

State of the District

Dr. Michael J. Thomas
Superintendent

September 25, 2024



www.plsas.org



@The_SupePLSAS



Theme for the School Year





PLSAS School Board



Lisa Atkinson



Julie Bernick



Amy Bullyan



Amy Crosby



Mary Frantz



Jessica Olstad



Daniel White

PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS
2024 SCHOOL BOARD

PLSAS Quick Facts





Senior Leadership Team



Michelle Cuka
Dir. Student Support
Services



Joel Dahl
Dir. Community
Education



Dan Edwards, Ed. D.
Exec. Dir. Academic
Services



Tammy Fredrickson
Exec. Dir. Business
Services



Emily Herman
Exec. Dir. Administrative
Services



Emily Malone
Dir. Child Nutrition
Services



Marcus Milazzo
Dir. Technology



Kristi Mussman
Dir. Communications



Sam Ouk
Dir. Equity &
Inclusion



Dan Powers
Dir. Operational
Services



Michael Thomas, Ed. D.
Superintendent



Jennie Zumbusch, Ph. D.
Dir. Assessment &
Improvement



Our Mission

*Inspire and empower each
student to reach their full
potential*



VISION

A world-class district centered on students, driven by results

MISSION

Inspire and empower each student to reach their full potential

OUR PRIORITIES



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Students receive challenging, rigorous, and relevant instruction for their unique learning needs and goals, and to develop essential skills to be successful.



OPTIMIZE RESOURCES

Prioritize efficient and effective use of fiscal, human, and capital resources through excellence in governance, administration, and staff.



POSITIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Foster a welcoming, inclusive, and safe learning environment, where staff are valued, and students can fully engage in learning.



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Develop a culture of engagement through shared responsibility, and collaboration among students, staff, families, and community partners.

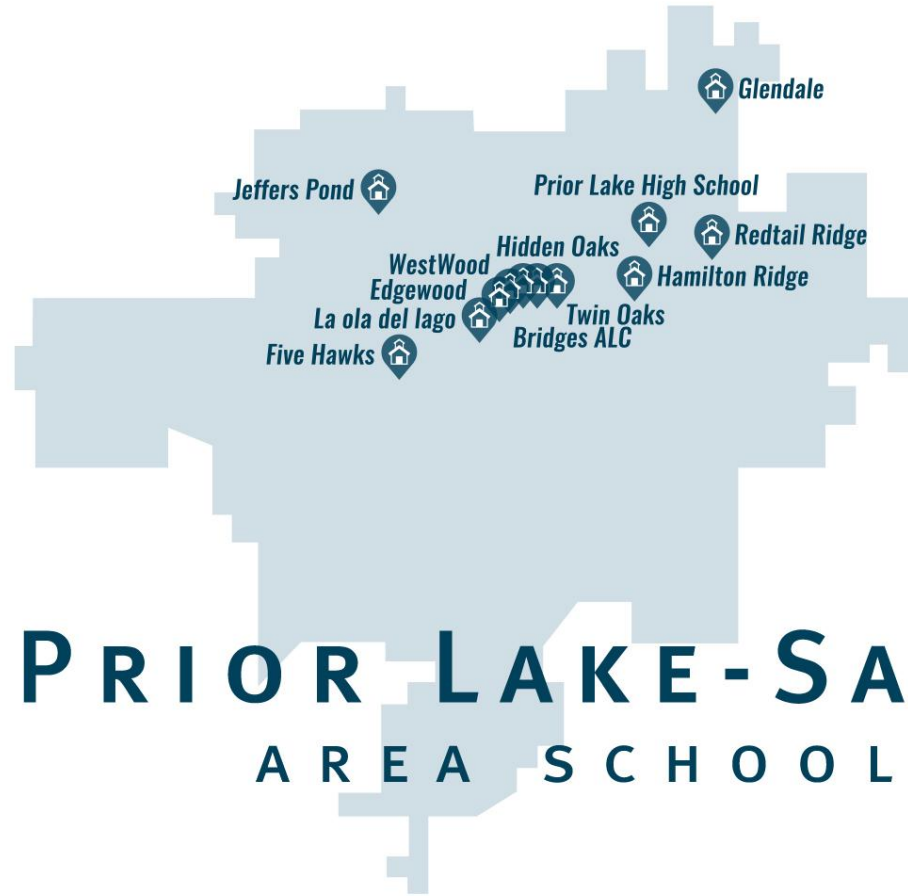
CORE BELIEFS

Accountability: We are transparent, take responsibility for actions and decisions, answer to our community, and uphold commitments and standards of excellence.

Respect: We appreciate the value, feelings, and rights of others, fostering an environment of mutual understanding and consideration.

Unity: We support each other, cultivating a sense of belonging, and collective strength, ensuring everyone is seen, valued, and heard as we pursue our common goals together.

Stewardship: We responsibly manage resources, ensuring their sustainability, and ethical use for the benefit of current and future generations.



