
Glidden-Ralston School District Seeks Voter Approval for PPEL Levy

On **March 4, 2025**, the **Glidden-Ralston Community School District** will ask voters to approve a **Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)** to fund essential repairs, upgrades, and improvements to our school facilities. The PPEL levy is a critical tool to ensure our schools remain safe, functional, and modern, benefiting both students and staff.

What is the PPEL Levy?

The **PPEL** levy allows the school district to allocate funds for specific types of expenditures, including:

- Construction and renovation of buildings
- Purchase of buses and technology equipment
- Energy conservation projects
- Property acquisition

Importantly, **PPEL funds cannot be used for staff salaries or classroom supplies**, which are covered by the General Fund.

If approved, the PPEL levy would be in place for **10 years**, after which the district could either renew the levy or let it expire.

Why Is This Levy Important for Our Schools?

For the first time, our district is seeking voter approval for a **voter-approved PPEL**, which would allow us to make vital repairs and updates to maintain safe and modern facilities. These updates will directly benefit the students and faculty of the Glidden-Ralston School District by improving the learning environment and maintaining up-to-date technology.

Proposed Projects Funded by the PPEL

If approved, the PPEL levy would fund the following immediate and much-needed projects:

Boys' Restroom Renovation

The boys' restroom on the first floor of the original building will undergo a comprehensive renovation, including:

- Replacing outdated fixtures and partitions
- Upgrading materials for better functionality and aesthetics

- Ensuring full compliance with **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** standards, including adjustments for necessary ADA clearance
- Removing one toilet stall and two urinals to accommodate accessibility requirements

These improvements will enhance the restroom's usability and safety for all students and staff.

Girls' Restroom Relocation and Renovation

The girls' restroom will be demolished and relocated to the opposite side of the building, next to the boys' restroom. This renovation will:

- Maintain the same number of fixtures, ensuring no loss in capacity
- Meet **ADA** standards
- Include the construction of a new storage room adjacent to the restroom
- Relocate an electrical panel, minimizing disruption to existing mechanical systems

The relocation of the girls' restroom will improve the layout and accessibility of the first floor, benefiting all building occupants.

Teachers' and Visitor Restrooms

The current girls' restroom will be reconfigured to create:

- **Two private teacher restrooms**
- **One visitor restroom** (with a baby-changing station)

The renovation will also expand the **teachers' lounge**, providing a larger, more comfortable space for staff to relax and collaborate. This thoughtful redesign optimizes the use of space while enhancing convenience for faculty, visitors, and students.

Fire Safety Enhancements

New fire mains (hoses and water pipes) will be added to the **North and South stairwells** of the school building. This update will improve fire safety while reducing costs compared to installing full sprinklers.

Secure Entry Vestibule and Office Relocation

The administrative offices will be relocated to a new space adjacent to the main entrance, and a **Secure Entry vestibule will** be constructed. This will:

- Improve building security by allowing staff to control and monitor all access points more effectively
- Ensure the safety of students, staff, and visitors
- Repurpose the vacated office space as a new classroom

This strategic relocation will strengthen security and create more adaptable educational spaces.

A Responsible Investment in Our Students' Future

We recognize that asking voters for approval of a PPEL levy is a significant decision, particularly in today's economic climate. However, we believe that investing in facility upgrades, technology, and safety measures is essential to providing a high-quality education for our students while also being mindful of taxpayers' concerns.

The proposed PPEL levy balances the need for modern, safe schools with a responsible fiscal approach. It will enable us to continue offering the best possible learning environment, supporting both students and staff in their efforts to succeed.

Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns about the proposed PPEL levy, please do not hesitate to reach out to **Superintendent Tom Ridder** at **712-659-3411**. We encourage you to learn more about how these investments will directly benefit the Glidden-Ralston community and our students.