



ESTABLISH TAX LEVY AND BUDGET 2026-2027

**SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 26, 2026**



2026-27 Budget Calendar



- **Board approval of the Budget Reconciliation Plan**



- **Committee approval of the initial 2026-27 budget**



- **School Board approval of the initial 2026-27 budget**



- **Share equalized value**
- **Set Annual Meeting date**
- **Recommendation for 2026-27 budget and tax levy**

2026-27 Budget Calendar



- Approve the 2026-27 budget and tax levy for publication and presentation at Annual Meeting



- Regularly scheduled Committee Meeting
- Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing



- School Board approvals from September Committee meeting



- Adopt final budget
- Adopt district tax levy

Components of Mill Rate Change

(Since last year, shared at the Annual Meeting)

Mill Rate = Tax Per \$1,000 of Equalized Value

	Increase / (Decrease)	Mill Rate
2025-2026 Final Mill Rate		6.58
Increase in Revenue Limit with Recurring Exemptions	0.26	
Decrease in Non-Recurring Exemptions	(0.05)	
No change in Community Service	0.00	
Decrease in Debt Service	(0.28)	
Increase in Equalization Aid	0.29	
Increase in Property Values, District-Wide	(0.26)	
Proposed 2026-2027 Mill Rate		6.54

Components of Mill Rate Change

(Since the Annual Meeting)

Mill Rate = Tax Per \$1,000 of Equalized Value

	Increase/ (Decrease)	Mill Rate
2025-2026 Final Mill Rate		6.58
Decrease in Revenue Limit with Recurring Exemptions	(0.13)	
Increase in Non-Recurring Exemptions	0.17	
No change in Community Service	0.00	
Increase in Debt Service	0.06	
Decrease in Equalization Aid	(0.31)	
Increase in Property Values, District-Wide	(0.07)	
2026-2027 Final Mill Rate		6.26

Budget Changes Since Annual Meeting

Changes Since Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting			
Fund 10			
Expenses Fund 10			
Private School Vouchers	\$	376,475	
Grants (Object 300 and up)	\$	11,667	
Other (Object 300 and up)	\$	(397,548)	
Budget Roll (Salary)	\$	(488,832)	
Budget Roll (Benefits)	\$	(629,630)	
Transfer to Fund 27	\$	1,457,393	
Transfer to Fund 38	\$	(32,574)	
Total Expense Increase	\$	296,950	
Expenses Old Budget	\$	118,307,108	
Expenses New Budget	\$	118,604,058	
Increase	\$	296,950	
Revenue Fund 10			
Property Tax Levy	\$	(1,943,274)	
Equalization Aid	\$	2,236,222	
Other State Aid for Exempt Personal Property	\$	4,002	
Total Revenue Increase	\$	296,950	
Revenues Old Budget	\$	118,307,108	
Revenues New Budget	\$	118,604,058	
Increase	\$	296,950	
Fund 27			
Expenses Fund 27			
Grants (Object 300 and up)	\$	386,720	
Budget Roll (Benefits)	\$	(166,754)	
Budget Roll (Salary)	\$	1,484,872	
Total Expense Increase	\$	1,704,838	
Expenses Old Budget	\$	21,124,850	
Expenses New Budget	\$	22,829,688	
Increase	\$	1,704,838	
Revenue Fund 27			
Transfer from Fund 10	\$	1,457,393	
Increase in Exception Educational Needs Aid	\$	263,900	
Increase in High Cost EEN Aid	\$	15,000	
Decreast in Grants	\$	(31,455)	
Increase	\$	1,704,838	
Revenues Old Budget	\$	21,124,850	
Revenues New Budget	\$	22,829,688	
Increase	\$	1,704,838	
Expenses Fund 39			
Total Expense Increase	\$	447,277	
Expenses Old Budget	\$	17,012,763	
Expenses New Budget	\$	17,460,039	
Increase	\$	447,277	
Total Revenue Increase	\$	447,277	
Revenue Old Budget	\$	16,939,363	
Rvenue New Budget	\$	17,386,640	
Increase	\$	447,277	
Expenses Fund 50			
Salary decrease	\$	49,207	
Benefit decrease	\$	(8,429)	
Total Expense Decrease	\$	40,778	
Expenses Old Budget	\$	5,375,145	
Expenses New Budget	\$	5,415,923	
Increase	\$	40,778	
Revenue Limit			
Revenue Limit	\$	296,950	
Decrease in Transfer of Service	\$	(1,000)	
Increase in Declining Enrollment Exemption	\$	894,615	
Decrease in Prior Year Open Enrollment	\$	(46,683)	
Increase in Private School Vouchers	\$	376,475	
Decrease in Revenue Limit Before Exemptions	\$	(894,614)	
Increase in Energy Efficiency Net Exemption	\$	731	
Decrease in Fund 38 Energy Efficiency	\$	(32,574)	
Revenues related to Revenue Limit			
Property Tax Levy	\$	(1,943,274)	
Equalization Aid	\$	2,236,222	
Other State Aid for Exempt Personal Property	\$	4,002	
Total Related Revenues	\$	296,950	
Tax Levy			
General Fund	\$	(1,943,274)	
Fund 38 and 39	\$	479,851	
Total Increase in Tax Levy	\$	(1,463,423)	
Equalized Value	\$	76,355,230	
Mill Rate Decrease		0.280	
Funds 50 and 80 - No Change in Revenues from the Annual Meeting.			
Fund 40 - No Change in Revenues or Expenses from the Annual Meeting			

