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Dysart Override results mean bigger class size and program elimination

DYSART SCHOOLS — Voters in the Dysart School District failed to renew two district override initiatives, the Maintenance and Operations override and the K-3 override. Both overrides were renewals of existing overrides and not new taxes, however, voters did not vote to continue the funding provided by the initiatives. Unfortunately, the district community did not fully understand the impact that removing these overrides will have on the Dysart School District.

With the non-renewal of the overrides, Dysart will now have to begin reducing its budget by approximately \$5 million each year for the next three years. The two overrides provide Dysart's budget \$15.5 million each year. Coupled with upcoming state funding cuts to education, the non-renewal of the overrides will have a dramatic impact on the services provided to students in the district. The non-renewal of the overrides will impact jobs, class size, extra curricular activities, fine arts programs, kindergarten and the reading intervention program in grade levels K-3.

The non-renewal of the Maintenance and Operations override will be felt by programs and teachers in grades K-12. The M&O override provided funding to maintain class sizes in the district. Without the override funding, class sizes will increase next school year. Additionally, the override funded extra-curricular activities such as athletics and fine arts programs in the district including art, music, physical education and band classes. All of these areas will now be negatively impacted due to a loss in revenue of funding for these programs. Parents may be impacted as well as athletic and extra-curricular fees may dramatically increase due to the loss of revenue from the overrides.

The non-renewal of the K-3 override will directly impact primary students and programs. Dysart is now left without a guaranteed funding source for full day kindergarten should the state eliminate the program. Additionally, Dysart's award-winning K-3 reading program will be eliminated and primary class sizes will increase as well. The non-renewal of this override will have a devastating impact to the early literacy program which has proven incredibly successful for students and achievement since 2005.

Dysart will begin evaluating all programs, staff and initiatives funded in part or completely by the overrides to determine the full impact of the non-renewal of the ballot measures.