

# ***BUDGET GUIDE***

***2021 - 2022***





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# **To Our Community**

At Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, our mission is to educate all learners to reach their full potential as contributing and productive members of our ever-changing global community. We pride ourselves on being a destination for outstanding education, innovation and collaboration.

Our Strategic Plan, written with the help of our community, defines our mission, core values, vision and strategic directions. This plan represents our promise to our community and is designed to guide our educational programs, services and applied resources.

One of the strategic directions calls upon us to work to increase measurable student learning and reduce achievement gaps as we provide equitable student opportunities through personalized learning and student engagement.

We also work to expand innovation to improve the learner experience and our newest strategic direction, which emerged from staff and community input, calls upon us to provide a safe, secure and supportive environment that nurtures the social and emotional well-being of all learners. One of the ways we are doing this is by developing a district wide social-emotional learning program to provide a foundation for safe and positive learning, and enhances students' ability to succeed in school.

PLSAS also has a long-standing tradition of caring about our relationship with the environment. That's why we are developing a comprehensive plan to ensure common understanding of our E-STEM focus to provide effective environmental and sustainability education.

We have worked extensively, thanks to support from our community, over the past 6 years to ensure we have the learning spaces needed for students and have created additions and renovations throughout the district, as well as two new schools.

Finally, we are committed to continuing fiscal accountability through operational excellence, along with engaging students, parents, families and community to strengthen a culture of respect and inclusion.

To that end, in an ongoing effort to be transparent with our stakeholders, we are sharing this document with you to help you understand how your tax dollars are invested and how school finance works in our district.

As you read through this document, you will see that students are at the center of all decisions made at PLSAS and there is much to celebrate. At the same time, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been challenged in our budget work with unanticipated expenditures and a decrease in enrollment. Moving forward, we must work to continue to create a sustainable budget while prioritizing student learning.

It is truly in everyone's best interest to stay informed as we continue to seek and provide the best opportunities possible for all students. Thank you for your continued support of PLSAS.

Sincerely,

## **PLSAS School Board**

Stacey Ruelle, Chair, Michael Nelson, Vice-Chair/Clerk, Jonathan Drewes, Treasurer, Julie Bernick, Director, Amy Crosby, Director, Mary Frantz, Director, Enrique Velázquez, Director, Abby Haferman, Board Student Representative, Dr. Teri Staloch, Superintendent

## Goals and Strategies: Mission and Values



**OUR MISSION** Our mission is to educate all learners to reach their full potential as contributing and productive members of our ever-changing global community.

### CORE VALUES

What drives our words and actions

**Partnership:** Collaboration of resources and talents to achieve high mutual goals for the benefit of all

**Innovation:** Creative problem solving connecting creativity with usefulness

**Respect:** Valuing ourselves, each other and our world across all differences

**Wise Stewardship:** Developing and effectively using our knowledge, human, financial, physical and environmental resources

**Accountability:** Holding ourselves and each other accountable for our actions and words

**Strive for Excellence:** Committing to continuous learning and improvement

July 2019

### VISION

A compelling educational picture of what we intend to create

Sustainable environmental focus recognized at the state and national levels

Challenging, diverse and personalized learning

A culture of excellence fostering a love of learning and appreciation of the arts and activities

Safe and respectful schools

A district of stakeholder partnerships

Technology enhancing instruction, communication and administration

Innovative and flexible staffing through wise financial stewardship

### STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Goals that guide educational programs, services and applied resources

Increase measurable student learning and reduce achievement gaps as we provide equitable student opportunities through personalized learning and student engagement

Continue fiscal accountability through operational excellence and the alignment of human, financial and physical resources to district goals

Expand innovation to improve the learner experience

Integrate E-STEM focus across the district

Provide a safe, secure and supportive environment that nurtures the social and emotional well-being of all learners

Engage students, parents, families and community to strengthen a culture of respect and inclusion

# Goals and Strategies: Strategic Plan



## District Strategic Plan • World’s Best Workforce • Reimagine MN System of Continuous Improvement through Shared Leadership



8-12-19



## District Profile

### WE ARE PLSAS

**District Mission:** Our mission is to educate all learners to reach their full potential as contributing and productive members of our ever-changing global community.



#### 2021-22 Enrollment

8  
8  
0  
9

#### Number of Schools/ Programs

15

#### Graduation Rate

98%

Students  
attending 2 or 4  
year college/  
universities

82%

#### School Board

There are seven elected members serving 4-year terms.

#### Employees

More than 1,300 people are employed by PLSAS.

#### Communities Served

Prior Lake, Savage, Credit River, and the Townships of Spring Lake, Sand Creek and Cedar Lake

# District Profile

## 1 WestWood Elementary/SAGE Academy

5370 WestWood Drive SE, Prior Lake  
952-226-0400

### Edgewood School for Early Learning

5304 WestWood Drive SE, Prior Lake  
952-226-0950

### La ola del lago at Grainwood Elementary

5061 Minnesota Street, Prior Lake  
952-226-0300

### Twin Oaks Middle School

15860 Fish Point Road SE, Prior Lake  
952-226-0500

### Hidden Oaks Middle School

15855 Fish Point Road SE, Prior Lake  
952-226-0700

### Bridges ALC

15870 Fish Point Road SE, Prior Lake  
952-226-0840

## 2 Glendale Elementary

6601 Connelly Parkway, Savage  
952-226-0200

## 3 Hamilton Ridge Elementary

8100 157th Street, Savage  
952-461-7800

### Prior Lake High School

7575 150th Street W, Savage  
952-226-8600

## 4 Jeffers Pond Elementary

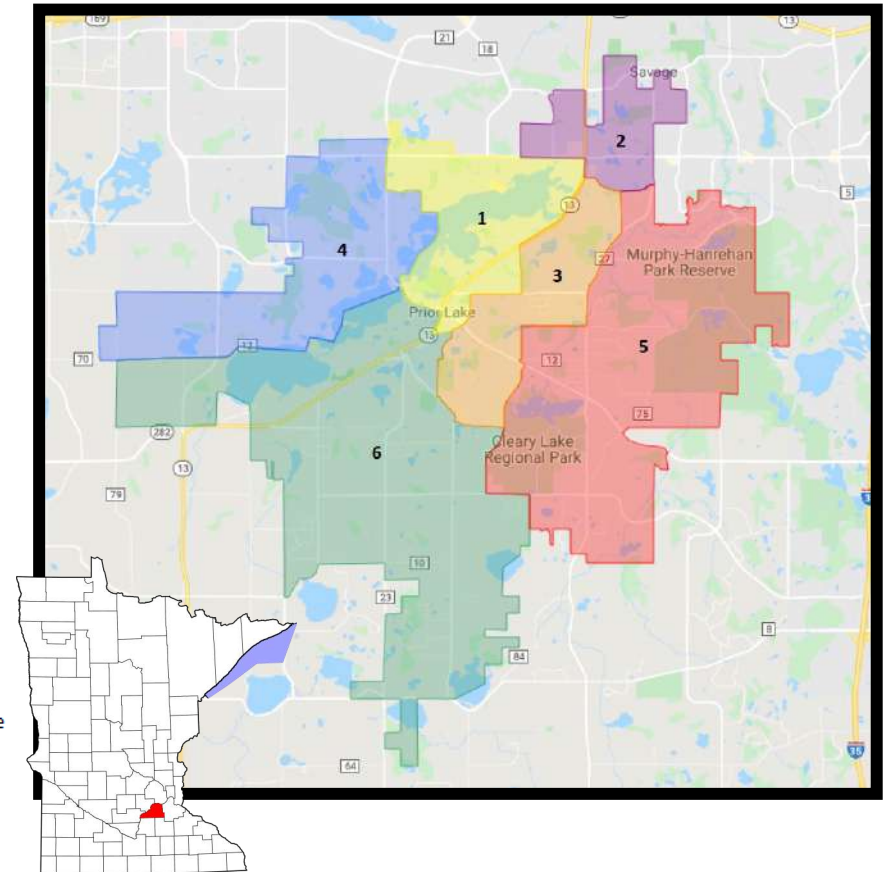
14800 Jeffers Pass, Prior Lake  
952-226-0600

## 5 Redtail Ridge Elementary

15200 Hampshire Avenue, Savage  
952-226-8000

## 6 Five Hawks Elementary

16620 Five Hawks Avenue SE, Prior Lake  
952-226-0100



## OUR DISTRICT

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools provides a high-quality education to students in grades K-12 and programs and services to residents from birth through adulthood who live in the cities of Prior Lake, Savage and Credit River, as well as the townships of Spring Lake, Cedar Lake, and Sand Creek.

The community is located in the seven county metropolitan area of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Approximately 8,800 students are enrolled in the district's 15 schools/program. The uniqueness of the community lies in the mixture of suburban and rural living. The City of Prior Lake prides itself on abundant lake and recreation areas while the City of Savage is proud of its heritage and community spirit.

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools prides itself in the many environmental learning opportunities that have become part of the district's unique culture. PLSAS is the only district in the state to have an environmental education program that grows with students from ECCE to high school. Our K-12 schools are the first district-wide E-STEM schools in the state of Minnesota. E-STEM stands for Environmental Education, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools is home to seven full-day Kindergarten through fifth grade elementary schools; including Spanish Immersion; one early childhood center, a school for gifted learners in grades 3-5; two middle schools for grades 6-8; an Area Learning Center for students in grades 9-12; and a high school serving students in grades 9-12.



# District Demographics

## 2021-22 TOTAL STUDENTS 8,809

- Elementary Schools: 3,702
- Middle Schools: 2,077
- High School: 2,931
- ALC: 99

## English Learners (EL)

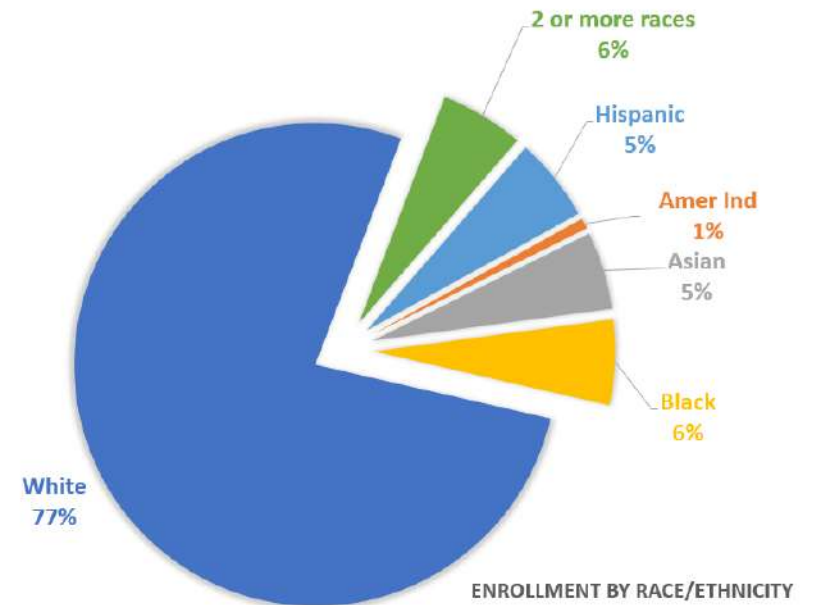
- 2.7% of all students, compared to a Minnesota average of 8.4%

## Special Education

- 12% of students qualify to receive special education services, compared to a Minnesota average of 16.7%

## Free or Reduced-Price School Meals

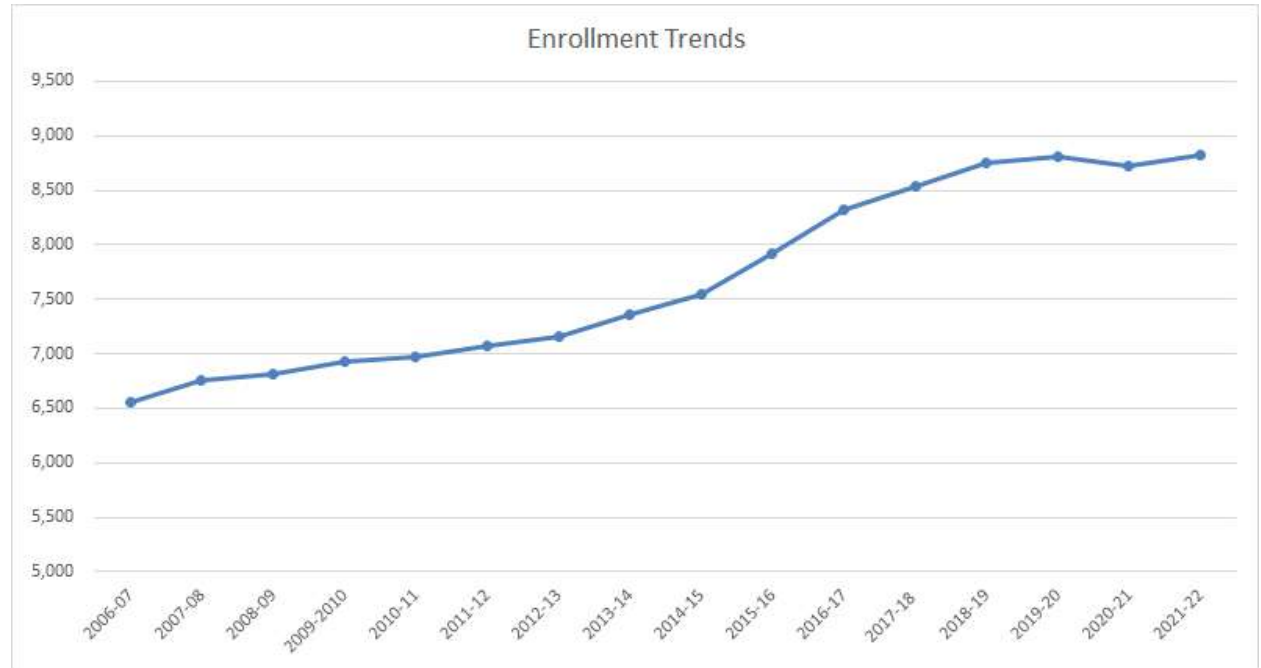
- 11.2% of PLSAS students qualify to receive free or reduced price school meals, compared to 32.2% of students statewide



Demographics Source: Minnesota Report Card. Enrollment # on October 1, 2021

# Enrollment

Enrollment is a critical factor in determining revenue with approximately 70% of General Fund revenue being determined by enrollment. For the first time, in 2020-21, Prior Lake-Savage Area School had declining enrollment due to the COVID pandemic. The district predicts slower growth in the future due to the unknown nature of the pandemic.