Revenue Fails to Keep Pace with Inflation

- Using the baseline for inflation reset to 2011, District revenue from the Revenue Limit, and Per Pupil Categorical Aid significantly lags behind inflation.
- This year, revenue is well over \$13,000,000 behind the inflationary pace.
- The total of the past fourteen years represents a deficit of over \$71,000,000.
- We continue to see the burden of inflation outpacing revenue.



Changes in FTE Membership

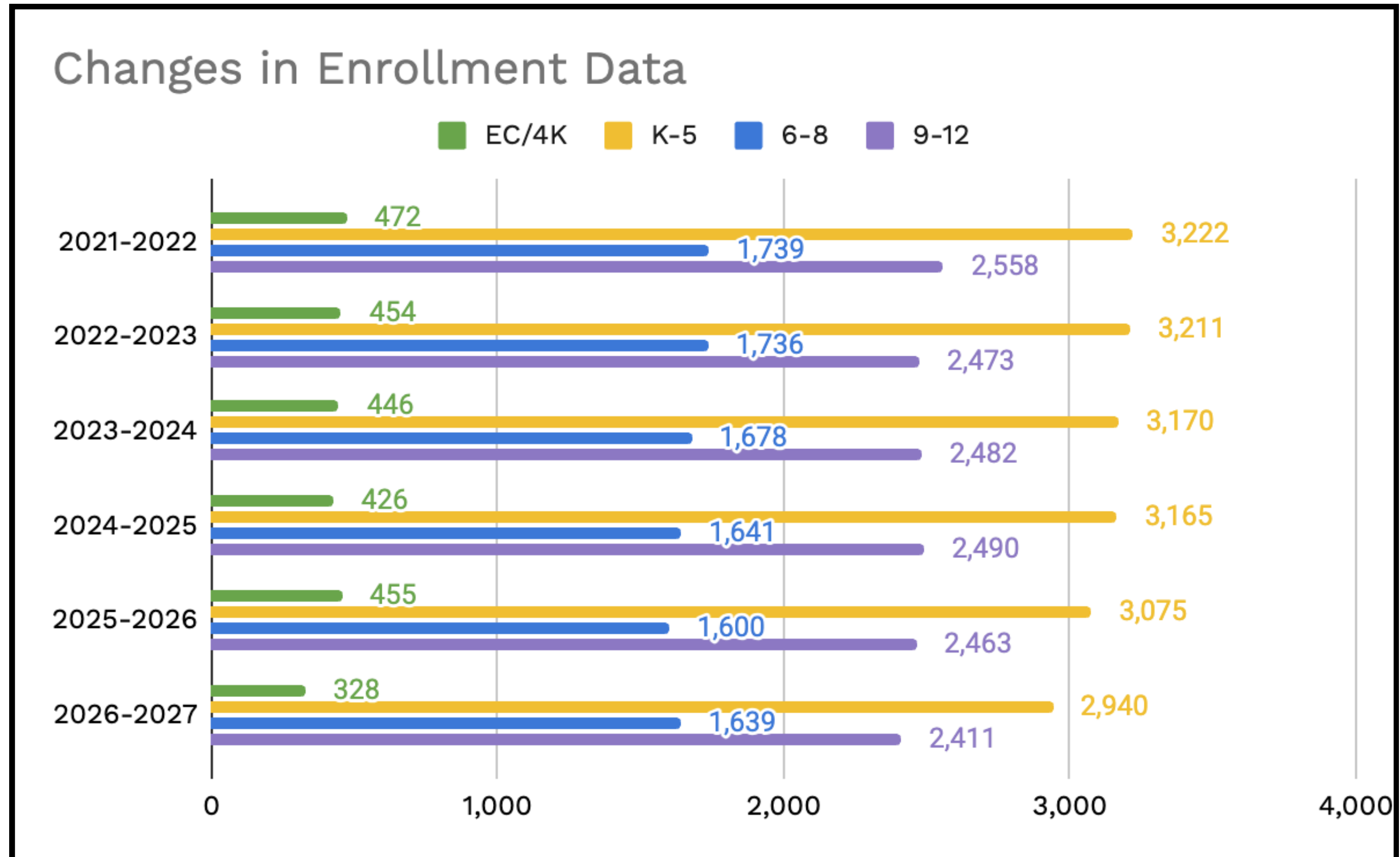
Counting Students for Revenue Limit:

