School District of Onalaska

Annual Report

October 2026







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Our Board of Education



Aaron McDonald
President
Term Expires: April 2027



Ann Garrity
Vice President
Term Expires: April 2028



Mark Cassellius
Treasurer
Term Expires: April 2027



Brian Haefs
Clerk
Term Expires: April 2029



Tracy Laufenberg
Director
Term Expires: April 2027



Tesia Marshik
Director
Term Expires: April 2029



Bridget Thomas
Director
Term Expires: April 2028

Board of Education

Governance:
The Board of Education, the elected representatives of the School District of Onalaska, governs the school district. The Board consists of seven members elected at large for terms of three years. On July 1, 1982, the district was reorganized under Unified School District Laws of Wisconsin. The basic change provides that the district is fiscally independent, that is, the Board is empowered to levy a school tax for the operation and maintenance of the district.

Agenda:
The meeting agenda is posted at the district office, on the district website, and sent to the media 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Meetings:
Regular meetings are held on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the District Office Board Room at 237 2nd Ave S. The public and the news media are invited to attend.

Minutes:
The approved minutes are posted on the district website at www.onalaskaschools.com and the proceedings are also published in The La Crosse Tribune.

Functions of the Board of Education:
The Onalaska Board of Education is the elected Board for the School District of Onalaska. Board policies are established for all phases of operating a PreK-12 school district. One major function of the Board is to establish broad policies for all phases of operating and maintaining a comprehensive PreK-12 educational system. Policies must address the day-to-day operations as well as provide directions for future growth and development. The Board functions within state laws, which usually provide specific powers and rules. In areas not highly specified, the Board has wide discretionary powers. The Board is charged with the responsibility of providing the best possible educational programs for the District's students based upon state and federal requirements, and community, state, and federal support. In order to carry out the day-to-day operations, the Board employs a full range of professional and support personnel. Once the Board has set the policies for the educational programs and direction for the district, it is required to develop, approve and levy the necessary finances to implement the programs.

Message from Board President Aaron McDonald

To the Onalaska Community,

Each year, we have the opportunity to reflect on where we have been, celebrate the progress we have made, and look ahead to the opportunities before us. In Onalaska, that work continues to be grounded in a simple commitment: Creating exceptional opportunities for every student while continually improving the educational experiences that we provide.

Over the past year, our District has advanced several strategic initiatives that will shape the future of Onalaska schools. The expansion of all-day 4K provides our youngest learners with a strong foundation for success and gives families greater access to high-quality early learning. Onalaska Online, our virtual charter school, expands the ways students can engage with their education and provides greater flexibility to meet individual learning needs. At Onalaska High School, the development of Career Academies is creating new pathways that connect students' interests and talents with meaningful opportunities for college, careers, and life beyond graduation. Together, these initiatives reflect our commitment to meeting students where they are and preparing them for where they want to go.

None of this work happens in isolation. Our staff, administrators, students, families, Board of Education, and community partners each play an important role in moving our District forward. We continue to embrace collaboration, professional learning, and continuous improvement—not simply as initiatives, but as part of how we approach our work every day. Our goal is not to stand still, but to continually ask how we can do better for our students and our community while being exceptional stewards of our staff and resources.

We are grateful for the continued confidence, engagement, and support of the Onalaska community. Your investment in our schools is an investment in our students and in the future of our community. Together, we are building on the strengths of our District while creating new opportunities for the generations of learners who will follow.

Thank you for continuing to walk this path with us—and for helping us build the future of Onalaska schools, together.



Aaron McDonald
President, Board of Education

Message from Superintendent Ben Barton

I'm pleased to share this year's Annual Report, which provides a clear look at where we stand as a district. Inside, you'll find highlights of our instructional and financial work during the 2025–26 school year, along with an overview of our progress toward the strategic goals established by the Board of Education.

At the conclusion of the 2025–26 school year, we retired our previous strategic plan and began the 2026–27 school year with a new, updated plan. The strategic planning process has helped us remain focused, establish clear priorities, and align our resources with the areas that matter most. We continue to use a scorecard, available on our website, to track our progress toward our long-term goals. Many of these measures compare our performance with similar public school districts across Wisconsin, providing valuable perspective on where we are excelling and where opportunities for continued growth remain.

Beyond academics, the District continues to offer a wide range of electives, fine arts, athletics, activities, and co-curricular programs that support the diverse interests, talents, and needs of our students. Our commitment extends beyond preparing students for graduation. We are focused on helping them develop the knowledge, skills, and experiences they need to thrive in life and become engaged, contributing members of an ever-changing world.

As I begin my second year as Superintendent of the School District of Onalaska, I can confidently say that our district is in a strong position and that the path ahead is full of promise. We are proud of what we have accomplished, but we will never be satisfied with simply maintaining the status quo. Continuous improvement is central to who we are. Our vision is to be a model school district, and achieving that vision requires us to continually examine every area of our organization, celebrate what is working, and challenge ourselves to become even better.

Everything we do is grounded in our mission: **working together to ensure high levels of learning for all.**

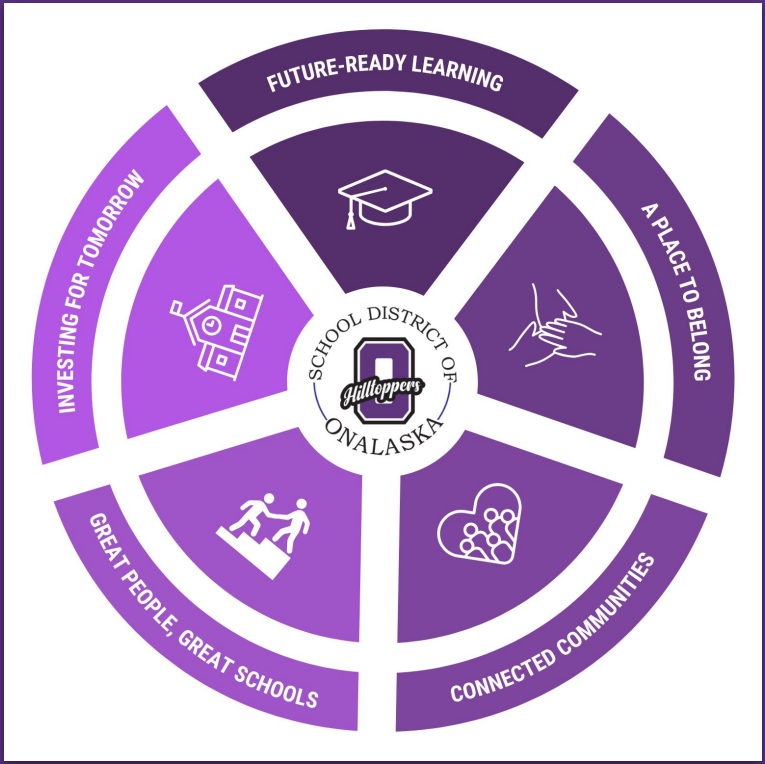
Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, schools, and community. If you have questions about this report or anything related to the District, I welcome your feedback and conversation.

Ben Barton



Ben Barton
Superintendent

Our Strategic Plan · 2026-2031



In the spring of 2026, the School District of Onalaska brought together staff, district leaders, families, students, community members, and community partners to help shape the future of our schools.

Through a collaborative strategic planning process, participants reflected on our previous plan, celebrated successes, examined challenges, and identified opportunities for growth.

