

# ISD 492 Austin Public Schools Truth in Taxation Presentation

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December 8, 2025



# AUSTIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN

## OUR MISSION

*(Our Core Purpose)*

Inspire. Empower. Accelerate.

## OUR VISION

*(What We Intend to Create)*

Preparing all learners to make a difference in the world.

## Our Core Values

*(Drivers of Our Words and Actions)*

- Responsible: Demonstrates accountability to self and others
- Resilient: Develops perseverance and self-confidence
- Learner: Challenges self to think critically
- Communicator: Listens actively and shares learning and experiences
- Contributor: Engages as a productive member of the community and global society

## OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

*(Drivers of Our Continuous Improvement)*

1. Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment
2. Packer Profile for all learners
3. District-wide multi-tiered systems of support for all learners
4. Excellence in resource management



## STUDENTS

**I am supported and challenged in my learning and believe I will be successful**

- Teachers and all staff are approachable, listen and respond to my needs
- My teachers have time to talk through and help answer questions or help solve problems I have
- I am trusted to make good choices, be engaged in my learning, and held accountable but not overwhelmed

**I feel that school is safe and that school is challenging and fun**

- I am heard and respected for who I am by school staff and students
- The school and my interactions with students and staff are safe, positive and inclusive
- I enjoy coming to school every day and have time to be with friends during school
- I understand what is expected from me at school
- I am supported in my mental health needs

**I am an engaged learner at school and in our community**

- I have a voice and choice in how and what I learn
- My learning is hands-on, meaningful, challenging and helps me prepare for my future
- My teachers like me and believe in me
- I have teachers and staff that work with me in a way that benefits all students
- I am physically comfortable in the school setting
- This school should be about me not the teachers



## FAMILIES

**I am part of my child's education and feel welcomed, valued, and respected as a family**

- My child is physically and emotionally safe at school
- My child feels a sense of belonging at school, is cared for, and valued
- My student can voice their thoughts and ideas without being discriminated against so they continue to learn

**My child enjoys coming to school and is safe, included and respected so they are learning every day**

- My child is challenged (not overwhelmed) in learning and development, listened to, and provided choice and voice in learning options
- Teachers know my child well and creates a fun, interactive approach to learning which is responsive to my child's and family needs

**I am engaged in a partnership with my child's school so I know what to do to help my child continue to grow and learn**

- I will feel welcome, informed and encouraged to collaborate with the teachers and staff at the school to help my child grow
- My child's teachers, my child and myself have open communication about their academic progress, social development and well-being
- District and school information is easy to understand and easily accessible
- My child is taught the life skills necessary to be successful in whatever path they choose after high school





## STAFF

### **I am seen, valued, and respected for who I am and the work I do**

- I work in a collaborative not competitive environment that honors the unique strengths of each individual
- I am seen as a professional and given the flexibility and support to provide students what they need to be successful
- I am listened to, heard and know that I matter
- I have a level of freedom and innovation within reasonable parameters

### **I receive the support and resources to do my job well so I am able to create a healthy and safe learning environment**

- I am a valued member of a caring, engaged, and collaborative team
- I receive constructive feedback in regards to my position so I can be the best version of myself
- I am treated with respect and fairness with reasonable expectations for work, performance, time, and employment
- I enjoy my job and have flexibility, satisfaction, and recognition

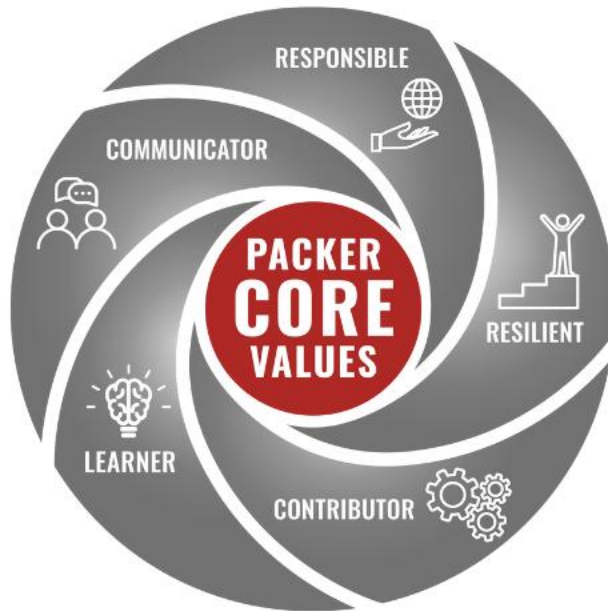
### **I work in a district that is willing to adapt and change when necessary to best meet the needs of all students**

- Diversity, equality, inclusion and equity for everyone
- I have the resources and materials I need in my classroom and for families so they know what they can do to support learning at home
- There is effective communication across the district and community so staff and families have the information they need
- I have adequate training for various aspects of my job



## WHAT OUGHT TO BE

The **Desired Daily Experience** sets the foundation of descriptions of the student, family, and staff experiences *if* the strategic plan is successfully implemented in APS.



