
Finance Advisory Committee

2024-25 Finance Advisory Committee

Budget and Fiscal Recommendations to Superintendent Hines

Staff:

- Cody Christensen, Senior Accountant
- Josiah Nebo, Asst. Director of Business Services
- Patricia Magnuson, Director of Business Services

Parents/Community Members:

- Lisa Wahlstrom
- Matthew Ernst
- Mitch Meyer

Students:

- Charlotte Cox, High School Senior
- Jaiden Leary, High School Senior



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.

FY2026 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)
D a t a G a t h e r i n g	August 22, 2024	Budget Managers	Review YTD Expenditures
	September 10, 2024	School Board Regular Meeting	Review Preliminary Levy Process
	September 11, 2024	Budget Managers	Review YTD Expenditures
	September 24, 2024	School Board Regular Meeting	Approve preliminary Pay 2025 levy
	September 25, 2024	Finance Advisory Committee	1. Overview of plan/expectations 2. Understand Budget Timeline
	October 9, 2024	Budget Managers	Review YTD Expenditures
	October 23, 2024	Finance Advisory Committee	Begin budget analysis
	November 13, 2024	Budget Managers	Review YTD Expenditures
	November 27, 2024	Finance Advisory Committee	Enrollment focus
	December 10, 2024	School Board Regular Meeting	1. Tax Hearing 2. Approve final Pay 2026 levy
	December 11, 2024	Budget Managers	Review YTD Expenditures
	December 18, 2024	Finance Advisory Committee	1. FY2026 enrollment projections 2. FY2026 Fund Balance assumptions 3. FY2026 other assumptions
P r e p a r a t i o n	January 22, 2025	Budget Managers	Review YTD Expenditures
	January 22, 2025	Finance Advisory Committee	1. Draft final budget assumptions 2. Begin draft of Spring 2025 FAC Report
	January 28, 2025	School Board Regular Meeting	Accept FY2024 Audit Results
	February 19, 2025	Finance Advisory Committee	1. Finalize budget assumptions 2. Spring 2025 FAC Report
	February 25, 2025	School Board Regular Meeting	FAC Presentation
	March 6, 2025	Budget Managers	Review YTD Expenditures
A p p r o v a l	March 11, 2025	School Board Regular Meeting	1. Discuss FY2026 Budget Assumptions 2. Discuss FY2025 Mid Year Budget Update
	March 25, 2025	School Board Regular Meeting	1. Approve FY2025 Mid Year Budget Update 2. Approve FY2026 budget assumptions
	March 26, 2025	Finance Advisory Committee	Continue Expenditure analysis and plan for next year
	April 9, 2025	Budget Managers	Review YTD Expenditures
	May 2025		MN Legislative Session Adjourns
	May 14, 2025	Budget Managers	Review YTD Expenditures
	June 10, 2025	School Board Study Session	Preview final FY2026 Budgets for all funds; prepare to take action at June 24 regular meeting
June 24, 2025	School Board Regular Meeting	Approve final FY2026 budget for all funds	
C l o s i n g	June 11, 2025	Budget Managers	Debrief on FY2026 budget planning process
	July 2025	Business Services	Prepare for FY2025 Audit



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	June 24, 2025	School Board Regular Meeting	Approve final FY2026 budget for all funds



FAC Purpose

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

Finance Advisory Committee
 FY2026 Budget and Fiscal Recommendations to Superintendent Hines
 February 28, 2025

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FY2026 Budget Recommendation Background	Pages 3-11
❖ Recommendation #1: Within revenue constraints, build an expenditure budget that maintains an unreserved fund balance of at least 8% with growth	Page 3-4
❖ Recommendation #2: 2.53% (current MDE estimate) increase in per pupil formula	Page 5
❖ Recommendation #3: 4,326 K-12th grade adjusted pupil units (APU)	Pages 6-8
❖ Recommendation #4: Maintain student fees and meal prices at current rates; add a technology fee and increase community education premier space rental fee	Pages 9-10
❖ Recommendation #5: Understand district cost drivers and focus on cost containment	Pages 11
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FAC Members

Students			
1	Charlotte	Cox	high school senior
2	Jaiden	Leary	high school senior
3	Evan	Scott	high school junior

