



622 FORWARD

Investing in a thriving future

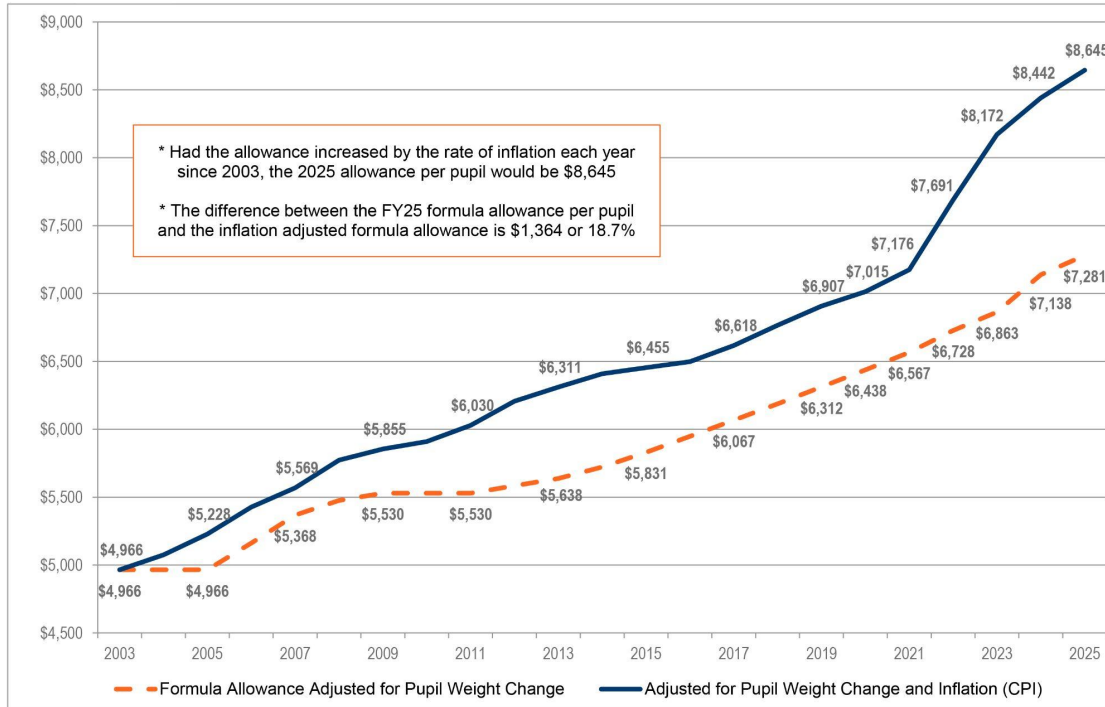
2026 Referendum

622forward.org

Why are many Minnesota school districts asking their communities for additional funding?



General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2025 Adjusted for Pupil Weight Change and Inflation (CPI)

