



BOARD OF EDUCATION
School District 45, DuPage County
Villa Park, Illinois

Subject: Referendum Update

Date: October 20, 2026

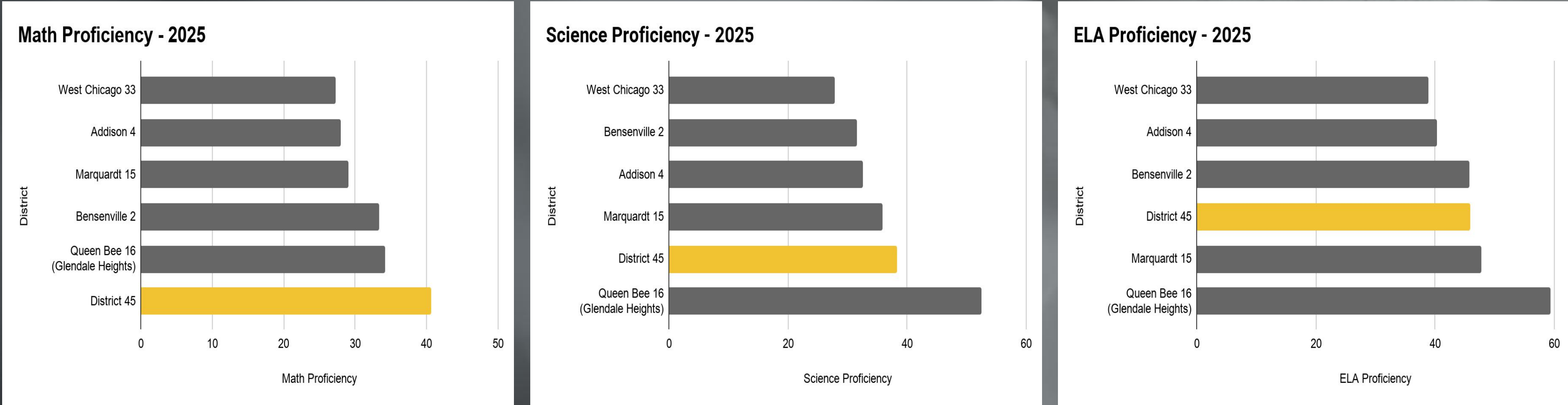
Dr. Brian Graber, Superintendent, will update the Board of Education on the November 2026 Referendum.

A young man with short brown hair is shown in profile, playing a trumpet. He is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved button-down shirt. The background is slightly out of focus, showing other band members and music stands. The entire image has a strong blue color overlay.