MNCAPS 



PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE

AREA SCHOOLS



Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools

8,619

K-12 Students

1,300

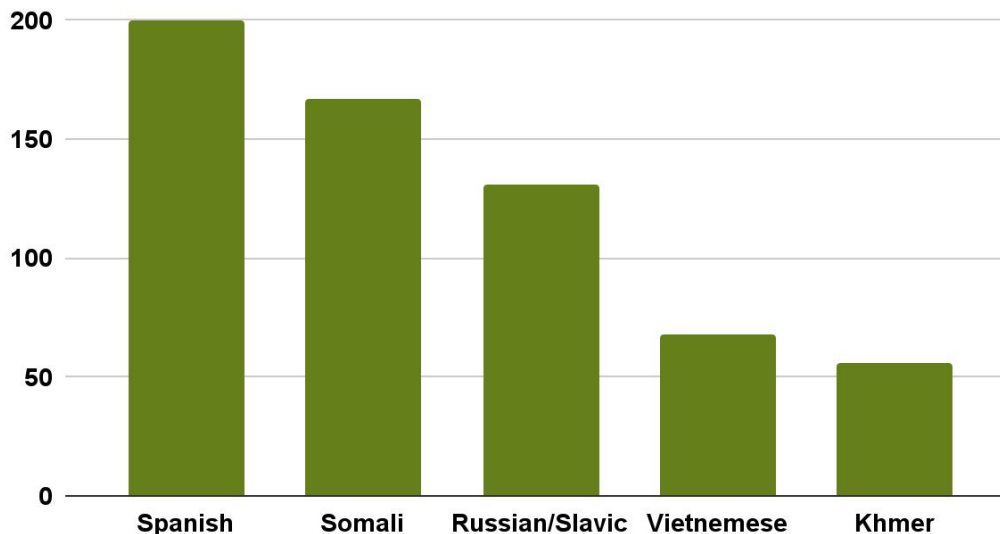
Staff

15

Schools

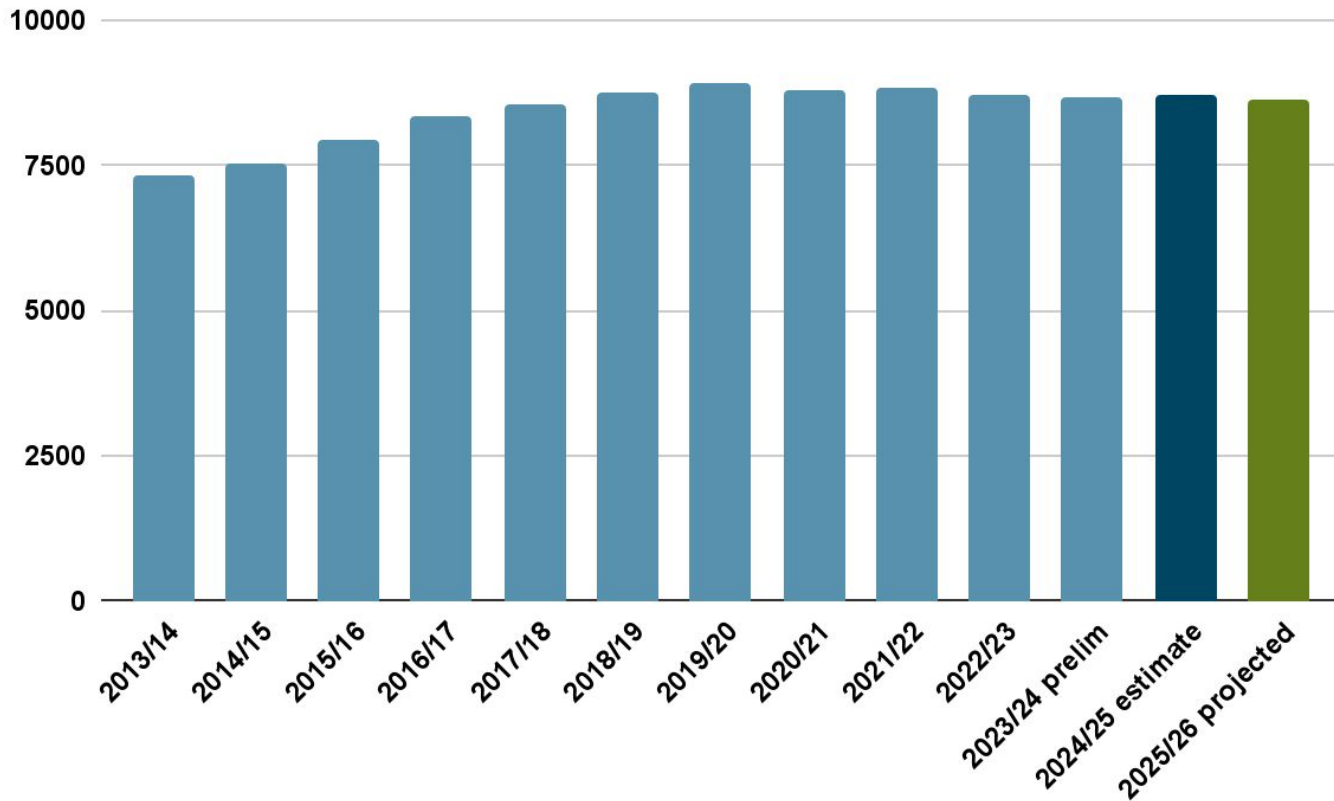
59 Languages Spoken

Top 5 PLSAS Home Languages Outside of English





PLSAS Enrollment





School Funding

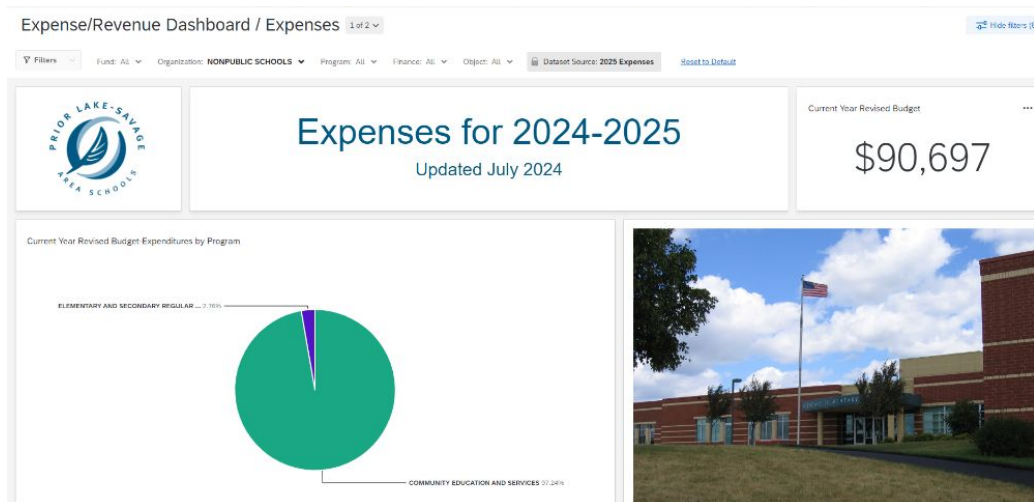
SCHOOL FUNDING 101





Financial Dashboard

- Real-time data surrounding the financial health of the district
- View high-level data displayed in financial charts as well as more detailed reports for the district, its schools and programs
- Budgets are updated regularly during the school year