## OUR CORE VALUES

*(Drivers of Our Words and Actions)*

- **Responsible:** Demonstrates accountability to self and others
- **Resilient:** Develops perseverance and self-confidence
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# Agenda

Review of  
Meeting  
Requirements

Presentation of  
current school  
year budget  
(2025-2026)

Presentation of  
proposed tax levy  
(2026)

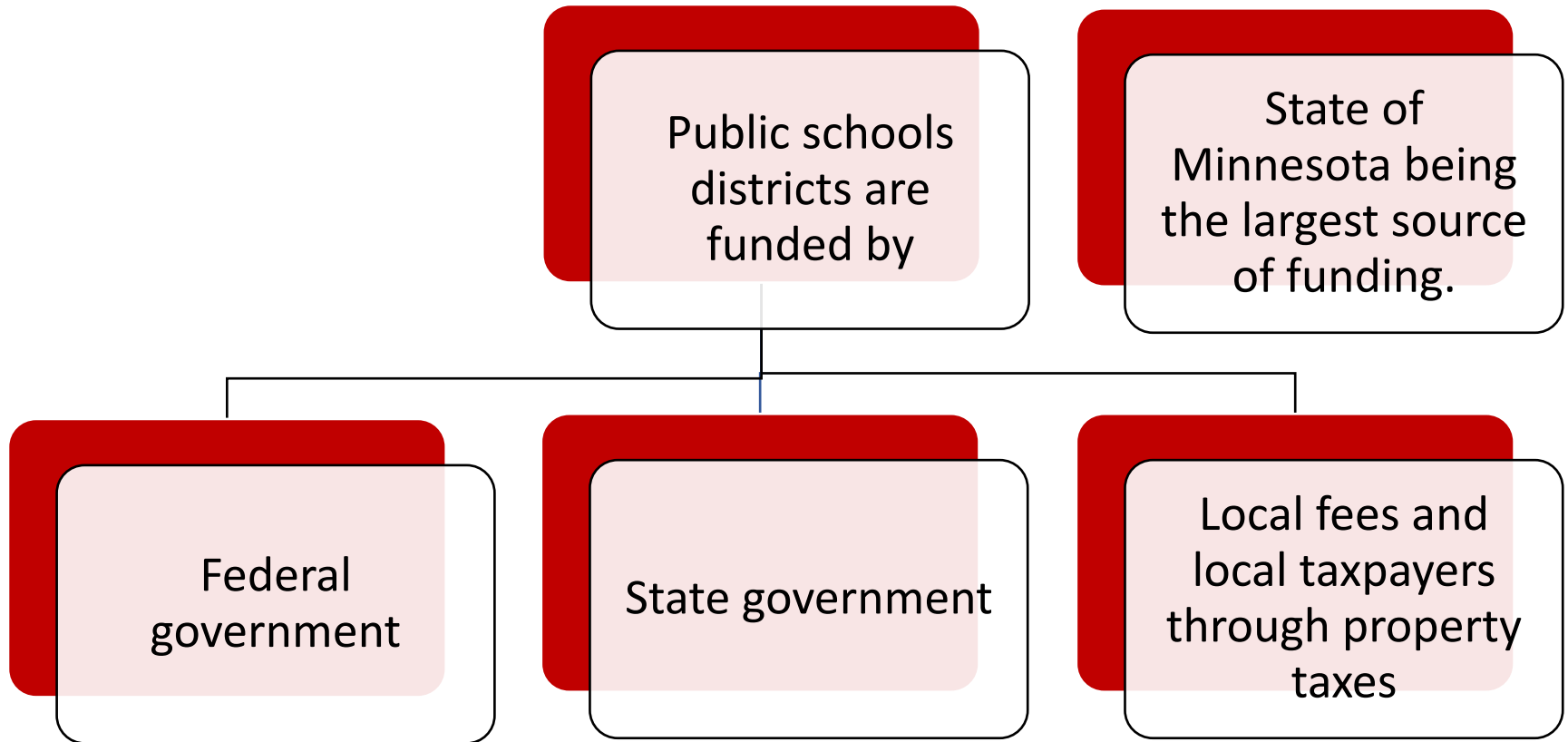
Public Comment

# Truth in Taxation Requirements

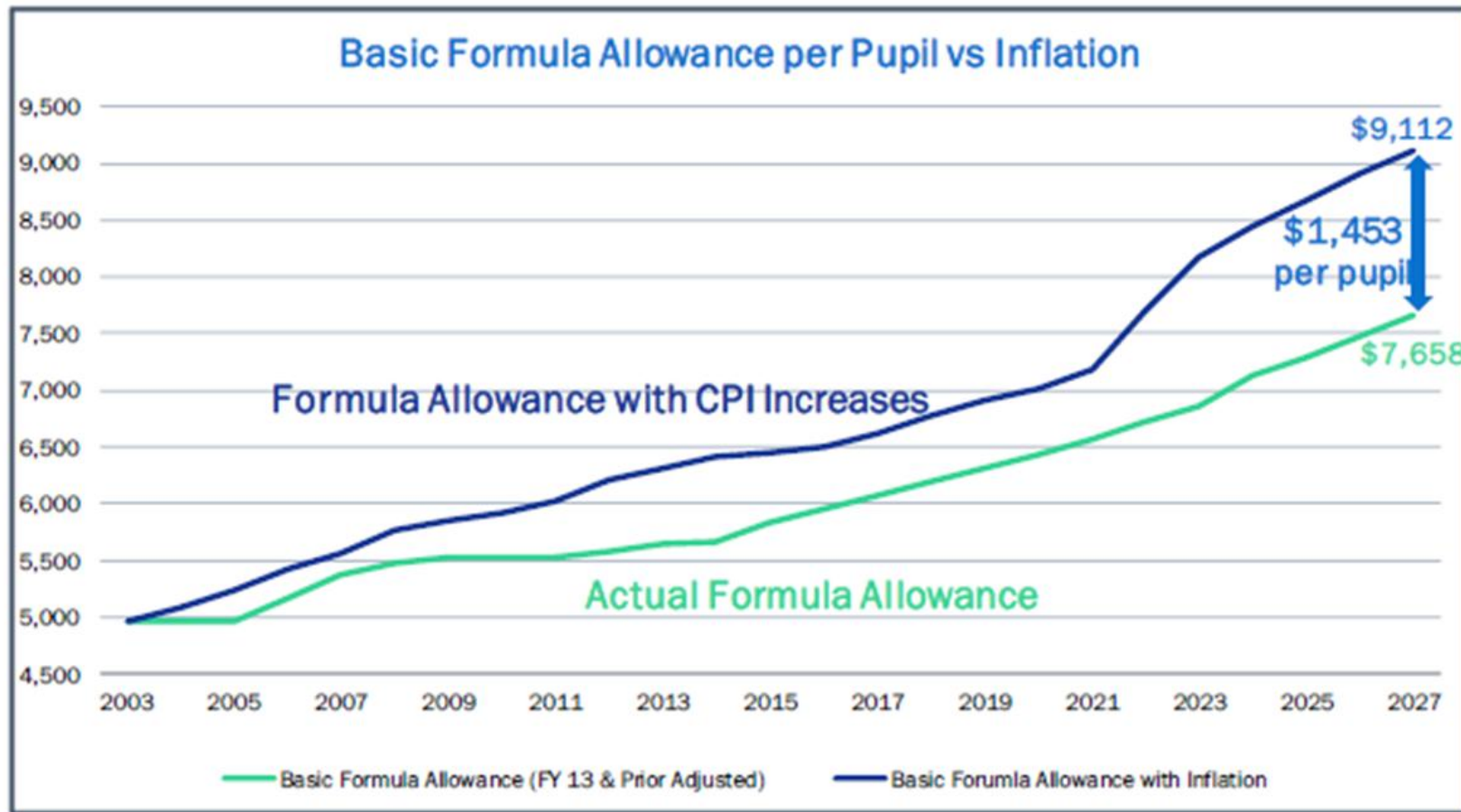
- Meeting must be held between November 25 and December 30
- Must start after 6:00pm
- Presentation must include discussion on:
  - Fiscal Year 2026 budget
  - Pay 2026 Proposed Tax Levy
- Must allow for public comments



# Minnesota School Funding



# State Funding



<sup>1</sup> Inflation is based on consumer price index

<sup>2</sup> Basic formula allowance includes changes made by legislature in 2023 and is adjusted for FY 2014 and earlier due to pupil weight changes

<sup>3</sup> FY 25-26 & FY 26-27 are based on estimated inflation forecasts updated in July 2025 by the State of Minnesota