- Membership and FTE Compared to Student Head Count
- Three-Year Rolling Average
- Open Enrollment Impact
- Private School Voucher Program

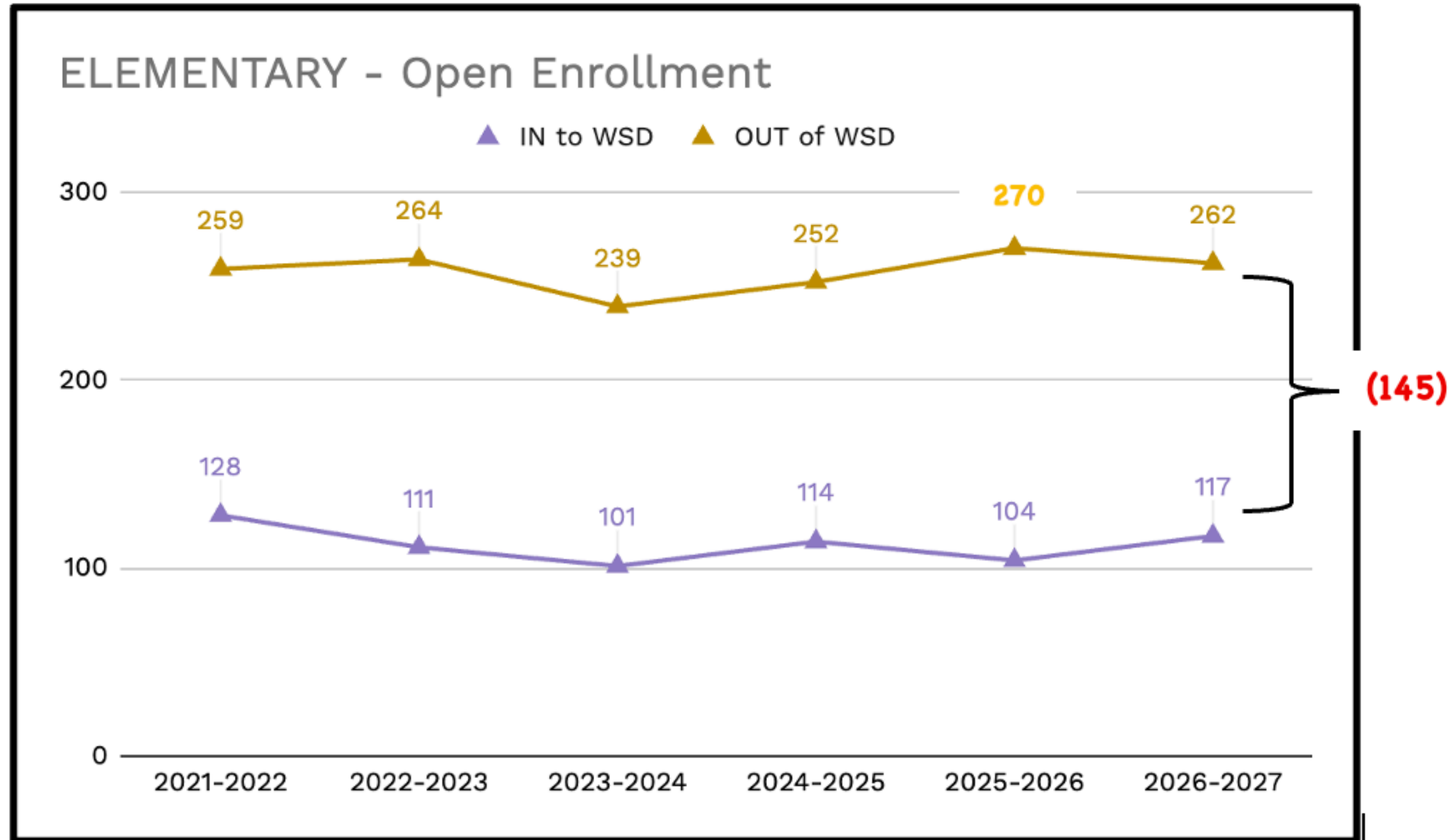
	September 2023	September 2024	September 2025	September 2026	3-year average
Base Years	7,922	7,822	7,739		7,848
Current Years	---	7,822	7,739	7,524	7,715
			Decrease of 215		Down by 133



