

Northbrook School District 27



Community Engagement

At Northbrook School District 27, we are educating students to succeed in a changing world.

Our district has a long-standing tradition of excellence in education.

Our parents, staff, and students partner together to reach and even exceed the high expectations set by our community.





Here in our small district, where everyone feels like family, we all get joy out of helping every child prepare for their bright future.

That's why our schools feel like private schools in a public-school setting.



We are continuously striving to improve.

While many districts review their strategic plan once every five years, we perform a comprehensive scan of our environment every year and survey our school community every other year, ensuring we are reaching our key success factors, aligning with our core values, and meeting the needs of our students.





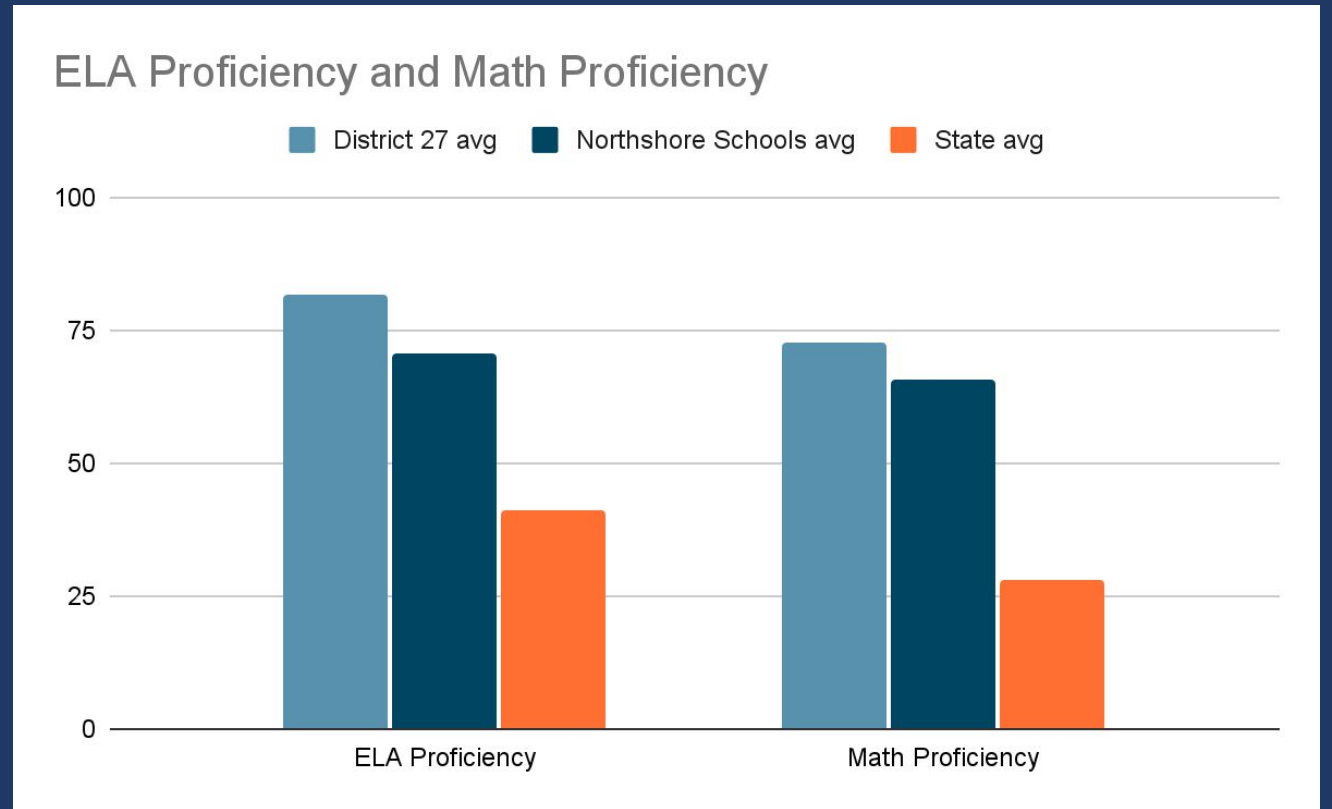
For instance, with student social-emotional needs growing as the world grows more challenging, we've been responsive to those needs by adding additional support staff while actively communicating with families.