School Safety



HOLD



SECURE



LOCKDOWN



EVACUATE



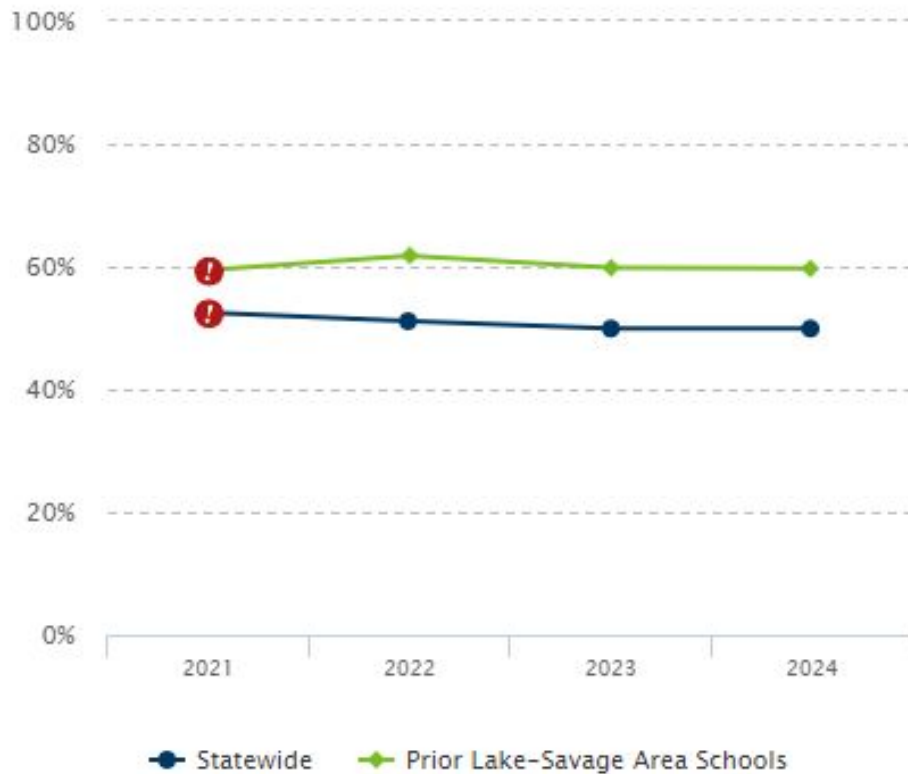
SHELTER

Academics



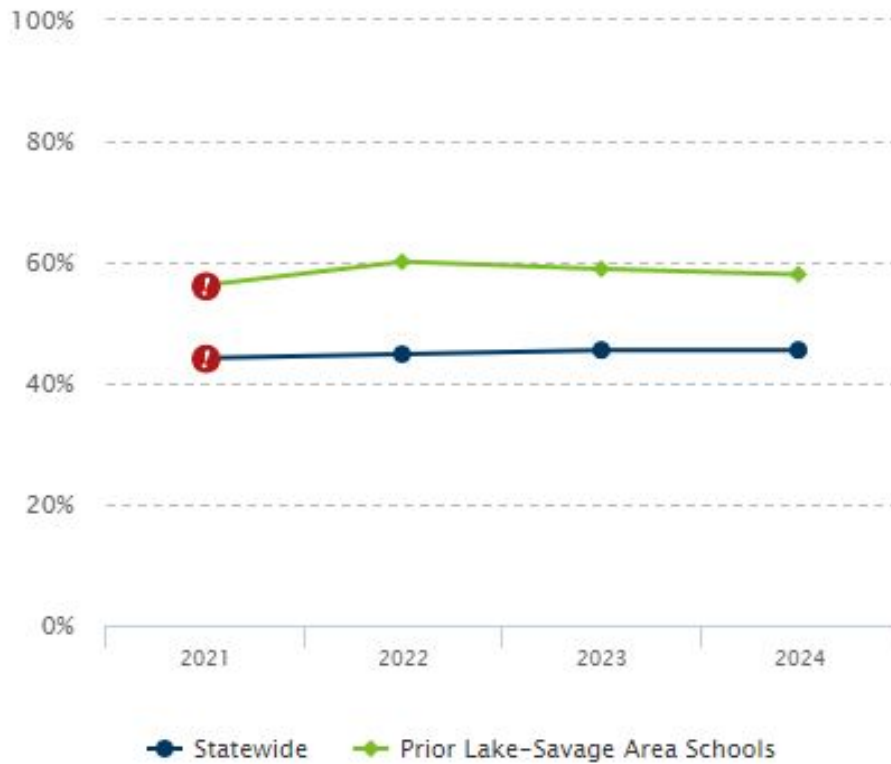


PLSAS Reading



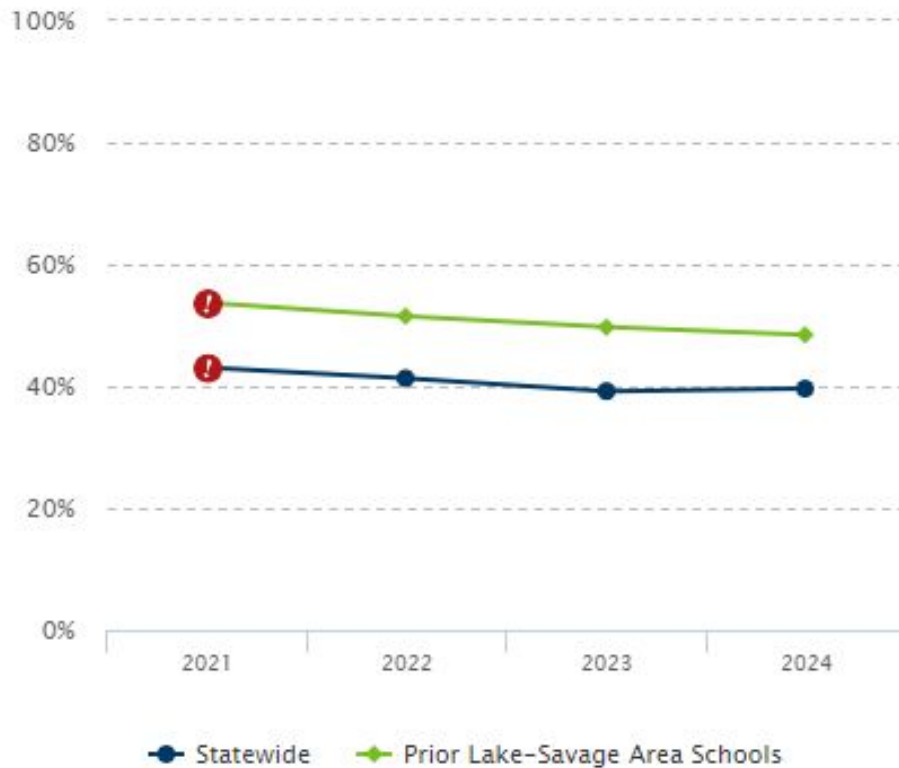


PLSAS Math



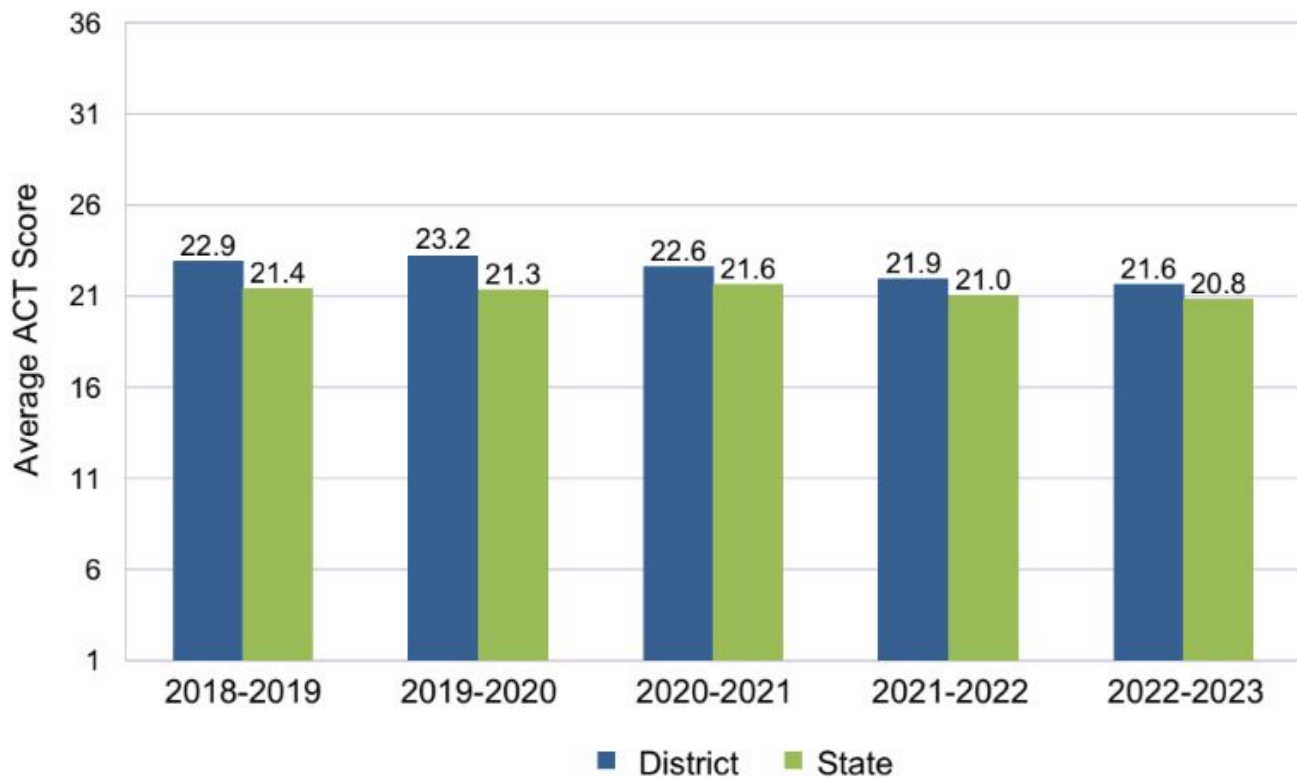


PLSAS Science





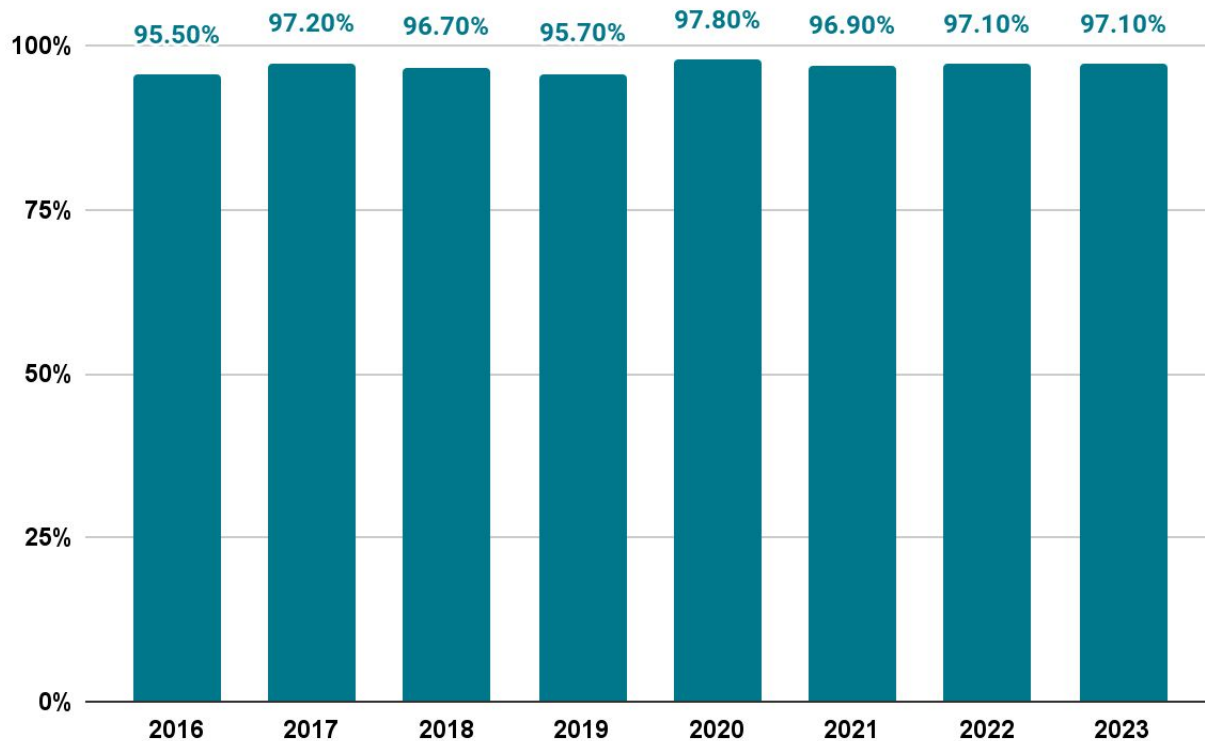
PLSAS ACT



Most recent data reflects the graduating class of 2023



Graduation Rates

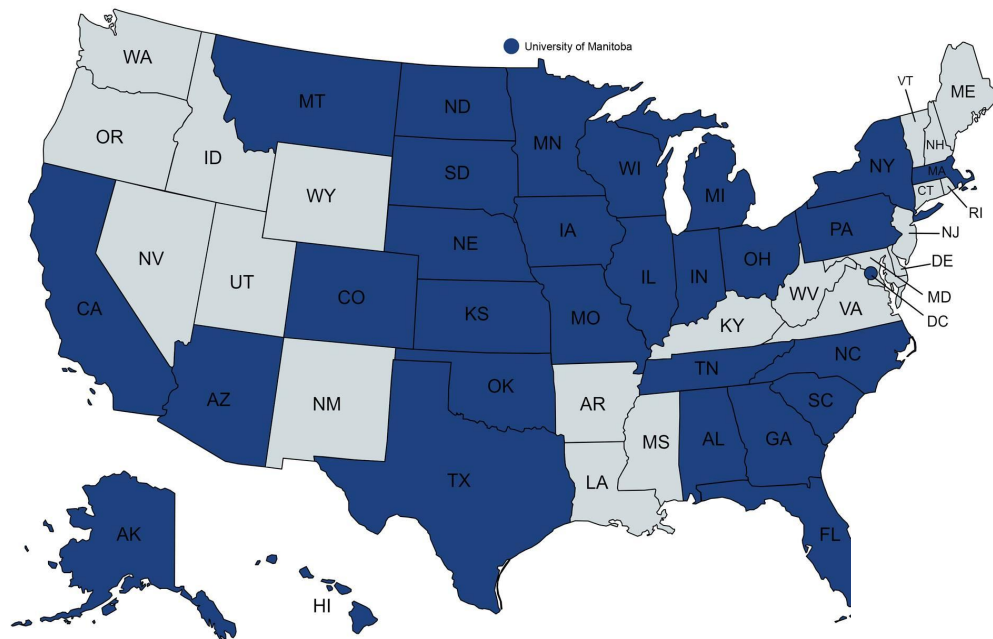


4-year PLHS graduation rates



Where are they now?

85% of 2024 graduates are attending 2 or 4-year colleges/universities



PL Class of 2024

Programs





E-STEM

Our schools are the first district-wide E-STEM schools in the state of Minnesota.

E-STEM is an interdisciplinary approach to instruction and learning focused on inquiry and real world problem-solving in the 21st Century, applying hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematical practices with projects and field experiences related to the environment.





MNCAPS.ORG



Pathways Offered for Juniors and Seniors:

- Design & Marketing
- Education
- Foundations of Business
- Marketing & Analytics
- Medicine & Healthcare
- Professional Selling
- Trades





La ola del lago at Grainwood

“The wave of the lake”

- K-5 school
- Students become proficient in Spanish and increase their cultural and global awareness
- Spanish Immersion continues into grades 6-12





Spanish Acquisition

- Students take the Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL) in Spanish
- Students who participated in the PLSAS immersion program through 8th grade scored 60% ahead of the national average
- LODL 5th graders have outperformed national averages in all 4 sub-tests in all 5 years of testing (since SY 2019-2020)
- MCA Reading/Math





SAGE Academy

- School for the Advancement of Gifted Education
- Full-time gifted instruction for students in grades 3-5 inside WestWood Elementary
- SAGE students experience accelerated core curriculum, along with physical education, art and music classes with students from their respective grade level





Community Education

We are dedicated to fostering lifelong learning through inclusive and supportive programs that engage all students and promote citizen involvement.