Community Members			
1	Matthew	Ernst	High School
2	Barry	Fitzpatrick	Middle/High School
3	Tim	Goldencrown	Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School
4	Iman	Hatibu	Peter Hobart Elementary School
5	Mitch	Meyer	Aquila
6	Anna	Younger	Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School
7	Lisa	Wahlstrom	Susan Lindgren; PK

District Staff			
1	Michelle	Bryant	School Social Worker at Susan Lindgren
2	Sue	Cantor	SPARK
3	Cody	Christensen	Senior Accountant
4	Patrice	Howard	Cabinet
5	Patricia	Magnuson	Director of Business Services
6	Josiah	Nebo	Assistant Director Business Services
7	LaNisha	Paddock	High school Principal
8	Scott	Peterson	Accountant

School Board			
1	Celia	Anderson	School Board (served during 2024)
2	Anne	Casey	School Board (served during 2024)
3	Abdihakim	Ibrahim	School Board (served during 2025)
4	Taylor	Williams	School Board (served during 2025)

Primary Factors Discussed and Considered

- State Economy
- Cost Structure
- Student Enrollment

Budget Recommendations

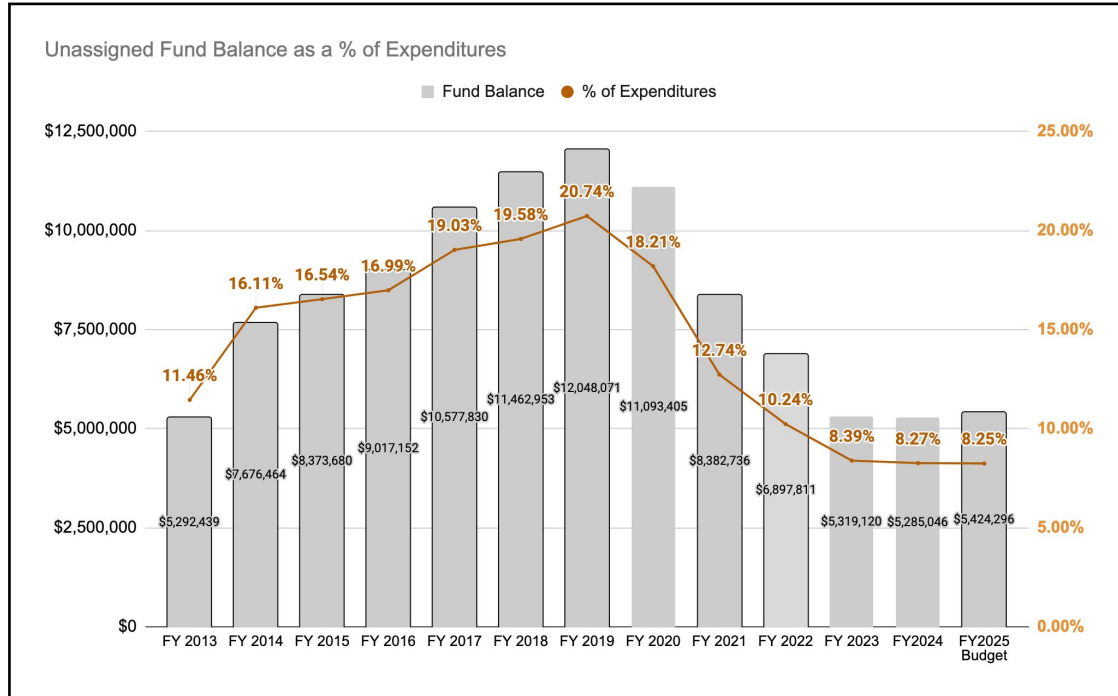
- Fund Balance Minimum
- Pre Pupil Funding Formula
- Student Enrollment Projection
- Local Fees
- District Cost Drivers

Recommendation 1: Fund Balance Minimum

- Develop an expenditure budget that ensures an unreserved fund balance of at least 8%.
- Create a long-term strategy to gradually increase the fund balance to 12%-16%, which would equate to approximately two months' worth of expenditures.

