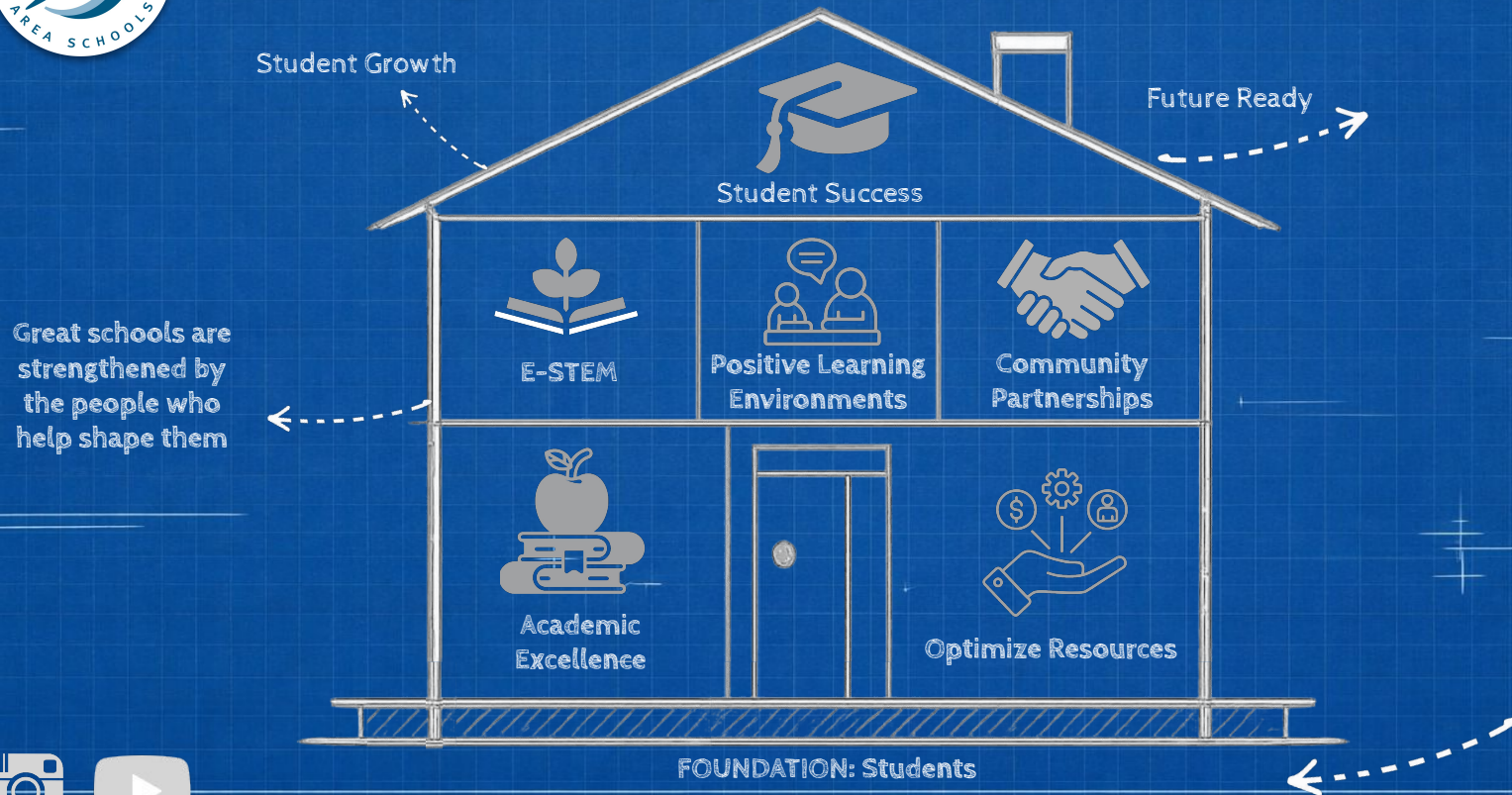




Building a Blueprint for Academic Excellence



Why We're Here Tonight

- — — ► Assess the financial reality
- — — ► Show how we've been managing resources
- — — ► Gather community input to guide our long-range Academic Excellence plan

Our Work is Grounded in Our Strategic Plan

Our Strategic
Plan guides
our decisions



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.

