





Saint Paul Public Schools

VOTE November 4, 2025

PROTECT THEIR FUTURE. INVEST IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) is committed to inspiring our 33,000+ students to think critically, pursue their dreams and change the world. **To continue providing high-quality education to all of our students, we are asking the community to vote on an operating levy on November 4, 2025.** If passed, this funding will allow the district to continue providing academically-challenging, engaging programs so every student can access the opportunities they deserve.

The Challenge

State funding for public schools has not kept pace with inflation for the past 20 years, creating a **funding gap for SPPS exceeding $50 million per year.** The district operates 69 schools with more than 33,000 students.

What Voters Will Be Asked

Consider an operating levy increase to enable SPPS to preserve its educational programs and services and limit additional budget cuts.

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- Siv qhov QR code nkag mus saib cov lus qhia no ua lus Hmoob.
- Use el código QR para revisar esta información en español.
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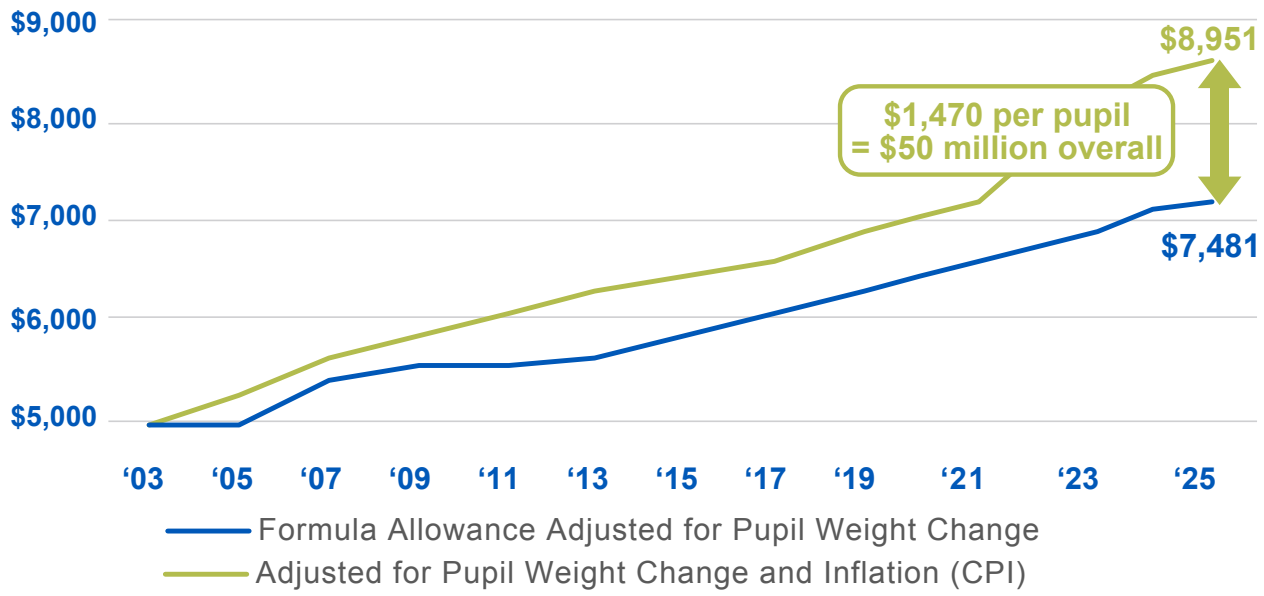
The State Funding Gap