This collaborative work has made our district one of the highest-achieving districts in the entire State of Illinois.

Our student test scores are in the top 1% in the state, according to the 2024 Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR).

Our students' math and ELA proficiency are among the highest in the North Shore, with math proficiency double the state average and ELA proficiency two-and-a-half times the state average.



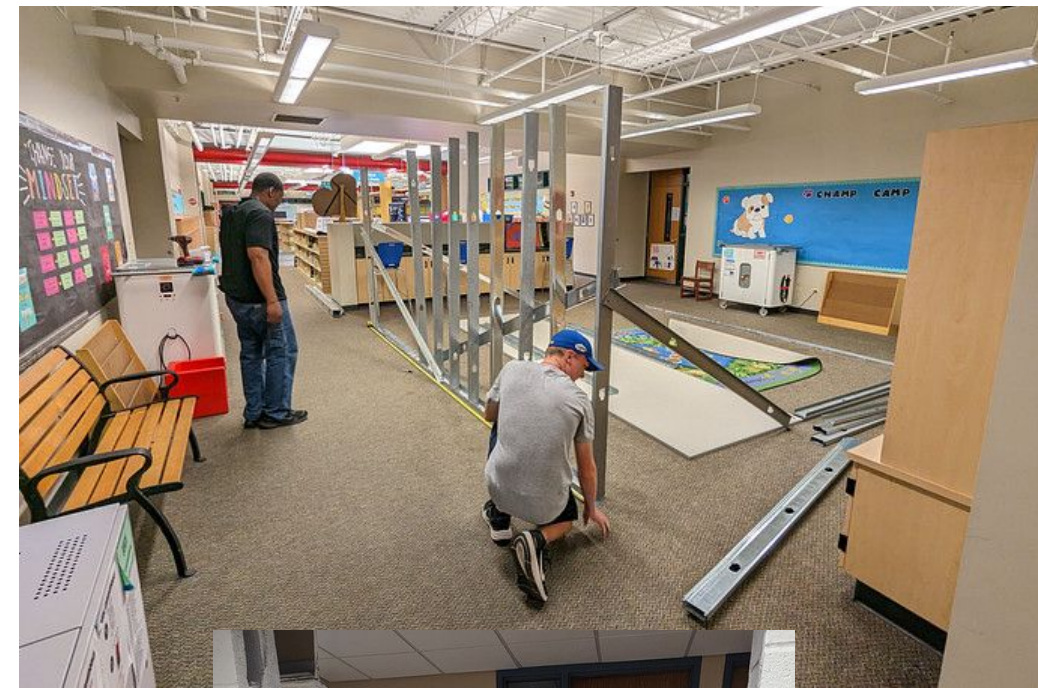


Compared to similar districts nationwide, our student, parent, and staff satisfaction ratings rank in the 98th and 99th percentile in nearly every category.

Of our highly skilled teachers, 82% have a master's degree or higher, and our district has a 92% teacher retention rate.

Our band performs exceptionally well in regional and state competitions, as do many of our other extracurriculars.

We have achieved this while maintaining a healthy financial position, extending the life expectancy of all facilities and grounds, and spending within our means.



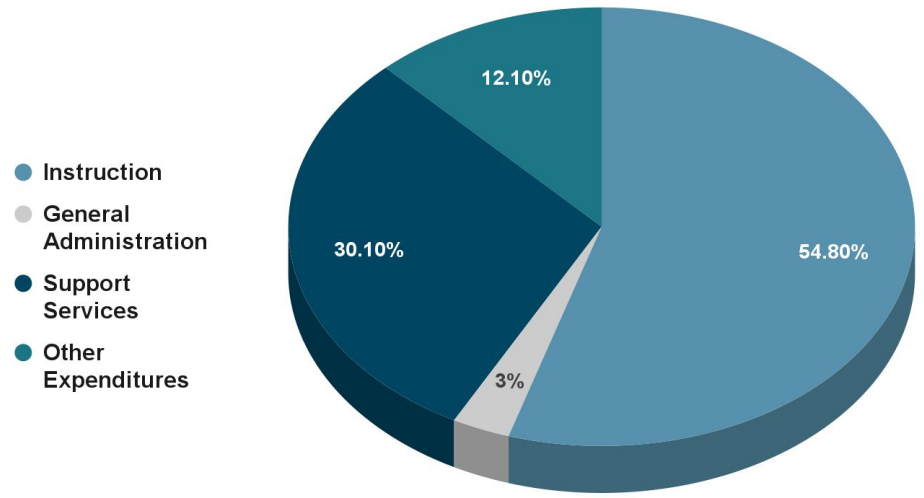
By carefully planning and regularly conducting financial projections, we operate with a balanced budget and have no long-term debt.



