



POUDRE
SCHOOL
DISTRICT

2010 Mill and Bond Accountability Report



THANK YOU

For Supporting Our Students

Promises Made. Promises Kept.

Poudre School District is fortunate to be part of a community that supports education and our schools. This support comes in a variety of ways including 20,000 volunteers who give their time and wisdom, more than 250 business partners who provide real-world experiences and insights and voter support for nearly \$25 million in Mill Levy Overrides and \$250 million in Bond projects in the last 15 years.

The latest round of support, the 2010 Mill Levy Override and Bond, infused our system with \$16 million in annual funds for ongoing operational programming and another \$120 million for facilities and technology improvement projects.

As a taxpayer-funded organization, PSD is conscious of how we spend the money our community graciously provides. We want community members to trust we are spending their hard-earned dollars responsibly and for the betterment of students.

This publication is designed to provide insight into how the district spends the \$16 million in annual 2010 Mill Levy Override funds and the projects included in the 2010 Bond project list. The publication is organized into three main categories:

- Technology in our schools
- Academic Excellence
- Bond projects

As you peruse this information I believe you will agree that PSD has met the promise of how we said we would spend the community's money. Furthermore, I want our community to be reassured that its tax dollars are supporting programs with a positive impact on student learning and achievement across all PSD schools.

Thank you for your support of PSD, our students, staff and schools. We could not achieve our mission to Educate Every Child...Every Day without your gracious assistance. Should you have any questions regarding the information in this publication, please contact our Communications Office at (970) 490-3016 or info@psdschools.org.

I look forward to many more years of excellence as we work together to help all students graduate prepared to be successful in our changing world.

Sincerely,

Sandra Smyser, Ph.D.
Superintendent

**SINCE
2010,
POUDRE
SCHOOL
DISTRICT
HAS
GROWN BY
2,604
STUDENTS.**



MILL LEVY 2010 INFORMATION

In 2010, the voters of Poudre School District generously approved a \$16 million Mill Levy Override and \$120 million Bond issue. Currently, these funds support student instruction in a variety of ways including:

- Increased school allocations to maintain excellence for student academic achievement and interventions
- Resources for preschool, whole child, career awareness and wellness programs
- Restoring staff positions and reducing class sizes
- Technology and tech support

School Allocations

Each year, more than \$7 million is allocated to PSD schools through Student Based Budgeting to support student achievement.

Visit www.psdpromises.com for a full listing of funds and allocations per school.



Technology In The Classroom

Approximately \$7 million is dedicated each year from the 2010 Mill Levy toward improving technology integration across the district. This technology, which includes student and teacher computers, infrastructure and networking needs, software programs and staff training, is designed to create learning environments that resemble 21st century workplaces.

The first phase of technology was putting a device in the hands of every student in grades 3-12. The second phase, which began in 2015, is about deepening the learning for students through technology as an instructional tool and supporting teachers in integrating the technology into the heart of their lesson plans.



\$7 MILLION

\$1 Million

\$5.1 Million

\$900,000

Technology Infrastructure

The technology infrastructure that provides connectivity for Internet and other applications is critical to the success of the technology implementation plan. The following support systems are integral to providing a well-functioning 21st century learning environment integrated with technology:

- Internet Access in every building
- High speed, reliable wireless in every school
- Increased bandwidth for Internet access during the school day
- Voice over IP phone systems at every school

Student & Teacher Devices

The first phase of implementing a district-wide technology plan was to afford every student and teacher the opportunity to have a personal device for use at school. As such, \$5 million is spent annually to ensure that students in grades 3-12 have a computer to use either at school and/or take home at night.

Grades 3-5:

- Netbooks for every student on carts in classrooms
- SMART Boards
- Document Cameras

Grades 6-8:

- Netbooks for every student either on carts in classrooms or being sent home with students (piloted in 2 schools in 2015)
- SMART Boards
- Document Cameras

Grades 9-12:

- Students check out a laptop at the beginning of the year and return it on last day of school
- SMART Boards
- Document Cameras

Individual student devices are refreshed every 3-5 years. In the summer of 2016, the Information Technology department received, imaged, set up and deployed nearly 30,000 new computers across the district in 8 weeks. These new devices are the foundation of the instructional technology plan.

