

OSSEO AREA SCHOOLS

ISD  279



# BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

[district279.org/BetterFuture](https://district279.org/BetterFuture)

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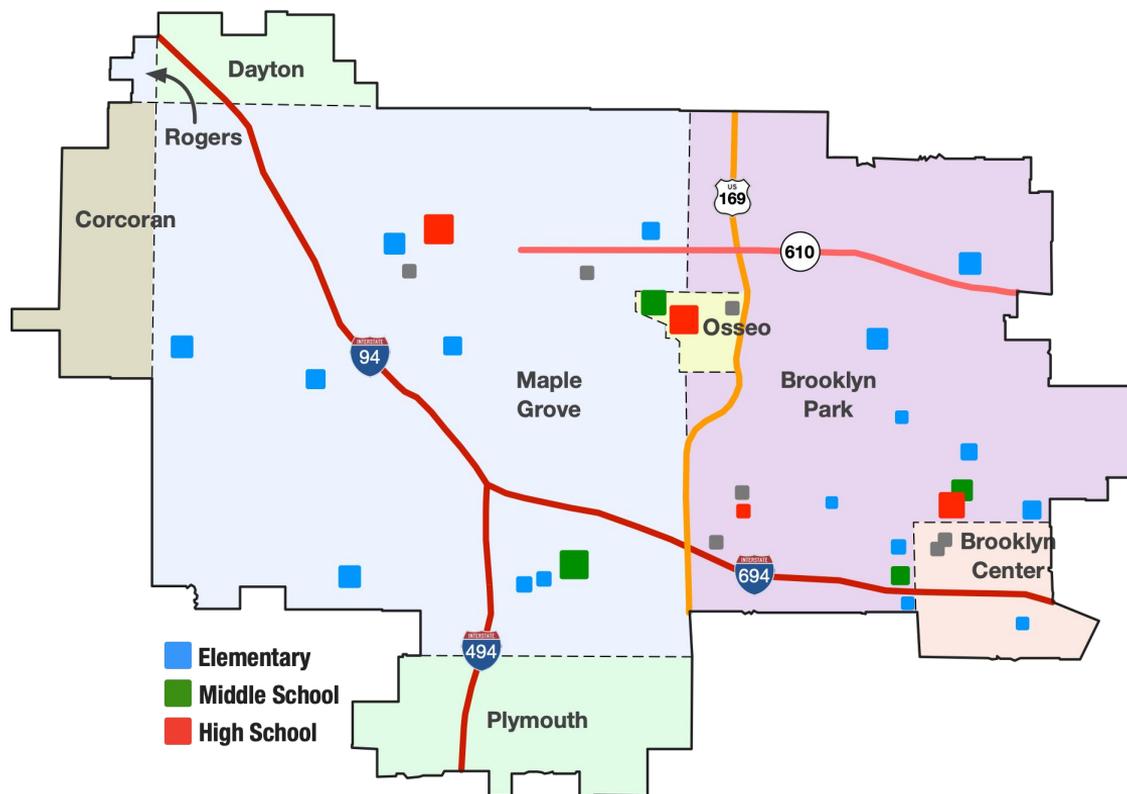
# AGENDA

- ▶ About Osseo Area Schools
- ▶ What *Building a Better Future* is and how it is led by our new strategic plan
- ▶ Fast facts on finance
- ▶ Community input that helped shape work
- ▶ Key information on questions 1 and 2
- ▶ Takeaways
- ▶ Voting information
- ▶ Questions? How to get more information



