

COSTS KEEP RISING. FUNDING HASN'T KEPT UP.



New London-Spicer's Most Pressing Needs

New London-Spicer faces challenges that heavily affect students and classrooms. Rising costs outpace state funding increases. Enrollment declines in younger grades reduce revenue. Staffing adjustments have already been made, and programs have been trimmed. Even after significant reductions, the district still faces gaps that make future cuts likely.

Families and staff already feel the strain:

- Teachers are asked to do more with fewer resources.
- Some class sections have been reduced due to enrollment and staffing shifts.
- Activities and programs face pressure to cut back or consolidate.
- Technology, curriculum, and instructional materials stretch further each year.
- Staffing adjustments mean fewer adults supporting students in classrooms and hallways.



These are not abstract challenges. They affect students every day.

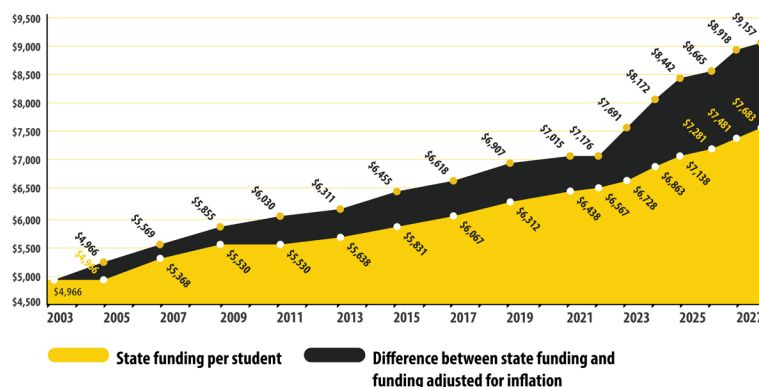
What's Behind the Funding Need?

Costs have risen faster than the basic funding formula.

State funding is the main source of money for classroom instruction. Instruction, utilities, transportation, and supplies cost more each year, and the formula has not increased at the same rate.

- Had state revenue increased by the rate of inflation each year since 2003, the 2027 allowance per pupil would be \$9,157.
- The difference between this year's state revenue per pupil and the inflation adjusted potential revenue is \$1,474 or 19.2%.

STATE REVENUE INCREASES
DON'T KEEP PACE WITH INFLATION





Specific Impacts to NLS

In the past 3 years, NLS has made nearly \$750,000 in budget cuts; including:

- Reducing staff - teachers, paraprofessionals, administrative
- Cancelling online subscriptions and technology cuts
- Reductions to student programming
- Operational budget reductions
- Increased fees
- And more

Special Education Funding

About 1 in 5 Minnesota students receive special education services. Federal and state law require these services, and state and federal funding covers only part of the cost.

The difference is called the cross-subsidy: district dollars used to pay for required special education services.

In New London-Spicer, only 44% of costs are covered

Districts across Minnesota have responded to cross-subsidy pressures with:

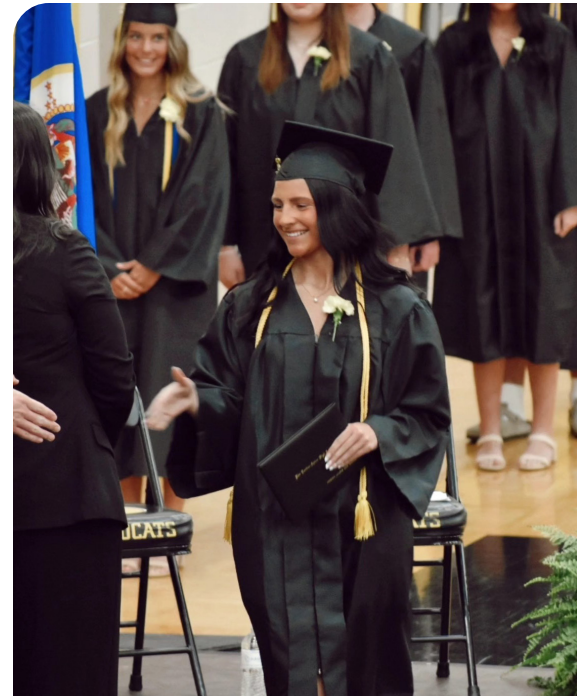
- Larger class sizes
- Reductions in electives, arts, and support services
- Fewer aides and support staff per student
- Increased reliance on local property taxes

Operating Levy Addresses Budget Shortfall

On November 3, 2026, voters in the New London-Spicer School District will consider an operating levy referendum. The district has already cut almost \$750,000 from its budget and expects further reductions.

If approved, the levy would generate about \$1 million in annual operating revenue starting in 2027, which would help reduce future cuts to programs, class sizes, and services. It is made possible by a new state program, the Seasonal and Recreational Tax Base Replacement Aid.

For the first time, seasonal and recreational properties, such as cabins, can help support local school operating levies. Their tax formula does not change, instead, beginning in 2027, a portion of their existing tax dollars will be redirected back to eligible school districts with voter-approved operating referendums. Early voting began September 18, and Election Day is November 3.



LEARN BEFORE YOU VOTE

Explore the facts, review the ballot questions, and attend a community meeting.

LEARN MORE! Connect with us!

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Constitutional
Amendment

Learn More
www.mnpsfamendment.org

