



PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE
AREA SCHOOLS

Budget Guide



2022-2023

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To Our Community

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.

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 continue fiscal accountability through operational excellence and the alignment of human, financial and physical resources to district goals. Additionally, we are committed to engaging students, parents, families and our 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.

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

Chair

Amy Crosby

Vice-Chair/Clerk

Mary Frantz

Treasurer

Julie Bernick

Directors

Lisa Atkinson

Amy Bullyan

Jessica Olstad

Enrique Velázquez

Superintendent

Dr. Michael Thomas

Student Representative

Ariana Olson

Goals and Strategies: Mission and Values



OUR FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE

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.



2022-23
Enrollment

8
6
5
0

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

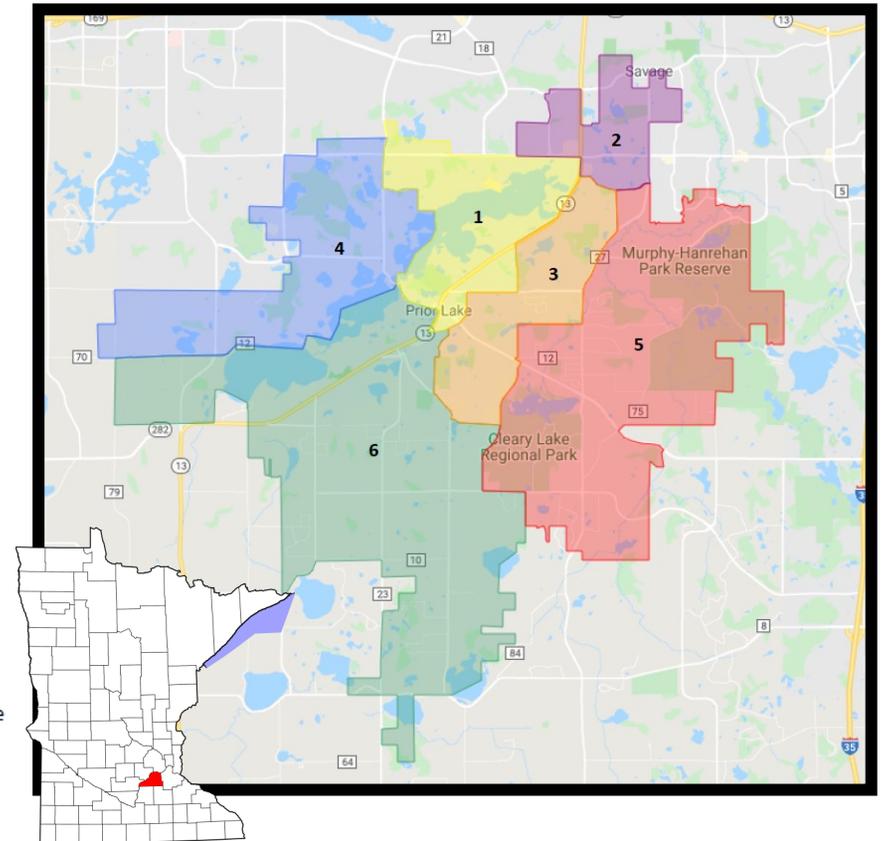
14800 Jeffers Pass, Prior Lake
952-226-0600

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 8,700 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 ECFE 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; a high school serving students in grades 9-12 and an online school for grades 6-12.

District Demographics

2022-23 TOTAL STUDENTS 8,650

- Elementary Schools: 3,671
- Middle Schools: 2,001
- High School: 2,884
- ALC: 94

English Learners (EL)

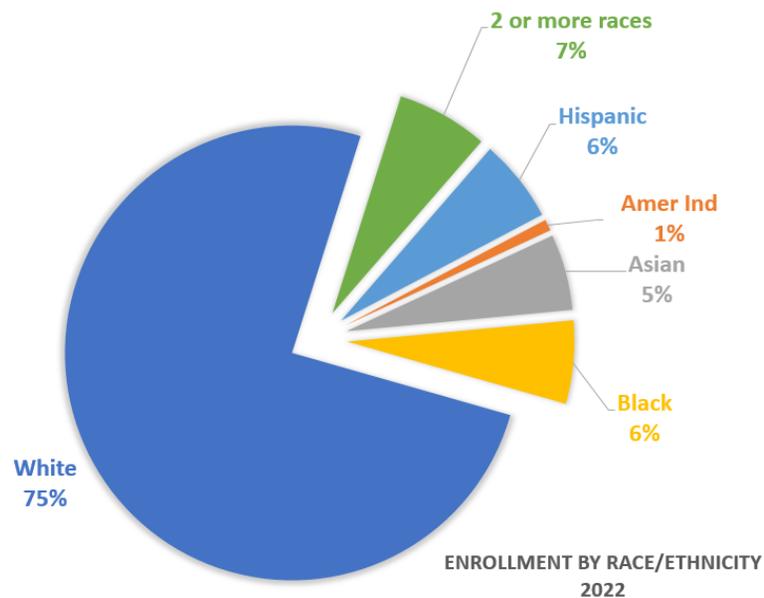
- 3.2% of all students, compared to a Minnesota average of 8.9%

Special Education

- 12.3% of students qualify to receive special education services, compared to a Minnesota average of 16.9%

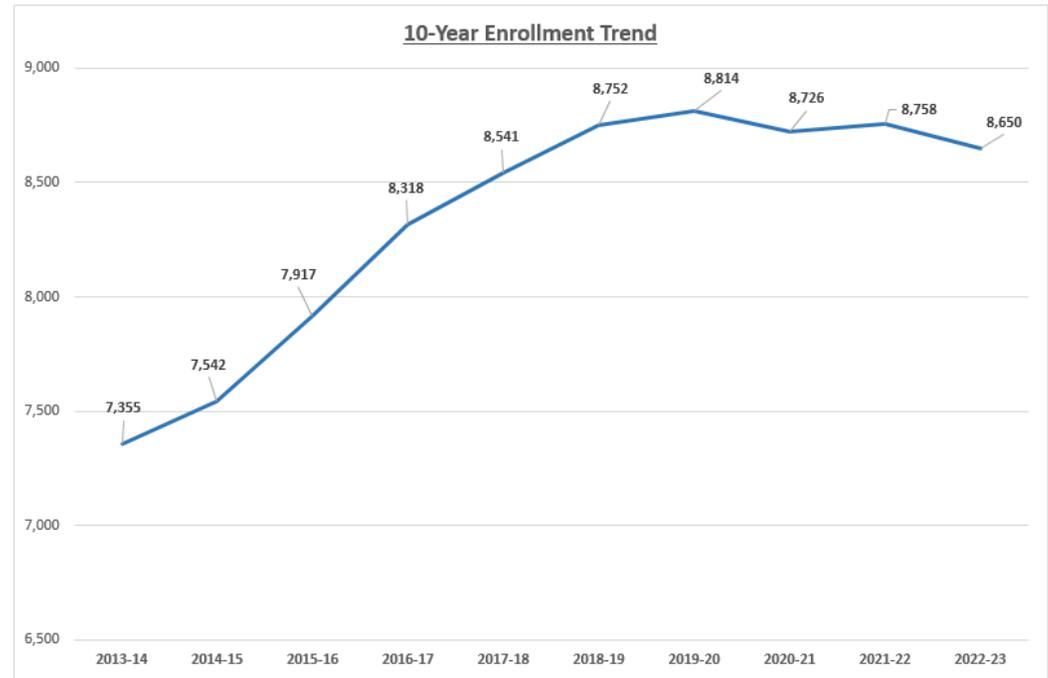
Free or Reduced-Price School Meals

- 11% of PLSAS students qualify to receive free or reduced price school meals, compared to 31.6% of students statewide



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 in part to the COVID pandemic. The future enrollment projections indicate a slight continuing decline as birth rates decline and families make other choices on where to education their students.



