 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Where: Anpétu Téča Education Center, 1910 County Road B West, Roseville, MN 55113



The new building, located on the former site of the Fairview Community Center, is a state-of-the-art facility that will serve community members of all ages. The building is home to important programs such as Fairview Alternative High School, Roseville Area Schools Community Education and Adult Learning Center, Roseville Area Senior Program, Meals on Wheels, summer programming, prekindergarten classes, early childhood special education and the district's Office of Educational Equity.

About the Event

We invite the community to mark the opening of Anpétu Téča Education Center at an event featuring a ribbon cutting and remarks from district leaders and students, traditional native drumming, singing, and dancing, tours of the building and refreshments.

Built as part of the community's 2017 investment in the district's long-term facilities plan, Anpétu Téča Education Center is a unique building with a unique story. In September 2019, the school board of Roseville Area Schools discussed the naming of the new building at the existing Fairview Community Center site. At that time, the board expressed a desire to select a culturally appropriate name that would honor the Dakota and Ojibwe people of Minnesota and acknowledge that our schools are located on land seized from the Dakota people.



Our district American Indian Parent Advisory Committee (AIPAC) was instrumental in the process of researching and suggesting an appropriate name for the building, having consulted with Dakota elders about the history of the land and the deeply important education work that occurs on the site for students of all ages. The Dakota elders prayed and reflected on the name and, with support from our AIPAC, recommended to the school board the name Anpétu Téča Education Center.

In the Dakota language, anpétu téča (pronounced aw-BET-doo TEH-cha) means "a new day." The traditional words offer a sense of hope and movement forward together as a community.

For more information, visit isd623.org or contact Anpétu Téča Education Center at 651-604-3500.



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Farm to School Continues with Minnesota Thursdays – Now Twice a Month!

After a hiatus during 2020 – 2021, Minnesota Thursdays will return twice a month this year. Minnesota Thursday meals focus on locally sourced products for our menu items. We will purchase produce, grains, proteins, dairy and more from more than 20 local farms!

Our first MN Thursday of the year included turkey hotdogs from Cannon Falls-based Ferndale Market, zucchini salad from Choua Yang's family farm, watermelon, and a healthy sweet treat from Minneapolis-based Jonny Pops. Next up are rotisserie chicken drumsticks, corn on the cob, homemade biscuits and apples, all locally sourced!





Roseville Area Schools
Independent School District 623
1251 West County Road B2
Roseville, MN 55113-3299



SAVE
THE
DATE

Nov. 13, 2021



35th ANNUAL  623
WALK RUN

HOSTED BY ROSEVILLE AREA SCHOOLS
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

The 35th Annual 623 Walk Run is going back in-person this year! Get active while making a difference in our community! This 6.23 kilometer walk/run starts and ends at Roseville Area High School running through Central Park. Proceeds support youth scholarships. Save the date and register now at www.isd623.org/walkrun. #STRONGERTOGETHER