



St. Francis Public School District

2025 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

www.stfrancisschools.org

Empower - Achieve - Lead



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SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Deborah Kerr



The 2025 Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2025 in the St. Francis High School Library. The Budget Hearing begins at 6:30 p.m. and provides an opportunity to ask questions and comment on the 2025-2026 proposed School District budget.

The Annual Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and focuses on the tax levy needed to support the academic and social-emotional needs of our students. This report provides information about student achievement, the financial condition of the District, the School District budget, review of the Strategic Plan, and the proposed tax levy for the 2025-2026 school year.

The 2025-2026 budget represents the financial investment needed to deliver high quality educational services that support the rigor of higher expectations for all of our learners. The budget has been reviewed by citizens, School Board members, and staff at recent board meetings. The budget supports achievement goals, accelerated learning programs, interventions, athletics and co-curricular programs that benefit all learners. We strive to educate the whole child despite the financial challenges over the last several years. We continue to advocate for increased funding for our public schools as support from the state has not kept up with the rate of inflation. We also support the dedicated staff and hard-working educators that are deserving of compensation that reflects their professionalism and expertise.

The powers of the Annual Meeting are defined in Wisconsin state Statutes 120.10. Votes taken at this meeting address the format of the meeting, salaries for School Board members, purchase or lease of building sites, sale of property and real estate, and taxing for various school purposes. A property tax levy to support the budget will be submitted to resident taxpayers for their consideration. Also, according to State Statute, the School Board has the final responsibility to certify a tax levy to operate the School District by November 1, 2025.

In conclusion, today's learners not only need to be competitive in a global society but require a robust education that exposes students to career, college, military, service, and workforce development. Our renovated facilities provide learning environments that support our mission, vision, values, and goals. While we still have work to do in terms of our long-term facilities planning and continued academic growth we are in the midst of an educational transformation that utilizes all of our campus spaces for learning both indoors and outdoors. Thank you for your commitment to our students, families, and residents of the St. Francis Public School District!

Yours in Education,
Dr. Deborah Kerr, Ed.D



St. Francis Public School District **STRATEGIC PLAN** 2022-2027

Mission Statement

In partnership with our families, we will **EMPOWER** students to **ACHIEVE** extraordinary success and **LEAD** in an ever-changing diverse world. *Empower. Achieve. Lead.*

Vision of Our Learning Community

St. Francis Public School District will be a student-centered, equity-focused learning community where all students find their strengths, discover their passions, and prepare for a successful future.

#MarinerWay #MarinersRise #MarinerNation #Mariners4Ever #OnceAMarinerAlwaysAMariner

Values - We believe that . . .

- Caring relationships are centered around kindness, safety and respect, which are essential for growth and achievement for all.
- Extraordinary success is achieved by empowering learners to explore, be responsible, and take ownership of their learning.
- Strength-based pathways are accessible to all learners with no limitations.
- All learners can achieve success by discovering their strengths, advocating for their needs, and building resilience.
- Everyone in our organization is a leader and contributor.
- Excellence in education is achieved through partnerships with our community, alumni, businesses, and beyond.

Goal Areas

Empower Students with Whole Learner Focus

Students learn best when engaged in meaningful, authentic work aligned to real-world issues and challenges including their interests.

We celebrate each student by name, strength, as well as their passion and need, in their pursuit of the future they desire.

Intentional focus on well-being is a prerequisite for learning.

Students will become co-authors of their learning.

Engage Professional Staff as Ambassadors of the District

Staff are passionate about their work, dedicated to the well-being of students, and mission-driven.

Staff believe that all students can achieve at high levels (growth-mindset), and will provide rigorous equity-focused and diverse opportunities for success to achieve excellent outcomes.

Staff engage students in deeper learning that is purposeful, inspiring, and nurturing of student growth.

We believe in our own learning, professional growth and responsibility for continuous improvement in our practices.

Stewardship of Resources

Identify priorities and opportunities to best serve students.

Provide an inviting, safe, and well-maintained physical learning environment that inspires community pride.

Retain, attract, and invest in excellent staff.

Advocate at the local, state, and federal level for resources.

Be transparent and accountable for all expenditures.

Continue to seek creative and innovative revenue sources to support our mission.

Lead with Our Community to Maximize Education

Parents and families want their children excited about learning and prepared for their future success.