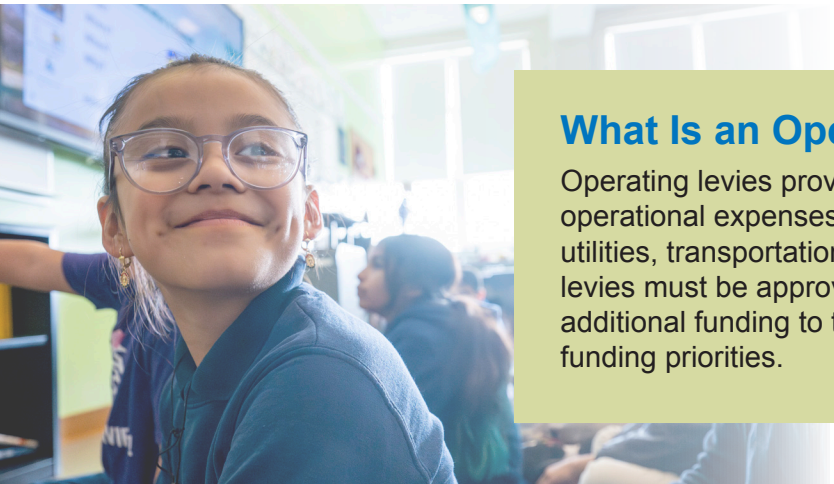
If the formula used to allocate state funding matched the rate of inflation each year since 2003, the district's 2026 funding per pupil would be $8,951. The difference between state funding for fiscal year 2025-26 (FY26) and the amount if the formula were adjusted for inflation is $1,470 per pupil, which equals a gap of $50 million overall.

Basic Formula Allowance per Pupil vs Inflation



Why Now?

- **Rising Costs:** State funding for public schools has not kept pace with increased educational needs and rising costs for the past 20 years, which has created a funding gap for SPPS exceeding $50 million per year.
- **Uncertain Federal Education Funding:** The federal government has threatened to cut millions of dollars that fund essential student programs.
- **Ongoing Budget Reductions:** The district faces at least $37 million in cuts next year and every year going forward, potentially resulting in significant reductions to staffing and school programs across the district.
- **Maintaining Quality:** SPPS requires funding to preserve the wide range of academic programs our students count on every day, such as arts and music, language and culture, and college and career readiness.
- **Continuing Support:** Additional funding will also help SPPS retain high-quality teachers and support staff who help ensure academic success and meet students' evolving needs.



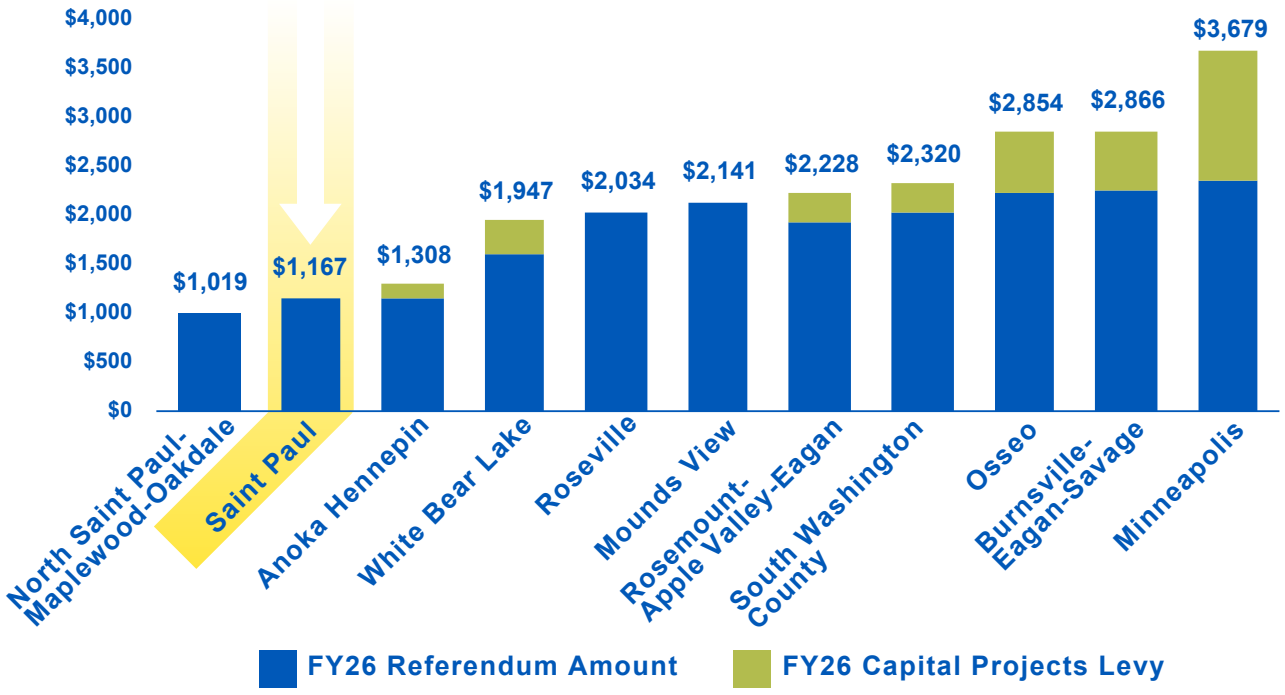
What Is an Operating Levy?