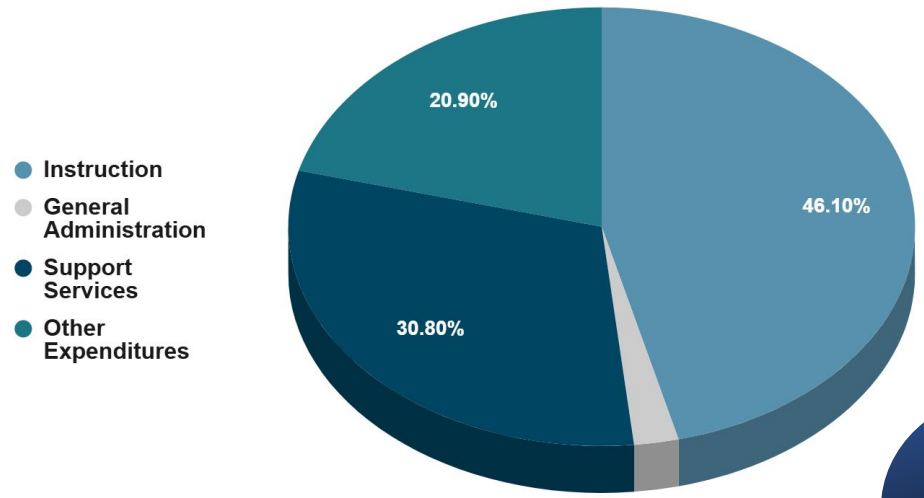
We prioritize educating students, spending 55% of our funds on classroom instruction compared to a state average of 46%.

We respect the public's tax dollars by working aggressively to contain costs, reducing expenses by \$5.5 million, and keeping parent fees as low as possible.

District Financial Information - Expenditure Percentages by Function (FY 2023)



Illinois School District Averages - Expenditure Percentages by Function (FY 2023)





We maintain a reasonable fund balance that provides stability, so we don't have to rely on borrowing when Cook County delays tax collections, which has happened two of the past three years.

Our fiscal responsibility has earned awards of excellence in financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association and the Association of School Business Officials International for 15 consecutive years.



However, if we are going to be able to maintain small class sizes while providing our students and teachers with learning environments that support high achievement, we will need additional funding.

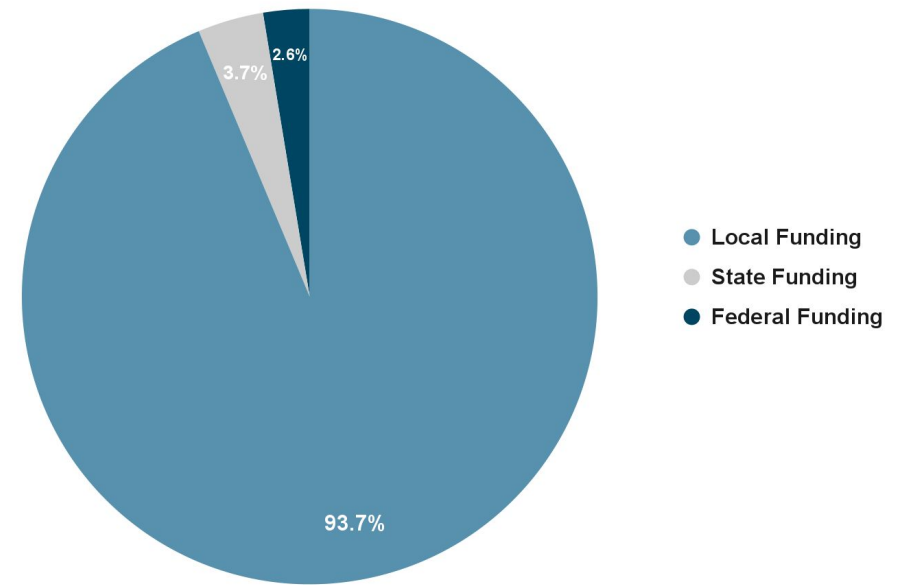
Our district takes great pride in our preventative maintenance program, and as we have for over two decades, we are reinvesting our fund balance into building maintenance, renovations, and improvements.