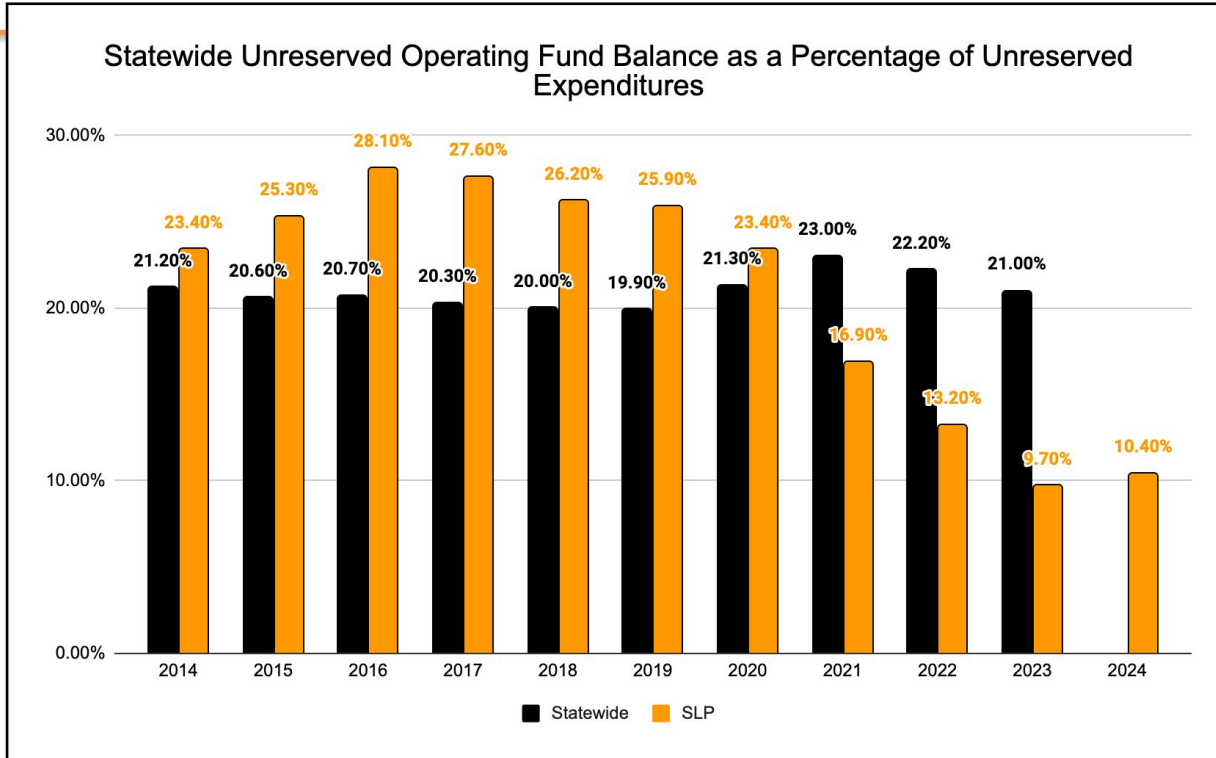
Internal Unassigned/Unrestricted Fund Balance Calculation

(excludes assigned balances for future budget deficits, donations/grants, severance ATPPS)



Statewide Unrestricted Fund Balance Calculation

(includes assigned balances for future budget deficits, donations/grants, severance ATPPS)