STRENGTHEN 45

November 2026 Referendum

STUDENT PROFICIENCY

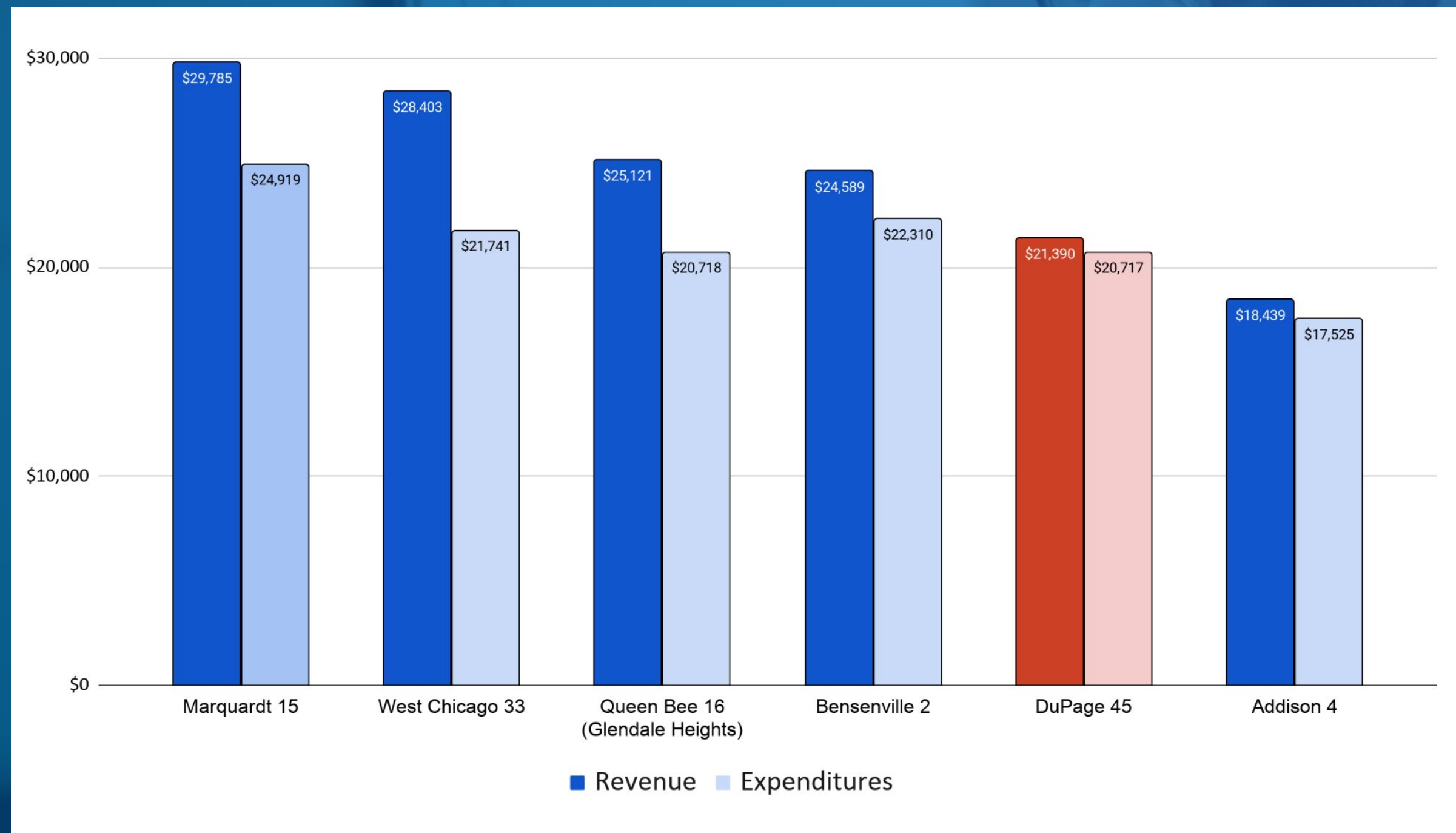


*comparable districts identified based on geographic proximity, student demographics, and community economics

**scores show overall proficiency for grades 3-8 on 2025 Illinois state math (IAR & DLM), science (ISA), and language arts (IAR & DLM) assessments, as included on the [2024-2025 Illinois Report Card](#)

DISTRICT 45: DOING MORE WITH LESS

Annual Revenue and Operating Expenditures Per Student



DISTRICT 45: DOING MORE WITH LESS

Academic gains with fewer resources than the state says our schools need.

THE RESOURCE GAP

79.4% OF ADEQUACY **

\$11.4 M LESS
each year than recommended



Academic gains are at risk when strong results must be sustained with fewer dollars year after year.

** based on FY2027 EBF Calculations

WHY STATE FUNDING IS LOWER

Illinois' formula assumes D45 can raise more funding locally.

8 of 42 Only 8 of DuPage County's 42 school districts are below funding adequacy in Tier 1 or Tier 2—and D45 is one of them.

SHARE OF FUNDING FROM STATE + FEDERAL SOURCES



This means D45 relies more heavily on local funding: **74.4%** vs. 63.7% statewide.

