

SCHOOL REPORT



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. ERIN RATHKE

What a joy it has been to welcome students back to our schools. Their energy and excitement remind us why we do this work.

THE SCHOOL YEAR IS OFF TO A STRONG START, AND IT'S A POWERFUL REFLECTION OF THE SHARED VALUES AND COMMITMENT WE SEE ACROSS OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

One significant development is our upcoming 2025 operating referendum, which the Eastern Carver County School Board unanimously approved on July 28, 2025. We remain deeply committed to keeping you informed with clear, factual updates. You'll find important information about the referendum inside this edition of *School Report*.

At the core of this referendum is protecting our community's continued investment in the ECCS Difference. It is what sets our schools apart, and it's made possible because of you. Whether it's our smaller schools where every student is known and valued, or our two traditional high schools that offer double the opportunities in academics, activities, and athletics, the difference is real. It shows up in our investments in music, media specialists, mental health supports, and programming across every level. Most importantly, the ECCS Difference is brought to life each day by incredible educators, staff, and leaders who go above and beyond for our students. With your continued partnership, we can maintain and grow these opportunities for every learner, every day.

We deeply value our partnership with families, staff, and students. That's why we're committed to transparent, two-way communication, ensuring your questions are answered, your concerns heard, and your insights continue to inform our actions.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we've built strong foundations; together, we will continue to strengthen and elevate our learning community.

In Partnership,

Dr. Erin Rathke
Superintendent

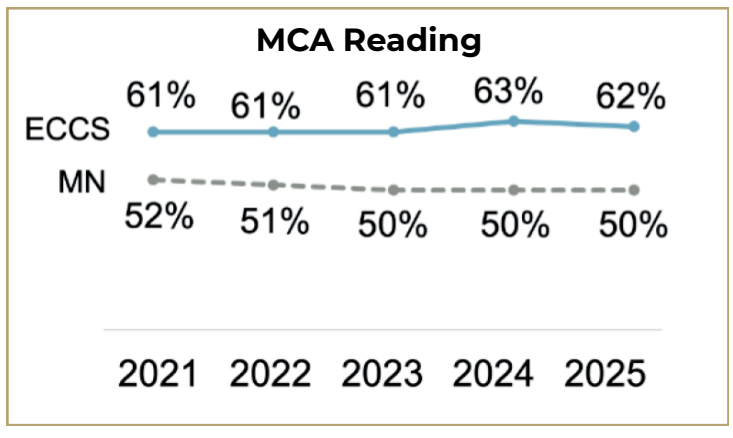
STATE TESTING RESULTS

Each year, students take the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) to measure performance on Minnesota's Academic Standards. These standards are determined via legislation and are not a measure of literacy in reading, math, or science. ECCS tracks student literacy through the FastBridge assessment process. The MCA is administered in grades 3-8 and 10 in reading, 3-8 and 11 in math, and 5, 8, and once in high school for science. The MCA science test scores will be released later this fall for the new test reflecting updated state standards.

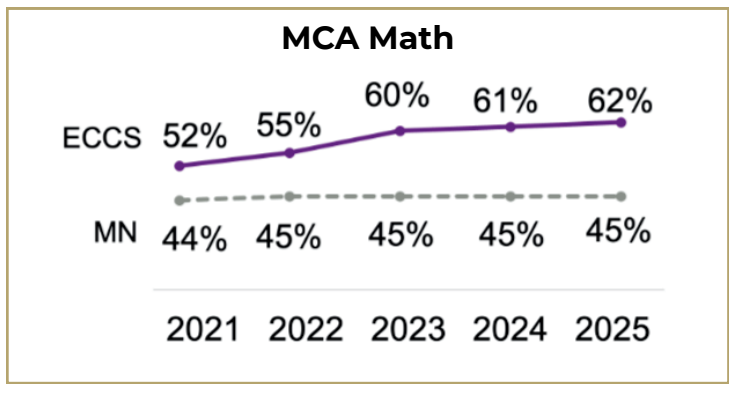
Minnesota scores have remained stable over the past four years in both math and reading. In contrast, in ECCS, math scores have continued to climb since 2021 by ten percentage points, now at 62% proficient and have exceeded 2019 scores. In fact, ECCS's improvement in math is in the top five districts in the state, and the other four districts are considerably smaller. In reading, ECCS has also seen stability with 62% of students across the district scoring in the proficient range in 2025. Focusing on reading at 3rd grade, both statewide and ECCS scores held steady for another year at 46% proficiency in the state of Minnesota and 57% proficiency in ECCS. While there is work to be done, ECCS has been highlighted nationally through the Education Recovery Scorecard as a bright spot for its post-pandemic recovery in student academic growth.

