
Finance Advisory Committee

2025-26 Finance Advisory Committee
Budget and Fiscal Recommendations to Superintendent Hines



Finance Advisory Committee

2025-26 Finance Advisory Committee
Recommendations to Superintendent Hines

February 24, 2026 School Board Meeting

Mission

St. Louis Park Public Schools sees, inspires, and empowers each learner to live their brilliance in an environment that centers student voice and experience to create racially equitable learning that energizes and enhances the spirit of our community.

February 24, 2026 School Board Meeting



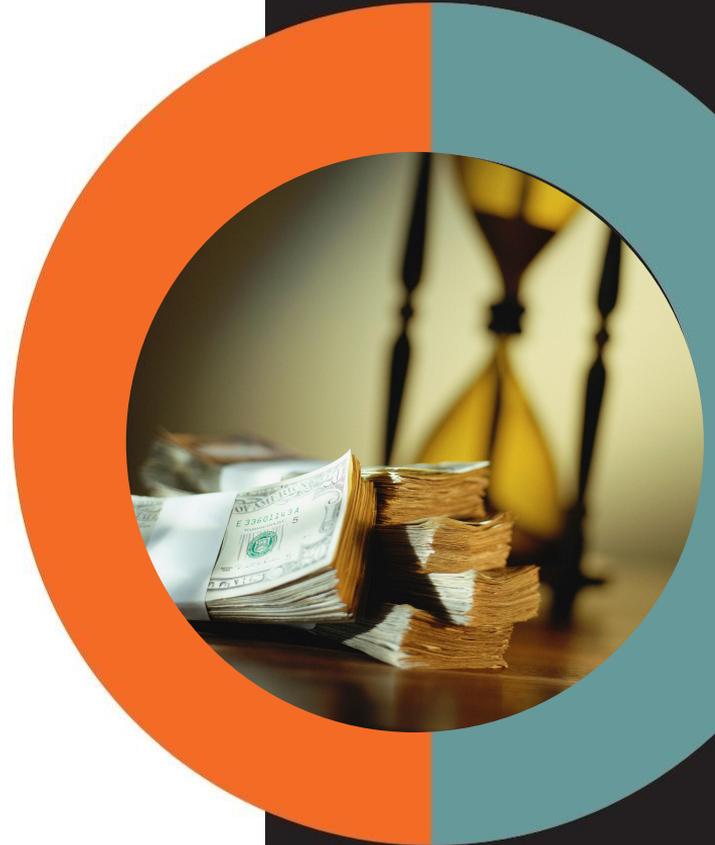
Budget Timeline

FY2027 Budget Planning Timeline for Operating Fund Budgets

Operating Funds: General, School Nutrition, Community Service

Date	Who	Outcome
	Grey shading denotes FAC Meeting	Orange shading denotes School Board (Bold = school board budget-related action)

February 24, 2026 School Board Meeting



FAC Purpose

Advise administration and the SLP School Board on economic and school finance issues, and build community trust in district finances.



Report Summary



St. Louis Park
Public Schools

Finance Advisory Committee
Budget and Fiscal Recommendations to Superintendent Hines
February 24, 2026

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Recommendations

- Fund Balance Percentage
- **New!** Balanced Budget
- Per Pupil Funding Formula
- Student Enrollment
- Student Fees
- **New!** District-Wide Fee Structure
- **New!** Class Sizes
- Cost Drivers & Cost Containment