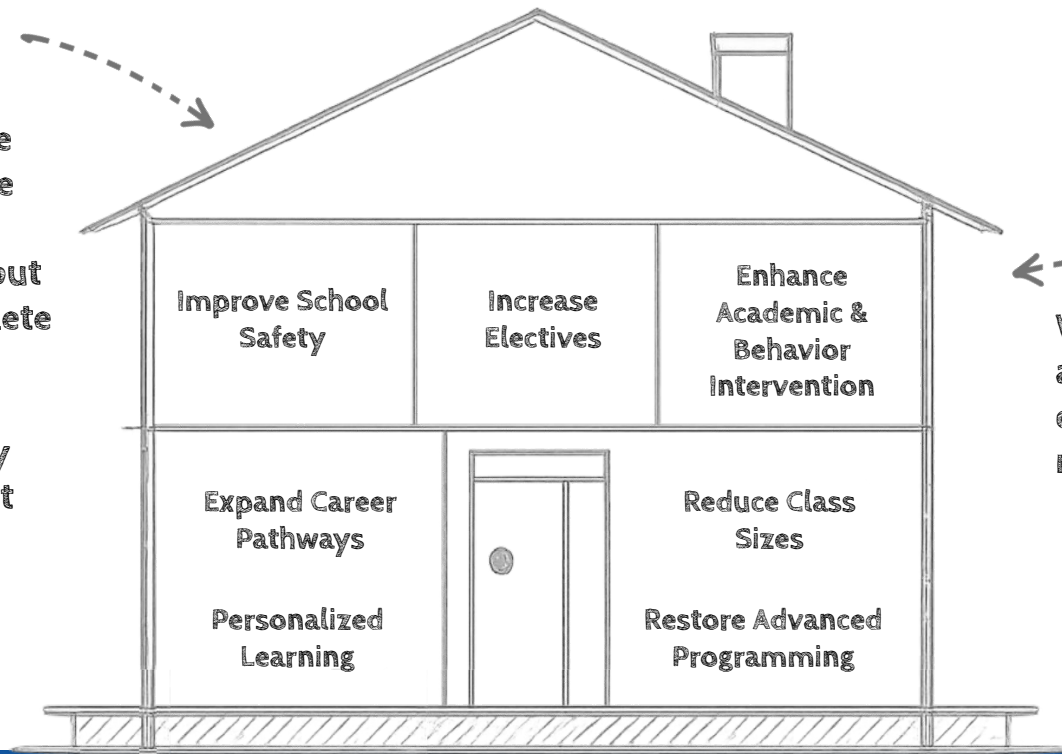
Unity: We support each other, cultivating a sense of belonging, and collective strength, ensuring everyone is seen, valued, and heard as we pursue our common goals together.

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



Building the Future Takes Planning

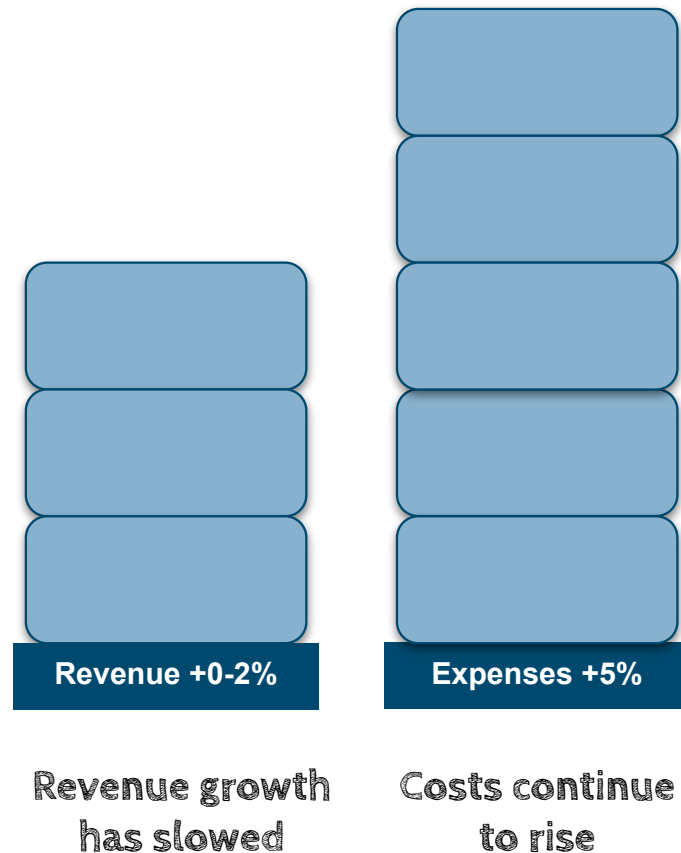
Like making updates to a home, there are many things we want to accomplish – but we can't complete everything at once and our financial reality means we must plan improvements over time.



