



**MONTICELLO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Independent School District No. 882

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## **Breaking Down School Finance and the 2020 Referendum, plus a New COVID-19 Dashboard**

**Dear Monticello Families,**

As you are aware, Monticello School District will have a [referendum](#) on the ballot this November 3. We've put together a website with all relevant information thus far, including a story, fact sheet, tax impact, and more. But we also felt it was our duty to share with our families, and the community at large, some more information about school finance.

That's why I wanted to share [this video](#) with you today, featuring information about the 2020 referendum as well as a general overview of education finance. With the help of Business Manager Tina Burkholder, we discuss education revenue, expenditures, Monticello's recent history, and a look at the future, as we try to help families understand why we have a referendum on the ballot in the midst of a pandemic. I hope you are able to take a few minutes out of your day to learn about this very important topic. Please know that we are also preparing to share a comprehensive document showing where and why the money will be spent, as well as details about what will be cut if this referendum doesn't pass. We will make that document available to families and the community at large next week.

Speaking of important topics, I'm also pleased to introduce a [COVID-19 Cases Dashboard](#) that will help increase the transparency regarding COVID-19 in Monticello School District. We will update these numbers every Thursday to reflect new and total cases of COVID-19 among employees and students in ISD 882. This information is used in conjunction with Wright County numbers, Monticello numbers, and more, as we make school decisions on a weekly basis.

On that topic, the newest data from Wright County has our county COVID case rate at 19.44. While this is an uptick in cases from the last two weeks, it allows us to continue moving forward in our same instructional models. We are pleased with the lack of spread within the school district so far, and we continue to ask staff and students to please take proper health precautions to keep our school community healthy and serve as role models throughout Wright County.

If you'd like any additional information, regarding COVID-19, the levy, or more, please join us at one of my Coffee Chats this Saturday morning! I'm holding one from 9 to 10:15 a.m. at Ellison Park and a second one from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the Monticello Township Parking Lot. I would love to see you there!

Thank you,

Superintendent Eric Olson

