

Family News

August 26, 2026

Minnesota Permanent School Fund



This November, Minnesota voters will be asked whether or not to update our state's constitution by voting on an amendment to modernize how Minnesota's Permanent School Fund (PSF) distributes revenue to public schools.

The Minnesota Permanent School Fund was established when Minnesota became a state in 1858. It was created to support public education through revenues generated from school trust lands and investments held for the benefit of Minnesota students.

Key takeaways:

- The Permanent School Fund already exists and currently supports public schools throughout Minnesota.
- The fund has grown to more than $2.3 billion through revenue generated from school trust lands and investment earnings.
- The proposed amendment does not raise property taxes, income taxes, sales taxes, or any other tax.
- If approved by voters, the amendment would increase support for public schools while preserving the long-term strength of the fund.
- This would equate to nearly $80,000 in additional revenue for SSPPS

Learn more about the Permanent School Fund ballot question including frequently asked questions, background information, and voter resources at: **www.mnPSFamendment.org**.

Packer Athletics are Underway!



The South St. Paul Packers high school sports season is underway! We welcome our younger Packers to come cheer on our high school teams. To help ensure events are safe, positive experiences for everyone, please review these expectations with your student:

- Elementary and middle school students must be accompanied and supervised by a parent or guardian at all times.
- Students should sit with the parent or guardian they arrived with and remain supervised throughout the event.
- All SSP students are expected to sit on the home side of the bleachers.
- Backpacks are not allowed at high school athletic events.
- Tickets should be purchased ahead of time online at: **https://www.gobound.com/mn/schools/southstpaul/tickets**
- You can also find the link in the upper right corner of the website under "Quick Links" → "Event Tickets"

Thank you for helping us create a safe and enjoyable environment for all Packer fans!

School Starts Next Week!

There's a few days to check off those last minute school preparations before school begins next week:

- Complete the **Annual Family Information Verification**
- Complete or Opt Out of the **Educational Benefits form**
- Review **Safety and Security Procedures**
- Save the back-to-school dates *(below)*
- Download the **printable academic calendar**
- Review **Handbooks**
- If applicable, **accept or decline transportation**
- If applicable, fill out **transportation pay-to-ride waitlist**
- Download **HELPme App**
- Activate **ParentSquare account** (district-wide communication system) Invites were sent Tuesday, August 25

School Board Update

August 24, 2026 School Board Update

At its August 24 Business Meeting, the South St. Paul School Board took action on several items, including:

School Resource Officer Agreement: Approved a two-year agreement with the City of South St. Paul to continue the district's School Resource Officer partnership through June 2028. The agreement maintains the current SRO structure, supporting school safety while also emphasizing positive relationships between students and law enforcement.

Clerical Unit Contract: Approved the 2026-2028 collective bargaining agreement with the Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU), Local No. 12 Clerical Unit. The agreement includes 2% wage schedule increases in each year of the contract, along with benefit, insurance and contract language updates.

Board Committee and Liaison Assignments: Approved revised 2026 assignments following the appointment of School Board Director Amy Wardell. Wardell will serve on the Policy Committee and as a Board liaison to the Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD).

Acceptance of Gifts: Accepted donations supporting back-to-school efforts, including 70 backpacks from Grace Lutheran Church and school supplies and a $50 donation from LB Carlson.

Want to learn more? Watch the School Board meeting or view the full agenda and supplemental materials on the **School Board Meetings webpage**.



Important Dates

- **Grades 1-6, 9-12:** Tuesday, September 1, 2026
- **Grades K, 7-8:** Wednesday, September 2, 2026
- **4-Year-Old PreK:** Thursday, September 3, 2026
- **3-Year-Old PreK:** Wednesday, September 9, 2026
- **ECFE Open House:** Thursday, September 3, 4:00-6:00 pm

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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