



FALL 2026
OPERATING LEVY
FOR LEARNING

Benson Public
Schools

FUTURE FOCUSED

STRONG SCHOOLS = STRONG COMMUNITIES

COMING SOON:
More information!
benson.k12.mn.us

BENSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LEVY FOR LEARNING

THE NEED

Like a lot of schools across Minnesota, Benson is feeling the money squeeze:

- The state hasn't been giving us enough to keep up with rising costs, enrollment is decreasing, and new rules keep adding expenses without extra funding to cover them.
- We've already cut more than \$1 million from our budget over the last three years, including \$300,000 for the 2026-27 school year.
- Without the referendum, district reserves will drop dramatically within a few years, forcing more cuts.

THE ASK

The school board voted unanimously to ask voters to consider an operating levy referendum for \$700 more per student annually during the Nov. 3 General Election.

- Current operating levy provides \$710.70/student; with the referendum approval, the district will receive just over \$1410.70 per student.
- For the average homeowner, that's roughly \$15 a month.

THE PLAN

This helps us protect the good things Benson Public Schools already offers, avoids more cuts down the road, and keeps a little breathing room in our budget — so every student is ready for what comes next after graduation-enrolled, enlisted, or employed.

WE ARE PROUD

- Our high schoolers are doing great in math — better than the state average.
- Our students can earn 55 college credits before they even graduate, which is amazing for a school our size.
- Elementary school teachers with extensive literacy training.
- Our Discovery Kids provides Infant care beginning at 6 weeks old. We have a toddler and preschool program. We also have voluntary PreK (VPK) run by licensed teachers.
- Our staff remain dedicated to our kids through good years and hard ones alike.

STRONG SCHOOLS, STRONG COMMUNITIES

Good schools help local businesses find good workers, and they help families want to live here. A strong school is good for the whole town, not just the kids in it.

PLEASE VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOV. 3