

Community Budget Review Committee of Portland Public Schools (PPS)
Review of the 2016/17 Proposed Budget

The 2016/17 Proposed Budget will maintain several large investments in instructional and support staff that have been made over the last few years including more counselors, library/media specialists, full-time secretaries at every school,

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**Community Budget Review Committee for Portland Public Schools
Local Option Levy Review 2015-16**

The Community Budget Review Committee (CBRC) conducted a general review of Portland Public Schools (PPS) expenditures of the Local Option Levy (Levy) funds approved by voters in November 2014. Measure 26-161 mandates independent citizen oversight to ensure tax dollars are used for purposes approved by local voters.

The CBRC examined Levy data to determine the use of funds in the following areas:

- Help maintain and lower class sizes that permit more individual attention for students;
- Help to support a well-rounded program, with enrichments for elementary and middle grades and electives in varied interest areas and disciplines for high school students; and
- Provide funding equivalent to 640 teaching positions.

The CBRC has the following comments:

The CBRC finds in the fiscal year 2015-16, it appears that all Levy funds have been spent as approved by voters.

With the help of Levy funding PPS was able to improve staffing ratios over 2013-14 to those shown below for 2014-15; they were continued unchanged into 2015-16.

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
K-5 Schools (Adopted):	26.9:1	25.8:1	25.8:1
K-8 and K-12 Schools (Adopted)	25.6:1	24.0:1	24.0:1
Middle Schools (6-8) (Adopted)	25.25:1	24.75:1	24.75:1
High Schools (9-12) (Adopted)	25.72:1	23.65:1	23.65:1

The Levy is also designed to help support well-rounded programs, enrichment for elementary and middle schools, and electives in varied interest areas for high schools. Since the Levy was passed in November 2014, the following actions have been implemented by the District to begin providing additional support as a result of the added staffing outlined above:

- Met a new planning time commitment for K-5 teachers;
- Help schools meet core program requirements; this enhancement includes providing support for a well-rounded program with enrichments for elementary and middle grades; and
- Support students reaching the third grade reading milestone goal through strategies such as a reading specialist or class size reductions in early grades.

-17 Budget, the renewed Levy will help continue the improvements implemented in 2015-16 for middle grade elective offerings, college and career readiness staffing for middle grades and high schools, additional counselors with at least a full-time position in every school, full-

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