



Dear Families and Community Members:

The Central Cass School District is facing three significant challenges:

- **Not enough funding:** Funding from the state has not kept up with increasing costs for building maintenance, staffing, transportation, technology, and utilities.
- **Building infrastructure:** Given the size of our campus, we should spend approximately \$800,000 each year to keep our building in working condition. There is not enough money in our annual budget to fund this.
- **Enrollment growth:** Enrollment has increased by 31% over the past decade and is approaching our building capacity. We project this trend to continue.

To address these issues, the District is asking voters to consider a building fund (maintenance) levy in late September. This would allow the District to pay for annual facility maintenance projects instead of using money needed to educate our students. **More than 85% of North Dakota school districts have secured a building fund levy.**

This letter explains the District's challenges, a plan to address them, and the tax impacts. Thank you for taking the time to read it and consider voting on September 24th.

Sincerely,

Morgan Forness <i>Superintendent</i>	Joe Morken <i>Board President</i>	Dave Glennon <i>Board Vice President</i>	Todd Sears <i>Board Member</i>
Shannon White <i>Board Member</i>	Brent Everson <i>Board Member</i>	Troy Roesler <i>Board Member</i>	Kyle Schultz <i>Board Member</i>

Election Date

The building fund levy referendum will be held on September 24th. For more information on how to vote, visit <https://tinyurl.com/mrpewxeb> or use this QR code:



Challenges

Not enough funding

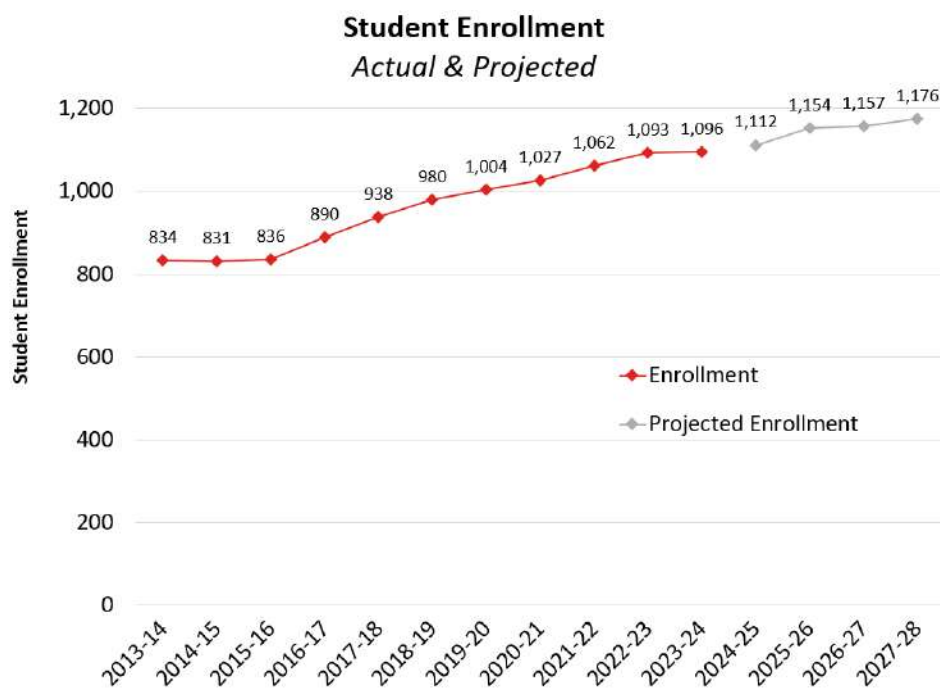
The District receives 17% less money per student than the average North Dakota school district. We still have the same expenses as other districts, including student programs and services, transportation, staff compensation, and building maintenance. For more financial information, visit portal.nddpistarsreporting.nd.gov/public-financial-transparency

Building infrastructure

- Roof sections are leaking.
- Major systems (including plumbing and 1995 HVAC) are aging and in need of repairs.
- Interior fixtures (floor and ceiling tiles) are worn, stained, and cracking.
- Some areas are not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Building exterior has cracks.
- Parking lot does not have enough space for staff and buses.

Enrollment growth

The school is nearing its capacity, even with the recent addition. Over the past decade, enrollment has grown by 31%. This growth is projected to continue.



What causes these challenges?

Unlike more than 85% of the other districts in our state, our voters have not approved a building fund levy. Without this funding, we must use general operating funds to pay for annual building maintenance and major repairs.

With limited funds, we have only addressed the most urgent projects, leaving us with nearly \$5 million in deferred maintenance. These projects will get more expensive if they are delayed further.

Proposed Solution: Building Fund (Maintenance) Levy

In September, the District will have a building fund (maintenance) levy on the ballot. If 60% of voters approve the levy, we will receive additional money from local property taxes to pay for annual facility maintenance. It also frees up funding in the general budget to pay for programs, services, and staff compensation.

How much money is the District asking for?

The proposed plan would provide **up to 20 mills** each year for building maintenance. If voters approve the levy, this could be added to the current year's budget.

Type of Property	Estimated Annual Tax Increase
Residential	Up to \$90 for every \$100,000 of True & Full Valuation (\$4,500 of Taxable Valuation)
Commercial	Up to \$100 for every \$100,000 of True & Full Valuation (\$5,000 of Taxable Valuation)
Ag Cropland/Non-Cropland	Up to \$0.95 per acre

How would the District use the building fund (maintenance) levy?

Following a building assessment from Kraus-Anderson, the District developed a plan to address the following issues in the next 10 years:

- ✓ Replace roof sections as needed
- ✓ Renovate bathrooms for ADA compliance
- ✓ Expand the parking lot to better separate parent drop-off/pick-up from bus traffic
- ✓ Repair the bus garage
- ✓ Replace interior doors
- ✓ Replace/repair major systems like water heaters, HVAC, technology infrastructure, and safety and security systems
- ✓ Update interior spaces, furniture, desks, and classroom materials as needed

This funding would also cover annual upkeep of our facilities.

Central Cass School District #17
802 North 5th Street
Casselton, ND 58012

**IMPORTANT SCHOOL
BALLOT MEASURE
INFORMATION ENCLOSED**

Questions?

Contact Superintendent Morgan
Forness at 701.346.2009.

*This publication was produced for the residents of the **Central Cass School District #17**. Due to the overlap of postal routes, residents from neighboring school districts may receive this publication. Given the limitations of bulk mailing, this overlap was difficult to eliminate without significant cost. Thank you for your understanding.*