5-Year Enrollment by Grade					
	FINAL 2018-19	FINAL 2019-20	FINAL 2020-21	FINAL 2021-22	Oct 1 2022-23
Kindergarten	636	597	555	594	596
First	635	650	573	584	606
Second	653	647	612	606	576
Third	637	656	630	639	620
Fourth	634	647	634	652	640
Fifth	649	650	626	630	633
Sixth	723	698	699	657	648
Seventh	688	745	710	709	648
Eighth	672	700	757	718	705
Ninth	721	721	734	810	748
Tenth	749	706	718	727	793
Eleventh	649	729	709	717	712
Twelfth	703	669	768	716	725
TOTAL	8,749	8,815	8,726	8,758	8,650



PreK-12 Per Pupil Reporting

Per Pupil Report						
Fiscal Year	Enrollment (ADM)	Total Government Funds Expenditures	Cost Per Pupil	Teaching Staff	Pupil-Teacher Ratio	
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	8,790	\$ 149,069,006	\$ 16,959	422	20.8	
2021-22	8,851	\$ 136,866,135	\$ 15,463	603.9	14.7	

**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

2022-23 Revised Budget—General Fund

PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS						
ESTIMATED FINAL BUDGET 2022-2023						
FUND DESCRIPTION	6/30/22 AUDITED BALANCE	2022-23 ESTIMATED REVENUES	TRANSFERS INTO FUNDS	2022-23 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	TRANSFERS OUT OF FUNDS	6/30/23 ESTIMATED BALANCE
GENERAL FUND						
A. UNASSIGNED - OPERATING	\$11,330,652	\$95,282,770	\$0	\$95,247,584	\$469,808	\$10,896,030
NONSPENDABLE	\$337,873	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$337,873
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 - BUDGET DEFICIT	\$4,201,455	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,201,455
ASSIGNED-INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS	\$370,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$370,000
ASSIGNED - COVID RELIEF FUNDS	\$0	\$2,296,750	\$0	\$2,279,159	\$0	\$17,591
ASSIGNED-ALT TEACHER COMP	\$0	\$2,254,939	\$0	\$2,281,126	\$0	(\$26,187)
ASSIGNED-SITE CARRYOVER	\$538,887	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$538,887
TOTAL	\$19,001,367	\$99,834,459	\$0	\$99,807,869	\$469,808	\$18,558,149
B. RESTRICTED FUNDS:						
(1) STUDENT ACTIVITIES	\$178,165	\$120,000		\$100,000		\$198,165
(2) AREA LEARNING CENTER/TARGETED SVC	\$0	\$1,236,567	\$86,210	\$1,322,777		\$0
(3) STAFF DEVELOPMENT	\$595,065	\$1,318,574		\$1,765,663		\$147,976
(4) MEDICAL ASSISTANCE	\$240,564	\$300,000		\$220,000		\$320,564
(5) LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT	\$0	\$1,873,244		\$1,873,244		\$0
(6) GIFTED & TALENTED	\$0	\$124,883	\$108,346	\$233,229		\$0
(7) BASIC SKILLS	\$9,082	\$617,779	\$275,252	\$902,113		\$0
(8) ACHIEVEMENT AND INTEGRATION	\$35,670	\$795,530		\$831,200		\$0
(9) SAFE SCHOOLS	\$20,614	\$380,001		\$400,615		\$0
(10) LONG TERM FACILITY MAINTENANCE	\$801,997	\$2,318,654		\$2,220,000		\$900,651
(11) OPERATING CAPITAL	\$1,132,522	\$2,662,056		\$2,293,777		\$1,500,801
TOTAL RESTRICTED	\$3,013,679	\$11,747,288	\$469,808	\$12,162,618	\$0	\$3,068,157
TOTAL GENERAL FUND (01)	\$22,015,046	\$111,581,747	\$469,808	\$111,970,487	\$469,808	\$21,626,307

2022-23 Revised Budget—All Other Funds

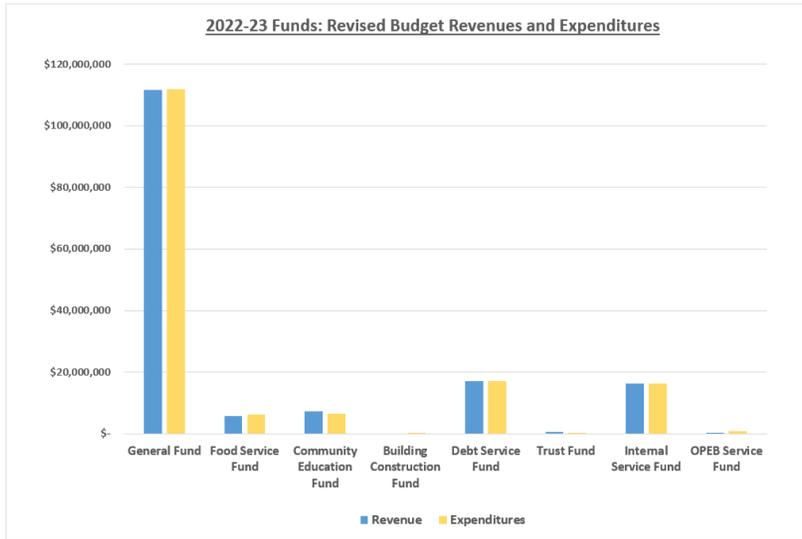
PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS						
ESTIMATED FINAL BUDGET 2022-2023						
FUND DESCRIPTION	6/30/22 AUDITED BALANCE	2022-23 ESTIMATED REVENUES	TRANSFERS INTO FUNDS	2022-23 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	TRANSFERS OUT OF FUNDS	6/30/23 ESTIMATED BALANCE
TOTAL FOOD SERVICE (02)	\$2,595,425	\$5,669,600		\$6,204,351		\$2,060,674
COMMUNITY EDUCATION						
NONSPENDABLE	\$41,393	\$121,838		\$123,187		\$40,044
REGULAR COMMUNITY ED	\$534,668	\$5,179,316		\$4,411,354		\$1,302,630
EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY ED	\$297,781	\$1,010,750		\$1,036,044		\$272,487
ADULT BASIC ED	\$2,211	\$5,895		\$8,106		\$0
SCHOOL READINESS	\$499,693	\$1,074,848		\$881,275		\$693,266
TOTAL COMMUNITY EDUCATION (04)	\$1,375,746	\$7,392,647		\$6,459,966		\$2,308,427
BUILDING CONSTRUCTION FUND (06)	\$10,412	\$0		\$10,412		0
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND (07)	\$2,250,792	\$17,215,475		\$16,971,625		\$2,494,642
TOTAL TRUST FUND (08)	\$3,452,837	\$600,000		\$11,000		\$4,041,837
TOTAL CUSTODIAL FUND (18)	\$0	\$10,000		\$10,000		\$0
TOTAL INTERNAL SERVICE FUND (20)	\$5,967,312	\$16,399,760		\$16,308,780		\$6,058,292
TOTAL REVOCABLE TRUST* (OPEB 25)	(\$5,542,261)	\$140,000		\$800,000		(\$6,202,261)