5-Year Enrollment by Grade					
	FINAL 2017-18	FINAL 2018-19	FINAL 2019-20	FINAL 2020-21	Oct 1, 2021-22
Kindergarten	615	636	597	555	599
First	624	635	650	573	587
Second	620	653	647	612	603
Third	631	637	656	630	638
Fourth	626	634	647	634	647
Fifth	671	649	650	626	628
Sixth	660	723	698	699	655
Seventh	648	688	745	710	707
Eighth	664	672	700	757	715
Ninth	758	721	721	734	819
Tenth	643	749	706	715	736
Eleventh	691	649	729	709	732
Twelfth	689	703	669	768	743
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,540</b>	<b>8,749</b>	<b>8,815</b>	<b>8,722</b>	<b>8,809</b>





## PreK-12 Per Pupil Reporting

Per Pupil Report					
Fiscal Year	Enrollment (ADM)	Total Government Funds Expenditures	Cost Per Pupil	Teaching Staff	Pupil-Teacher Ratio
2011-12	7,112	\$ 83,720,648	\$ 11,772	347.1	20.5
2012-13	7,211	\$ 90,064,444	\$ 12,490	356.8	20.2
2013-14	7,402	\$ 112,261,545	\$ 15,166	375.1	19.7
2014-15	7,590	\$ 113,778,643	\$ 14,991	394.2	19.3
2015-16	7,971	\$ 102,555,989	\$ 12,866	401.3	19.9
2016-17	8,386	\$ 111,348,911	\$ 13,278	424.9	19.7
2017-18	8,606	\$ 91,461,824	\$ 10,628	473	18.2
2018-19	8,820	\$ 157,001,252	\$ 17,801	478.5	18.4
2019-20	8,877	\$ 201,588,684	\$ 22,709	495.7	17.9
2020-21	8,696	\$ 149,069,006	\$ 17,142	422	20.6

*\*District records and teaching staff numbers from the Minnesota Department of Education STARS data*

Elementary schools' staffing is based on enrollment at each grade level, with a class-size average of 24:1 for grades K-5 (our goal is to have lower class-size averages for grades K-2). The middle schools staffing is based on 28:1 class size average and high school staffing is based on 32:1 class size average.

*Student-educator ratios exclude any early childhood or Adult Basic Education assignments. Ratio of students to all licensed staff includes non-instructional and administrative assignments. This is not the average class size. Enrollment numbers account for statewide ADM adjustments as found on MDE's MN Funding Report*



## 2021-22 Revised Budget—General Fund

PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS						
ESTIMATED FUND BALANCES THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022						
FUND DESCRIPTION	6/30/21 AUDITED BALANCE	2021-22 ESTIMATED REVENUES	TRANSFERS INTO FUNDS	2021-22 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	TRANSFERS OUT OF FUNDS	6/30/22 ESTIMATED BALANCE
GENERAL FUND						
A. UNASSIGNED - OPERATING	\$7,826,956	\$93,994,706	\$0	\$91,349,168	\$214,884	\$10,257,610
NONSPENDABLE	\$383,569	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$383,569
ASSIGNED-CASH FLOW	\$1,722,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,722,500
ASSIGNED - CLASS SIZE REDUCTION	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000
ASSIGNED - NEXT YEAR BUDGET DEFICIT	\$3,210,983	\$0	\$0	\$3,210,983	\$0	\$0
ASSIGNED - INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS	\$420,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$370,000
ASSIGNED - COVID RELIEF FUNDS	\$0	\$2,937,455	\$0	\$2,937,455	\$0	\$0
ASSIGNED-ALT TEACHER COMP	\$0	\$2,358,993	\$0	\$2,358,993	\$0	\$0
ASSIGNED-SITE CARRYOVER	\$535,999	\$0	\$0	\$535,999	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$14,600,007	\$99,291,154	\$0	\$100,442,598	\$214,884	\$13,233,679
B. RESTRICTED FOR						
(1) STUDENT ACTIVITIES	\$133,258	\$175,000		\$165,000		\$143,258
(2) AREA LEARNING CENTER/TARGETED SVC	\$71,172	\$1,036,624		\$1,107,796		\$0
(3) STAFF DEVELOPMENT	\$853,685	\$1,318,150		\$2,145,392		\$26,443
(4) MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	\$103,883	\$220,000		\$220,000		\$103,883
(5) LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT	\$0	\$1,888,016		\$1,888,016		\$0
(6) GIFTED & TALENTED	\$0	\$126,875	\$103,816	\$230,691		\$0
(7) BASIC SKILLS	\$9,082	\$613,699	\$111,068	\$733,849		\$0
(8) ACHIEVEMENT AND INTEGRATION	\$44,421	\$800,000		\$800,000		\$44,421
(9) SAFE SCHOOLS	\$88,574	\$348,713		\$410,334		\$26,953
(10) LONG TERM FACILITY MAINTENANCE	(\$17,624)	\$2,184,365		\$2,100,000		\$66,741
(11) OPERATING CAPITAL	\$298,497	\$2,589,257		\$2,515,174		\$372,580
TOTAL RESTRICTED	\$1,584,948	\$11,300,699	\$214,884	\$12,316,252	\$0	\$784,279
TOTAL GENERAL FUND (01)	\$16,184,955	\$110,591,853	\$214,884	\$112,758,850	\$214,884	\$14,017,958

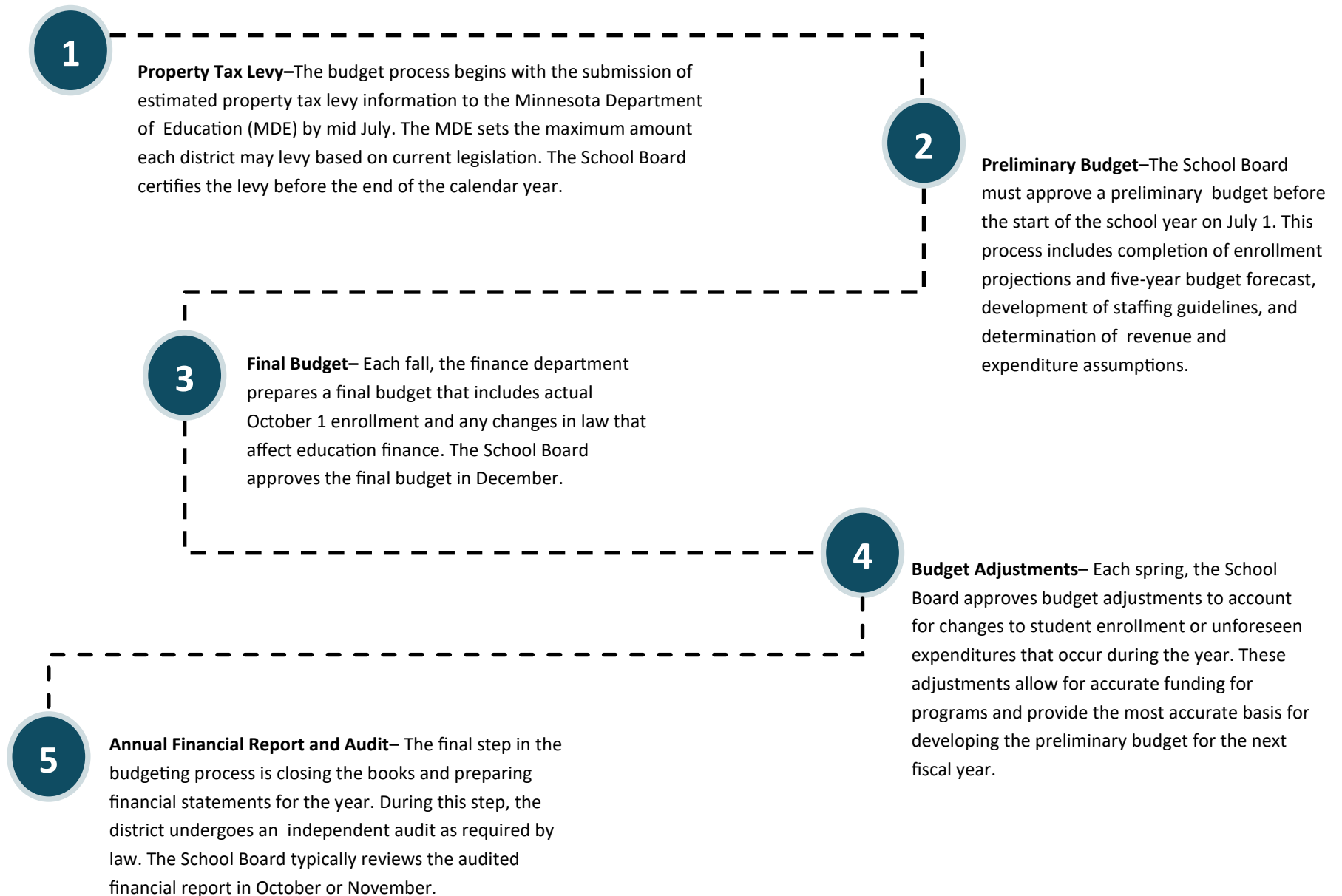


## 2021-22 Revised Budget—All Other Funds

<b>PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS</b>						
<b>ESTIMATED FUND BALANCES THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022</b>						
<b>FUND DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>6/30/21 AUDITED BALANCE</b>	<b>2021-22 ESTIMATED REVENUES</b>	<b>TRANSFERS INTO FUNDS</b>	<b>2021-22 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>TRANSFERS OUT OF FUNDS</b>	<b>6/30/22 ESTIMATED BALANCE</b>
<b>TOTAL FOOD SERVICE (02)</b>	<b>\$1,529,574</b>	<b>\$5,819,778</b>		<b>\$6,022,244</b>		<b>\$1,327,108</b>
<b>COMMUNITY EDUCATION</b>						
NONSPENDABLE	\$119	\$127,549		\$131,507		(\$3,839)
REGULAR COMMUNITY ED	(\$154,066)	\$4,715,293		\$4,348,257		\$212,970
EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY ED	\$210,276	\$943,735		\$891,375		\$262,636
ADULT BASIC ED	\$2,211	\$50,111		\$50,111		\$2,211
SCHOOL READINESS	\$265,819	\$862,158		\$863,250		\$264,727
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY EDUCATION (04)</b>	<b>\$324,359</b>	<b>\$6,698,846</b>		<b>\$6,284,500</b>		<b>\$738,705</b>
<b>BUILDING CONSTRUCTION FUND (06)</b>	<b>\$755,140</b>	<b>\$165,114</b>		<b>\$920,254</b>		<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND (07)</b>	<b>\$2,129,764</b>	<b>\$31,095,847</b>		<b>\$30,830,206</b>		<b>\$2,395,405</b>
<b>TOTAL TRUST FUND (08)</b>	<b>\$2,857,817</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>		<b>\$11,000</b>		<b>\$3,446,817</b>
<b>TOTAL CUSTODIAL FUND (18)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>		<b>\$50,000</b>		<b>\$0</b>
<b>TOTAL INTERNAL SERVICE FUND (20)</b>	<b>\$5,227,399</b>	<b>\$15,922,097</b>		<b>\$15,989,000</b>		<b>\$5,160,496</b>
<b>TOTAL REVOCABLE TRUST* (OPEB 25)</b>	<b>(\$4,348,596)</b>	<b>\$122,100</b>		<b>\$345,000</b>		<b>(\$4,571,496)</b>

