



## Inver Grove Heights

## 2023 Referendum - Fast Facts

### 199 Future Ready

We have a lot to be proud of at Inver Grove Heights Schools.

- Our academic and extracurricular **programs are top-notch.**
- **77% of participants in a recent community-wide survey gave the district a grade of A or B** (up from 67% in 2017 and 55% in 2013), while the national benchmark this year is 54%.
- **95% of residents agree** with the statement: **Public schools are a good investment in the future of our community's children.**

During the past school year, the district embarked on a process to focus its efforts and align with the community's priorities. Its results were what has become known as the 199 Future Ready initiative, anchored in these three guiding principles:

**Belonging** - Providing a safe and welcoming environment is vital to effective learning for our students. Maintaining class sizes so kids can have meaningful interactions with teachers and staff is part of our continued vision for our kids. We strive to be students' home away from home.

**Relationships** - Empowering kids to be agents in their own learning by facilitating stronger emotional and mental health supports allows for stronger relationships, so that kids feel comfortable coming to adults with their needs.

**Engagement** - The best learning happens when kids are interested and excited. Expanding courses and world language opportunities to young learners allows them to maintain a spark for lifelong learning.

### The Need

To remain competitive and better serve our children, the district needs more resources to:

- Enhance mental health and safety
- Maintain class sizes
- Extend the world languages program to elementary and middle school
- Add enhanced career exploratory courses and opportunities in middle school and high school
- Provide instructional support for teachers

These programs and services can help propel the district's students toward career exploration and preparation upon graduating.

### The Plan

The Inver Grove Heights School Board voted unanimously to approve two questions on the ballot for a November 7 referendum.

**Question 1** is asking voters to consider an operating levy that would provide an additional \$410 per student for the following educational efforts: K-8 world language, adding courses to help students explore career opportunities, and maintaining class sizes.

**Question 2** is a second operating levy request asking voters to provide an additional \$110 per student to provide important safety and mental health supports, as well as provide instructional support for our teachers.

## Survey Says

Respondents expressed support for **providing more options in middle school**, especially options for world languages.

**74%** of respondents ranked all focus areas of the **199 Future Ready** initiative as **"Important"** or **"Extremely important."**

**86%** of respondents ranked core life skills like **problem solving and conflict resolution** as the most important focus area, ranking it **"Extremely important."**

## The Process

During the past school year, Inver Grove Heights Schools took on a broad community engagement process to determine district priorities and envision its future direction. Perspectives were gathered in a community-wide survey, as well as during design workshops with students and staff.

By listening to community leaders and by surveying community members, Inver Grove Heights Schools knows that the community is supportive of the district.



## The Cost

Cost to an average \$313,000 home is \$11.67/month if both questions are approved, less than one large pizza a month.



## Financial Comparisons to Other School Districts

Our taxes are low. Inver Grove Heights Schools has the 9th lowest operating levy of 47 metro school districts, and the 2nd lowest total school taxes of 7 neighboring districts.

### Q: Does the quality of schools really affect property values? **Yes.**

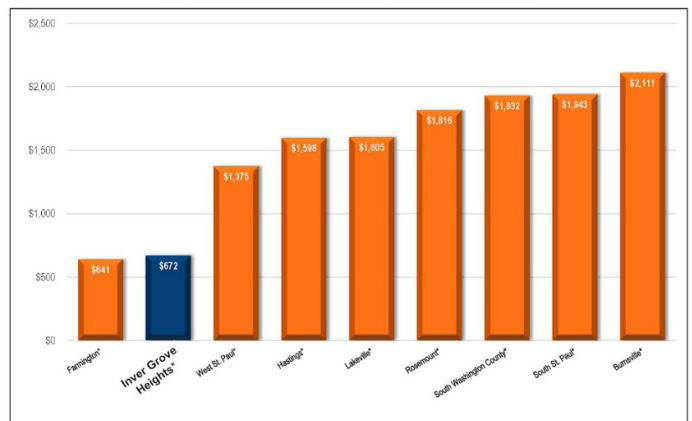
According to a National Alliance of Business report, "The second most often cited reason for a business selecting a particular location is the quality of the schools." Good schools are also shown to attract and retain families. A community that attracts families and businesses tends to have a stronger tax base, higher home values, and a tax burden that is spread more widely.

### Get Your Questions Answered

If you have questions regarding our district's **199 Future Ready** referendum, please visit [www.isd199.org](http://www.isd199.org), or contact us via email at [bernhardsond@isd199.org](mailto:bernhardsond@isd199.org)

### Comparison of Operating Levies

Authorities with voter approved annual inflationary adjustment



Source: MDE Levy Reports, 2022 Payable 2023

**VOTE NOVEMBER 7**