

## **Inspiring News, September 2025**

### **State of Our Schools: Strong Foundation, Bright Future**

As we begin the 2025-2026 school year, we want to provide our community with an update on the “state of our schools.” We’ve made a lot of inspiring progress while facing and overcoming external challenges.

In 2023, the state legislature approved increased school funding but also imposed new mandates. Many of these 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 from the state in the future.

Fortunately, our district’s conservative financial approach—along with historically receiving strong community support in 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. A recent poll of residents found 96% felt the school district provides a good value for the investment made in our schools. (Scan this QR code to learn more about how our district is maintaining high levels of trust and engagement with our community. [Comms team to pull clip of Peter’s presentation and post online.] )

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 from local businesses.

As we look ahead to the new year, we recognize that challenges remain. However, our strong foundation and continued commitment to the promise 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.

Go Eagles!

The Eden Prairie School Board