Together, we developed a new five-year strategic plan that will guide our work and focus our efforts as we continue striving to provide exceptional experiences to students, families, staff, and the surrounding community.

Our Pillars & Five-Year Strategic Objectives



FUTURE-READY LEARNING:
STUDENT GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT

Develop aligned PK-12 curriculum and expand the use of best instructional practices to impact student growth and achievement.

Extend the focus of student achivement to include the knowledge and skills required for success in an ever-changing world.



CONNECTED COMMUNITIES:
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Create and implement a communication and engagement plan that connects and fosters trust between students, families, staff, community members, and business/organizational partners.

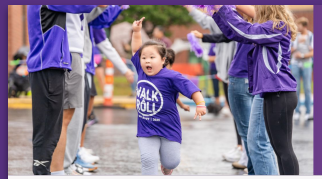
Provide clear information to the community about how school funding works.



INVESTING FOR TOMORROW:
FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND OPERATIONS STEWARDSHIP

Elevate and support innovative campuses that instill community pride.

Demonstrate responsible management of resources in support of the district's priorities.



A PLACE TO BELONG:
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND BELONGING

Create and promote PK-12 systems that foster intentional human connection.



GREAT PEOPLE, GREAT SCHOOLS:
STAFF RECRUITMENT, DEVELOPMENT, AND RETENTION

Attract and retain staff through supportive mentoring and intentional professional development. Ensure a sense of community that elevates staff satisfaction.

Our Foundation



OUR MISSION

Working together to ensure high levels of learning for all.



OUR VISION

A model school district in service of students, staff, and community.



OUR CORE VALUES

Belonging · Engagement · Collaboration · Integrity · Continuous Improvement

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ONALASKA

Strategic Plan







OUR MISSION

Working together to ensure high levels of learning for all.

OUR VISION

A model school district in service of students, staff, and community.

2026-2027 Annual Goals

Student Growth and Achievement

OBJECTIVES

Develop aligned PK-2 curriculum and expland the use of best instructional practices to impact student growth and achievement

Extend the focus of student achievement to include the knowledge and skills required for success in an ever-changing world.

2026-27 GOALS

»17% or fewer of Kindergarten through 3rd grade students will require a Personal Reading Plan according to AimsWeb Plus (20% last year)

»At least 68% of 3rd through 8th grade students will achieve proficiency (meeting/advanced) on Forward ELA (56% last year)

» At least 57% of students will achieve proficiency (meeting/advanced) on ACT ELA (state average was 43% last year)

» At least 75% of 3rd through 8th grade students will achieve proficiency (meeting/advanced) on Forward Math (65% last year)

» At least 57% of students will achieve proficiency (meeting/advanced) on ACT Math (state average was 32% last year).

» The district will be in the top 3 of local and comparable groups for State Report Card Growth

» Each grade level and content area PK-12 will have a documented curriculum map

» The attributes of a graduate will be identified and defined for grades 5, 8, and 12

Student Belonging and Engagement

OBJECTIVE

Create and promote PK-12 systems that foster intentional human connection

2026-27 GOALS

»Embed structured frameworks for human connection into the district's PK-12 SEL MLSS to ensure every student feels safe, respected, and valued.

Family and Community Engagement

OBJECTIVE

Create and implement a communication and engagement plan that connects and fosters trust between students, families, staff, community members, and business/ organizational partners

Provide clear information to the community about how school funding works

2026-27 GOALS

» Create and publish district communications overview document

»Revise annual family experience and community engagement survey

»Create a superintendent's advisory committee to get feedback

»Implement various finance/funding communications in district publications

Staff Recruitment, Development, Retention

OBJECTIVE

Attract and retain staff through supportive mentoring and intentional professional development.

Ensure a sense of community that elevates staff satisfaction.

2026-27 GOALS

» Increase all district adjusted retention rate to 97% (current 95%)

»Maintain or increase composite score of employee satisfaction from the employee engagement survey

Finance, Facilities, and Operations Stewardship

OBJECTIVE

Elevate and support innovative campuses that instill community pride.

Demonstrate responsible management of resources in support of the district's policiesng

2026-27 GOALS

» Increase student participation in Food Service

»Enhance District landscaping and maintenance

»Increase community understanding of District operational needs

»Strengthen IT communications and cyber security District wide

School District of Onalaska
Strategic Plan Scorecard
2022-2027
Normed Districts

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT, GROWTH, AND ACHIEVEMENT

Integrate essential academic and social emotional learning to ensure achievement for all

	Baseline	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 Target
District Report Card Achievement Normed District Ranking	Top 7	Top 9	Top 6	Top 6	Top 4	Top 5
District Report Card Growth Normed District Ranking	Top 12	Top 9	Top 5	Top 5	Top 3	Top 5
Percent of Students College and Career Ready	89%	89% (baseline)	96%	97%	98%	100%

100% of students identified as high risk on the SAEBRS will be matched with supportive resources.

Amplify student belonging and engagement

	Baseline	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 Target
% Students with Under 10% Absences	79%	85%	88%	88%	90%	90%
Student Survey (Life at School)	3.79	3.90	3.82	3.88	3.99	4.50/5

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Foster meaningful relationships among families, school and community to ensure access, representation and voice

	Baseline	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 Target
Family Experience Survey	--	--	3.36	3.38	3.40	3.50/4
Family Experience Survey: I would recommend my child's school to a family who does not currently attend there.	--	--	3.48	3.53	3.57	3.50/4
Community Engagement Survey: I would recommend the School District of Onalaska	--	--	8.50	8.80	8.90	8.50/10

STAFF RECRUITMENT, DEVELOPMENT, AND RETENTION

Create a diverse school community through intentional recruitment, competitive compensation, mentoring, collaboration, and active engagement in professional development

	Baseline	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 Target
Retention Rate	80%	85%	88%	90%	92%	92%
Engagement in Professional Development	3.67	--	3.84	4.06	3.97	4.00/5
Employee Satisfaction	3.98	--	3.95	4.30	4.22	4.25/5
Normed District Teacher Compensation Ranking		8	6	7	7	Top 5
Local District Compensation and Benefits Ranking		4	2	2	1	Top 2

FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND OPERATIONS STEWARDSHIP

Align all resources with district priorities in an equitable and responsible manner

	Baseline	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 Target
Operations Experience Survey Questions			3.91	4.01	4.15	4.25/5
Align our resources to that of the top 5 comparable districts with the best student outcomes for optimal return on investment		6/ Operations 6/ Instruction	4/ Operations 6/ Instruction	1/ Operations 5/ Instruction	1/ Operations 5/ Instruction	Top 5

School District of Onalaska | Strategic Plan Scorecard 2026-2031

PILLAR I STUDENT GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT

Develop aligned PK-12 curriculum and expand the use of best instructional practices to impact student growth and achievement.

	Baseline	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31 Target
District Report Card Achievement (of 13)	Top 4					Top 3
District Report Card Growth (of 13)	Top 3					Top 2

Extend the focus of student achievement to include the knowledge and skills required for success in an ever-changing world.

	Baseline	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31 Target
Percent of students graduating with authentic career pathway experience	--					100%

PILLAR II STUDENT BELONGING AND ENGAGEMENT

Create and promote PK-12 systems that foster intentional human connection.