Recommendation 2: General Education Funding Formula

- 2.53% increase in per pupil formula

Recommendation 2: General Education Funding Formula

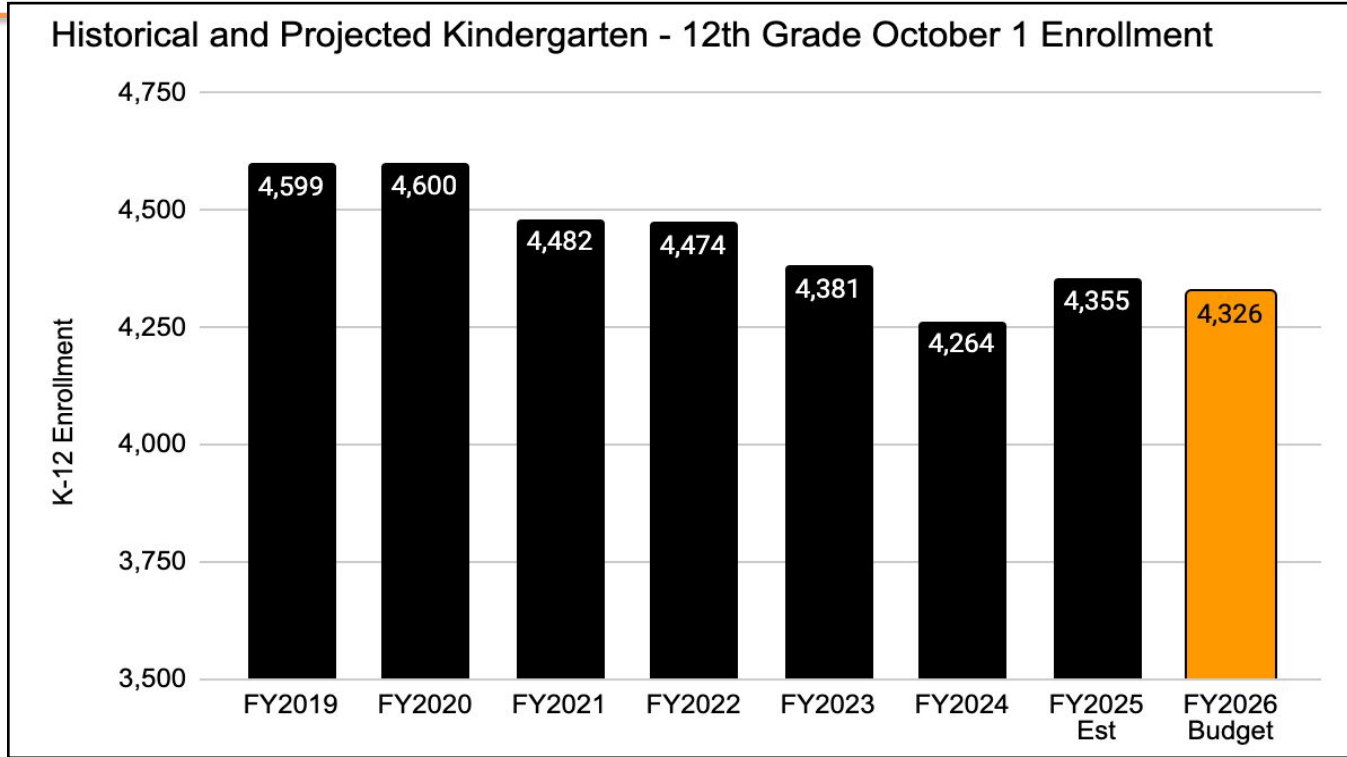
Year	Amount	Explanation
2013-14	\$5,302	1.5% increase
2014-15	\$5,831	1.5% increase + \$25
2015-16	\$5,948	2.0% increase
2016-17	\$6,067	2.0% increase
2017-18	\$6,188	2.0% increase
2018-19	\$6,312	2.0% increase
2019-20	\$6,438	2.0% increase
2020-21	\$6,567	2.0% increase
2021-22	\$6,728	2.45% increase
2022-23	\$6,863	2.0% increase
2023-24	\$7,138	4.0% increase
2024-25	\$7,281	2.0% increase
2025-26	\$7,465	2.53% increase (current MDE est)



Recommendation 3: Student Enrollment

- 4,326 K-12th grade adjusted pupil units (APU)
- Focus to improve the student capture rates to maintain and increase enrollment