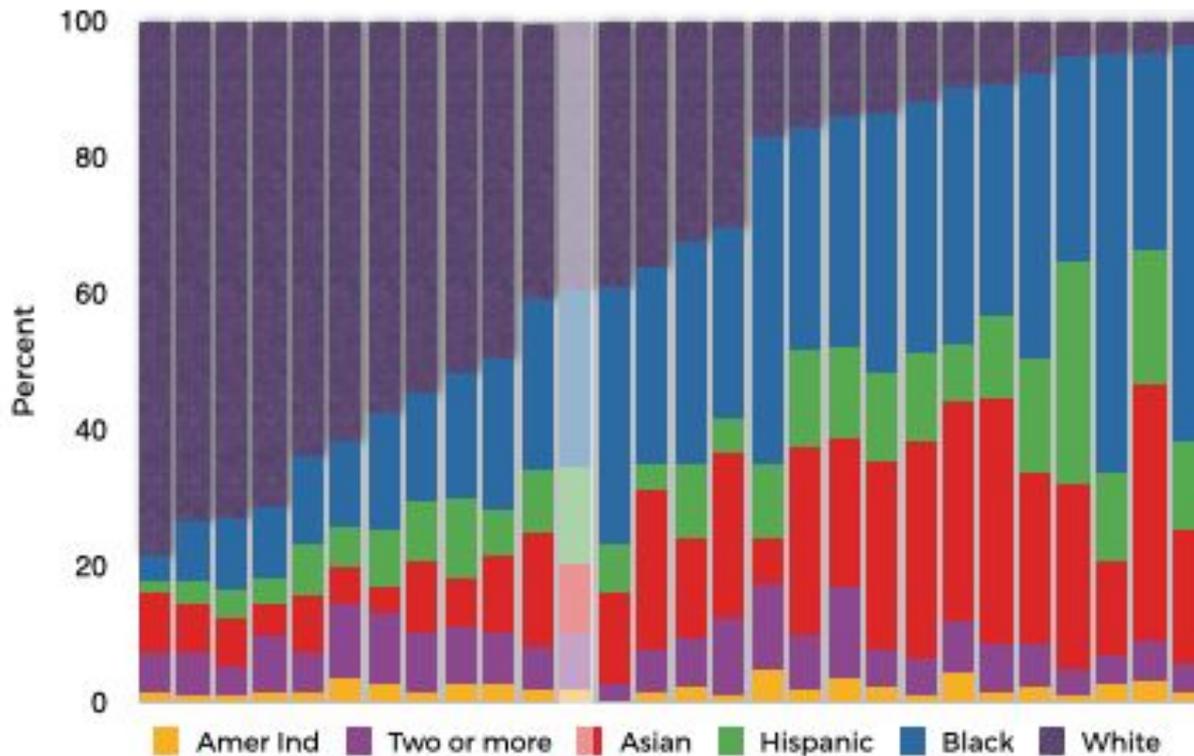


# SERVING EIGHT CITIES



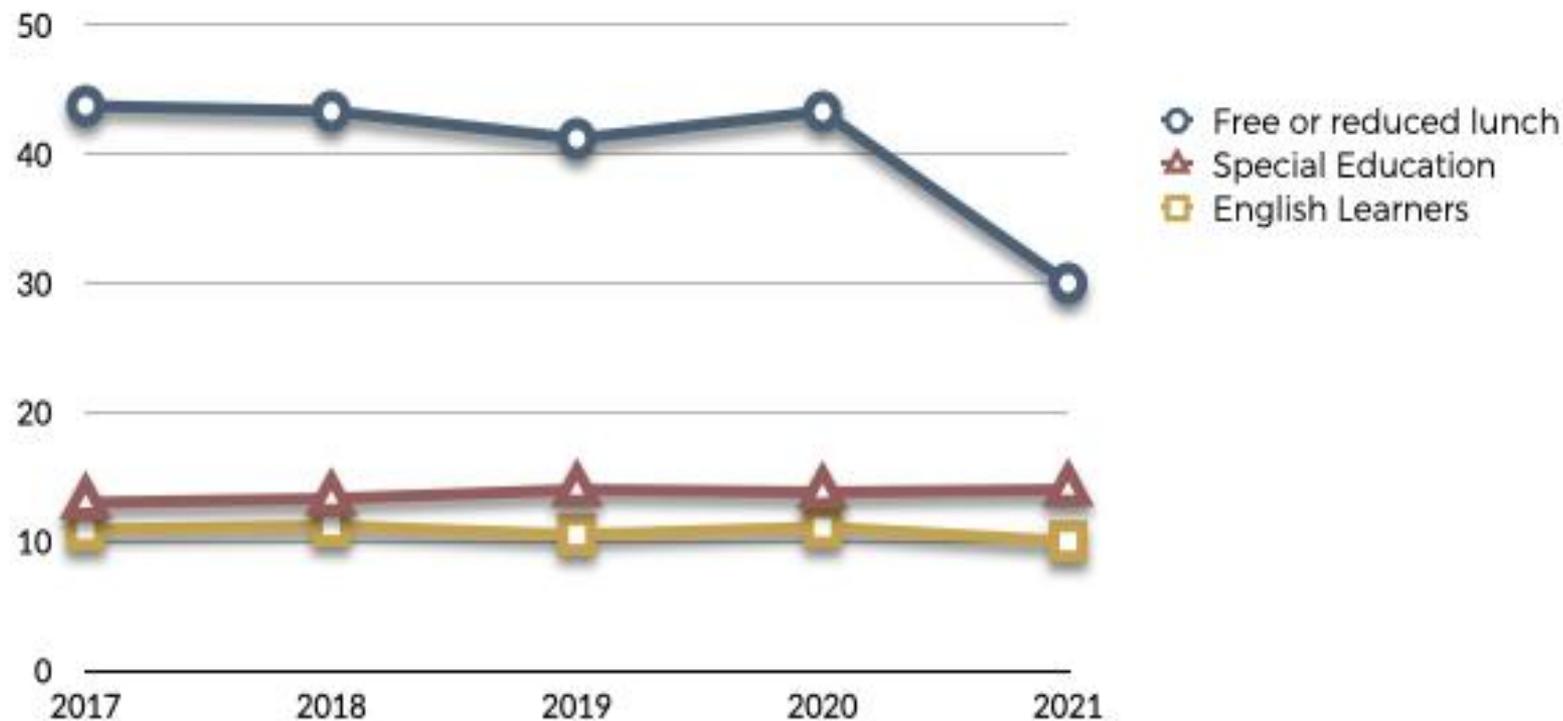
# GLOBAL-LIKE DIVERSITY

*varies widely throughout the district*



# OTHER STUDENT GROUPS

*similar to state averages*





# CURRENT OPERATIONS

- ▶ Osseo Area Schools has 31 school buildings on 703 acres of land
- ▶ Transports more than 14,000 students
- ▶ In an average year, scholars consume:
  - More than 2.4 million lunches
  - More than 900,000 breakfasts

# BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

*is led by our new strategic plan*

- ▶ Community input recently helped to improve mission, vision, core values and strategic directions of the district. These enhancements will:
  - Bring Osseo Area Schools to the next level of excellence, and
  - Give families the educational experience they desire and deserve.
- ▶ Intertwined with the requests for learning and technology needs.



# STRATEGIC ROADMAP



## MISSION STATEMENT

### *Our core purpose*

Our mission is to inspire and prepare each and every scholar with the confidence, courage and competence to achieve their dreams; contribute to community; and engage in a lifetime of learning.

## CORE VALUES

### *Drivers of our words and actions*

#### HONOR AND INTEGRITY

Holding ourselves, each other and our system to the highest standards to create the best conditions for learning.

#### INCLUSION

Intentionally engaging diverse voices and perspectives equitably and respectfully.

#### INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE

Cultivating creativity, ideas, confidence and transformational growth.

#### TRANSPARENCY

Communicating, modeling, and making decisions clearly, equitably and openly.

#### INTRINSIC VALUE

Each scholar, staff member and family is valued and respected for their perspective, experience and contributions.

## VISION STATEMENT

### *What we commit to create*

Unleash and enhance the brilliance of our scholars to thrive and change the world.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

### *Prioritized focus of our time and resources*

- Create safe, welcoming and inclusive learning environments that foster global curiosity, belonging, innovation and engagement.
- Build and nurture a culture of achievement by providing content rich, rigorous, equitable and individualized pathways.
- Promote inclusive participation of all of our communities and provide timely, relevant, and easily accessible communication.
- Create a system of operational innovation, excellence, accountability and sustainability.
- Address, acknowledge and reduce systemic disparities, barriers and inequities as we lead, develop and align our district toward continuous improvement.

# BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

*is led by our new strategic plan*

▶ [district279.org/StrategicPlan](https://district279.org/StrategicPlan)

# BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

*is a multi-year plan*

- ▶ **Phase I:** focuses on learning needs
  - Operating levy
  - Capital projects (technology) levy
- ▶ **Phase II:** focuses on facility needs
  - Bond