# FY2026 Budget

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# FY2026 Budget

- Our school district is required to use a “Fund Accounting” system, thus we account for our revenues and expenditures using six separate funds
  - \*Funds have a tax levy component

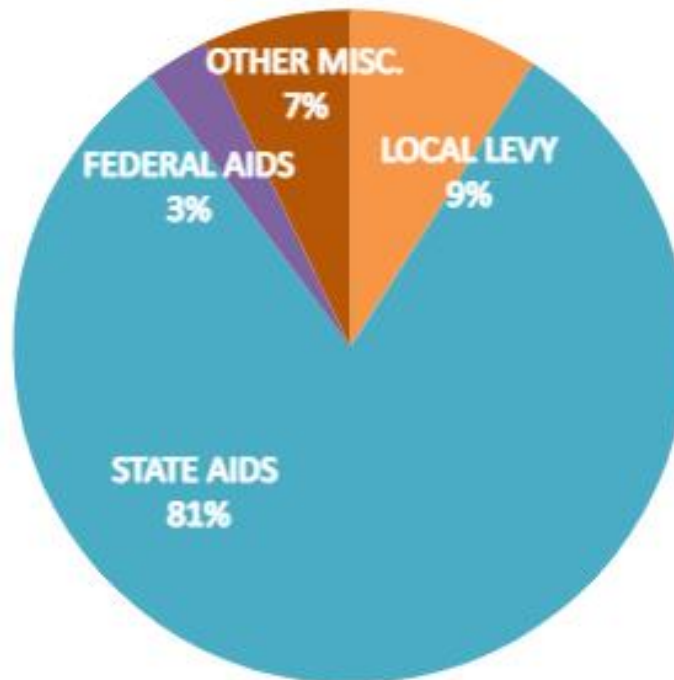
Fund Number	Fund Name	Common Purposes
*01	General Fund	General operating costs, such as teacher salaries, administrative costs, and textbooks and equipment.
02	Food Service Fund	Funds for nutrition programs – primarily school breakfast and lunch.
*04	Community Service Fund	Funds for community education programs, such as school readiness and adult basic education.
06	Building Construction Fund	Funds for the building construction program.
*07	Debt Service Fund	Funds to pay principal and interest on outstanding bonds.
Varies	Internal Service	Commonly include health and dental plans.

# FY2026 Budget Overview

	Division of School Finance 400 NE Stinson Blvd. Minneapolis, MN 55413	District Revenues and Expenditures Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and FY 2026						ED-00110-48
General Information: Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 123B.10, requires that every school board shall publish the subject data of this report.								
District Name: Austin Public Schools							District Number:	0492
Fund	FY 2025 Beginning Fund Balances	FY 2025 Actual Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2025 Actual Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2025 Actual Fund Balances	FY 2026 Budget Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2026 Budget Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2026 Projected Fund Balances	
General Fund/Restricted	\$ 5,179,328	\$ 20,479,645	\$ 18,613,589	\$ 7,045,384	\$ 19,081,662	\$ 20,574,403	\$ 5,552,643	
General Fund/Other	\$ 17,994,961	\$ 76,012,251	\$ 69,524,741	\$ 24,482,471	\$ 75,006,710	\$ 76,248,372	\$ 23,240,808	
Food Service Fund	\$ 2,156,688	\$ 4,574,140	\$ 4,233,828	\$ 2,496,999	\$ 4,370,661	\$ 4,740,910	\$ 2,126,750	
Community Service Fund	\$ 1,167,266	\$ 2,814,864	\$ 2,518,363	\$ 1,463,767	\$ 2,786,436	\$ 2,726,405	\$ 1,523,798	
Building Construction Fund	\$ 94,838	\$ 753	\$ 1,977,328	\$ (1,881,737)	\$ 3,475,817	\$ 1,594,080	\$ (0)	
Debt Service Fund	\$ 847,144	\$ 3,870,566	\$ 3,799,103	\$ 918,607	\$ 3,714,204	\$ 3,746,045	\$ 886,766	
Trust Fund	\$ 114,775	\$ 3,921	\$ 142	\$ 118,554	\$ 5,040	\$ 500	\$ 123,094	
Internal Service Fund	\$ 2,659,029			\$ 2,502,983			\$ 2,659,029	
* OPEB Revocable Trust Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
OPEB Irrevocable Trust Fund	\$ 92,000	\$ 31,600	\$ -	\$ 123,600	\$ 52,600	\$ -	\$ 176,200	
OPEB Debt Service Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Total - All Funds	\$ 30,306,029	\$ 107,787,740	\$ 100,667,095	\$ 37,270,628	\$ 108,493,129	\$ 109,630,714	\$ 36,289,089	