School Board Chair Sean Olsen had this to say: "Over the last few years, ECCS has reworked its mathematics curriculum and teaching strategies, and these changes are paying off with impressive results. In reading, we continue implementing the "science of reading" based curriculum and while MCA results are stable, we are seeing encouraging trends in our FastBridge data for younger learners. None of this would be possible without the hard work of our staff and the support from families to provide environments where our kids can thrive."









ECCS
SHAPING OUR FUTURE
VOTE | NOV. 4

VOTE
on or before
November 4, 2025

The Eastern Carver County School Board approved placing an operating levy on this fall's ballot.

If approved, the levy would provide nearly $7 million annually to help maintain strong programs, invest in advanced academics and resources for all learners, and increase financial stability. For an average home valued at $500,000 in our community, the estimated cost is $23 per month.

If not approved, the district has identified $6.5 million in additional budget reductions over the next four years. These would directly impact students through higher class size, staff reductions, and program and activity eliminations.

EASTERN CARVER COUNTY SCHOOLS
11 Peavey Road
Chaska, MN 55318

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 43
Chaska, MN 55318

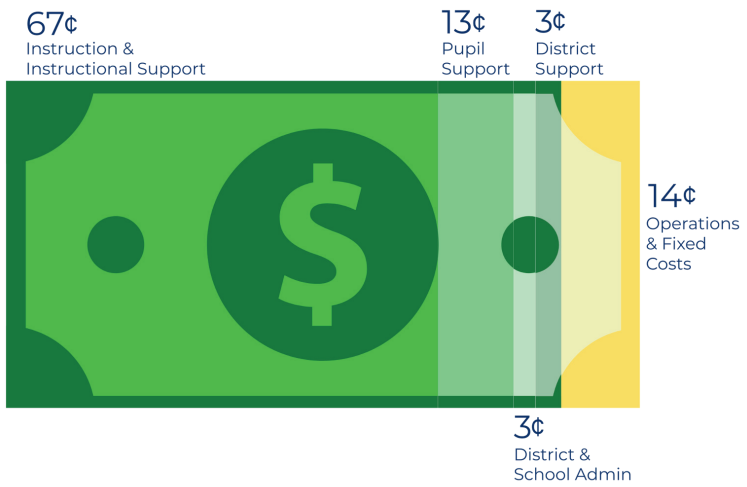
ECRWSS
Postal Customer

ECCS REFERENDUM 2025

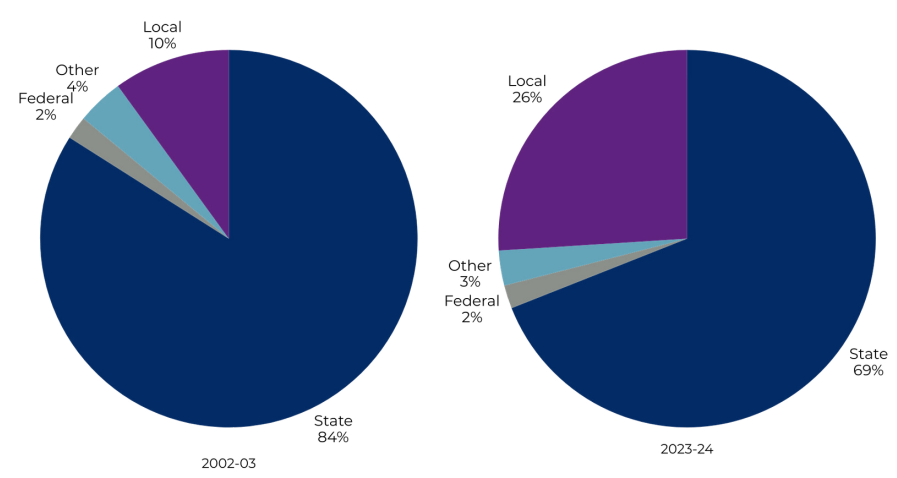
OUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

Even with this year's modest increase in state funding, overall funding has not kept pace with inflation, resulting in an ongoing shortfall. Additionally, the introduction of new mandates from recent legislative sessions adds financial pressure, with many initiatives lacking adequate funding. Rising costs in utilities, transportation and supplies has put a further strain on our budget. This convergence of factors led to $5 million in budget cuts for the 2025-26 school year.

