Deer Park Community City Schools

Deer Park Schools - "Inspiring & Empowering Lifelong Success"

Jim Stoll, Superintendent *Jeff Lewis, Treasurer*

Frequently Asked Questions
Operating Levy

What has Deer Park done to improve finances since the last operating levy approval in 2021?

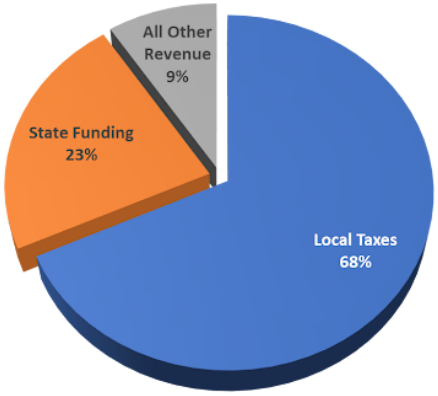
The Board of Education and Administration have worked to find savings or generate additional revenue totaling an estimated $5,200,000 since 2022. This includes over $2 Million in investment interest, Over $2.2 Million dollars in Competitive State and Federal Grants, and an estimated $800,000 staffing reduction through attrition for FY26.

What will the additional revenue be used for?

The current funding need is necessary to maintain our district's core operations, including student programs and services, day-to-day operational expenses, and competitive staff salaries and benefits that ensure our schools can continue providing quality education for our students. Stable, predictable funding is required to maintain current programming.

How is Deer Park funded now?

Deer Park relies heavily on local funding rather than state support. In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, 68% of Deer Park' revenue came from property taxes and related property tax reimbursements. Because the state provides limited funding, Deer Park must rely on our community to help fund our schools through local tax measures. The chart below shows how our property taxes provide a substantial portion of our district revenue..



Why doesn't Deer Park get more money from the State?

Because of our district's size and property tax values, Deer Park doesn't qualify for the state's Fair School Funding Formula. Instead, the state gives us a fixed "guarantee" amount based on our 2021 funding levels. This means we receive less funding compared to many other districts.

What does Deer Park spend money on?

A significant portion of our expenditures—88.2%—supports staff salaries and benefits. This includes the professionals who serve our students every day:

- Administrators, teachers, counselors, aides, substitutes, administrative assistants, food service workers, custodians, maintenance personnel, and more.

How much will this cost taxpayers per month?

A 6.9 mil levy will cost a homeowner $20.13 per month per $100,000 valuation. We fully expect this levy to last for 5 years, so taxpayer cost is fixed until January 2031.

What happens if the operating levy is not successful?

If voters reject this ballot measure, the district will be forced to make significant budget cuts that directly impact our students' education. Without the additional revenue from the Operating Levy, the district will need to cut approximately $2 million from its budget. These cuts could mean:

- Larger class sizes due to staff reductions
- Elimination or reduction of student programs and activities
- Potential cuts to support services