Partnerships are vital to achieve extraordinary results, enrich learning experiences, and equip our learners to be future ready for the world of work.

Foster a positive community in and beyond the school walls and celebrate our work together.

Build upon the pride and richness of our past and present to create strength-based pathways for all learners.



Distrito Escolar St. Francis

PLAN ESTRATEGICO

2022-2027

Declaración de Misión

En asociación con nuestras familias, EMPODERAREMOS a los estudiantes para LOGRAR un éxito extraordinario y LIDERAR en un mundo diverso en constante cambio. Empoderar. Lograr. Liderar.

Visión de Nuestra Comunidad de Aprendizaje

El Distrito de Escolar St. Francis será una comunidad de aprendizaje centrada en el estudiante y centrada en la equidad donde todos los estudiantes encuentran sus fortalezas, descubren sus pasiones y se preparan para un futuro exitoso.

#MarinerWay #MarinersRise #MarinerNation #Mariners4Ever #OnceAMarinerAlwaysAMariner

Valores – Nosotros creemos que . . .

- Las relaciones de cuidado se centran en la amabilidad, la seguridad y el respeto, que son esenciales para el crecimiento y el logro de todos.
- El éxito extraordinario se logra al capacitar a los estudiantes para que exploren, sean responsables y se apropien de su aprendizaje.
- Las vías basadas en la fuerza son accesibles para todos los estudiantes sin limitaciones.

Áreas de Metas

Empoderar a los Estudiantes con Enfoque Integral en el Estudiante

Los estudiantes aprenden mejor cuando participan en un trabajo significativo y auténtico alineado con los problemas y desafíos del mundo real, incluidos sus intereses.

Celebramos a cada estudiante por su nombre, fuerza, así como su pasión y necesidad, en su búsqueda del futuro que desean. El enfoque intencional en el bienestar es un requisito previo para el aprendizaje.

Los estudiantes se convertirán en coautores de su aprendizaje.

Envolver al Personal Profesional como Embajadores del Distrito

El personal es apasionado por su trabajo, dedicado al bienestar de los ~ estudiantes e impulsado por la misión.

El personal cree que todos los estudiantes pueden alcanzar altos niveles (mentalidad de crecimiento), y proporcionarán rigurosas oportunidades de éxito centradas en la equidad y diversas para lograr excelentes resultados.

El personal involucra a los estudiantes en un aprendizaje más profundo que tiene un propósito, inspirar y nutrir el crecimiento de los estudiantes.

Creemos en nuestro propio aprendizaje, crecimiento profesional y responsabilidad por la mejora continua en nuestras prácticas.

Administración de Recursos

Identificar prioridades y oportunidades para servir mejor a los estudiantes.

Proveer un ambiente de aprendizaje físico bien mantenido, atractivo y seguro inspire el orgullo de la comunidad.

Retener, atraer, e invertir en excelente personal.

Abogar por recursos a nivel local, estatal y federal.

Ser transparente y responsable de todos los gastos.

Continuar buscando creativos e innovadores recursos de ingresos para apoyar nuestra misión.

Liderar con nuestra Comunidad para maximizar la educación

Los padres y familias quieren a sus hijos emocionados sobre el aprendizaje y preparados para su éxito.

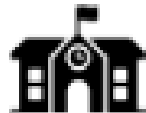
Las asociaciones son vitales para lograr resultados extraordinarios. Enriquecer la experiencia de aprendizaje, y equipar a nuestros estudiantes para que estén listos para el futuro mundo de trabajo.

Fomentar una comunidad positiva dentro y mas allá de la escuela para celebrar nuestro trabajo juntos.

Construir bajo el orgullo y enriquecimiento de nuestro pasado y presente para crear caminos fuertes para todos los estudiantes.

POINTS OF

*Mariner
Pride*



Three Schools



1,108 Students



150 Staff



99.5% Graduation Rate

THIS IS US...



We celebrate over **50%** diversity of our students & families



We serve over **50%** economically disadvantaged families



We joyfully educate over **50%** of students from the Metro Milwaukee area



EXCEPTIONAL DISTRICT

St. Francis Public Schools has been named an 2024 Exceptional District for 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency!