**Revocable Trust estimated assets as of 6/30/2022: \$8,450,142*

Timeline for 2023-24 Budget Planning

Date	Action
August 8 – October 1	Monitor enrollment for possible staff adjustments
August 12	Update enrollment projections with MDE
August 22	Board Study Session updates for Audit, Levy, Enrollment
September 6 – September 30	Review levy data from MDE
Sept 12	Board Meeting to Begin Levy discussion, Audit & Enrollment updates
September	Prepare analysis of previous year revenue and expenses
September 26	Board Study Session to vote on approval to pre-certify the levy, review preliminary audit and enrollment update
September 29	Finance Advisory Committee meeting
Late September - November	Review Strategic goals and prepare budget process recommendations
October 4 - 16	Recommend any final staff adjustment changes
October 10	Board Meeting to review audit presentation
October 24	Board Study Session Enrollment update and effect on final FY22-23 budget
October - November	Discuss Class size enrollment data to prepare for SY 23-24 budget allocations
November	Prepare preliminary revenue forecast using projected enrollment for FY 23-24
November 7	Present 5 year Forecast memo to Superintendent
November 10	Truth in Taxation notices sent to all property owners
Late Nov – Early Dec	District proposes legislative agenda
November 14	Board meeting update
November 28	Board Study Session to discuss final 2022-23 budget and review any required budget amendment
November 30	UFARS data deadline for submission to MDE and State budget forecast released
December	Review revenue forecast and enrollment projections for any needed adjustments
December 12	Board Meeting for Truth in Taxation, Certify final 2023-24 levy, finalize Legislative agenda and approve final 2022-23 budget
December 15	Finance Advisory Committee meeting
December 31	Final Levy submission to MDE deadline
January TBD	Community “Town Hall” meeting for budget presentation
January 9	Board Meeting updates
January 16 - 27	Senior Leader meetings to review budget plans
January 23	Board Study Session to discuss budget parameters based on enrollment projections, revenue, expenditure, staffing and legislative assumptions and Possible Discussion of Board budget priorities
January 31	Legislative Session begins
February 1 - 15	Budget planning with Senior Leaders
February 7	Learning Leader meeting to present budget assumptions
February 13	Board Meeting for enrollment update and preliminary kindergarten enrollment numbers, 2023-24 Preliminary budget update based on assumption, 2023-24 program and staffing reductions/additions discussion
February 27	Board Study Session 2023-24 staffing discussion
March 13	Board Meeting 2023-24 budget changes
March 23	Finance Advisory Committee meeting
March 27	Board Study Session 2023-24 updates on enrollment, staffing and budget
April 10	Board Meeting updates
April 24	Board Study Session updates on budget, enrollment, staffing and legislative session
April TBD	Community “Town Hall” meeting for budget update presentation
May 8	Board Meeting updates
May 22	Board Study Session review budget, enrollment, staffing and legislative session
May 24	Legislative Session ends
June 12	Board Meeting vote on 2023-24 preliminary budget
July 1	Any new funding appropriated by legislature will be available

Funds: Revenues and Expenditures Overview



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 ECFE, 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 2018-19	Actual 2019-20	Actual 2020-21	Actual 2021-22	Revised Budget 2022-23
General Fund	\$ 99,311,830	\$ 103,502,573	\$ 105,224,513	\$ 113,585,223	\$ 111,581,747
Food Service Fund	\$ 4,929,623	\$ 5,093,402	\$ 5,114,642	\$ 6,590,574	\$ 5,669,600
Community Education Fund	\$ 7,615,945	\$ 6,451,605	\$ 5,251,064	\$ 7,072,582	\$ 7,392,647
Building Construction Fund	\$ 2,233,849	\$ 1,719,927	\$ 445,008	\$ 165,114	\$ -
Debt Service Fund	\$ 15,609,950	\$ 16,079,272	\$ 15,864,982	\$ 16,831,146	\$ 17,215,475
Trust Fund		\$ 506,897	\$ 595,692	\$ 605,278	\$ 600,000
Internal Service Fund	\$ 14,266,202	\$ 14,774,024	\$ 16,069,816	\$ 16,703,869	\$ 16,399,760
OPEB Service Fund	\$ 129,602	\$ 155,132	\$ 153,530	\$ 131,065	\$ 140,000
TOTAL	\$ 144,097,001	\$ 148,282,832	\$ 148,719,247	\$ 161,684,851	\$ 158,999,229

Funds - Expenditure Summary					
	Actual 2018-19	Actual 2019-20	Actual 2020-21	Actual 2021-22	Revised Budget 2022-23
General Fund	\$ 96,414,815	\$ 104,817,156	\$ 108,222,062	\$ 107,755,132	\$ 111,970,487
Food Service Fund	\$ 4,863,554	\$ 4,896,923	\$ 4,974,444	\$ 5,469,849	\$ 6,204,351
Community Education Fund	\$ 7,915,612	\$ 6,523,447	\$ 5,736,941	\$ 6,021,195	\$ 6,459,966
Building Construction Fund	\$ 32,446,556	\$ 69,499,392	\$ 13,915,667	\$ 909,842	\$ 10,412
Debt Service Fund	\$ 15,360,714	\$ 15,851,766	\$ 16,219,892	\$ 16,710,118	\$ 16,971,625
Trust Fund		\$ 22,569	\$ 10,572	\$ 10,258	\$ 11,000
Internal Service Fund	\$ 13,628,634	\$ 13,788,482	\$ 16,224,392	\$ 15,963,957	\$ 16,308,780
OPEB Service Fund	\$ -	\$ 1,070,184	\$ 1,159,848	\$ 1,324,730	\$ 800,000
TOTAL	\$ 170,629,885	\$ 216,469,919	\$ 166,463,818	\$ 154,165,081	\$ 158,736,621

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 declining enrollment districts.

The table below presents a summary of the formula allowance for the past decade and as approved for the current audit period and the next fiscal year. The Legislature approved a per pupil increase of \$135 for fiscal 2023. 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 2.00 percent, state-wide.

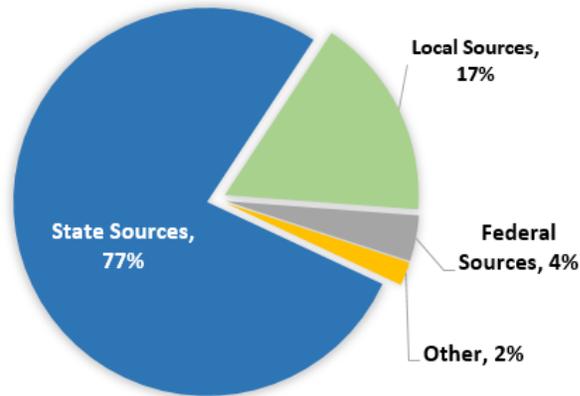
Funding for Minnesota school districts generally has not kept pace with inflation and an increasing need for services, despite recent enhancements to the basic general education state aid formula and other categorical aids. This has increased reliance on local revenue sources like voter-approved operating referendum and user fees to maintain district programs.