EXPENSES OUTPACING REVENUE

Transportation Per-route Rates 2020-21 to 2026-27



Transportation



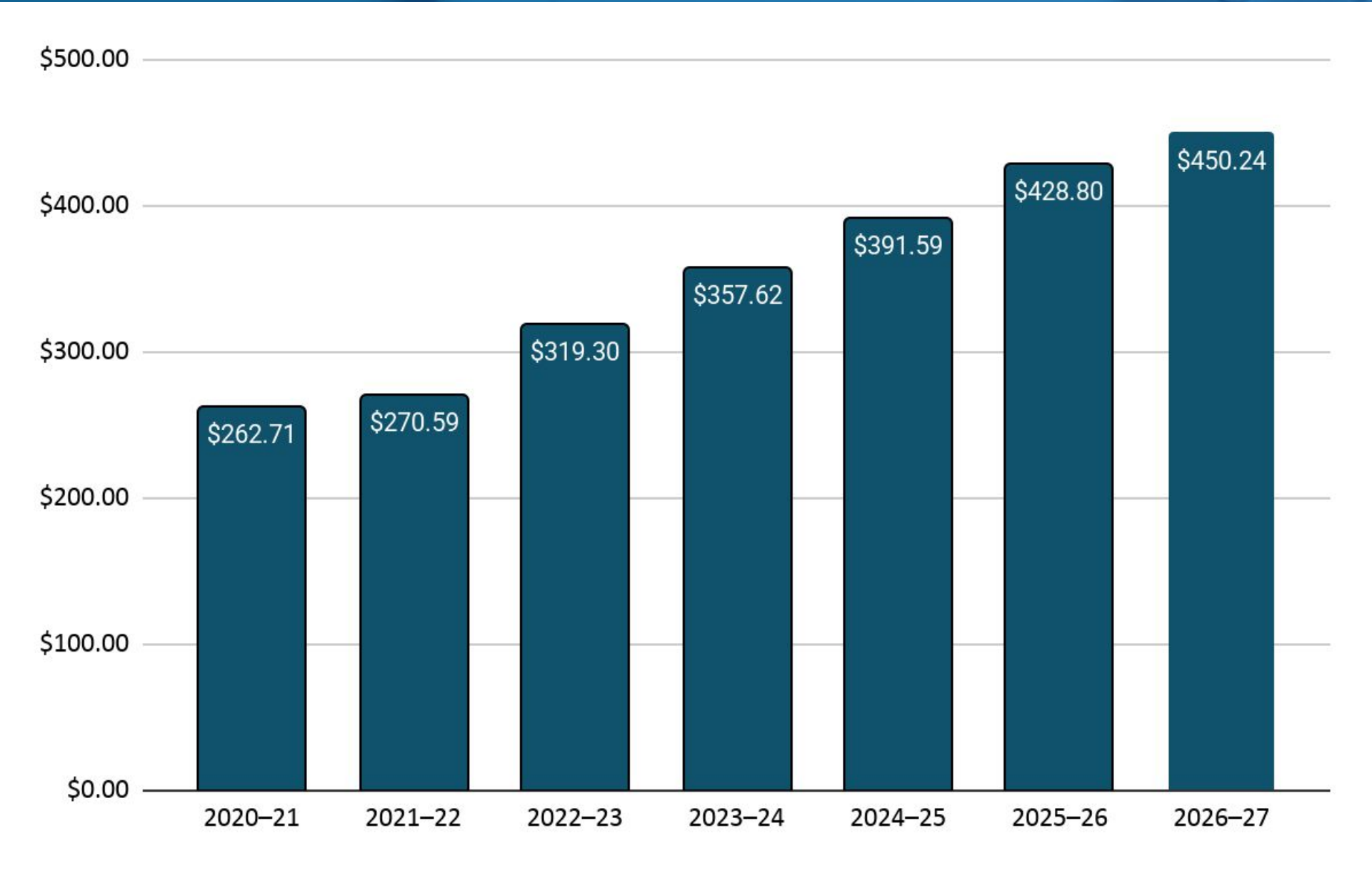
Insurance



Staffing



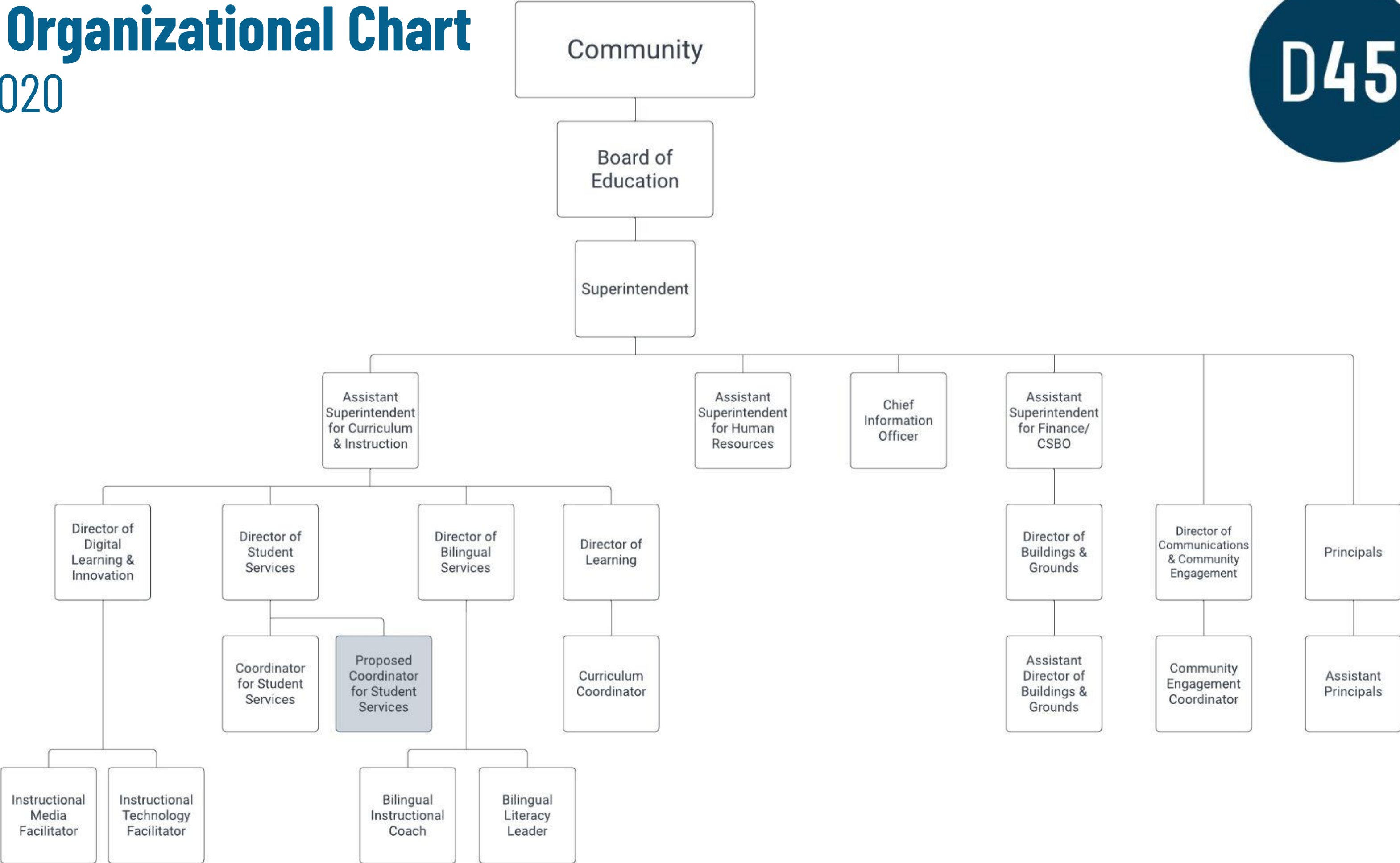
Supplies/Materials



School Year	Annual Increase
2020-21	—
2021-22	3.0%
2022-23	18.0%
2023-24	12.0%
2024-25	9.5%
2025-26	9.5%
2026-27	5.0%
Six Year Increase:	71.4%

