

The Greeley Tribune

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Report highlights crumbling schools; Ault makes list

January 4, 2007

By Chris Casey

Ault is among the school districts highlighted on a new online report about crumbling school buildings in Colorado.

The comprehensive study commissioned by the Donnell-Kay Foundation estimates Colorado's school construction and maintenance needs at between \$5.7 billion and \$10 billion, including about \$1.5 million to replace Ault's 50-year-old middle school.

Voters in the Ault-Highland Re-9 School District in November approved a mill-levy override that will relieve some of the needs, but not all of them. Much of the override will go to operating costs such as teacher salaries.

The online report says that one way to help address these school construction needs would be for the state to raise the "severance tax" on companies that extract oil or gas from Colorado. Currently, Colorado's severance tax is substantially lower than other western states.

To view the report, go online to <http://www.crumblingclassrooms.com>.

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