	Baseline	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31 Target
High leverage question: "I would recommend my school to a friend/peer/family member who doesn't attend Onalaska."	--					

PILLAR III FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Create and implement a communication and engagement plan that connects and fosters trust between students, families, staff, community members, and business/organizational partners.

	Baseline	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31 Target
High leverage question: "I would recommend the School District of Onalaska to a family who does not currently attend there."	8.9/10					9+/10
Digital Engagement Index	100					+10%

Provide clear information to the community about how school funding works.

	Baseline	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31 Target
High leverage question: "The district provides clear, accessible, and understandable information to help the community understand how school funding works."	--					+10%

PILLAR IV STAFF RECRUITMENT, DEVELOPMENT, AND RETENTION

Attract and retain staff through supportive mentoring and intentional professional development. Ensure a sense of community that elevates staff satisfaction.

	Baseline	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31 Target
Adjusted Retention Rate	95%					97%
Engagement in Professional Development	3.97/5					4/5
Employee Satisfaction	4.17/5					4.25/5

PILLAR V FINANCE, FACILITIES, AND OPERATIONS STEWARDSHIP

Elevate and support innovative campuses that instill community pride.

	Baseline	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31 Target
Operations Satisfaction Survey Results	3.5/5					4.5
Food service participation	--					+15%

Demonstrate responsible management of resources in support of the district's priorities.

	Baseline	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31 Target
Align our resources to that of the top 5 comparable districts with the best student outcomes for optimal return on investment	Top 5					Top 3

Normed Districts Listing

Archived 2025-26 Annual Goals

Student Engagement, Growth, and Achievement

OBJECTIVE

Integrate essential academic and social emotional learning (SEL) to ensure achievement for all.

2025-26 GOALS

»20% or fewer of Kindergarten through 3rd grade students will require a Personal Reading Plan according to AimsWeb Plus (20% last year)

»At least 66% of 3rd through 8th grade students will achieve proficiency (meeting/advanced) on Forward ELA (58% last year)

» At least 55% of students will achieve proficiency (meeting/advanced) on ACT ELA (state average was 43% last year)

» At least 73% of 3rd through 8th grade students will achieve proficiency (meeting/advanced) on Forward Math (65% last year)

» At least 55% of students will achieve proficiency (meeting/advanced) on ACT Math (state average was 32% last year).

» The district will be in the top 5 of local and comparable groups for State Report Card Growth

OBJECTIVE

Amplify student belonging and engagement.

2025-26 GOALS

»At least 90% or more of students will attend 90% or more of school days (88% last year)

» Increase composite score of the Life at School portion of the Student Experience Survey by .15.

Family and Community Engagement

OBJECTIVE

Foster meaningful relationships among families, school, and community to ensure access, representation, and voice.

2025-26 GOALS

» Increase average monthly website users (Last Year: 8.5k/month)

»Track and strategize on mass email open rate

Staff Recruitment, Development, Retention

OBJECTIVE

Create a diverse school community through intentional recruitment, competitive compensation, mentoring, collaboration, and active engagement in professional development.

2025-26 GOALS

» Increase composite score of employee satisfaction by .15 from the employee engagement survey.

»Increase composite score of engagement in professional development by .15 from the employee engagement survey.

Finance, Facilities, and Operations Stewardship

OBJECTIVE

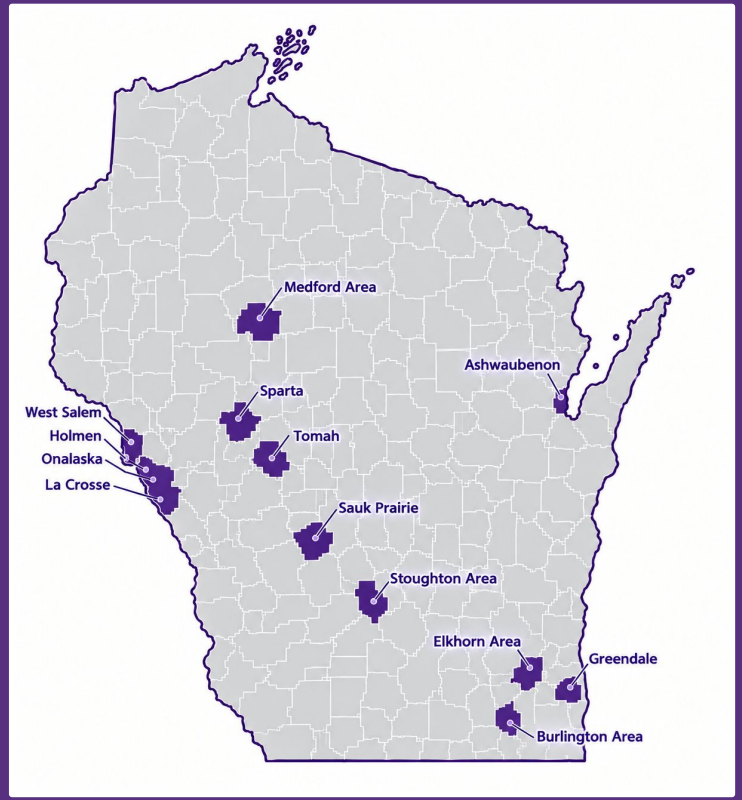
Align all resources with district priorities in an equitable and responsible manner.

2025-26 GOALS

» Increase the Operations Satisfaction Survey from 4.01 to 4.25

»Maintain Return on Investment (ROI) rating at top 4 for per student for operational spending compared to test results & maintain ROI rating at top 5 for per student instructional spending compared to test results

Normed Districts - Updated for 2026



Normed Districts Criteria

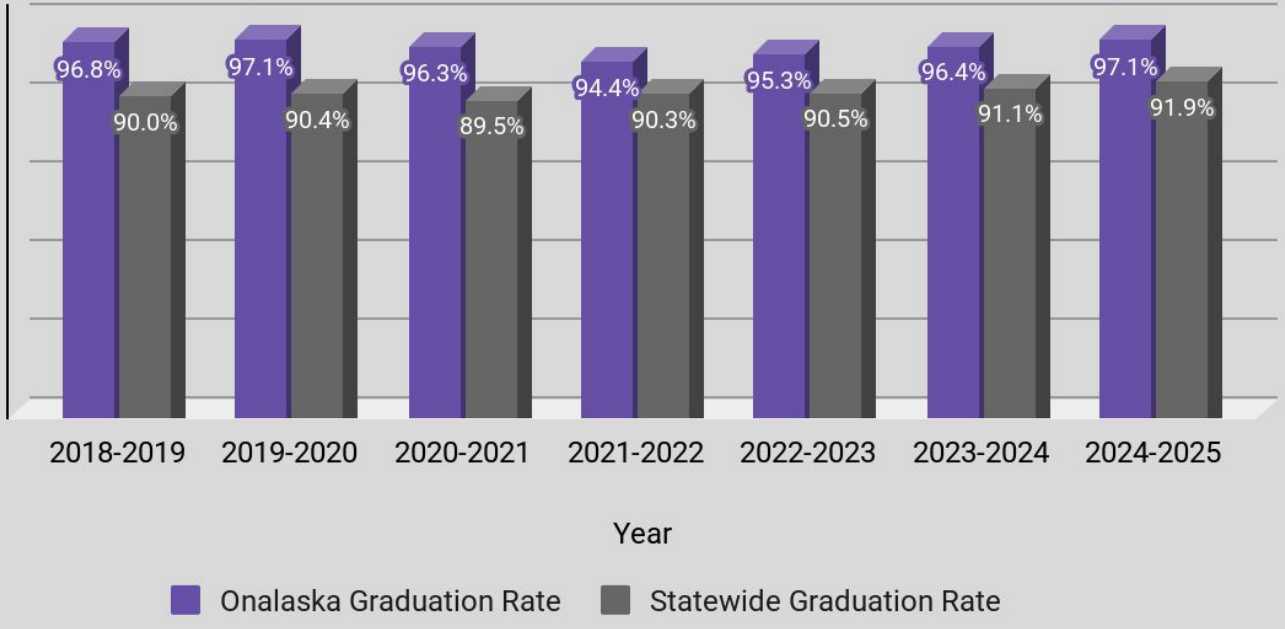
- Enrollment
- Revenue Limit/Enrollment
- % of Students with Disabilities
- % of Students who are Economically Disadvantaged
- % of Multilingual Learners