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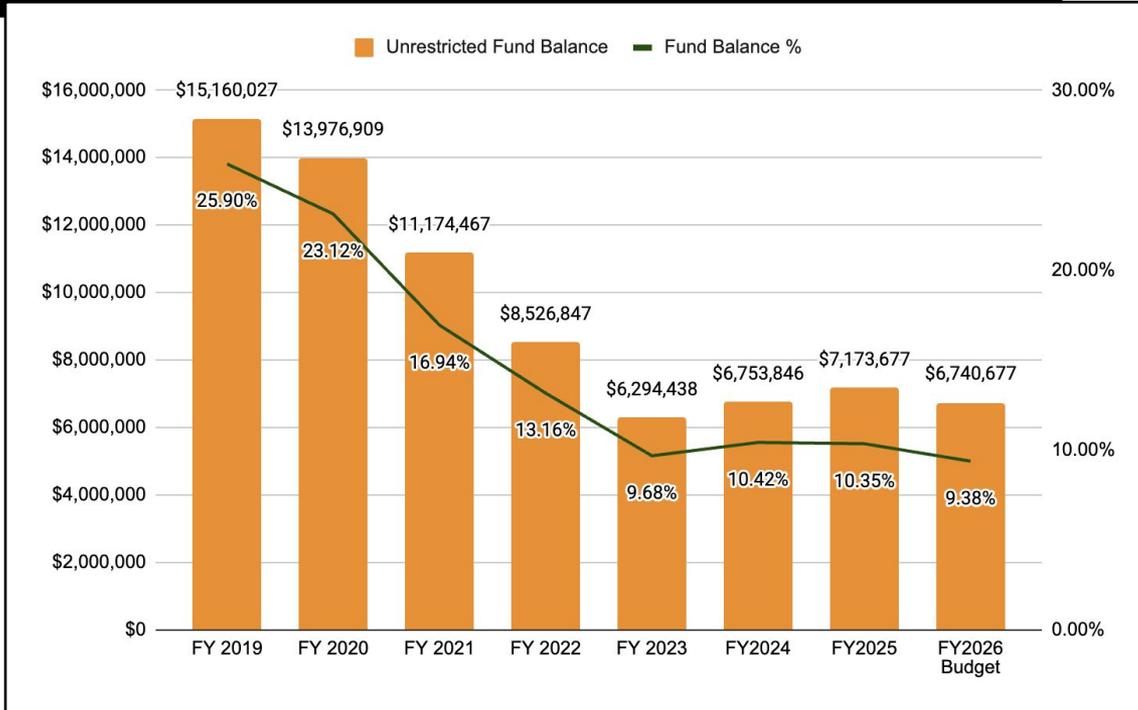


Recommendation #1: Fund Balance Percentage

- Develop an expenditure budget that ensures an unreserved fund balance of at least 8% (using the MDE Fund Balance calculation).
- Consider a long-term strategy to gradually increase the fund balance to 12%-16%



Recommendation #1: Fund Balance Percentage



Recommendation #2: Balanced Budget

Maintain a structurally balanced budget in which expenditures are aligned with revenues:

- Stabilizes and protects fund balance
- Avoids structural deficits and reactive reductions
- Supports strong credit ratings and lowers borrowing costs
- Preserves flexibility amid enrollment, economic, and cost pressures
- Demonstrates disciplined stewardship of public funds



Recommendation #3: Per Pupil Funding Formula

2.69% increase in per pupil formula

Year	Amount	Explanation
2022-23	\$6,863	2.00% increase
2023-24	\$7,138	4.00% increase
2024-25	\$7,281	2.00% increase
2025-26	\$7,481	2.74% increase
2026-27	\$7,683	2.69% increase



