



**August 24, 2022  
Press Release**

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## **Douglas County School District Board of Education Authorizes Mill Levy Override and Bond for 2022 Ballot**

The Douglas County School District Board of Education (BOE) has authorized Mill Levy Override (MLO) and Bond questions for the 2022 ballot. At the August 23 meeting, the BOE unanimously voted 7-0 to place before voters a \$60 million MLO and a \$450 million Bond.

If the MLO and Bond are approved by voters, Douglas County homeowners will pay \$1 per week per \$100,000 of home value. For example, a Douglas County resident with a home valued at \$500,000 would pay approximately an additional \$250 per year if both measures are approved.

“Do not doubt the dedication of this Board,” said DCSD Board of Education President Mike Peterson. “As the largest employer in Douglas County, if voters approve the MLO in November, our community will provide a raise to the largest employee base in the entire county and it is absolutely the right thing to do - to take care of the teachers who are partnering with our parents to take care of our students.”

DCSD’s average teacher salary is more than \$18,000 less than that offered by Cherry Creek School District.

**A \$60 million MLO would enable DCSD to provide pay that is more competitive with other school districts to retain teachers and staff.** Should an MLO pass, DCSD teachers, on average, would receive a 9% pay increase, [as reflected in these salary schedules](#). Classified staff members, such as bus drivers, educational assistants, custodians, etc., would also receive a 9% increase. Other staff, including school principals and administrators, would receive a 6% pay increase. Charter schools share in DCSD’s MLO on a 100-percent equal, per student basis.

“Our teachers and our employees desperately need this,” said Board of Education Director Elizabeth Hanson. “I need to make a plea to our public education warriors and everyone else, it’s time to do the right thing for our kids. We need you very, very much right now to put aside any hard feelings and fight for this and fight for our teachers.”

The BOE also authorized a \$450 million bond for the 2022 ballot. **A \$450 million Bond would help DCSD construct three new neighborhood elementary schools and create additions to two existing middle schools to reduce crowding and plan for growth.** The

Bond would also assist DCSD in implementing safety and security upgrades, and updating and repairing its existing school buildings, to provide safe, efficient, quality learning environments for students and staff. [Click here for details](#) on what each of DCSD's existing schools would receive should the Bond be approved by voters.

"We need to build new neighborhood schools in our communities that are experiencing tremendous growth, and we need to be able to offer a competitive salary to our teachers and staff," said Superintendent Erin Kane. "This is an issue we can all agree on - we must do what's best for our 64,000 students."

[Read more about DCSD's comprehensive MLO/Bond plan.](#)

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#### *About DCSD*

Douglas County School District is Colorado's third largest school district and serves 64,000 students. Learn more at [www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org).