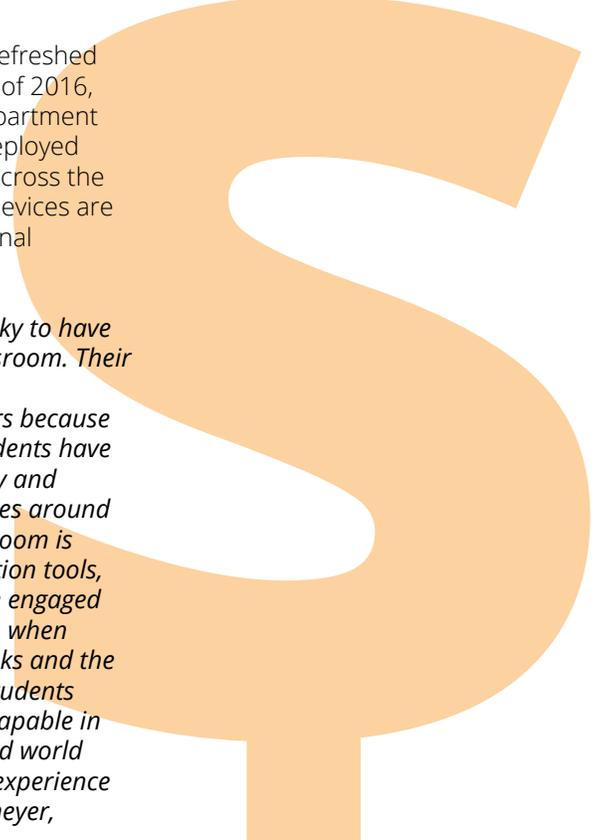
"Our students are absolutely lucky to have one-to-one netbooks in the classroom. Their technology skills have improved dramatically over the last 3 years because of the access they have. The students have visited other parts of the country and spoken with students from classes around the world. Learning in the classroom is enhanced with videos, presentation tools, and online forums. Students are engaged more frequently and more often when they have access to their netbooks and the lessons included. I believe our students are more successful and more capable in today's ever-changing, fast-paced world because of the technology they experience in the classroom." - Alex Wedemeyer, 3rd-grade teacher

Tech Training for Staff

The Technology plan also supports training for PSD teachers on how to effectively use technology in the classroom as well as support for classroom teachers.

- 10 technology trainers assigned to schools
- Professional Development on programs and applications
- Digital Pathways program for teachers

"Over the past five years we've seen a shift in the use of technology to support learning. We see more examples of educators refreshing lessons to provide learners with digital opportunities to communicate and collaborate on projects. Recently there are also more connections to authors and expertise of scientists, engineers, computer science, artists, as well as mathematicians. Video conferencing allows for rich discussions." -Kim McMonagle, Director of Educational Technology



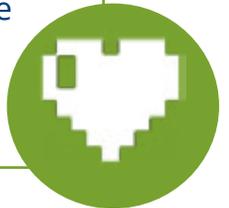


10 Ways Teachers Are Using Educational Technology to Reinvent Traditional Learning

1. Mitch Schneider and Tiana Song at Fort Collins High School refreshed the *"To Kill A Mockingbird"* novel study by integrating student-driven lessons and podcasts so students could connect the book to modern day social injustices.



2. Stephanie Flynn at Polaris Expeditionary Learning School taught students coordinate graphing by using coding to create pixel art.



3. Melissa Martine at Timnath Elementary School skyped experts into her third grade classroom and used Google Classroom to help students read and comment on each other's work.



4. Kimberly Noel equipped her students at Beattie Elementary School with cameras to take pictures of their artwork and create a digital portfolio, making thoughtful reflections on each other's work and sharing it with authentic audiences.



5. Alex Braden at Boltz Middle School created videos to help staff members teach students how to access their work at home, even if they don't have internet access.



10 Ways Teachers Are Using Educational Technology to Reinvent Traditional Learning

(continued)

6. Jesse Oswald at Fossil Ridge High School taught his STEM Academy students to create light sculptures which integrated engineering, electronics, 3D Design, and 3D printing using the engineering design process.



7. Julie Israelson at Lincoln IB World School is used Google My Maps to help her social studies students explore and write about locations around the world.