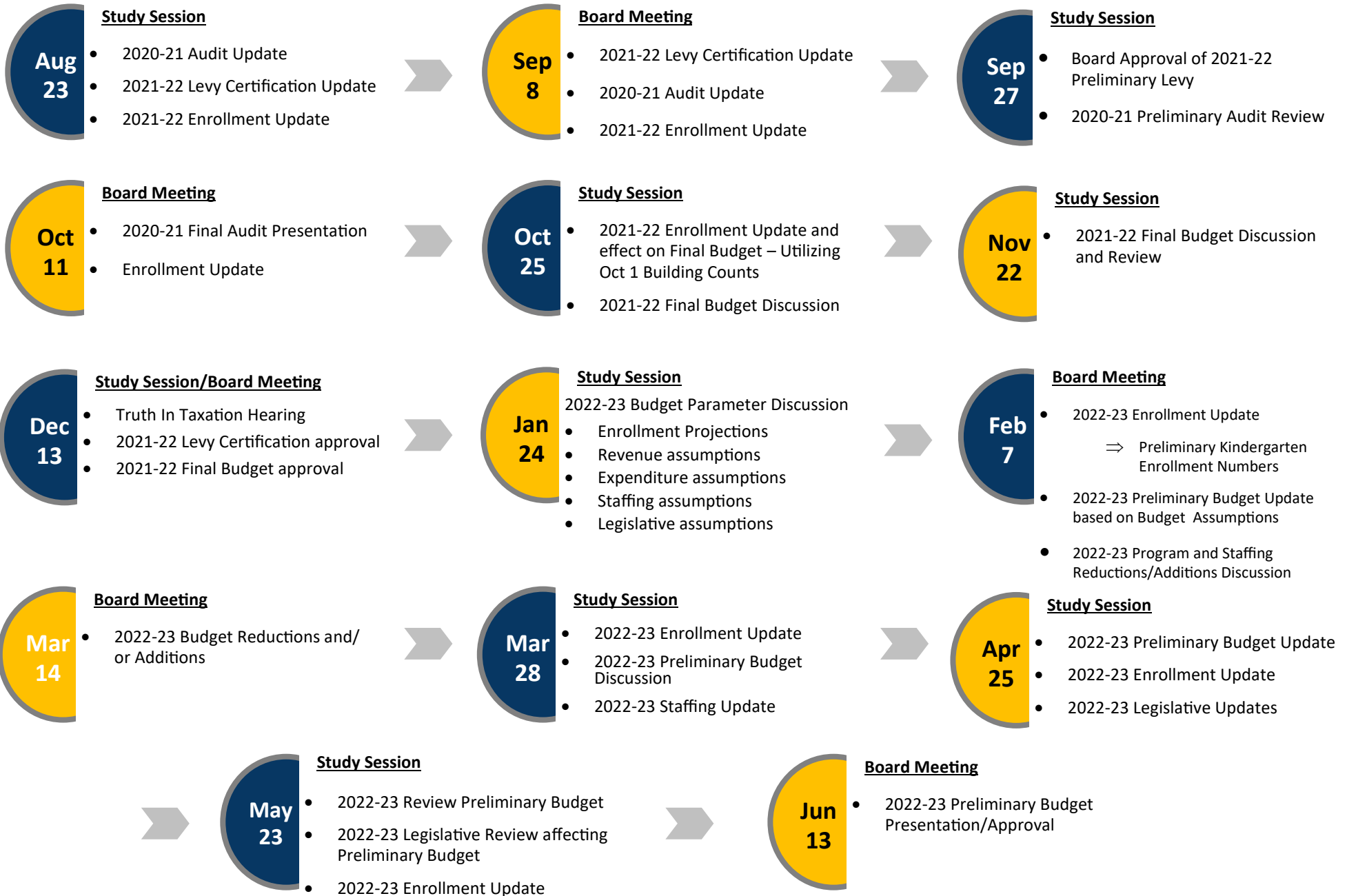
\*Revocable Trust estimated assets as of 6/30/2021: \$8,319,077

# Budget Process



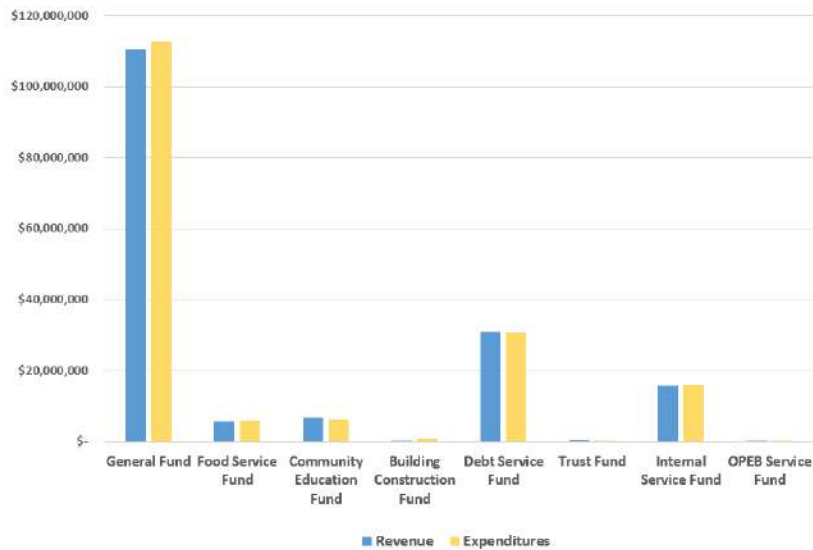


# 2021-22 Budget Calendar



# Funds: Revenues and Expenditures Overview

2021-22 Funds: Revenues and Expenditures



**General Fund** is used to account for all revenues and expenditures of the school district not accounted for elsewhere. The General Fund is used to account for educational activities, district instructional and student support programs, expenditures for the superintendent, district administration, normal operations and maintenance, pupil transportation, capital expenditures, and legal school district expenditures not specifically designated to be accounted for in any other fund. A district may use General Fund balances for capital purposes except when the requirements for a specific categorical revenue state that it may not be used for capital purchases.

**Food Service Fund** accounts for all revenues and expenditures related to the district's Child Nutrition Services Program. This includes Federal and State Revenue for the number of meals served and milk served to students in grades K-8. Local revenue is received from students participating in the meal service for both breakfast and lunch.

**Community Education Fund** accounts for Early Childhood Learning Programs such as ECCE, School Readiness and Kids' Company. Programs are offered outside of the school day and summer programming for both children and adults.

**Building Construction Fund** is utilized only when there are construction projects approved by the community or by eligible Long Term Facility projects.

**Debt Service Fund** is utilized to pay the bond payments approved by the community for construction projects.

**Trust Fund** accounts for all current Post Employment Benefits for district employees.

**Custodial Fund** accounts for Student Activity fundraising Initiatives.

**Internal Service Fund** accounts for the district's self-insured health and dental programs.

**OPEB Fund** accounts for past Post Employment Benefits for district employees. These benefits have been sunset and this fund will eventually be eliminated.

Funds - Revenue Summary

	Actual 2016-17	Actual 2017-18	Actual 2018-19	Actual 2019-20	Actual 2020-21	Revised Budget 2021-22
General Fund	\$ 85,667,901	\$ 91,159,232	\$ 99,311,830	\$ 103,502,573	\$ 105,224,513	\$ 110,591,853
Food Service Fund	\$ 4,454,979	\$ 4,596,695	\$ 4,929,623	\$ 5,093,402	\$ 5,114,642	\$ 5,819,778
Community Education Fund	\$ 6,810,909	\$ 7,259,401	\$ 7,615,945	\$ 6,451,605	\$ 5,251,064	\$ 6,698,846
Building Construction Fund	\$ 12,710,000	\$ 110,357,453	\$ 2,233,849	\$ 1,719,927	\$ 445,008	\$ 165,114
Debt Service Fund	\$ 12,255,287	\$ 12,996,595	\$ 15,609,950	\$ 16,079,272	\$ 15,864,982	\$ 31,095,847
Trust Fund				\$ 506,897	\$ 595,692	\$ 600,000
Internal Service Fund	\$ 11,856,000	\$ 13,413,147	\$ 14,266,202	\$ 14,774,024	\$ 16,069,816	\$ 15,922,097
OPEB Service Fund	\$ 15,706	\$ 770,613	\$ 129,602	\$ 155,132	\$ 153,530	\$ 122,100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 133,770,782</b>	<b>\$ 240,553,136</b>	<b>\$ 144,097,001</b>	<b>\$ 148,282,832</b>	<b>\$ 148,719,247</b>	<b>\$ 171,015,635</b>

Funds - Expenditure Summary

	Actual 2016-17	Actual 2017-18	Actual 2018-19	Actual 2019-20	Actual 2020-21	Revised Budget 2021-22
General Fund	\$ 85,304,837	\$ 91,461,824	\$ 96,414,815	\$ 104,817,156	\$ 108,222,062	\$ 112,758,850
Food Service Fund	\$ 4,512,807	\$ 4,554,721	\$ 4,863,554	\$ 4,896,923	\$ 4,974,444	\$ 6,022,244
Community Education Fund	\$ 6,821,529	\$ 7,491,287	\$ 7,915,612	\$ 6,523,447	\$ 5,736,941	\$ 6,284,500
Building Construction Fund	\$ 4,580,000	\$ 8,133,100	\$ 32,446,556	\$ 69,499,392	\$ 13,915,667	\$ 920,254
Debt Service Fund	\$ 37,139,483	\$ 12,560,207	\$ 15,360,714	\$ 15,851,766	\$ 16,219,892	\$ 30,830,206
Trust Fund				\$ 22,569	\$ 10,572	\$ 11,000
Internal Service Fund	\$ 11,347,373	\$ 11,997,500	\$ 13,628,634	\$ 13,788,482	\$ 15,064,544	\$ 15,989,000
OPEB Service Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,070,184	\$ 1,159,848	\$ 345,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 149,706,029</b>	<b>\$ 136,198,639</b>	<b>\$ 170,629,885</b>	<b>\$ 216,469,919</b>	<b>\$ 165,303,970</b>	<b>\$ 173,161,054</b>

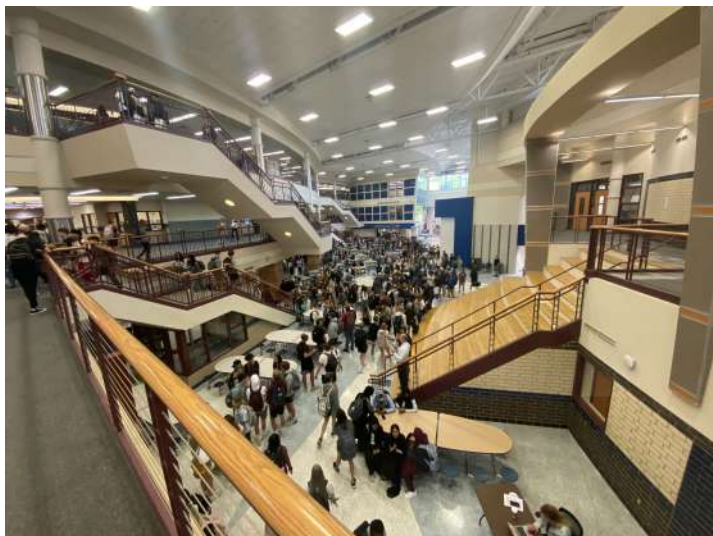
\* Data source: PLSAS annual Audit

# Basic General Education Revenue

**BASIC GENERAL EDUCATION REVENUE** The largest single funding source for Minnesota school districts is basic general education aid. Each year, the Legislature sets a basic formula allowance. Total basic general education revenue is calculated by multiplying the formula allowance by the number of pupil units for which a district is entitled to aid. Pupil units are calculated using a legislatively determined weighting system applied to average daily membership (ADM). Over the years, various modifications have been made to this calculation, including changes in weighting and special consideration for districts with declining enrollment .

The table below represents a summary of the formula allowance. The amount of the formula allowance and the percentage change from year-to-year excludes temporary funding changes, the “roll-in” of aids that were previously funded separately, and changes that may vary dependent on actions taken by individual districts. The \$529 increase in 2015 was offset by changes to pupil weightings and the general education aid formula that resulted in an increase equivalent to approximately \$105, or 2.0 percent, state-wide.

Funding for Minnesota school districts generally has not kept pace with inflation and an increasing need for services, despite recent enhancements to the basic general education state aid formula and other categorical aids. This has increased reliance on local revenue sources like voter-approved operating referendum and user fees to maintain district programs. The COVID-19 pandemic has and will continue to create additional financial challenges, as districts struggle to provide a safe and effective learning experience for their students under unprecedented circumstances.