Operating levies provide essential funding for the district's day-to-day operational expenses, including classroom supplies, instruction, staffing, utilities, transportation and other school operating costs. Operating levies must be approved by voters. This enables communities to allocate additional funding to their local school district according to their specific funding priorities.

How Does SPPS Compare to Other Districts?

SPPS is the second-largest school district in Minnesota, but has one of the lowest voter-approved operating levies compared to the state's largest districts and SPPS neighbors. If SPPS received the same amount per pupil as the average of the districts in the chart below, our district would have an additional $1,073 per pupil or $37.2 million more per year. If voters approve an increase to the levy, SPPS will still have a lower levy than many other districts in the metro area.

Fiscal Year (FY) 26 Referendum & Capital Project Levy per Pupil



If voters approve the levy, the funding would help:

- Provide greater financial stability for SPPS students and avoid millions of dollars in budget cuts.
- Maintain a wide range of academic programs, such as arts and music, language and culture, and college and career readiness.
- Retain high-quality teachers and support staff who help ensure student success.
- Provide some flexibility for emerging needs and educational best practices.

If voters do not approve the levy, SPPS will face continued multimillion-dollar budget cuts, likely resulting in:

- At least $37 million in cuts to staffing and programs across the district for school year 2026-27, with more in future years, to maintain a balanced budget.
- Significant budget reductions or elimination of programs that make our schools strong.
- Reduction in services that families and students value, such as transportation, security and additional academic supports.

Serving Our Community

Based on a 2025 residential survey of Saint Paul voters, our community believes the following about Saint Paul Public Schools:

- 76% of Saint Paul residents agree that SPPS provides a good or excellent quality of education.
- 86% of residents believe that SPPS meets most or all students' learning needs.
- Residents agree that the most serious issue facing SPPS is a lack of funding (30%).
- Residents like SPPS's variety of programs, good teachers, good academics, broad curriculum and diversity.

Source: Morris Leatherman 2025 Residential Study

Financial Accountability

- SPPS works hard to use taxpayer dollars wisely and continues to seek ways to be more efficient and effective in educating our students.
- SPPS spends more resources per student on classroom instruction than the statewide average.
- Independent financial auditors have given the district the top financial opinion of "Clean and Unmodified" for several consecutive years.
- SPPS has the seventh highest bond rating among school districts in Minnesota. These high ratings help save taxpayers' money.

Strong public schools are directly linked to the well-being of our community and strong property values.

- The district remains in compliance with all reviews related to laws, regulations, contracts and grants that could have significant financial implications to the district.

Learn More and Calculate Your Tax Impact at
SPPS.ORG/VOTE

Voting Information

Election Day: November 4, 2025

Early Voting In-Person or by Mail: September 19 - November 3
Register to Vote: bit.ly/40rFYDD
Early Voting Information: bit.ly/46PAaI2
Find Your Polling Place: pollfinder.sos.mn.gov

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