

December 8, 2025

To: Dr. Josh Swanson, Superintendent
From: Andrew Adams, Executive Director of Business Services
Re: Pay 2026 Levy

The proposed property tax levy for taxes payable in 2026 is \$65,854,748.27, reflecting an increase of \$2,830,224 or 4.49%. If the district levied at the maximum, the current increase to taxpayers would be 4.81%. This recommendation, which includes a reduction from the max levy, will still support the district's high-quality educational programs and services.

Key Changes in the Levy:

- The final levy includes a \$1.8 million increase in the voter approved Operating Referendum which is driven by increased enrollment and a 2.37% inflationary increase calculated by the Minnesota Department of Education as approved by the voters.
- The final levy includes planned increases in principal and interest payments on outstanding bonds in the amount of \$923,072.
- The final levy includes a proposed under levy of abatements in the amount of \$199,145.74 from the debt service fund.
- An Eden Prairie home valued at \$559,900 will see on average a school property tax increase of \$80 per year, assuming no change in home market value from 2025 to 2026.

This recommendation reflects a balanced approach through leveraging abatements and maximizing operational efficiencies. The final proposed property tax levy is critical in offsetting rising operation costs and supports in light of lagging state funding. These dollars also help ensure the fiscal stability of the district as a part of promises made to stakeholders during the 2022 operating referendum.

We recommend the School Board of Independent School District No. 272 approve a final levy for taxes payable in 2026 in the amount of \$65,854,748.27.