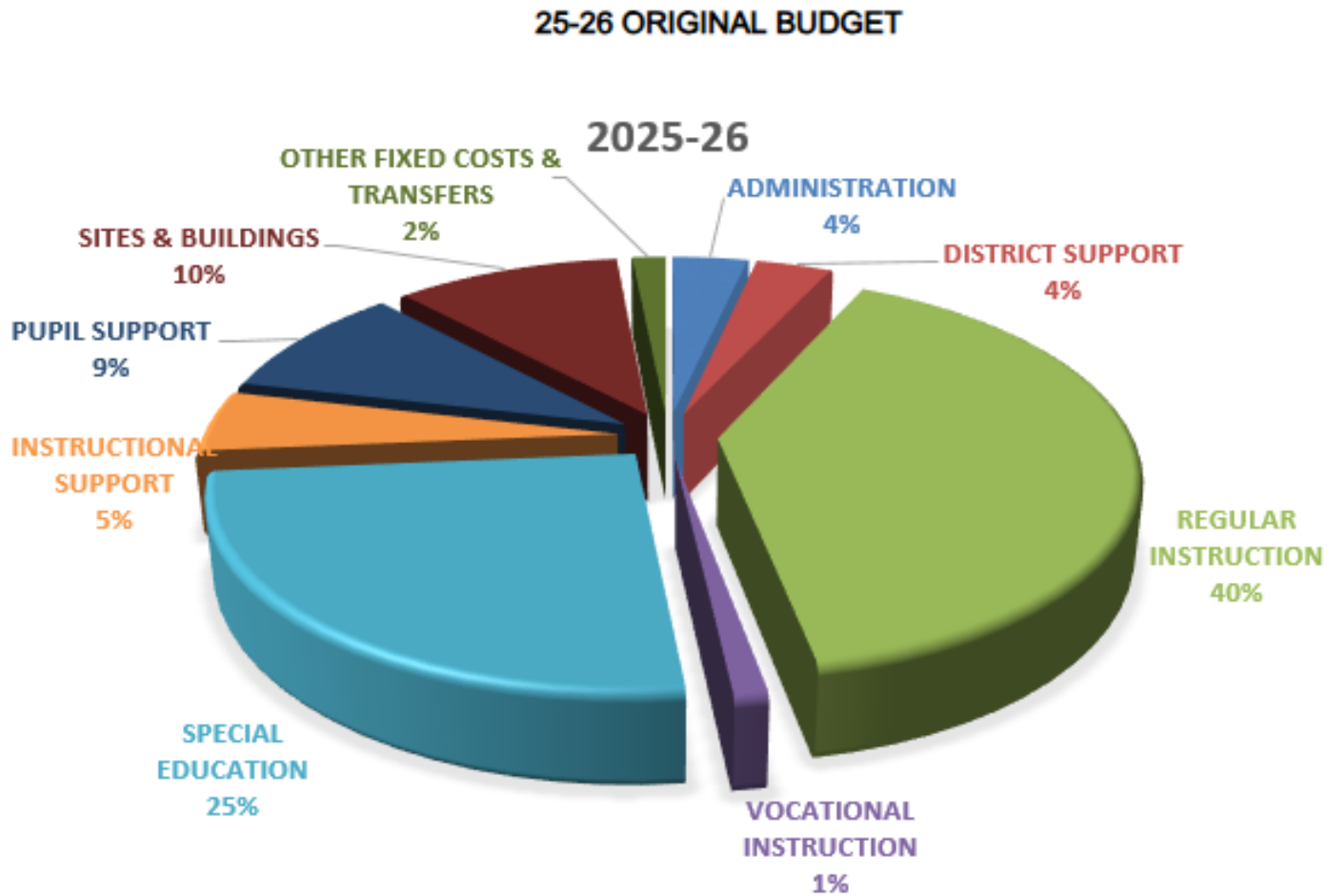
# FY2026 Revenue by Sources

## 2025-26 ORIGINAL BUDGET GENERAL FUND REVENUES BY SOURCE





# FY2026 Expenditures by Program



# School District Financial Highlights

- Bond Rating-A1 by Moody's Investor Services
- FY25 Audit Results
  - Received an unmodified opinion (clean audit)
  - Unassigned fund balance is higher than Board approved fund balance
  - No findings in process and procedures reflects our amazing staff
- Thank you to the amazing staff at APS for achieving these accomplishments