# A MAJORITY

of our residents ***don't think*** our schools are ***adequately funded.***

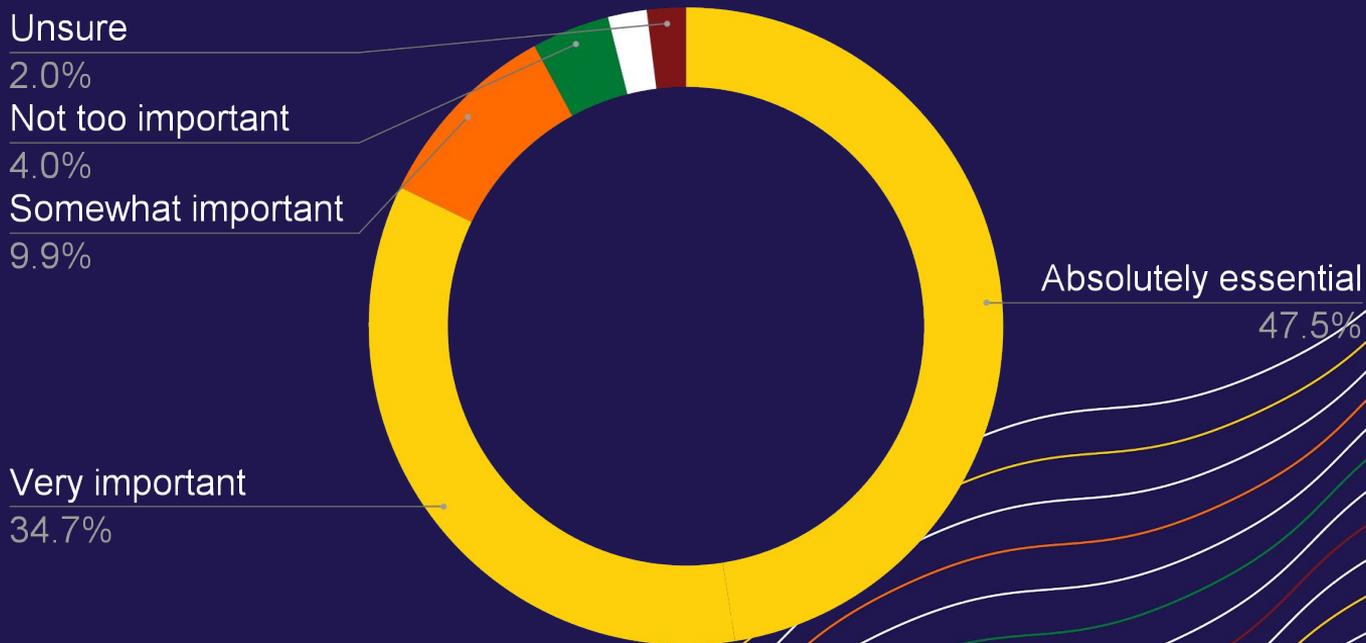


2/3

of residents think our schools are a **good investment** and recognize the **importance of supporting** that investment with local tax dollars.

# 83%

of residents think it is absolutely **essential or very important** for scholars to be able to effectively use computers and other technology.





81%

of residents think the district  
*has responsibly spent* past  
referendum funds.

# SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ 82% Good or excellent on the quality of education
- ▶ 86% All or most scholar needs are being met
- ▶ 87% Trust the district does what is right for scholars
- ▶ 86% Are proud of our schools and would recommend them to others