Our Schools

School	Address	Principal(s)
Onalaska High School 	700 Wilson Street Onalaska, WI 54650	Jared Schaffner Charlie Ihle Jason Thiry
Onalaska Middle School 	707 8th Ave North Onalaska, WI 54650	Ben Burns Kelly Remus
Eagle Bluff Elementary 	200 Eagle Bluff Court Onalaska, WI 54650	Jana Yashinsky
Irving Pertzsch Elementary 	524 Main Street Onalaska, WI 54650	Abby Davis
Northern Hills Elementary 	910 East Ave North Onalaska, WI 54650	Kelly McMahon

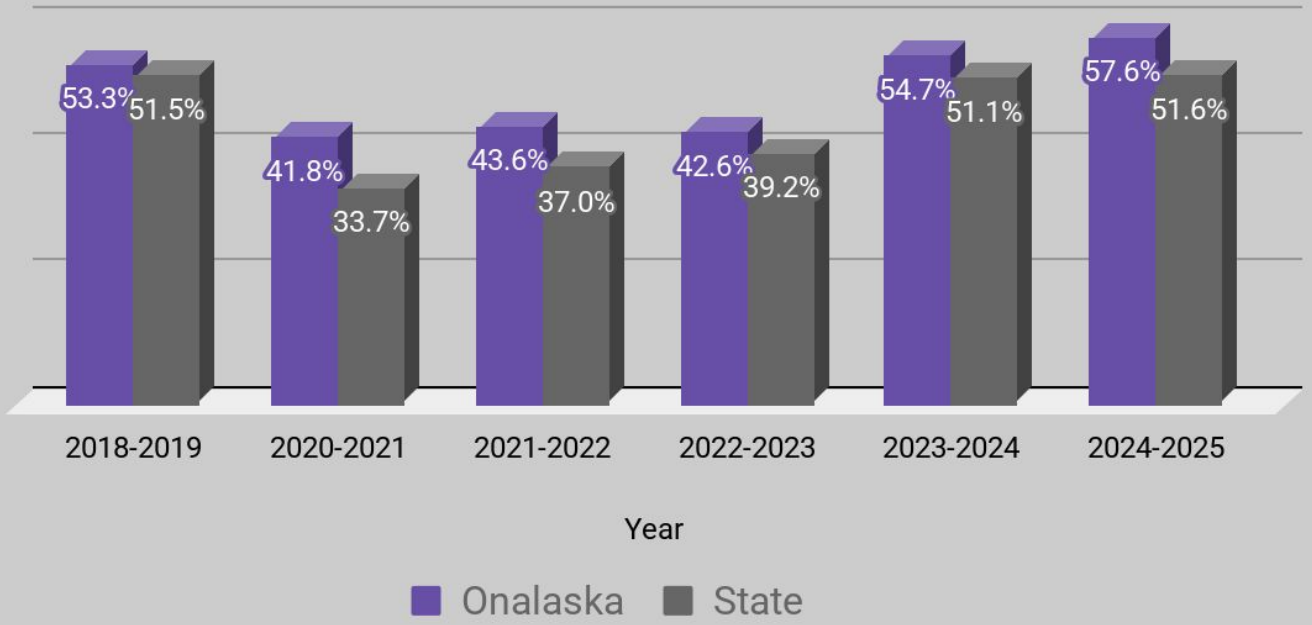
High School Completion Rates

(Source: WISEDash Public)



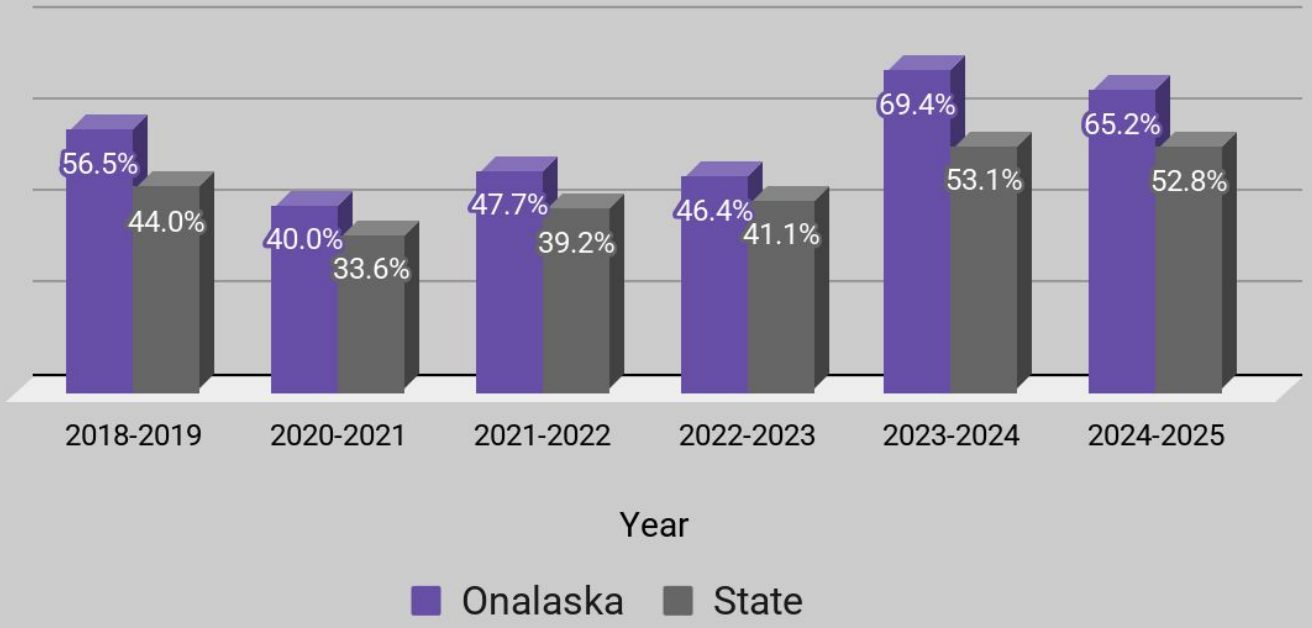
Proficient on Wisconsin Forward ELA

(Source: WISEDash Public)



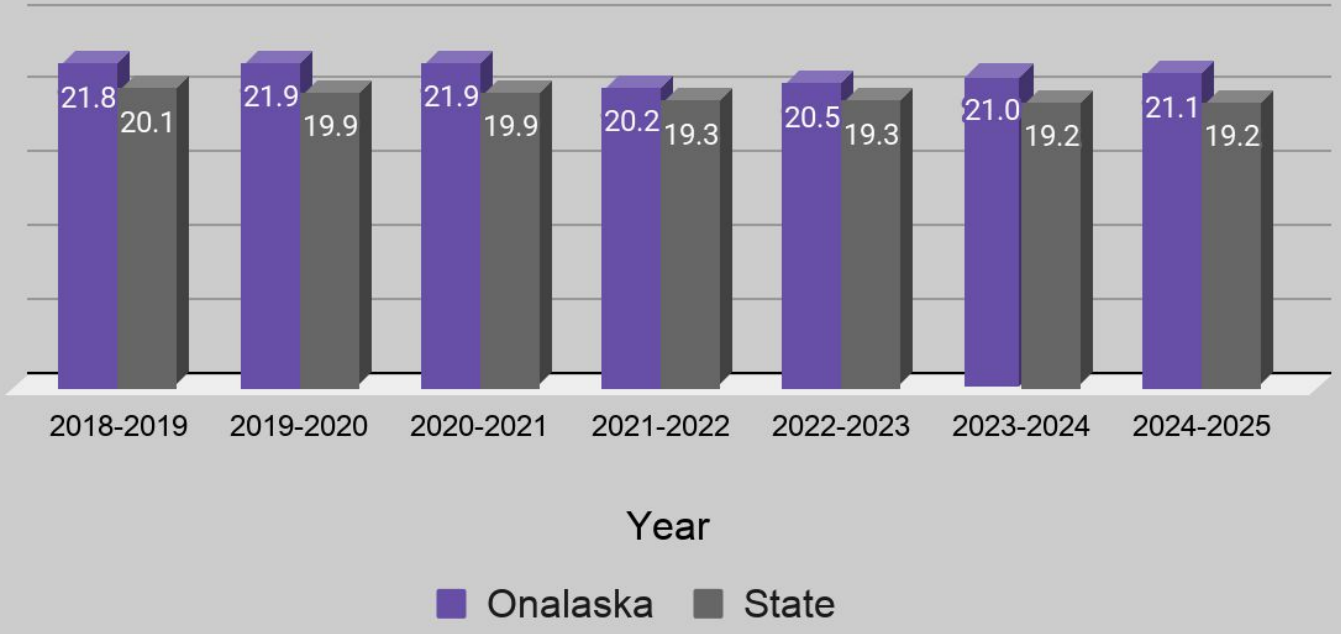
Proficient on Wisconsin Forward Math

(Source: WISEDash Public)



ACT Composite Score

(Source: WISEDash Public)



2026-27 Preliminary Budget from Tyler Hougom

In the School District of Onalaska, we take pride in aligning our financial resources with the strategic priorities and the operational needs of our district. Staff have worked hard to develop and operationalize a strategic plan with annual goals and specific action plans.

In Wisconsin, public schools have a July 1 through June 30 fiscal year. Yet current year funding is not known until late October when each district adopts their original budget - that's three months into the fiscal year. Because of this timing misalignment, districts must take a multi year approach to budget management. From development to final analysis, each budget is a two year process beginning each January (for the following July 1) and finishes with an independent auditor's report to the Board and community in December of the following year (six months after fiscal year end).

The Revenue Limit is the main driver for district funding. While the calculations are complex, the simplified funding formula is:

Revenue Limit minus State Equalization Aid = Local Taxes

The Revenue Limit controls the amount of funding available to offer programs and services for our students. There are three main factors that determine the District's Revenue Limit: enrollment (converted to membership), a per member state-determined yearly funding increment, and the District's prior year revenue base. In practical terms, by controlling revenue, expenses are controlled. Both the Revenue Limit and State Equalization Aid are controlled at the state level. Local taxes are the mathematical result of the equation. There is a direct and inverse relationship between State Equalization Aid and Local Taxes.

2026-27 Preliminary Budget from Tyler Hougom (cont.)

For the past 20 years state funding has not kept pace with inflation. The state does allow districts the ability to ask the community for an Operational Referendum to help close the funding gap. This has been important for districts like Onalaska to help maintain programs and services. The Revenue Limit override is in effect through the 2027-28 fiscal year.

The next few pages show enrollment history, staff composition, and financial information that includes the District's Operating Funds. The Operating Funds account for general school operations. At the time of this report, the 2026-27 budget has not been finalized. The budget is a living document and as such it is refined and updated throughout the year. The budget is monitored by the Board on a monthly basis. Budget revisions are Board approved on a quarterly basis.

Please visit the District's website at www.onalaskaschools.com and navigate to the Finance and Business Services webpage to review District data and find school finance and tax resources. My contact number is 608-781-9700. Thank you for taking the time to read through this information.

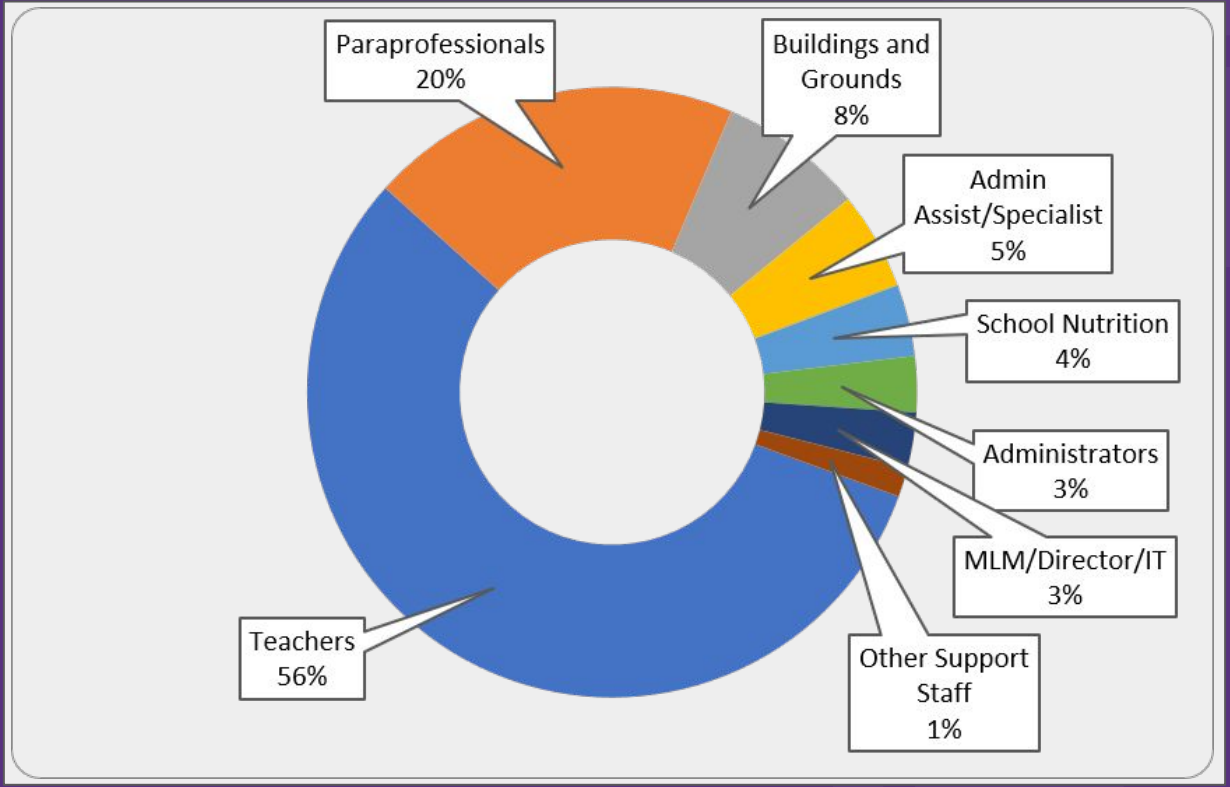
Tyler Hougom, Executive Director of Finance & Business Services



