

Columbia Heights Public Schools At A Glance



At Columbia Heights Public Schools (CHPS), we pride ourselves on offering the best of both worlds - the close-knit sense of a small-town community along with all of the advantages that come with being a part of a major metropolitan area. We are a small, diverse district, with five schools, an early learning center, and approximately 3,400 PreK- Grade 12 learners.

We are committed to providing outstanding academic, arts, athletic and service learning opportunities, so that all learners can develop to their full potential. We truly provide “Worlds of Opportunity for Each and Every Learner” where “All Belong, All Succeed.”

Points of Pride

- **79%** of residents believe our local **schools are a critical part of our community** and would support a property tax increase to keep them strong.
- **74%** of residents **trust the school district** to do what's best for students.
- **65%** of residents who offered a grade **gave our schools a grade of A or B** for the quality of our schools, compared to 49% in December 2019.

Results are from Spring 2022 Community Survey

Planning for Our Students' Future

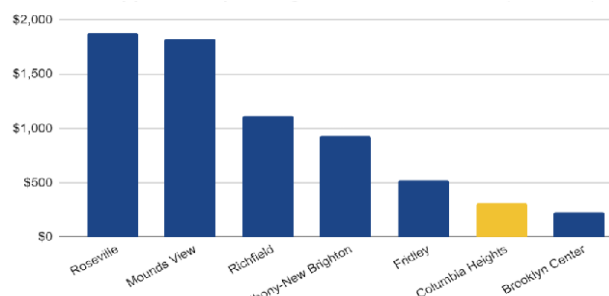
We have a Strategic Plan to increase students' academic achievement and career/college readiness, and effectively manage our human, financial and physical resources on behalf of our students, staff and community members.

We are fortunate to have incredible staff, families and community members that support us as we do our best for each and every Columbia Heights Public Schools student.

Finance Facts

- The school district's operating levy is nearly **\$1,100 per student below the metro average**, giving us less funding to support our students in their classrooms.
- For nearly two decades, **state education funding has not kept pace with inflation**. If it had, Columbia Heights Public Schools would receive nearly \$3 million more next year alone.
- The CHPS general operating budget was used for nearly \$4 million of our special education expenses this year - expenses that are supposed to be covered by the state and federal governments. That's **\$4 million that cannot be used to cover other important needs** for our students and our staff.
- Based on these and other financial pressures, **we have cut more than \$6.5 million** from our operating budget since 2015.

Voter-Approved Operating Levies, Per-Student (2022-2023)



Our school district has one of the lowest voter-approved operating levies of neighboring and comparable school districts, giving the district less funding for student & classroom needs. We have not asked voters to increase our operating levy since 2005.

