

Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)

What is a PPEL?

The PPEL is a voter approved special revenue fund to help pay for the purchase of equipment and the maintenance of buildings, grounds, and other facility issues.

How will the money raised be used?

Proposed projects for the next funding period include roofing and floor repairs, heating and cooling system maintenance and upgrades, masonry repair, door and window improvements, upgrade of bathrooms and other accessibility issues; parking and traffic flow improvements, support for technology, leasing of school busses, security and safety improvements, maintenance of playgrounds and outdoor tracks, and special building needs based on new programs or new code requirements. PPEL also helps cover the cost of emergency and contingency repairs.

How much will a "Yes" vote cost?

The extension of the PPEL will remain at .97 per \$1000 of assessed value. The district is NOT asking for an increase in the amount, rather a continuation of the levy for the 10 year period beginning in 2008. This is not a new tax; it is an extension of the current PPEL.

How PPEL Makes a Difference for Our Students

Funding from PPEL allows the district to effectively plan needed repairs and general maintenance while also providing funding to help offset the cost of emergency repairs. With 32 buildings across the district at an average age of 55 years, the district has an on-going need to invest in preventive maintenance and critical building renovations to meet the needs of students. We provide a learning environment for more than 16,000 students every day. It's important this environment be safe, accessible, comfortable, and up-to-date if we want our students to continue to achieve.

Our district has lived up to the plans and promises from the most recent PPEL. Meaningful improvements have been made in all district facilities during the current levy funding period with more than \$20 million invested in an array of critical projects and renovations. An extension of the PPEL will generate approximately \$3.2 million each year of the levy. Its continuation will allow us to maintain our investment in our facilities.

The district has set a number of informational meetings where you can find out more about PPEL. We hope you can join us:

- March 1 at 6 p.m.—Smart Intermediate
- March 6 at 6 p.m.—Walcott Intermediate
- March 8 at 10:30 a.m.—Admin. Services Center (1606 Brady)
- March 8 at 6 p.m.—Williams Intermediate
- March 12 at 6 p.m.—Harrison Elementary
- March 13 at 6 p.m.—Eisenhower Elementary

There is also information posted on the district website at

www.davenportschools.org

For more information:
Contact Communication at 336-5088

DAVENPORT
COMMUNITY
SCHOOLS

1. What is a PPEL?

A PPEL – or Physical Plant and Equipment Levy – is a voter-approved special revenue fund for Iowa School districts to help pay for the purchase of equipment and maintenance of buildings, grounds and other infrastructure issues.

2. Does the Davenport district have a PPEL currently?

Yes. Voters in the district passed a PPEL in 1998 which is still in effect, but must be renewed by 2008 to avoid a lapse in funding. (The current PPEL levy amount is .97 per \$1,000 of assessed home valuation.) The district has had a PPEL in place for a number of years prior to the current PPEL as well.

3. How have funds from the current PPEL been spent?

Since its passage in 1998, the district has invested the dollars generated by the current PPEL in basic maintenance projects and equipment purchases at virtually every building in the district – new roofs, new energy efficient windows, improved security measures, safer playground surfaces, new or resurfaced parking lots, upgrades to heating and ventilation systems, asbestos abatement, upgraded restroom facilities, additional lockers, new floors, etc. To date, the district has funded more than \$20 million in such projects through current PPEL dollars.

It's also important to note that the availability of PPEL funding has enabled the district to leverage other funding sources – such as grant funding – for a number of projects.

4. How long is a PPEL in effect?

The district's current levy is for 10 years. (The proposed PPEL would also be set at 10 years and would go into effect in 2008.) This is consistent with other districts in the area and allows districts a predictable funding stream as they plan/manage projects.

5. What will the proposed PPEL cost my household?

The proposed continuation of the PPEL levy is positioned to remain at .97 per \$1000 of assessed value. (Many school districts levy at \$1.34.) Because of the existing PPEL, residents would not see an increase in their taxes because of the new PPEL – it would be a continuation of a fee residents have been paying for many years. It's not a 'new' tax.

6. How can funds raised through PPEL be used?

Basic maintenance, including contingencies for emergency or unexpected repairs; projects which bring facilities into compliance with the American with Disabilities Act; projects which focus on energy efficiency; basic security issues such as lighting, security doors/entryways, and so on; technology infrastructure; parking lots and other traffic-related issues; and certain student transportation costs, such as the leasing of school busses.

7. Are there expenses PPEL can NOT be used for?

PPEL cannot be used for salaries, travel, classroom materials (i.e. supplies, textbooks, etc.), other printing or media services

8. Do other districts in the area have a PPEL? How do their levy rates compare with those of the Davenport Schools?

Yes – all of the other school districts in Scott County have PPEL's. Bettendorf and Pleasant Valley School Districts currently have levies at \$1.34 per \$1000 assessed value and North Scott at .97 per \$1000 assessed value.

9. How is the district planning to use new PPEL funds?

The new PPEL funds will continue to be spent on maintaining the investment in our facilities and continuing efforts to increase our energy efficiency, safety, and ability to accommodate the student learning environment. Proposed projects include roofing and floor repairs/refinishing, additional HVAC upgrades, parking and traffic improvements, support for technology infrastructure, masonry repairs, security improvements, upgrade/repair of bathroom facilities (most notably for handicapped accessibility), improvement of grounds, etc. Also, the district will continue to use a significant portion of each year's PPEL funds to cover student transportation costs related to the leasing of busses. (A proposed project list is available.)

10. How was this list of projects determined?

The district has developed the list of projects based on need, preventive maintenance, new or amended building requirements or safety codes, and requests from buildings. In addition, input was garnered from the community through the Local School Improvement Advisory Committee, PTA/other parent groups, and other sources.

11. How is the PPEL different from the Local Option Sales and Services Tax or LOSST?

The Local Option Sales and Services Tax – or 'one cent' tax as it is sometimes referred to – is generated through a tax on sales and services, not a specified levy

per household. It is used as a capital improvement fund where PPEL is a maintenance fund. Because of this, LOSST is more volatile and not a guaranteed or predictable stream of income. Funds raised through the LOSST can be utilized for school infrastructure purposes, or those activities for which a school is authorized to contract indebtedness such as new construction, additions, remodeling, and the purchase of construction sites. The district has utilized LOSST funding on major building projects throughout the district including new media centers and building entrances, additional classrooms, new construction, and athletic complexes. The current LOSST is in effect through 2009.

12. What is the timetable for the proposed PPEL process and when will the ballot be?

Currently, the district is recruiting a Citizens Committee to support PPEL election activities. Members of the committee and representatives of the district will schedule community-based presentations to provide information about PPEL and the proposed project list beginning right after the return from winter break in early January.

The district is looking to set the levy for ballot on Tuesday, March 27, 2007. Passage of the PPEL requires a simple majority.

13. What happens if voters don't approve the new PPEL?

The district would have the option of rescheduling a second PPEL election prior to the current PPEL's expiration date of 2008. Should a PPEL not be passed, needed repairs and upgrades or technology and equipment purchases would have to be delayed – or, in some cases, canceled – leading to a decline in the condition of our facilities. Money for needed repairs would need to come from the general budget – having a significant impact on the district's ability to pay for student supplies and learning materials, salaries, etc. – and likely to result in restricted spending, lapses in technology, the possibilities of layoffs and program cuts.