

FINANCIAL STATE OF THE DISTRICT

As we conclude another successful school year, we want to update our community on the District's financial outlook.

Our District has long prioritized responsible stewardship of the resources our community has generously provided us. Through careful budgeting, responsible spending practices and ongoing efforts to improve operational efficiency, the **District is projected to finish the 2025-26 fiscal year in a stable financial position.**

STATEWIDE FUNDING CHALLENGES

While our year-end financial outlook remains solid, the District continues to face the same long-term fiscal challenges that affect school districts across the state. State funding has not kept pace with inflation, with rising costs in every area of operation, including:

- Classroom supplies and instructional materials
- Special education and student services
- Employee salaries and benefits
- Utilities and transportation
- Facility maintenance
- Life-safety systems and infrastructure
- Property and liability insurance

In the fall, our community responded to our District-wide survey. **Based on your feedback, the Board of Education will continue to discuss and finalize an operational referendum renewal proposal adjusted to \$3.95 million.** This process ensures our school funding matches today's economic reality while maintaining the high-quality education and staff our community expects.

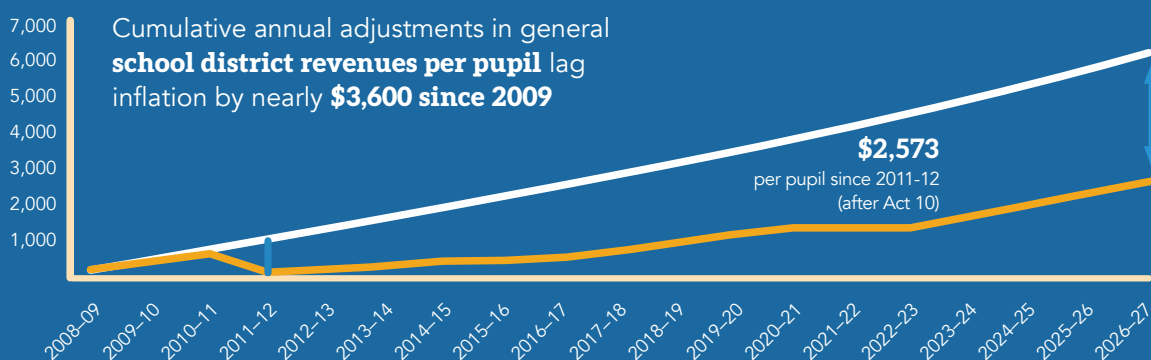
BALANCING RESOURCES AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Over the past several years, the District has worked diligently to manage these inflationary pressures. We have been careful with expenditures, sought operational efficiencies and identified opportunities to share costs with our partner schools while prioritizing anything that directly impacted student experience. Additionally, our community has generously supported two consecutive four-year operational referendums, with the current referendum set to expire at the end of the 2026-27 school year. Operational referendums directly support the day-to-day educational experience of students by helping our District:

- Retain and attract exceptional teachers and staff
- Maintain small class sizes and personalized learning opportunities
- Preserve academic programs, student supports and extracurricular opportunities
- Continue protecting and maintaining the community's investment in our school facilities

In the 2025-26 school year, **operational referendum funds** represented approximately **19.5% of the district's operating revenue.**

These efforts have allowed us to deliver the high-quality educational experience our community expects while staying competitive in attracting new families and retaining our amazing teachers and staff.



Source: Kava, Russ (September 12, 2025) Legislative Fiscal Bureau Memo re: Revenue Limit Per Pupil Adjustment Indexed to Inflation; WASBO Calculations

**\$3,571
PER PUPIL**

IMPLICATION: Buying power for each student is lower than it was in 2008-2009

— Indexed to CPI
— ACTUAL

SOURCE: Legislative Fiscal Bureau

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead, we are currently projecting a budget deficit due to the expiration of our operational referendum at the end of the 2026-27 school year, and the ongoing statewide reality that school funding has not kept pace with the soaring costs of running a school district.

While we will continue to budget carefully, manage our staffing footprint efficiently and find operational savings, **maintaining our high-quality educational experience, supporting our excellent staff, and protecting the community's investment in our facilities will require continued local partnership.**

This summer, following the clear direction from our community-wide survey, the Board of Education will continue to discuss and finalize an operational referendum renewal proposal adjusted to \$3.95 million. **This adjustment is designed solely to protect our current classroom standards, staffing and maintain the exact same purchasing power against years of cumulative inflation.** The Board expects to finalize the specific ballot language later this summer for the upcoming ballot in November 2026.

Nearly **nine out of ten Wisconsin school districts (87%)** rely on **operational referendum funding.**

We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our community. Together, we have built a top-performing District that provides exceptional education opportunities, and we are committed to continuing this legacy.

Later this summer, we'll share more information on social media and our website about how to participate in upcoming referendum learning sessions. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the District's finances, please contact me at kwiesner@foxbay.org.

Kathleen Wiesner
Director of Business Services