<u>Fiscal Year Ended June 30,</u>	<u>Formula Allowance</u>	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>
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

2022-23 Revenue by Source Series



State Sources 86,289,620 (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 18,857,505 (17%)

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 \$4,243,952 (4%)

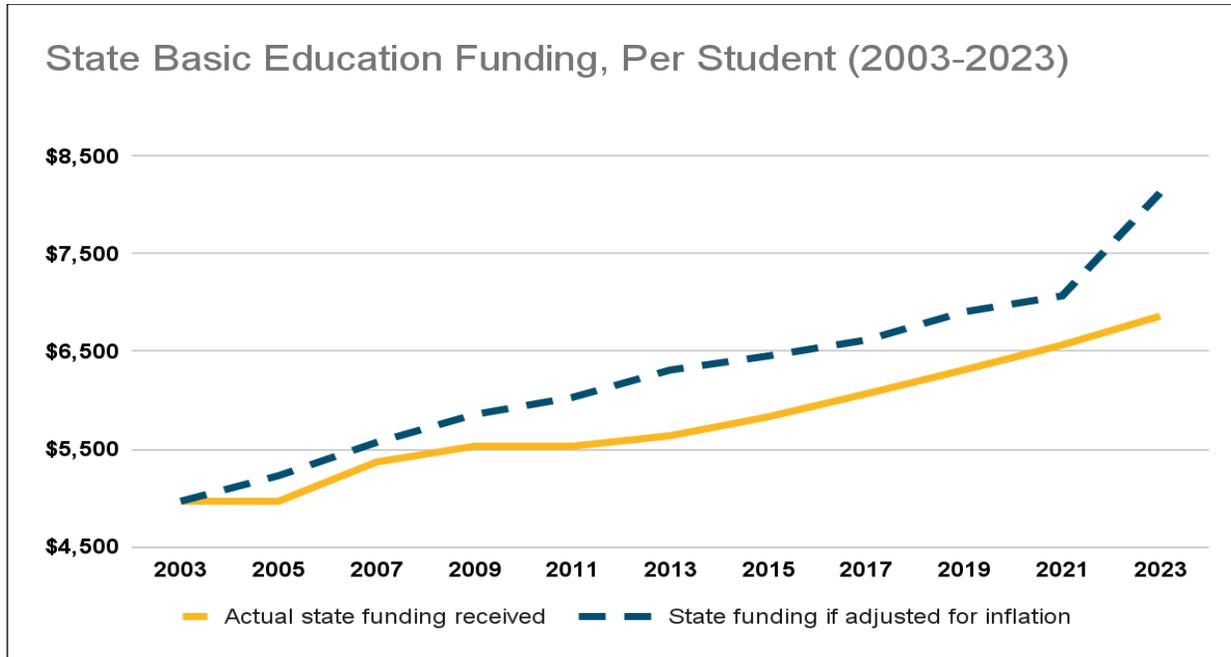
These include federal grants for Title programs such as Title I, which focuses on improving the achievement of educationally disadvantaged students, and aids to support special education services for students with special needs.

Other \$2,190,670 (2%)

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.

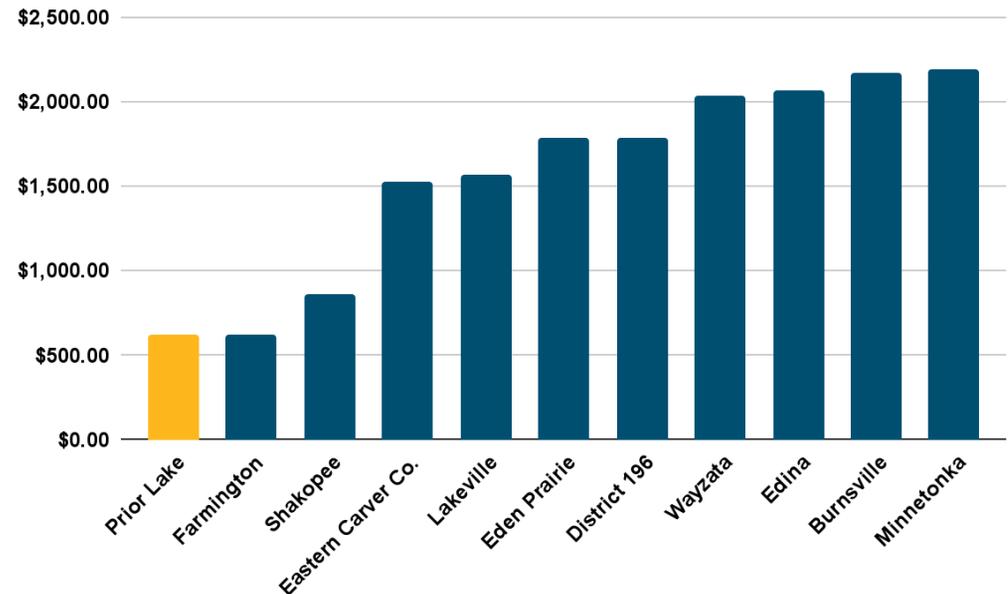
Revised Revenues by Source					
	Actual 2018-19	Actual 2019-20	Actual 2020-21	Actual 2021-22	Revised Budget 2022-23
State Sources	\$ 78,378,274	\$ 81,484,180	\$ 81,587,153	\$ 87,368,960	\$ 86,289,620
Local Sources	\$ 17,224,663	\$ 17,914,284	\$ 18,006,602	\$ 18,466,543	\$ 18,857,505
Federal Sources	\$ 1,812,714	\$ 1,710,552	\$ 3,894,019	\$ 4,628,647	\$ 4,243,952
Other	\$ 1,896,179	\$ 2,393,557	\$ 1,736,739	\$ 2,415,040	\$ 2,190,670
TOTAL	\$ 99,311,830	\$ 103,502,573	\$ 105,224,513	\$ 112,879,190	\$ 111,581,747

2022-23 Operating Referendum Comparison



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.

If state funding had kept pace with inflation since 2003, we would have received \$9+ million more last year alone.



2022-23 Expenditures by Object Series

General Fund Expenditures by Object Series					
	Actual 2017-18	Actual 2018-19	Actual 2019-20	Actual 2020-21	Revised Budget 2022-23
Salaries	\$ 53,092,657	\$ 55,667,343	\$ 58,566,138	\$ 61,302,424	\$ 62,520,027
Employee Benefits	\$ 21,447,196	\$ 21,846,344	\$ 22,843,762	\$ 24,576,629	\$ 25,166,276
Purchased Services	\$ 10,898,662	\$ 11,880,243	\$ 12,569,484	\$ 12,933,351	\$ 12,949,956
Supplies and Materials	\$ 2,522,217	\$ 2,835,275	\$ 2,729,204	\$ 3,349,213	\$ 4,550,227
Capital Expenditures	\$ 3,280,418	\$ 3,791,882	\$ 7,645,352	\$ 5,111,445	\$ 6,222,857
Other Expenditures	\$ 220,674	\$ 393,728	\$ 463,216	\$ 482,070	\$ 561,144
TOTAL	\$91,461,824	\$ 96,414,815	\$104,817,156	\$ 107,755,132	\$ 111,970,487

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

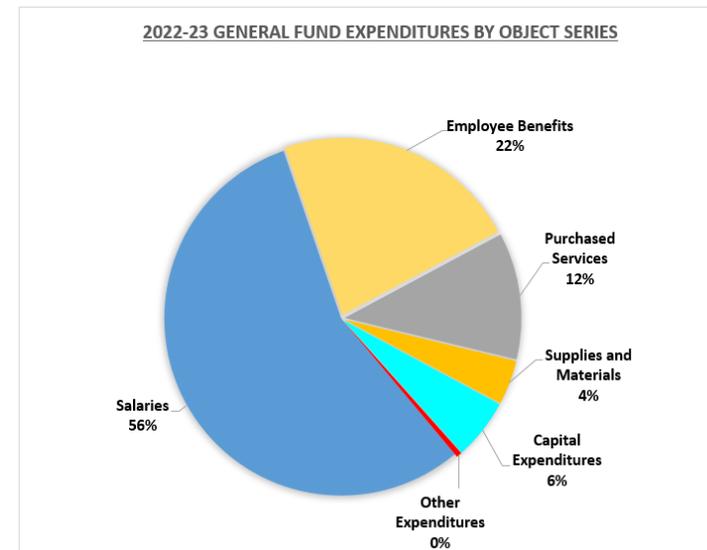
Employee Benefits: Expenditures incurred by the school district for the personal benefit of employees, not included in their gross salary.