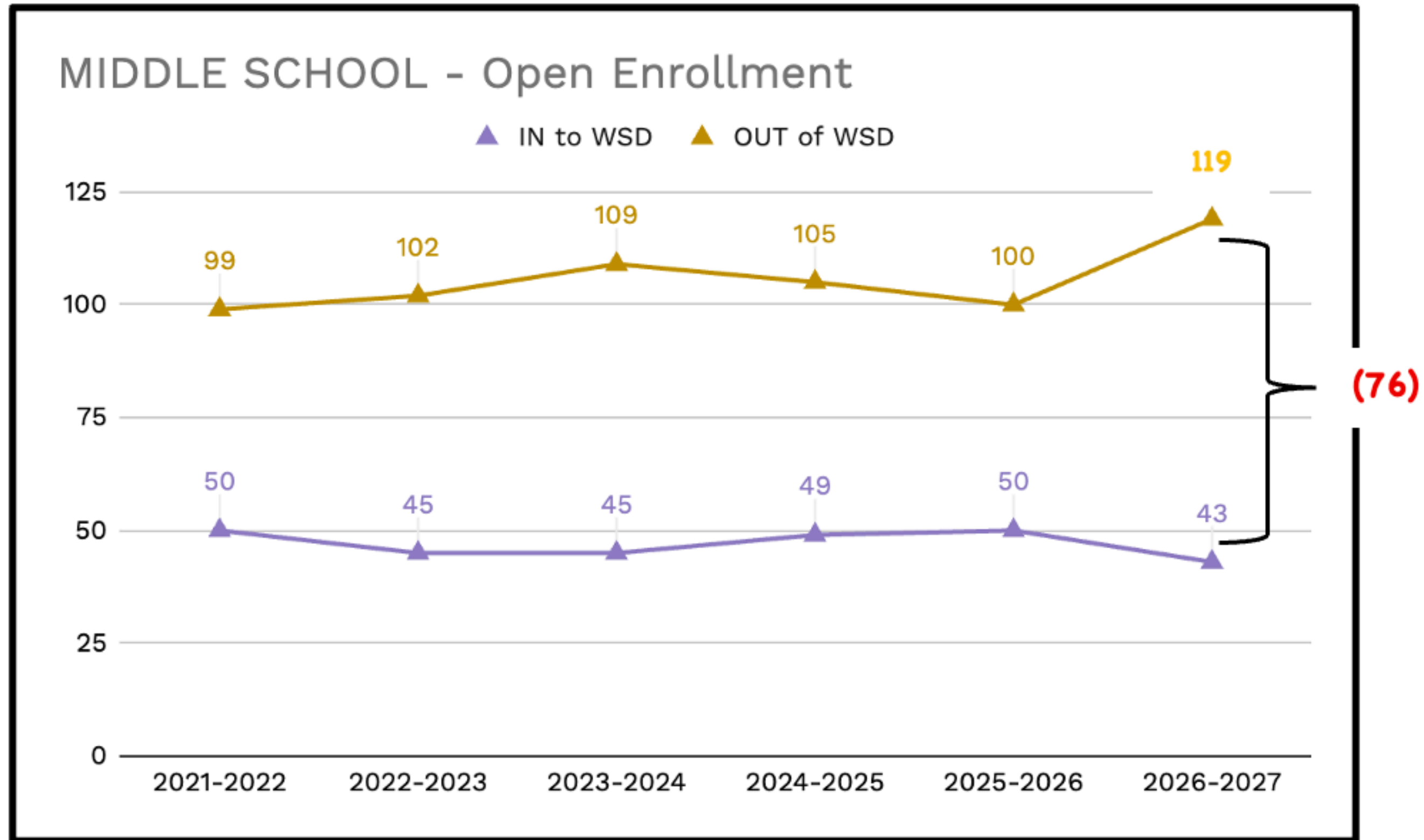
Enrollment/Membership Data



