

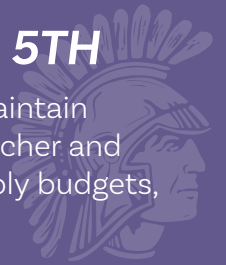
Barnesville Public School

November 5, 2024

# OPERATING LEVY & CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY REFERENDUM INFORMATION

## GET THE FACTS ON THE REFERENDUM & VOTE NOVEMBER 5TH

Over the past four years, Barnesville Public School has made significant budget cuts to maintain financial stability while prioritizing student achievement. This has included eliminating teacher and staff positions, reducing curriculum and technology purchases, slashing instructional supply budgets, and increasing fees for student activities.



## Recent Budget Cuts:

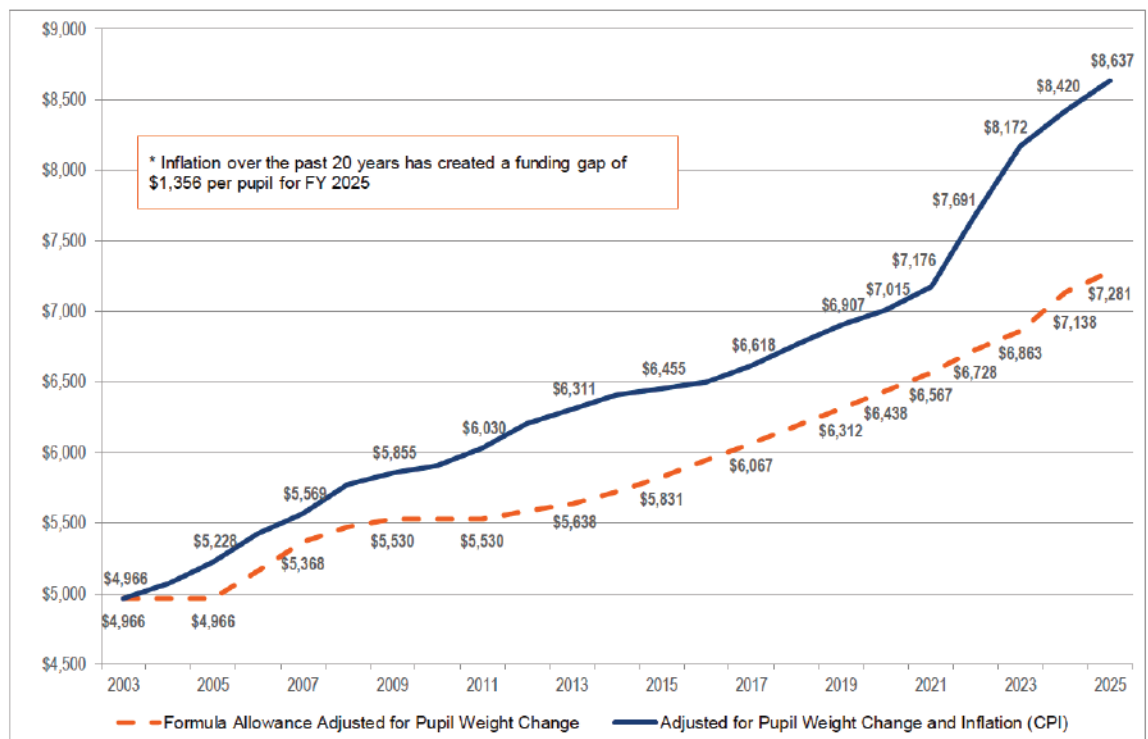
2024-2025: \$398,675

2023-2024: \$161,000

2021-2022: \$331,871

## GENERAL EDUCATION FORMULA ALLOWANCE

Impact of Inflation on MN School District Funding  
General Education Formula Allowance, 2003-2025



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# WHY WE NEED THE OPERATING & CAPITAL PROJECT LEVIES

1. Rising Inflation
2. Conclusion of Pandemic Funds
3. Limited State Funding (*only a 2% increase*)
4. Decline in Enrollment (*31 fewer students*)
5. Higher Employee Contract Costs
6. New State Mandates (*e.g., summer unemployment insurance*)

These challenges have made additional funding through an operating levy and capital project levy crucial.



## OPERATING LEVY:

This voter-approved property tax will fund:

- Class size preservation
- Teacher and staff retention
- Academic support (*reading specialists, mental health services*)
- Career and technical education
- Student activities and sports

### What the Operating Levy Will Support:

- To avoid \$687,651 in cuts for the 2025-2026 school year
- Maintain small class sizes
- Provide advanced learning opportunities and vocational preparation
- Support students' physical and mental health
- Foster teamwork and joy through sports and activities

## CAPITAL PROJECT LEVY:

This levy will secure \$300,000 annually for 10 years to fund:

- Technology upgrades (*iPads, software, digital systems*)
- A 7-year curriculum review cycle to keep educational materials current

### Impact on Property Taxes if All Questions Approved:

- Average homeowner: \$32.00/month\*
- Agricultural land: Exempt from operating levy; taxed under capital projects levy

\* Rate based on an average estimated home market value of \$265,000, within the Barnesville school district.

### Ballot Questions:

**Question 1** - proposes to increase its general education revenue by \$500 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for five years beginning with taxes payable in 2025 unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

**Question 2** - proposes to increase its general education revenue by \$250 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for five years beginning with taxes payable in 2025 unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

**Question 3** - proposes a capital project levy authorization of 2.291% times the net tax capacity of the school district. The additional revenue from the proposed authorization will be used to provide funds for the acquisition, installation, replacement, support and maintenance of software, software licenses, computers, improved technology equipment, networks, infrastructure, and the costs of technology related personnel and training, and the acquisition of curriculum, textbooks and materials. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$300,000 for taxes payable in 2025, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$3,000,000. The projects to be funded have received a positive Review and Comment from the Commissioner of Education.

## CONSEQUENCES OF FAILING LEVIES:

- **If Question 1 Fails:** \$687,177 in cuts, impacting class sizes, course offerings, academic support, and extracurriculars.
- **If Question 1 Passes & Question 2 Fails:** \$252,076 in cuts, still requiring reductions in services and programs.
- **If Question 3 Fails:** Lack of funds for 1:1 learning devices, outdated curriculum, and technology maintenance.

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