# INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT #624

# SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION PACKET

September 22, 2025

Independent School District No. 624

# MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the White Bear Lake Area School District, the community at the forefront of educational excellence, honoring our legacy and courageously building the future, is to ensure each student realizes their unique talents and abilities, and makes meaningful contributions with local and global impact through a vital system distinguished by:

- *Students who design and create their own future*
- *A culture that respects diverse people and ideas*
- *Safe, nurturing and inspiring experiences*
- *Exceptional staff and families committed to student success*
- *Abundant and engaged community partners*

*Approved by White Bear Lake Area School Board on December 9, 2019*

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 624**
**WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110**

To: Members of the School Board

From: Dr. Wayne A. Kazmierczak
Superintendent of Schools

Date: September 17, 2025

A work session of the White Bear Lake Area School Board will be held on **Monday, September 22, 2025**, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 200 at the District Service Center at Sunrise Park, 2399 Cedar Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN.

## WORK SESSION AGENDA

**A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS**
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call

**B. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
1. Birch Lake Elementary Update
2. Oneka Elementary Update

**C. OPERATIONAL ITEMS**
1. Certification for 2025 Payable 2026 Preliminary Property Tax Levy

**D. ADJOURNMENT**

# B. DISCUSSION ITEMS

| | |
|---|---|
| AGENDA ITEM: | **Birch Lake Elementary Update** |
| MEETING DATE: | **September 22, 2025** |
| SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: | **Discussion Item** |
| CONTACT PERSON(S): | **Dr. Alison Gillespie, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning** |

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**BACKGROUND:**

Dr. Alison Gillespie, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning and Julian Stanke, Principal of Birch Lake Elementary will present an update on Birch Lake Elementary.

# Birch Lake Elementary

## School Board Presentation
## Sept. 22, 2025








# AGENDA

1. Overview of Birch Lake Elementary
2. Reflections and Goals for 25-26
3. Birch Lake Community Growth
4. New Year, New Playground!




BUILDING OVERVIEW



# Birch Lake Elementary
# WHO WE ARE







3

## WHO WE ARE
Birch Lake Elementary



244

### Demographics

15% Multilingual Learners
31% Special Services
53% Free and Reduced
1% Homeless Highly Mobile



### Programs

Educators Thriving
CUBS
Cross Categorical
Federal Setting 1-2
Phys. Ed., Music, Art
WBL Center for the Arts
Wolf Ridge Environmental Center
STARBase
Birch Lake Rotary