# FUNDING SOURCES IN 2020-21

Local property tax

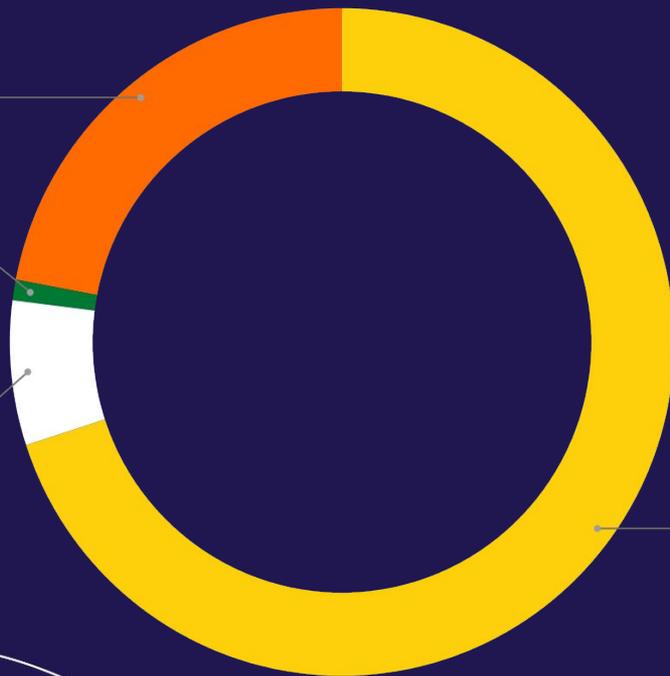
22.0%

Other local and

1.0%

Federal revenue

7.0%

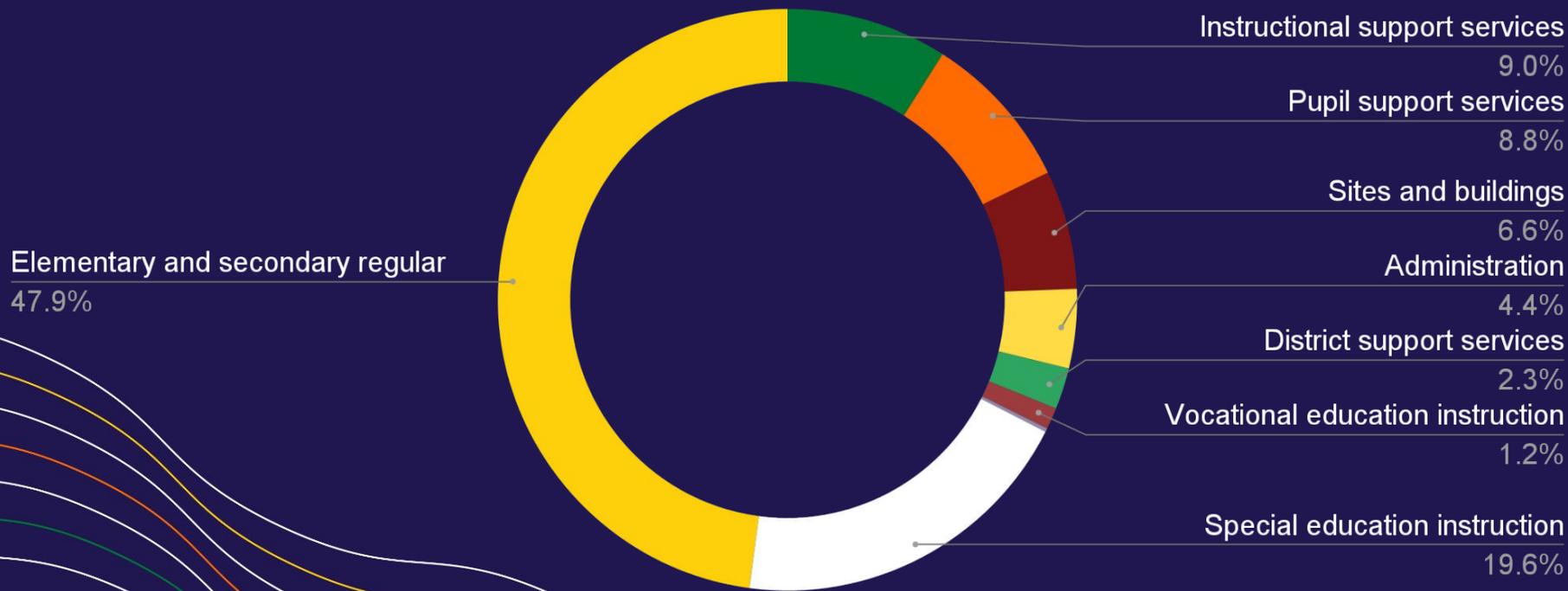


State revenue

70.0%



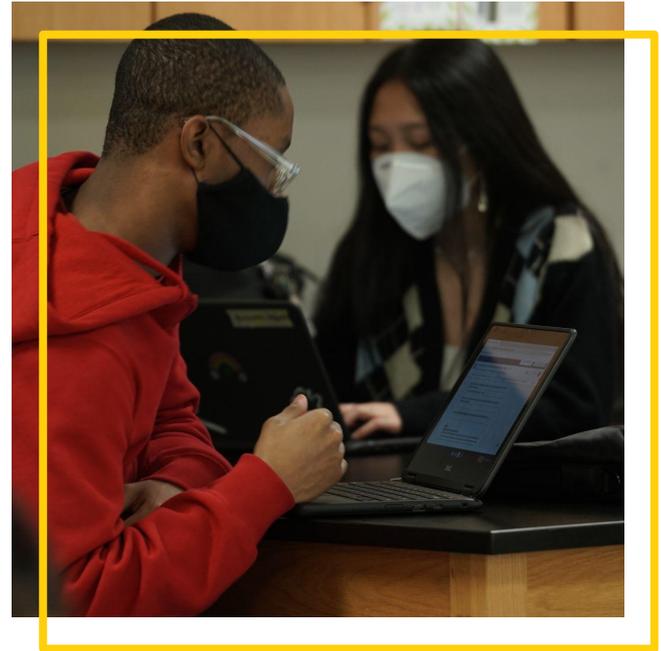
# EXPENDITURES IN 2020-21



# LOCAL FUNDS

*are a key part of keeping schools strong*

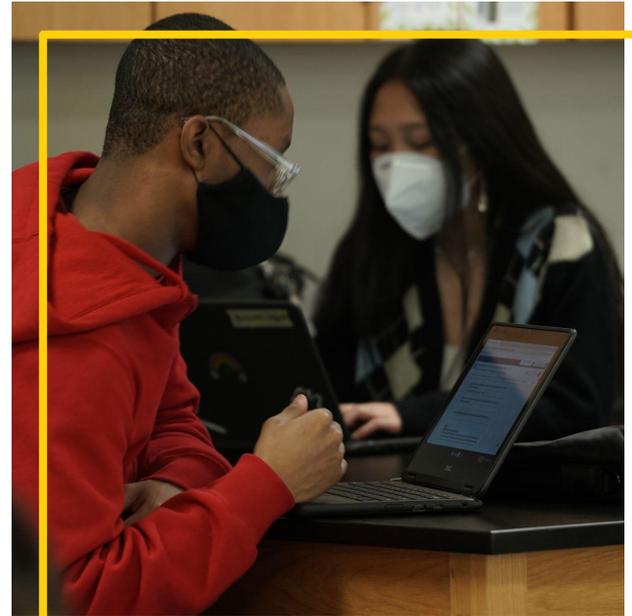
- ▶ Partnership between state and federal governments and local communities.
- ▶ State and federal dollars haven't kept up with increasing educational costs or inflation.
- ▶ Majority of Minnesota school districts currently have voter-approved operating levies.



# LOCAL FUNDS

*at Osseo Area Schools*

- ▶ Current voter-approved operating and technology levies are expiring in 2023-24.
- ▶ Nearly 10 years since the last referendum election.



# A LOOK BACK AT 2013

*when Osseo Area Schools had its last referendum*



Barack Obama was inaugurated for his second term as 44th President of the U.S.



The iPhone 5s was launched. It was the first iPhone to support Touch ID.



“Selfie” was added to the Oxford Online Dictionary.

# COMMUNITY INPUT

*that helped to shape the work*

- ▶ Families, staff and community members shared their daily desired experience through the strategic plan process.