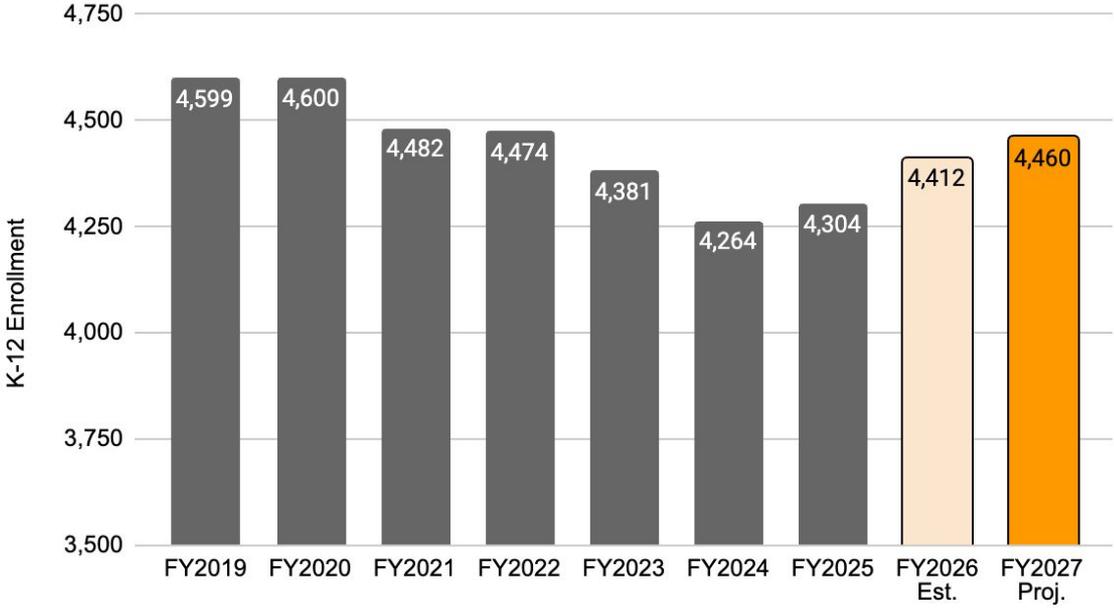
Recommendation #4: Student Enrollment

- 4,460 K-12th grade adjusted pupil units (APU) to be used for revenue and staffing projections
- Focus to improve the student capture rates to maintain and increase enrollment

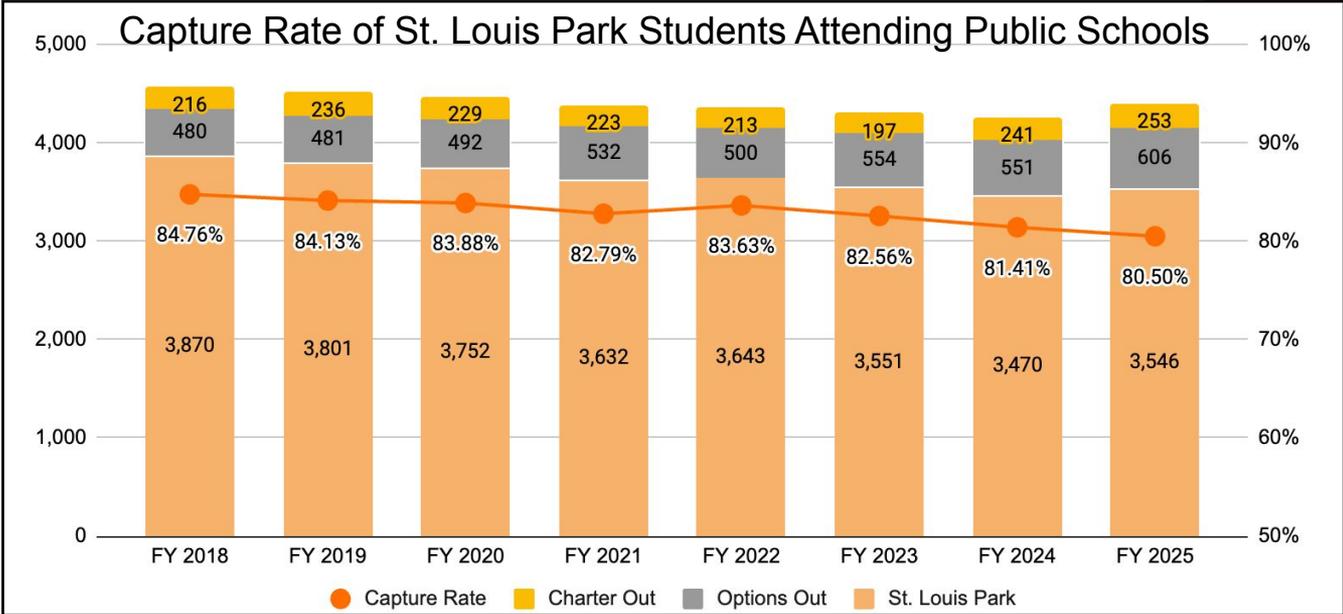


Recommendation #4: Student Enrollment

Historical and Projected Kindergarten - 12th Grade October 1 Enrollment



Recommendation #4: Student Enrollment



Recommendation #4: Student Enrollment

Beliefs about ways to attract and retain resident students

- Persist in improving academic outcomes
- Promote unique strengths of St. Louis Park Public Schools
- Increase outreach to families with incoming kindergarteners
- Hold high expectations for initial family experiences
- Ensure transparency in student access
- Enhance non-academic experiences