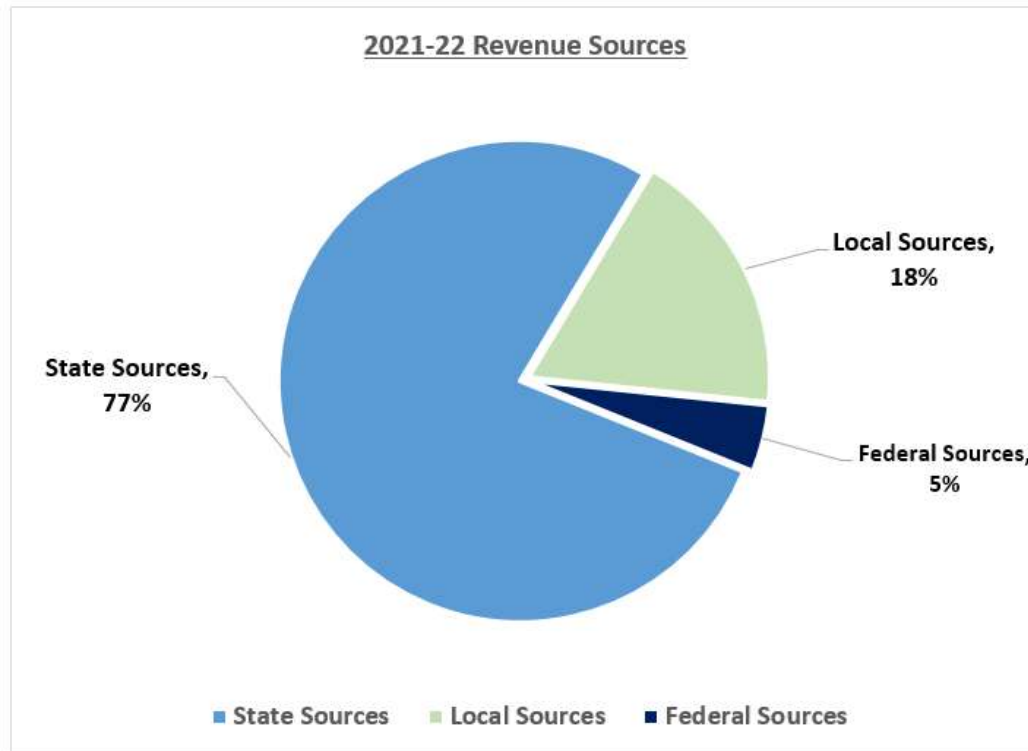


Fiscal Year Ended June 30,	Formula Allowance	
	Amount	Percent Increase
2012	\$ 5,174	1.00 %
2013	\$ 5,224	1.00 %
2014	\$ 5,302	1.50 %
2015	\$ 5,831	2.00 %
2016	\$ 5,948	2.00 %
2017	\$ 6,067	2.00 %
2018	\$ 6,188	2.00 %
2019	\$ 6,312	2.00 %
2020	\$ 6,438	2.00 %
2021	\$ 6,567	2.00 %
2022	\$ 6,728	2.45 %
2023	\$ 6,863	2.00 %

\* Data source: PLSAS annual Audit



## 2021-22 Revenue by Source Series



### State Sources 85,672,649 (77%)

These include per pupil basic general education aid; special education regular and excess cost aid; Basic Skills aid, including compensatory education aid, English Learners aid and Literacy Incentive aid; operating capital state aid for equipment and facilities maintenance, and aid for gifted and talented education. The Minnesota Legislature determines the level of funding provided by the state.

### Local Sources \$18,162,074 (18%)

These are local taxes the district collects from property owners. The Minnesota Legislature determines the maximum amount the district can levy each year. The district also has authority to seek additional property taxes (up to a maximum amount per pupil established by the Legislature) to support special programs or basic operations through a voter-approved levy referendum.

### Federal Sources \$4,955,665 (5%)

These include federal grants for Title programs such as Title I, which focuses on improving the achievement of educationally disadvantaged students, and aids to support special education services for students with special needs.

### Other \$1,801,465 (0%)

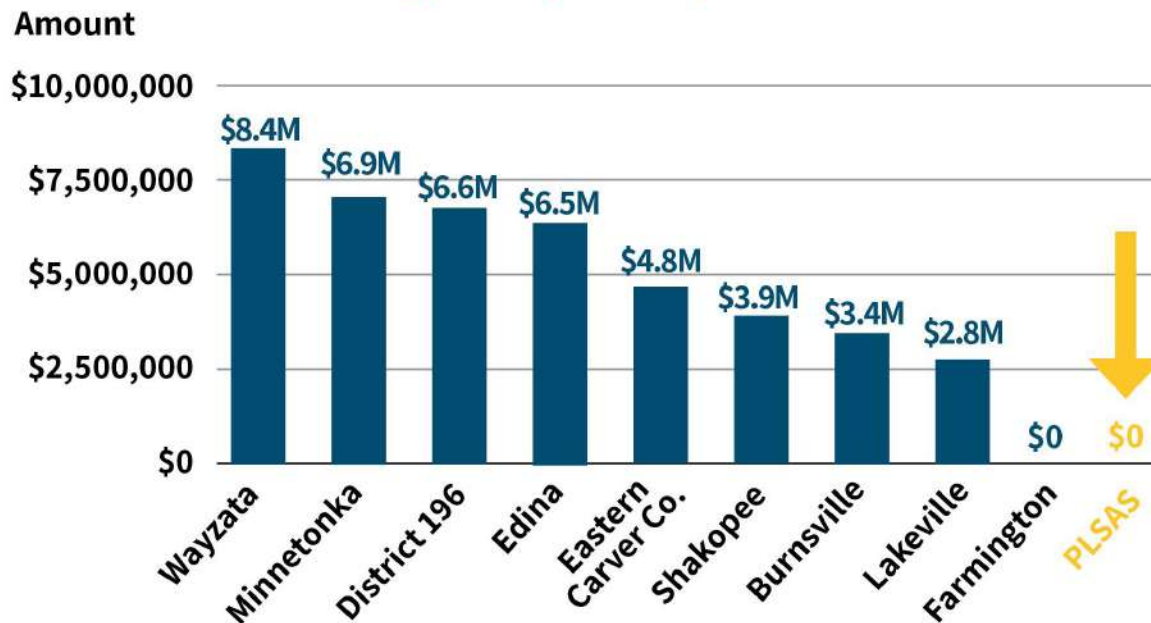
These revenues include miscellaneous School Board-approved fees for co-curricular activities, student parking, and admission to athletic and fine arts performances. It also includes interest income from the district's short-term investments, gifts to the district and permanent transfers from other funds.

Revenues by Source					
	Actual 2017-18	Actual 2018-19	Actual 2019-20	Actual 2020-21	Budget 2021-22
State Sources	\$ 70,692,619	\$ 78,378,274	\$ 81,484,180	\$ 81,587,153	\$ 85,672,649
Local Sources	\$ 14,170,104	\$ 17,224,663	\$ 17,914,284	\$ 18,006,602	\$ 18,162,074
Federal Sources	\$ 1,445,497	\$ 1,812,714	\$ 1,710,552	\$ 3,894,019	\$ 4,955,665
Other	\$ 1,881,950	\$ 1,896,179	\$ 2,393,557	\$ 1,736,739	\$ 1,801,465
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 88,190,170</b>	<b>\$ 99,311,830</b>	<b>\$ 103,502,573</b>	<b>\$ 105,224,513</b>	<b>\$ 110,591,853</b>

\* Data source: PLSAS annual Audit

## 2021-22 Technology Levy Comparison

### Annual Technology Levy: comparable districts



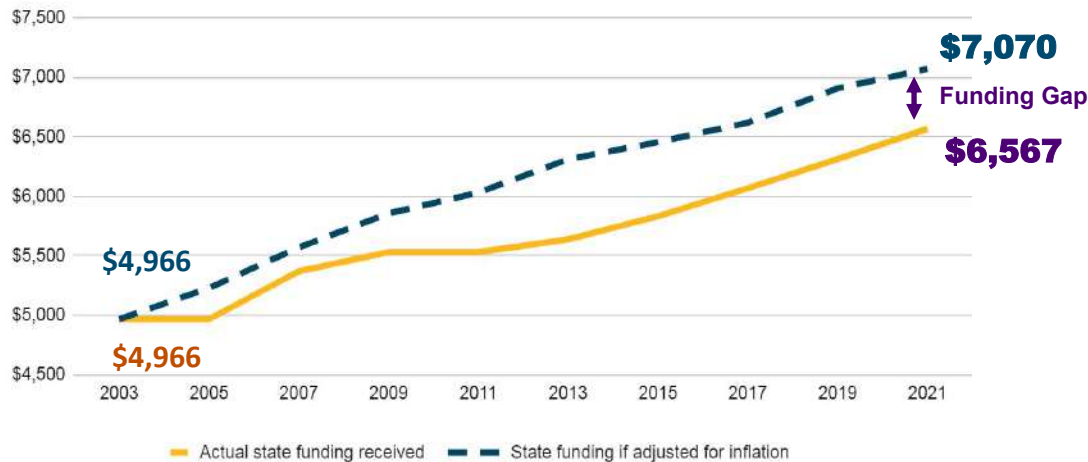
Source: MN Dept. of Education, 2020-21

In Minnesota, the state does not provide aid to school districts for technology needs. Schools without a tech levy must utilize general fund dollars to fund the technology needs of the school district. Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools does not have a technology levy while most surrounding districts receive this additional funding. School districts must ask voters to approve the funding for a technology levy. In November 2021, the district asked voters to approved a \$3.5 million dollar Technology Levy. Unfortunately, the Technology Levy request was not approved with 49.3% voting yes and 50.7% voting no.



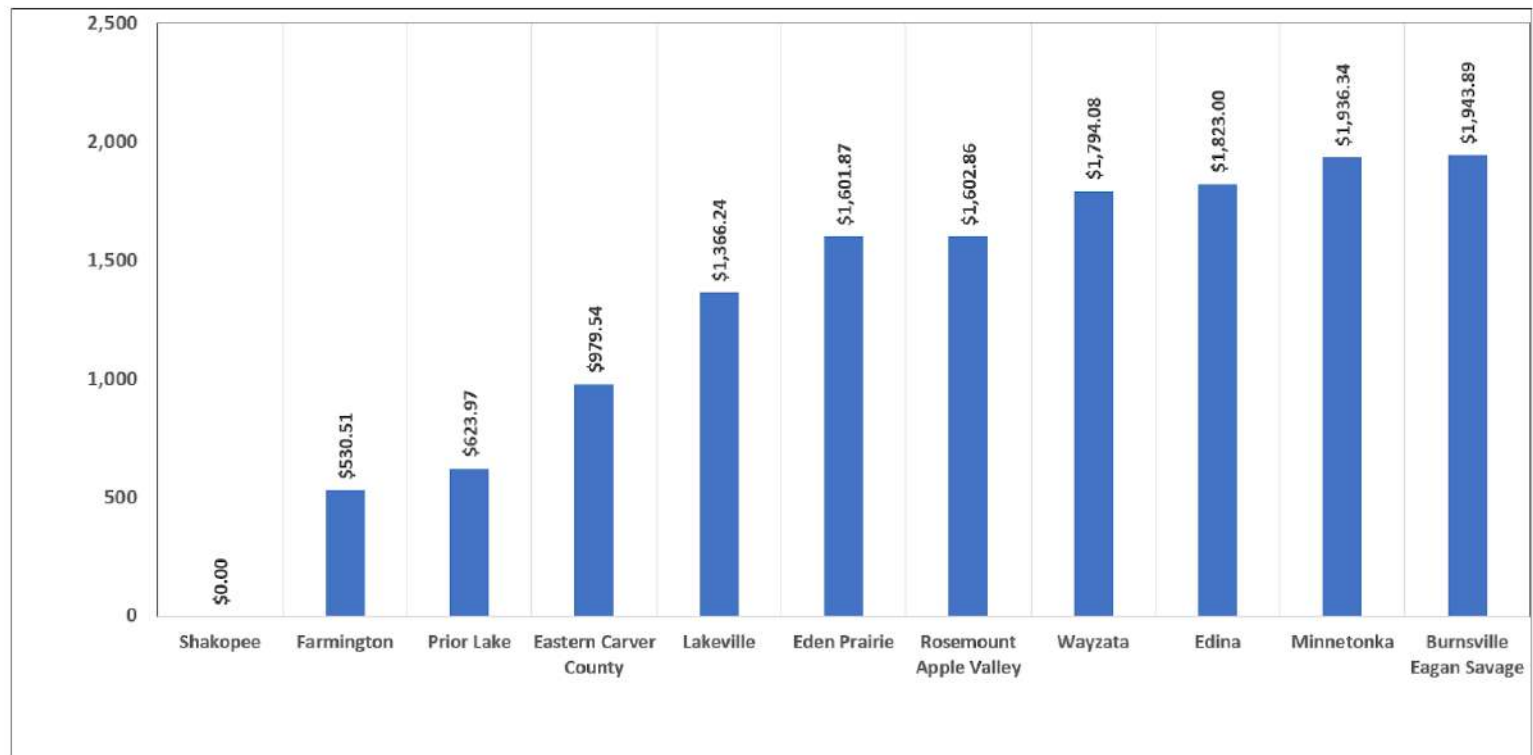
# 2021-22 Operating Referendum Comparison

State Basic Education Funding, Per Student (2003-2021)



An operational referendum gives voters local control to invest in their school district through a property tax increase above the mandated state limit for school revenue. The funding from the state is not sufficient at 1% or 2% to cover basic operating expenditure increases. An operating levy provides funds to operate schools by paying for educational programming, teachers and other staff, instructional and classroom materials, utilities and transportation costs. Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools' operating levy is one of the lowest in our area. In November 2021, Shakopee passed an Operating Levy which will give the district \$1,266 per pupil starting in 2022-23. Eastern Carver County also passed an Operating Levy increasing the per pupil funding to \$1,530 beginning 2022-23.