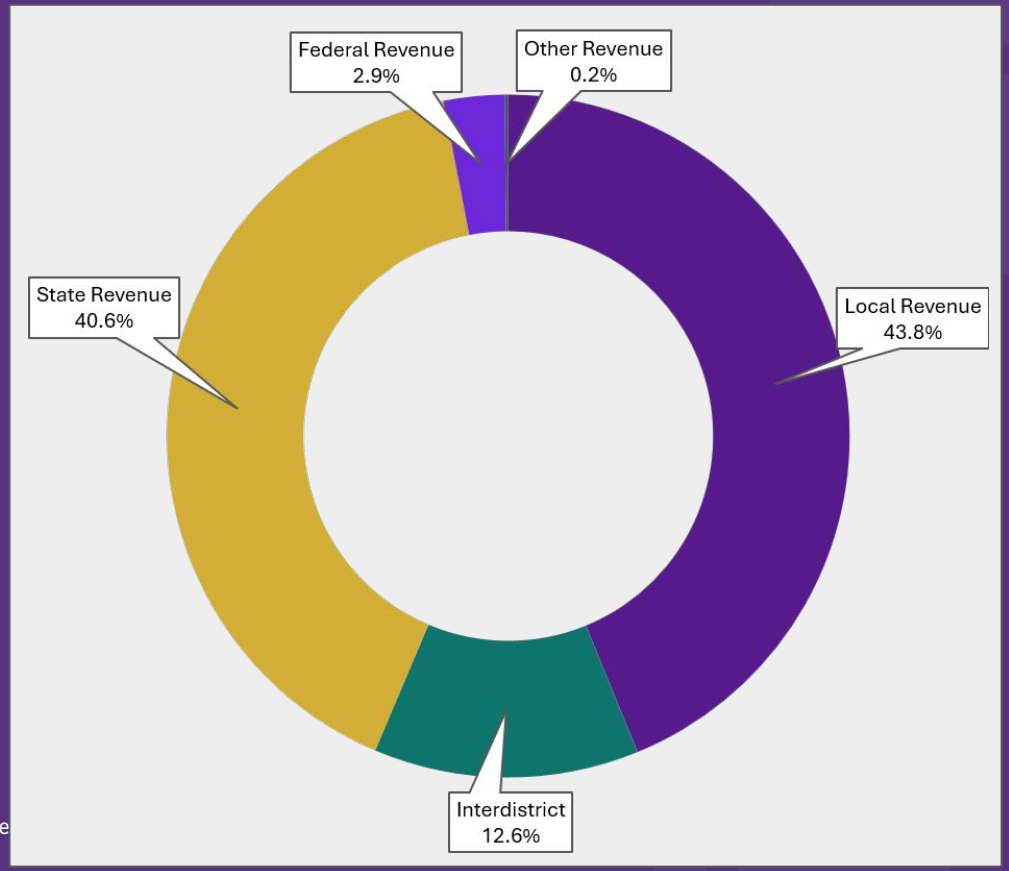
Tyler Hougom
Executive Director of Finance and Business Services

School District of Onalaska										
Enrollment Class Sizes - September Count										
Grade	**2017-18**	**2018-19**	**2019-20**	**2020-21**	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**2024-25**	**2025-26**	**2026-27**
EC	11	12	10	5	7	13	14	14	14	17
4K	241	242	225	208	222	204	194	171	151	170
K	204	198	232	186	195	199	197	178	168	166
1	221	196	205	215	189	193	193	193	179	173
2	221	219	192	189	214	193	199	197	189	182
3	222	216	219	185	184	218	195	212	196	188
4	205	218	226	220	190	184	208	203	210	204
5	230	206	223	224	223	194	186	211	208	215
6	245	221	222	226	229	220	209	201	224	206
7	224	244	227	215	219	234	215	208	203	234
8	236	227	243	228	225	222	235	209	203	209
9	242	232	237	243	227	225	215	239	218	208
10	240	243	227	232	234	220	223	215	239	222
11	215	240	245	220	243	247	231	232	224	238
12	221	213	237	248	233	232	251	232	234	228
Total	**3,178**	**3,127**	**3,170**	**3,044**	**3,034**	**2,998**	**2,965**	**2,915**	**2,860**	**2,860**
Yearly Change		-51	43	-126	-10	-36	-33	-50	-55	0
Largest Class Size		Smallest Class Size								

Staff Composition By Group



Operating Funds Revenue (F10 & F27)



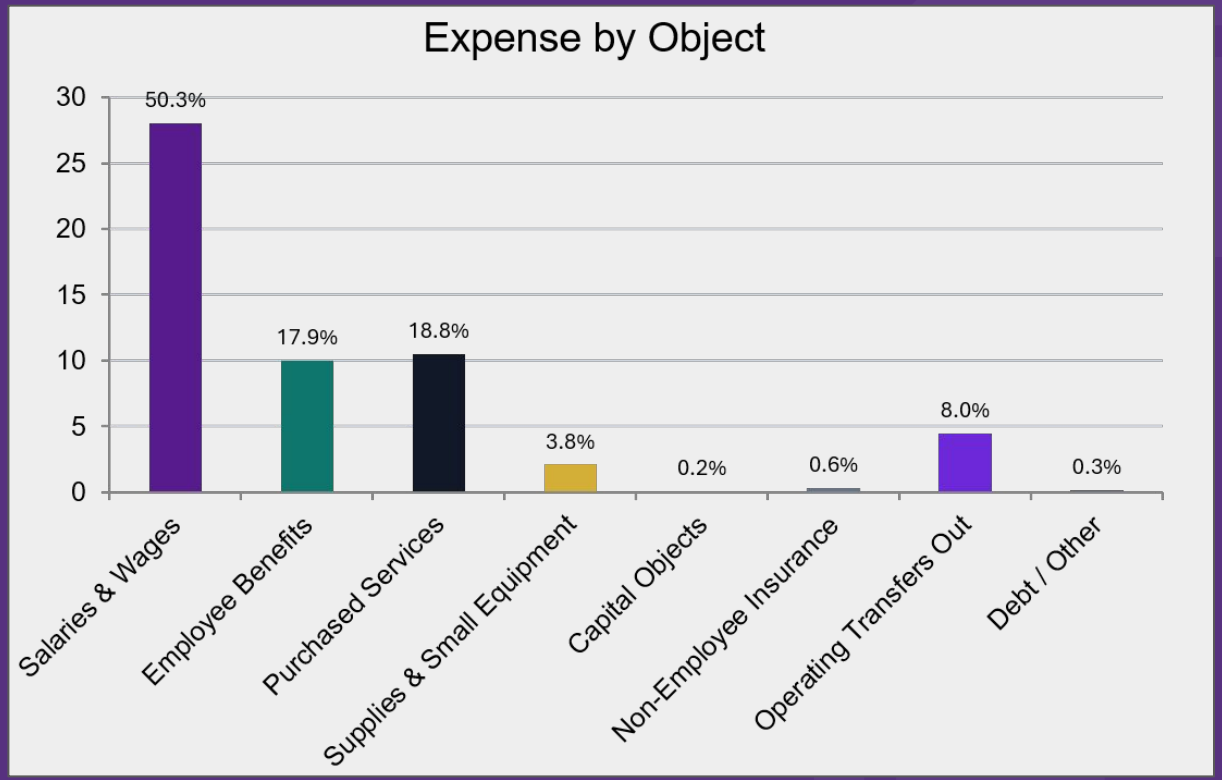
Operating Funds Revenue (F10 & F27)

