



## REFERENDUM FACTS AND INFORMATION

- QPS's Education Fund Tax Rate ranks 49<sup>th</sup> out of 49 LUDA (Large Unit District Association) districts.
- QPS is the only LUDA district still using the state imposed \$1.84 Education Fund Tax Rate, which was established in 1988.
- QPS's Education Fund Tax rate is more than 73% lower than Jacksonville, Moline, and Rock Island.
- QPS's Education Fund Tax rate is more than 48% lower than Galesburg.
- QPS's Education Fund Tax Rate is also lower than Barry, Bowen, Payson, and Mendon.
- QPS has had 143 certified employees resign over the past 3 years (43 in 2019, 53 in 2018, and 47 in 2017).
- According to the Evidence-Based Funding Model, the state owes QPS an additional \$22M annually to be considered 100% funded. QPS is currently funded at 72% by the State of Illinois.
- QPS started 2017-18 with 13.5 unfilled positions and started 2018-19 with 21.5 unfilled positions (without permanent certified employees). However, QPS was creative and temporarily filled these positions with retired teacher, long-term substitutes, CBE Teachers, etc. Only 3.5 positions were truly unfilled all year for both years. This number consisted of school psychologists and school social workers.
- In July of 2017, the state of Illinois was behind two categorical payments and the state budget had not been passed. There was a threat that QPS would not receive its General State Aid payments. At that time, the state owed QPS \$2.9M in back payments. QPS was able to open its doors and operate only on local property taxes. Loan options were considered to keep QPS doors open.
- QPS has issues with behavior and disruption in some classrooms in our schools. These issues affect the other students, parents, our team members, and the community's confidence in the district's ability to provide top tier education inside our classrooms and buildings.

***If these trends continue, the board feels we will be forced to hire teachers that we do not want in our classrooms educating our students.***

- The board has focused on the school district's leadership positions. The board has total confidence in our leadership at all levels.
- Superintendent Webb has led by example and has committed to be the QPS superintendent until he retires.
- QPS does not have an option to increase revenue; therefore, the alternative is to cut expenditures.
- QPS has reduced our FTE head count at central office (executives) by 3.
- QPS has cut payroll at central office by approximately \$286K.
- The district asked all buildings to cut expenditures and the result was a total cost reduction of \$1.8 million.
- Our new buildings have increased efficiencies and have reduced costs.
- The QPS building project was 2 years ahead of schedule, and the district finished with approximately \$1.8 million in unused funds.
- In 2013, QPS's total tax rate was \$4.13. Today, the QPS total tax rate is \$3.95.
- The community shows faith in the decisions of the current board through two uncontested board election.