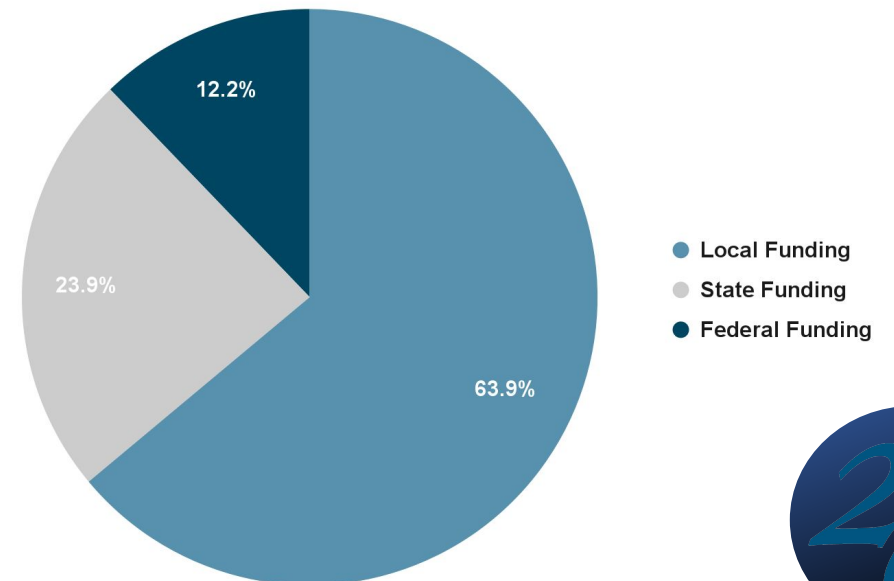
Over the past six years, we've spent \$13.5 million of our fund balance to address facility needs.

However, we can no longer keep up due to inflation significantly increasing construction costs and the fact that we get limited support from state and federal sources, with local funding making up 94% of our budget compared to a state average of 64%.

District Financial Information - Revenue Percentages (FY 2023)



Illinois School District Averages - Revenue Percentages (FY 2023)





Our recent Health-Life Safety report identified nearly \$17 million in state-mandated improvements that we are required to address.

Parking lots have reached the end of their life cycle and require replacement, and we can enhance safety and reduce traffic congestion during student pick-up and drop-off.



We don't have enough space to meet community demand for early childhood programming and special education, forcing us to place many students in programs outside the district to meet their needs.



Classroom furniture and fixtures are outdated, with the majority last replaced decades ago, and classrooms need updated technology and infrastructure improvements to continue to deliver the district's rigorous curriculum and instruction.





Our growing band and orchestra programs require more space.

Carpeting is due to be replaced.



Swapping fluorescent lighting with more energy-efficient LEDs would improve learning environments and offset rising electricity costs.

Our district has invested millions in school safety and security, but it can be improved even further.

We need additional multi-use spaces, updated playgrounds, and more storage space so we don't have to rent space off campus.





Addressing these challenges will ensure our schools meet our community's high expectations.

Our facilities need to allow us to continue delivering the highest education level to our students.

Families will continue to want to move here, keeping us competitive and further increasing property values for residents.





That's why our community has come together to develop a long-term plan that sustainably addresses our facility needs.

We have collaborated throughout much of this year, and now we're seeking input one more time as we finalize this community-driven plan for the future of our schools.



Community Engagement 2024

During this latest phase of community engagement, we will:

- Host the first Community Committee meeting.
- Hold 3 public engagement sessions (2 in-person and 1 virtual).
- Execute a scientific public phone survey seeking the community's opinions on potential individual projects, funding mechanisms, and funding levels.
- Actively gather responses from the community via as many platforms as possible.