With thoughtful planning and community input, we can prioritize what matters most.

The Reality: Why Finances Are Tight

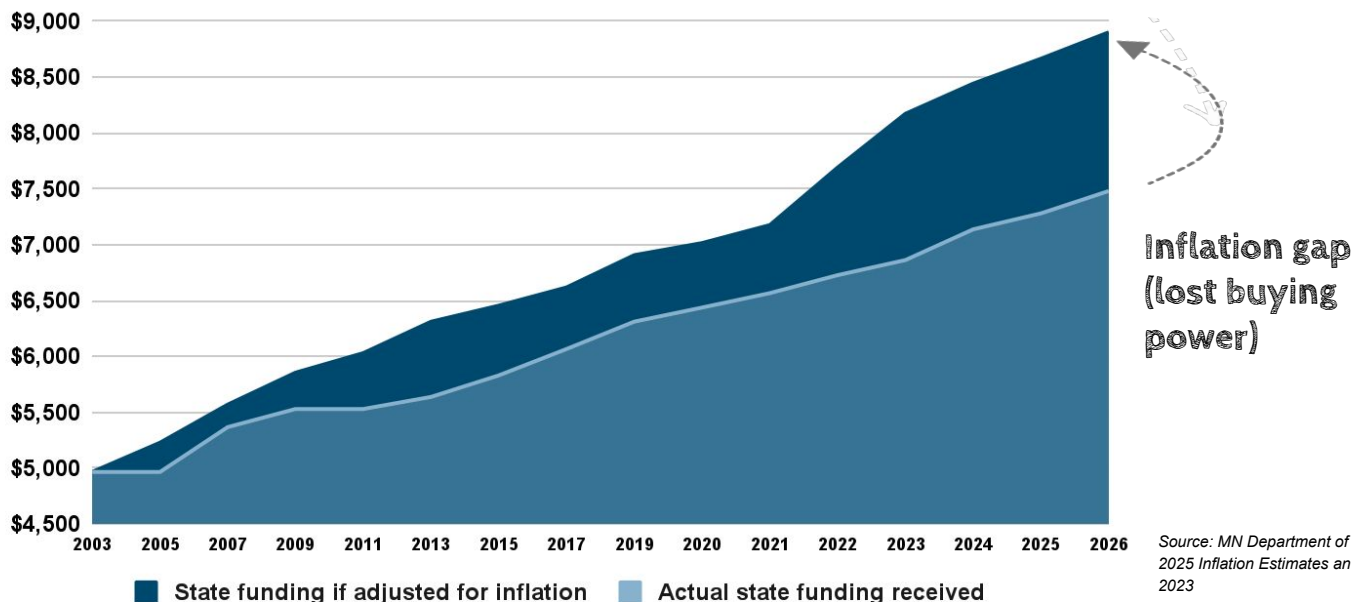
- — — ➔ State funding has not kept pace with inflation since 2003
- — — ➔ If it had, we would have received **\$13+ million** more this year
- — — ➔ Declining enrollment = less revenue



The General Education Formula Allowance Has Not Kept Up With Inflation Since 2003

If state funding had kept pace with inflation since 2003, we would have received **\$13+ million** more this year

PLSAS Inflationary Shortfall of the General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2026