Register for adult and youth fall classes

Apply to teach a class or tutor students

Lead by joining the Community Education Services Advisory Council

Join us and work with students before and after-school in our Kids' Company childcare program www.plsas.org/employment



Call 952-226-0310 for more information or visit us at www.priorlakesavagece.com

Continuous Improvement





PLSAS Experience Surveys

Areas of Greatest Improvement	Challenge Areas
<p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ I feel safe on the bus✓ I feel safe at my school <p>Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ I regularly receive feedback from school staff on how my child is learning✓ I receive positive phone calls, emails or notes about my child from school	<p>Students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I believe my teachers ask me how I learn best• I like going to my school each day <p>Families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• I believe my child's learning is a high priority at this school• I believe my child has the necessary classroom supplies and equipment for effective learning

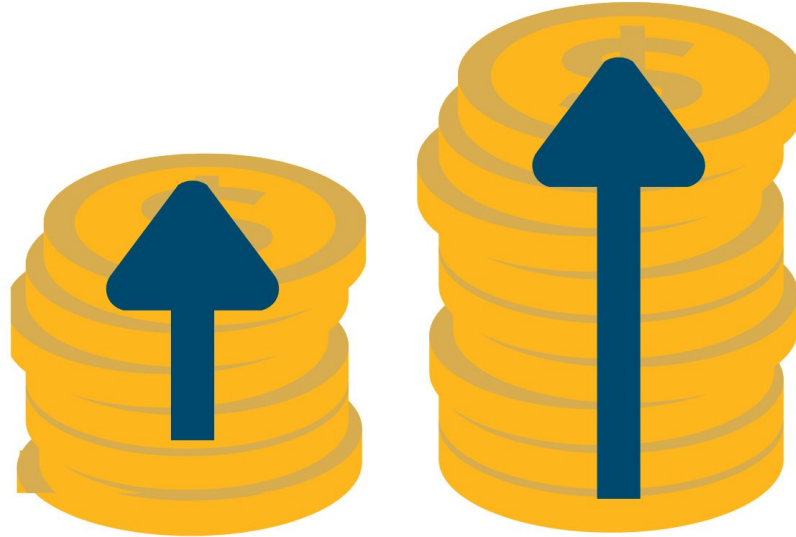
Finance Update & Operating Levy Referendum Proposal



Budget Projections

2023/24 to 2024/25

Like many other school districts in Minnesota and across the country, PLSAS is facing serious budget challenges. Our costs are increasing faster than our revenue is growing. **This is mainly because prices are going up (inflation) and student enrollment (revenue) has slowed, mostly due to low birth rates.** Lower student enrollment = less state funding.



Revenues
+2.5-3%

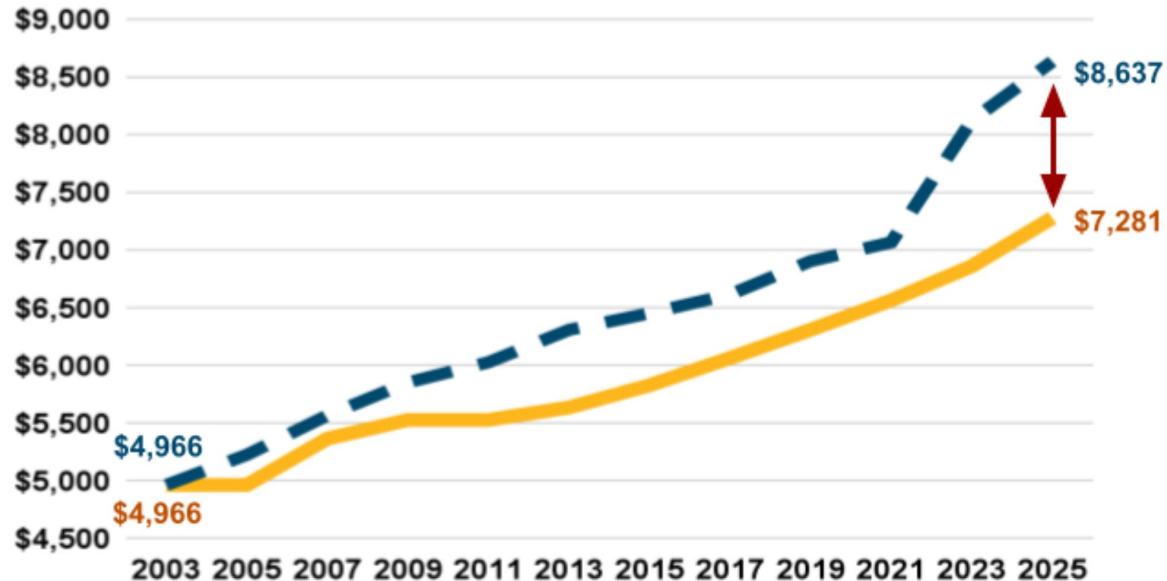
Expenses
+5%

New State Mandates



Historic Funding Shortfalls

State Basic Education Funding, Per Student (2003-2025)



If state funding had kept pace with inflation since 2003, we would have received \$9+ million more last year alone.

