

State of Our Schools: Strong Foundation, Bright Future

****Welcome statement**** Briefly Mention survey result highlights”??

We want to provide our community with an update on the “state of our schools”—highlighting both the challenges we face and the inspiring progress being made.

In 2023, the state legislature approved increased school funding but also imposed new mandates—many of which came with either one-time, partial, or sunseting financial support. The 2025 legislative special session ended in June with key questions still unanswered about how districts like ours will fund these ongoing obligations with little or no sustained aid in the future.

Fortunately, our district’s conservative financial approach—along with strong community support in recent referendums—has positioned us well. Thanks to this stability, we’ve continued to fund critical educational strategies, maintain small class sizes, avoid staff reductions, invest in new programs, and keep tax rates reasonable for residents.

This didn’t happen overnight. Over the past decade, the school board and administration have implemented thoughtful, long-term financial strategies. Each year, we conduct comprehensive budgeting, strategic reviews, and partner with financial committees to ensure wise resource allocation.

This careful planning balances the needs of students, staff, and taxpayers. It reflects the values of our community—prioritizing academic excellence, fiscal responsibility, and long-term sustainability. Our success stems from disciplined budgeting, cost controls, strong union partnerships, and the continued generosity of our community through tax dollars, volunteering, and support.

As we look ahead to the new school year, we recognize that challenges remain. However, our strong foundation and continued commitment to the Referendum goal of five years of financial stability position Eden Prairie Schools to deliver high-quality education while navigating ongoing fiscal headwinds.

Thank you for your ongoing trust and support. Together, we will continue to create exceptional opportunities to inspire each student.