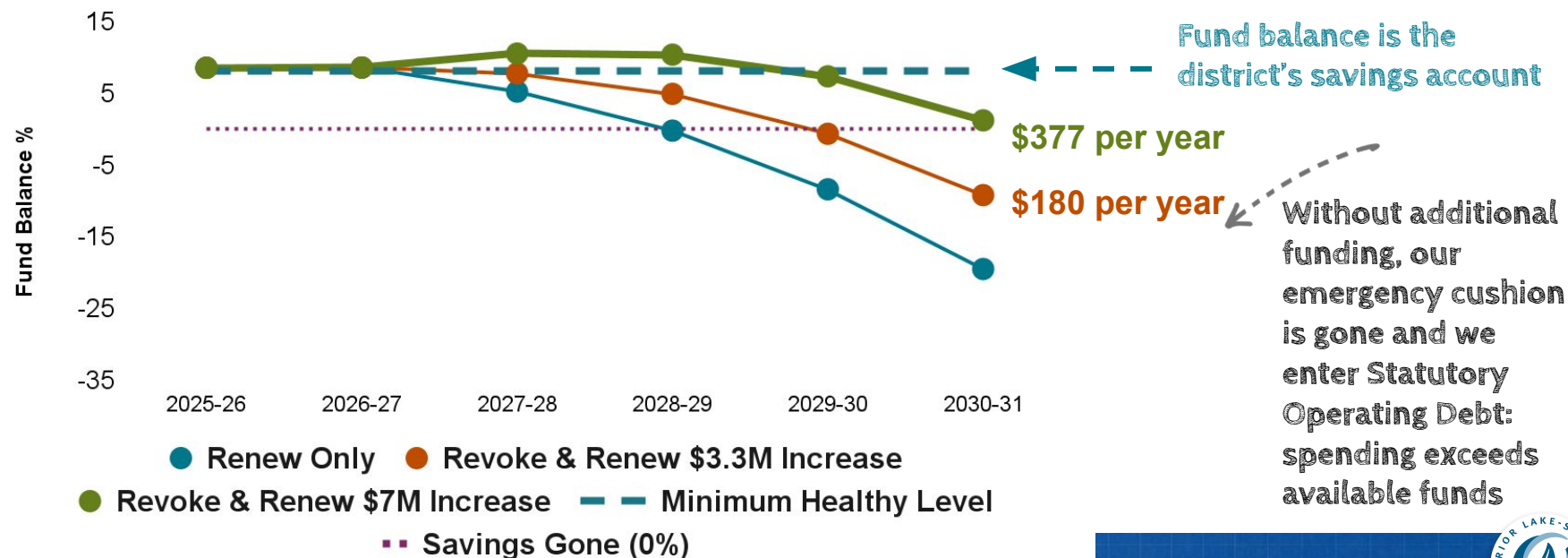
Why Our Plan Must Be Phased Over Time

- — — ➤ Revenue growth has slowed while costs continue to rise.
- — — ➤ We must balance immediate needs with long-term sustainability.
- — — ➤ This means implementing improvements in thoughtful stages.

Our Savings Help for a While — But Run Out Without a Plan

A new referendum could ease short-term challenges (with an annual reduction of \$3M), but won't solve long-term funding gaps

Fund Balance Stability Under Different Funding Options



We Have Already Taken Significant Steps to Adjust Spending

2024/25 | \$4.0M Reduced

- DSC department reductions
- Administrator cost reductions
- \$958K one-time fund balance use

