

DATE: September 21, 2026

TITLE: Certification of Property Tax Levy 2026 Payable 2027

TYPE: Action

PRESENTER: Todd Lechtenberg, Executive Director of Finance & Operations

Background:

By September 30, 2026, the School Board must certify the proposed levy for property taxes payable in 2027. The levy limit is determined by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and is based on Minnesota Statutes as well as information supplied by each district relating to referendum authority, enrollment, and intent to participate in various programs. The levy limit indicated in the recommendation is based on information provided by MDE.

Rationale:

The 2026 Pay 2027 Proposed Property Tax levy reflects an increase of 9.72% as of Thursday September 17, 2026. The specific dollar amount of the Levy will be approved by the School Board at the December 14, 2026 meeting.

The Truth in Taxation hearing will be held at 6:01 pm on December 14, 2026 in the Austin High School Annex Recital Hall. This hearing includes a presentation walking through the levy and changes that resulted in the final levy to be certified. The School Board will approve the final levy through official action following the hearing.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the School Board certify the 2026 Pay 2027 Proposed Property Tax Levy at the "Maximum."