District Organizational Chart

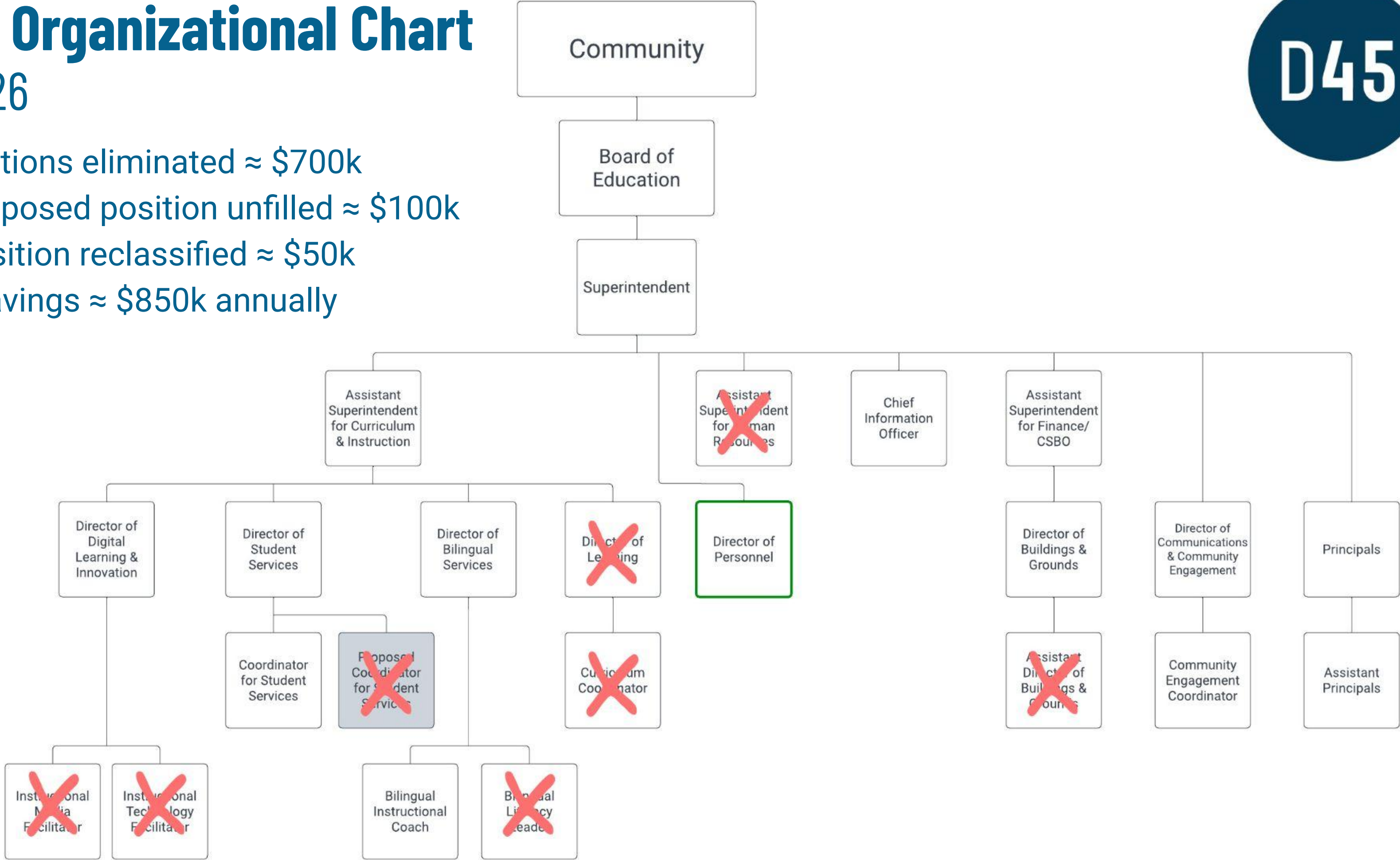
Prior to 2020



District Organizational Chart

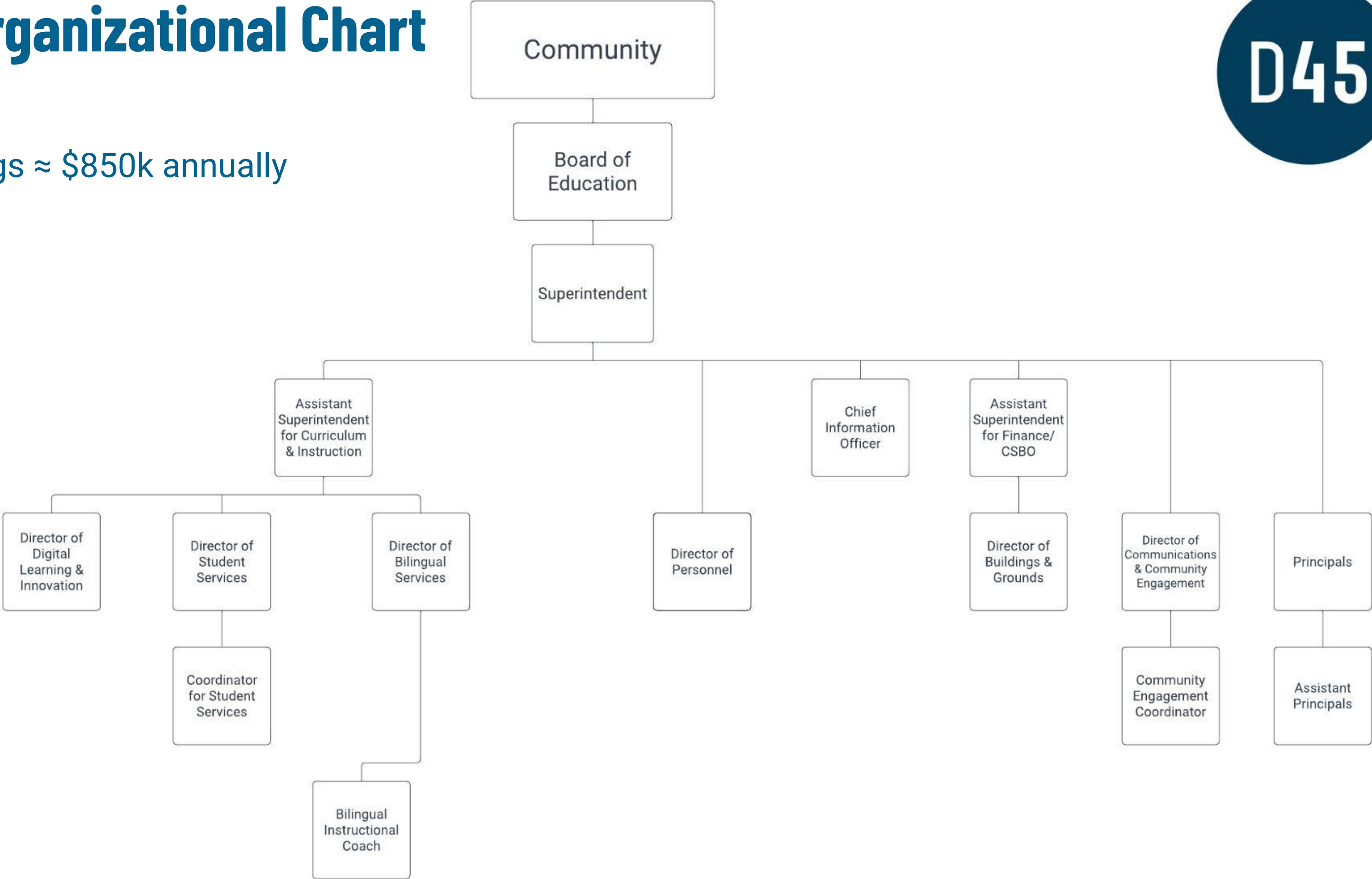
2020-2026

- Six positions eliminated ≈ \$700k
- One proposed position unfilled ≈ \$100k
- One position reclassified ≈ \$50k
- Total savings ≈ \$850k annually



District Organizational Chart 2026

- Total savings ≈ \$850k annually



ADDITIONAL COST-CUTTING MEASURES

Prior to March 2026 Referendum

- Decreasing enrollment → certified staff reductions via attrition
- Decreases in non-certified staffing to pre-pandemic levels
- Technology expense reductions, including delaying the 1:1 replacement cycle
- Building/department budget reductions ≈ \$100k/yr
- Reduced use of substitutes for teacher training

DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY

Past 🕒

- ✓ Low per-pupil spending
- ✓ Reducing administrator positions
- ✓ Annual audits, published results

Present 📅

- ★ Targeted revenue/savings decisions
- ★ Follow through on identified reductions
- ★ Monthly finance meetings, recorded

Future ↗️

- ⬆️ Continued audits
- ⬆️ Reasonable and responsible class sizes
- ⬆️ Data dashboard
- ⬆️ Proactive financial presentations