8. Ryan James at the Poudre School District Global Academy used Google+ to connect with experts to talk to his classes.



9. Beth Wilms and Tiffany Ramirez at Leshar IB World School equipped 8th graders with the WeVideo tools to create video essays on the theme “What Makes A Hero”, interviewing someone they consider to be a hero, then using the interview to support their thesis statement.



10. Laine Preston at Fort Collins High School used Engrade to create a digital classroom for her French students to interact with each other and receive feedback on their work.





Academic Excellence

PSD strives to give students the very best in educational experiences. Excellent teachers and innovative school programs ensure students will learn, grow and thrive academically, as well as be equipped with the 21st century skills they'll need after high school graduation when they move on to college or enter the workforce. PSD students have these opportunities thanks to funds from the voter-supported 2010 Mill Levy Override, which provides \$16 million annually to improve, maintain and expand high-quality academic programs and provide talented teachers for all of our students, from preschoolers to high school seniors.

School Innovation Grants Program



Schools can request up to \$25,000 per project annually to fund ongoing, expanding or new innovative academic programs for grades PreK-12. Programs need to support one of the following: third grade reading proficiency, annual academic growth, post-secondary readiness and successful transitions.

"Lopez Elementary was able to re-design our school mission and culture around leadership after receiving PSD Innovation grants. By providing professional development for teachers, resources for students and families, and access to leadership models in other communities, we were able to re-invent our school. The Innovation grants were instrumental in supporting our work to transform ourselves, students, and families." Traci Gile, principal, Lopez Elementary

"The Innovation Grants that Timnath Elementary received enabled us to deepen and expand our STEM philosophy and instructional methods. We worked with an on-site coach who provided professional development with the use of Thinking Strategies and the Inquiry-Based Workshop Model, and all teachers also attended either a 2- or 3-day Math or Science Institute. Teachers learned and experienced that STEM instruction is not a "what" but rather a "how" we teach and that it is inquiry-based and student-centered to activate critical and creative thinking and problem-solving skills." Lori Sander, principal, Timnath Elementary

Concurrent Enrollment



PSD high school students may enroll in college courses and high school classes simultaneously through the Concurrent Enrollment program. Concurrent Enrollment allows students to graduate from high school with college credits and accelerates their progress toward earning advanced degrees and being successful in the working world. Colorado school districts are required by state statute to pay tuition for Concurrent Enrollment classes students complete at community colleges while in high school. Mill Levy Override dollars fund about 1,890 college credits for PSD students annually.

"I've benefitted from taking Front Range Community College classes while in high school. It showed me not to just waste your education. Before I was just trying to get through high school. I didn't think I wanted to go to college. With this opportunity, I think I do want to go to college and I really want to expand my education." Allison, a PSD high school junior

"I'm taking Spanish 2 and I absolutely love the class. It's a jumpstart for me. I could never afford it. I could never do that ever. Now that I'm in the class, I'm doing very well. I love the entire experience." Ben, a PSD high school junior

Full-Day Kindergarten and Early Childhood Education



Mill Levy Override dollars have ensured that PSD's youngest learners start off with a solid educational foundation by providing funding for preschool resources and kindergarten scholarships.

Kindergarten: Allocations fund 40- 45 scholarships annually for students to attend full-day kindergarten. PSD full-day kindergarten programs are tuition-based, costing \$2,500 per year for each student. Studies show that students enrolled in quality, full-day kindergarten programs benefit academically and socially.

Early Childhood Education: Funds have been used for instructional support, allowing the ECE program to open a classroom for preschool students with educational needs, as well as hire additional paraprofessionals to assist students and staff. Funds have also been used to help offset tuition costs for the ECE program, which offers comprehensive education for children from birth through five years old and prenatal mothers.