2025/26 | \$4.1M Reduced

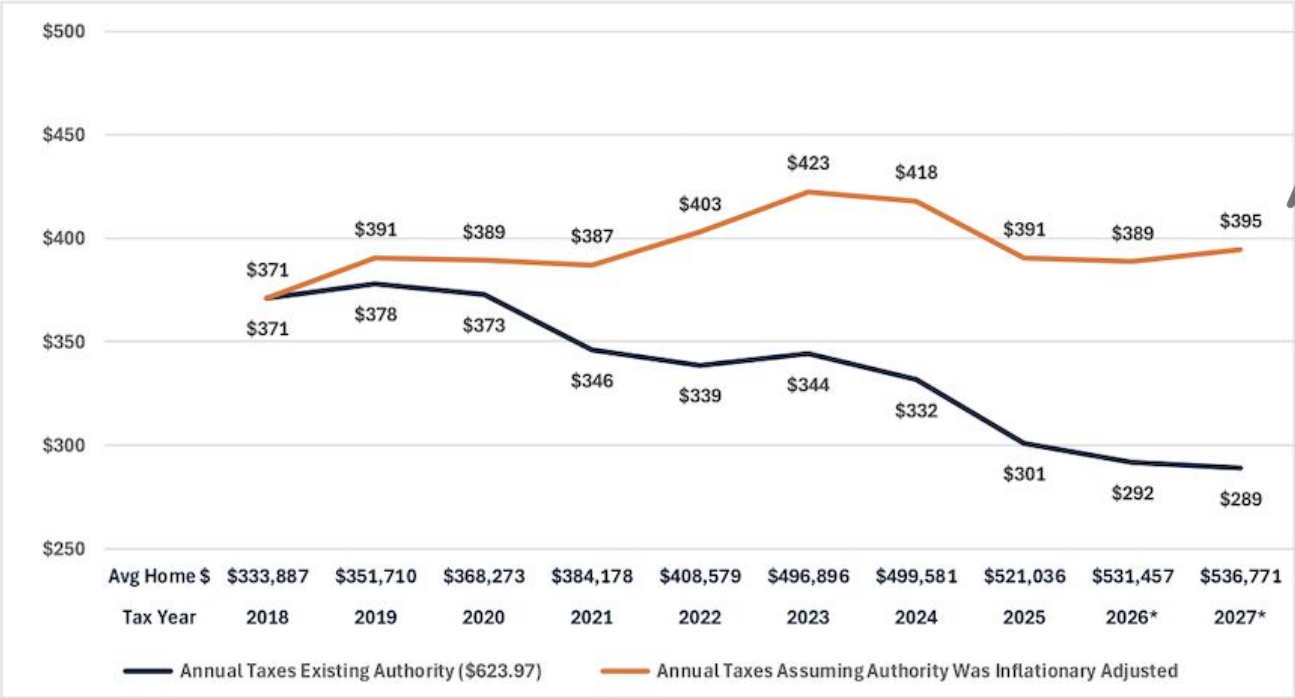
- Staffing/Administration reductions
- MNCAPS lease eliminated
- Twin Oaks pool closed
- Laker Online eliminated
- K-1 iPads & staff desktops reduced
- Fewer Gr. -12 elective options

2026/27 | Structural Changes

- Site consolidation
- Changing K-5 attendance boundaries
- Selling the District Services Center

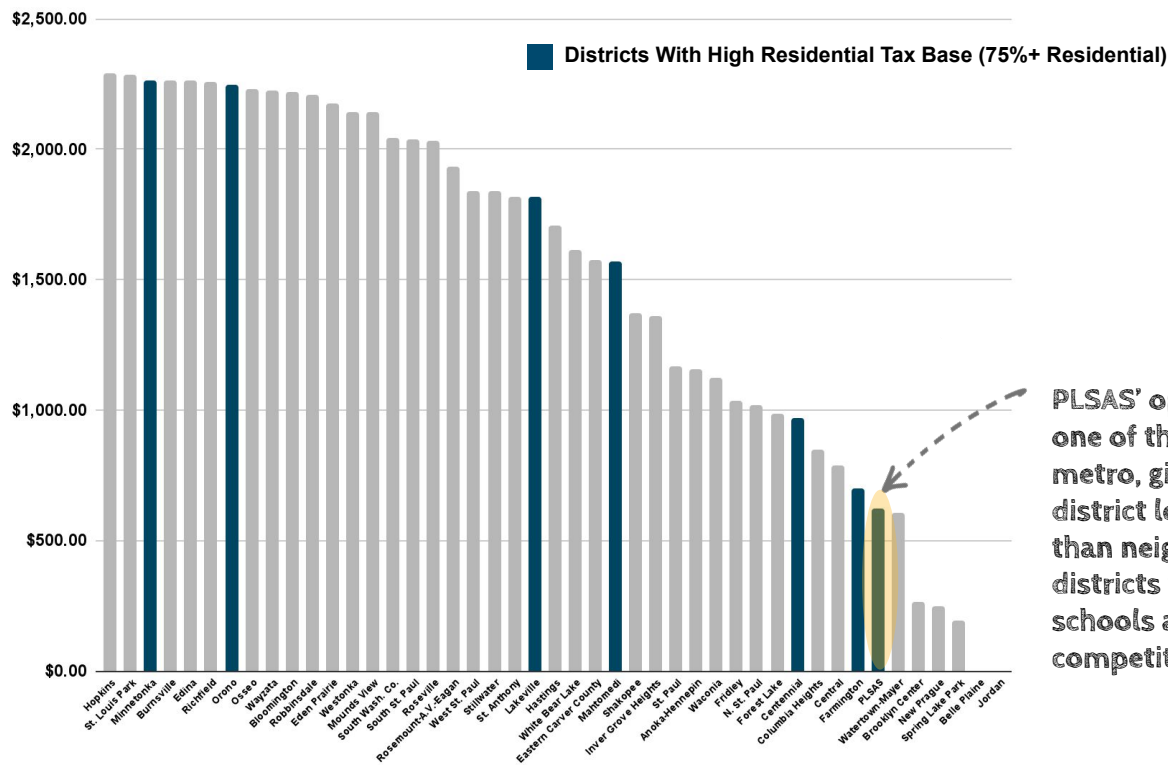
\$4.15 million more in cuts still need to be made

