

# Mineral Point Unified School District

The Mineral Point Unified School District seeks \$590,000 for the 2009-10 school year; \$690,000 for the 2010-11 school year; \$800,000 for the 2011-12 school year; \$900,000 for the 2012-13 school year; and \$1,000,000 for the 2013-14 school year through a non-recurring referendum to maintain quality educational programming.

## Quality educational programming is our highest priority.

Over the past several years, the Mineral Point Unified School District has annually reduced its operating budget. Over this period of time, the budget has been reduced by nearly \$1,000,000. At the same time, the school district has used nearly \$700,000 of its fund balance to minimize cuts to educational programs. Each year, Mineral Point is faced with an increase in operational costs and insufficient revenue to keep pace.

To be a very efficient and effective learning organization, the Mineral Point Unified School District has weathered reductions in

many areas of programming, services, and personnel. At this time, any further reductions will result in fewer programs and services for our students.

A quality school district is essential for the community of Mineral Point. A great school system helps attract people to the community and helps increase property valuation.

The Mineral Point is landlocked between several area school districts. This puts several districts in competition for students. Currently, Mineral Point enjoys positive revenue generated from

open-enrolled students. If cuts are made to school programs and class sizes are increased, Mineral Point may lose students to the neighboring districts.

***The Mineral Point Unified School District must remain a school of choice for families.***

For further information regarding the referendum and budget concerns, please contact Superintendent Terry Hemann at [terry\\_hemann@mp.k12.wi.us](mailto:terry_hemann@mp.k12.wi.us) or 987-3924.

## What will appear on the ballot?

**September 9, 2008**

## REFERENDUM ELECTION

**Please vote.**

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the Mineral Point Unified School District, Iowa and Lafayette Counties, Wisconsin, that the revenues included in the School District budget be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$590,000 for the 2009-2010 school year, \$690,000 for the 2010-2011 school year, \$800,000 for the 2011-2012 school year, \$900,000 for the 2012-2013 school year and \$1,000,000 for the 2013-2014 school year (for a total of \$3,980,000) for nonrecurring purposes consisting of paying the costs of maintaining the educational programs, facilities and equipment of the District.

# HOME OF THE POINTERS

## What budget reductions have been made within the past several years?

The Mineral Point Unified School District has been realizing reductions to balance the budget for several years. Printed below is a summary of what has been reduced to save funding.

**Total = Approx. \$1,000,000**

Eliminated  
5 teacher positions

Eliminated  
3 support staff positions

Eliminated  
12 extra duty positions

Reduced supply &  
equipment expenses

## What is at risk if the referendum fails?

In order to balance the 2009-2010 budget without referendum funds, the Mineral Point Unified School District will need to:

- Reduce staff positions and increasing class size in most classrooms.
- Eliminate some valued education programs and related services.
- Eliminate some extra/co-curricular activities and increasing fees for those that remain.
- Reduce already thin budgets for materials, equipment, technology, etc.
- Put on hold needed facility maintenance and settle for schools that are less well cared for, leading to costlier repairs later on.
- Waste scarce resources on cash flow borrowing as the fund balance shrinks.

**Without additional funding quality will suffer.**

## How does this referendum impact property taxes?

The chart below details the school district's projected tax rate.

- ♦ The first row details the current and future tax rate per \$1,000 equalization valuation.
- ♦ The second row details the estimated tax rate increase over the previous year. The tax rates are estimated based upon forecasting many variables and were derived using information provided by both financial consultants and state officials.
- ♦ The third row details the estimated tax bill increase for the owner of a \$100,000 home. This information is provided using the best forecast models that take into account recent trends in enrollment, equalized valuation increases, and recent state funding estimates.

	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14
<b>Total Tax Rate per \$1,000 Equalized Valuation</b>	<b>\$9.71</b>	<b>\$11.66</b>	<b>\$11.34</b>	<b>\$11.57</b>	<b>\$11.75</b>	<b>\$11.93</b>
<b>Estimated Tax Rate Increase Over Previous Year</b>		<b>\$1.95</b>	<b>-\$0.32 (decrease)</b>	<b>\$0.23</b>	<b>\$0.18</b>	<b>\$0.18</b>
<b>Estimated Tax Bill Increase on \$100,000 Home</b>		<b>\$195.00</b>	<b>-\$32.00</b>	<b>\$23.00</b>	<b>\$18.00</b>	<b>\$18.00</b>

**For more information, visit our website at [www.mp.k12.wi.us](http://www.mp.k12.wi.us).**

## So why do we need to go to referendum?

### The Revenue Cap Gap

The state revenue cap has limited schools to an average per pupil budget increase of 2.5% per year for the past fifteen years. Yet costs have increased at approximately 4.0% per year. The gap has forced Mineral Point and many districts across the state into deficit spending. The Mineral Point School District cannot continue to absorb budget shortfalls year after year.

### The Declining Enrollment Penalty

We have already reduced our staffing to match enrollment decline, but fixed costs such as debt service, fuel costs, utilities, etc. don't decrease in proportion to enrollment decline.

### The Referendum Remedy

The revenue gap and the declining enrollment penalty are built into Wisconsin's school funding formula. Together they ensure under funded schools. State law allows school districts to exceed the revenue limit, but only by conducting a referendum vote.

### Preserving Quality Education

School quality means many things to many people and Mineral Point has high expectations for its schools.

**Quality** means good instruction in core academic classes and Mineral Point students out perform students statewide on nearly all measures.

**Quality** means providing opportunities in the fine arts, world languages, career and technical courses, health, PE, and extra and co-curricular activities.

**Quality** also means providing program variety so that students of varying interests and abilities can pursue a meaningful educational path.

**Quality** means being able to attract and retain quality staff members who are highly skilled, motivated and hard working. And that means competitive wages and benefits, ongoing training, the tools to work with and reasonable workloads.

## How will the funds from the referendum be utilized?

Budget Area	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Operating Costs	\$500,000	\$600,000	\$700,000	\$800,000	\$900,000
Curriculum	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Technology	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Maintenance	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
Totals	\$590,000	\$690,000	\$800,000	\$900,000	\$1,000,000

The “**operating costs**” line of the table above represents the projected deficit in the area of general operating costs for each of the five years beginning with the 2009-2010 school year. Operating costs include staff salaries and benefits, supplies, equipment, fuel, utility expenses, etc.

The other three areas: **curriculum, technology, and maintenance**, are areas where we have deferred expenses due to budget reductions. Each of these three areas need additional funding to catch up from previous years.

## **Important Dates and Times:**

- ♦ Referendum Informational Meeting      Monday, August 25 at 7:00 p.m.  
High School Library
- ♦ Referendum Informational Meeting      Thursday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m.  
High School Library
- ♦ Mineral Point School District Referendum      Tuesday, September 9      Polling Places

**Please remember to vote on Tuesday, September 9th!**