# 2026 Property Tax Levy

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# School District Timeline



July and August

Information provided to State for preliminary levy calculations



September

Preliminary levy certification by school board



November 25-December 30th

School District holds Truth in Taxation meeting and certify final property tax levy for taxes payable in 2026



May 2025 and November 2026

Property taxes collected by counties and distributed to the school district

# Local Property Tax Levy

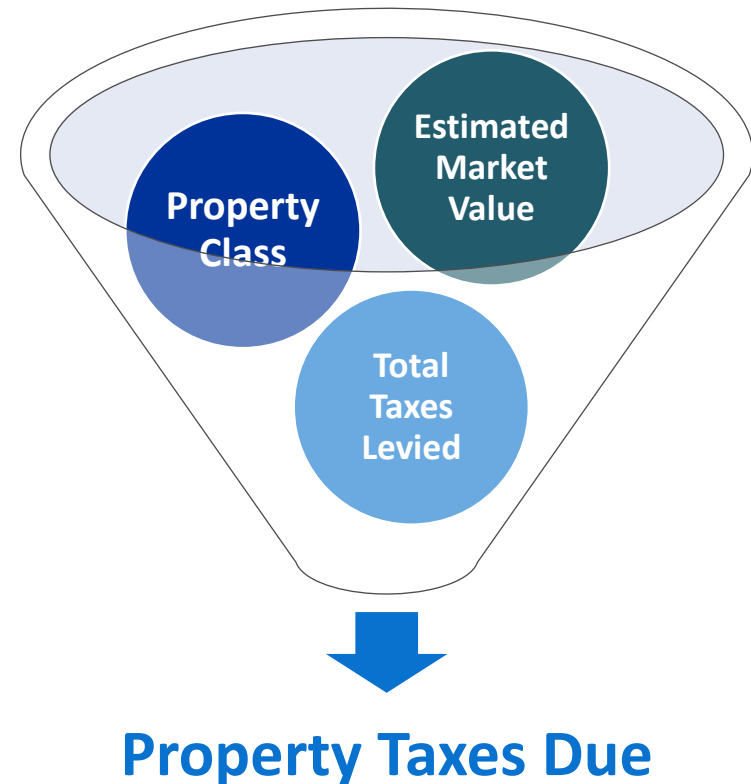


- State limits the local property tax levy by statutorily defined formulas
  - Levy limitation formulas are driven by:
    - Pupil Counts
    - Specific eligible expenditure types
    - Population
    - Voter authorization
    - Districtwide Property Valuations

# Calculating Property Taxes

## 3 Key Variables

1. **Estimated Market Value**  
established for each parcel by Assessor
2. **Property Classification** rates  
established by state legislature
3. **Tax levy** established by taxing jurisdictions (School, City, County and others)