Willow Glen Primary

Exceeds Expectations



Deer Creek Intermediate

Exceeds Expectations



2024 STATE REPORT CARD

Student Demographics

0.7% American Indian or Alaskan Native

2.3% Asian

1.4% Black or African American

33.3% Hispanic or Latino

48.2% White

7% Two or More Races

Male

50%

50%

Female

ST. FRANCIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*We promise to know every student by name, strength, passion, and needs -
Ready to graduate to a future they choose!*

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Data Highlights

Continuous Improvement

In the St. Francis Public School District, students are at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to continuous improvement, always striving for higher achievement, fostering a growth mindset among both students and staff, and instilling strong character values. In today's ever-changing global economy, students need a diverse set of skills to succeed, and we are dedicated to equipping them for that future.

We can't wait to see what this new year brings and look forward to our continued partnership in supporting our students.



Written by: Karen Penrose
Director of Innovation & Learning

Career, College and Life Ready Instruction

We've made significant strides in supporting our youngest learners through the successful first-year implementation of Act 20, which has strengthened our reading support for all students in grades 4K-3. For a deeper dive into our Early Literacy Remediation plan and what it means for our young readers, please visit the district website. We're so proud of the progress our students have made and look forward to building on this momentum.

In Math, students in grades K-8 continue to explore new concepts with i-Ready Mathematics Classroom, while our high schoolers are engaged with AgileMind. To further bolster these efforts, we've welcomed a new K-12 Math Coach. With their extensive experience and passion, they will collaborate with our staff, building on our collective strengths to create a more dynamic and effective learning environment for our students.

Our Science curriculum is currently under review, a process being led by a dedicated team of our own teachers. This year, we'll begin exploring new materials and programs aimed at fostering curiosity and a deeper understanding of the world around us. We're excited about the potential to make science an even more engaging and hands-on experience for our students.

An Ad hoc Committee of community members has been appointed by the Board to review our Human Growth and Development curriculum. This diverse group brings a wealth of expertise to this important task. Their goal is to recommend a curriculum that helps all students feel empowered and supported to make thoughtful decisions, navigate real-life challenges, and recognize their own value and the value of others. The committee will continue to meet throughout the year and present their recommendation to the Board at the end of the school year.

We are incredibly proud to announce a major achievement from our [first-in-the-state High School Medical Assistant program!](#) All nine students from our consortium of schools passed the class, a 100% success rate! The top-notch lab at Deer Creek will provide a new cohort of students with realistic simulations and invaluable hands-on learning experiences, preparing them for future success in the medical field.

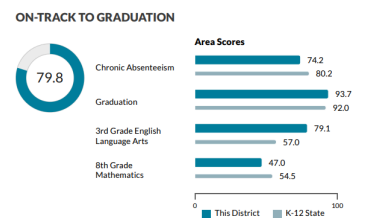


2024 State Report Card (SRC)

As part of the state accountability system, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) produces report cards for every publicly funded school and district in Wisconsin. A school or district's Overall Accountability Score places the school/district into one of five Overall Accountability Ratings. You are invited to read more information about school report cards on the DPI's website. We eagerly await our 2025 SRC in early November.

2025-2026 DISTRICT GOAL

"By School Year 2027, we will attain **"Significantly Exceeds Expectations"** on the State Report Card"



The SRC is a "snapshot of performance based upon state assessments, student engagement and priority areas of achievement, growth, closing gaps, and career and college readiness. We focus on expected grade level growth and personal growth on district level assessments in both reading and math.

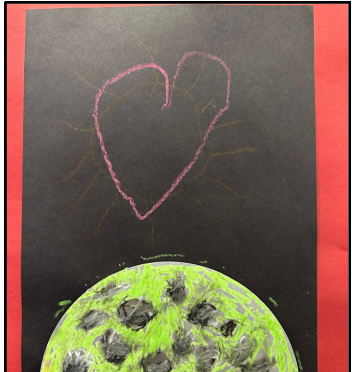
Student Services

Written by: Rachel Schuler
Director of Student Services

Diversity, Equity & Inclusive practices

Honoring Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity in the Classroom

The St. Francis Public School District is committed to serving all students in an environment that honors each student's individual diversity, providing services and supports that are equitable, and in a welcoming and supportive environment. Student learning is facilitated by highly qualified instructional staff in universally designed learning spaces. By using a variety of instructional approaches and strategies, including co-serving and supportive curricula to supplement the general education curriculum when appropriate, all of our teachers provide what each student needs to succeed in a way meaningful to them. Our shared mission for the St. Francis Public School District is to "Empower, Achieve and Lead." Our staff is committed to the success of each student, celebrating their individuality, and offering every student the opportunity to learn, as well as lead, in preparation for their future.