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.

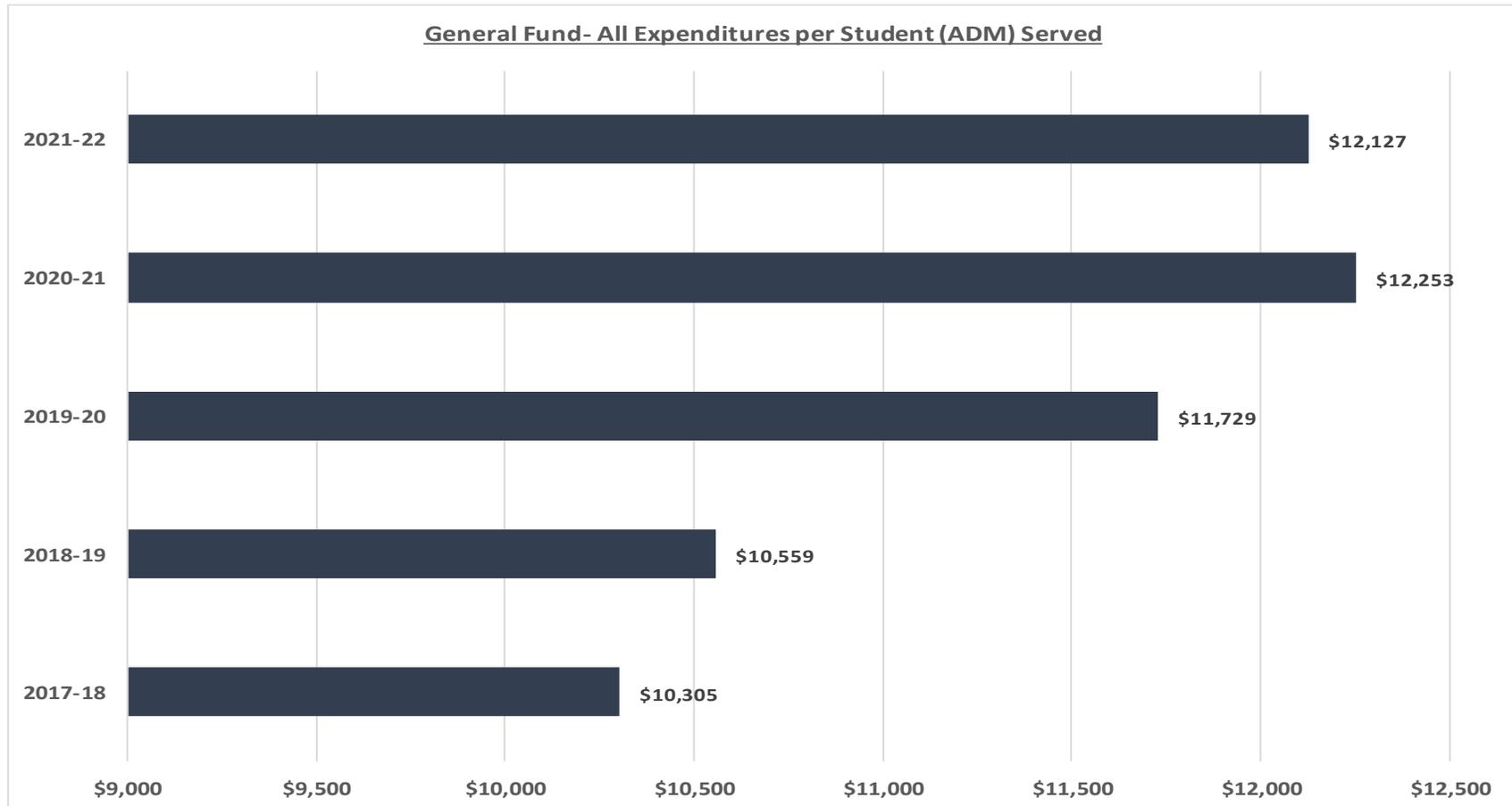
Capital Expenditures: Capital expenditures consist of expenditures for acquisition, additions or improvement of a capital asset, which may include land, improvements to land, easements, buildings, building improvements, vehicles, machinery, equipment, works of art and historical treasures, infrastructure, 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 and Dec 2022 Revised Budget