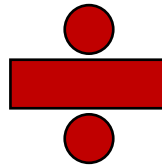


# State Equalization Formulas

Property Valuation



per

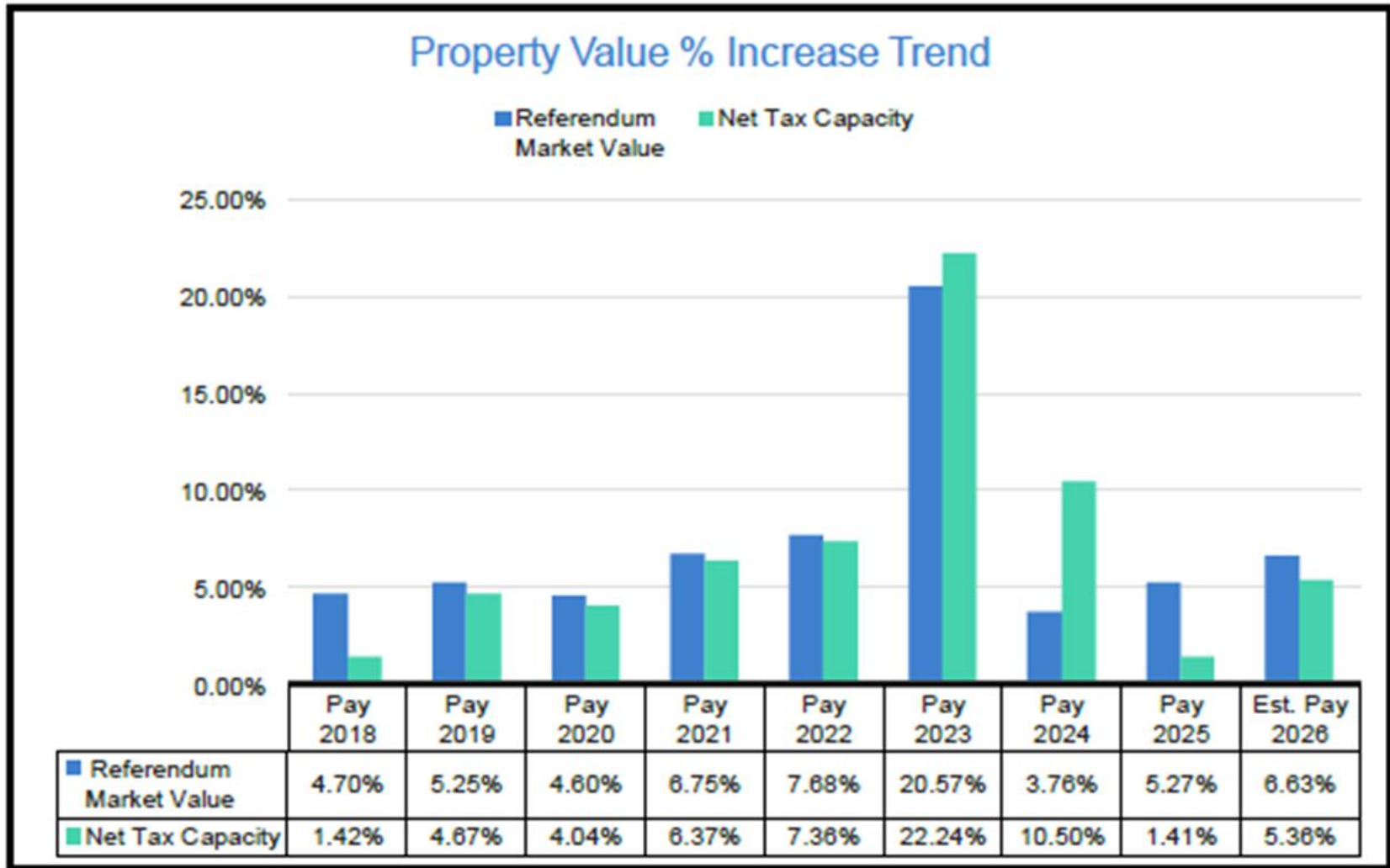


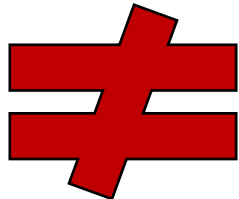
Student



The formulas provide more state aid to Districts with less property wealth per student.

# Valuation History



% Change to Tax Levy  % Change to Budget Revenue

Some levy increases are offset by a reduction in state aid meaning no additional revenue for school district budget.



# Levy Overview

	Proposed Pay 2026	Final Pay 2025	\$ Change	% Change
<b>General Fund (Fund 1)</b>				
Operating Referendum	2,161,555	2,077,199	84,356	4.06%
Local Optional	2,250,147	2,213,168	36,979	1.67%
Equity Revenue	655,699	620,233	35,466	5.72%
Transition	189,416	180,940	8,477	4.68%
Operating Capital	308,455	331,254	(22,799)	-6.88%
Achievement & Integration	348,014	343,009	5,005	1.46%
Reemployment	23,000	23,000	-	0.00%
Safe Schools	194,259	194,021	238	0.12%
Career and Technical	172,001	138,720	33,281	23.99%
OPEB	618,652	746,591	(127,939)	-17.14%
Long-Term Fac Maint	741,396	1,354,076	(612,679)	-45.25%
Building / Land Lease	953,699	897,582	56,118	6.25%
Health Benefits	16,800	15,264	1,536	10.06%
<i>Adjustments and Abatements</i>	126,646	99,821	26,825	26.87%
<i>Transfer to Fund 7</i>	(815,137)	(695,140)	(119,997)	17.26%
<b>Totals - General Fund</b>	<b>7,944,602</b>	<b>8,539,737</b>	<b>(595,135)</b>	<b>-6.97%</b>

## Community Service (Fund 4)

Basic Levy	93,815	106,369	(12,554)	-11.8%
Early Childhood	53,115	64,475	(11,360)	-17.6%
Home Visit	1,584	1,414	170	12.0%
Adults with Disabilities	1,500	1,709	(210)	-12.3%
School Age Care	50,000	58,500	(8,500)	-14.5%
<i>Adjustments and Abatements</i>	98,623	18,223	80,400	441.2%
<b>Totals - Comm Service</b>	<b>298,637</b>	<b>250,690</b>	<b>47,947</b>	<b>19.1%</b>

