

# 2024 CAPE HENLOPEN SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM



## Fact Sheet - May Referendum

On May 21, 2024, residents of the Cape Henlopen School District will decide whether to increase school funding through a community referendum. The District is asking for support in raising the current operating expense tax to help alleviate increasing costs associated with the growing student population. The District was also granted a Certificate of Necessity by the State of Delaware, for a 100% locally funded project that includes land purchase, construction of a new District Office, and a Bus Maintenance Facility.

### DID YOU KNOW...

Over the last three years, the District has had an average growth of 200 students per year. The University of Delaware conservatively estimates by 2030 that there will be 7,003 students in the District. As of 2023 there are 6,587 students. If we continue to grow at the average rate at which we are currently, we could have 7,787 students by 2030.

## WHAT WILL BE ON THE BALLOT?

### ONE QUESTION

Request to increase the current expense and debt service tax rate to address the need for space at Cape Henlopen High School and the ongoing costs associated with a growing student body population.

**If approved**, the operating expense increase will provide funds that the District will use for ongoing costs associated with operating a growing school district. This portion will account for nearly 80% of the overall tax increase and will help pay for the following:

- ▶ Safety and security features
- ▶ Personnel salaries and benefits
- ▶ Rising costs of utilities and building maintenance costs
- ▶ Instructional materials and supplies
- ▶ Technology
- ▶ Bus maintenance

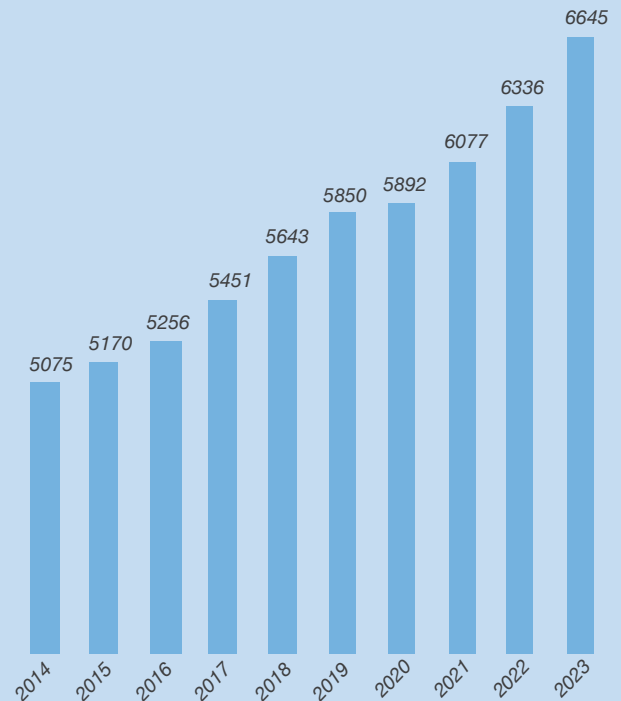
The debt service increase would generate funds that would provide the District the ability to create more space for Cape Henlopen High School's rapid growth.

### Debt Service funds would be used for the following:

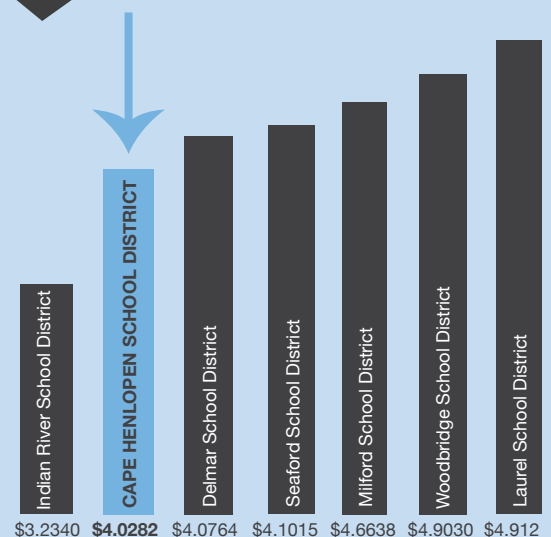
- ▶ Land purchase for relocating the District Office to make room for the expansion of Cape Henlopen High School
- ▶ Transportation/Bus Maintenance Facility

### Moving the District Office will allow for:

- ▶ Expansion of Cape High School's Classroom space
- ▶ Additional parking for Cape Henlopen High School



Cape is one of seven school districts in Sussex County, and has the second lowest tax rate.



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### TAX IMPACT



The estimated tax impact on the average homeowner (based on per \$100 of assessed value) would be \$12.81 per month. The rate would increase slightly each year beginning in 2025, peaking in 2027, and decreasing each year following as bonds are paid off.

Fiscal Year	Cumulative Tax Increase	Annual Tax Rate Impact	Annual Cumulative Tax Impact	Monthly Cumulative Tax Impact
2025	\$0.305 <i>Operating expense only</i>	\$85.42	\$85.42	\$7.12
2026	\$0.328 <i>+2.3 cents (debt service)</i>	\$6.44	\$91.86	\$7.66
2027	\$0.391 <i>Peak year +6.3 cents (debt service)</i>	\$17.64	\$109.50	\$9.13
2028	\$0.284	-\$29.97	\$79.53	\$6.63
2029	\$0.260	-\$6.72	\$72.81	\$6.07

### VOTER INFORMATION

Polls will be open from 7:00AM - 8:00PM on **May 21, 2024**.

You can vote in the election if you:

- Live in the Cape Henlopen School District
- Are at least 18-years old
- Are a citizen of the USA & Delaware
- Show proof of identity & address (Driver's license/State ID)
- You do not need to own property or be registered to vote
- You may request an absentee ballot if unable to attend

\*Polling Locations:

Cape Henlopen High School  
1250 Kings Highway  
Lewes, DE 19958

Lewes Public Library  
111 Adams Avenue  
Lewes, DE 19958

Beacon Middle School  
19483 John J Williams Hwy  
Lewes, DE 19958

Mariner Middle School  
16391 Harbeson Road  
Milton, DE 19968

Rehoboth Elementary School  
500 Stockley Street  
Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

\*All decisions regarding voting locations is determined by the Delaware Department of Elections. Additional machines have been added to each polling location.

\*The rate increases are based on assessed property value, not market value. To find your assessed value, please reference your tax bill. Visit our Tax Calculator webpage ([www.capehenlopenschools.com/tax-calculator](http://www.capehenlopenschools.com/tax-calculator)) and input the value listed under Assessed Value from your bill into the appropriate line in the calculator, and click "Calculate My Tax Impact". Your results will appear in the annual and monthly increase fields. If you do not have a copy of your latest tax bill, you can find it on the Sussex County's Property Tax website.

## LEARN MORE AND VOTE MAY 21, 2024



Scan the QR Code to Visit Our Website  
[capehenlopenschools.com/referendum2024](http://capehenlopenschools.com/referendum2024)



Email Us  
[communications@cape.k12.de.us](mailto:communications@cape.k12.de.us)



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