

1 STRONG SCHOOLS.
STRONG COMMUNITIES.

Our community recognizes that strong schools help build strong communities.

**We are
Owatonna proud.**

2 YOU VOTED.
WE KEEP PROMISES.

In 2013, voters approved a seven year operating levy to help fund our schools' programs and services. This levy expires June 2021. You voted and trusted us to manage the money, and we've done exactly what we promised.

3 FUNDING PRESSURES.

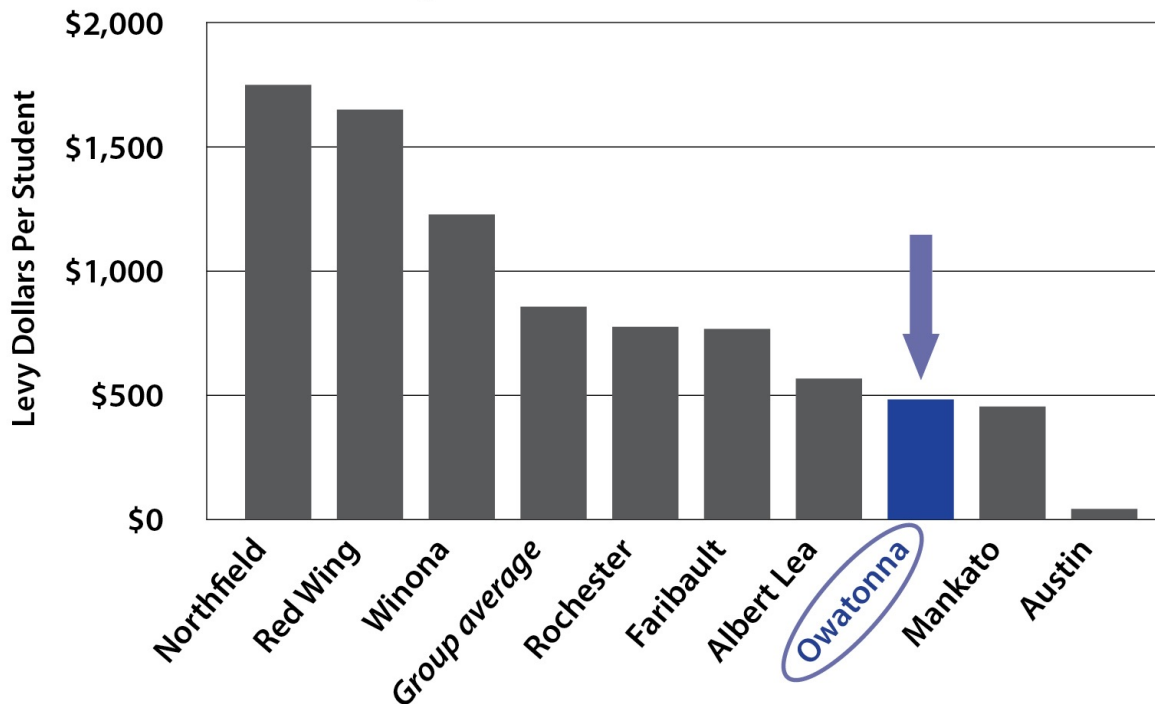
We do our best to stretch every dollar, being as efficient as possible while maintaining a quality education for our students - but this is becoming increasingly difficult.

4 WORKING TOGETHER.

Education funding is a shared partnership between the state and federal governments and local communities. By law, local voters have the opportunity to provide additional funding for their schools.

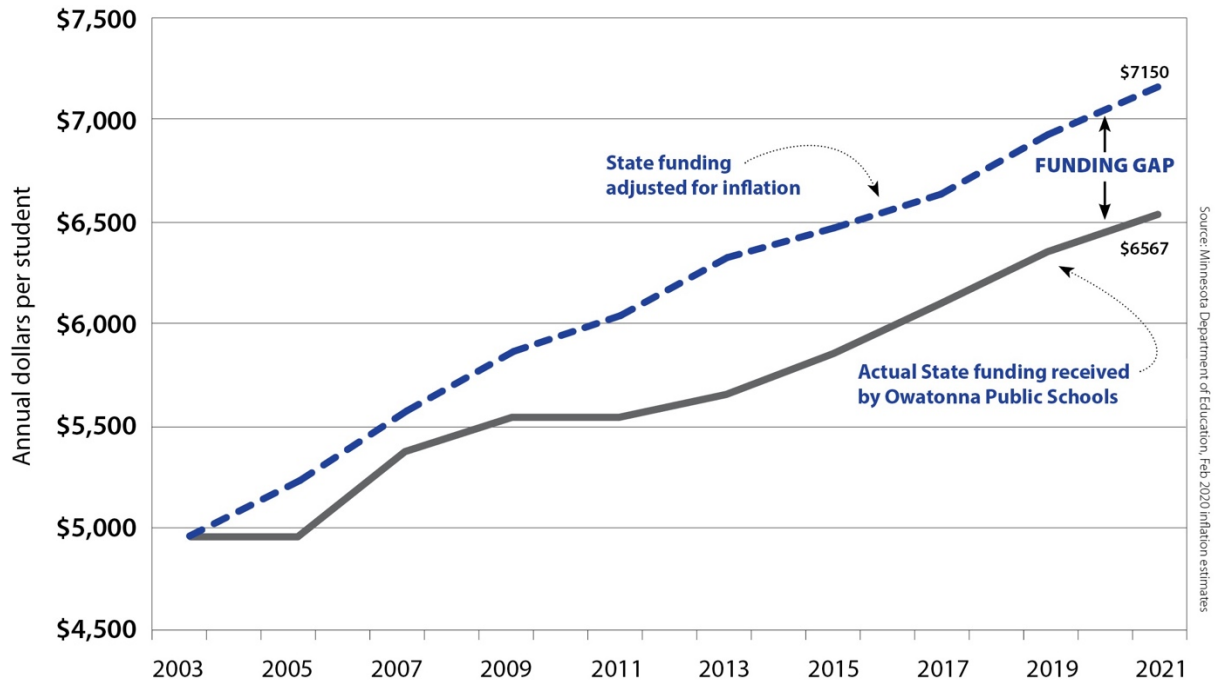
Voter Approved Operating Levies

Big 9 School Districts, 2020-21



Owatonna Public Schools' voter-approved operating levy is in the bottom third of the Big 9 schools—and lower than Faribault and Northfield. These levies are one way local communities support their schools and help pay for school operating costs.

State Basic General Education Funding per Student



If state funding had kept up with inflation since 2003, Owatonna Public Schools would receive nearly \$3 million more in state funding each year.

In addition to inadequate state funding not keep pacing with inflation or increasing costs, **required academic and support programs cost the district nearly \$7 million more than it receives** each year from the state / federal governments.

Options For Financial Stability

When expenses outpace revenue, there are three options: **cut expenses, increase revenue through an operating levy, or both.** The School Board and district leadership are considering how best to share the burden of these financial challenges.

Bonds are for Building, Levies are for Learning

We are so grateful to our community for their past support. It's important to know that **budgets for buildings are legally separated from budgets for operations.** Bonds can't be spent on programs - and operating levy dollars are used to support classroom learning and related expenses.

Learn more about our Finance Facts here: <https://www.isd761.org/our-district/finance-facts>