



Capital Projects Levy for Technology



Overview

- Renewal Recommendation
- Levy Renewal Priorities
- Vote on Ballot





Renewal Recommendation

The recommendation is based on our technology needs, community input (local, family, staff, and students), and available state and federal resources.

Our strategic plan calls us do to innovative work. Strategy 3 specifically calls us to create the organizational capacity necessary to pursue our mission and objectives. This innovative work will include exploring how technology is both delivered and supported in our district.

We can create the capacity to continue technology services and support innovative instructional technology by renewing our technology levy (not increasing) and maximizing other recent funding sources that can be used for technology.



Recommendation: Levy Renewal

Renewal of Capital Projects for Technology Levy

- ✓Renewal means NO TAX INCREASE.
- ✓Renewal means sustainable, ongoing funding for current technology devices and technology support for our students and staff.
- ✓Renewal continues our district's commitment to being responsible stewards of our resources.
- ✓Renewal is needed to sustain our technology resources. State and federal grants as well as MAEF will allow us to explore new, innovative ideas and projects with one-time funds.
- ✓Renewal means our technology funding priorities will be Classroom Technology Tools, Instructional Innovation, Infrastructure & Data Security, and Teacher & Staff Technology Support.



Levy Renewal Priorities

- **Classroom Technology Tools**

Updated classroom technology that fosters exceptional teaching and innovative learning opportunities. Specifically, replacement of Classroom SMART Boards with updated devices and updated devices for students and staff based on teaching and grade-level learning needs.

- **Instructional Innovation**

As teachers design exceptional learning opportunities for students, the school district will create a system to provide real-time support for innovative instruction.

- **Infrastructure & Data Security**

In order to support classroom technology and innovative teaching and learning, the school district must provide reliable, up-to-date infrastructure and data security. This includes a consistent replacement cycle, the ability to react and upgrade when needs change, and annual proactive audits of technology and data systems.

- **Teacher & Staff Technology Support**

Technology staffing to ensure proactive maintenance, data and online security, ongoing professional development, cross-training, and an emphasis on coordinated and ongoing training for staff.



Next Steps

- Tonight: Vote on Ballot Language
- Summer and Fall: Prepare and distribute informational materials for the community so they can make an informed vote
- Absentee Voting: Starts Friday, September 17, 2021
- Election: November 2, 2021

**Background Information
Presented June 24, 2021**

Overview of Technology Funding

- No State-provided dedicated funding source for technology.
- School districts may use their general fund, voter-approved funding, capital funding, private donations, or a mix of all to fund technology.
- In our district, our current technology funding sources include Capital Projects Levy for Technology, General Fund, Capital budgets, Mahtomedi Area Educational Foundation (MAEF), Mahtomedi PTO, other donations and grants.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, state and federal grant funding has also become available for one-time technology costs. We have also utilized and maximized this source of funding in our district and intend to continue to use it as it is available.



Capital Projects Levy for Technology Overview

- **Funding Amount:** The Capital Projects Levy revenue amount is based on the District's net tax capacity. This percent has not changed since 2002. Provides approximately \$700,000 per year dedicated to technology
- **Student and Staff Impact:** Funds staff and student devices, critical technology infrastructure, training and tech support, and essential teaching and learning tools.
- **Expiration:** Our Technology Levy will expire if not renewed by voters in Nov 2021. There is no tax increase with a renewal.





Technology Levy Revenue 2011-2021

The Technology Levy revenue amount is based on the District's net tax capacity.

Net tax capacity is essentially the value of property in our district.

The amount our school district receives from the Technology Levy can fluctuate based on tax capacity values trending up or down.

District Technology Levy Revenue	
Year	Amount
2011-12	\$664,287
2012-13	\$614,409
2013-14	\$569,470
2014-15	\$577,770
2015-16	\$569,470
2016-17	\$580,493
2017-18	\$618,338
2018-19	\$634,629
2019-20	\$675,094
2020-21	\$697,423



2021 Community Survey Highlights

- 93% rate the quality of Mahtomedi Public Schools as excellent or good.
- 92% are proud of our schools and would recommend them to a friend.
- Community members value our broad curriculum/variety of programs and teachers the most about our district.
- 89% believe that technology use is absolutely essential or very important for today's students.
- 81% would rate the technology opportunities at Mahtomedi Public Schools as excellent or good.
- 82% support a renewal of our technology levy.
- 72% agree that our schools are a good investment and would support a tax increase to protect that investment.

