

## **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 5,000<sup>1</sup> 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/>

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