

November 3, 2020 Levy Fact Sheet

Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) has a levy on this November's ballot. It is a renewal of an emergency operating levy for 7.34 mills/\$48,000,000 for a period of five years.

Voter approval of this issue will not increase taxes. It will renew funding for two education priorities:

- **Learning programs for 36,000 CPS K-12 students**
 - Continues college, vocational, and career-readiness programs
 - Expands quality neighborhood school options
 - Increases access to learning technology for all students
- **High-quality preschool for nearly 5,000¹ 3- & 4-year-old children**
 - Maintains \$15 million in annual funding for expanding affordable access to high quality preschool through CPS and Cincinnati Preschool Promise (CPP) community-based providers.

Since the original levy was passed in 2016 (with 62% of the vote):

- Approximately 131 area preschools have increased their quality rating.
- CPS kindergarteners who attended high-quality preschool were more than twice as likely to be on track and ready to learn as students who did not.
- More families are choosing CPS (Overall enrollment increase of 20% since 2012-13).
- More CPS students are taking AP courses at all of CPS' traditional high schools.
- 98% of CPS third graders met Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee in 2018-19. (3rd Grade Literacy increase of 20 percentage points from 2015-16 to 2018-19).
- Ninth-grade Algebra I scores increased 26 percentage points (from 2015-16 to 2018-19).
- 526 CPS Juniors participated in Job Shadowing with 15 Area Companies in 2018-19.
- CPS graduation rates have increased (6.7 percent gain from 2014 to 2018).
- CPS class of 2018 earned nearly \$80 million in college aid and scholarships (\$20 million increase from the Class of 2017).

The November levy renews funding to continue the progress made on expanding access to high-quality, affordable preschool; stronger K-12 neighborhood schools; CPS graduation rates; and college and career readiness for students. It provides critical funds for essential technology for all students, for school and home use; helps prepare teachers for better online instruction and communication with families and children; and connects students of all ages with health, mental health, nutrition and other vital services.

If this renewal levy does not pass, millions in dedicated preschool funding for thousands of 3- and 4-year-olds will be lost. CPS will be forced to reduce many academic and career-training programs, cut hundreds of teachers, increase class sizes, and scale back classroom technology and learning materials.

Early voting begins October 6, 2020. The voter registration deadline is October 5, 2020.

Voting Information: <https://votehamiltoncountyohio.gov/>

Cincinnati Public Schools: <https://www.cps-k12.org/>

Cincinnati Preschool Promise: <http://www.cincy-promise.org/>

¹ Combined Quality Improvement and Tuition Assistance, total seats reserved for preschool-aged children. Data updated 07/08/20.