(Morris Leatherman, Mahtomedi Public Schools Community Survey, May 2021)



2021 Family Survey: Importance of Technology

How important do you think the ability to use computers and other technology effectively and efficiently is for today's students?

	Wildwood	O.H. Anderson	Mahtomedi Middle School	Mahtomedi High School
Absolutely Essential	53%	61%	65%	75%
Very Important	33%	25%	24%	16%
	86%	86%	89%	91%
Somewhat Important	11%	12%	8%	7%
Not Too Important	2%	1%	2%	1%
Not At All Important	1%	1%	1%	0%
Unsure	0%	0%	0%	1%

(Mahtomedi Public Schools Family Survey, June 2021)



2021 Family Survey: Technology Opportunities

How would you rate the technology opportunities available for students at Mahtomedi Public Schools?

	Wildwood	O.H. Anderson	Mahtomedi Middle School	Mahtomedi High School
Excellent	49%	51%	39%	38%
Good	43%	42%	46%	42%
	92%	93%	85%	80%
Fair	5%	5%	11%	14%
Poor	1%	1%	1%	1%
Unsure	2%	1%	3%	5%

(Mahtomedi Public Schools Family Survey, June 2021)

2021 Teacher Survey: Technology

- 98% believe that technology use is absolutely essential or very important for today's students.
- 95% would rate the technology opportunities at Mahtomedi Public Schools as excellent or good.
- Teacher-Identified Priorities for Improvement:
 - Technology staff and student support in all school buildings
 - Technology professional development and facilitation of sharing best practices
 - Device upgrades for staff (Chromebooks to Laptops)
 - Webcams for staff desktop computers
 - Stable funding for classroom technology

(Mahtomedi Public Schools Teacher Survey, June 2021)

2021 Secondary Student Survey: Technology

- 73% believe that technology use is absolutely essential or very important for middle and high school students.
- 86% would rate the technology opportunities at Mahtomedi Public Schools as excellent or good.
- Student-Identified Priorities for Improvement:
 - Upgraded Devices
 - Faster WiFi in school buildings
 - Designated staff to help students with devices
 - Technology how-to videos and support for students
 - Additional devices, hot spots, and charging cords for students available in buildings

(Mahtomedi Public Schools Student Survey, June 2021)

Mahtomedi Strategic Plan

Strategy 3: We will create the organizational capacity necessary to pursue our mission and objectives.

- Our strategic plan calls us to do innovative work. Strategy 3 specifically calls us to examine our current capacity and create our capacity so that we can pursue our mission and objectives.
- This innovative work will include exploring how technology is both delivered and supported in our district.
- We were quick to support and respond to technology needs in our district during COVID-19. Now, we will shift to improving our classroom tools, ensuring we maintain our infrastructure and security, and provide critically important staff support and professional learning about technology. These priority areas are supported by our families, students, and staff.



Mahtomedi Strategic Plan

Parameter 6: We will be responsible stewards of all of our resources.

- The Device for Every Learner distribution was implemented in two months. Every student and teacher had their district device by September 9, 2020. We distributed 678 iPads, 2,968 Chromebooks, and 75 Hotspots. The technology department responded to 2,496 tech support requests from families, students, and staff throughout the school year.
- We have maximized all state and federal grant funding to support our technology needs and will continue to use grants and one-time funding opportunities as well as voter-approved funding.
- We have been responsible with the past funding received via grants as well as through voter-approved funding and our past actions helped us support our students and staff during the pandemic.
- Since 2018, our district has worked to reestablish fiscal stability. In 2021, the district budget reserve is now stable and above the Mahtomedi School Board policy of 8%. The fund balance allows us to support the district during emergency one-time funding needs.
- Our district has received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the past two years.



Technology Levy Renewal: If it passes, if it fails

If it passes:

- NO TAX INCREASE.
- Sustainable, ongoing funding for current technology.
- Continues our district's commitment to being responsible stewards of our resources.
- State and federal grants as well as MAEF will continue to be used to explore new, innovative ideas and projects with one-time funds.
- Our technology funding priorities for the renewal will be Classroom Technology Tools, Infrastructure & Data Security, and Teacher & Staff Technology Support.

If it fails:

- Our classroom instructional tools, including devices will be outdated.
- We will have delayed replacement of staff and student computers. Outdated tools demand higher ongoing costs. Outdated devices can be unreliable, lack speed in connection, and consume valuable teaching and learning time.
- We will be forced to reduce technology support - negatively impacting students, staff and technology maintenance needs.
- Technology infrastructure and data security is essential and without the renewal, we will need to use the General Fund for these most pressing needs - taking dollars away from other student and staff supports.