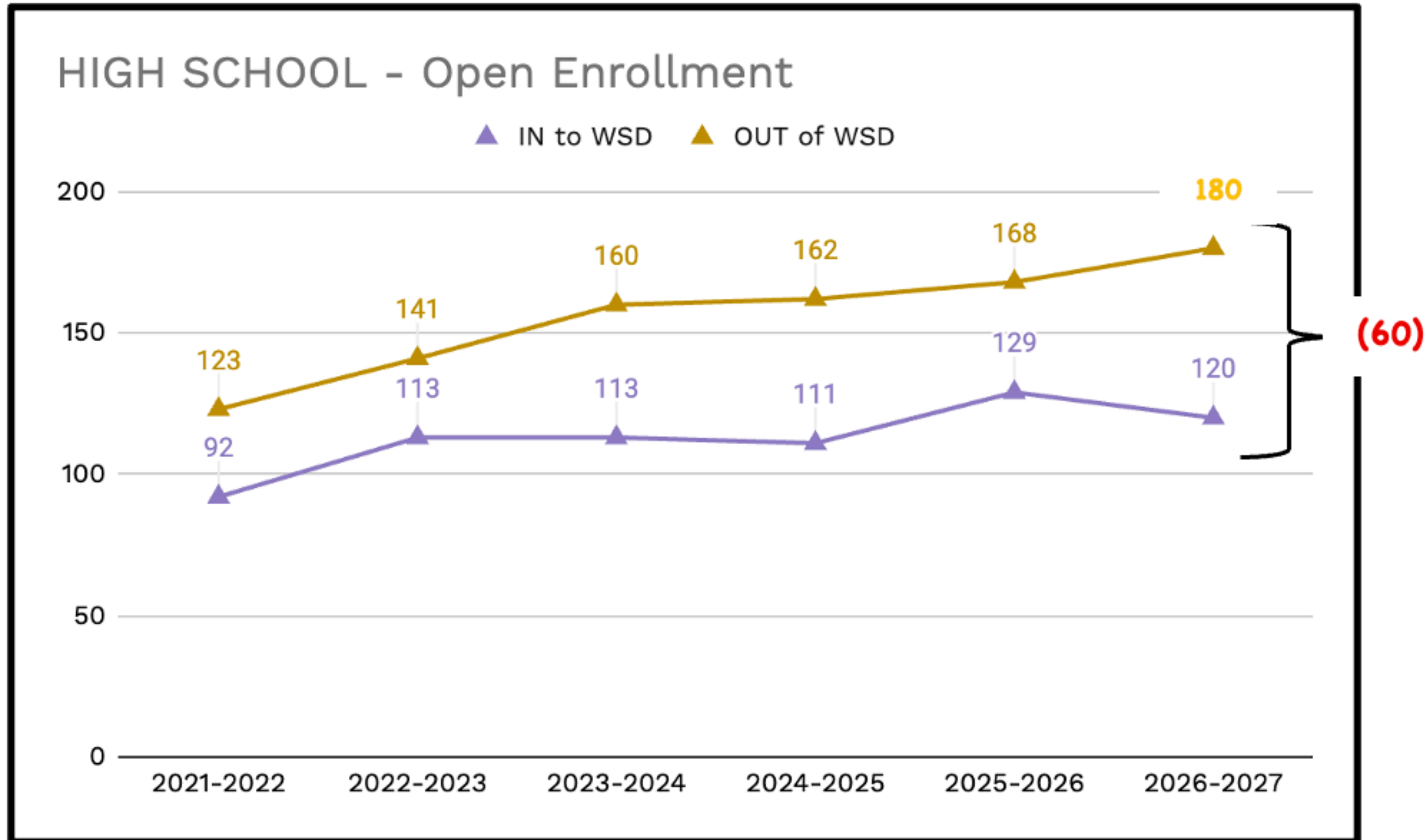
Trends in Open Enrollment (K-12)



