

# February 14, 2023

## Three-Year Replacement Enrichment & Operations Levy

### Dear Community Members,

*We are grateful for your 30 plus years of continued support of students in our three communities of Ione, Metaline, and Metaline Falls. Building strong schools only happens with commitment by the community and Selkirk's communities should be proud of what we have accomplished together!*

*The current M&O Levy expires at the end of 2023. We greatly appreciate that voters have approved each M&O levy request for 30 years! In 2020, the state changed the title to Enrichment & Operations (E&O) Levy but our focus is still the same.*

*Selkirk's February levy aligns with both Cusick and Newport school levy ballots saving us an estimated \$13,000 over a six year period in elections costs. The replacement levy will be collected in 2024, 2025, and 2026. We are very conscious about keeping rates as low as sible while providing quality educational programs for our students.*

*Levy funds are vital to Selkirk School District's educational programs and maintenance of facilities. Please read this brochure for more details.*

**Thank you!**

### Senior Citizens/Disabled Persons Tax Exemption

Citizens at least 61 years of age earning less than \$40,000 per year, citizens unable to work due to a disability, or veterans with a service-related disability may qualify to receive a tax exemption. For more information call the Pend Oreille County Assessor: (509) 447-4312

### Selkirk School District

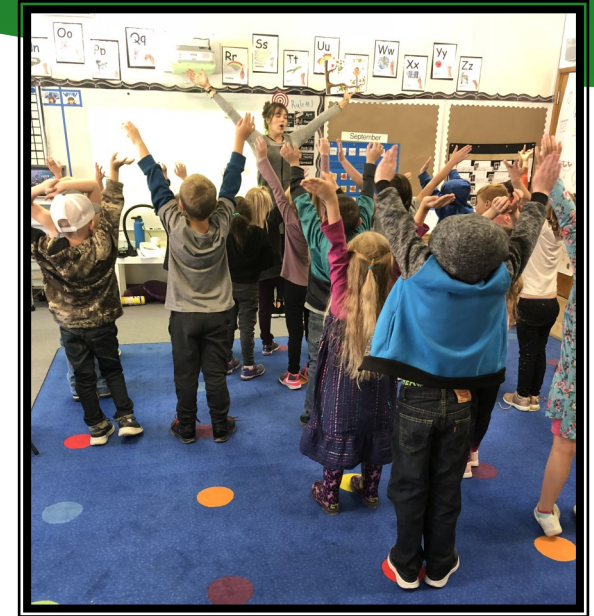
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# Selkirk School District #70

*Serving students in the communities of Ione, Metaline,  
and Metaline Falls*



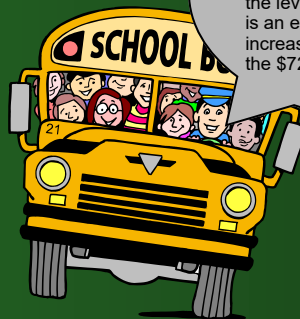
## 3-Year E & O Replacement Levy 2024-2026

# Your levy dollars help ALL students in so many ways!

**Estimated levy rate  
For 2024  
Compared to 2023 is  
.03 cents per thousand  
LOWER resulting in a tax  
savings.**

## Extra-Curricular Transportation

**\$75,000** per year for fuel, supplies, and bus maintenance attributed to field trips, Activity Bus, and extra-curricular activities. These are not expenses funded by the State.



If my property values go up in 2024, will the district get more money? **NO.** The district collects only the amount of the levy. The rate per thousand is an estimate. If valuations increase, the rate to generate the \$720,000 levy decreases.

## Selkirk Levy Fact Sheet

### How much is the 2024-2026 replacement levy?

The existing 2023 levy is predicted to be \$2.28 per \$1000 of assessed valuation. The replacement levy for 2024-2026 is estimated at \$2.25 per \$1000 which means about .03 cents LESS per thousand for homeowners.

**Do we really need an E&O Levy? Yes.** The state does not fully fund public education especially for small districts. Funding is based on prototypical school formulas not actual needs. For example we require a full-time nurse for students with life-threatening health conditions (i.e., diabetes, asthma), but the state provides funding for only a small fraction of days. The levy makes up the difference. State funding is based on a minimum of 400 students per grade span (K-5, 6-8, 9-12) or roughly 1200 students. Our district enrollment this year is 250 student K-12. Selkirk's commitment to student support systems, staff training, coordinated curriculum, maintenance, food service, and a strong educational program is working. With the help of NETCHD Selkirk was able to keep an in-person option throughout most of the pandemic to better serve students and families.