Potential Individual Projects

- Infrastructure & Mechanicals
- Parking & Student Drop Off
- Additional Classrooms
- Multi-Use Spaces
- Auditorium, Music Rooms, and Fitness Room
- Classroom Furniture
- Technology
- Playgrounds
- Safety & Security
- Storage Space



Infrastructure & Mechanicals

Advantages:

- Safer and updated schools through investments in infrastructure and mechanicals at all schools, including roofing, HVAC replacements, and electrical system upgrades.

Disadvantages:

- Costly due to age of mechanical systems and maintenance needs in aging facilities.

Estimated Cost: \$17 million



Parking & Student Drop Off

Advantages:

- Safer and more efficient traffic flow, improved drop off and pick up with additional lanes, and increased parking spaces at Wood Oaks.

Disadvantages:

- Loss of green space.

Estimated Cost: \$6.1 million



Additional Classrooms

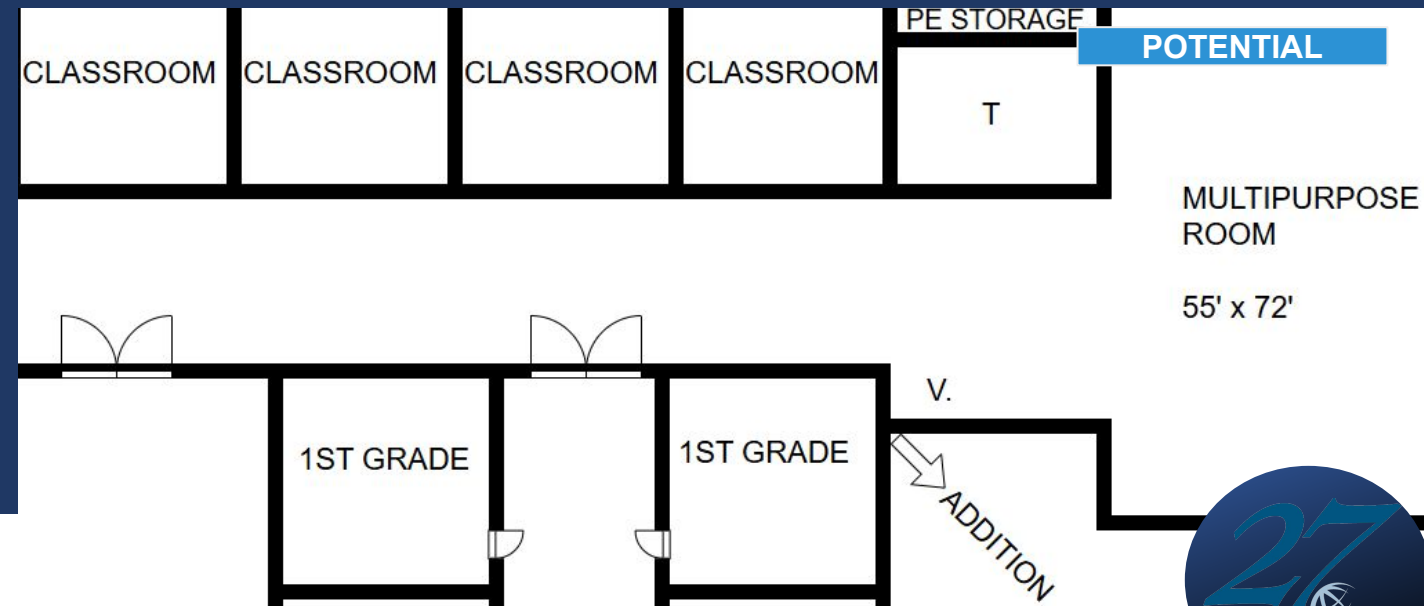
Advantages:

- Small addition to construct four additional classrooms at Hickory Point to house early childhood, special education, and daycare programs to provide enough space to meet community demand.

Disadvantages:

- Cannot achieve without new construction.