Trends in Open Enrollment



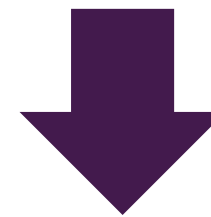
Trends in Open Enrollment



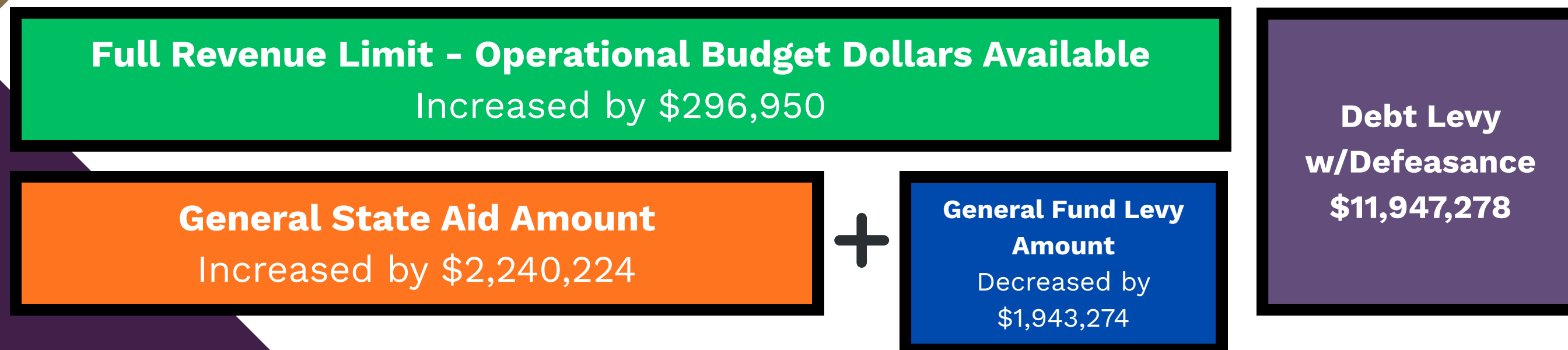
Levy Changes Since Annual Meeting

Amounts are not drawn to scale and Community Service Levy is ignored as it remains constant.