If state funding had kept pace with inflation since 2003, we would have received \$5 million more last year alone.



Source: MN Department of Education



## 2021-22 Expenditures by Object Series

General Fund Expenditures by Object Series					
	Actual 2017-18	Actual 2018-19	Actual 2019-20	Actual 2020-21	Revised Budget 2021-22
Salaries	\$ 53,092,657	\$ 55,667,343	\$ 58,566,138	\$ 59,293,789	\$ 62,296,482
Employee Benefits	\$ 21,447,196	\$ 21,846,344	\$ 22,843,762	\$ 23,724,505	\$ 26,001,797
Purchased Services	\$ 10,898,662	\$ 11,880,243	\$ 12,569,484	\$ 12,463,132	\$ 15,002,529
Supplies and Materials	\$ 2,522,217	\$ 2,835,275	\$ 2,729,204	\$ 2,337,540	\$ 3,673,733
Capital Expenditures	\$ 2,269,565	\$ 2,780,766	\$ 6,439,833	\$ 8,835,473	\$ 4,219,485
Debt Services	\$ 1,010,853	\$ 1,011,116	\$ 1,205,519	\$ 1,096,621	\$ 1,096,622
Other Expenditures	\$ 220,674	\$ 393,728	\$ 463,216	\$ 471,002	\$ 468,202
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$91,461,824</b>	<b>\$ 96,414,815</b>	<b>\$104,817,156</b>	<b>\$ 108,222,062</b>	<b>\$ 112,758,850</b>

**Salaries:** includes the salaries for district administrators, principals, teachers, secretarial and clerical employees, building chiefs, custodians, transportation and other staff.

**Employee Benefits:** Expenditures incurred by the school district for the personal benefit of employees, not included in their gross salary.

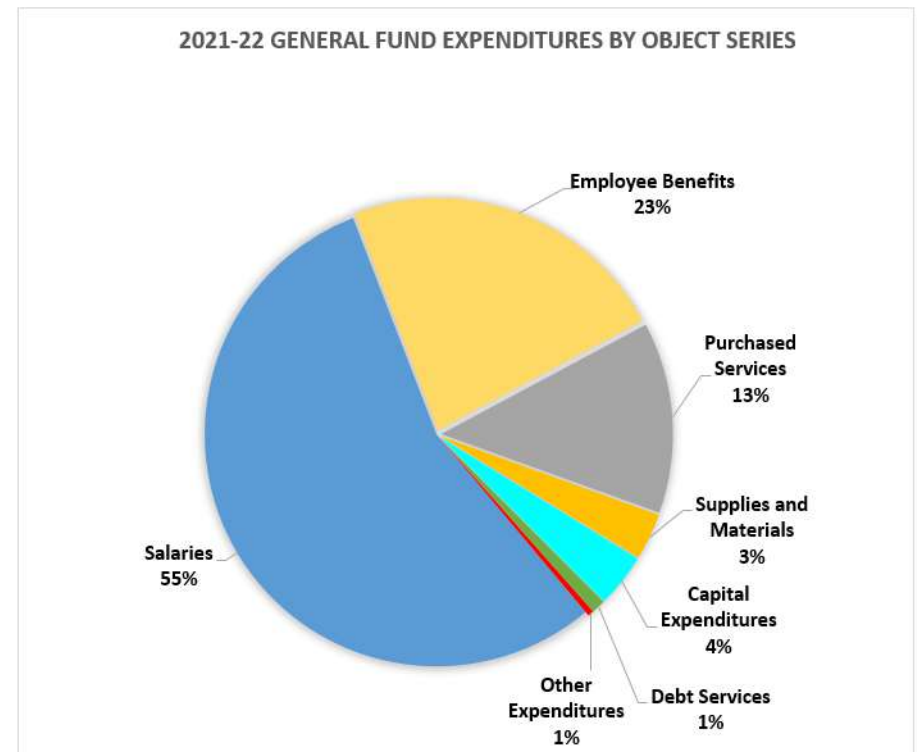
**Purchased Services:** Includes expenditures for services rendered by personnel who are not on the payroll of the school district and other services the district may purchase. The purpose or use of the service is further defined by other dimension codes. Payments are coded using the same dimension codes as if the expenditures were made within the district.

**Supplies and Materials:** A supply item (as opposed to an equipment item) is any article of material that meets one or more of the following conditions: a) It is consumed in use; b) It loses its original shape or appearance with use; c) It is expendable; that is, if the article is damaged or some of its parts are lost or worn out, it is usually more feasible to replace it with an entirely new unit rather than repair it; d) It loses its identity through incorporation into a different or more complex unit or substance.

**Debt Services:** The Debt Service Fund is used to record revenues and expenditures for a school district's outstanding bonded indebtedness, whether for building construction, operating capital, LTFM, or for initial or refunding bonds.

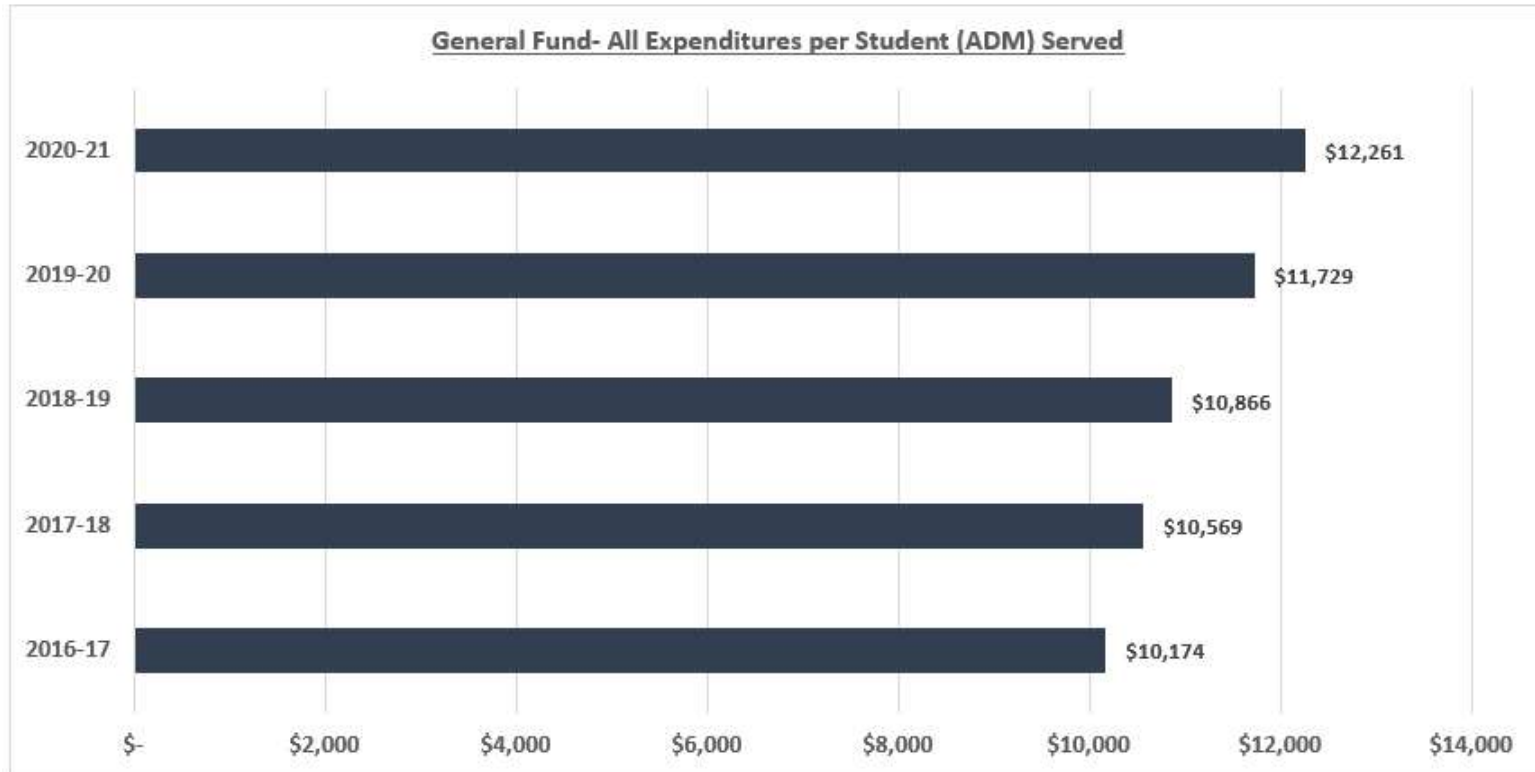
**Capital Expenditures:** Capital expenditures consist of expenditures for acquisition, additions or improvement of a capital asset, which may include land, improvements to land, easements, buildings, building improvements, vehicles, machinery, equipment, works of art and historical treasures, infrastructure, and all other tangible or intangible assets that are used in operations and that have initial useful lives extending beyond a single reporting period.

**Other Expenditures:** Expenditures for all other capital expenditures not classified above.



Data source: PLSAS annual Audit

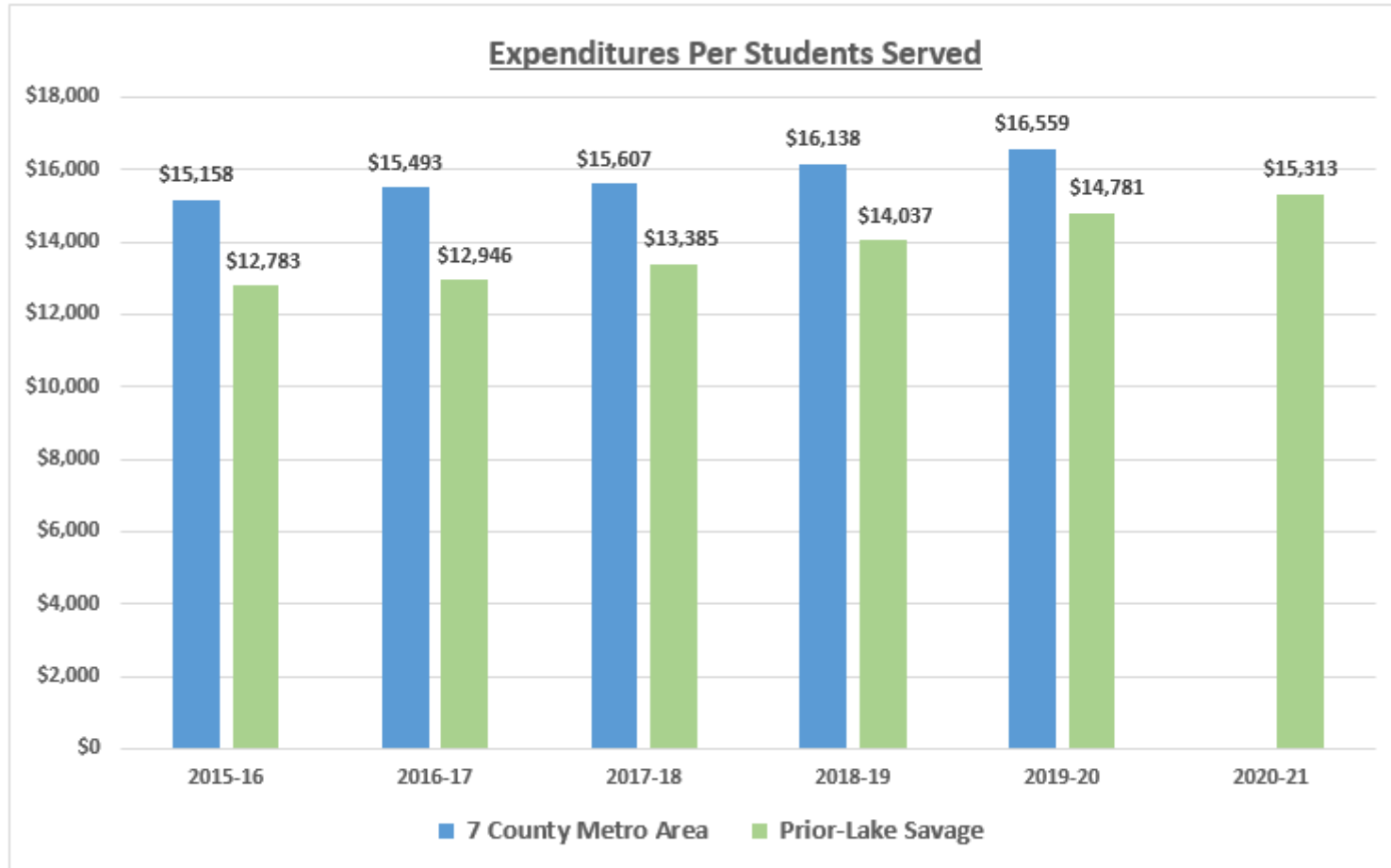
## Expenditures Per Student



The district's expenditures for Average Daily Membership (ADM) have been well below the metro area average in recent years, mainly in General Fund instructional areas, including elementary, secondary and Special Education. Pupil support services, which include transportation, administration and district support services are also well below these averages. In 2020-21, due to the COVID pandemic, the district's loss of students and increase of expenditures resulted in an increased cost per student of \$532.

