



Prospect Heights School District 23

700 N. SCHOENBECK ROAD, PROSPECT HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS 60070

DISTRICT OFFICE

Phone (847) 870-3850
Fax: (847) 870-3896

EISENHOWER SCHOOL

Phone (847) 870-3875
Fax: (847) 870-3877

BETSY ROSS SCHOOL

Phone (847) 870-3868
Fax: (847) 870-3898

ANNE SULLIVAN SCHOOL

Phone (847) 870-3865
Fax: (847) 870-8113

MACARTHUR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Phone (847) 870-3879
Fax: (847) 870-3881

October 10, 2022

Dear Residents:

At District 23, we know that a community's education system is a shared public asset that benefits and impacts not only the children it serves, but the taxpayers who support it. This is your community, and these are your schools. That's why we're seeking your thoughts, opinions, and feedback regarding a funding proposal to improve our school buildings and programming—together *Building a Better D23*.

The District 23 Board of Education is considering placing a funding measure on the April 2023 ballot, with the proceeds focused on improving safety and security, addressing high-priority repairs and renovations, and adding and reconfiguring instructional space to expand full-day kindergarten and early childhood education programming. Due to space constraints, 35% of currently eligible students cannot participate in this programming.

It's been 35 years since voters approved funding for improvements and upgrades at District 23's four schools. Since then, we have done our best to be responsible stewards of the funds we gratefully receive from you, our taxpayers. Our schools have been properly maintained and our commitment to providing an innovative, student-centered education is unwavering. However, there are certain capital improvement projects that go beyond the scope of general upkeep and maintenance. Additionally, to meet the needs of today's students and families, important changes to improve security and advance instructional programming are warranted.

With the funding proposal being considered, all four schools in the District would benefit. Districtwide capital improvement projects include adding security cameras, replacing outdated exterior doors and windows, and repairing or replacing aging siding.

Additional repairs, renovations and additions are also proposed for Eisenhower Elementary School. These improvements include creating a new secure entryway and a safer traffic loop; adding space to expand full-day kindergarten and early childhood education for all eligible students; reconfiguring and adding space for school psychologists, speech therapists, and other student support professionals to **improve** program delivery and **enhance** confidentiality; and constructing a larger multipurpose room to meet the needs of our growing student body and community.

There are many anticipated benefits of the proposed improvements, including **improving** safety and security, **enhancing** programming, extending the useful life of existing facilities, solving overcrowding, **improving** energy efficiency, and protecting property values.

The longstanding community need for full-day kindergarten and early childhood programming for all eligible students would finally be addressed. If implemented, these programs would help **improve**

Please contact us if you would like this communication translated into your native language.

Por favor, póngase en contacto con nosotros si desea que esta comunicación traducido a su idioma nativo.

Prosimy o kontakt, jeżeli chcą Państwo by wiadomość ta została przetłumaczona na Państwa język ojczysty.

learning outcomes for students by creating a foundation for growth and success. They would also align our District's offerings with those of peer districts that already offer full-day kindergarten for all eligible students, enhancing our appeal to families.

The proposed capital improvements are estimated to total \$24 million. However, the proposal calls for the District to address \$4 million of the project costs with non-referendum dollars. Operating costs, including staff, materials, utilities and maintenance, are estimated to increase \$1.2 million annually due to increased enrollment in kindergarten and early childhood education programming.

To address both building improvements and operating costs, District 23 is considering placing a limiting rate increase of 0.472 on the April 2023 ballot. Approximately 58% of the proceeds would be allocated to capital improvement projects and the remaining 42% would be used to address operating expenses. The estimated annual tax impact is \$44.65 per \$1,000 of taxes paid, or approximately \$486 for a home with a fair market value of \$350,000.

District 23 values the community's input. Earlier this year, a Citizen Task Force was formed to vet proposed improvements and financing options. Additionally, in the next few weeks, a public opinion survey will be mailed to you and all other registered voter households in the District. We would greatly appreciate your participation.

The District will be hosting additional public information meetings this month.

Public Information Meetings

Eisenhower Elementary School
1 N Schoenbeck Rd, Mt Prospect, IL 60056

- Tuesday, October 18, 6 p.m., Anne Sullivan Elementary School
- Thursday, October 27, 7 p.m., Eisenhower Elementary School

Further details and current updates about the proposal can be found on our website at www.d23.org.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to contact me at 847.870.5554 or dangelaccio@d23.org.

Respectfully,



Donald S. Angelaccio, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools