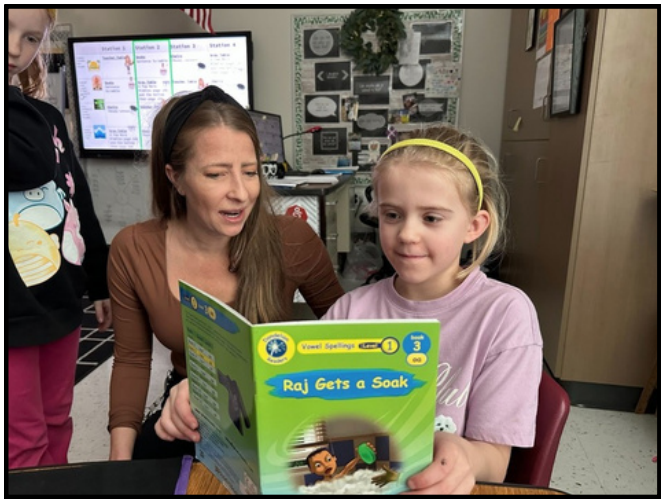
March 2026

The School District of Lodi
COMMUNITY LINK



Upcoming Community Survey

A community survey from the School District of Lodi will arrive in mailboxes the week of April 6, with responses requested by April 22. This survey is an important opportunity for residents to share their perspectives as the Board of Education considers next steps regarding the district's operational referendum, which sunsets at the end of the 2026–27 school year. Your feedback will play a critical role in helping guide the Board's decision-making as we look ahead to a potential November 2026 referendum.

Over the past four years, the district has remained committed to transparency and community engagement.

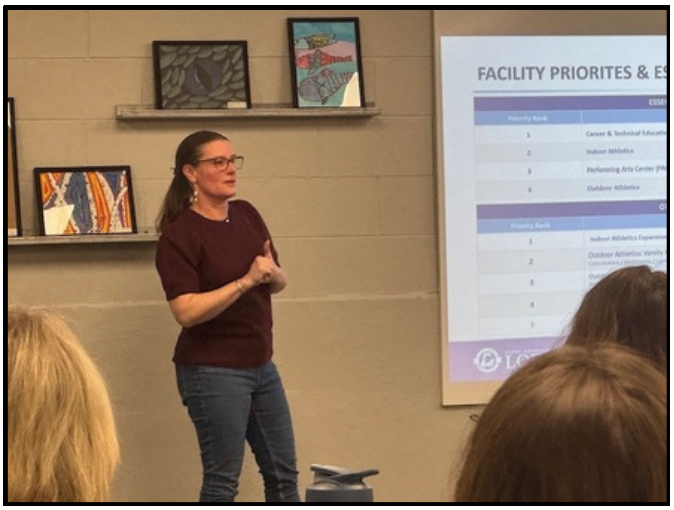
Since the 2022 referendum, we have held annual community engagement sessions to report how those funds have been used and to explain the financial realities facing our schools. Wisconsin's school funding formula, once tied to inflation, has not kept pace with rising costs since 2009. If it had, according to the Wisconsin Association of Business Officials, Lodi would receive approximately $3,573 more per student in 2025–26 school year nearly $5.2 million in additional purchasing power. At the same time, the state reimburses less than 40% of required special education costs, resulting in approximately $2.6 million being transferred each year from general education funds to meet federal mandates. Recent state budgets have increased revenue limits but provided no new general aid, shifting more responsibility to local property taxpayers — particularly in property-wealthy districts like Lodi.

Because of the community's support in 2022, referendum funding has allowed us to maintain smaller class sizes, provide targeted interventions and student supports, update facilities and technology, and remain competitive in attracting and retaining high-quality staff.

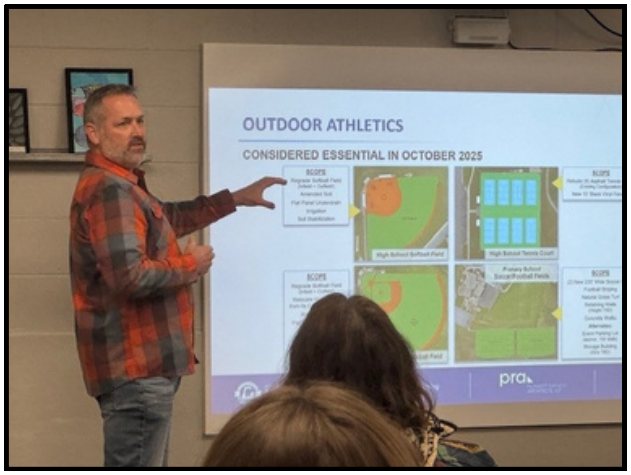
When your survey arrives, please take a few minutes to complete and return it by April 22. Thoughtful community input will ensure the Board has clear direction as it works to sustain educational quality, fiscal responsibility, and opportunity for every Lodi student.

Each survey will arrive with a survey code. The survey code can be used only once. To obtain additional surveys for other adults in your household, please contact the District Office at 608-592-3851

Community Viability Team Presents Recommendations to the Board



On February 9, members of the School District of Lodi's Community Viability Team (CVT) presented their work to the Board of Education, marking an important milestone in the district's long-range facility planning process. Over the past several months, the CVT — made up of community members, parents, staff, students, business leaders, and local officials — has met monthly to study the district's current facilities and explore how our learning environments can best support students now and into the future. Representatives selected by their peers shared an overview of the team's research, discussions, and developing recommendations.



Throughout the process, the CVT reviewed district data, examined long-term enrollment trends, toured facilities through video walk throughs, and discussed potential improvements to academic spaces, career and technical education areas, arts and athletics facilities, and outdoor learning environments. The team also considered the financial impact of potential projects, with Baird Financial providing estimated tax impact scenarios at various investment levels. This information helped the CVT better understand both the opportunities and responsibilities connected to long-term facility planning.

The February presentation provided the Board with a comprehensive look at the team's findings and considerations. The Board will now move into the next phase of engagement by incorporating the CVT's recommendations into the district-wide community survey referenced on the first page of this newsletter. This survey will give all residents the opportunity to review potential priorities and share feedback, ensuring that future decisions reflect a broad range of community perspectives and values.

The district extends its sincere appreciation to the members of the Community Viability Team for their time, thoughtfulness, and commitment to this important work. As the planning process continues, the School District of Lodi remains dedicated to transparency, collaboration, and keeping the community informed every step of the way.

To view the CVT's presentation and other information on facility and athletic fields go to the district website on our district website or by scanning the QR code provided.

View their presentation on our website

Senior Reality Day

This past fall, Lodi High School seniors participated in Senior Reality Day, an immersive simulation designed to bridge the gap between the classroom and adulthood. By navigating the challenges of living on an average income within their chosen career fields, students gained a firsthand look at financial independence.

Throughout the simulation, students managed real-world decisions, from housing and transportation to childcare and unexpected expenses. This successful event required thoughtful coordination between high school staff and community partners to ensure a seamless experience for our morning and afternoon groups. Additionally, hosting the event off-campus at the Comfort Inn and Suites in DeForest added an extra layer of "real-world" authenticity.

Lodi High School is proud to host such an impactful event! This experience does more than just prepare seniors for the 'real world', it reinforces the incredible connection between our students and the Lodi community. A huge thank you to the volunteers who shared their expertise and time. We can't wait to do it all again next fall!"

Celebrating Youth Apprenticeship in Lodi!

Youth Apprenticeship provides students with a structured opportunity to gain paid, real-world work experience while continuing their coursework at Lodi High School.

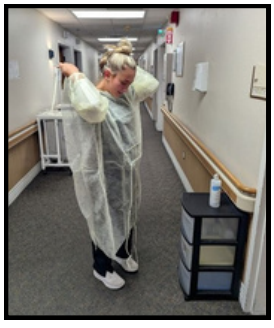
The School District of Lodi Youth Apprenticeship Program continues to grow, along with the opportunities available to our students. Over the past five years, the program has expanded significantly. This school year, 30 students are gaining valuable hands-on experience in career fields they are passionate about.

Through real-world training, mentorship, and skill development, students build the knowledge, confidence, and professional skills they need for college, technical education, or entering the workforce after graduation.

We are also proud to partner with 32 regional employers who help open doors and create meaningful career pathways for our students. This program isn't just growing, it's shaping tomorrow's workforce and changing lives.

This year, Lodi Youth Apprenticeship students are gaining experience in the following career areas:

- Agriculture Mechanical
- Animal Fundamentals
- Animal Herd Management
- Arborist
- Plant Fundamentals
- Carpentry Fundamentals
- Administrative Professional
- Early Childhood
- Accounting
- Nursing
- Resident Aide
- Food & Beverage
- IT Essentials
- IT Network & Security
- Manufacturing Processes
- Merchandising
- Production Operations
- Automotive Technician
- Equipment Operator

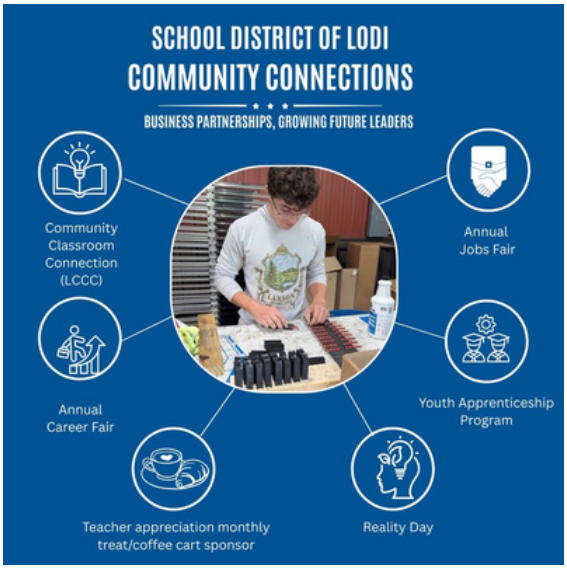


School District of Lodi
115 School Street Lodi, WI 53555

Learn more about Youth Apprenticeship

"I would recommend this to other students. I feel it is a great way to experience something you are interested in before fully committing to it." ~ Jake

"My responsibilities as a resident assistant are to assist residents with their daily needs. I am able to assist residents with activities such as bathing, dressing, and eating. I also assist with mobility. I am responsible for letting a nurse know if there are any changes or concerns, so the residents can receive the proper care." ~ Emily



Lodi Schools' Youth Apprenticeship Program continues to grow, with 30 students gaining hands-on career experience through partnerships with 32 local employers.

"The Youth Apprenticeship program has given me confidence that I will be able to do both work and school at the same time. This made my decision to go to a four-year college right out of high school easier because I know now I am able to juggle both things at once." ~ Megan

"At my job, I feed and care for the farms calves, as well as milk cows, feed heifers, and help with other basic tasks. I know I have done these jobs well when no calf or cow gets sick and my employer doesn't tell me there is something wrong." ~ Josie