Districts received an additional 2 percent onto the basic funding formula in 2020–2021. The basic formula is \$6,567. Weighting for students K–6 is 1.0, for students Grade 7–12, the weighting factor is 1.2. For students that attend the Alternative Learning Center, the number of seat hours is calculated to determine their average daily membership.

## Expenditures Per Student Compared to Metro Area



This is the most recent data available for Metro Area comparison. Seven-county metro area comprises Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties. Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools historically receives less revenue and spends less than the 7-county metro area.



## 2021-22 Governmental Funds Expenditures by Program

Includes General Fund, Food Service Fund, Community Service Fund and Debt Service Fund.

Governmental Funds- Expenditures by Program					
	Final 2017-18	Actual 2018-19	Actual 2019-20	Actual 2020-21	Revised Budget 2021-22
Admin	\$3,106,186	\$3,342,384	\$3,388,129	\$3,422,971	\$3,561,430
District Support	\$3,395,533	\$3,352,532	\$5,749,775	\$5,643,134	\$5,473,434
Regular Instruction	\$45,011,355	\$46,037,634	\$48,890,812	\$48,087,571	\$53,228,035
Vocational Instruction	\$684,120	\$522,227	\$634,312	\$707,129	\$804,042
Special Education Instruction	\$16,672,827	\$17,589,772	\$18,758,254	\$18,783,076	\$19,209,119
Instructional Support	\$5,981,560	\$6,853,603	\$6,899,808	\$7,533,434	\$9,180,056
Pupil Support	\$6,911,160	\$7,949,447	\$8,164,678	\$8,537,288	\$8,888,197
Sites/Buildings	\$6,094,660	\$6,551,166	\$10,712,642	\$13,905,920	\$10,317,915
Fiscal and Other Fixed Cost	\$324,005	\$424,168	\$413,227	\$504,918	\$1,000,000
Food Services	\$4,369,240	\$4,796,737	\$4,896,923	\$4,974,444	\$6,022,244
Community Services	\$7,295,691	\$7,857,141	\$6,523,447	\$5,736,941	\$6,284,500
Principal, Interest and Fiscal Charges on Long-Term Liabilities	\$1,010,853	\$1,011,116	\$1,205,519	\$1,096,621	\$1,096,622
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$100,857,190</b>	<b>\$106,287,927</b>	<b>\$116,237,526</b>	<b>\$118,933,447</b>	<b>\$125,065,594</b>

**Administration:** These programs include all costs for general administration, instructional administration and school site administration for the school district. Administrative services are defined as those provided by head administrators who are in charge of instructional or instruction-related units. This includes the School Board, superintendent, principals, assistant superintendents and directors of instructional areas. Included are the costs of their immediate offices, including those individuals in direct support of the administrator.

**District Support:** Activities related to general administrative support are not included in the Administration Program Expenditure. Included activities are human resources, communications, technology support, purchasing and administration support.

**Instructional:** This includes instruction in Special Education, regular and vocational. Regular Instruction is all activities involving teaching of pupils, in the classroom and co-curricular activities at the K-12. Special Education activities provide learning experiences for pupils of any age who, because of certain atypical characteristics or conditions, have been identified as requiring, or who would benefit by, educational programs differentiated from those provided for pupils in regular or vocational instruction. Vocational courses provide learning experiences for students seeking career exploration and employability.

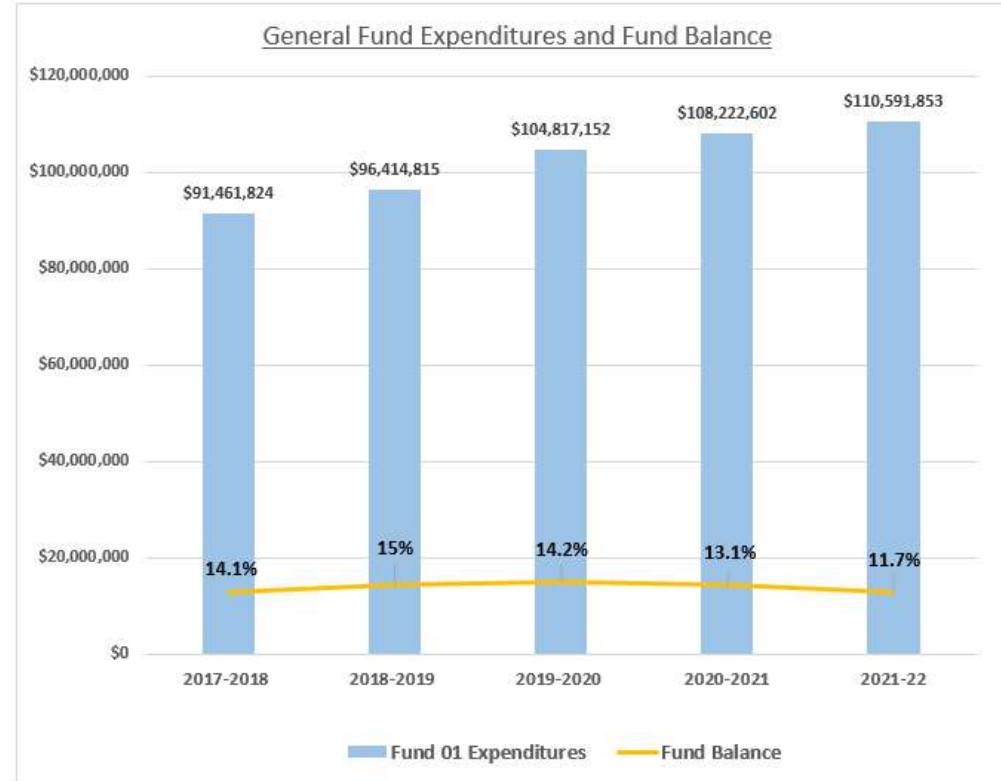
**Pupil Support:** This includes all services provided to pupils which do not qualify as instructional services

**Instructional Support:** Instructional support services include activities for assisting the instructional staff with the content and process of providing learning experiences for pupils in kindergarten through 12th grade.

**Sites/Buildings:** Activities related to the acquisition (including leasing), operation, maintenance, repair, and remodeling of all physical plant, facilities, and grounds of the school district. Equipment purchases should be charged to the program area utilizing the equipment.

**Fiscal and Other:** Fiscal and fixed cost activities that are not recorded elsewhere.

## Fund Balance



The School Board has formally adopted a Fund Balance Policy regarding maintaining a minimum fund balance for the General Fund. Policy 701.2 states that the district will strive to maintain a minimum total unassigned and assigned General Fund balance of 8 to 12 percent of the annual budget (4–6 weeks of operating expenses).

In 2019-20, unrestricted fund balance (consisting of any committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balances) at year-end totaled \$14,834,171, an increase of \$358,184. As a percentage of total expenditures, the fund balance percentage decreased from 15.01% to 14.15%. In total, General Fund expenditures were more than revenue and other financing sources by \$579,383. This compares to a budget that projected a decline in fund balance of \$3,827,096. Due to the pandemic, the district buildings were closed. The district saw reduced expenditures in utility costs and substitute teacher costs.

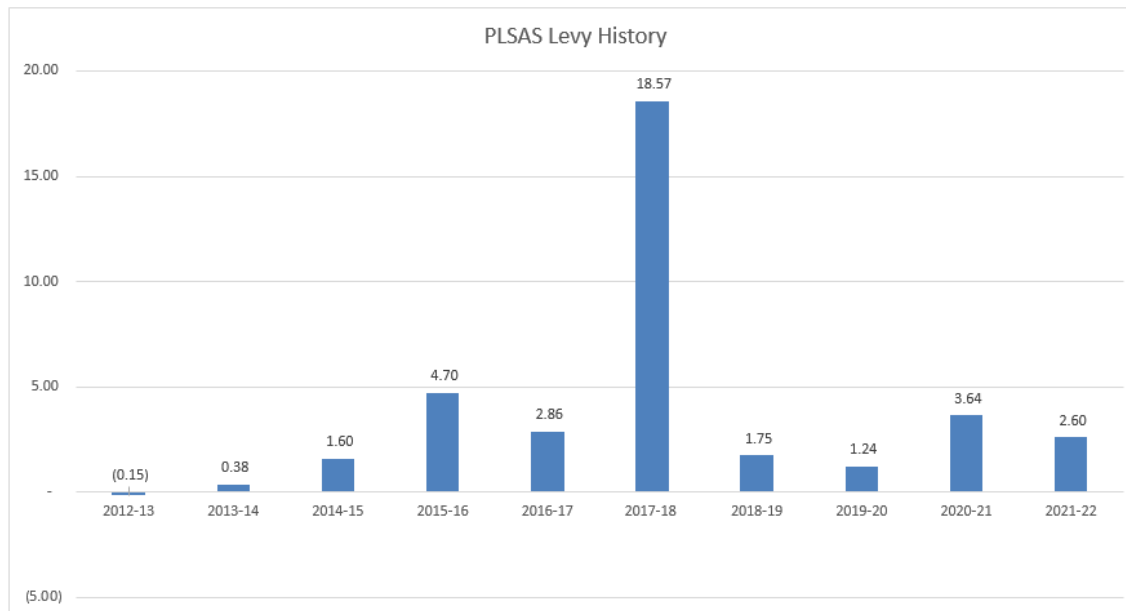
In 2020-21, the district realized a decline in student enrollment due to the pandemic. The pandemic increases the pressure on the general fund to educate students in a safe and secure manner and in a variety of models to include in-person, hybrid and distance learning. Additionally, some savings were realized because the district was not able to hire or retain sufficient staff or substitute teachers because of the pandemic. Employees were also not able to attend or travel to professional development meetings and conferences.

# Levy History

Property Tax Revenues Levied				
	General Fund	Community Service	Debt Service	TOTAL
2013-14	\$ 13,088,481	\$ 597,882	\$ 11,605,207	\$ 25,291,570
2014-15	\$ 13,239,027	\$ 590,036	\$ 11,866,157	\$ 25,695,220
2015-16	\$ 14,030,608	\$ 621,944	\$ 12,249,878	\$ 26,902,430
2016-17	\$ 14,138,686	\$ 643,470	\$ 12,890,347	\$ 27,672,503
2017-18	\$ 17,176,096	\$ 596,039	\$ 15,038,943	\$ 32,811,078
2018-19	\$ 17,590,862	\$ 483,922	\$ 15,308,928	\$ 33,383,712
2019-20	\$ 17,546,941	\$ 574,271	\$ 15,675,019	\$ 33,796,231
2020-21	\$ 18,295,994	\$ 650,366	\$ 16,080,810	\$ 35,027,170
2021-22	\$ 18,618,647	\$ 706,595	\$ 16,612,209	\$ 35,937,451

The district levy has been consistently below 5% for the past 10 years, excluding 2017-18. The district voters approved a building bond and operating referendum in 2017 which increased the levy.

For 2020 - district taxes were \$3,754/ADM compared to an average of \$4,485/ADM in the Severn-County Metro Area.





## **Local and Economic Outlook**

The district serves all or part of three cities and three townships in Scott County encompassing 46 square miles. However, the vast majority of the district's households are in the cities of Prior Lake and Savage.

Growth was rapid in the 1990's also, when district households increased by nearly 60 percent. Housing growth continues to expand in both Prior Lake and Savage. Over the past five years, the City of Savage has seen average growth of 220 units per year and the City of Prior Lake (the City) has seen growth of 160 units. The housing growth is expected to continue, but at a slower rate for both cities. In 2020, the City of Savage issued 75 single-family building permits and 15 permits for townhomes. The City issued 162 single-family units in 2020, of which 50 percent to 60 percent are located in the boundaries of the district. In the next 3 years, the City anticipates 135–150 permits each year, the majority of these developments are in the district boundaries.

Learners in the district attend 12 educational sites, with 1,509,345 square feet of space. The average age of the buildings in the district is 25 years. The district has 7 elementary schools for students in Grades K–5, 2 middle schools for students in Grades 6–8, and Prior Lake High School (PLHS) for students Grades 9–12. In addition, the district has Bridges Alternative Learning Center (ALC), for students in Grades 9–12 and Edgewood School offering preschool education opportunities for district families.

