To support the academic and social emotional growth of our young learners, Fridley Public Schools is proposing a K-5 grade-span change. Currently, the district’s middle school is a grade 5-8 school, while the elementary schools are grades K-4.

The Fridley School Board voted to place a referendum on the November 2, 2021 ballot. The approval of the referendum would allow the school district to construct additional classrooms at each elementary school to support moving 5th grade from Fridley Middle School to the district’s two elementary schools, Hayes and R. L. Stevenson Elementary. If voters approve the levy, the district will begin construction in 2022 with anticipation that the 5th grade change will be complete by the 2023-2024 school year.

**Referendum Fast Facts**

**SPECIAL ELECTION: NOV. 2, 2021 5th Grade Span Change**

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**WHAT IS THE NEED?**

**Enhancing the academic growth of our young scholars**

To support the academic and social emotional growth of our young learners, Fridley Public Schools is proposing a grade-span change that will make our elementary schools K-5 and our middle school a grades 6-8 school.

Benefits include:

- An extra year of social emotional development and growth before middle school.
- Opportunity to learn and grow with students of similar maturity at an essential time of growth.
- Opportunity for 5th grade students to develop leadership skills as the ‘eldest’ in the building.
- Opportunity to develop mentoring skills while working with younger students.

**WHAT IS THE COST?**

The proposed grade-span reconfiguration will be at minimal cost to district residents. The monthly cost for an average priced City of Fridley home of $250,000 is $2.33 per month. The chart below illustrates the annual and monthly tax impact for a variety of residential home values in Fridley.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOME VALUE</th>
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<th>MONTHLY</th>
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<tr>
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</table>

**TAX IMPACT TO HOMEOWNER**

**FRIDLEY STUDENTS BENEFIT**

**Building leaders and supporting social emotional growth**

As Fridley Public Schools moves toward a K-5 and 6-8 grade reconfiguration, 5th grade students will benefit by becoming leaders on their elementary campuses. Students would spend an additional and essential year of growth in familiar settings at Hayes or Stevenson Elementary. The plan is also heavily favored by parents, with more than 80% of Preschool and Elementary parents who indicated they support the grade-span change.

Currently K-4, Hayes and R. L. Stevenson Elementary would become K-5 elementary schools and Fridley Middle School would become a 6-8 middle school.
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Why is the district considering this change?**
- Age and maturity of 9-year old 4th grade students before they enter secondary school
- Social emotional development of our 4th grade students
- Giving our 9-year old 4th grade students an extra year in elementary school to learn and grow with peers of similar maturity before joining middle school
- Parents/guardians of our elementary school students have asked for this change and overwhelmingly support its implementation

**What is needed to accomplish this grade-span change?**
In order to have the 5th grade at the elementary schools, the district will need to add a total of eight classrooms (four classrooms at each elementary school), expand cafeteria space and add student bathrooms at each elementary school.

**How much will this new levy generate for the school district?**
If passed, the levy will generate $11 million to support the addition of classrooms at each elementary school.

**Will this levy pay for staff salaries or fund programs?**
No. This is a capital bond referendum and will be used to build classrooms at the elementary schools for our 5th grade class, add bathrooms for students, and expanding the communal spaces such as the cafeteria.

**When will 5th grade be officially at the elementary schools?**
If approved, construction of classrooms will begin in the spring/summer of 2022. Our 5th grade students will be officially housed at the elementary schools in the fall of 2023.

**ATTEND THE COMMUNITY FORUM**

The district is hosting an in-person Referendum Community Forum on Thursday, October 7, 2021 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Fridley Community Center, 6085 Seventh Street NE, Fridley. District officials will be available to address any questions that you may have. If you have questions about the forum, please email us at levy2021@fridley.k12.mn.us.

**IF THE LEVY IS APPROVED:**

Approval of the referendum will generate $11.2 million. To provide an environment that students will excel in, the levy will fund the following:
- Build four additional classrooms each at Hayes and Stevenson for a total of eight 5th grade classrooms
- Hayes parking lot will be expanded
- Expansion of communal spaces such as the cafeteria
- Add additional bathrooms

Construction would begin in August 2022 and continue to Spring 2023. Fifth grade would begin at Hayes and Stevenson Elementary Schools in September 2023.

**LEARN MORE**

For more information, you can:

- **GO ONLINE**
  Visit the district website at: www.fridleyschools.org/levy2021

- **SEND US AN EMAIL**
  Email us at: levy2021@fridley.k12.mn.us

- **GIVE US A CALL**
  Contact our Director of Business & Finance at 763-502-5004

**HOW DO I VOTE?**

**EARLY VOTING BY MAIL**

Voters who wish to cast an absentee ballot must apply by filling out a paper application. The online absentee ballot application is not available for 2021 local elections. Voters who receive their ballot by mail can return by mail or they can drop off their ballot at the Anoka County Government Center during business hours, as well as on the Saturday or Monday before Election Day. For additional information, visit: www.anokacounty.us/224/Vote-Early

**EARLY VOTING IN-PERSON**

Beginning September 17, 2021, voters may cast an absentee ballot in-person at the Anoka County Government Center, 2100 3rd Ave, Suite W130, Anoka. Hours include: 8 AM to 4:30 PM M-F; 10 AM to 3 PM on the Saturday before Election Day; 8 AM until 5 PM on the Monday before Election Day.

Prepared and paid for by Fridley Public Schools (ISD 14). This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.