

Levy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

FY2023

1. What does the supplemental levy fund?

❖ Academics –

- Full day kindergarten – Idaho only funds schools for ½ day kindergarten.
- Preschool - No state funding is provided for any early childhood services other than special education. We receive \$1,400 for special education services such as speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy.
- Certificated teachers / Classified Staff– Overall, we are reimbursed approx. \$1,560,585.00 less than what we pay in salaries and benefits for current staff (Administration, certificated, classified staff).

❖ Athletics – Full sports program. We receive \$0 funding for athletics. We currently spend \$172,275 for our current extracurricular activities/ advisors/ coaches. None of that is reimbursable.

❖ Technology – GSD continues to upgrade network and replace devices as needed. We receive approx. \$40,000 yearly from the SDE to cover all our technology costs including infrastructure, learning management system, student devices etc. We also apply for e-rate funding to offset some of our current technology costs. We receive \$7,500 from the SDE to help pay our IT Director salary.

❖ Transportation – only 50-85% is reimbursed by the state. GSD spends approx. \$219,532 to cover the outstanding costs of transportation.

❖ Food Services - Currently experiencing food shortages. Expect food costs to continue to rise due to shortages and transportation issues. For 22/23 the federal government has eliminated all free/reduced meals, therefore the costs will exceed the revenues for food services.

❖ Support Services – We have a .5 FTE counselor at Elementary (K-6) ; 1.0 FTE at secondary (7-12). We receive no funding for the elementary counselor and only receive \$18,000 to support college and career advising.

❖ Building Maintenance – Continual maintenance of building. We receive approx. \$25,000 in Lottery funds, which must be spent on building maintenance.

❖ Professional Development – Annual PD opportunities for staff, certificated and classified.

❖ Teacher / Student Ratio's – Our teacher to student ratio runs between 1:20 – 1:25 depending on end of building. If we decrease staff those numbers would increase or if we experience a significant increase in student numbers.

2. The state reported an 11% increase in funding for schools – why doesn't that cover the extra costs for the district?

Yes, the state did report that a 11% increase was given to public schools. Keep in mind that this includes charter schools across the state as well, so there are more schools taking a "piece of financial pie". The state increased funds in a variety of areas. Here are a few that impact our school district:

- ❖ **Transportation** – We are expecting to see more funding; however, I believe any increase we see will be absorbed by the cost of fuel. In 2021/22 we spent approx. **\$219,532.00** to cover outstanding costs of transportation. We will still be paying out of pocket for transportation costs in FY23.
- ❖ **Administrative and Classified Salaries** – This was increased and this is partially due to the increased number of students expected in the state and the need for additional teachers, support staff. Etc. Example: We currently employ 2 administrators and are funded for 1.8. We also employ 6 support staff and are funded only for 4. We will still be paying out of pocket for both administrative and classified salaries.
- ❖ **Career Ladder Salaries** – This is a mechanism that the state uses to determine how they are going to fund teacher salaries. On average we receive \$10,000-15,000 less than what we pay out in certificated salaries for the number we are allocated. Example. We employ 25 certificated teachers, but only receive funds for 19 and for those 19 teachers, we receive **less funds** from the state than we pay out in salary. are receiving in salary.
- ❖ **Technology** – No increase. We are seeing a shortage in materials and it is hard to get equipment. Costs will continue to rise in this area.
- ❖ **Advanced Opportunities** – Significant increase in funds for students to use to take advanced credit courses. School Districts are a flow through mechanism. Schools receive money on a reimbursement basis for courses students have taken throughout the year.
- ❖ **Idaho Digital Learning Alliance** – Increase for IDLA. School districts do not see any of these funds.
- ❖ **Continuous Improvement Plans and Training** – Districts have available \$6600 to use for planning purposes. This money is sent to districts on a reimbursement basis. If we don't use it, we lose it.
- ❖ **Overall the state provides approx. 58% of our operating costs.**
- ❖ **Overall the district receives approx. 10% from federal funds.**

3. If the levy fails on May 17th, does the district automatically revert back to the previous levy amount?

No, it doesn't. If the levy fails on May 17th, we have no levy in place for the FY23. By law we are required to present a balanced budget to the board and State Department of Education in June. If the levy fails on May 17th, we will be making cuts to all areas of the district including staff, activities, extra-curricular etc. in order to present a balanced budget to the Board of Education.

4. Are my taxes based on my properties assessed value?

No. Taxes are based on your properties taxable value.

Sample Figures:

Property Taxable Value	New Levy Amount per 1,000 of taxable value	Please note that these are estimates. We do not have exact property values or exemptions in order to calculate your exact amount of tax.
\$100,000	\$534.00	
\$125,000	\$667.50	
\$150,000	\$801.00	
\$200,000	\$1068.00	

Terms:

FAQ : Frequently Asked Questions

SDE: State Department of Education