Despite recent budget cuts and the current level of state funding, projections show the district's fund balance dropping below 5% within three years. To stay within Board policy, additional budget reductions would be required before that point. As a result, the School Board voted to put one question on the ballot in November seeking additional operating revenue from the Eastern Carver County Schools community.



80¢ of each dollar in the ECCS budget goes to classrooms, instruction & support of students



Changes in state funding for school districts over the last 20+ years has shifted more responsibility to the local level.

NOVEMBER 4 REFERENDUM

10-year levy to increase the general education revenue by $742 PER PUPIL, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation.

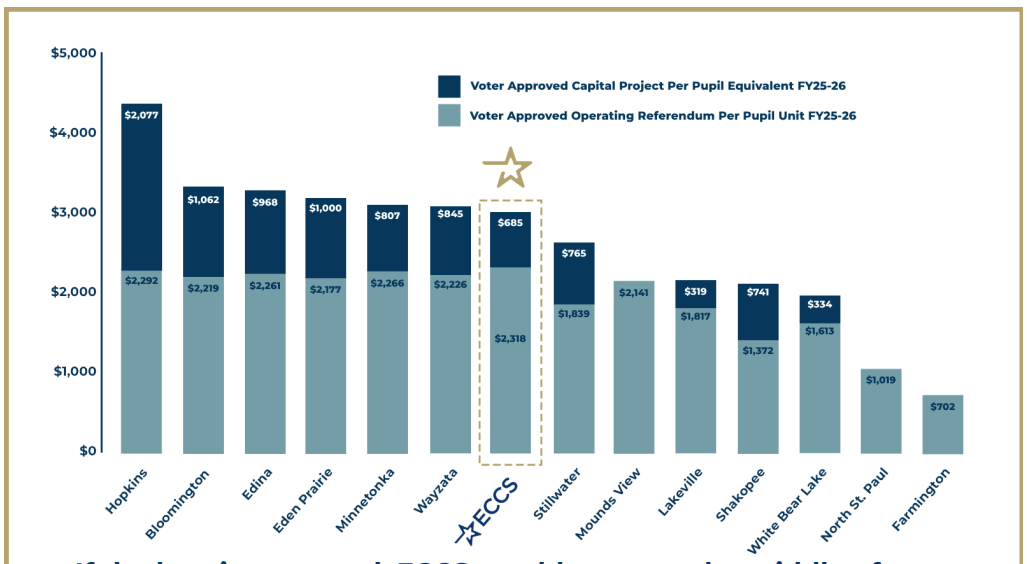
TAX IMPACT

$23 PER MONTH

If the operating levy is approved, the tax impact on a $500,000 home - the average home value for the district - would be $23 per month.

HOME VALUE	COST PER MONTH	COST PER YEAR
$200,000	$9/month	$111/year
$350,000	$16/month	$194/year
$500,000*	**$23/month**	**$278/year**
$700,000	$32/month	$389/year
$1,000,000	$46/month	$555/year

Use the online tax impact calculator to see your estimated cost at **eccs.mn/taxcalculator**.



If the levy is approved, ECCS would move to the middle of comparable district funding.

Visit the eccsvote.org website to learn more about the referendum.

ECCS REFERENDUM 2025

At Eastern Carver County Schools, students are our purpose. We prepare them for success, whether that's in college, a career, the military, or wherever their path takes them after graduation. Community surveys consistently show that residents and parents believe our students receive high-quality education from great teachers. That's the ECCS Difference.

95% of families say that their child(ren) receive a well-rounded education that prepares them for their future.

94% agree ECCS meets the learning needs of students.

84% agree the community receives a good value for its investment in local schools.

92% of students say they are seen, heard, valued, trusted, and respected for who they are and who they want to be.

87% rate the quality of ECCS Schools as excellent or good.

94% of high school students engaged in a district-sponsored or student-led activity.