- ▶ Committees on Financial Involvement School-Community Accountability Liaisons and District Technology Advisory Committee
  - Both agreed with a referendum election for the operating and technology levies.





# QUESTION 1

## *Operating levy*

- ▶ Operating levy, which pays for **day-to-day learning needs**. Also, continue and expand:
  - Individualized learning,
  - Academic interventions,
  - Scholar mental health needs, and
  - Other critical classroom supports.

# QUESTION 1

*What the ballot asks*



## **School District Question 1 Revoking Existing Referendum Revenue Authorization; Approving New Authorization**

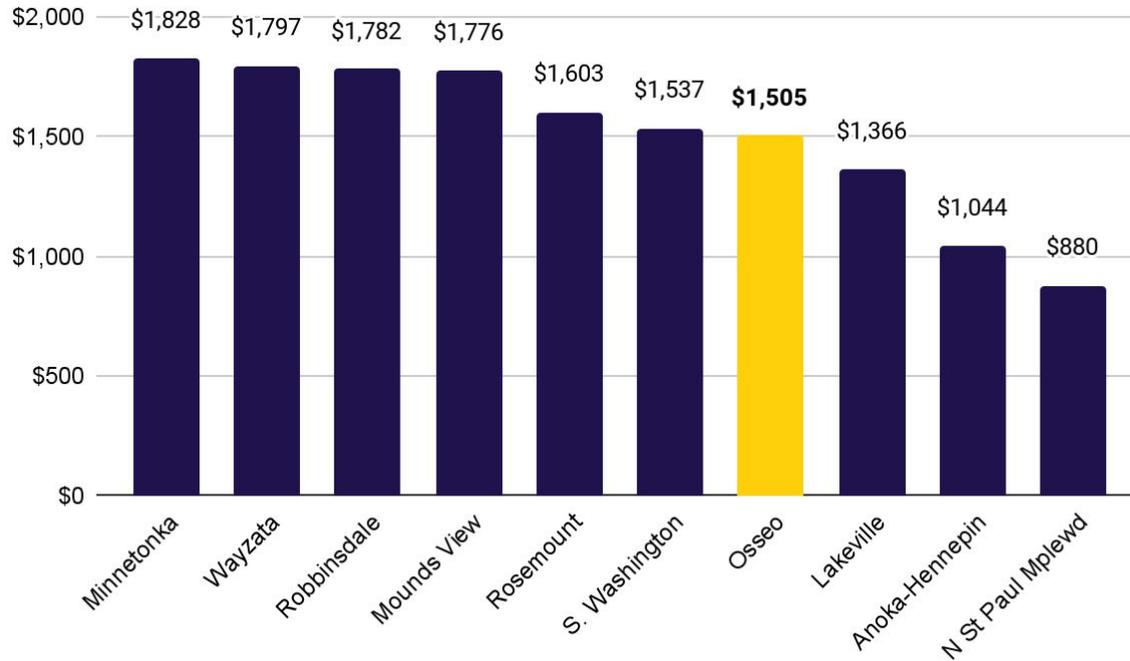
The board of Independent School District No. 279 (Osseo Area Schools), Minnesota has proposed to revoke the School District's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$1,650.53 per pupil, scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2023, and replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$2,010.00 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2022 for taxes payable in 2023 and applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

- 8 YES** Shall the revocation of the existing referendum authorization and the new  
**8 NO** authorization proposed by the board of Independent School District No.  
279 (Osseo Area Schools), Minnesota be approved?