Recommendation 3: Student Enrollment



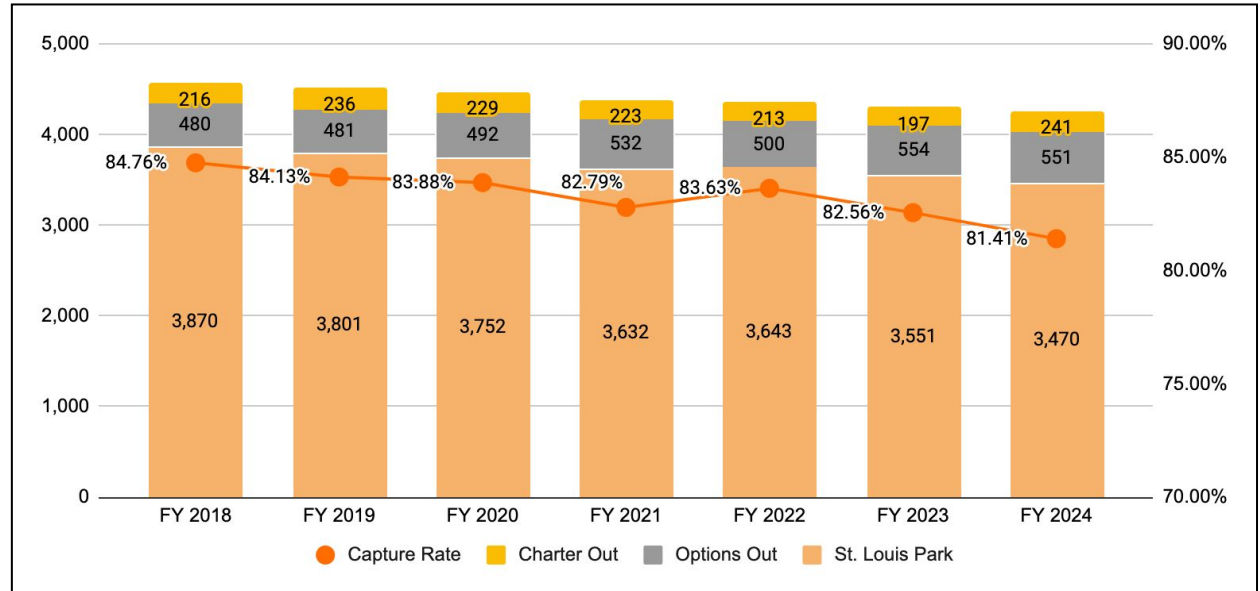
Recommendation 3: Student Enrollment

	Historical Fall Actual						Est	Budget
	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
Kindergarten	332	391	302	351	298	323	334	302
Grade 1	351	329	384	309	345	282	331	331
Grade 2	333	338	319	365	294	345	300	339
Grade 3	355	334	325	319	364	283	339	294
Grade 4	357	346	322	315	316	339	300	341
Grade 5	360	347	345	312	303	317	351	304
Total Elementary	2,088	2,085	1,997	1,971	1,920	1,889	1,955	1,911
Grade 6	356	358	323	330	320	310	321	357
Grade 7	322	357	340	331	322	315	329	328
Grade 8	340	333	338	331	316	313	324	328
Total Middle School	1,018	1,048	1,001	992	958	938	974	1,013
Grade 9	392	370	374	399	361	326	339	346
Grade 10	390	380	366	383	393	354	338	342
Grade 11	337	378	356	352	364	375	363	334
Grade 12	374	339	388	377	385	382	386	380
Total High School	1,493	1,467	1,484	1,511	1,503	1,437	1,426	1,402
Total K-12	4,599	4,600	4,482	4,474	4,381	4,264	4,355	4,326
Change		1	-118	-8	-93	-117	91	-29
		0.02%	-2.57%	-0.18%	-2.08%	-2.67%	2.13%	-0.67%*



Recommendation 3: Student Enrollment

Focus significant effort to recruit and retain resident students to increase capture rate



Recommendation 3: Student Enrollment

Beliefs about ways to attract and retain resident students

- Persist in Improving Academic Outcomes
- Promote Unique Strengths
 - Preschool programs, which serve as a positive and inviting entry point for families into the district's educational system.
 - Small town in the city highlighting proximity to the city with the benefits of a smaller school setting
 - Low elementary class sizes
 - Engaged and connected teachers - teachers care about their students
 - Modernized schools and cafeterias as a result of community support and investment
 - Offerings of International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced Placement (AP), and concurrent college enrollment at the high school
- Increase Outreach to Families with Incoming Kindergarteners
- Create High Expectations for Initial Family Experiences
- Ensure Transparency in Student Access
- Enhance Non-Academic Experiences

Recommendation 4: Local Revenue

- Add a Technology Fee
- Increase Community Education Space Rental Fees
- Maintain Existing Student Fees and Meal Prices
- Encourage Sports Boosters to Increase Funding
 - Form a District-Wide Booster Club
 - Focus Booster Support on Transportation

Recommendation 5: District Cost Drivers

- Focus on understanding and addressing the key cost drivers
 - ensuring alignment with historical and statewide trends.
- Cost drivers for initial focus:
 - Substitute Teachers and Substitute Paraprofessionals
 - Printing
 - Transportation
 - Additional Pay Beyond Contracted Pay
- Prioritize retaining classroom teachers and direct student-facing positions
 - Ensure that investments in non-classroom positions, such as administrative roles, deliver a clear return on investment..

FAC Committee Member Reflections

Questions