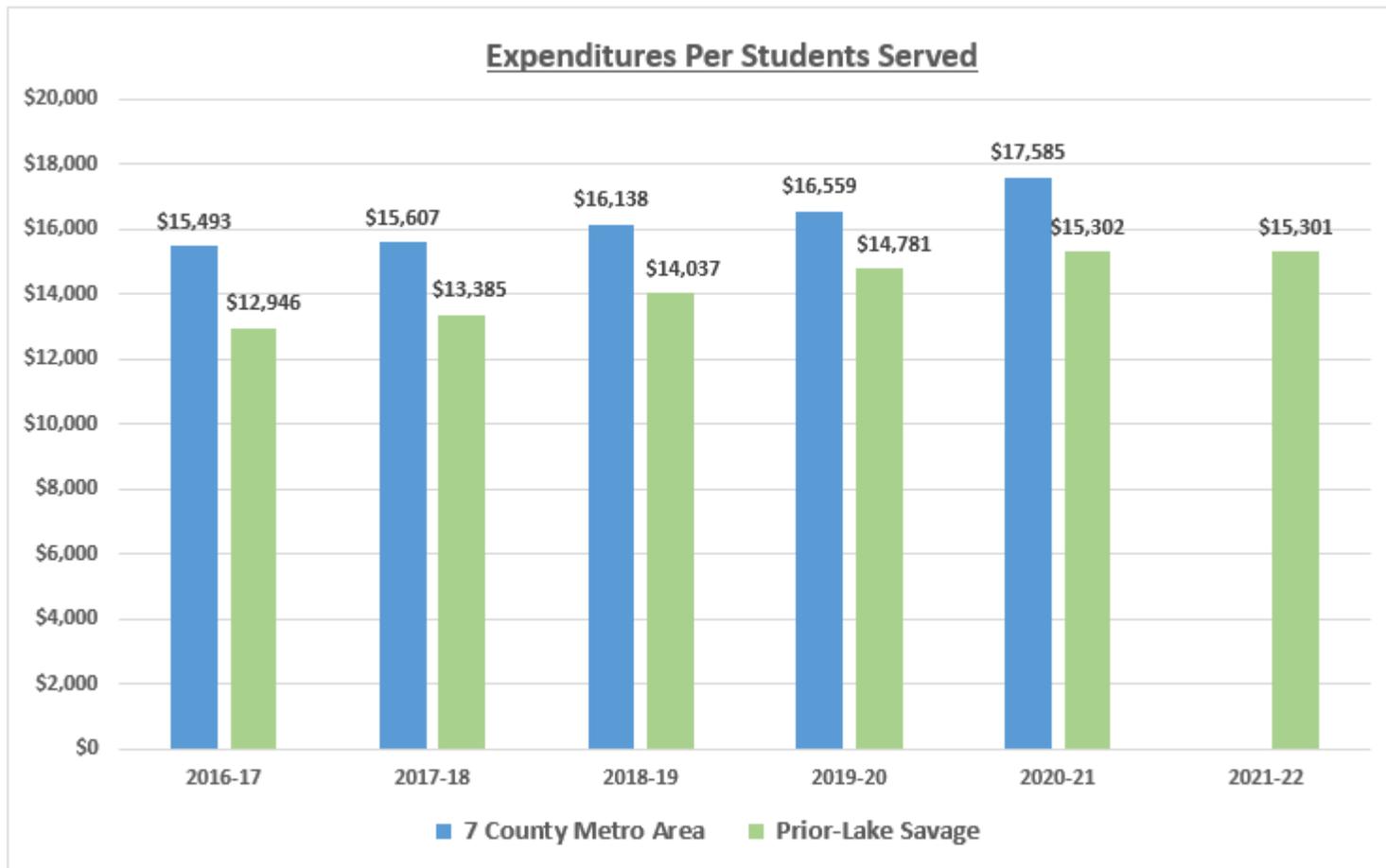
Expenditures Per Student



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. The Metro Area revenue per Student (ADM) served for 2020-21 in the general fund was \$14,772. Pupil support services, (which include transportation), and administration and district support services are also well below these averages. 2021-22 shows a slight decrease as the district readjusts from COVID-19 additional dollars.

Districts received an additional 2 percent onto the basic funding formula in 2022–2023. The basic formula is \$6,863. 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. These amounts include general fund, food service fund, community fund, and debt service fund. 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.

2022-23 Governmental Funds Expenditures by Program

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

Governmental Funds- Expenditures by Program					
	Actual 2018-19	Actual 2019-20	Actual 2020-21	Actual 2021-22	Revised Budget 2022-23
Admin	\$3,342,384	\$3,388,129	\$3,422,971	\$3,577,568	\$3,774,967
District Support	\$3,352,532	\$5,749,775	\$5,643,134	\$4,940,543	\$5,404,024
Regular Instruction	\$46,037,634	\$48,890,812	\$48,087,571	\$51,495,485	\$53,450,377
Vocational Instruction	\$522,227	\$634,312	\$707,129	\$825,804	\$845,783
Special Education Instruction	\$17,589,772	\$18,758,254	\$18,783,076	\$19,199,554	\$19,968,645
Instructional Support	\$6,853,603	\$6,899,808	\$7,533,434	\$7,764,547	\$8,403,230
Pupil Support	\$7,949,447	\$8,164,678	\$8,537,288	\$9,192,927	\$7,274,263
Sites/Buildings	\$6,551,166	\$10,712,642	\$13,905,920	\$8,898,820	\$10,423,626
Fiscal and Other Fixed Cost	\$424,168	\$413,227	\$504,918	\$597,897	\$1,000,000
Food Services	\$4,796,737	\$4,896,923	\$4,974,444	\$5,469,849	\$6,204,351
Community Services	\$7,857,141	\$6,523,447	\$5,736,941	\$6,021,195	\$6,459,966
Principal, Interest and Fiscal Charges on Long-Term Liabilities	\$1,011,116	\$1,205,519	\$1,096,621	\$1,261,987	\$1,425,572
TOTAL	\$106,287,927	\$116,237,526	\$118,933,447	\$119,246,176	\$124,634,804

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

	June 30,				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Nonspendable fund balances	\$ 313,933	\$ 106,188	\$ 159,225	\$ 383,569	\$ 337,873
Restricted fund balances (1)	3,181,737	4,691,131	4,189,108	1,584,948	3,013,679
Unrestricted fund balances					
Assigned	3,521,068	3,684,813	5,196,415	6,389,482	7,332,842
Unassigned	9,320,421	10,791,174	9,637,756	7,826,956	11,330,652
Total fund balance	\$16,337,159	\$19,273,306	\$19,182,504	\$16,184,955	\$22,015,046
Unrestricted fund balances as a percentage of expenditures	14.0%	15.0%	14.2%	13.1%	17.3%
Unassigned fund balances as a percentage of expenditures	10.2%	11.2%	9.2%	7.2%	10.5%

(1) Includes deficits in restricted fund balance accounts allowed to accumulate deficits under UFARS, which are part of unassigned fund balance on the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America-based financial statements.

Nonspendable— Consists of amounts that are not in spendable form, such as prepaid items, inventory and other long-term assets.

Restricted – Consists of amounts related to externally imposed constraints established by creditors, grantors or contributors, or constraints imposed by state statutory provisions.

Committed – Consists of internally imposed constraints that are established by resolution of the School Board. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the School Board removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action it employed to previously commit those amounts.

Assigned – Consists of internally imposed constraints. These constraints consist of amounts intended to be used by the district for specific purposes but do not

meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the governing body itself or by an official to which the governing body delegates the authority. Pursuant to School Board resolution, the district’s superintendent or other designee is authorized to establish assignments of fund balance.

Unassigned— The residual classification for the general fund that includes all spendable amounts not contained in other fund balance classification. It also reflects negative residual amounts in other funds.

The School Board has formally adopted a fund balance policy regarding maintaining a minimum fund balance for the General Fund. The policy states that the district will strive to maintain a minimum total unassigned and assigned General Fund balance of 8.0 to 12.0 percent of the annual budget (4–6 weeks of operating expenses). Deviation from the fund balance will be reviewed and addressed by the School Board. At June 30, 2022, the total assigned and unassigned fund balance of the General Fund was 17.3 percent of the fiscal 2022 General Fund expenditures.

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

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. The levy for the 2023-24 school year shows a 3.63% reduction to taxpayers.

Debt Service Fund The funding of debt service is controlled in accordance with each outstanding debt issue's financing plan. The Debt Service Fund revenues and other financing sources exceeded expenditures and other financing uses by \$121,028. The remaining fund balance of \$2,250,792 at June 30, 2022, is available for meeting future debt service obligations.

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
2022-23	\$ 18,708,428	\$ 759,348	\$ 15,683,135	\$ 35,150,911



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 six years, the City of Savage has seen average growth of 152 units per year and the City of Prior Lake (the City) has seen growth of 148 units. The housing growth is expected to continue, but at a slower rate for both cities.

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.

In order to fulfill our mission, we have developed a System of Continuous Improvement through a shared leadership model where multiple perspectives, talents and ideas come together to build a strong identity of who we are and what we will accomplish as a school district for the success of all students. In this way, we are all working toward the same shared goals and using our time and resources efficiently.