SHAPING OUR FUTURE

If the operating levy **is approved**, ECCS can:

- Provide **stable funding** for a strong future and the priorities outlined in the district's strategic plan.
- **Sustain academic opportunities and support for all learners** through strong classroom instruction, targeted resources, and meaningful enrichment.
- **Enhance elementary gifted and talented programming** by adding at least one full-time staff member in each building and by providing additional targeted programming for students.
- **Protect and grow accelerated academic opportunities** at the middle level, with expanded programming, curriculum, and investment in college and career pathways.
- **Expand opportunities** in high school academics, athletics, fine arts, and extracurricular activities.
- Protect our investment in added counseling staff, ensuring students receive **academic and mental health support**.
- **Strengthen pathways** that prepare students for college, careers, and life beyond graduation.

If the operating levy is not approved, ECCS would need to cut $6.5 million over four years to maintain an 8% fund balance.

Potential cuts could include:

- Increased class sizes
- Reduction of music offerings including elimination of 5th grade band
- Elimination of kindergarten paraprofessionals
- Reduction of media specialists
- Reduction of elementary gifted and talented programming
- Impacts to staffing support of high school athletics and activities

VOTING INFORMATION

EARLY VOTING BY MAIL

Request a ballot at eccs.mn/absenteeballot.

EARLY VOTING IN PERSON

Carver County Government Center (600 E. 4th St., Chaska, MN 55318)

Monday-Friday, September 19-October 31, from 8 am-4:30 pm
Saturday, November 1, from 9 am-3pm
Monday, November 3, from 8 am-5 pm

NOVEMBER 4 VOTING

Polls will be open 7 am to 8 pm on November 4.
Polling locations may be different than where you typically vote, visit mnvotes.org to find your polling location.

RESIDENTS LIVING IN:

CARVER
Carver City Hall
316 Broadway
Carver

CHANHASSEN
Chanhassen Recreation Center
2310 Coulter Blvd.
Chanhassen

CHASKA*
Chaska Event Center
3210 Chaska Blvd.
Chaska

VICTORIA
Victoria Recreation Center
8475 Kochia Ln.
Victoria

**Notice of change in Chaska polling place location. Applies only to school district election not held on day of a statewide election.*

VISIT
eccsvote.org

EMAIL
eccsvote@district112.org

CALL
952-556-6107

STARTING THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR STRONG





















MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Oct. 16-17: No School - Education MN
Oct. 20: No School - Conference/Workshop
Oct. 31: No School - Conference/Workshop
Nov. 26-28: No School - Thanksgiving Break
Dec. 1: No School - Conference / Workshop
Dec. 22-Jan. 2: No School - Winter Break
Jan. 19: No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Jan. 20: No School - Conference / Workshop
Feb. 27: No School - Conference / Workshop
Mar. 30-April 3: No School - Spring Break
May 25: No School - Memorial Day
May 27: IAA Graduation
May 28: Chanhassen & Chaska Graduations
June 2: Last day of School K-5
June 4: Last day of School 6-12

Stay Connected

www.district112.org

facebook.com/isd112

ecarvercoschools

Bluff Creek Elementary: 952-556-6600
Carver Elementary: 952-556-1900
Chanhassen Elementary: 952-556-6700
Clover Ridge Elementary: 952-556-6900
Jonathan Elementary: 952-556-6500
La Academia: 952-556-6300
Victoria Elementary: 952-556-3000

Chaska Middle School East: 952-556-7600
Chaska Middle School West: 952-556-7400
Pioneer Ridge Middle School: 952-556-7800

Chanhassen High School: 952-556-3500
Chaska High School: 952-556-7100
Integrated Arts Academy: 952-556-6200

STAR: 952-556-6120
Family Learning Center: 952-556-6100
Community Education: 952-556-6400
Welcome Center: 952-556-6100
Transportation: 952-556-6160
Nutrition Services: 952-556-6145

SCHOOL REPORT

Published by the ECCS Community Relations Department.
We welcome questions or comments:

Celi Haga, Chief of Staff and Executive Director of Strategic Communications
952-556-6121 / hagac@district112.org

Dr. Erin Rathke, Superintendent
952-556-6110

2025 District School Board
Sean Olsen, Chair / 952-556-6816
Angela Erickson, Vice Chair / 952-556-6811
Tim Klein, Treasurer / 952-556-6817
Rachel Berg Scherer, Director / 952-556-6815
Ellie Krug, Director / 952-556-6812
Joe Scott, Director / 952-556-6814
Jenny Stone, Director / 952-556-6813