



What is the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)?

The Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) is a voter-approved funding source that Iowa school districts may use for facilities, infrastructure, and equipment. PPEL funds are restricted by state law and may only be used for specific purposes related to maintaining and improving school buildings and long-term learning environments.

The district's current voter-approved PPEL has been in place at a \$1.34/\$1,000 assessed valuation. Voters are being asked to renew the existing funding source for another 10 years. This vote will take place on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, and **renewing the levy will NOT increase the property tax rate.**

Under Iowa law, PPEL funds may be used for:

- School building construction, renovations, and repairs
- Safety and security improvements
- Roofing, HVAC, plumbing, and electrical systems
- Technology infrastructure and equipment
- Buses and transportation equipment
- Furniture and other long-term equipment
- These investments support the physical spaces where learning happens and help the district plan responsibly for long-term needs.

PPEL funds cannot be used for:

- Teacher or staff salaries
- Classroom instructional materials
- Day-to-day operating expenses

Why is the PPEL Fund Important and how has PPEL been used at CAM?

At CAM Community School District, PPEL funding helps ensure our schools remain safe, functional, and equipped to support student learning today and into the future. Our district is supported by our community with approximately \$730,000 each school year through our voter-approved PPEL, which has allowed our district to fund building improvements and maintenance without requiring the district to hold any debt obligations. Without the PPEL funds, many things that keep the District running would need to be paid for out of the District's general fund, which also covers teacher salaries and programs for our students. It would mean making decisions to reduce staff and student programs by \$730,000 to take care of our physical plant and equipment needs.

With voter support, PPEL has helped fund:

- Secured entrances in both our Elementary and Jr/Sr High buildings
- Carpeting, tiling, and classroom improvements in both buildings
- Roof and drain repair when the commons flooded at CAM Jr/Sr High
- Ventilator, blower, and boiler repairs to both buildings, including a major repair at CAM Elementary

In addition to special projects, this fund also supports day to day and annual maintenance costs and technology items. Below are just a few of the items that this fund supports:

- Necessary equipment items such as printers and copiers
- Boiler, HVAC, electrical and other ongoing maintenance and upkeep in our buildings
- Technology including teacher and student computer devices and classroom monitors
- Security software and technology to keep our students and our buildings safe
- Buses and other transportation-related equipment

What work remains to be done using PPEL Funds?

The District previously had been deferring maintenance on key projects as they navigated prior bond referendum proposals. This has had an impact on our facilities, and addressing aging infrastructure is now an urgent priority. Both of our student attendance centers are in dire need of stabilization and basic improvements. All of our major building systems such as plumbing, electrical, and HVAC need to be updated and maintained. Roofing, sidewalks, parking lots, playgrounds, and athletic facilities are all in need of repairs and/or renovation. Restrooms are not adequate in number, square footage, or ADA compliance. Our students deserve climate-controlled, healthy environments to learn and grow.

Why is extending PPEL important?

Extending PPEL allows the district to:

- Plan responsibly for long-term facility needs
- Avoid higher borrowing costs
- Maintain buildings before repairs become more expensive
- Protect previous community investments

Continuity helps the district manage facilities in a fiscally responsible way.

How long would the PPEL extension last?

If approved, the extension would authorize PPEL for an additional 10 years, consistent with previous voter approvals.

Will this vote increase my tax rate?

No. This vote does not increase the tax rate. It simply allows CAM to continue collecting the same voter-approved levy already in place.

Voting on March 3, 2026

On March 3, 2026, voters will be asked to approve an extension of the existing PPEL levy. Voting Centers will be open from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Massena residents will vote at the Massena Public Library. Cumberland and Anita residents will vote at their usual polling location.

This vote:

- Extends the current PPEL authority
- Does not create a new tax
- Does not increase the tax rate

The following language is what will be on the March 3, 2026 ballot:

Shall the Board of Directors of the CAM Community School District in the County of Cass, State of Iowa, be authorized to continue for a period of ten (10) years, to levy annually, as determined by the Board, a voter-approved physical plant and equipment property tax not to exceed \$1.34 per one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) of the taxable valuation of the taxable property within the school district for the purpose of purchasing and improving grounds; constructing schoolhouses or buildings and opening roads to schoolhouses or buildings; purchasing of buildings; purchase, lease or lease-purchase of technology and equipment; paying debts contracted for the erection or construction of schoolhouses or buildings, not including interest on bonds; procuring or acquisition of libraries; repairing, remodeling, reconstructing, improving, or expanding the schoolhouses or buildings and additions to existing schoolhouses; expenditures for energy conservation; renting facilities under Iowa Code Chapter 28E; purchasing transportation equipment for transporting students; lease purchase option agreements for school buildings or equipment; purchasing equipment authorized by law; or for any purpose or purposes now or hereafter authorized by law, commencing with the levy for collection in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2028, to be used for the purposes permitted by Iowa law?

How can I learn more?

Please reach out to Superintendent Pam Stangeland at pstangeland@cam.k12.ia.us or contact any of the CAM CSD School Board Members.