Some of the 2022 survey results from our continuous improvement process are as follows:

- **97%** of elementary students and **85%** of secondary students reported their culture, religion or ethnic heritage is respected by other students.
- **96%** of elementary and **87%** of secondary students report that their teachers help them feel included in the classroom.
- **96%** of elementary students and **84%** of secondary students feel connected to at least one adult at their school.
- **96%** of elementary students and **78%** of secondary students feel safe and secure in school.
- **94%** of families reported that adults/teachers believe my child can learn and be successful.
- **90%** of families reported that school administration is accessible.
- **85%** of families reported that they believe their child is challenged academically.
- **81%** of families reported that teachers are available and provide assistance to their children when needed.

Budget Highlights

Over the course of a 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:

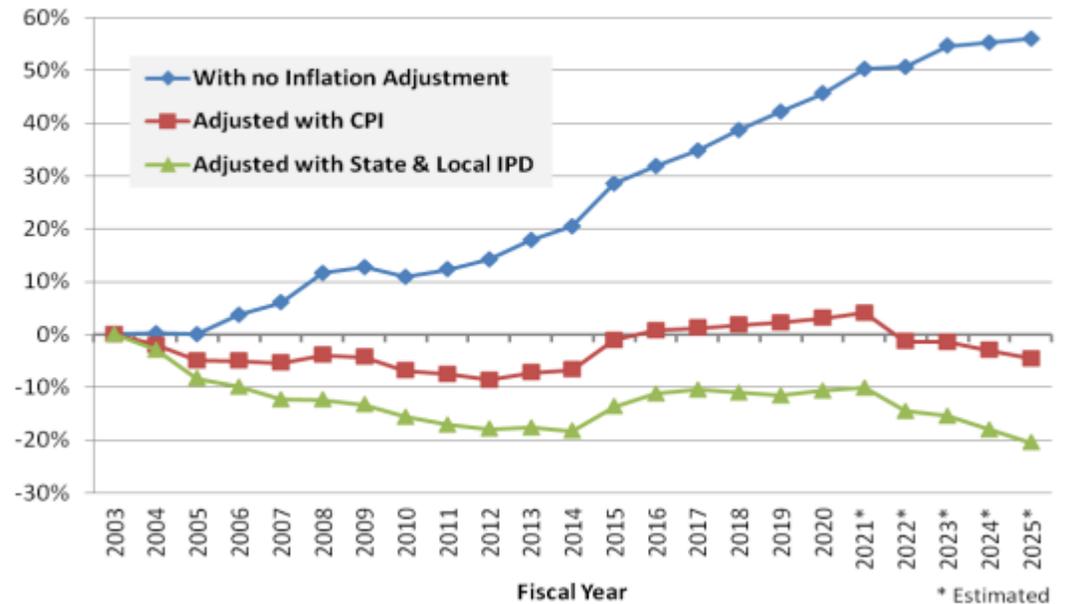
- Updating budgets due to changes in enrollment as of October 1.
- Implementing budgets for specially funded projects, which include both federal and state grants; and reinstating prior year budget carried over.
- Changes in appropriations for significant unbudgeted costs.
- While the district's final FY 21-22 budget for the General Fund anticipated that expenditures would exceed revenues by \$2,166,997, reducing fund balance, the actual results for the year show a increase of \$5,124,058.
- Actual 2021 –22 revenues were \$2,287,337 more than projected. Property taxes exceeded budgeted amounts by \$172,688 as the rate of collections were better than projected. State sources were over budget by \$1,612,092, 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 \$341,376 across various programs.
- Actual expenditures were \$5,003,718 under budget, or a 4.4 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



Percent Change in State Aid Per AADM Since FY 2003
Minnesota School Districts



The Legislature has added \$135 or 2.00 percent, per pupil to the formula for fiscal year 2023. 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 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 chart above shows the percent change in state aid per pupil for school districts — excluding aid to charter schools — since 2003. This is inclusive of all state aid — general operations, special education, transportation, deferred maintenance, etc. — as well as aid for new programs approved since 2003 such as full-day Kindergarten and voluntary pre-Kindergarten. The chart shows the increase unadjusted for inflation, and adjusted for inflation using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) for State and Local Governments. The IPD is the index that more accurately measures the inflationary costs impacting school districts. As the chart shows, while total state aid per pupil has increased by more than 50 percent since 2003, it has decreased by almost 15 percent when adjusted for inflation as measured by the IPD.

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

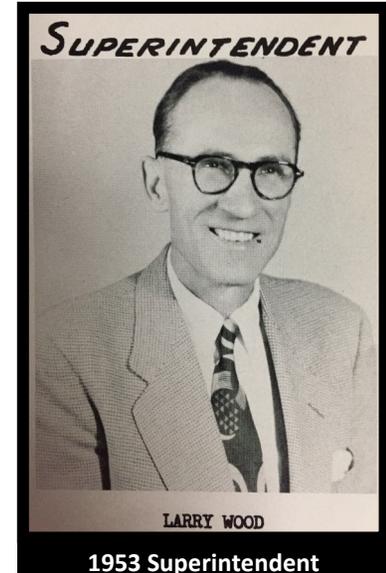
1973 Five Hawks Elementary was built

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

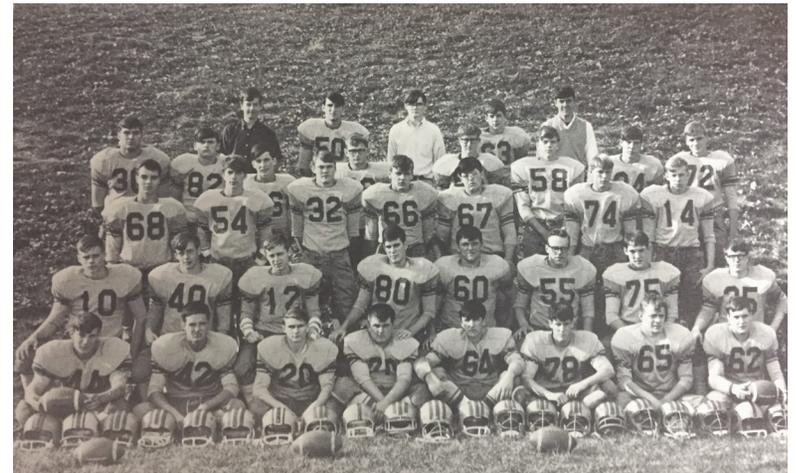
2006 Special Education programs phased into PLSAS from MN River Valley Special Ed Coop

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 grades 6 -12



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	Amy Crosby
Vice Chair/Clerk	Mary Frantz
Treasurer	Julie Bernick
Director	Lisa Atkinson
Director	Amy Bullyan
Director	Jessica Olstad
Director	Enrique Velazquez
Superintendent of Schools	Dr. Michael Thomas
Student Representative	Ariana Olson