PROJECTED AT ANNUAL MEETING



FINAL LEVY



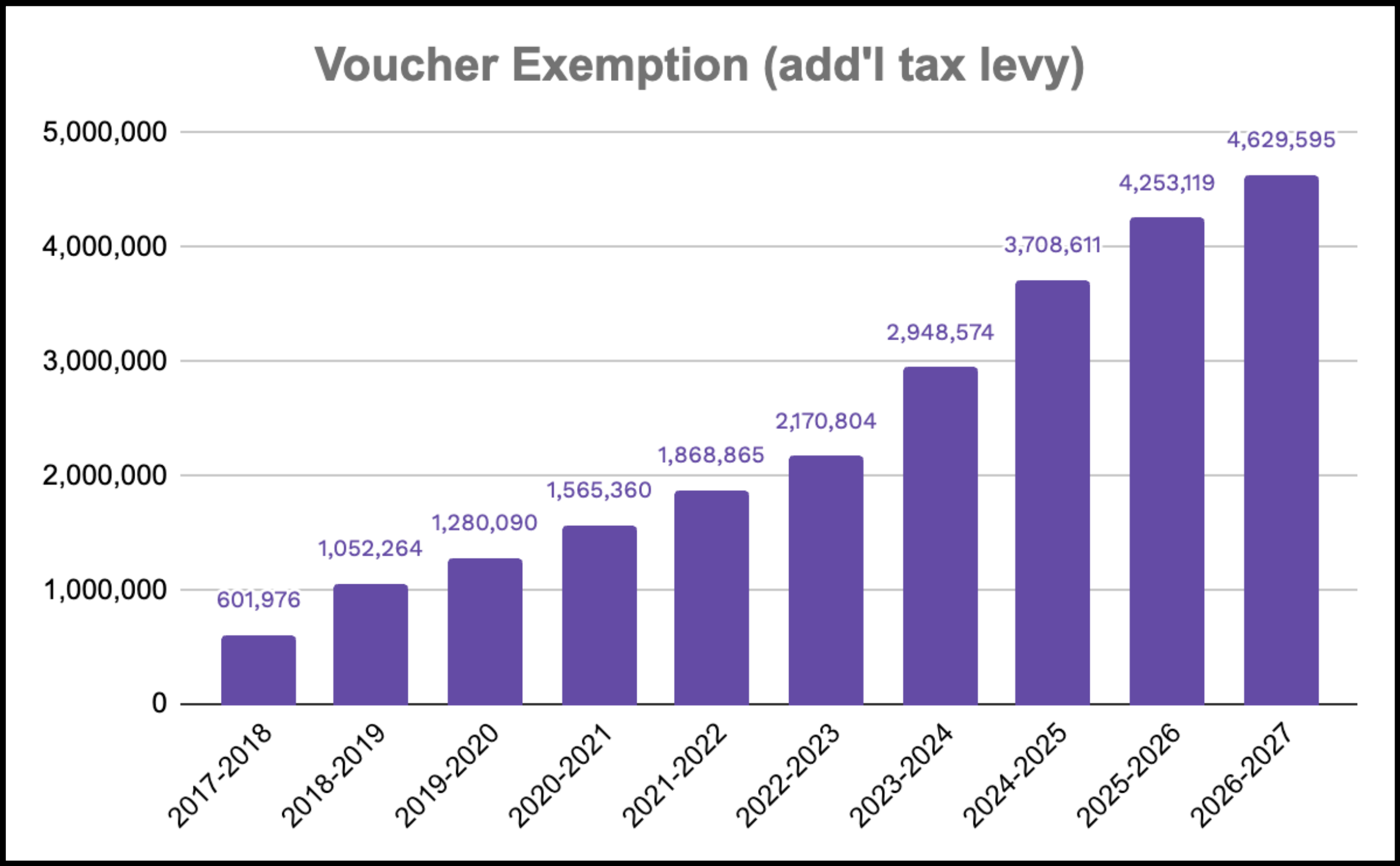
Tax Impact of Private Voucher Program

- The private school voucher aid deduction is a revenue limit exemption and corresponding reduction in aid, funding private school vouchers for students living in the Wausau School District receiving these vouchers.
- This results in a direct impact to District tax payers of \$4,629,595.
- The tax levied for this expense is \$4,629,595 and the corresponding mill rate for this levy is \$0.65 (\$65 for a \$100,000 home) which is up \$0.02 from last year.

H. WPCP and RPCP Private School Voucher Aid Deduction	4,267,101
I. SNSP Private School Voucher Aid Deduction	362,494



Tax Impact of Private Voucher Program



Private School Voucher Tax Levy by Municipality

Municipality	2026 Equalized Value	Percent of District	Total Voucher Levy
City of Wausau	\$4,022,610,665	56.7%	\$2,624,981
Town of Berlin	\$134,013,589	1.9%	\$87,962
Town of Hewitt	\$94,985,500	1.3%	\$60,186
Town of Stettin	\$430,420,608	6.1%	\$282,405
Town of Texas	\$225,242,000	3.2%	\$148,147
Town of Wausau	\$254,155,623	3.6%	\$166,665
Village of Maine	\$481,296,500	6.8%	\$314,812
Village of Rib Mountain	\$1,449,157,000	20.4%	\$944,437

Benefits of Defeasance Strategy

- Debt prepayment and defeasance are strategies leveraged to pay debt ahead of regularly scheduled payments.
- This strategy has been used over the past decade of budget cycles and is recommended for this upcoming budget cycle.
- During this period of time, about \$87M of future debt has been retired.
- This has saved taxpayers over \$28.5M of interest payments.
- This strategy of prepayment and defeasance can be used as a variable, once other factors determining the mill rate are established, to achieve a desired target mill rate or tax levy.