Estimated Cost: \$1.9 million



Multi-Use Space

Advantages:

- Additional multi-use space at Hickory Point for PE and cafeteria use as well as before and after-school programming and expanded cafeteria and commons space at Wood Oaks.

Disadvantages:

- Cannot achieve without new construction.

Estimated Cost: \$2.4 million



Auditorium, Music Rooms, and Fitness Room

Advantages:

- New auditorium at Wood Oaks with modern, accessible space and technology that will accommodate performing arts education, school events, and community rentals, along with larger spaces for band, orchestra, and a fitness room.

Disadvantages:

- Cannot achieve without new construction.

Estimated Cost: \$3.5 to \$9.5 million



Classroom Furniture, Carpeting & LED Lighting

Advantages:

- Significant upgrades to classroom furniture at all schools to support 21st century learning environments for students.

Disadvantages:

- Costly due to outdated furniture.

Estimated Cost: \$1 million



Technology and Infrastructure

Advantages:

- Upgrades to classroom technology, including wall-to-wall whiteboards and wireless infrastructure, to enhance learning opportunities for all students.
- Upgrade wireless infrastructure

Disadvantages:

- Costly due to new technology.

Estimated Cost: \$1.7 million



Playgrounds

Advantages:

- Updated playgrounds at Shabonee and Hickory Point to encourage physical and social activity and prepare students for schoolwork.

Disadvantages:

- Costly due to outdated equipment.

Estimated Cost: \$1.1 million
(\$800,000 in current budget)



Safety & Security

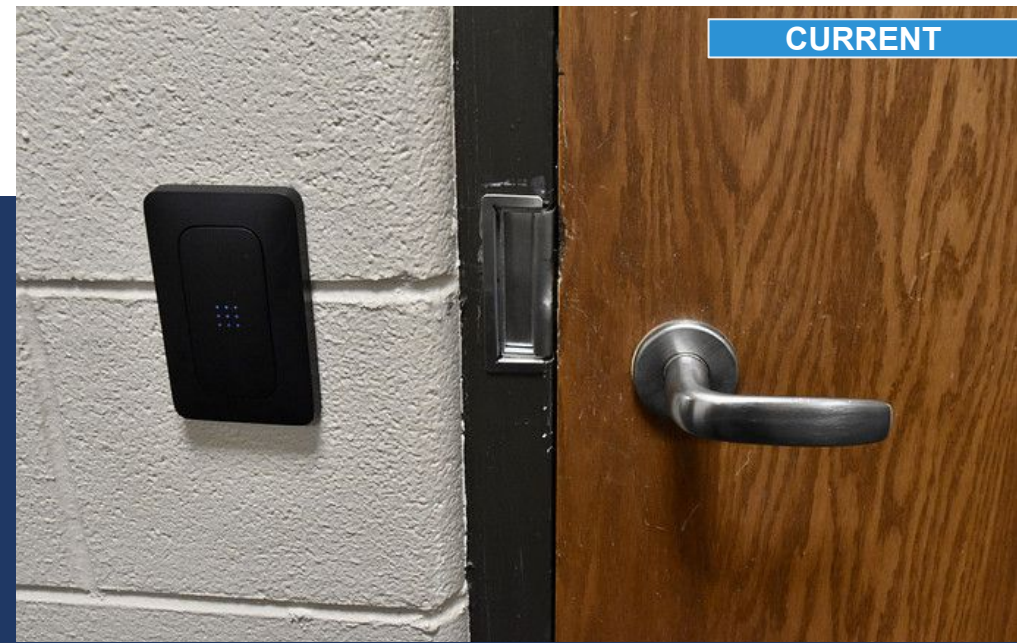
Advantages:

- Interior security cameras and improved access control inside buildings using key fobs to create a more secure environment for students and teachers.

Disadvantages:

- Additional training and operational costs.

