



Preliminary Levy 2026 Payable 2027 for FY 28

Presented By:
Pam Carman, Director of Finance & Operations

September 28, 2026

Purpose of the Preliminary Levy

Tonight's Board Action

- Minnesota school districts certify a proposed property tax levy each September for taxes payable the following year.
- The proposed certification establishes the levy used for Truth-in-Taxation notices and the December final levy process.
- Administration recommends certifying at the maximum authorized amount to preserve flexibility as MDE and county adjustments are finalized.

Proposed levy certification is due by September 30.



How Minnesota School Funding Works

Levy is one part of the district's revenue system



Property values, pupil units, equalization formulas, prior-year adjustments, and debt schedules can all change the local levy from year to year.



Levy Categories



Voter-Approved Levies

Approved by our community



Operating Referendum



Capital Projects Levy



Debt Service Bonds



Legislatively Authorized Levies

Allowed by state statute



**Long-term Facilities
Maintenance (LTFM)**



Safe Schools



**Lease Levies and other
miscellaneous categories**



Factors Affecting the Levy



Property Values Changes

Growth or decline
in net tax capacity



Enrollment / Adjusted Pupil Units (APUs)

Drives aid
and equalization



State Aid & Equalization

Shifts in state formulas
and aid levels



Inflation & Cost Pressures

Influence future
budget needs



Property Tax Calendar



Key Dates



* Preliminary Levy Certification: September of each year

** Final Levy Certification: December of each year along with Truth-in-Taxation Hearing



Levy Comparison and Overview

Proposed Preliminary Levy

2026 Payable 2027 for FY 28

A fiscally responsible plan to support our students and community.



\$22,069,666

Total Proposed
Preliminary Levy



1.2%

Overall Increase
from Prior Year



\$256,849

Dollar Amount Increase
from Prior Year



Levy Comparison and Overview

Proposed Preliminary Levy 2026 Payable 2027 for FY 28

Comparison of Actual Tax Levy Payable in 2026 to Proposed Levy Payable in 2027 for FY28

Fund Levy Category	Actual Levy Payable in 2026	Proposed Levy Payable in 2027	\$ Change	% Change
	FY27	FY28	FY27 to Proposed FY28	FY27 to Proposed FY28
Adjusted Pupil Unit Original Assumption	4,107			
Adjusted Pupil Unit (EST) - Updated Estimate	4,126	4,030		
Adjusted Pupil Unit (PRE) - Preliminary Actual (2025-26)				
Adjusted Pupil Unit (ACT) - Final Actual (2024-25)				
General Fund (Fund 01)				
Operating Referendum	\$ 7,756,577	\$ 7,820,067	\$ 63,490	0.8%
Local Optional	\$ 2,973,583	\$ 2,900,679	\$ (72,904)	-2.5%
Equity	\$ 361,687	\$ 317,340	\$ (44,347)	-12.3%
Operating Capital	\$ 480,270	\$ 516,747	\$ 36,477	7.6%
Reemployment Insurance	\$ 20,000	\$ 33,000	\$ 13,000	65.0%
Safe Schools	\$ 147,848	\$ 145,093	\$ (2,755)	-1.9%
Safe Schools Intermediary	\$ 12,896	\$ 12,655	\$ (241)	-1.9%
Career and Technical	\$ 162,309	\$ 170,924	\$ 8,614	5.3%
Annual Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)	\$ 20,253	\$ 20,000	\$ (253)	-1.2%
Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM)	\$ 675,820	\$ 709,989	\$ 34,169	5.1%
Intermediate Lease Limit	\$ -	\$ 31,585	\$ 31,585	
Building/Land Lease	\$ 644,363	\$ 514,546	\$ (129,817)	-20.1%
Adjustments and Abatements	\$ (655,249)	\$ (112,732)	\$ 542,516	-82.8%
General Fund Total Levy	\$ 12,600,368	\$ 13,079,894	\$ 479,526	3.8%



Levy Comparison and Overview

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Adjusted Pupil Unit (ACT) - Final Actual (2024-25)				
Community Service (Fund 04)				
Basic Community Education	\$ 159,401	\$ 170,934	\$ 11,533	7.2%
Early Childhood Education	\$ 90,248	\$ 98,010	\$ 7,762	8.6%
Home Visting	\$ 4,434	\$ 4,610	\$ 176	4.0%
Adults with Disabilities	\$ 2,548	\$ 2,732	\$ 184	7.2%
School-age Care	\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	\$ -	0.0%
Adjustments and Abatements	\$ 22,511	\$ (3,029)	\$ (25,540)	-113.5%
Community Service Fund Total Levy	\$ 339,142	\$ 333,258	\$ (5,884)	-1.7%
Debt Service Fund (Fund 07)				
Voter-Approved Debt Service	\$ 7,416,577	\$ 7,412,325	\$ (4,252)	-0.1%
Non-Voter Approved Debt Service	\$ 1,921,479	\$ 1,925,322	\$ 3,843	0.2%
Adjustments and Abatements	\$ (464,748)	\$ (681,133)	\$ (216,385)	46.6%
Debt Service Fund Total Levy	\$ 8,873,308	\$ 8,656,515	\$ (216,793)	-2.4%
Total Property Tax Levy All Funds	\$ 21,812,818	\$ 22,069,666	\$ 256,849	1.2%



Levy Comparison and Overview

Key Factors Impacting the Change

Three areas drive the overall change in the proposed levy.



Lease Levy

 **\$129,817**
DECREASE

\$644,363 2025 Payable 2026 (FY 27)	→	\$514,546 2026 Payable 2027 (FY 28)
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Adjustments

 **\$300,591**
INCREASE

Adjustment Detail by Fund

\$542,516 General Fund Increase	(\$25,540) Community Ed Decrease	(\$216,793) Debt Excess Decrease
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Debt Excess

 **\$216,793**
DECREASE

\$8,873,308 2025 Payable 2026 (FY 27)	→	\$8,656,515 2026 Payable 2027 (FY 28)
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Total Proposed Levy Increase

\$256,849

1.2%

Reflects a 1.2% increase from the prior year.



Budget & Levy Adoption Calendar

Qtr - Yr	Q3 - 2026			Q4 - 2026			Q1 - 2027			Q2 - 2027			Q3 - 2027			Q4 - 2027		
Month	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
 Audit		Audit 2025-26												Audit 2026-27				
 Levy			Prelim Levy*			Levy Cert**									Prelim Levy*			Levy Cert**
 Enrollment				Enrollment												Enrollment		
 Budget							2026-27 Revised Budget			2027-28 Adopted Budget							2027-28 Revised Budget	



* **Preliminary Levy Certification:** September of each year

** **Final Levy Certification:** December of each year along with Truth-in-Taxation Hearing



Next Steps

- Board certifies the preliminary levy
- Hold Truth-in-Taxation hearing to present final figures and receive public comment - **November 30, 2026 at 7:00 pm**
- Board adopts the final 2025 Payable 2026 levy on December 14, 2026.



Recommendation

Administration recommends certifying the Preliminary 2026 Payable 2027 Levy at the maximum to ensure the district retains full flexibility before final adoption in December.





Questions?

Headline

Subhead

Text