Supporting Social Emotional Learning for All

One focus of the Student Services Department is to remove barriers that may interfere with a child's learning and success in school and beyond. The St. Francis Public School District believes in a personalized approach to meet the needs of every child, every day. Our continuing service to our students begins with partnerships with our families as we create plans and supports unique to each child. Our Student Services Team of counselors, school psychologists, and social workers dedicate their service to providing comprehensive social and emotional support, community resources, and advocacy for students and families.

The district continues to collaborate with Aurora to provide a Student and Family Assistance program, offering mental health and consultative services for our students and families. The district is in year two of districtwide implementation of the Second Step social emotional curriculum across all grade levels, providing skill based instruction for students in developing positive relationships, managing their emotions and setting goals to foster success in both school and life. This upcoming year brings an expansion of our special education early childhood programming and screening days to identify and support our learners in need of early intervention. The Student Services and Special Education teams continue to develop and expand services across each school to ensure that all students have access to the supports and services necessary to be ready to learn.

Empower - Achieve - Lead

BUDGET INFORMATION

2025-2026 Budget - Overview

The 2025-26 budget cycle brings welcome progress for the St. Francis School District. Thanks to the successful passage of the November 2024 Operational Referendum, the District's financial position is significantly stronger than just a year ago. This community-supported referendum has enabled the District to sustain and enhance its commitment to operational needs, technological upgrades, and high-quality programming for our students and the St. Francis community—all while maintaining a balanced budget.

While our short-term financial outlook has improved, challenges remain. Like many school districts across Wisconsin, St. Francis continues to navigate state funding constraints and continued cost increases. During the 2025 State Biennial Budget process, our District joined others in advocating for increased public school funding—specifically:

- Raising special education categorical aid reimbursement to 60%
- Increasing the low revenue ceiling
- Adjusting 4K student counts from 0.6 to 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE)

Despite this advocacy, the final 2025-2027 state budget fell short of expectations. While special education aid did increase from 33% to 40% and 42% over the biennium and increases to Open Enrollment Transfer amounts will improve our fiscal position, these improvements remain inadequate to fully address ongoing funding gaps. Additionally, there was no increase in general equalization aid included in the state budget, which would have provided property tax relief to help offset pressures on the tax levy from increased revenue limit funding authority.

As the State Budget and 2025-26 enrollment counts had not yet been finalized at the time of the Board of Education's approval of the 2025-26 Annual Meeting Budget, the impacts of these changes—particularly in special education aid and open enrollment revenue—are not yet fully reflected in the approved budget.

Looking ahead, without more sustainable state funding, the District anticipates the continued need for future referenda to support core operations and student programming. Nonetheless, with strong community support and responsible fiscal planning, the 2025-26 budget puts St. Francis School District on solid ground as we work to provide an outstanding educational experience for all students.



BUDGET INFORMATION

2025-2026 Budget - General Fund Balance

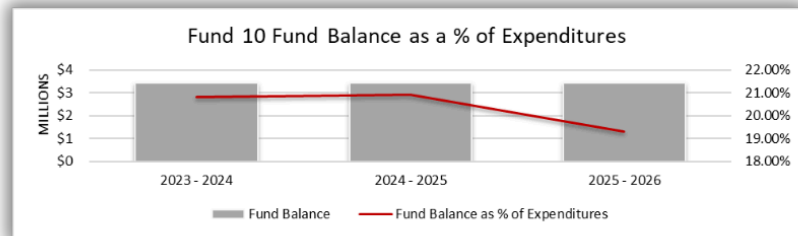
Two of the St. Francis School District's key financial goals are to maintain a strong financial foundation by keeping at least a 15% fund balance and having a balanced budget each year.

Before the November 2024 operational referendum, the district faced significant budget shortfalls projected for the 2024-25 school year and beyond. While the district has worked hard in recent years to cut costs and operate more efficiently, without voter approval of the referendum, major cuts would have been necessary. These cuts would likely have affected academic programs, student services, technology, and building maintenance.

Although the 2025-27 State Budget includes some additional funding, it is not sufficient to cover projected deficits and alleviate the need for operational referendum. The operational referendum was essential to balancing the district's 2025-26 budget and continuing to provide quality education and services for students.

