

We All Play a Role in Student Success

As we begin another school year, our students are preparing for academic success. Many have completed “back to school” shopping with lists including notebooks, pens, organizers, or some new clothes. The school supplies on their list will assist students in meeting the challenges of each day. I commend them for the time spent planning ahead and gathering the items needed to help them complete their work.

Some of those assignments come in the form of homework. Yes, students need to work independently to prepare for, practice, or extend the concepts they are learning in the classroom. Homework is not usually the most popular part of learning, but can be essential to skill development and deeper understanding.

As our students commit to completing their homework this fall, I would ask all Dover taxpayers to do some homework too on the upcoming ballot issue for our schools. As taxpayers, we need to take the time to develop a deeper understanding of the issue at hand. As a school district, it’s up to us to provide you with the facts and answer questions so that you may make an informed vote on Election Day, November 5. Here’s how:

Step #1: Consider the importance of community. Many choose to raise their children in Dover for a variety of reasons. For some, it has always been home; your family and friends are here and you are tied to the traditions that you call your own. For others, a variety of circumstances brought you here. Perhaps you found Dover later in life and were attracted to this city of caring people, community services, and quality of life.

Families also relocate or return to Dover because of our schools and community. Unfortunately, the District’s current financial situation will not sustain the educational offerings we currently provide for our children. Learning must be a priority if our students are to be prepared for their future. Our investment in their education will be returned by keeping our community healthy, our property values strong, and making Dover a great place for our own kids to return to build their families.

Step #2: Read the facts, ask questions, and increase your understanding of the Dover School operating levy. I urge all parents and community members to review the information contained in the frequently asked questions document posted under the “Latest News” at DoverTornadoes.com and submit any questions you have via the website. The school district has pledged to get at the heart of your concerns, to figure out what and where more information is needed, and dispel misinformation that exists. We are also mailing a financial prospectus to all residents for a comprehensive review of the ballot issue and its impact on our schools and community.

After years of reductions in state funding, all while keeping expenses below the rate of inflation, Dover City Schools is facing some of the biggest financial challenges in a decade. The completion of this “homework” is vital to the success of all our students.