73

### Our Team

39 Licensed Staff
School Social Worker
School Psychologist

4

# Highlights from 24-25

Equity and Student Experience Goals Met

AMath and CBMr Risk Decreased in all assessed grades

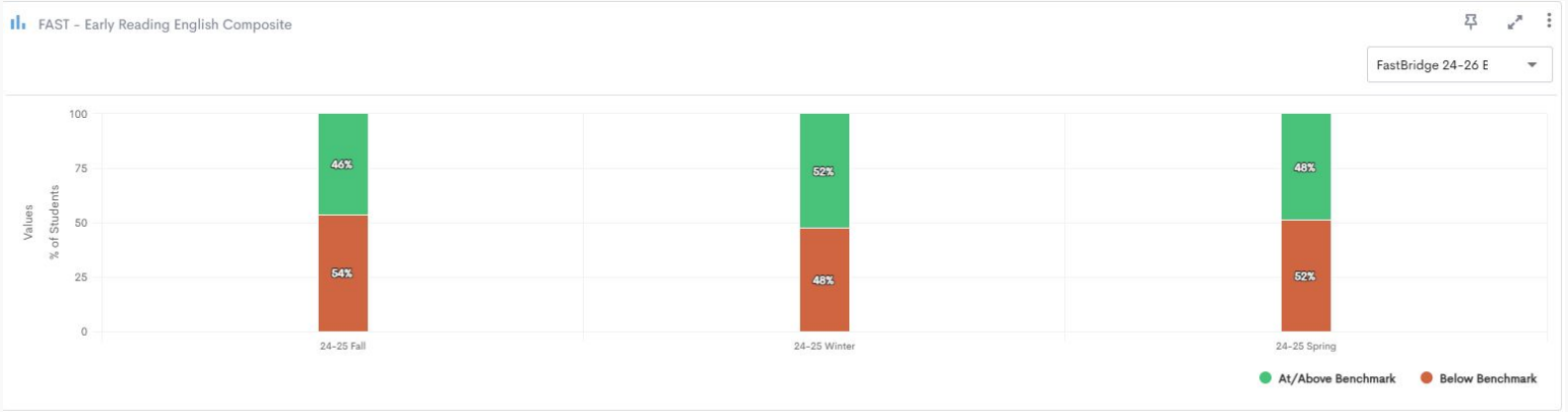
Tier II and Tier III Implementation

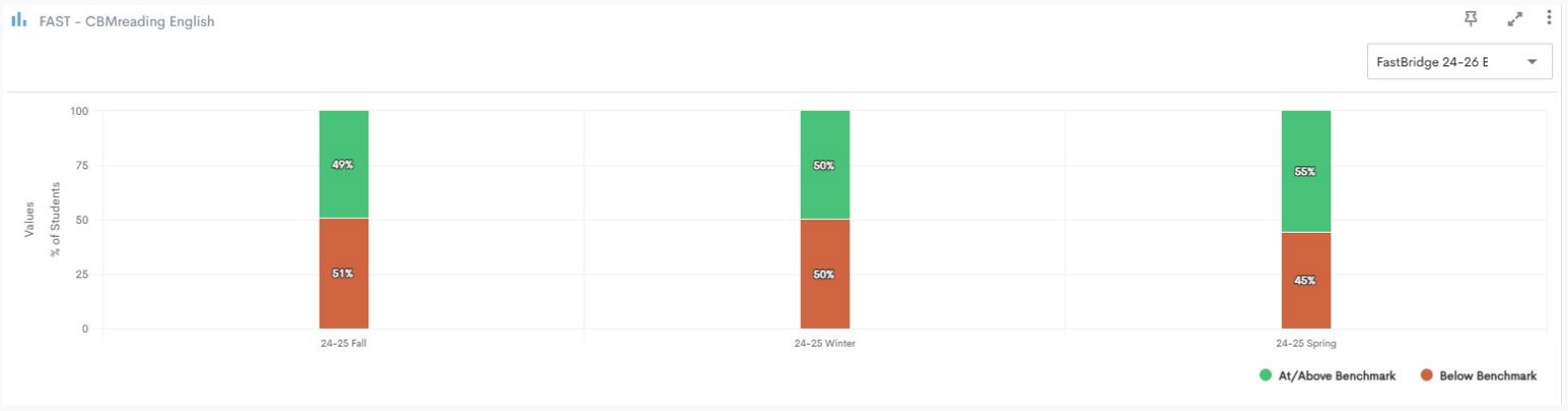
Building Culture is constantly growing and evolving

