

Dear Manitou Springs School District Community,

Each December, the Board of Education certifies the school district's mill levies that impact property taxes for the following year. At the December 13th Board of Education meeting, the Board certified a total mill levy of 50.887 mills. This total mill levy includes a total program mill and voter-approved mill levy overrides.

Total Program Mill

School districts are funded using the formula in School Finance Act. The total amount to fund a school district comes from two funding sources: *local share* (local property taxes) and *state share* (state funds appropriated by Legislature). This mill levy is the total number of mills the school district collects from local property taxpayers to fund the local share determined by the formula in the School Finance Act.

For a number of years, school districts were locked in at a mill levy. For Manitou, this mill levy was 22.816 mills. The interpretation of this was incorrect. In 2020, HB20-1418 passed to restore the local share that was reduced for a number of years. In order to correct this, districts will have to increase by 1 mill each year until the total program mill reaches 27.000. This year was the district's first of 5 annual increases.

Voter-Approved Mill Levy Override

In addition to funding from the School Finance Act, districts may receive additional funding from local communities in the form of mill levy overrides. Voters in Manitou Springs School District have been very generous and have voted on fund the school with overrides. The most recent vote was passed in 2018 and allows the school district to collect up to 25% of the School Finance Act total program as a mill levy override.

The combination of these mill levies is the total mill levy.

If you have any questions regarding this topic, please reach out to Suzi Thompson (sthompson@mssd14.org or 719-685-2011).

Sincerely,

Suzi Thompson
Chief Financial Officer