

**RESOLUTION OF THE DOUGLAS
COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF
EDUCATION**

**IN SUPPORT OF THE DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL
DISTRICT'S 2023 MILL LEVY OVERRIDE AND BOND
BALLOT INITIATIVES**

WHEREAS, the mission of the Douglas County School District (“DCSD”) is to provide an educational foundation that allows each student to reach his or her individual potential; and

WHEREAS, the DCSD Board of Education’s goal statements are: Academic Excellence; Outstanding Educators and Staff; Positive, Safe Culture and Climate; Collaborative Parent, Family, and Community Relations; and Financial Well-Being; and

WHEREAS, a high-quality school system, which attracts and adequately compensates high-quality teachers and staff as well as provides high-quality educational facilities, is in the best interest of our students, families, staff, and community; and

WHEREAS, Douglas County School District has a proven history of providing students with a rigorous and relevant educational experience with positive achievement results, including leading the Denver metro area district in academic excellence; and

WHEREAS, total program funding for Douglas County School District remains unchanged when more dollars are collected locally as total program funding is set annually by the State Legislature under the School Finance Act and is funded by a combination of local and state dollars such that when local funding increases, state funding decreases; and

WHEREAS, the schools of the Douglas County School District receive substantially less local Mill Levy Override funding (the only mechanism for school districts to receive additional program funding) relative to those of their school district neighbors, resulting in a local funding gap which has significantly and negatively impacted the district’s ability to offer competitive wages to all of its staff and teachers; and

WHEREAS, only one Mill Levy and Bond have been approved by local voters in the past 17 years; and

WHEREAS, Douglas County School District Board of Education believes that students in Douglas County deserve equal financial investment in their education as neighboring school districts; and

WHEREAS, as the largest single employer in Douglas County, the Mill Levy Override (MLO) would be used to make compensation more competitive for Douglas County School District teachers and staff, over 6,000 of whom are Douglas County residents who will invest in Douglas County businesses and Douglas County’s economy; and

WHEREAS, the nationwide teacher shortage combined with lack of competitive pay has caused Douglas County to receive fewer, and in some cases no, applicants for teaching positions such that the opportunity cost of not retaining teachers is to potentially not have teachers to fill the vacancies and increase class size, which is an incalculable cost to students; and

WHEREAS, the Douglas County School District Board of Education has resolved to continue its long-standing commitment to attach 100% of mill levy dollars to the choice each parent makes for their student(s) in attending DCSD-operated public schools and DCSD-authorized charter schools; and

WHEREAS, DCSD has strong and valued partnerships with all local law enforcement agencies and the continued occurrence of school violence merits an increased security presence in all DCSD-operated schools; and

WHEREAS, DCSD has over 111 public use buildings, primarily schools, that cost \$35 million a year to maintain ongoing capital needs and the Bond initiative includes capital maintenance for both public neighborhood schools and public district-authorized charter schools; and

WHEREAS, the Bond initiative includes continuing investment in trades and career and technical education opportunities in partnership with Arapahoe Community College, University of Colorado, and Denver University, as well as safety and security upgrades; and

WHEREAS, DCSD is an essential part of the Douglas County Community and it is our combined community goal to ensure that Douglas County is an attractive place to live, work and play; and

WHEREAS, it is in our collective best interest to attract and keep businesses in Douglas County, as important components of a thriving economy; and

WHEREAS, it is our collective responsibility, as a community, to build and maintain schools through local taxes, just as it is for libraries, parks, and other public use facilities; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of REALTORS® analysis positively correlates thriving school districts with strong enrollment and increased home values, resulting in all taxpayers and homeowners within the Douglas County School District benefitting from successful mill and bond elections; and

WHEREAS, the total tax impact of the MLO and Bond combined on homeowners would be approximately \$20 per year per \$100K in home value and the impact will diminish as our community grows; and

WHEREAS, all Board of Education Committees, the Equity Advisory Council, several SACs and multiple governmental municipalities and community organizations have formally endorsed the passage of 5A and 5B.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Board of Education of Douglas County School District supports passage of the Douglas County School District's Mill Levy Override (5A) and Bond (5B) initiatives, as they

will benefit every student, family, and staff member along with the entire Douglas County community.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED this tenth day of October 2023 by a vote of 7-0.

AYES: Meek, Myers, Page, Peterson, Ray, Williams, Winegar

NAYS: N/A



BOARD of EDUCATION of DOUGLAS
COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

By Mike Peterson
Mike Peterson, President

By: Becky Myers
Becky Myers, Secretary

Document Details

Title	Resolution in Support of DCSD 2023 MLO and Bond 10.10.2023
File Name	Resolution in Support of DCSD 2023 MLO and Bond 10.10.2023.pdf
Document ID	0754c226970a4955b4261a0c94e206be
Fingerprint	3944b045728b21740cc6a5946360e60b
Status	Completed

Document History

Document Created	Document Created by Ronnae Brockman (rbrockman@dcsdk12.org) Fingerprint: 8d64c2e976e1e4510b46b3090a016b87	Oct 11 2023 11:59AM America/Denver
Document Sent	Document Sent to Mike Peterson (mpeterson@dcsdk12.org)	Oct 11 2023 11:59AM America/Denver
Document Viewed	Document Viewed by Mike Peterson (mpeterson@dcsdk12.org) IP: 24.9.47.99	Oct 13 2023 10:59AM America/Denver
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