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Recommendation #5: Student Fees

Maintain all student fees and meal prices, with the exception of a proposed **increase in the annual high school parking fee from \$100 to \$200.**

- [Comparative District Parking Fees](#)



Recommendation #6: District-Wide Fee Structure

Goal: simplify processes, enhance transparency, reduce administrative complexity, and maintain equitable access to district programs and services.

To include:

- standardize credit card and processing fees,
- align fee collection mechanisms, and
- evaluate whether cash payments should continue



Recommendation #7: Class Sizes

- Remain consistent with the previous year
- Attention to secondary class sizes

Grade	<u>Guidelines</u>
Kindergarten	23.0
Grade 1	23.0
Grade 2	24.0
Grade 3	26.0
Grade 4	28.0
Grades 5	29.0
Grade 6-8	30.0 - 35.0
Grades 9-12	



Recommendation #7: Class Sizes

Pursue strategies to reduce class size variability at the high school and middle school levels

- increased transparency around actual class sizes,
- differentiate between required and elective courses
- review low-enrollment courses not required for graduation

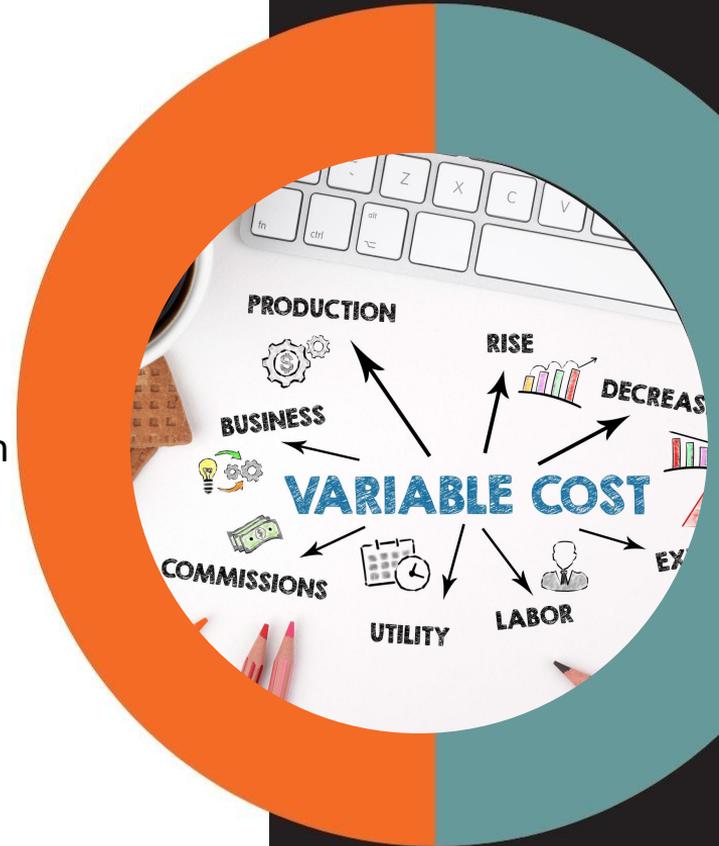
Improve staffing predictability:

- limit midterm schedule changes
- prioritize courses that align with strategic plan and/or generate college credit



Recommendation #8: Cost Drivers & Cost Containment

- Focus on understanding and addressing the key cost drivers ensuring alignment available revenue
- Prioritize retaining direct student-facing positions
 - Ensure that investments in non-classroom positions, such as administrative roles, deliver a clear return on investment
- Transparently report number of non-student facing positions
- Reduce student access to printing
- Continue enhanced monthly school board reporting





FAC Committee Member Reflections

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Questions

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