## Debt Redemption (Fund 7)

Basic Levy	2,483,985	1,585,710	898,275	56.6%
Long Term Fac. Debt Service	245,700	574,497	(328,796)	-57.2%
Debt Excess	(241,105)	(222,318)	(18,787)	8.5%
<i>Adjustments and Abatements</i>	(744)	1,226	(1,970)	-160.7%
<i>Transfer from Fund 1</i>	815,137	695,140	119,997	17.3%
<b>Totals - Debt Redemption</b>	<b>3,302,973</b>	<b>2,634,255</b>	<b>668,719</b>	<b>25.4%</b>

<b>Total Levy</b>	<b>11,546,212</b>	<b>11,424,682</b>	<b>121,531</b>	<b>1.06%</b>
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# Major Changes

Long Term  
Facilities  
Maintenance  
(LTFM) (\$612,679)

- Decrease in LTFM general fund levy due to aid shifting from the debt service fund

Debt Service  
+\$898,275

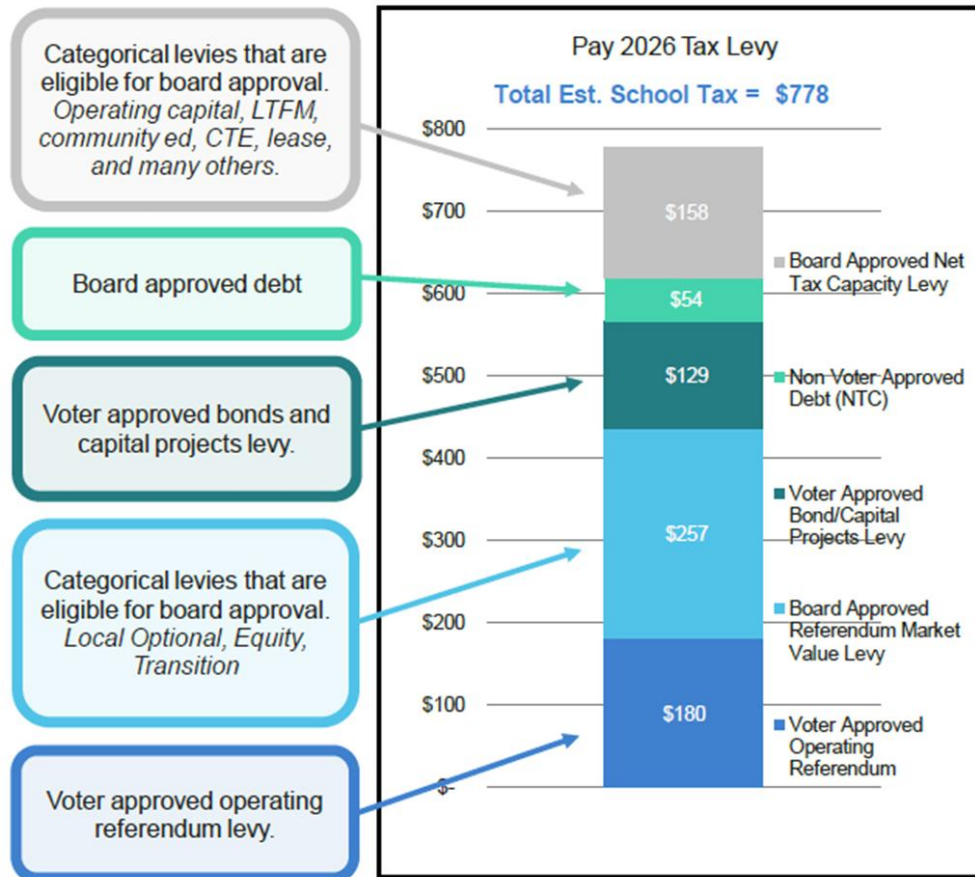
- Increase due to new capital facilities bond (LED lighting project) and state aid shifting to the general fund

# Est. Pay 2026 Tax for Residential

## Austin Public School District

Estimated Pay 2026 Total School Taxes for Residential Homestead

Home Value = \$200,000





# Other Taxpayer Resources

- Minnesota homestead property tax refund:  
<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/homeowners-homestead-credit-refund>
- Special property tax refund program:  
<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-refund>
- Senior citizen property tax deferral:  
<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/property-tax-deferral-senior-citizens>
- Disable Veteran's homestead property tax exclusion:  
<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/market-value-exclusion-veterans-disability>
- Blind or disabled special homestead classification:  
<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/special-homestead-classification>
- Green acres and rural preserve:  
<https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/green-acres-and-rural-preserve>

# Levy Certification

Recommended Levy  
Certification Amount

\$11,546,212

# Public Comments

