

Safety Levy FAQ

- **Are our schools unsafe? Where did the money come from for the audit? Why are you running a safety levy now?** Using funds largely donated by the community, KPS hired a nationally recognized consultant to complete a safety and security audit of practices, supportive measures and physical structures in each of our schools. Although our schools are among the safest places in our community, the audit identified several areas of potential concern that the safety levies would address.
- **Are these levies forever or do they expire? Are they new or being renewed? Didn't we just pass something to build GHS and/improve FHS, LEC, and Ag Ed? And how much exactly are you asking for?** The safety levies would be collected for 10 years, and then they would expire unless renewed by voters.
 - KPS has not passed a high school specific levy (NOT bond...BONDS ARE FOR BUILDINGS) since 2007
 - If these levies are approved, safety-related costs would be removed from the elementary and high school general funds and coded to the safety levies. This change of budget structure is part of the district's plan to sustain high-quality education programs and improve all aspects of safety and security on our campuses.
 - The requested safety levy amounts are approximately:
 1. \$1.5 million in the elementary school district
 2. \$1.6 million in the high school district
- **Are you working with our local law enforcement on safety concerns?** Our close partnership with local law enforcement remains an essential part of anticipating and managing situations that could harm people on our campuses. Our increased security measures across all of our campuses will continue to be supported and vetted by the Kalispell Police Department.
- **What are the "trained personnel" mentioned that would be funded?** The Safety Levy facilitates an ongoing partnership with KPD to establish a program that vets and trains community members as security/safety officers, enhancing our ability to safeguard all campuses.
- **Will safety levy funds be used for other purposes such as to pay teacher salaries?** By state law, safety levy funds can be used only for their designated purpose. They cannot be used to pay for other school or district expenses.

Technology Levy FAQ

- **Are these levies forever or do they expire? Are they new or being renewed? And how much exactly are you asking for?** A 10-year technology levy for the elementary school district is in place now but is set to expire on June 30, 2024. KPS is asking elementary district voters to approve a 10-year extension of that levy. The technology levy for the high school district would be a new levy and also would expire after 10 years if not renewed by voters.
 - If a technology levy is approved for the high school district, some technology-related costs would be removed from the high school general fund and coded to the technology levy. This change of budget structure is part of the district's plan to sustain and improve technology tools and resources, which are vital for present and future student needs.
 - The requested technology levy amounts are approximately:

- \$1.5 million in the elementary school district
 - \$1 million in the high school school district
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- **How did you come up with the amount for the levy?** Expenses for technology have grown in the past decade due to inflation and increased areas of use. Technology needs over a 10-year period were projected in setting the levy amounts.
 - **Will technology levy funds be used for other purposes such as to pay teacher salaries?** By state law, technology levy funds can be used only for their designated purpose. They cannot be used to pay for other school or district expenses. Funds will go directly to technology expenditures like hardware, software, infrastructure, connectivity and communications services, technology professional development, repair, maintenance and supplies. Please note that elementary technology funds do pay for elementary technology teachers.
 - **What will the funds from the technology levies be used for?** Technology is an integral aspect of operating a school district. There is a very long list of technology expenditure categories. One of the largest allocations of technology levy dollars would go towards phased replacements of computers and hardware like staff work stations, Chromebooks, iPads, computer labs, SMART Boards, document cameras, security cameras, servers, speakers, printers and a variety of tools. Other areas include educational software and subscriptions, school district software (i.e. PowerSchool), repair and maintenance, internet services, building-to-building connectivity, network security, professional training, technical services and support, communication services, equipment and supplies. There is significant funding required to maintain a relevant and up-to-date level of technology within our schools. This provides our students the best opportunities while at KPS and prepares them to be competitive in a college and career-ready world.
 - **Students use too much technology these days...why would we want more?** Like it or not, it has become a technology dependent world. It is essential our students learn how to navigate technology proficiently and integrate it into their lives in a healthy and positive way. Technology has also become an increasingly foundational and dynamic part of teaching and learning - writing a paper, giving a quality presentation, collaborating and connecting with others, communicating, delivering new information, innovating and creating - all essential skills in college as well as the work place. Technology provides accessibility to information that accelerates and supports deeper learning; technology truly enables us to go outside the four walls of a classroom! KPS is fully committed to ensuring responsible use of technology, appropriate access to digital content and functioning equipment.