

6 facts

to know about the local operating levy renewal:

1. The local operating levy approved by voters in 2007 is expiring after this year.
2. The School Board unanimously passed a resolution to ask local voters to renew the existing operating levy this November 8.
3. A successful local operating levy renewal will not increase taxes.
4. We are not alone. More than 90% of Minnesota school districts have local operating levies.
5. A successful local operating levy renewal will help maintain current class sizes and programs.
6. Failure to renew the levy will result in a 15% reduction in revenue and cause higher class sizes, closure and consolidation of some school sites, and fewer program opportunities for students.

Promises kept

Since the last levy referendum in 2007, the District followed through on its promises to the community:

- Lowered elementary class sizes.
- Restructured middle school, offering world language choices for students in grades six, seven and eight.
- Restructured high school, ending study halls and increasing time in core academic classes.
- WBLAHS offers 30 college-credit courses.



Find additional factual info about the renewal at

www.whitebear.k12.mn.us

Did You Know?

Rise in test scores

White Bear Lake Area Schools has seen some of the most rapidly improving measures of student success in the metropolitan area.

- Ninth graders **tied for first** in the East Metro on the state GRAD writing test with 96% proficiency.
- Math and science scores have **increased more rapidly** than any other East Metro school district.
- Some grade levels in **top 2% nationally** in achievement growth.

Stewardship

- Only Minnesota district to receive **excellence in financial reporting awards** from the Assn of School Business Officials and Govt Finance Officers Assn for **ten consecutive years**.
- Awarded a **AA bond rating** from Standard and Poor's (only 12 districts in the state have a rating of AA or higher, which puts us in the top 3%).
- WBLAS **invests** a higher portion of its general fund **revenue directly into the classroom** than any neighboring districts.
- District continues to **become more efficient**, reducing spending outside the classroom by \$1.75 million for 2010-12.

Partnerships

Innovative opportunities for students through:

- Program and facility **community** partnerships with YMCA, Vadnais Sports Center, MacPhail Center for Music, White Bear Center for the Arts, Tamarack Nature Center, and others.
- Academic partnerships with local **universities** and **international schools**.