IMPLEMENTED CUTS HAVE NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT

Previous reductions + \$1.695M in cuts for 26-27 = \$140k deficit

WITHOUT ADDITIONAL FUNDING, MORE REDUCTIONS WILL BE MADE

Additional Cuts & Cost Savings

If November Referendum Is Not Approved

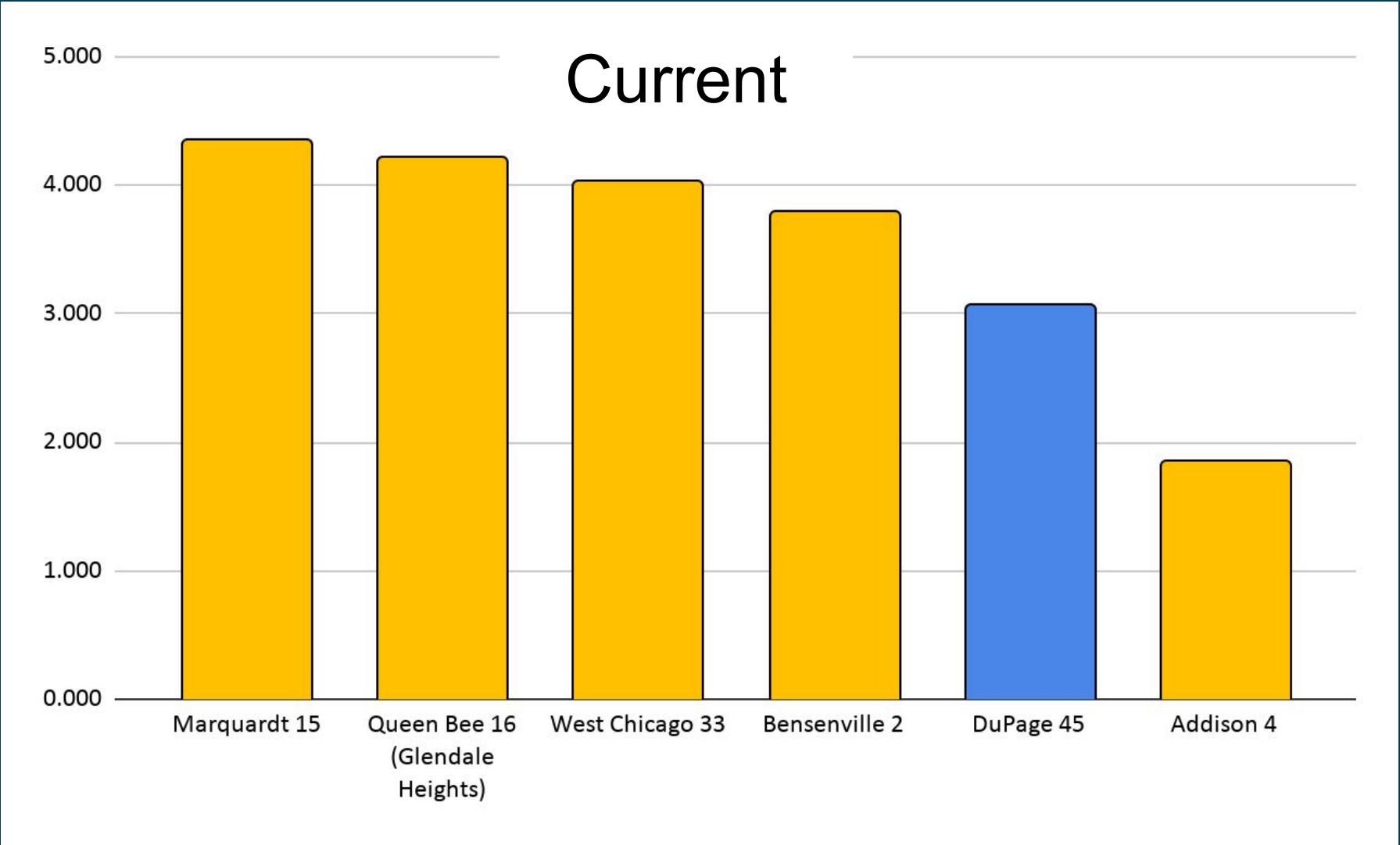
- **\$1.695M in reductions for 26-27 not reinstated**
 - Reading support, advanced academics, clubs, activities, choir, musicals
- **\$2.5M in additional reductions from 27-28 to 30-31**
 - Certified staff reductions, increased class sizes
 - Extracurricular and co-curricular program reductions
 - School closure(s), redrawn building boundaries, reassignment of neighborhood schools

