



Lennox School District 41-4

305 West 5th Ave

P.O. Box 38

Lennox, South Dakota 57039-0038

Phone (605) 647-2203 Option 8 Fax (605) 647-2201

www.lennox.k12.sd.us

Serving the communities of Chancellor, Lennox and Worthing, South Dakota

December 11, 2025

Dear Lennox School District Parents and Guardians,

I want to share important information regarding the Governor's recently proposed 0% increase to education funding for the upcoming fiscal year. Although this may appear to maintain current support, it would result in a cut to our district's operating budget. Rising costs in utilities, insurance, transportation, and other essential services mean that flat funding does not keep pace with the true cost of educating our students.

On Monday, December 8th, I met with the Lennox School Board to discuss what this proposal could mean for our district and the steps we may need to take if no additional funding is provided. During this discussion, we reviewed several potential impacts, including:

- Decreases to supply budgets
- Increases in class sizes
- Reduction of programs
- Possible staff reductions if necessary
- Implementation of an opt-out

These are not choices we want to consider, but they become real possibilities if education funding does not keep pace with rising costs.

As a district, we will be working hard during the upcoming legislative session to advocate for adequate and responsible public education funding. We are committed to ensuring that our students receive the high-quality educational experience they deserve.

We also need your voice. I encourage every parent and guardian to reach out to our legislators and share how a 0% increase would affect your children, their classrooms, and their future. Your perspective matters, and it is important that decision-makers hear directly from families. On the second page of this letter is a listing of the elected legislators with contact information that are in District 6, District 9, and District 16. These three districts are located within our school boundaries. Also included are some talking points you can utilize if they're needed.

I ask you to consider this question: Do you feel that a 0% increase to your children's education is acceptable? If the answer is no, please join us in advocating for the resources our students need to thrive.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools, our staff, and—most importantly—our students. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out anytime.

Sincerely,

Adam C. Shaw
Superintendent
Lennox School District

Adam Shaw
Superintendent

Angela Arlt
Business Manager

Chad Allison
Principal
Lennox Junior High
Lennox High School

Becky Kuyper
Assistant Principal
Lennox Junior High
Lennox High School

Darin Eich
Principal
LWC Intermediate,
Director of Instruction &
Assessment,
Migrant & ELL Program
Coordinator

Cody Lutes
Principal
Lennox Elementary

Amanda Kruse
Principal
Worthing Elementary,
Director of Curriculum,
McKinney-Vento
Homeless Education
Coordinator

Laura Welch
Director of Student -
Services

Casey Shade
Director of Activities

Every School. Every Student. Every Day.

The Lennox School District 41-4 does not discriminate in its employment policies and practices, or in its educational programs on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or marital status.

Legislative Talking Points and Contact Information

We have the opportunity—and the responsibility—to speak up for our kids and ensure our schools receive the support they need.

South Dakota's children are our greatest asset. Let's invest in them.

Top Ten Talking Points:

1. Restore the sales tax from 4.2% to 4.5%. This is an estimated \$105 million dollars per year and \$460 million over the 4-year timeframe in place. This rollback is projected to sunset in 2027. The legislature rolled this back in 2023. It was a part of the Blue-Ribbon Task Force.
2. Honor the education funding formula in state law. 3% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is less. FY26 would be 3%.
3. Recognize that a 0% increase in public education will be detrimental to the Lennox School District. It will force the board to look at alternative ways to fund our current educational system.
4. Share that a 0% funding increase will equate to a cut financially. Our utilities, health insurance, property insurance, supplies, among many other things will all rise in cost.
5. Schools are funded by using the following formula:

Determining the State Aid to General Education starts with calculating a district's total need. A portion of total need is paid by local property taxes and the remainder is paid by the state through the state aid to general education budget.



6. Education cannot be viewed as a tax burden to the public. The public needs to understand that we're investing in the future of our state.
7. No increase for K-12 education is a decrease of \$12.8 million compared to last year.
8. The remaining \$14 million dollars that was unallocated is equivalent to the decline of 1600 students, multiplied by the per student allocation.
9. We cannot allow the Governor or the Legislative body to increase the reserve funds from 10% to 12.5%. The increase of 2.5% could be directed to ongoing public education dollars. This is roughly an extra \$75 million dollars to the reserves.
10. We need to invest in public education to prevent an increased amount of money being allocated to support the prisons.

This is a time we all need to come together and choose kids over cuts. It is time to lift-up our schools and lift-up our students. We need to invest in a brighter South Dakota.

Legislator Contact Information
Cell © Business (B) and Home (H)

Legislative District	Legislator	Email Contact	Phone Contact
6	Aaron Aylward	Aaron.Aylward@sdlegislature.gov	Not Available
6	Tim Czmowski	Tim.Czmowski@sdlegislature.gov	605-880-7193 (C)
6	Ernie Otten	Ernie.Otten@sdlegislature.gov	605-368-5716 (H)
9	Joy Hohn	Joy.Hohn@sdlegislature.gov	605-212-9256 (C)
9	Tesa Schwans	Tesa.Schwans@sdlegislature.gov	605-610-9708 (B)
9	Bethany Soye	Bethany.Soye@sdlegislature.gov	605-610-8467 (B)
16	Kevin Jensen	Kevin.Jensen@sdlegislature.gov	605-366-6947 (B)
16	Karla Lems	Karla.Lems@sdlegislature.gov	Not Available
16	John Shubeck	John.Shubeck@sdlegislature.gov	Not Available