If We Had Added Inflation to the 2017 Referendum Request



With an inflation adjustment, the 2017 operating referendum would have provided **\$12.6 Million** more, while keeping taxes relatively stable. Over time, this funding could have supported programs, staff, and student opportunities.

Voter-Approved Operating Levy Comparison (2025/26 per student)



PLSAS' operating levy is one of the lowest in the metro, giving our district less money than neighboring districts to operate schools and offer competitive programs

Source: MN Department of Education
Taxes Payable 2025 Levy Limitation
and Certification Reports

Now We Face Important Choices

- ➤ Because resources are limited, not everything can happen at once.
- ➤ Community input helps us decide what happens first and what can wait.



Table Questions

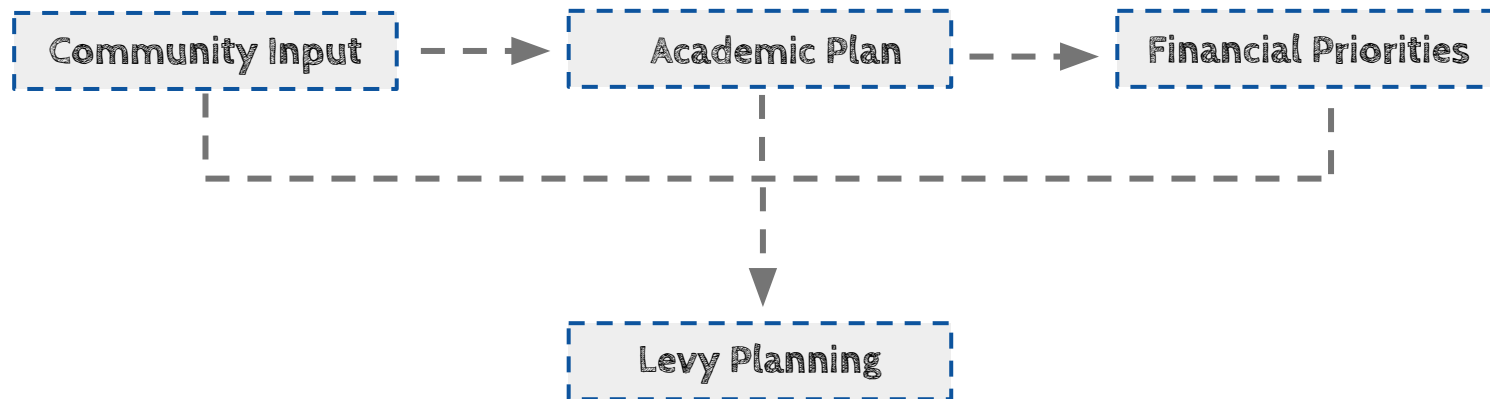
Why do you continue to choose PLSAS for you and your family? What keeps you in the community?

What do you see as the greatest challenge in helping our students find academic success?

What one or two changes or new ideas would you suggest to improve how our district delivers learning to students?



How Your Input Will Be Used



Planning Responsibly While Advocating for the Future

Minnesota's education funding formula **has not changed since 1971**. Despite rising costs and increasing mandates, schools are still funded under a system designed over 50 years ago.

- — — ► We plan carefully at the local level.
- — — ► We listen to community priorities.
- — — ► We continue advocating for fair and sustainable school funding.

Contact your
local
lawmakers





**Thank you for being part of building the blueprint!
Strong schools are built together.**