Estimated Cost: \$2 million



Storage Space

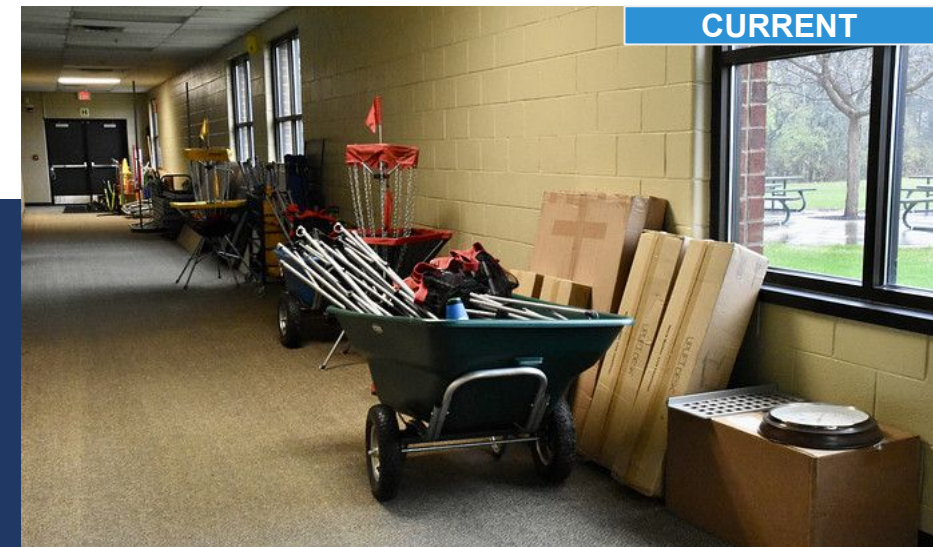
Advantages:

- Storage space on district grounds for the district to store science curriculum and other materials instead of having to rent storage space off campus.

Disadvantages:

- Cannot achieve without new construction.

Estimated Cost: \$300,000



Potential Individual Projects

Discussion

- Infrastructure & Mechanicals
- Parking & Student Drop Off
- Additional Classrooms
- Multi-Use Spaces
- Auditorium, Music Rooms, and Fitness Room
- Classroom Furniture
- Technology
- Playgrounds
- Safety & Security
- Storage Space



Feedback Form



Procedures

- Rank By Highest Priority (1=Highest, 10=Lowest)
- Must Rank All Projects
- Rankings Can Only Be Used Once, No Ties

We Cannot Count Your Rankings If You Do Not Follow the Above Procedures!

RANK POTENTIAL INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

RANK	RANK POTENTIAL INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS
	INFRASTRUCTURE & MECHANICALS: Safer and updated schools through investments in infrastructure and mechanicals at all schools, including roofing, HVAC replacements, and electrical system upgrades. (Estimated cost: \$17 million)
	PARKING & STUDENT DROP OFF: Safer and more efficient traffic flow, improved drop off and pick up with additional lanes, and increased parking spaces at at Wood Oaks. (Estimated cost: \$6.1 million)
	ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS: Small addition to construct four additional classrooms at Hickory Point to house early childhood, special education, and daycare programs to provide enough space to meet community demand. (Estimated cost: \$1.9 million)
	MULTI-USE SPACE: Additional multi-use space at Hickory Point for PE and cafeteria use as well as before and after-school programming and expanded cafeteria and commons space at Wood Oaks. (Estimated cost: \$2.4 million)
	AUDITORIUM, MUSIC ROOMS AND FITNESS ROOM: New auditorium at Wood Oaks with modern, accessible space and technology that will accommodate performing arts education, school events, and community rentals, along with larger spaces for band, orchestra, and a fitness room. (Estimated cost: \$3.5 to \$9.5 million)
	CLASSROOM FURNITURE, CARPETING, & LED LIGHTING: Significant upgrades to classroom furniture at all schools to support 21st century learning environments for students. (Estimated cost: \$1 million)
	TECHNOLOGY: Upgrades to classroom technology, including wall-to-wall whiteboards and wireless infrastructure, to enhance learning opportunities for all students. (Estimated cost: \$1.7 million)
	PLAYGROUNDS: Updated playgrounds at Shabonee and Hickory Point to encourage physical and social activity and prepare students for schoolwork. (Estimated cost: \$1.1 million with \$800,000 in current budget)
	SAFETY & SECURITY: Interior security cameras and improved access control inside buildings using key fobs to create a more secure environment for students and teachers. (Estimated cost: \$2 million)
	STORAGE SPACE: Storage space on district grounds for the district to store science curriculum and other materials instead of having to rent storage space off campus. (Estimated cost: \$300,000)



Feedback Form

Please use your phone camera to scan the QR code to take the survey.

