PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE IN THE FEBRUARY 13TH ELECTION

Levy Facts

Voters will decide on replacing the expiring Educational Programs Levy and passing a School Technology Levy in the February 13th election. Both levies are essential to support the basic educational needs of the Dieringer School District students. The funding we receive from the state and federal government is inadequate to fund high quality education for our children. These levies will provide resources to meet our students’ needs and prepare them for high school, college and 21st century jobs by keeping our schools competitive and successful.

Community support pays 30% of educational programs in Dieringer Public Schools, impacting almost every aspect of teaching and learning.

Proposition 1: Replacement Educational Program and Operations Levy

Proposition 1 is a replacement levy to continue support for the portion of the basic education program not funded by the state. This replacement levy supports:

- Classroom Teachers
- Staffing Training
- Maintenance of Facilities and Grounds
- Utilities
- Support Staff
- Books and Materials
- Library and Technology Materials
- Programs for Students with Special Needs
- Counseling and Nursing Staff
- Music and PE Specialists
The Replacement Educational Program and Operation Levy provides funds for basic education of all students.

**Why do we need the Replacement Educational Program and Operations Levy?**
The state does not fully fund the basic education programs we currently provide our students. Dieringer and other school districts must ask voters to pay the cost of education that the state does not cover through levies. **Levy funds pay for 30% of our day-to-day operating budget, $1 of every $3 that Dieringer needs to offer students a quality program.** The February 13th levy replaces the 2017 and 2018 levy approved by voters in 2016; when one levy expires, the new levy starts, similar to the renewal of a subscription.

**How much will the levy cost taxpayers?**
The Replacement Educational Program and Operations Levies will cost $6,650,000 in 2019 and $7,250,000 in 2020. They will replace the expiring 2017 and 2018 levies which were $6,950,000 and $7,325,000, respectively.

**What does the levy pay for?**
Levy funds are used for people, programs and supplies. Levy funds are spread throughout the district’s budget to supplement state funding or provide money where no state funding is provided. Need for these funds include, but are not limited to:

**Teachers and support staff.** The state does not provide funds to adequately staff our schools. Levy resources are needed to maintain current staffing levels including special program teachers such as elementary music and physical education.
**Instructional materials.** The state continues to set requirements that expand what we must do, but does not help pay for those new program materials. The levy will help pay for up-to-date textbooks, instructional materials, software, library books, and school equipment.

**Special services.** The state only partially funds special services programs that include the developmental preschool, hearing-impaired and multiple-handicapped program, counseling services, small group and individual instruction for students who have difficulty with reading, and individual assistance for students with more severe learning or physical disabilities.

**Extra-curricular and after school activities.** Local levy funds pay the cost of extra-curricular activities including music, drama, activity and club advisors, as well as sports and academic teams.

**Student transportation.** The state does not pay to transport students within a one mile radius of school. There are not safe walking or biking conditions for the vast majority of Dieringer students; therefore, we must bus virtually **all** students.

**Facilities and operations support.** The state does not fully fund the cost of utilities and maintenance needs. Levy monies are needed to maintain and operate our school facilities.
Dieringer School District is asking voters to approve a four-year replacement levy to pay for equipment, training, and support for classroom technology to continue to enhance teaching and learning as we work to prepare our students for high school, college and work.

Why is the Technology Levy Needed?
The technology the Dieringer School District needs has a direct benefit to our students. These resources, combined with traditional learning materials, will help our students learn the 21st Century skills they need. Among the reasons Dieringer is requesting this levy:

- Washington does not fund technology for student learning, home and school communications, staff efficiency or operations (phones, computers, wireless, software, etc.).
- State mandated requirements make improved and increased access essential for instructional and assessment
- The majority of school districts in the Puget Sound area have been providing educational technology through levies for years.
- District technology has been greatly improved by the expiring technology levy. The replacement levy is necessary to not only maintain our students’ level of access, but also allow student resources and access technology to continue to grow.
- Use of computers for online learning, research, large and small group collaboration, and presentations require the continuation of 1 to 1 access our students currently receive.
- Textbooks are expensive, quickly out-of-date, and projected to become obsolete as more and more textbook and learning resources become web-based rather than published.

The technology levy will be allocated in the following areas:
- Infrastructure (wireless access, bandwidth, website, capacity to support future growth)
- Hardware (expand student computing devices and other hardware)
- Software (update information systems, security filters, expand instructional materials)
- Staff (support and training)
The Dieringer School District, has developed a technology plan that serves as the guiding document for blending electronic learning tools into student learning. Two groups, the Technology Committee, made up of teachers and technology staff, and the Technology Task Force, composed of community members and district staff, will work together to ensure the plan is carefully followed while providing sufficient flexibility to adjust to changes in technology and education.

**Why do we need to continue to invest in technology?**

The hard truth of technology is: If we are not growing forward, we will rapidly falling behind. Technology is no longer a place students go, technology is and should be an essential part of their learning throughout the day. The computer labs we proudly worked to build a few years ago no longer meet our students’ needs. Just as the computer desk has been replaced in most homes with laptops, tablets or other portable devices, students need computers for their use throughout their day. To enhance student learning and bring the world into the classroom, the technology levy will continue to support 1:1 computing for all Dieringer students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>2013-2014 PC to Student ratio</th>
<th>2017-2018 PC to Student ratio</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th - 8th</td>
<td>1 to 2.82</td>
<td>1 to 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th - 5th</td>
<td>1 to 4.79</td>
<td>1 to 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st - 3rd</td>
<td>1 to 6:65</td>
<td>1 to 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>1 to 15.3</td>
<td>1 to 1</td>
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**How can I vote?**

Registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail after January 25, 2018 to vote on the two school levies. Ballots must be postmarked and mailed or received in a drop-box location by February 13th.
Why is it important for me to vote?
Levy elections allow citizens to determine the quality of their local schools. It takes 50% of the voters to pass a local school levy. In our small district, every vote is especially important.

Senior Citizens Exemption Information
Qualifying senior citizens and persons with disabilities may be exempt from paying school levies. For more information, please call the Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer office at 253-798-2169 or visit: www.piercecountywa.org/atr

For More Information...
Please go to the Dieringer School District website, www.dieringer.wednet.edu, and look for more information under: Levy Information. Questions maybe directed to Superintendent Judy Neumeier-Martinson the Dieringer School District office at (253) 862-2537 or jmartinson@dieringer.wednet.edu.

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