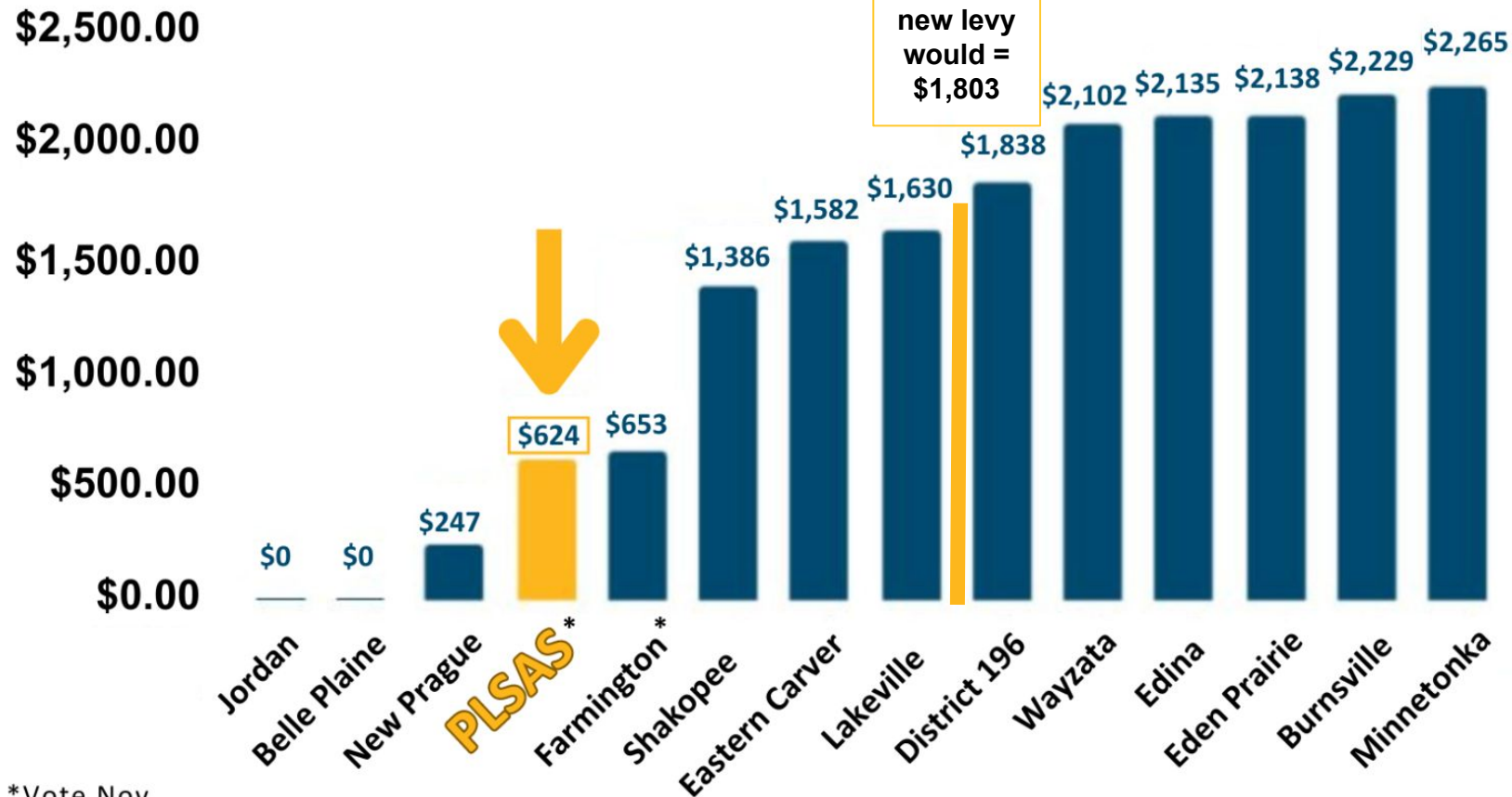
Ongoing Budget Reductions

- Since 2019/20, we have used approximately \$5 million in fund balance ('savings account') to present a balanced budget to the School Board.
- For the 2024/25 school year, we will cut approximately \$4 million from our budget and utilize fund balance to cover increased costs.



Voter-Approved Operating Levy Comparisons

(2023/24 per student)

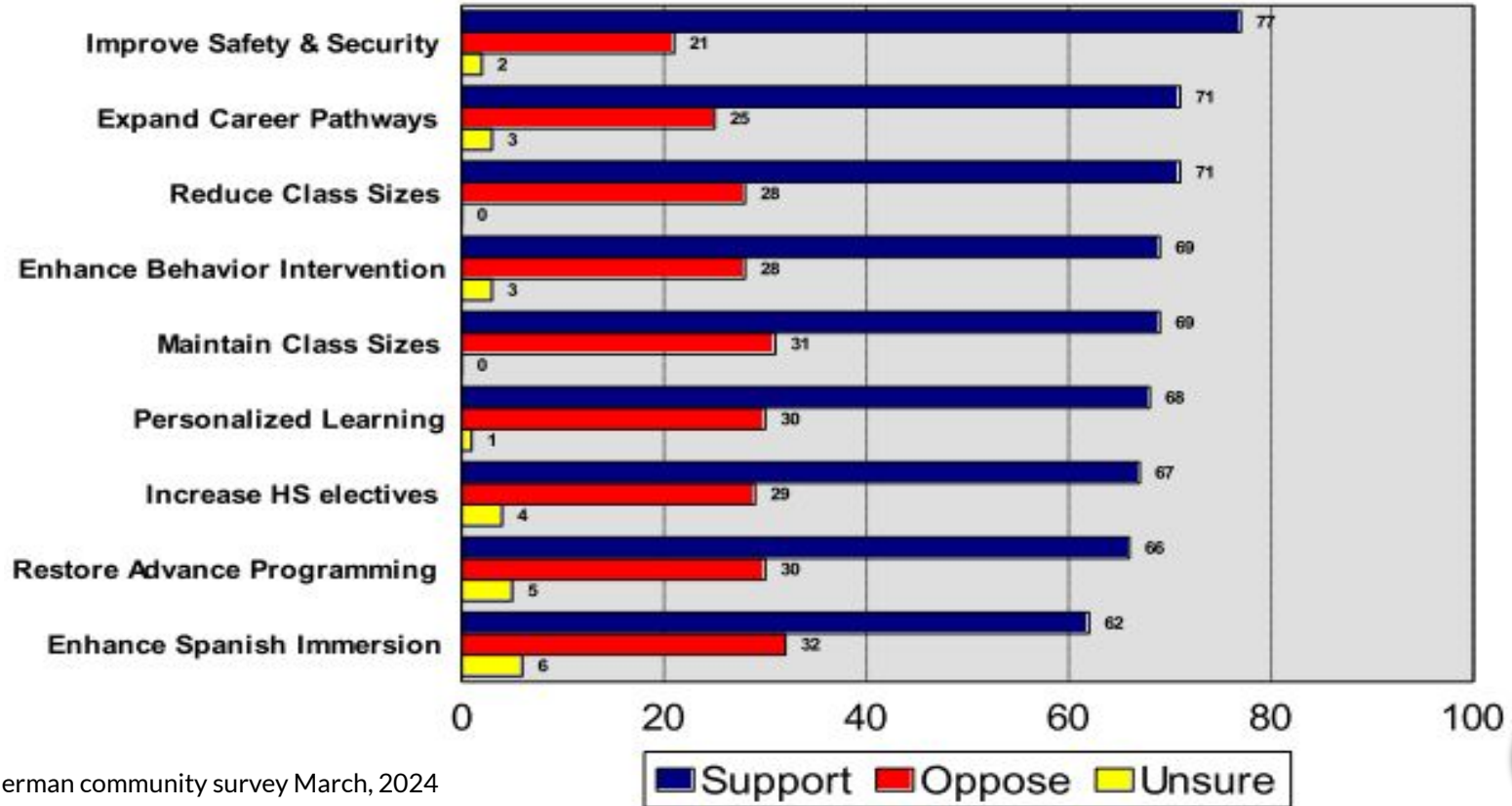


*Vote Nov.