Revenue Summary by Source Category - Funds 10 & 27 Detail Rows

Source Group	Category	2024-25 Revised Budget	2024-25 Activity	2025-26 Revised Budget	2025-26 Activity	2026-27 Preliminary Budget
100	Transfers In	$4,858,814	$4,572,816	$4,544,819	$4,332,839	$4,291,878
200	Local Sources	$19,839,205	$19,986,468	$21,277,926	$21,355,982	$22,574,272
300	Interdistrict Payments - Wisconsin	$4,943,562	$4,811,765	$5,561,100	$5,374,253	$6,468,580
400	Interdistrict Payments - Outside Wisconsin	-	-	-	-	-
500	Intermediate Sources	$18,000	$17,768	$10,000	$31,766	$10,000
600	State Sources	$21,499,710	$21,828,715	$21,179,829	$21,506,998	$20,899,342
700	Federal Sources	$1,688,243	$1,744,248	$1,693,156	$1,676,729	$1,482,395
800	Other Financing Sources	-	$5,000	-	-	-
900	Other Revenues	$200,000	$149,509	$110,000	$105,055	$78,500
Total Revenue		**$53,047,534**	**$53,116,289**	**$54,376,830**	**$54,383,622**	**$55,804,967**

Presentation in whole dollars may create minor rounding errors

Operating Expense Funds by Object (F10 & F27)



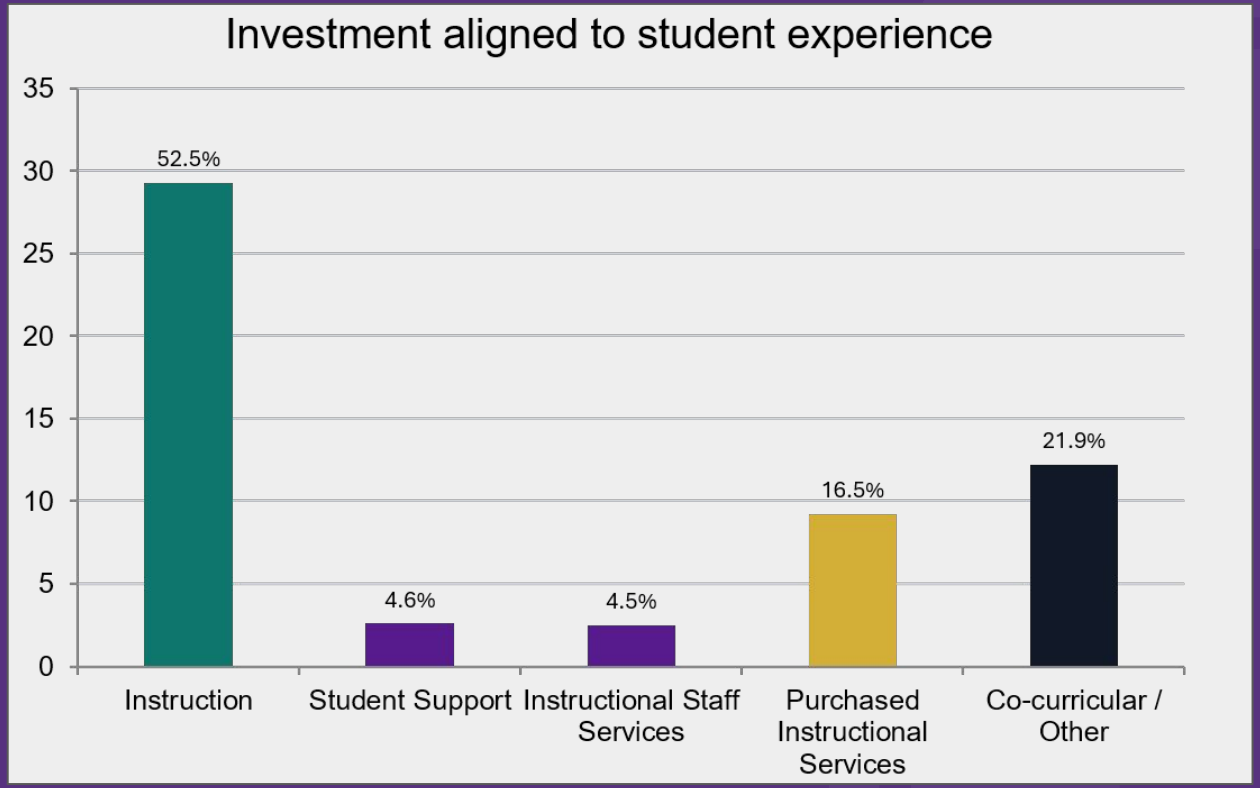
The What: Operating Funds Expense By Object (F10 & F27)

Expense Summary by Object Category - Funds 10 & 27 Detail Rows

Object Group	Category	2024-25 Revised Budget	2024-25 Activity	2025-26 Revised Budget	2025-26 Activity	2026-27 Preliminary Budget
100	Salaries	$26,386,214	$26,092,681	$26,997,632	$27,101,855	$28,051,086
200	Employee Benefits	$9,314,923	$9,270,338	$9,435,745	$9,254,545	$10,002,008
300	Purchased Services	$9,405,092	$8,946,197	$9,772,277	$10,005,828	$10,487,821
400	Non-Capital Objects	$1,854,129	$1,836,374	$2,166,682	$2,224,890	$2,111,261
500	Capital Objects	$246,145	$300,633	$90,500	$109,435	$111,700
600	Debt Retirement	$35,250	$35,211	$35,250	$35,211	$36,100
700	Insurance and Judgments	$371,900	$336,517	$380,075	$377,364	$358,500
800	Transfers	$5,027,814	$4,742,099	$4,706,819	$4,502,638	$4,459,197
900	Other Objects	$194,339	$171,864	$171,500	$178,637	$181,500
Total Expense		**$52,835,806**	**$51,731,914**	**$53,756,480**	**$53,790,402**	**$55,799,173**

Presentation in whole dollars may create minor rounding errors

Operating Funds Expense by Function (F10 & F27)