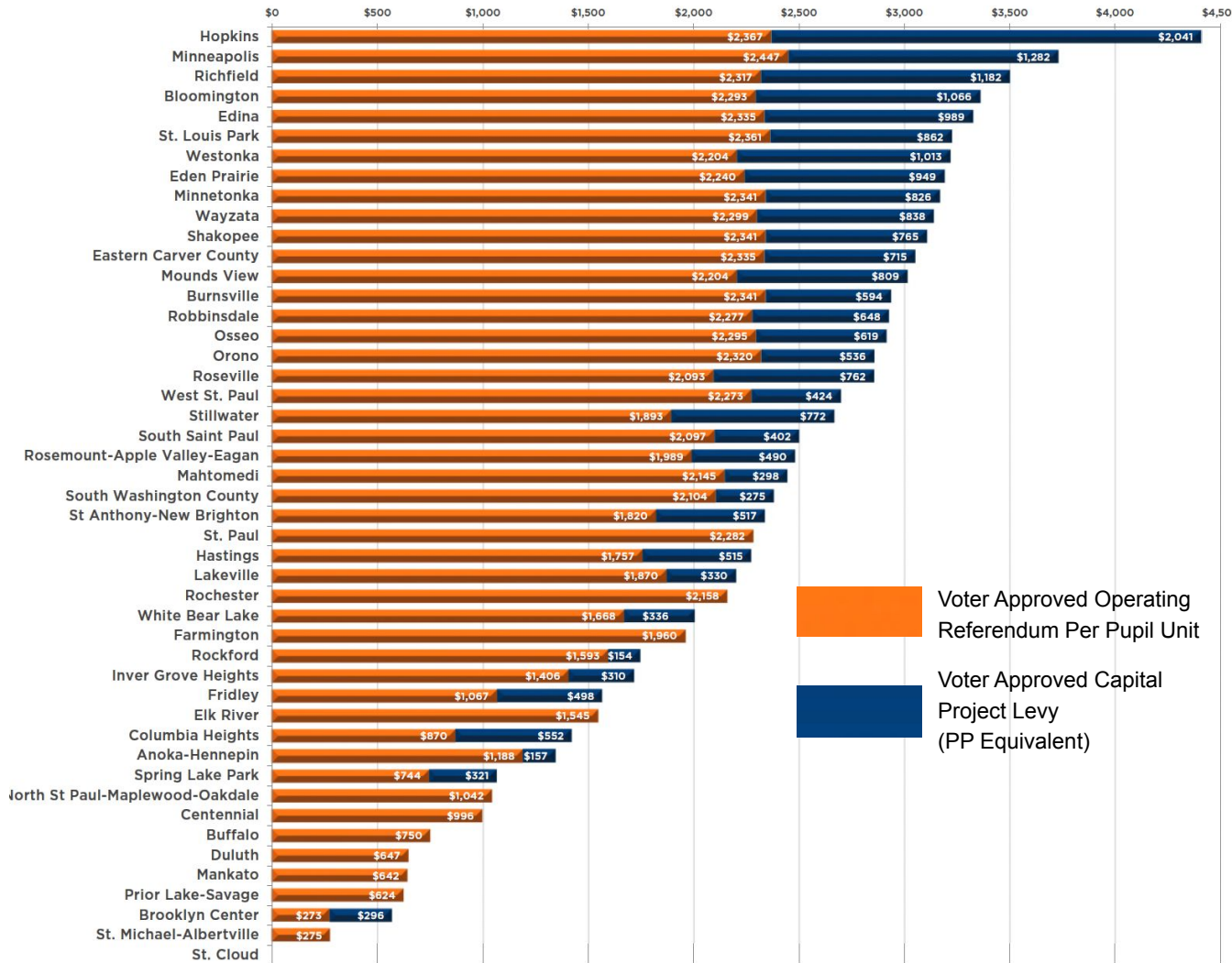


Informational Video



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wydkQIL_vYM

Source: MN Association of School Administrators



Current Voter Approved Authority Per Pupil 2026

 Voter Approved Operating
Referendum Per Pupil Unit

 Voter Approved Capital
Project Levy
(PP Equivalent)

AMSD
Association of Metropolitan
School Districts

Current Per Pupil Levy Allocation Among Neighboring School Districts

ISD 622 vs neighboring districts



Over the past three years, ISD 622 has absorbed
over **\$15 million in budget cuts.**

Budget Shortfalls Impact Opportunities

Spring 2026 Budget Cuts	\$4 Million
Spring 2025 Budget Cuts	\$7 Million
Spring 2024 Budget Cuts	\$4 Million
Three Year Total Reductions	\$15 Million

\$15 Million in Cuts In Three Years

Administrators	Teachers	Nurses
Custodians	Security Staff	Paraprofessionals
Clerical	Technology Staff & Devices	Behavior Support
Grant Support	Instructional Coaches	Field Trips
Athletics	Curricular Resources	Facilities & Grounds
Communications	Intervention Teachers	Mental Health Staff

Budget Cuts Increase Class Sizes

Grades K-5	Classrooms with 27-29 Students	Classrooms with More Than 30 Students
2024-25	23	4
2025-26	29	9
2026-27	36	12

Middle and High School Sections

Over the past three years, our average class sizes at secondary have increased from 28 to 33, with many classes now approaching 40 students per class.

Responsible Financial Stewardship

Energy Savings

Waste Reduction

Strong Financial Audits

Strategic Procurement & Strategic Sourcing

Competitive Bidding & Cost Containment

One Question

\$800 per pupil Increase Operating Levy

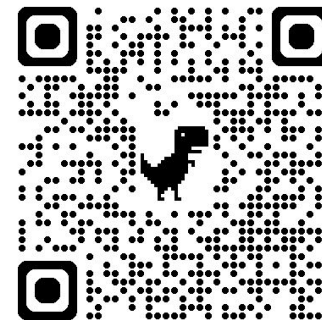
Purpose: To maintain class sizes and essential student programs, retain high-quality staff and protect effective safety and security systems.

Operating Levy Increase

Current	If Question #1 Passes
\$1,042 per pupil	\$1,842 per pupil
\$350,000 home	\$21 month tax increase

ISD 622 has not increased
the local operating levy in
ten years (2016)

[Tax Impact Calculator](#)



Insert Sample Ballot Language

**School District Question 1
Approval of School District
Referendum Revenue Authorization**

The school board of Independent School District No. 622 (North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale) has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$800 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten years beginning with taxes payable in 2027, and increase each year by the rate of inflation beginning with taxes payable in 2028, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

☐

Yes

Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 622 be approved?

☐

No

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE
VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

Why This Matters - FOR EVERYONE

**Strong public schools are the foundation of a strong community.
Here's why:**

Strong Communities: Quality schools protect property values, attract families and businesses and reduce long-term social costs.

Responsible Stewardship: For over a decade, 622 has stretched every dollar to serve our 11,000 students despite a widening gap between state funding and the increasing cost to operate schools.

Excellent Education: 622 has maintained a high-quality experience for students despite limited funding.

Private Schools: Per state statute, District 622 provides services for local private schools including: transportation, nurses, counselors, and special education services.

Where Do I Vote??

Polling Information by County

[Ramsey County](#)

[Washington County](#)



FYI - Also on the November Ballot:

MN Permanent School Funding Proposed Constitutional Amendment

What is the Permanent School Fund?