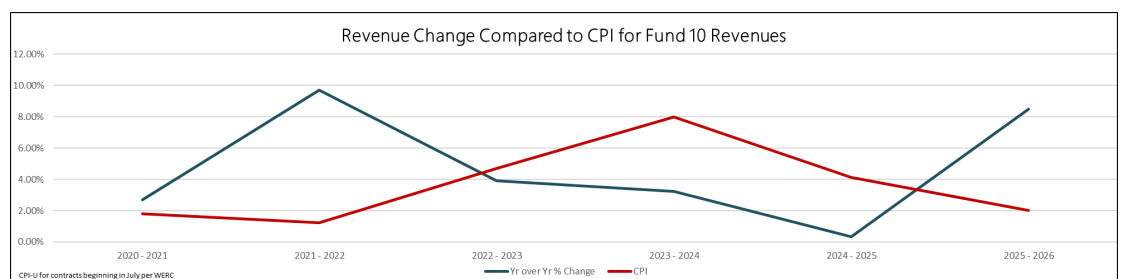
Even with a balanced budget for 2025-26, the expectation is our fund balance percentage will go down, highlighted by the following chart. As expenditures rise fund balance percentage will adjust. Lower fund balances can impact the district negatively from a fiscal standpoint by:

- Increasing reliance on short-term borrowing and raise interest costs.
- Disrupting ability to make payroll and bill payments timely.
- Hurting the district's credit rating.



Rising inflation (CPI) continues to put pressure on school district budgets across Wisconsin. Combined with state funding that has not kept pace with inflation, many districts have had no choice but to turn to referendums to maintain financial stability.

The chart below illustrates that, over the past five years, the only two instances where revenue growth matched or exceeded inflation were the years when the district passed operational referendums. It is also important to note that several of these years also included additional funding from federal ESSER COVID relief funds.



Notes

- Board policy requires a minimum fund balance of 15%.
- Projected 2025-26 fund balance: 19.29% (above minimum). - Decrease from previous year due to increased expenditures
- Short-term borrowing need continues in 2025-26 and beyond

BUDGET INFORMATION

2025-2026 Budget -

General & Special Education Fund Revenues

The majority of St. Francis Public School District's revenue comes from local taxes, general state aid, and open enrollment, supplemented by other state aids and federal grants.