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A  
PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

# QUESTION 1

How does the district compare?



CALENDAR YEAR 2021



Osseo Area Schools is the **fifth largest school district** in Minnesota, but its per student operating levy is on the **bottom half** compared to the largest suburban districts in the state.

## QUESTION 2

### *Technology levy*

- ▶ Technology levy, which pays for **classroom learning technology, infrastructure systems and needed support staff**. Additionally prioritize:
  - School safety and security technology,
  - Tools and systems for all scholars, and
  - Digital learning spaces at schools.

# QUESTION 2

*What the ballot asks*



## **School District Question 2 Revoking Existing Technology Capital Project Levy Authorization; Approving New Authorization**

The board of Independent School District No. 279 (Osseo Area Schools), Minnesota has proposed to revoke the School District's existing capital project levy authorization in the amount of 3.701% times the net tax capacity of the School District, scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2023, and to replace that authorization with a new capital project levy authorization in the amount of 4.701% times the net tax capacity of the School District to provide funds for the acquisition and installation of improved instructional technology, safety and security technology, systems for the technology infrastructure, and technology support staffing. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$11,100,000 for taxes first levied in 2022, payable in 2023, and would be authorized for ten (10) years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$111,000,000.



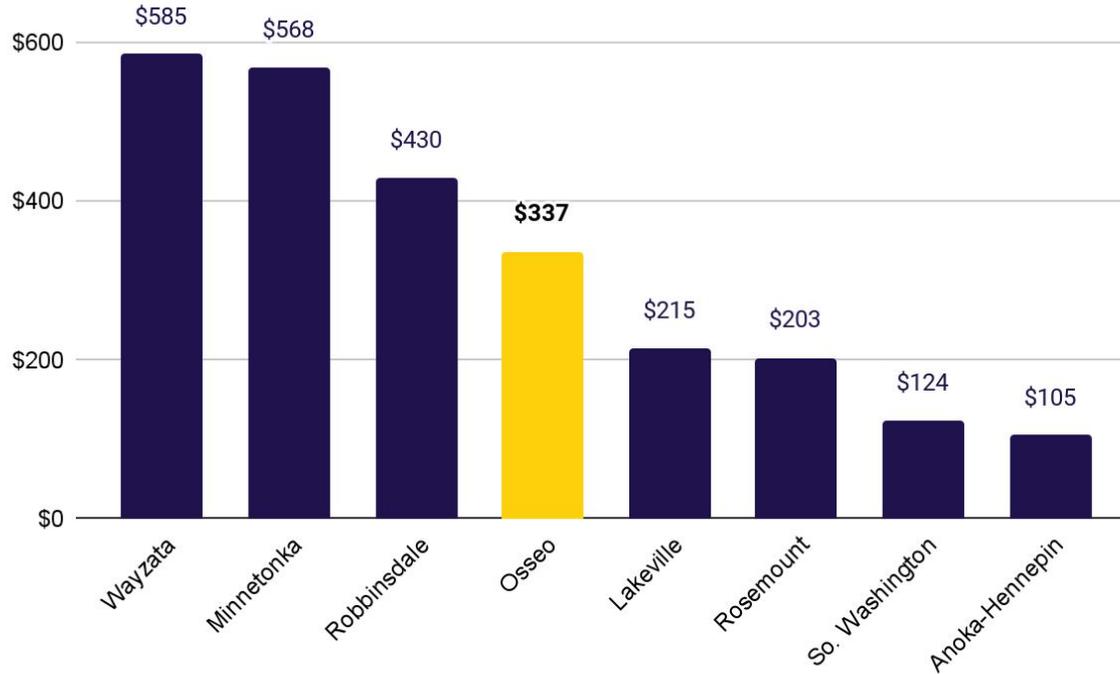
**YES**  
**NO**

Shall the revocation of the existing capital project levy authorization and the new authorization proposed to fund technology proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 279 (Osseo Area Schools), Minnesota be approved?