Source: MN Department of Education June 2023 Inflation Estimates and Minnesota Laws 2023

Survey Themes

The survey shows that our community favors improving programs for students and they are willing to invest in them

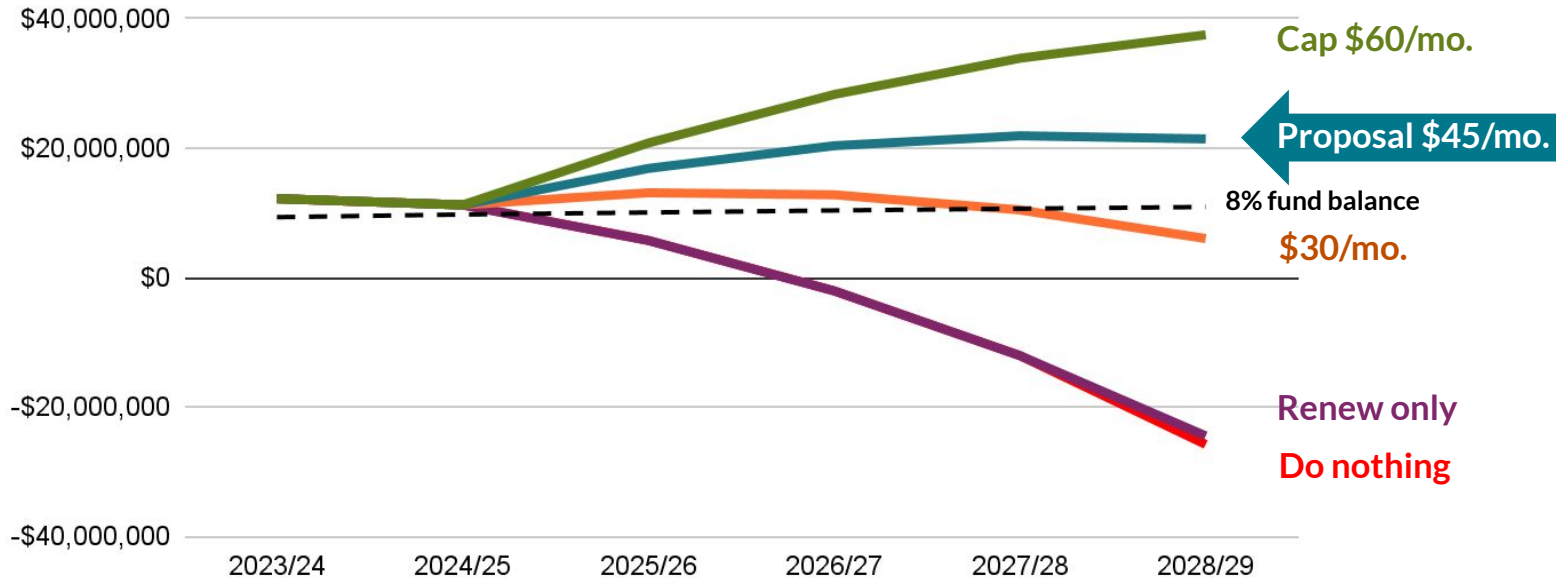


The Proposal

Without structural changes, the district will face declining revenues, rising expenses and a depleted fund balance by 2028, risking Statutory Operating Debt

Fund Balance

(Savings Account)



■ If we do nothing ■ If we only renew what we have ■ Increase \$30/mo.
■ Increase \$45/mo ■ If we ask for statutory cap \$60/mo. ■ 8% fund balance

Based on \$450,000 median home value

Referendum Request To Voters

Operating Levy:

- November 5, 2024 ballot
- Ask voters to revoke the district's existing operating levy of \$623.97 per student and replace it with a new levy of \$1,803 per student
- \$10.8 million for the first year with an inflationary factor included for years 2-10
- 10-year levy



Source: PMA Securities

Summary

Maintain What We Have And...

Enhance academic excellence that increases student performance and outcomes



Increase staffing for behavior intervention and student support



Expand career pathway programs



Strengthen safety and security at all schools



Impact if the levy is not approved by voters

If the operating levy is not approved, the district is projected to have a budget shortfall in the 2025-26 school year and beyond, resulting in the need to make significant annual budget reductions, which are likely to include the following:

- Closing one or more elementary schools, resulting in boundary changes.
- Increase in class sizes.
- Reduction in staffing and personnel expenditures across the district resulting in reduced services and student supports.
- Move MNCAPS to a district facility.
- Reduce programs for students including:
 - Limit Spanish Immersion to K-5 only
 - Eliminate MNCAPS pathway(s)
 - Eliminate middle school activities
 - Reduce Laker Online staffing
 - Reduce secondary electives
- Reduce student access to educational technology.
- Increase fees for community facility use.
- Close pool at Twin Oaks.

If the referendum is approved in November...



We will establish a Referendum Oversight Committee tasked with monitoring the implementation of levy measures

Stay Connected





Get Involved



See a show



Enjoy a concert



Go to a sporting event

- PLSAS offers free activity passes to residents in the community age 55 and older to attend most home events. This includes any home sporting events and other special events with a few exceptions such as the Fall Musical, Celebrate Concert, section/state games and any school-produced plays.
- Passes for the 2024-25 school year can be picked up at the District Services Center, 4540 Tower Street SE, Prior Lake, Monday through Friday, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Call 952-226-0000 for more details.



Stay Connected



PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notices are now available on our
website for your convenience.

www.plsas.org/publicnotices

*Paper copies available upon request by calling (952) 226-0000.

Stay connected with Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools

If you don't have children enrolled in PLSAS, you can still stay informed by signing up for our E-News. Simply scan the QR code or visit www.plsas.org/communications to subscribe.





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We are **HIRING**



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-
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