



FUTURE FORWARD

DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS MAY 2024 REFERENDUM

On May 14, 2024, residents of Duluth Public School District will consider a capital projects levy to provide approximately \$5.2 million annually to support investments in classroom technology, digital infrastructure, and cyber and physical security. Residents will vote whether to approve the plan during a referendum on Tuesday, May 14.

[FUTUREFORWARD709.ORG](https://futureforward709.org)

OUR GOALS

Duluth Public Schools are committed to building a resilient and sustainable digital infrastructure that enhances learning, improves teacher and staff efficiency, and keeps students, staff and community members safe.

- **Goal: Provide our schools with digital tools to enhance students' experience in the classroom.** Online textbooks, software for art and technical programs, devices and other in-class technology are important for helping students learn at their own pace and develop the skills they need to succeed.
- **Goal: Keep our students, staff, families and their information safe and secure.** Protecting our schools in the event of a physical or cyber attack is a top priority. Digital tools like security cameras, firewalls, and antivirus software are vital safeguards against intruders or scammers looking to steal personal information. In 2023 alone, several of Minnesota's largest school districts were victims of data breaches.
- **Goal: Ensure a well-maintained digital infrastructure that our staff and community can rely on.** Phone, internet, and software systems are critical to our schools' ability to work together and communicate quickly with families and our community.

OUR PLAN

Duluth Public School District is asking voters to consider a capital projects levy to provide approximately \$5.2 million per year to support our goals. If voters approve the referendum, the approximate breakdown of spending over the levy's 10-year term would include:

26% - Learning technology & digital curriculum

Examples: Smartboards and AV equipment for classrooms, devices, online curriculum, specialized software for design and STEM classes.

17% - Cybersecurity & physical safety measures

Examples: Firewalls, data encryption, modern security cameras, building security systems, and enhanced 911 response.

17% - Technology & security maintenance staff

Examples: Staff to perform ongoing maintenance of new technology to prolong longevity and efficiency.

15% - Digital infrastructure

Examples: Phone systems, internet service, and standard software such as Google and Microsoft

15% - Staff training

Examples: Professional development for teachers to provide the skills needed to integrate digital tools effectively into student learning.

10% - Career & technical education program maintenance and upgrades

Examples: Shop, engineering, nursing and robotics equipment and software.

These expenditures are estimations. Exact amounts may fluctuate during later years or in response to inflation.

DIDN'T OUR DISTRICT JUST VOTE IN A REFERENDUM?

Our district asked voters to consider a similar investment during the general election in November 2023, which was rejected by less than 300 votes. Since then, our digital needs and commitment to creating a strong digital infrastructure have not changed. The May 2024 referendum would cost the same amount and support similar initiatives as the 2023 plan.

THE TAX IMPACT

If the referendum is approved, the capital projects levy will be supported by a tax increase on property in our district. Individual tax impacts are dependent on the value of your property. For example, owners of a \$315,000 home would see a monthly tax increase of \$10.87.

FUTUREFORWARD709.ORG/COST
to use our tax calculator to determine
the tax impact on your property.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE REFERENDUM FAILS?

If the referendum fails, our schools will be unable to make updates to classroom technology, software, security, and digital infrastructure that are critical to student learning.



HOW TO VOTE

**Investing in our schools is an important community decision.
Make your voice heard in the referendum on Tuesday, May 14!**

There are three ways to vote:

- **Early via absentee ballot:** Available Friday, March 29 through Monday, May 13.
- **Early in person:** Available Friday, March 29 through Monday, May 13.
- **In person on Election Day:** Vote on Election Day, Tuesday May 14. Your polling location may be different than your location for the general election.

**For complete instructions on voting, visit:
FUTUREFORWARD709.ORG/VOTE**