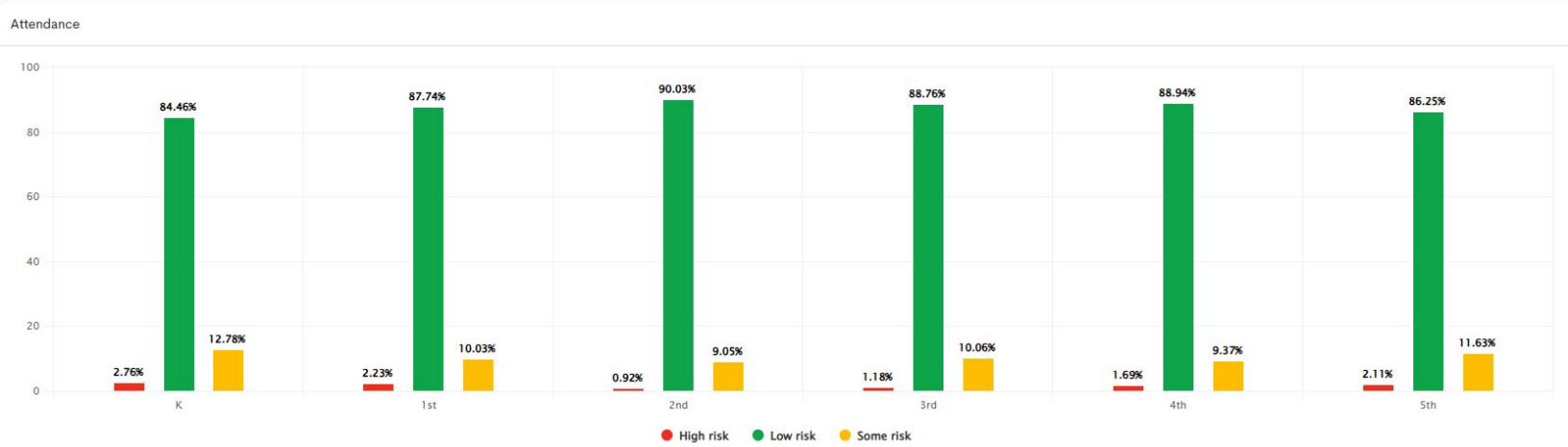
Attendance Rates










# Areas of Focus

## Building Academic Goals





# 2025-2026 Goals

## Academic

End of Year: By June 2026

- 65% of 1-5 students will score low-risk on the FastBridge CBMreading
- 63% of 2-5 ML students will score low-risk on the FastBridge aReading



## Student Experience

End of Year: By June 2026

- 90% of students are in regular attendance



# Birch Lake Community Growth



**CUBS Program**
Expansion in 25-26

- Added a new program for fall 2025
- Collaboration to support growth
- Meeting some of the highest needs for our youngest Bears



**Enrollment Gains**
Highest Enrollment in 3 years

- Last year end enrollment
- Currently at 244, and growing!
- New students from across the US and beyond!



**New Playground**
Fall 2025

- Removal happened early August
- Installation and completion mid August
- ribbon cutting ceremony at our annual Bounce Back to School event 9/12



**Connections and Partnerships**
Supporting Students

- North Homes
- PTA, Chamber of Commerce,
- Birch Lake Rotary, Wolf Ridge EC, STARBase,



# Bounce Back to School + Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!













# Birch Lake Playground, Fall 2025

# THANK YOU!

| | |
|---|---|
| AGENDA ITEM: | **Oneka Elementary Update** |
| MEETING DATE: | **September 22, 2025** |
| SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: | **Discussion Item** |
| CONTACT PERSON(S): | **Dr. Alison Gillespie, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning** |

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**BACKGROUND:**

Dr. Alison Gillespie, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, and Lori Mosser, Principal of Oneka Elementary will give an update on Oneka Elementary.

# Oneka Elementary School

September 22, 2025

Lori Mosser, Principal

Overview of Oneka

Review of 2024 - 2025

2025 - 2026 Goals

Looking Ahead



Our students and families are our top priority. We are dedicated to providing them with exceptional service and experiences that exceed their expectations.

# AGENDA

01 Overview of Oneka

02 2024 - 2025 Review

03 2025 - 2026 Fall Preview

04 2025 - 2026 Goals

05 Looking Ahead

# OVERVIEW

- K-5 Neighborhood School
- PreK and ECFE Programming
- 457 Students
- 18.36% Free & Reduced Price Lunch
- 29% Students of Color
- Special Education Programming
  - ASD Program
  - DCD Program
  - Cross-Categorical
  - Cluster Pathway Program
  - Tier 2 Program
- 7% of Students Receive Multilingual Services





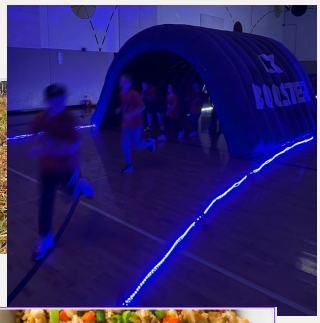
# OUR MISSION & VISION

**The mission of Oneka Elementary, as part of a growing, tight-knit community, advocates for student-focused, innovative education while embracing challenges to promote growth and ensure and empower lifelong learning in a loving, compassionate, and inviting environment where all feel safe to explore and take risks by fostering:**

- **self-advocacy and agency of their own learning,**
- **respect for diversity,**
- **stewardship both locally and globally,**
- **social and emotional health and wellness, and**
- **educational opportunities that are authentic, compelling, and relevant.**
