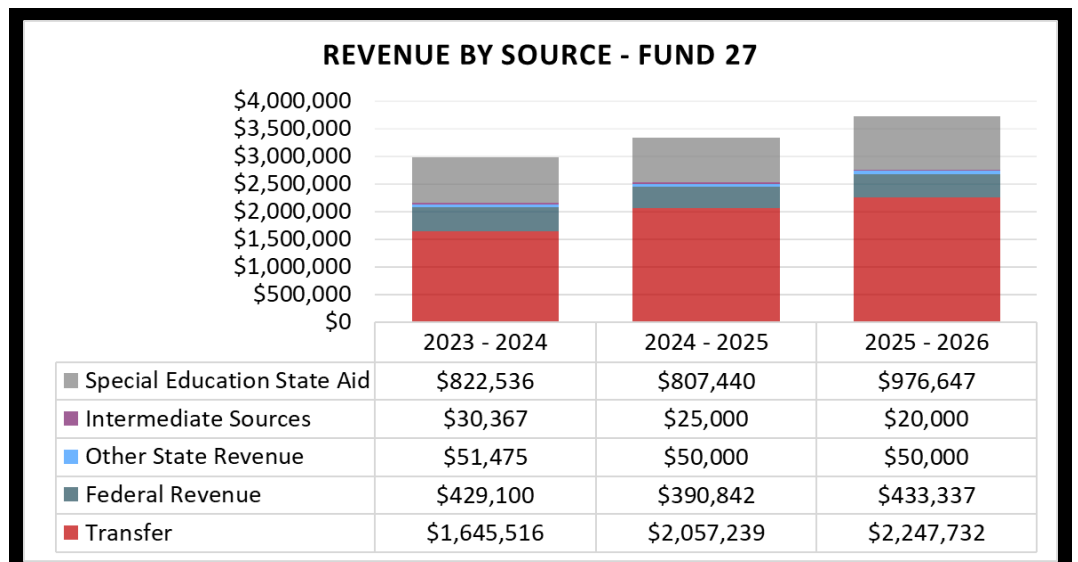
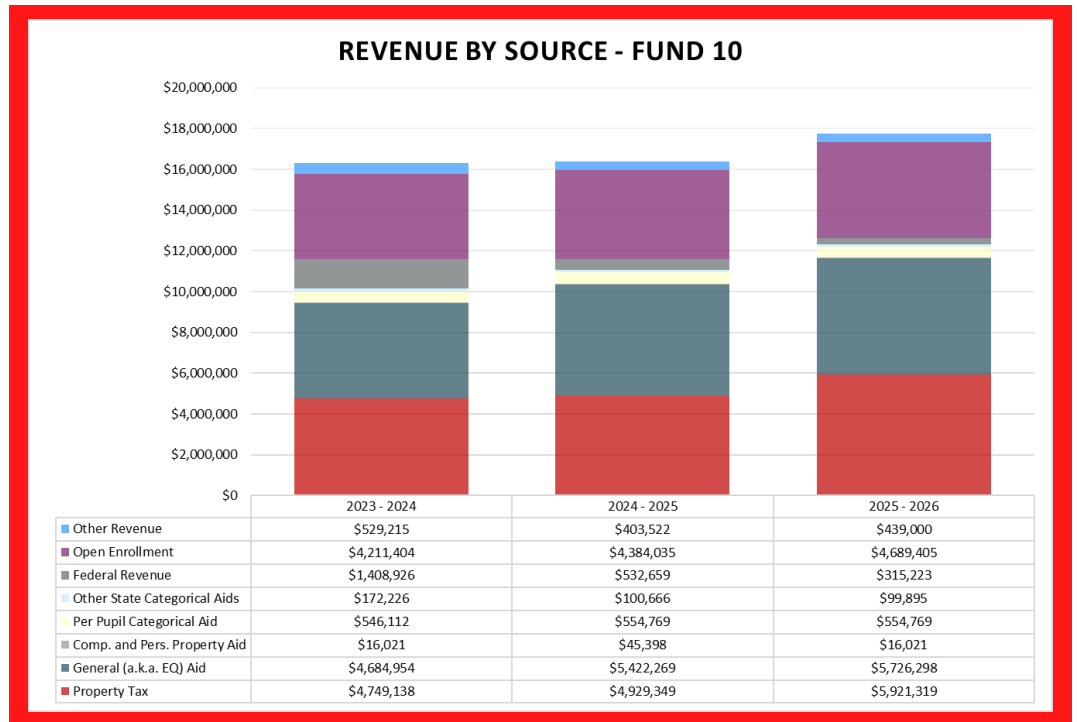
The district projects revenue growth in both general and special education funds, largely driven by the 2024 Operational Referendum and smaller targeted state budget increases.

State Special Education Categorical Aid will increase, however falling short of recommendations advocated for by St. Francis and other Wisconsin School District and advocacy groups. Federal revenues continue to decrease largely due the exhaustion and expiration of federal pandemic (ESSER) funding.

Open enrollment remains a significant revenue source, and the district continues efforts to utilize open enrollment to manage class sizes efficiently.

Notes

- Revenue Limit Increases to \$11,806,872. State aid accounts for 49% of the total revenue limit. Down from 52% in 2024-25
- Federal Revenues continue to decrease. ESSER funding was exhausted in 2024 with completion of the Out-of-School time grant.
- Open Enrollment reimbursement rates to increase.