WestWood Elementary is the home of SAGE Academy, the gifted and talented program for students in Grades 3–5. The District's Spanish Immersion Program, La ola del lago, moved into the Grainwood Elementary Building for the 2020–2021 school year and was renamed La ola del lago at Grainwood. Hamilton Ridge is the District's newest elementary and opened in 2020–2021.

District expenditures per pupil are consistently among the lowest in the 7-county metro area. The district spends about \$2,000 less per student than the seven-county metro average and has one of the lowest administrative costs per student in the metro area.

The district employs over 1,300 staff members. Our staff is focused on our mission: "Our mission is to educate all learners to reach their full potential as contributing and productive members of an ever-changing global community."

The district is considered a "destination district." Parents are moving into the District boundaries in order for their child(ren) to attend the schools within the district. This is due to the success of the progressive programs that are offered at the district, including: digital learning, Spanish Immersion, SAGE Academy, an E-STEM focus, Spanish Immersion, Bridges ALC, MNCaps, Advanced Placement classes, College in the Schools, Environmental Pre-School program, Personalized Learning, along with many other opportunities and programs.

On July 30, 2020, the Governor of Minnesota issued an executive order authorizing and directing the Commissioner of Education to require school districts and charter schools to provide a safe and effective learning environment for Minnesota's students during the 2020–2021 school year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The district developed a Safe Learning Plan following the guidelines developed by the Commissioner of Education. The district's crisis management team met weekly reviewing information from state and county health officials and critical local data in order to provide a quality education to students during the pandemic.

The district established a distance learning academy for students who chose to attend school virtually every day. Other students transitioned between hybrid learning, regular school days, and distance learning based on the guidelines from the executive order and the district's Safe Learning Plan.

Due to the pandemic, the district enrollment decreased for the first time in 25 years, declining by over 60 students.

# **Budget Highlights**

Over the course of the year, the district revises the annual operating budget in December and if necessary, one other time during the fiscal year. The budget amendments fall into the following categories:

- Updating budgets due to changes in enrollment as of October 1.
- Implementing budgets for specially funded projects, which include both federal and state grants; and reinstating prior year budget carried over.
- Changes in appropriations for significant unbudgeted costs.

While the district's final budget for the General Fund anticipated that expenditures would exceed revenues by \$6,206,436, reducing fund balance, the actual results for the year show a decrease of \$2,997,549.

- Actual revenues were \$676,368 less than projected. Property taxes exceeded budgeted amounts by \$328,287 as the rate of collections were better than projected. State sources were under budget by \$686,768, primarily due to general education aid ending lower than budget, due to a decrease in average daily membership (ADM). Federal sources were under budget by \$338,195 across various programs.
- Actual expenditures were \$3,885,255 under budget, or a 3.5 percent variance. This is mainly made up of under budget in elementary and secondary regular education, special education, and instructional support services programs. Under budget in these areas are:
  1. combination of budgeted positions not being filled
  2. reduction in supplies and materials purchases
  3. less professional services
  4. fewer substitute teachers
  5. less staff development, i.e. travel, conferences, etc.



## Our District's Future



The Legislature has added \$161, or 2.45 percent, per pupil to the formula for fiscal year 2022. Recent experience demonstrates that legislated revenue increases have not been sufficient to meet instructional program needs due to increased costs from inflation and required mandates. The district will strive to maintain its long-standing commitment to academic excellence and educational opportunity for students. The district will continue to use the long-range financial model and annual budget framework to ensure that expenditures are aligned with revenues. Efforts will continue to be made to influence legislators to recommit to their financial support for public education.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted how the district provides instruction. The district offers Laker Online for students wanting a virtual learning option. Increased expenditures for personal protective equipment, sanitation supplies, and technology will continue in the upcoming fiscal years.

The amount of aid the district receives is dependent on the number of students it serves, meaning attracting and retaining students is critical to the district's financial well-being. The COVID-19 pandemic will impact how many students the district attracts and maintains. Students choosing to enroll in other educational options will mean less revenue for the district.



# CARES– Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security

Through the Coronavirus Relief Fund, the CARES Act provides for payments to State, Local and Tribal governments navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. These funds cannot supplant the district's current budgeted expenditures. The COVID outbreak began to impact schools during the spring of 2020. For the 2019-20 school year Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools received \$692,561. For the 2020-21 school year we received \$4,690,654. This current 2021-22 school year we have received \$1,982,490.

More information regarding COVID funding can be found on our district website under [District Financials](#).



GRANT	Total FY22 Allocation/Carryover	Remaining at June 30, 2022 (Estimate)	Use of Funds
ESSER 9.5%	\$ 78,247	\$ -	PPE Supplies, Hot Spots
GEER	\$ 52,284	\$ -	Hot spots
ARP Summer Academic & Mental Health	\$ 248,655	\$ 100,655	TBD
ESSER II 90% to LEAs	\$ 683,546	\$ -	Staffing - Counselors
ESSER III 90% to LEAs	\$ 1,228,118	\$ 121,803	Curriculum, Staffing - Laker Online & Elementary Paraprofessionals
ESSER III 90% to LEAs - Learning Recovery Specific	\$ 307,029	\$ 232,029	TBD
ESSER II - Summer Program	\$ 48,900	\$ -	Staffing and Transportation
ARP Individuals w/Disability Act (SPED)	\$ 402,372	\$ 152,372	TBD
ARP IDEA Pre-K Incentive ages 3-5 (SPED)	\$ 33,812	\$ 18,812	TBD
ARP Homeless	\$ 5,558	\$ 4,558	Supplies
ESSER III 5% to LEAs - Learning Recovery, Lost Instructional Time	\$ 1,061,584	*	
Covid-19 Testing	\$ 479,163	\$ -	Staffing - Nurses, Testing supplies, Technology, Postage, Contracted services
	<b>\$ 4,629,269</b>		
*Carryover from prior year			
* Use of funds TBD at this time			

# District History

## Pre 50s

Ten rural school districts grow and decide to merge with Urban District 49 (Prior Lake) and form the new “Independent Consolidated School District 78.”

## 50s

1951 Rural school buildings sold

1952 Prior Lake School built

1957 Name changed to Independent School District 719

1959 24,500 sq. ft. addition to the Prior Lake School

## 60s

1963 WestWood Elementary school was built

1966 18,000 sq. ft. addition to WestWood

1968 6,000 sq. ft. addition to WestWood

1969 Prior Lake Senior High built (old school became Prior Lake Junior High)

## 70s

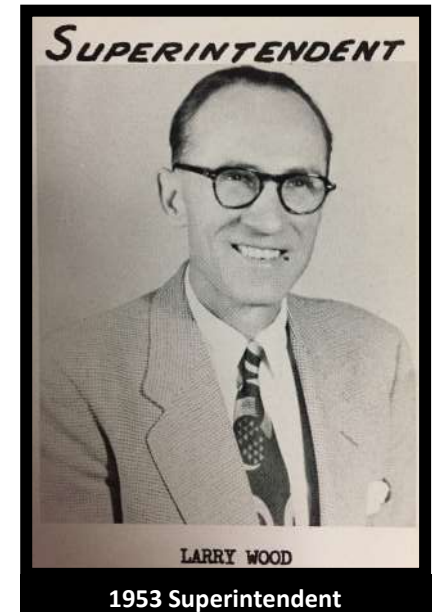
1973 Five Hawks Elementary was built

1979 Split shifts took place before the second half of Prior Lake Senior High was opened. 9th Grade was moved to the High School.

## 80s

1985 1,100 sq. ft. addition to WestWood Elementary

1989 Hidden Oaks Middle School was opened



# District History

## 90s

- 1990 Opened a remodeled “Grainwood” (previously called Prior Lake Junior High)
- 1996 6,600 sq. ft. addition to Five Hawks
- 1997 44,500 sq. ft. addition to Hidden Oaks Middle School and Glendale Elementary opens

## 00-09

- 2005 Kindergarten room additions at Glendale and Grainwood
- 2005 Former High School (now Twin Oaks) is converted to an elementary school (Oakridge) for one year while Jeffers Pond is being built
- 2005 Lakers Foundation is formed
- 2006 Twin Oaks open as district’s second Middle School
- 2006 Edgewood School and Jeffers Pond open
- 2006 First year of Extended-Day Kindergarten
- 2006 Special Education programs phased into PLSAS from MN River Valley Special Ed Coop
- 2007 Hidden Oaks pool opens, Twin Oaks pool closes for updates
- 2009 SAGE Academy opens
- 2009 Redtail Ridge Elementary school opens
- 2009 Bridges Area Learning Center opens in Northgate Mall





# District History

## 10-20

2010 Atlas alternative learning program opens at Twin Oaks Middle School

2011 Beginning of E-STEM implementation

2014 PLSAS begins 1:1 initiative grade 8

2014 Synthetic turf fields open at PLHS and Laker Field

2014 La ola del lago Spanish Immersion opens in Edgewood School

2014 Tuition free, full-day Kindergarten

2014 Twin Oaks Middle School renovations and secure entrance added

2016 MNCAPs opens

2017 Referendum passes

2018 Construction begins for building additions and the new Bridges ALC building

2019 Bridges ALC new building opens, WestWood/Edgewood new multi-purpose cafeteria is complete and construction begins on Hamilton Ridge Elementary.

2020 Hamilton Ridge Elementary opens, additions to Prior Lake High School, Twin Oak Middle School and Hidden Oaks Middle School are completed, and La ola del lago moves to Grainwood, along with Community Ed offices

## 2021 - present

2021 Laker Online. The district developed an online school for students in grade K-12 in response to the COVID pandemic



# Our Leaders

The Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools Board of Directors is comprised of seven citizens elected to represent the community in setting district goals and policies, adopting the budget, placing tax levies and bond issues on the ballot, hiring personnel including the Superintendent, and providing the necessary facilities for the education of our community's youth.

Members serve in staggered four-year terms. School Board members must be citizens of the United States and qualified voters residing in the district. They are elected to serve by nonpartisan popular vote from the total school district. The state does not limit the numbers of terms a director may serve.

School Board general elections are held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of the even-numbered year. Except as may be necessary to fill a vacancy, school board members elected will be elected for four year terms. Four board members constitute a quorum for transacting business. Official action can only be taken at a regular board meeting or special board meeting for which public notice has been given. Board action has the force of law.

SCHOOL BOARD	
Board Chair	Stacey Ruelle
Vice Chair/Clerk	Michael Nelson
Treasurer	Jonathan Drewes
Director	Julie Bernick
Director	Amy Crosby
Director	Mary Frantz
Director	Enrique Velazquez
Superintendent of Schools	Dr. Teri Staloch
Student Representative	Bella Drewes