## STUDENT EXPERIENCES

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



# 2024 - 2025

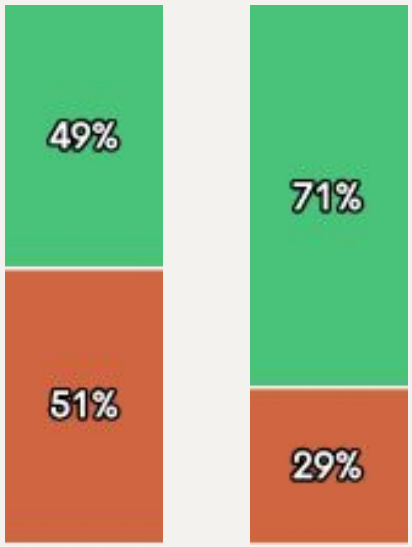
## Academic Update

# 2024 - 2025

Academic Goal Results

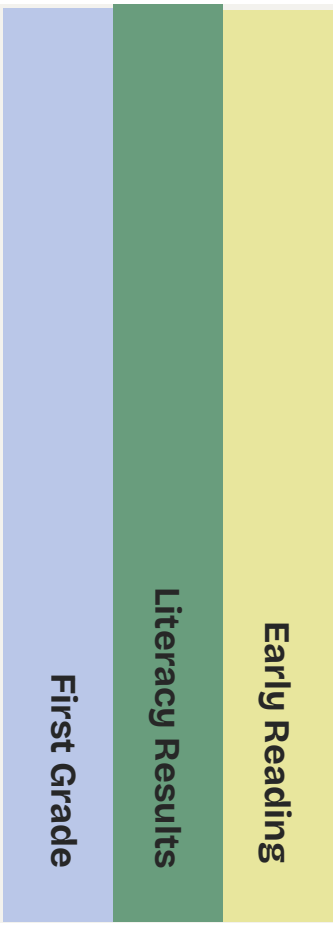
Early Reading

Fall to Spring







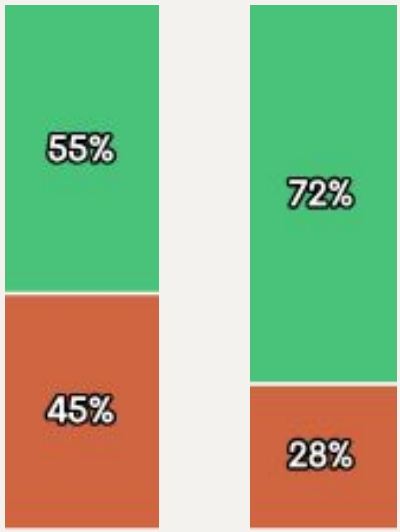


# 2024 - 2025

Academic Goal Results

Fluency

Winter to Spring




First Grade

Literacy Results

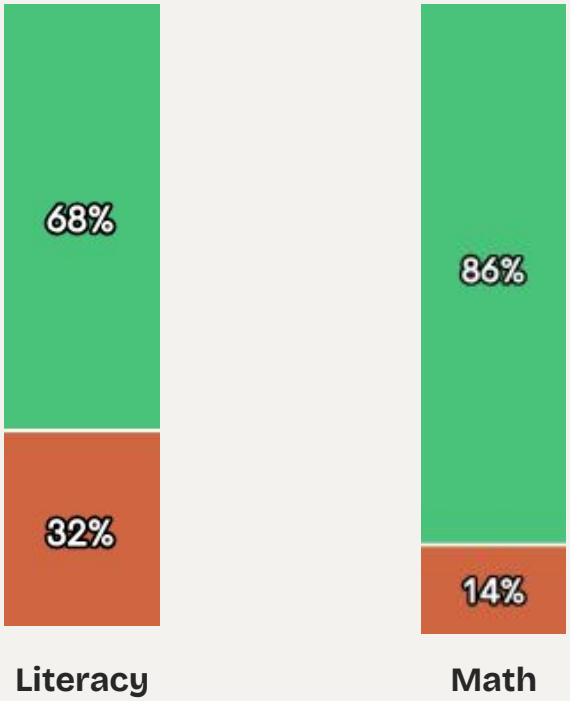
Fluency