Extra-curricular activities also teach important life skills and keep students engaged academically. For years, Selkirk High School has been named in U.S. News & World Report's *America's Best High Schools*. Our students consistently outperform others in the region on state assessments. In 2018 Selkirk Elementary received one of the nation's most prestigious awards, the National Blue Ribbon School Award for outstanding achievement and in 2022, Selkirk 5th graders made the highest gains of any 5th grade class in Washington based on SBA test results. **The bottom line is that a loss of levy would mean a significant reduction or elimination of programs, services, and staff.**

**Does this levy allow the district to add additional staff?** No. The funding simply allows maintenance of existing programs and staffing.

### How does Selkirk's levy compare?

Levy rates vary by school district and greatly depend on assessed property valuation. For example, Cusick and Newport have large industries or businesses that contribute to lowering the rate per thousand for homeowners. Three of Selkirk's main industries (two hydro facilities and Federal Forests) do not contribute to school levies so communities like ours have a slightly higher tax rate. The State maximum levy rate for schools is \$2.53 per \$1,000. Selkirk's levy of \$2.25 is less than that. **Collection rates are only estimates.** If your property values increase during 2024-2026, the levy rate actually **DECREASES!** In that case, the school district does not collect more money, but homeowners pay less per \$1,000 to generate the same \$720,000, \$730,000, or \$745,000.

## Support Programs

**\$100,000** per year for smaller class sizes, textbooks, support staff, (nurse, technology, secretarial, etc.), substitutes, vocational program costs, and enrichment programs. **The levy supports programs not fully funded by the State.** Overall, the district spends \$3 million on instructional programs between staff, curriculum, and supplies. The additional curriculum and instruction expenses beyond the levy amount listed above are funded with state and federal dollars.



## Maintenance, Custodial, Utilities, & Safety Items

**\$345,000** per year for general maintenance, custodial, gym floor upkeep, grounds, safety items, and a portion of electricity, water, and sewer bills for our buildings that are over 66 (K-5) and 58 (grades 6-12) years old without modernization. 2021-22 utility expenses alone (water, sewer, phone and electricity) were \$176,010 for the two buildings. As buildings are deemed by the State as a local responsibility, levy funds must be used for upkeep and operations beyond what the state allocates.

## Food Service

**\$50,000** per year for food, supplies, and staffing to support breakfast and lunch programs. Selkirk takes pride in offering fresh fruits and veggies daily as well as scratch-cooking as part of a nutritious and healthy food program for all students. We also offer free healthy snacks (fruits or veggies) to every elementary student each day. In grades K-8, 100% of students qualify for free meal because of Community Eligibility Program provision. In grades 9-12, over 40% qualify for the Free & Reduced Meal program based on individual applications. Food and delivery costs are rising and no small school can operate a food program using only state and federal funds.



## Extra-Curricular Activities

**\$150,000** per year for athletics (spring, fall, and winter) and activities (drama and music) including coaches, officials' fees, and other related expenses. **Extra-curricular activities are not funded by the State at all.** The levy is also used to keep the cost of admission to events at a donation level rather than the high rates at other schools. However, uniforms and tournament fees are funded by ASB fundraisers and gate receipts.



**How do you pick which items are funded from the levy?** Services, activities, and programs that do not have other funding sources or have insufficient state funds to support the program are supported by the levy. For example, food service programs are funded through sales of lunches and reimbursement for free or reduced meals, but the excess cost requires a local contribution. No "B-size school can run food service without a local contribution.

**The three-year replacement levy is estimated at \$2.25 per \$1000 of assessed valuation in 2021 to raise \$720,000, \$730,000 (2022) and \$745,000 (2023). This is not a new levy and the rate to raise the funds is a reduction from 2023. For more information about our schools or replacement levy talk to a board member or contact a school administrator: 446-2951 (District Office & Elementary) 446-3505 (Selkirk Middle/Selkirk High School)**