

Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools



Get the Facts about the
Referendum Question at
www.d121.org/referendum

On August 17, the Board of Education approved a 60-cent operating rate increase question that will appear on the ballot for June 28, 2022. If approved by voters, it would provide approximately \$13.25 million in additional revenue annually, with an estimated annual tax impact of \$200 (\$16.67 per month) per \$100,000 of a home's fair market value.

This increased funding would allow the District to preserve the eight-period school day, improve academic supports and mental health services, restore and protect activities and clubs, and restore and protect athletics. It would also allow us to lower student fees to rates comparable with other Lake County high schools.

We aim to provide clarity and details regarding how students would be impacted with and without this funding over the next two years.

There are several programs affected by the referendum question, including our eight-period school day, academic and mental health assistance, activity programs, and athletic programs. **The information on this page focuses on improving academic supports for students.**

District 121 Referendum Informational Meeting for the Community

District 121 will host an informational meeting for the community about the tax rate increase referendum that will appear on the ballot June 28, 2022.

Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Warren Newport Public Library
224 N. O'Plaine Road, Gurnee

English presentation starts at 6:30 p.m.
Spanish presentation starts at 7:30 p.m.

All staff and patrons two (2) years and older will be required to wear a properly fitted mask when visiting the library, even if fully vaccinated.

Get the Facts About the Referendum Question: Investing in our Students

Improving Academic Supports for Students

One of the ways WTHS would use the increased funding from an approve referendum is to provide greater academic supports to students during the school day. This would primarily affect our content-specific resource rooms, which support students with their coursework in mathematics and science. Students can also receive assistance for English and social studies in our Writing Center.

Students attending these rooms receive individualized assistance from Warren staff members when it comes to preparing for assessments, additional practice and explanation, and mastering important skills from their courses. The resource rooms provide students with additional support in small-group settings.

Unfortunately, due to the significant staff reductions that have occurred between 2015 and 2021, the District has dramatically reduced the number of periods during which academic resource rooms are open. This has made it harder for students to access the assistance that they need. Students who are not able to receive the additional support are less likely to be able to catch up on the skills they are lacking, and they are more likely to continue to fall. With additional local funding, WTHS will be able to have resource rooms available more frequently throughout the school day, providing increased access to additional academic assistance.

With additional local funding, Warren will also expand its formal On Track support program in the Mathematics and English departments. The program provides students who are struggling in these subjects with additional, formal instruction in small groups during the school day. These programs help students to accelerate their learning to bring them back on track for grade-level performance. Mathematics and English skill development are critical for students as they move through, and move beyond high school. Strong math, reading, and writing skills are crucial for students regardless of whether they choose to enter college or enter the workforce after their time at Warren.