# 2025 - 2026

## Fall Screening

# 2025 - 2026 Fall Screening Results

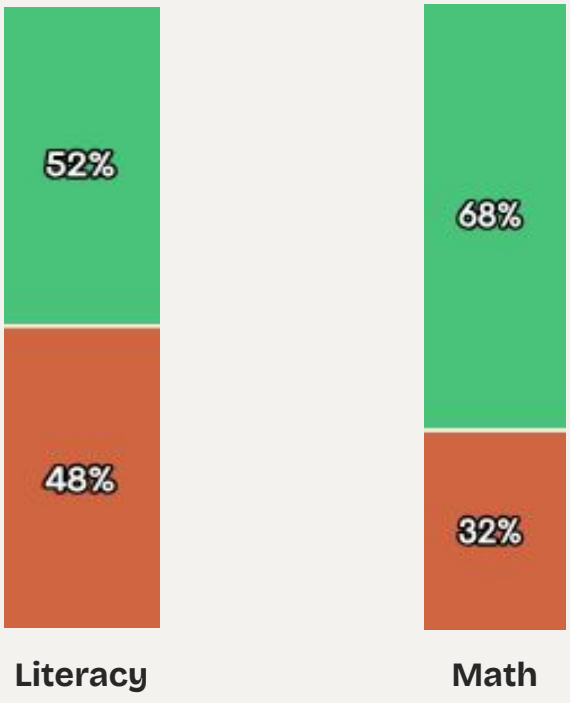



Kindergarten

earlyReading Composite

earlyMath Composite

# 2025 - 2026 Fall Screening Results

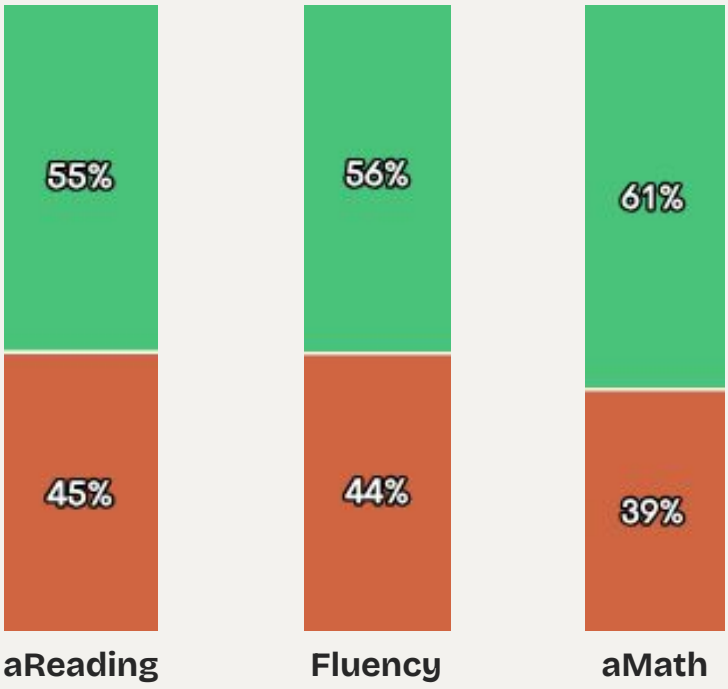



First Grade

earlyReading Composite

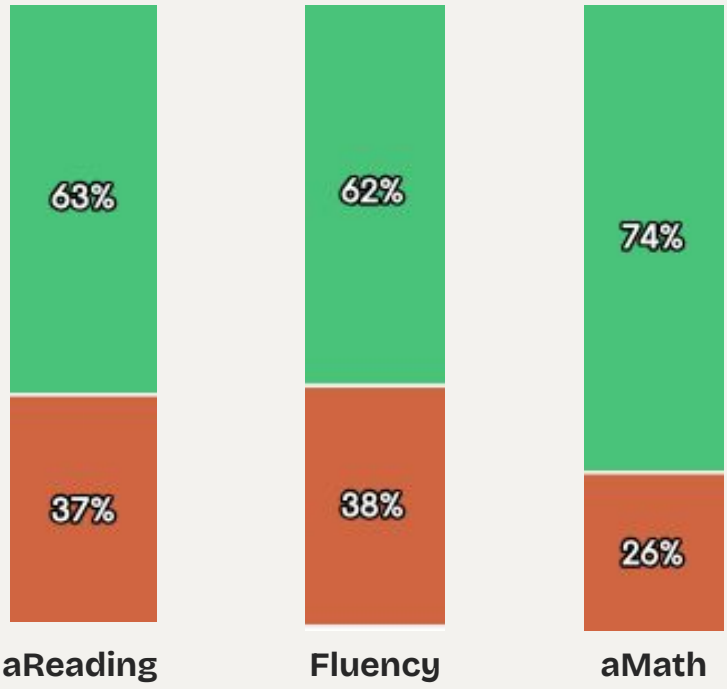
earlyMath Composite

# 2025 - 2026 Fall Screening Results



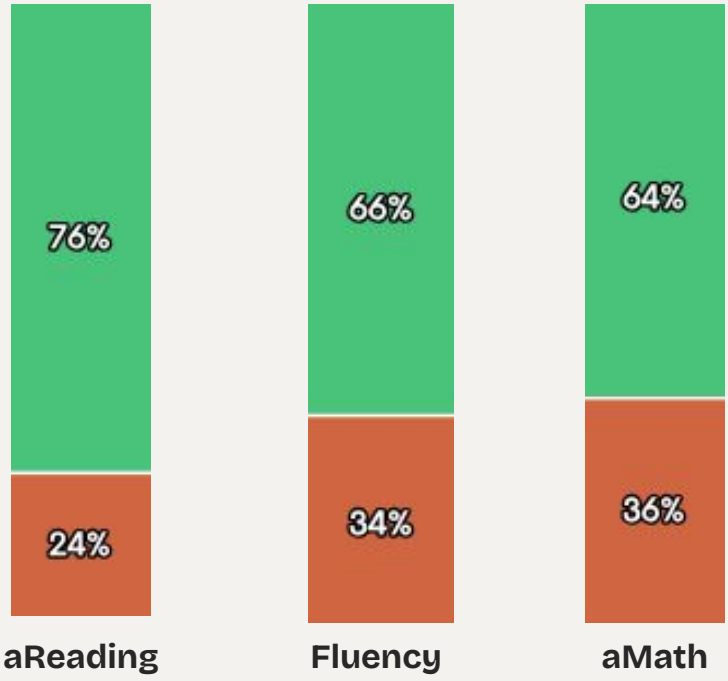

Second Grade | Literacy | Math

# 2025 - 2026 Fall Screening Results



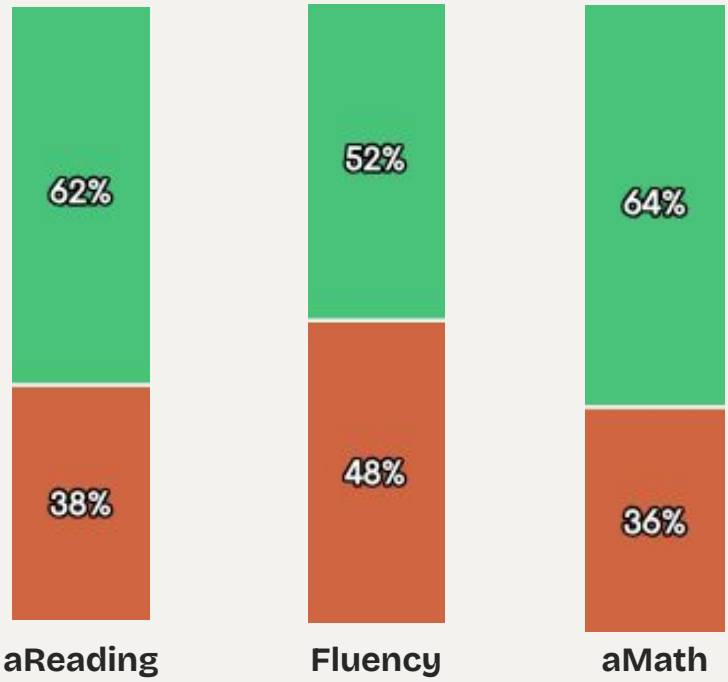

Third Grade | Literacy | Math

# 2025 - 2026 Fall Screening Results




Fourth Grade | Literacy | Math

# 2025 - 2026 Fall Screening Results




Fifth Grade | Literacy | Math

# 2025 - 2026

# ACADEMIC
# STUDENT EXPERIENCE
# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

GOALS

## 01
## ACADEMIC GOALS

By June 2026, **80%** of K-1 students will score low-risk on the FastBridge earlyReading Composite.

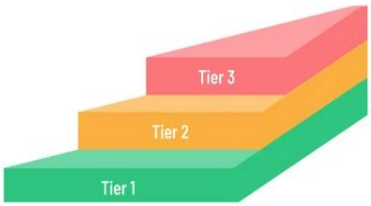
By June 2026, **80%** of 2-5 students will score low-risk on the FastBridge CBMreading.