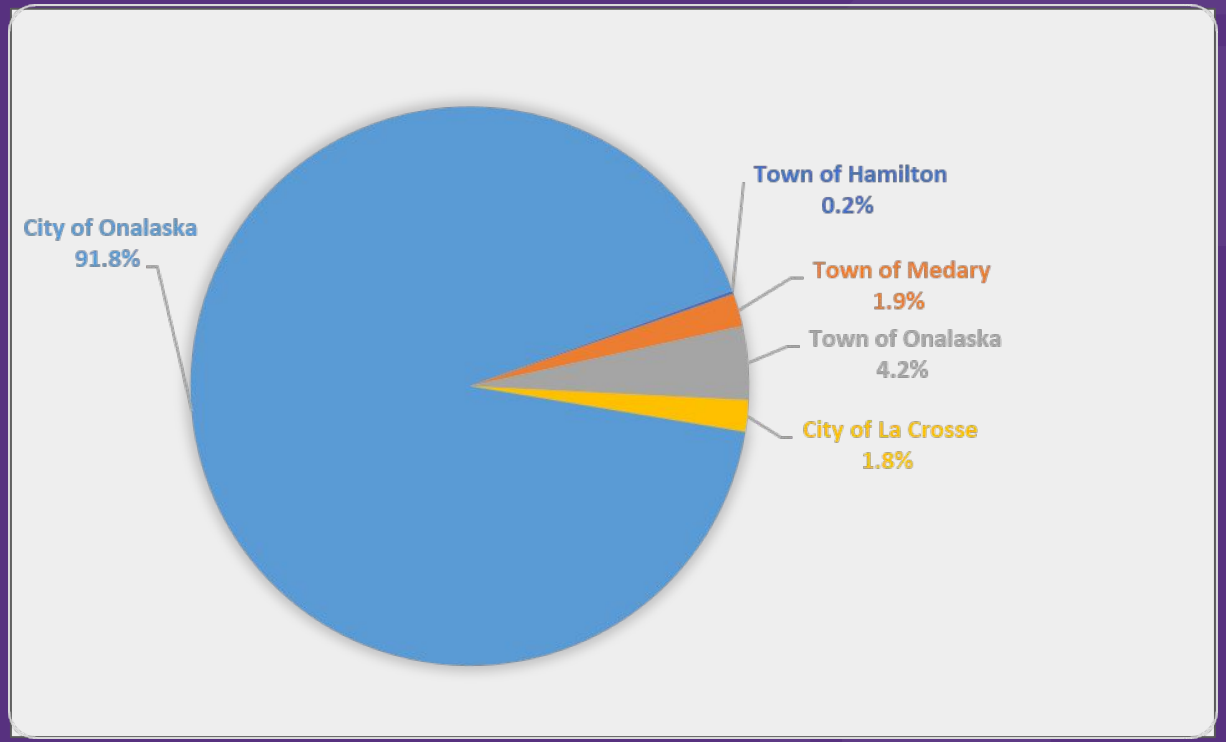
The What For: Operating Funds Expense By Function (F10 & F27)

Expense Summary by Function Category - Funds 10 & 27 Detail Rows

Function Range	Category	2024-25 Revised Budget	2024-25 Activity	2025-26 Revised Budget	2025-26 Activity	2026-27 Preliminary Budget
100000-199999	Instruction	$27,232,926	$26,921,590	$27,929,370	$27,819,982	$29,287,907
210000-219999	Pupil Services	$2,303,418	$2,229,282	$2,271,751	$2,336,454	$2,586,490
220000-229999	Instructional Staff Services	$2,897,202	$2,767,093	$2,880,213	$2,812,262	$2,521,364
230000-239999	General Administration	$913,994	$858,731	$897,314	$913,653	$942,908
240000-249999	School Building Administration	$2,019,641	$1,991,555	$2,055,614	$2,066,288	$2,210,038
250000-259999	Business / Operations / Transportation / Food	$7,297,586	$7,040,177	$7,353,308	$7,556,230	$7,702,848
260000-269999	Central Services	$231,730	$205,281	$240,676	$232,693	$216,153
300000-399999	Community Services	$1,459,073	$1,553,109	$1,545,370	$1,641,588	$1,347,538
400000-499999	Non-Program Transactions	$8,480,236	$8,165,096	$8,582,864	$8,411,252	$8,983,927
Total Expense		**$52,835,806**	**$51,731,914**	**$53,756,480**	**$53,790,402**	**$55,799,173**

Presentation in whole dollars may create minor rounding errors

Municipality Proportionate Share of Value



District Construction Updates

Two sizable renovation projects were made possible thanks to a community supported $75 million referendum passed in November 2022. Approximately $50 million was designated for Onalaska Middle School while the remaining $25 million was allocated for renovations at Onalaska High School. With an extra $10 million available from bond interest, additional projects were able to be completed at Onalaska High School. The expected completion date for all projects is winter 2026/2027.

Onalaska Middle School
Completed (at the time of this report):

- Boys & Girls Club of Greater La Crosse partnered space

Onalaska High School
Completed (at the time of this report):

- Music expansion and dance area renovations
- Updated flooring throughout lower level
- Math and science classrooms
- Tech ed expansion and renovation
- New fieldhouse bleachers
- Additional storage for P.E. and athletics
- Bathroom and locker room updates
- Surrounding parking lots
- English and World Language classrooms
- Social Studies classrooms
- Updated flooring throughout upper level

Onalaska High School
In progress (at the time of this report):

- Construction of weight room and training room
- Updated lighting in the Performing Arts Center

2025-2026 Moments of #OnaPride

OHS Named Among "Best High Schools"

Onalaska High School has been recognized as one of the "Best High Schools" in the country by U.S. News and World report. 132 of our students were recently recognized by the College Board for their high level of success on the Advanced Placement Exams administered last spring. OHS is also frequently recognized as one of the highest performing high schools each year on the state school report cards. Almost 75% of our students are involved in cocurricular activities.





OMS Students Compete at the State Level

Onalaska Middle School students have taken their success beyond the Coulee Region to the state level. Students this year competed, or were honored, at the state level in spelling bee, math competition, honors band, honors choir, and swimming.

Eagle Bluff - Where Learning Comes Alive!

Eagle Bluff Elementary takes pride in transforming the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) curriculum into exciting, unforgettable learning celebrations that allow students to apply new skills and deepen their connections to content. From Ancient Greece "Potato Olympics" and Poetry Cafes to basket weaving, virtual chats with astronomers, and visits from the Mobile Critter Mobile, teachers regularly bring units to life through hands-on experiences. Powered by PTO support, community partnerships, and active family involvement, Eagle Bluff fosters a strong sense of belonging and collaboration across the entire school community.





Fueling STEM and Literacy

AnnMarie Dahl was awarded the National Education Association (NEA) Learning and Leadership Grant to attend the American Association of School Librarians conference in St. Louis, MO. The $3685 grant covered all expenses, allocated funds for new STEM activities and materials for the library at Pertzsch and provided opportunities for professional learning. Ms. Dahl connected with educators, presenters, authors and others- including Mychal Threets, host of *Reading Rainbow* (pictured).

School District of Onalaska Named Top Workplace

The School District of Onalaska has been recognized as one of the education industry's Top Workplaces. This designation is based entirely on anonymous employee feedback. Team members across our district participated in a confidential survey administered by an independent research organization. The survey measured support, growth, engagement and the overall workplace experience. To be named a Top Workplace, results need to exceed specific benchmarks developed from over two decades of workplace research.





Northern Hills Builds Belonging

From "sock"-er ball at our National Sock Day Assembly in the fall to Field Day this spring, developed by our PE teacher, Mrs. Merrill, Northern Hills has been all about connection, community, and belonging this year. Our PTO brought the Color Hawk Walk—and plenty of color—to the entire Northern Hills community, while our interventionists scored big with March Madness Reading Night. In addition to classroom activity nights with families, as well as school-wide Bingo, there were ample events to build belonging at Northern Hills this year.

Working together to ensure high levels of learning for all

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School District of Onalaska