Dr. Teri Staloch  
Superintendent



Dr. Daniel Edwards  
Director of Teaching & Learning



Julie Cink  
Executive Director of Business Services



Jim Quiram  
Executive Director of Human Resources



Jim Dellwo  
Director of Operations/Transp./Health & Safety



Khrisslyn Goodman  
Director of Assessment, Evaluation & District Improvement



Emily Malone  
Director of Child Nutrition Services



Kristi Mussman  
Director of Communications



Marcus Milazzo  
Director of Technology



Sam Ouk  
Director of Equity & Inclusion

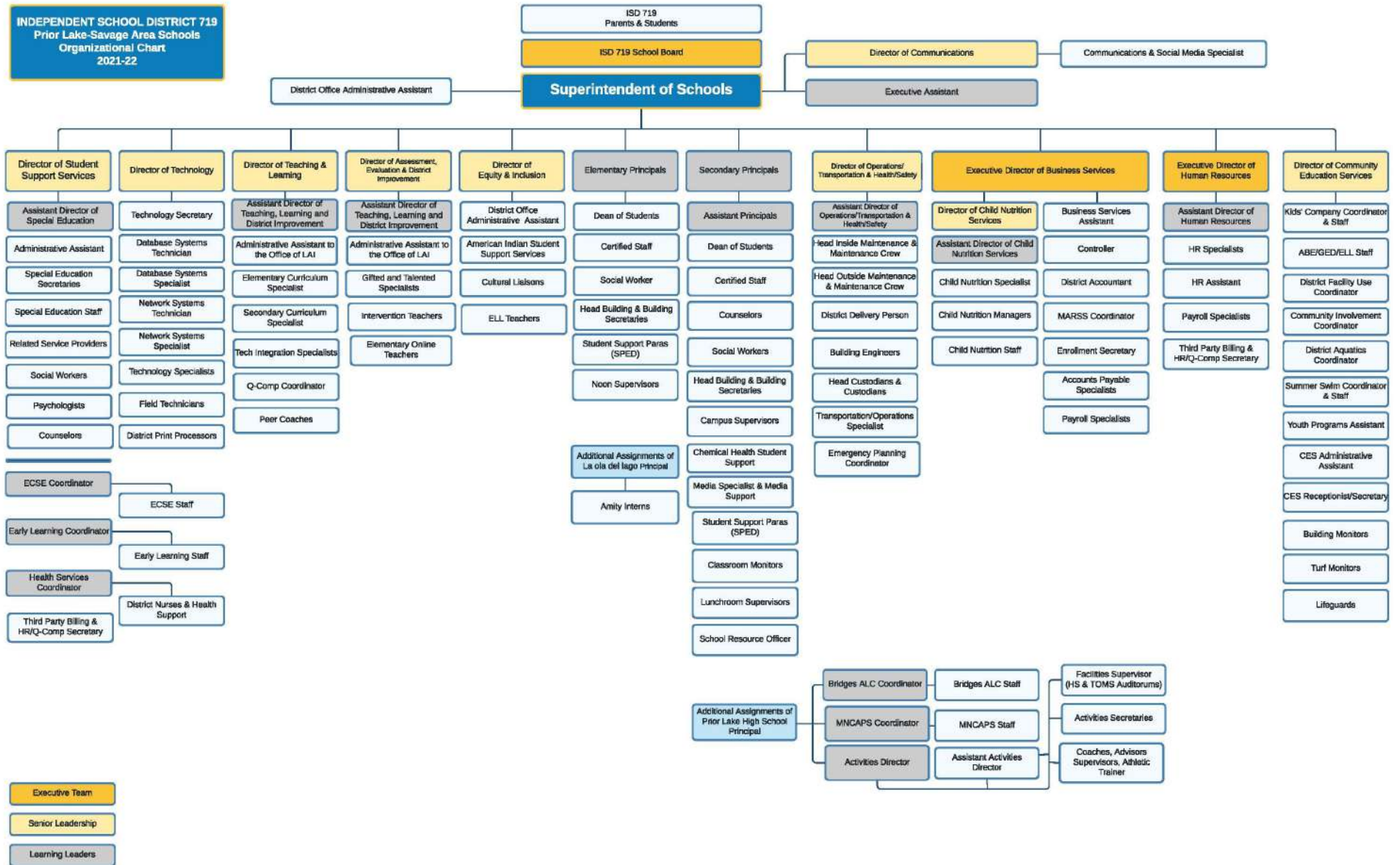


Debra Anderson  
Director of Student Support Services



Leanne Weyrauch  
Director of Community Education

# District Organization Chart





## Our Schools

### Elementary Schools

School	Abbreviation	Founded	Principal/Director
Edgewood School	EW	2006	Erin Metoxen
Five Hawks	FH	1973	Katy Schuerman
Glendale	GD	1997	Jennifer Molitor
Hamilton Ridge	HRE	2020	Karen Zwolenski
Jeffers Pond	JP	2006	Patrick Glynn
La ola del lago at Grainwood, Spanish Immersion	LODL	2014	Richie Kucinski
Redtail Ridge	RR	2009	Barb Yetzer
School for the Advancement of Gifted Education Academy	SAGE	2009	Dr. Karoline Warner
WestWood	WW	1963	Dr. Karoline Warner

### Middle Schools

School	Abbreviation	Founded	Principal
Hidden Oaks	HOMS	1989	Sasha Kuznetsov
Twin Oaks	TOMS	2006	Joe Kuboushek
Achieve to Learn Academic Success Alternative Learning Program	ATLAS	2010	Joe Kuboushek

### High Schools

School	Abbreviation	Founded	Principal
Prior Lake High School	PLHS	1951	Dr. John Bezek
Bridges Area Learning Center	ALC	2009	Dave Brown
Minnesota Center for Advanced Professional Studies	MNCAPS	2016	Erik Sill

# Our Schools

**Edgewood School**



**Five Hawks Elem : 485 students**



**Glendale Elem : 555 students**



**Hamilton Ridge Elem : 546 students**



**La ola del lago Elem: 406 students**



**Jeffers Pond Elem : 524 students**



**Redtail Ridge Elem : 592 students**



**WestWood /SAGE Elem : 531 students**



**Hidden Oaks Middle: 1028 students**



**Twin Oaks Middle : 1017 students**



**Prior Lake High : 2899 students**



**Bridges ALC : 99 students**



**Laker Online K-12: 127 students**

# **Innovative Programs**

## **BRIDGES AREA LEARNING CENTER**

At Bridges Area Learning Center, our goal is to reach all learners— especially those who struggle in a traditional school setting. Our alternative high school program offers personalized instruction with staff who have a flexible approach to teaching.

## **CIRCLE OF FRIENDS PRESCHOOL**

Circle of Friends Preschool, a 4-Star Parent Aware rated program, is part of Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools and offers exceptional, personalized learning for ALL students through exploration, inquiry and discovery in supportive environments. Preschool classrooms are developmentally aligned to Minnesota's early learning standards to prepare our learners for success in kindergarten and beyond.

## **E-STEM**

E-STEM (Environmental Education - Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) is an interdisciplinary approach to instruction and learning focused on inquiry and real world problem-solving in the 21st Century, applying hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematical practices with projects and field experiences related to the environment.

## **FAB LAB**

Prior Lake High School and Bridges ALC students have the opportunity to use state-of-the art equipment and technology in our small-scale Fabrication Laboratory, or Fab Lab. In the lab, students can make almost anything, from decals to phone cases.

## **GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM - SAGE ACADEMY**

The School for the Advancement of Gifted Education (SAGE) Academy at WestWood Elementary is a full-time program for Gifted students in grades 3, 4 and 5 who qualify for enrollment. SAGE is designed to challenge, support and inspire learners through rigorous, developmentally-appropriate curriculum that emphasizes critical and abstract thinking and logical reasoning skills, all in an environment that celebrates curiosity, self-direction and a love of learning.

## **LA OLA DEL LAGO AT GRAINWOOD**

La ola del lago - our Spanish Immersion program - offers a full day of curriculum in Spanish to students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

## **MNCAPS**

The Minnesota Center for Advanced Professional Studies (MNCAPS) program is a joint program between Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools and Farmington Public Schools. MNCAPS provides students with real-world immersion learning in professional settings.

## **Laker Online**

The district developed an online school for students in grades K-12 in response to the COVID pandemic. Parents who wish their student to attend school virtually all year can enroll their child in Laker Online.

# **Department Highlights**

## **Teaching and Learning**

The Teaching and Learning department develops and implements strategic action plans which focus on meeting the needs of all learners, utilizing technology to maximize student learning, and ensures best practices in instruction and assessment. Standards-based instruction is of primary importance, building on the skills and knowledge that each student brings to us.

We are committed to differentiating instruction to meet the individual learning needs of each student. PLSAS is moving toward personalized, student-driven learning integrating culturally and linguistically responsive teaching and learning.

## **Technology**

At Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, our goal is to utilize technology to increase engagement and opportunities to learn anytime, anywhere. In previous years, PLSAS has implemented a 1:1 (student to computing device) program for grades 8-12 using Apple iPads to create a seamless and dynamic educational experience for our students. Due to COVID and distance learning, the District has continued providing 1:1 devices for grades K-12 during the 2021-22 school year. Other digital tools to help students, parents, and teachers include Schoology, Seesaw app, and Infinite Campus.

## **Student Services**

The year 2021 continued to bring changes for our Special Education staff, students and families. Due to new legislation, all of our families with special education students were offered a meeting to discuss COVID-19 Special Education Recovery Services by December 1st. More than 1,000 parents were contacted and offered meetings to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on their specific student. We continue to provide Special Education services in person or through Laker Online.

## **Community Education**

Community Education Services provides a wide variety of learning opportunities for youth and adults. Community Education also offers a robust early learning program, including a successful nature-based preschool program. Programming also includes Early Childhood Family Education and Early Childhood Screening, along with Kids' Company child care.



# **Department Highlights**

## **Business Services**

For several years, our Business Services Department has received the Minnesota Department of Education School Finance Award for exhibiting fiscal health, sound fiscal management and accountability. For 12 years in a row, our district has also received the Association of School Business Officials International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award.

In addition, Moody's Investor Services evaluated the finances of Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools and set the bond (credit) rating as a AA2, indicating that PLSAS has a very strong capacity to meet its financial commitments. This strong credit score is a testament to responsible financial management and strong fiscal oversight by our business office and administration.

## **Transportation**

The district contracts with Prior Lake School Bus Association Inc., to transport approximately 8,000 students, which includes students from PLSAS, St. Mike's Catholic School and Aspen Academy. We have 53 buses and 36 van/small buses that drive over 1,000,000 miles every year with three tiers of service every day.

## **Equity and Inclusion**

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools is dedicated to providing an equitable educational experience for our students. Equity and Inclusion work is based around providing students and staff with cultural competency skills and closing the achievement gap.

PLSAS Equity and Inclusion includes work in Achievement and Integration, English Language Learners (ELL), American Indian Education and Culturally and Linguistically Relevant (CLR) teaching and learning.

Our Focus is to reduce achievement disparities, provide differentiated instruction and targeted interventions to increase student achievement, further develop professional development resources and training to improve achievement for all students and implement strategies and activities to assist all students in post-secondary planning, awareness, readiness and participation.

# **Department Highlights**

## **Child Nutrition**

The PLSAS Child Nutrition Services department is made up of 10 on-site kitchens with 75 hardworking team members. We pride ourselves on serving all students wholesome, well-balanced, fresh foods, cooked mostly from scratch in our school kitchens. Child Nutrition Services prioritizes serving clean-label foods, featuring locally grown foods to support our farmers and community along with being good environmental stewards of our resources. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 global pandemic, the PLSAS Child Nutrition team has reinvented school food service several times over and has served more than 869,000 free meals to the community's children.

## **Communications**

At Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools, we are committed to keeping residents informed about our work to educate all learners to reach their full potential. We know our schools are strongest when parents and community members play an active role in our district, which is why we are committed to keeping the community informed.

The PLSAS Communications department is a two-person team, working under the direction of the Superintendent, and consists of a Director of Communications and a Communications and Social Media Specialist. The goal of the Communications department is to develop, implement and maintain a coordinated, district-wide communications program designed to build understanding, morale, goodwill, cooperation and support for the schools and related programs. We stay engaged with our community through print publications, social media, website information, video content and more.

## **Operations and Health and Safety**

The PLSAS Operations and Health and Safety Department is responsible for the care and maintenance of the District's 1.68 million square feet in 13 buildings, 1 leased space, and over 323 acres of land. We oversee the implementation of state and federal health and safety standards, regulations and laws; manage waste disposal while optimizing recycling and ensuring the safe disposal of hazardous materials. Additionally, we provide maintenance, repairs, deliveries, and custodial services for the district's buildings and grounds, and support our district's "Wise Stewardship" core value by implementing energy saving and sustainability initiatives.

# **School Safety**

Security and emergency preparedness is vital to the safety and well-being of our students, staff and visitors. PLSAS has a comprehensive Crisis Management Plan that incorporates all four phases of Crisis Management: Prevention/Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

PLSAS' plan was designed with the help of local law enforcement, emergency management, and public health officials, along with guidance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The district is committed to continually reevaluating its school safety procedures and protocols.

**Law Enforcement Partnerships:** PLSAS enjoys a strong working relationship with Prior Lake and Savage police and fire departments, Scott County Emergency Management and Mdwakanton Public Safety. The district has two School Resource Officers: one at the middle schools and one at Prior Lake High School. Police officers also have strong relationships with our elementary schools.

**Secure Front Entrances:** Those who wish to visit a building during the school day are currently only granted access through one door to the main office, or check-in desk, where they are greeted by a staff member who will make sure they know their business with the school and properly sign in using our visitor management system. This system allows us to track visitors in our buildings and enhance our existing school safety plans.

During the school day, visitors are asked to present a government-issued ID, such as a driver's license or passport, which is scanned into the system. The system will then conduct an on-the-spot background check against the national sex-offender database. Once entry is approved, a sticker badge with photo ID will be issued. When leaving the building, visitors turn in their badge at the main office or check-in desk.

**11 Annual Drills:** All schools in Minnesota are required to have five lockdown drills, five fire drills and one tornado drill each year by state law. The drills help students better understand their environments and give them confidence to respond in an emergency situation. The drills also help staff review their plans and provide them an opportunity to report any issues.

**Reporting Systems:** Our middle schools and high schools offer a safe, confidential way for students to report bullying or help someone facing mental health issues. If the issue does not require immediate action, the report can be made anonymously through our confidential reporting system

PLSAS also offers a Tip Line for students, parents or anyone in the community to report weapons, threats of violence or any activity that could potentially endanger students, staff or property. The confidential Tip Line phone number is **(952) 226-0005**.

**Standard Reunification Method:** Should an emergency situation arise in our community or one of our buildings while school is in session, we want you to be aware that our district has made preparations to respond effectively and appropriately.

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools has a detailed, all-hazards emergency plan that has been formulated to provide direction to its staff and students during an emergency. This Reunification process was planned with the help of local law enforcement and is designed to ensure parents and students are safely reunited during an emergency.