By June 2026, **80%** of 2-5 students will score low-risk on the FastBridge aReading.

Tier 3: 1-5%
High-Intensity Support for individual students

Tier 2: 5-15%
Early Intervention - High-Efficiency Strategic Support using small group interventions

Tier 1: 100%
Differentiated Instruction for all students —using best evidence-based supports. Students receive additional support at Tier 2 and Tier 3.




BRANCHING MINDS

# Instructional Practices

Data meetings: 5x per year

Daily / weekly **collaboration** in teams

Weekly / Bi-weekly progress monitoring




# 02 STUDENT EXPERIENCE GOAL

By June 2026, at least **90%** of students will report that they feel valued, safe, engaged, and respected as measured by student surveys.

At least **90%** of students will maintain a **90%** or higher attendance rate.

Daily Class Meetings

Gradual Release of Responsibility

Skills for Learning

Empathy and Kindness

Emotional Management

Problem-Solving

Growth Mindset

Goal-Setting

Establishing Safety

Building Connections

# Student Experiences

# 03 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT GOALS

- PTA Sponsored events
- **Community Dinner and Conversation**
- Free Family Nights (Bingo, Art Fair, Talent Show)
- **Meaningful Conferences**
- Consistent & Timely Communication

# Looking ahead...

**High School Mentorship**

**Hugo Bus Tour**

**Boosterthon Fun Run**



## What questions do you have?

email
lori.mosser@isd624.org
phone
651.288.1800

# C. OPERATIONAL ITEMS

| | |
|---|---|
| AGENDA ITEM: | **Certification for 2025 Payable 2026 Preliminary Property Tax Levy** |
| MEETING DATE: | **September 22, 2025** |
| SUGGESTED DISPOSITION: | **Operational Item** |
| CONTACT PERSON(S): | **Tim Wald, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations;**<br>**Andi Johnson, Director of Finance** |

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**BACKGROUND:**

The School Board is required to certify to the auditors of Anoka, Ramsey, and Washington Counties the School District's preliminary 2025 Payable 2026 Preliminary Property Tax Levy by September 30, 2025. The most recent levy estimate will be provided at the School Board meeting.

The administration recommends that the School Board certify the maximum levy as provided by state law; certifying the preliminary levy in this manner allows for changes prior to the final levy certification in December. Changes could be made for a variety of reasons, such as changes to state aid and levy calculations made by the MDE, or changes made by the District such as previously unanticipated Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) projects.

School districts are required to discuss the payable 2026 levy and the current year's budget (fiscal year 2025-26) at a regularly scheduled board meeting and allow the public to speak. This will occur at the December 8, 2025 School Board meeting at 6:00 p.m. The final levy certification will be approved at that meeting.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Approve the maximum for the 2025 Payable 2026 Proposed Preliminary Property Tax Levy.

# Approval of District's Preliminary Tax Levy for 2026-2027 Budget (Payable 2026)



# White Bear Lake School District No. 624

**September 19, 2025**

**Property Tax Levy and Rate Summary, Taxes Payable in 2025 and 2026**

| | Certified Levy Payable in 2025 | | Proposed Levy Payable in 2026 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Tax Levy Information** | | | | |
| 1. Total Certified Levy Spread on RMV | 22,159,707 | | 23,529,652 | 1,369,945 |
| 2. General Fund Levy Spread on NTC | 11,744,049 | | 13,335,970 | 1,591,921 |
| 3. Community Service Fund Levy | 1,359,138 | | 1,489,280 | 130,143 |
| 4. General Debt Service Levy | 35,214,967 | | 35,205,036 | -9,930 |
| 5. OPEB Debt Service Levy | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| 6. Total Certified Levy | 70,477,861 | 4.4% | 73,559,939 | 3,082,078 |
| **Fiscal Disparities Adjustment to Levy** | | | | |
| 7. RMV-Based Levies | 1,768,953 | | 1,768,953 | 0 |
| 8. General Debt Service | 2,855,583 | | 2,855,583 | 0 |
| 9. Other NTC-Based Levies | 1,062,541 | | 1,062,541 | 0 |
| 10. Total Fiscal Disparities Adjustment | 5,687,077 | | 5,687,077 | 0 |
| **Summary of Adjusted Levies** | | | | |
| 11. RMV-Based Levies | 20,390,754 | | 21,760,699 | 1,369,945 |
| 12. General Debt Service | 32,359,384 | | 32,349,453 | -9,930 |
| 13. Other NTC-Based Levies | 12,040,646 | | 13,762,710 | 1,722,064 |
| 14. Total Adjusted Levies | 64,790,784 | | 67,872,862 | 3,082,078 |
| **Property Value Information** | | | | |
| 15. RMV Used to Calculate Rate | 12,081,864,086 | 4.5% | 12,629,129,413 | 547,265,327 |
| 16. NTC Used to Calculate Rate | 125,832,620 | 5.1% | 132,269,634 | 6,437,014 |
| **Actual and Estimated Tax Rates** | | | | |
| 17. RMV Rate (#11/#15) | 0.16877% | | 0.17231% | 0.00353% |
| 18. NTC Debt Rate (#12/#16) | 25.716% | | 24.457% | -1.259% |
| 19. NTC Other Rate (#13/#16) | 9.569% | | 10.405% | 0.836% |