Sustained by Minnesota's Natural Wealth

Minnesota's Permanent School Fund (PSF) is one of the oldest sources of funding for public education in our state.

Constitutionally established in 1858 when public lands were set aside specifically to support public education, Minnesota's Permanent School Fund (PSF) is built upon proceeds from public lands. Rather than a one-time spending account, it acts as a permanent endowment, continually generating revenue from Minnesota's natural resources.

1858

DATING BACK TO STATEHOOD

Constitutionally established trust fund created when public lands were set aside specifically to support public education.

WHO MANAGES THE LANDS AND FUND?

Several state agencies work together to manage the Permanent School Fund.

MN Department of Natural Resources

Manages school trust lands and generates revenue from those lands.

State Board of Investment

Invests the assets of the Permanent School Fund.

Permanent School Fund:
lands and trust

MN Department of Education
Distributes annual payments to public school districts and charter schools.



Together, these entities help ensure the trust remains productive while supporting Minnesota students.

\$2.3 B

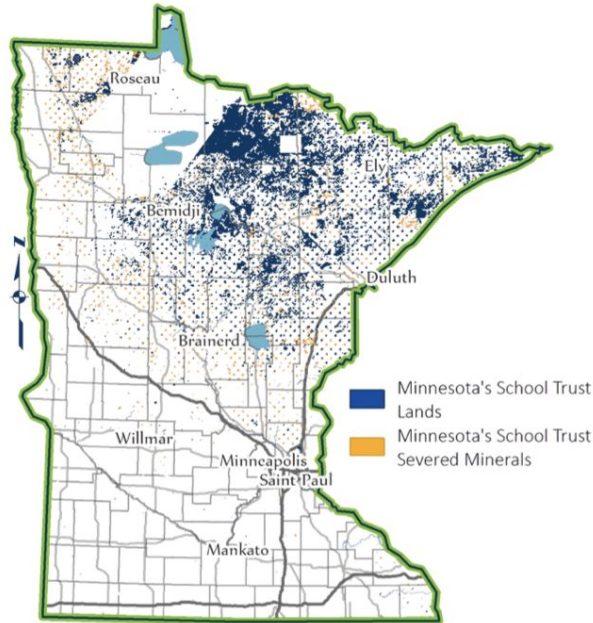
CURRENT FUND VALUE

A massive, growing financial asset managed by the Minnesota State Board of Investment.



MINNESOTA'S PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND

Where are the school trust lands?



- 92% of trust lands are located in ten northern Minnesota counties due to state sale of most southern trust lands during the 1800s to promote agriculture.
- Lands include forests, grasslands, farmlands used for grazing and crop production, construction aggregate, and mineral production.
- A significant portion of of current trust lands are wetlands that are low-lying and inaccessible.



The Limits of the Current System

Despite the fund growing to over \$2.3 billion, the way money is distributed to school districts is tightly restricted by historical rules inside the Minnesota Constitution. These rules have not evolved with modern accounting and trust distribution practices and are inhibiting disbursements to Minnesota's public schools.

① "INTEREST & DIVIDENDS" RESTRICTION

This land is managed by the DNR, while the accumulated funding capital is invested in diversified portfolios by the State Board of Investment (SBI).

② UNPREDICTABLE ANNUAL FUNDING

Interest and dividend income is highly volatile and fluctuates year-to-year based on market yields, leaving school districts unable to predict or rely on stable fund distributions for budget planning.

THE MODEST RESULT TODAY

Despite the multi-billion dollar size of the asset, current constitutional rules suppress distributions to Minnesota public schools:

TOTAL AVERAGE
STATEWIDE PAYOUT
2025

\$58M

AVERAGE ANNUAL
PER PUPIL 2025

\$68

IF PROPOSED AMENDMENT WERE IN PLACE IN 2025

TOTAL AVERAGE
STATEWIDE PAYOUT
IN 2025 COULD
HAVE BEEN
INCREASED TO:

\$86M

AVERAGE ANNUAL
PER PUPIL IN 2025
COULD HAVE BEEN
INCREASED BY:

\$33



MINNESOTA'S PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND

The Proposed Amendment

Key 2026 Legislative Actions

The proposed changes are built on robust, bipartisan policy recommendations designed to better leverage public assets for Minnesota education.

A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION

Based directly on findings from a nonpartisan legislative task force convened in 2024. The task force concluded that the current constitutional formula severely limits the fund's overall impact and distribution potential.

BIPARTISAN HOUSE FILE 3900 / SF3593

Passed overwhelmingly in the 2026 Minnesota Legislative Session to put the question directly to state voters on the November ballot.

Shift to Modern Endowment Model

CURRENT METHOD

Yield Only

Distributes interest and dividends only (historically roughly 2.5% of average market value).

UPDATED METHOD

4.5% POMV

Distributes exactly 4.5% based on a rolling three-year average of the fund's total market value.





622 FORWARD

Investing in a thriving future



School District 622

NORTH ST. PAUL | MAPLEWOOD | OAKDALE

Ready for tomorrow