Shawano
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Every Student, Every Day...The Hawk Way

May 18, 2026

To SSD Staff, Families and Community,

Shawano School District is a great place largely because we have a community that cares deeply about its schools, our students, and our staff. Difficult decisions, like the ones we face with ongoing budget challenges, cause us to drift apart. I'd like to address that through communication and shape this as an opportunity to come together, learn, and reunite in our shared conviction that Shawano Schools are, and should remain, a district to be proud of. Mutual understanding starts with communication.

Today, I am launching an information campaign through social media and emails about our school district's funding. Recently, we learned that one-time funding from the state budget surplus was brought forward for a vote in the State Legislature. As of this writing, ***the measure did not pass.*** We don't know what future actions, if any, may emerge to partially use the State's budget surplus to provide one-time support for education. However, many complicating factors continue to contribute to the ongoing school funding challenges faced by districts across the state.

In this series on public school funding, we will work to explain those challenges and the funding dilemma schools continue to face.

To help us tell this story, we are going to rely on information that has been composed by several statewide organizations to help districts like ours explain the school funding challenge facing all Wisconsin school districts. I am happy that our professional organizations have started supplying materials that we can all use, because budget reductions are not just here in Shawano. They are sweeping across almost every district in the state. Schools are facing major staff reductions, school closures, and the elimination of programs across the board.

I do understand that just because it is happening everywhere, doesn't make budget reductions sting any less here.

However, information is power. As we release information, I ask that you take some time to review the material, write (kkrizan@shawanoscools.org) or call with your questions. Schools are a community asset. We all own our schools, and together, we need to address the issues to find solutions that work here, and across Wisconsin.

Our first resource is a video about the basics of how schools in Wisconsin are funded. I hope you'll watch it! Wisconsin School Funding WSPRA WASBO

Later in our series, we will post about how State aid and increasing costs impact us locally. I also will be describing the difference between operating funds - those that are being strained and causing our budget reductions - compared to capital referendum funds, those that are being used right now to repair and upgrade our buildings. In later articles, we will address other factors affecting our schools.

This series is not meant to be political, but instead to highlight the factors that impact public school funding. When you review this information, I hope it will start painting the bigger picture, one that will help everyone gain a better understanding of how funding affects our schools locally.

Thank you,

Kurt Krizan

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