Colorado Content Standards Implementation

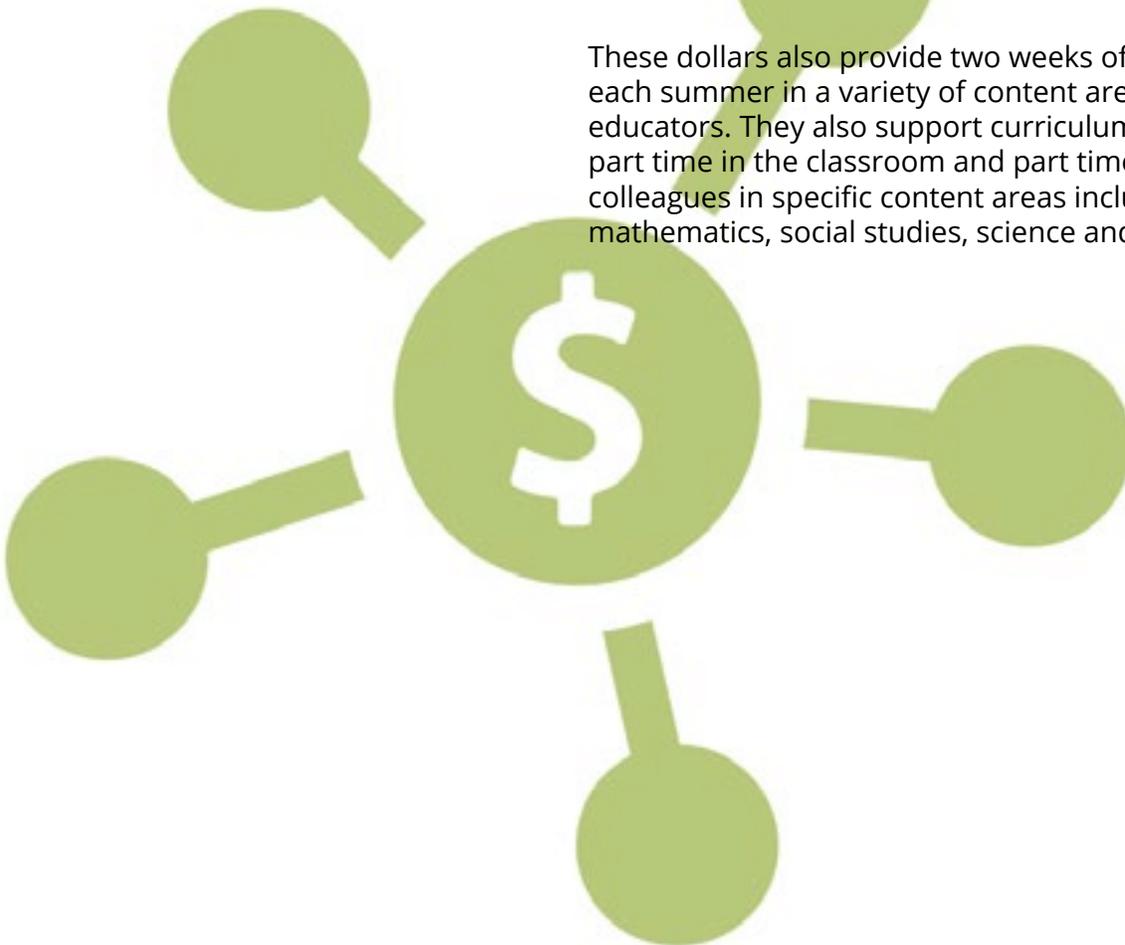


Behind student successes are PSD's outstanding teachers. One million from Mill Levy Override dollars have provided instructional support and collaborative opportunities for our teachers as they develop materials and student assessments that align with the new Colorado standards.

"The Standards-based Mill Levy funding has been instrumental in providing time for our Poudre teachers to collaborate in developing meaningful coursework to support students in learning our state standards and in preparing students for the college and career readiness goals that are described in Poudre's District Ends. Each year, teachers engage in time after school and during the summer to develop lessons in every content area, some of which include writing, mathematics, computer science, technology, world language, and the visual and performing arts. This great work could not be accomplished without the wonderful support from our district's Mill Levy funding." Robert Beauchamp, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- Instructional Support: to provide time for school teams to integrate Colorado standards and 21st century skills into units of study; for collaboration about student work; and for interventions and enrichment planning.
- Common Assessments: for teacher collaboration to develop common assessments and ensure alignment and integration of both the Colorado standards and 21st century skills.

These dollars also provide two weeks of intense staff training each summer in a variety of content areas for more than 200 educators. They also support curriculum facilitators that work part time in the classroom and part time supporting their colleagues in specific content areas including literacy, mathematics, social studies, science and the arts.