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A  
PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

# QUESTION 2

*How does the district compare?*



**PER STUDENT**

**CALENDAR YEAR 2021**





about

**\$9/month**

*on average household  
(\$250,000 valued home)*

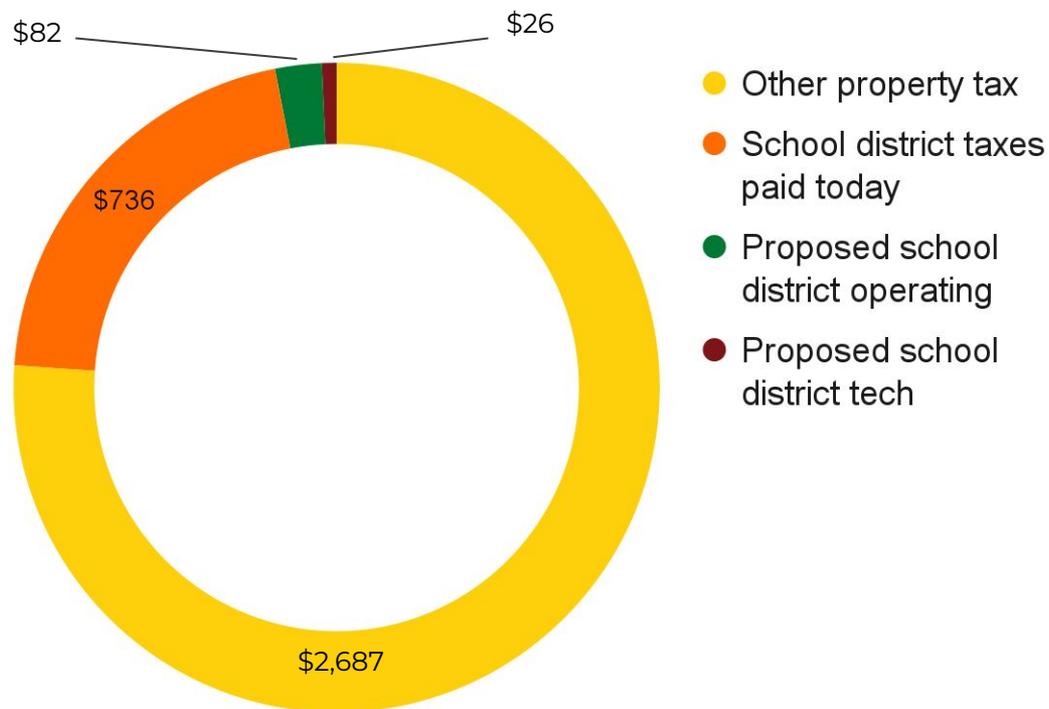
**CALCULATE YOUR  
TAX IMPACT**

*(Available for Residential, Commercial  
and Apartment/Non-Homestead)*



# PROPERTY TAX PORTIONS

*on average household (\$250,000 valued home)*





# LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES

*if levies are not approved by voters*

- ▶ Without funding, \$5 million would need to be cut, starting in 2023-24, resulting in:
  - Insufficient safety and security resources
  - Increased class sizes
  - Fewer opportunities for individualized learning
  - Diminished academic support
  - Reduction in electives and opportunities at all levels
  - Outdated and unreliable technology tools, systems and spaces
  - Fewer technology support staff for families and employees
  - Limited support services for scholars, including mental health
- ▶ The district would return to voters as soon as possible.

# SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS



- ▶ What additional information do you need to make informed decisions on the operating and technology levies?
- ▶ Submit your feedback via the ThoughtExchange tool
  - Enter **164-784-662** at ***tejoin.com*** or
  - **Scan the QR code**
  - Available in Espanol and other languages





# KEY TAKEAWAYS

## QUESTION 1

Continue **day-to-day learning operations** and enhance:

- Individualized learning,
- Academic interventions,
- Scholar mental health needs, and
- Other critical classroom supports.

## QUESTION 2

Continue **classroom learning technology, infrastructure systems and support staff.**

Additionally prioritize:

- School safety and security technology,
- Tools and systems for all scholars, and
- Digital learning spaces at schools.

# VOTE

*early or on Nov. 8*

- ▶ Vote early starting Friday, Sept. 23.
  - By postal mail
  - In person
- ▶ Vote on election day, Tuesday, Nov. 8, at the appropriate polling location.
- ▶ More information on the Secretary of State website ***[sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting](https://sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting)***



# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



- ▶ Detailed information at ***district279.org/BetterFuture***, including tax impact calculator
- ▶ Questions
  - ***BetterFuture@district279.org***
  - 763-391-8990



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# QUESTIONS

*with Team Members*