THE PROPOSED REFERENDUM

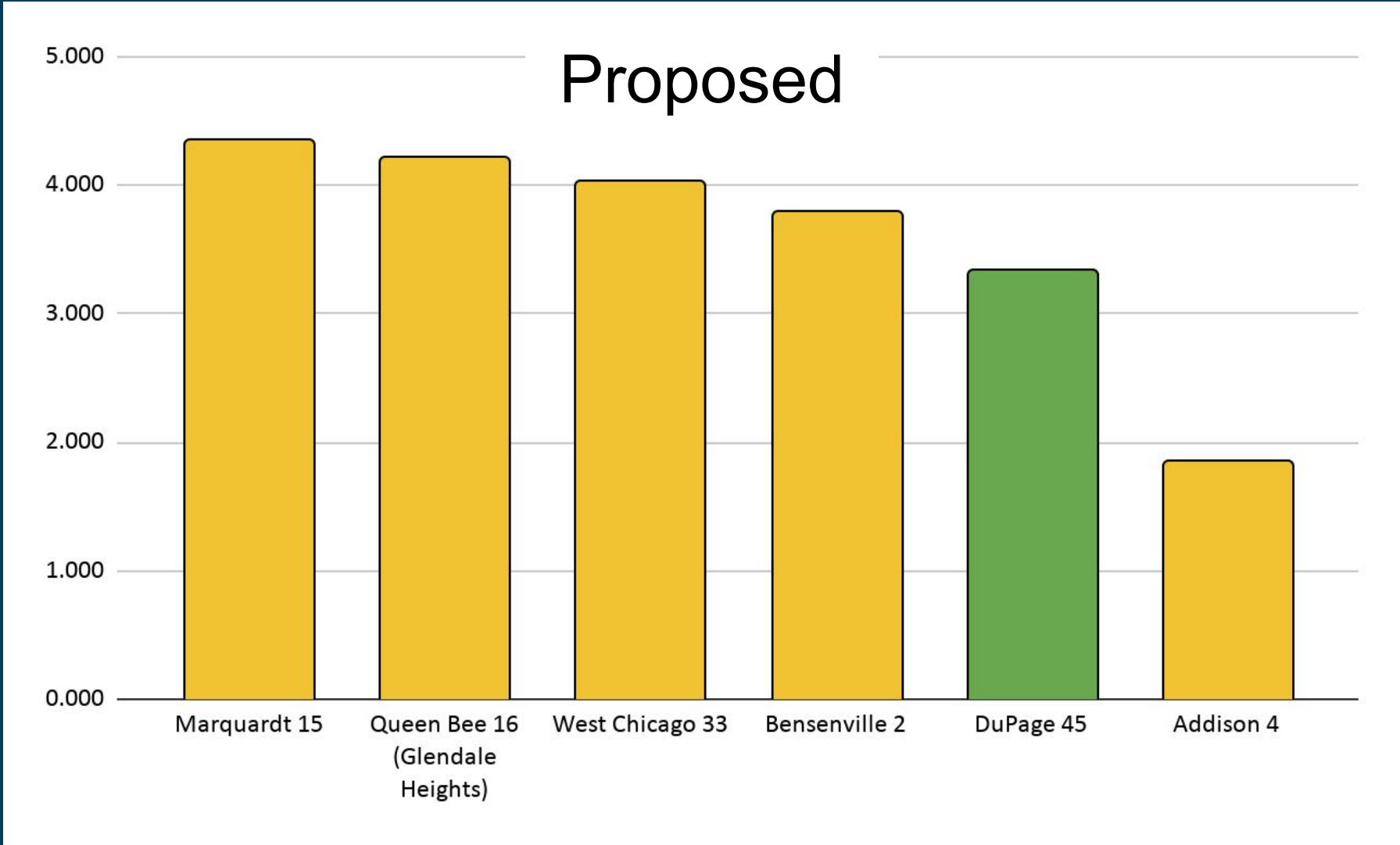
- 26.7 cent tax rate increase
- \$4.4 million more annually for our schools
- Annual tax increase of \$299 (\$25/month) for the median \$350,000 home in the district.

CURRENT VS. PROPOSED TAX RATES

Current (2024) and proposed (2026) capped rates for comparable districts



*second lowest rate



*second lowest rate



EXPECTED OUTCOMES



Support strong property values*



Avoid deeper cuts next year



Strengthen our schools' financial future



Maintain reasonable, responsible class sizes



Restore student reading support



Restore student advanced academics



Restore school clubs and activities



Restore fine arts and musicals

*Chung, I. H., Duncombe, W., & Yinger, J. (2018); Barrow, L., & Rouse, C. E. (2004)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website

D45.ORG/STRENGTHEN45