Mentoring Program



"Educator quality is one of the greatest contributors to student achievement. Poudre School District's Mentoring Program provides a system of intentional resources and supports that prepare new educators to be highly successful in their work with students."
Mary Hasl, Mentor Coordinator

Through the support of the 2010 Mill Levy, the Mentoring Program is able to pair every new PSD educator with a dedicated, experienced colleague for the first two years of their career. New licensed professionals, with the support of their mentors, complete a three-year induction program designed to develop the skills and knowledge needed to become highly-effective educators in PSD. In addition to coordinating partnerships and managing induction, the Mentoring Program also sponsors trainings and resources that promote professional growth and enhance new educators' understanding of the PSD Standards-Based Teaching and Learning Framework.

The most powerful outcome of PSD's Mentoring Program is the extraordinary link between two people, a new teacher and a veteran teacher, that forms a reciprocal relationship. While new teachers develop their understanding of curriculum, student engagement, and the culture of the district, veteran teachers get to explore new ideas and reflect on their own practice. As a former protégé and a current mentor, I can attest to the power, the energy, and the student-centered outcomes of the best mentoring program in the state of Colorado.

**-Steven Ray Parker, English teacher
Kinard Core Knowledge Middle School**



BOND 2010 REPORT

Bond Project Allocations

In November 2010, the community generously agreed to a \$120 million Bond issue to renovate existing buildings and provide for a \$12.6 million technology refresh for students and staff. As of summer 2016, more than 130 individual facilities projects have been completed, totaling approximately \$81 million.

Planning continues for the remainder of the \$26.4 million in bond projects, which will culminate in 2018. Projects funded with Bond dollars include major building renovations, security upgrades, grounds and fields, interior upgrades and new playground equipment as well as ADA compliance and raw water acquisition. Total expenditures for 2010 Bond projects will exceed the \$107.4 million original budget with the help of revenue from other sources, including the sale of old school buildings and project reserves.

Project Categories



MAJOR BUILDING RENOVATIONS



SECURITY UPGRADES

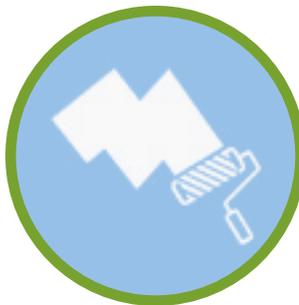
- Video security system
- Fire alarm system
- Intercom replacement
- Other security items

Project Categories (continued)



GROUNDS & FIELDS

- Asphalt
- Fencing
- Irrigation systems
- Athletic fields and surfaces



INTERIOR UPGRADES

- Flooring
- Kitchen equipment
- Lunch tables
- Lockers
- General carpentry



NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT



BUILDING UPGRADES

- Roofing
- Electrical
- Heating and ADA compliance

Bond Project Allocations

School/Building	Major Building Renovation 	Security Upgrades 	Grounds & Fields 	Interior Upgrades 	New Playground Equipment 	Building Upgrades 
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Elementary Schools

Bacon		✓		✓		
Bauder	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Beattie	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Bennett	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Bethke		✓				
CLPE	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Dunn	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Eyestone	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Harris		✓	✓	✓		✓
Irish	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Johnson	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Kruse	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Laurel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Linton	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Lopez	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
McGraw	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mountain Schools		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
O'Dea	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Olander	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Putnam	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Rice		✓				
Riffenburgh	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Shepardson	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tavelli	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Timnath		✓	✓	✓		
Traut	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Werner	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Zach		✓		✓		

Bond Project Allocations

School/Building	Major Building Renovation 	Security Upgrades 	Grounds & Fields 	Interior Upgrades 	Building Upgrades 
Middle Schools					
Blevins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Boltz	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CLPMS	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kinard		✓			
Lesher	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lincoln	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Preston	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Webber	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wellington	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
High Schools					
Centennial		✓		✓	✓
Fort Collins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fossil Ridge		✓		✓	
Poudre	✓	✓	✓	✓	
PCA			✓		✓
Rocky Mountain	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
K-12 Schools					
Polaris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PGA		✓	✓	✓	✓
District Buildings					
Athletic Fields		✓	✓	✓	✓
Fullana Building		✓	✓	✓	✓
South Bus Terminal			✓	✓	✓
Support Services Complex		✓	✓	✓	✓

Thank you!
**Together we are making
a difference.**

For more details, visit www.psdschools.org



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DISTRICT**