**Key Assumptions:**

Preliminary Pay 2026 RMV is estimated to change by 4.53% and NTC by 5.12% as compared to taxes payable 2025.

Levy amounts are based on the 9/18/2025 levy report and include an additional $620,000 for calculations not yet incoroprated into the report.

# White Bear Lake School District No. 624

**September 19, 2025**

**Property Taxes - Actual for Payable 2025 and Estimates for Payable 2026**

| | Actual Taxes Payable in 2025 | Preliminary Estimate of Taxes Payable in 2026 | Estimated Change in Annual Taxes | Estimated % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| RMV-Based Levies | $20,390,754 | $21,760,699 | $1,369,945 | **6.72%** |
| NTC-Debt Service | $32,359,384 | $32,349,453 | -$9,930 | **-0.03%** |
| Other NTC-Based Levies | $12,040,646 | $13,762,710 | $1,722,064 | **14.30%** |
| **Totals** | **$64,790,784** | **$67,872,862** | **$3,082,078** | **4.76%** |

| Type of Property | Estimated Market Value | Estimated Annual School District Property Taxes | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Residential Homestead | $100,000 | $389 | $390 | $1 | 0.3% |
| | 150,000 | 666 | 666 | 0 | 0.0% |
| | 200,000 | 943 | 942 | -1 | -0.1% |
| | 250,000 | 1,219 | 1,218 | -1 | -0.1% |
| | 300,000 | 1,496 | 1,495 | -1 | -0.1% |
| | 350,000 | 1,773 | 1,771 | -2 | -0.1% |
| | 400,000 | 2,049 | 2,047 | -2 | -0.1% |
| | 450,000 | 2,326 | 2,323 | -3 | -0.1% |
| | 500,000 | 2,603 | 2,599 | -4 | -0.2% |
| | 600,000 | 3,218 | 3,213 | -5 | -0.2% |
| | 700,000 | 3,828 | 3,821 | -7 | -0.2% |
| Commercial/ Industrial * | $100,000 | $521 | $495 | -$26 | -5.0% |
| | 250,000 | 1,419 | 1,346 | -73 | -5.1% |
| | 500,000 | 3,014 | 2,853 | -161 | -5.3% |
| | 750,000 | 4,610 | 4,360 | -250 | -5.4% |
| | 1,000,000 | 6,205 | 5,868 | -337 | -5.4% |
| Apartments | $200,000 | $1,220 | $1,216 | -$4 | -0.3% |
| | 500,000 | 3,049 | 3,040 | -9 | -0.3% |
| | 1,000,000 | 6,098 | 6,081 | -17 | -0.3% |
| | 2,000,000 | 12,197 | 12,162 | -35 | -0.3% |

**Key Assumptions:**

1. Preliminary Pay 2026 RMV is estimated to change by 4.53% and NTC by 5.12% as compared to taxes payable 2025.
2. Assumes no change in the value of individual parcels of property from 2025 to 2026 taxes. If the value of a parcel changed, the change in taxes will be different than shown above.
3. Taxes payable in 2026 are based on latest estimates of proposed levy, as of the date above.

* For commercial-industrial property, the estimates above are for property in the City of White Bear Lake. The tax impact for commercial industrial property in other municipalities in the school district may be slightly different due to the varying impact of the Twin Cities Fiscal Disparity program.