2017-2018	\$ 11.12
2018-2019	\$ 11.00
2019-2020	\$ 10.79
2020-2021	\$ 10.29
2021-2022	\$ 10.27
2022-2023	\$ 9.36
2023-2024	\$ 8.83
2024-2025	\$ 7.18
2025-2026	\$ 6.58
2026-2027	\$ 6.26



School Tax Allocation 2026-2027

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX APPROPRIATION WORKSHEET FY 2026-27							
	<u>CERTIFIED FULL VALUE</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>GENERAL FUND</u>	<u>DEBT SERVICE</u>	<u>COMMUNITY SERVICE</u>	<u>DISTRICT TOTAL</u>	<u>% INCR Prior YR</u>
C. Wausau	\$4,022,610,665	56.7213474%	\$ 14,044,042.83	\$ 10,512,483.82	\$ 619,397.11	\$ 25,175,923.76	-1.72%
T. Berlin	\$134,013,589	1.8896761%	\$ 467,878.38	\$ 350,224.21	\$ 20,635.26	\$ 838,737.85	4.95%
T. Hewitt	\$94,985,500	1.3393554%	\$ 331,620.56	\$ 248,230.22	\$ 14,625.76	\$ 594,476.54	2.60%
V. Maine	\$481,296,500	6.7865841%	\$ 1,680,338.74	\$ 1,257,795.50	\$ 74,109.50	\$ 3,012,243.74	5.67%
V. Rib Mountain	\$1,449,157,000	20.4340273%	\$ 5,059,406.52	\$ 3,787,152.30	\$ 223,139.58	\$ 9,069,698.40	0.95%
T. Stettin	\$430,420,608	6.0692019%	\$ 1,502,716.98	\$ 1,124,839.06	\$ 66,275.69	\$ 2,693,831.73	4.99%
T. Texas	\$225,242,000	3.1760542%	\$ 786,381.91	\$ 588,635.85	\$ 34,682.51	\$ 1,409,700.27	-3.56%
T. Wausau	\$254,155,623	3.5837545%	\$ 887,327.33	\$ 664,197.22	\$ 39,134.60	\$ 1,590,659.15	4.16%
			\$ 24,759,713	\$ 18,533,558	\$ 1,092,000		
ALLOCATION	\$7,091,881,485	100.0000%	\$ 24,759,713	\$ 18,553,558	\$ 1,092,000	\$ 44,385,271	0.00%
Property Value Change		5.16%					

from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue

from the WSD Levy Adoption

Year by Year Tax Levy by Fund

Wausau School District

FINAL 2026-2027 TAX LEVY - OCTOBER 26, 2026

Wausau School District

Fund	FINAL 2026-27 LEVY	FINAL 2025-26 LEVY	DOLLAR INCREASE	PERCENT CHANGE	EQUALIZED MILL RATE
GENERAL FUND **	\$ 24,759,713	\$ 23,255,150	\$ 1,504,563	6.47%	3.49
DEBT SERVICE FUND 38	1,146,918	1,113,613	33,305	2.99%	0.16
DEBT SERVICE FUND 39	17,386,640	18,924,508	(1,537,868)	-8.13%	2.44
COMMUNITY SERVICE Fund 80	1,092,000	1,092,000	-	0.00%	0.15
TOTAL	\$ 44,385,271	\$ 44,385,271	\$ 0	0.00%	6.26



Two Necessary Motions

Motion to approve final 2026-2027 budgets as presented below:

- **Fund 10: Expenses \$118,604,058 (\$105,954,577 plus transfers to Fund 27); Revenues \$118,604,058**
- **Fund 27: \$22,829,688 (\$10,186,654 plus transfer from Fund 10)**
- **Other Fund 20: \$3,900,000**
- **Fund 30: Expenses \$18,618,874; Revenues \$18,533,558**
- **Fund 40: Expenses \$12,793,909; Revenues \$1,010,000**
- **Fund 50: Expenses \$5,415,923; Revenues \$5,111,000**
- **Fund 80: \$1,450,460 (levy, fees, and carryover)**

Motion to adopt a final tax levy of \$44,385,271 representing \$24,759,713 for the General Fund, \$18,533,558 for the Debt Service Funds, and \$1,092,000 for the Community Service Fund.





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