Dr. Michael Thomas
Superintendent



Dr. Daniel Edwards
Director of Teaching & Learning



Tammy Fredrickson
Executive Director of Business Services



Emily Herman
Executive Director of Human Resources



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



Jennie Zumbusch
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



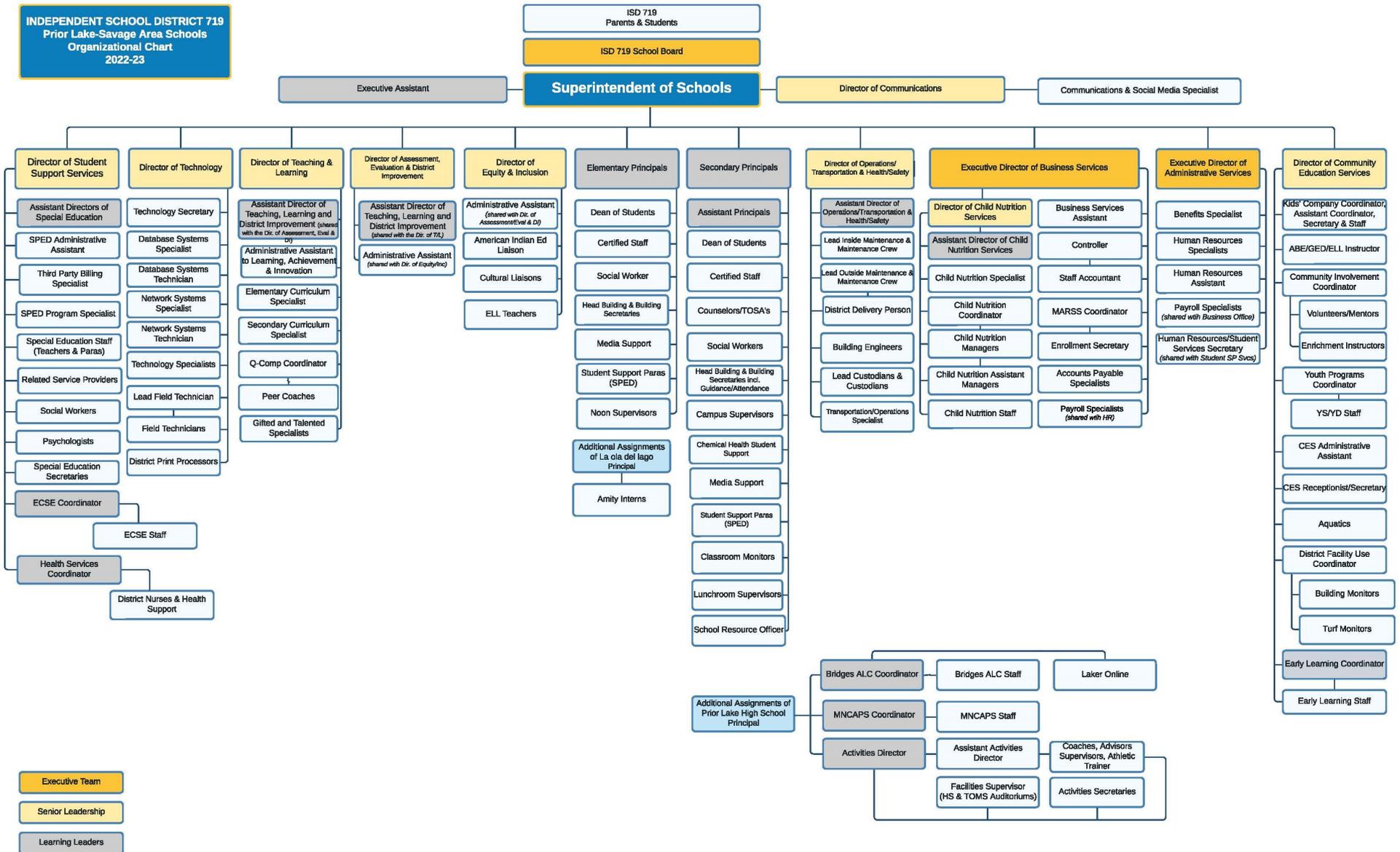
Michelle Cuka
Director of Student Support Services



Joel Dahl
Director of Community Education

District Organization Chart

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 719
 Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools
 Organizational Chart
 2022-23



- Executive Team
- Senior Leadership
- Learning Leaders

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	Sam Fredrickson
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
Laker Online	LO	2021	Dave Brown
Minnesota Center for Advanced Professional Studies	MNCAPS	2016	Erik Sill

Our Schools

Edgewood School



Five Hawks Elem : 471 students



Glendale Elem : 548 students



Hamilton Ridge Elem : 586 students



La ola del lago Elem: 443 students



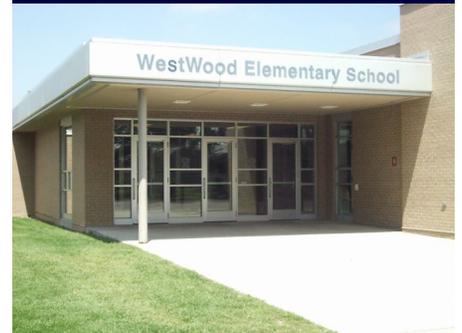
Jeffers Pond Elem : 506 students



Redtail Ridge Elem : 597 students



WestWood /SAGE Elem : 520 students



Hidden Oaks Middle: 996 students



Twin Oaks Middle : 992 students



Prior Lake High : 2849 students



Bridges ALC : 94 students



Laker Online 6-12: 48 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 6-12. 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

The Technology department supports our district’s mission “To educate all learners to reach their full potential as contributing and productive members of our ever-changing global community” by procuring and supporting instructional technologies that increase engagement and learning opportunities anytime, anywhere. We believe the appropriate use of instructional technologies can help students become skillful collaborators, communicators, creators, and critical thinkers.

For the 2022-2023 school year, we have consolidated our student device offerings to one device type: Apple iPads for grades K-5 are available in classroom carts, and Apple iPads are available for grades 6-12 in a 1:1 (One to One) deployment. Also, the Technology department has implemented a new web filtering software, Lightspeed Systems, for all PLSAS mobile and desktop devices. This new web filter blocks inappropriate online content, on and off campus, helping schools comply with student Internet safety regulations while still allowing the learning and collaboration that mobile technology brings.

As in years past, we continue to provide and support other digital tools to help students, parents, and teachers, including Schoology, Seesaw, and Infinite Campus. Student Services.

Student Services

Approximately 13% of students enrolled in Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools receive additional instructional services through individualized education plans (IEPs). PLSAS provides almost 1,200 students high quality individualized instruction from a talented and committed group of special education teachers, related service providers and paraprofessionals. We are proud to offer a broad continuum of services to help all students find success.

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

We are here to serve students, parents, staff, school board and taxpayers on all school district financial and accounting issues. Our finance professionals are dedicated to managing the business services of Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools in a way that contributes to the successful education of all students through sound fiscal management and by providing the best possible educational services with the financial resources available to enhance the learning environment for students.

Our district is committed to transparent and responsible management of our community's financial resources.

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 13-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

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools' bus transportation is provided by the Prior Lake-Savage Area School Bus Association. Our mission is the safe and efficient transportation of students to and from school. We strive to create conditions that contribute to the success of students by providing a comfortable, reliable, and safe service that responds to the ever-changing needs of our student population.

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 37 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. We work alongside students, their families and the community 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.

Feeding students healthy meals plays a role in helping them reach their full potential. In addition to fueling healthy bodies, our staff host educational events in our cafeterias throughout the year to educate students about where their food comes from and to create lifelong healthy eating habits.

Prior Lake High School will remain off the National School Meals Program, continuing to allow us greater flexibility in providing healthy, delicious meals and snacks that meet the needs and expectations of students, parents and staff.

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 take pride in providing our students, staff, and community members with high-quality, efficient, sustainable, and safe physical environments that positively impact our students' learning experience. 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 driver's license, 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. Should an emergency event call for reunification, the District has a planned and practiced process, developed with the help of local law enforcement, designed to ensure students are safely reunited with their parents or guardians.