Only complete the top section of the survey by ranking the Individual Projects.



Potential Funding Mechanisms

- Debt Service Extension Base (DSEB)
- Traditional Bonds



D27 History & Debt Service Extension Base

- District 27 did not have non-referendum debt at the time tax caps were enacted in Cook County - 1994
- Historically, District 27 re-invested fund balance reserve to complete prior year capital improvement projects
- District 27 is one of a handful of school districts in northern Cook and Lake County without an established debt service extension base



Debt Service Extension Base

Advantages:

- Long-term sustainable funding source for the district's infrastructure needs and lower costs for taxpayers due to reduced interest costs
- Flexibility on when to issue bonds
- Flexibility on how much to levy, up to the limit

Disadvantages:

- Increased borrowing limit does not sunset



Traditional Bonds

Advantages:

- Increased borrowing authority sunsets after bonds are paid off (20- to 30-year term)

Disadvantages:

- Only addresses the district's immediate infrastructure needs and higher costs for taxpayers due to increased interest costs



Potential Funding Mechanisms

Discussion

- Debt Service Extension Base
- Traditional Bonds



Feedback Form



Procedures

- Rank By Highest Priority (1=Highest, 2=Lowest)

We Cannot Count Your Rankings If You Do Not Follow the Above Procedures!

RANK POTENTIAL FUNDING MECHANISMS

RANK	RANK POTENTIAL FUNDING MECHANISMS
	DEBT SERVICE EXTENSION BASE: Long-term sustainable funding source for the district's infrastructure needs and lower costs for taxpayers due to reduced interest costs, but increased borrowing limit does not sunset.
	TRADITIONAL BONDS: Increased borrowing authority sunsets after bonds are paid off, but this only addresses the district's immediate infrastructure needs and leads to higher costs for taxpayers due to increased interest costs.



Feedback Form

Please use your phone camera to scan the QR code to take the survey.

Only complete the middle section of the survey by ranking the Potential Funding Mechanisms.



Potential Funding Levels

- Low Funding Level
- Medium Funding Level
- High Funding Level



Low Funding Level

Funds:

- Only the Most Urgent Work

Approximate Funding Amount:

- \$17 million

Approximate Average Tax Impact:

- \$160/yr
- Based on a \$600,000 home on a 30-year term



Medium Funding Level

Funds:

- Urgent Work Plus Some Improvements

Approximate Funding Amount:

- \$43.5 million

Approximate Average Tax Impact:

- \$422/yr
- Based on a \$600,000 home on a 30-year term



High Funding Level

Funds:

- Urgent Work Plus All Improvements

Approximate Funding Amount:

- \$61.3 million

Approximate Average Tax Impact:

- \$572/yr
- Based on a \$600,000 home on a 30-year term



Potential Funding Levels

Discussion

- Low Funding Level
- Medium Funding Level
- High Funding Level



Feedback Form



Procedures

- Rank By Highest Priority (1=Highest, 4=Lowest)
- Must Rank All Funding Levels
- Rankings Can Only Be Used Once, No Ties

We Cannot Count Your Rankings If You Do Not Follow the Above Procedures!

RANK POTENTIAL FUNDING LEVELS

RANK	POTENTIAL FUNDING LEVELS
	LOW FUNDING LEVEL: Funds only the most urgent work Approximate funding amount: \$17 million Average yearly tax increase: \$160*
	MEDIUM FUNDING LEVEL: Urgent work plus some improvements Approximate funding amount: \$43.5 million Average yearly tax increase: \$422*
	HIGH FUNDING LEVEL: Funds urgent work plus all improvements Approximate funding amount: \$61.3 million Average yearly tax increase: \$572*
	NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR OUR SCHOOLS

* Based on a Northbrook D27 home valued at \$600,000 on a 30-year term



Feedback Form

Please return to the survey and rank the Funding Levels section.





Thank you for being part of this collaboration!

If you have additional feedback you would like to share with us,
please contact Tarah O'Connell at occonnell.t@nb27.org.

For more information, visit www.nb27.org