BUDGET INFORMATION

2025-2026 Budget - General & Special Education Fund Expenses

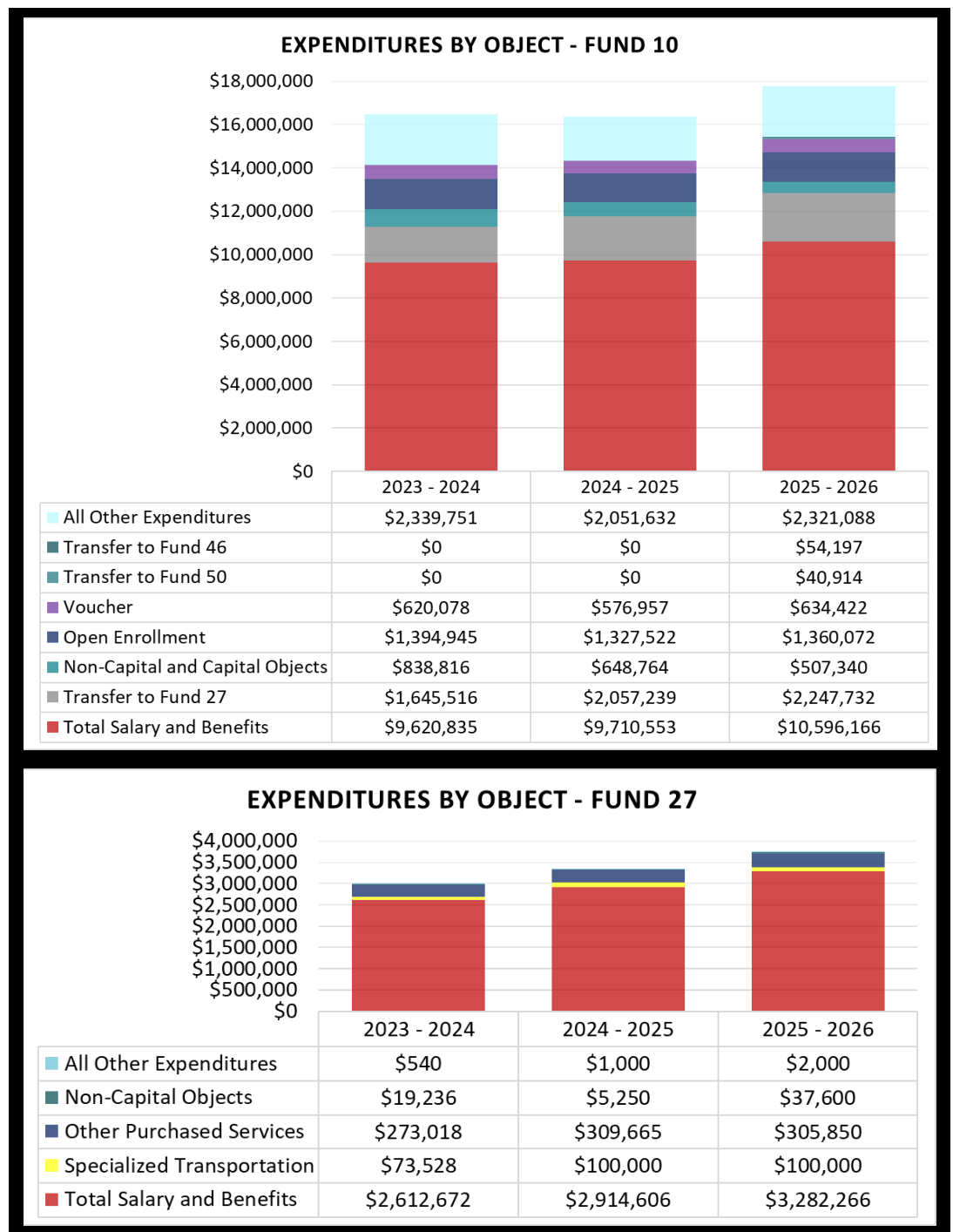
St. Francis School District expects expenses to rise in 2025–26, driven by both inflation and strategic investments in student programming aligned with the District’s goals.

About 70% of total spending goes toward salaries and benefits, which is typical for school districts. Other expenses cover open enrollment out, utilities, purchased services, insurance, supplies, equipment, and other operational costs.

The District continues it’s work to become more cost efficient and has implemented cost-saving measures to help limit the impact of cost increases while maintaining quality programs for students.

Notes

- General & Special Education Expense % breakdown:
 - Instruction - 46%
 - Support Services - 9%
 - Administration - 9%
 - Operations - 15%
 - Non-Program - 21%
- Required transfers to other funds increase to offset funding shortfalls, including a significant increase to Fund 27
- Private School Voucher costs are projected to increase over \$57,000



BUDGET INFORMATION

2025-2026 Budget - 2024 Operational Referendum

In November 2024, the St. Francis community strongly supported a 5-year non-recurring operational referendum. It increases the District's revenue limit authority by \$600,000 in the first year, followed by \$2.4 million annually for the next four years.

The referendum was strategically timed to align with the expiration of the 2021 operational referendum and the reallocation of levy funds previously used for early debt payments in Fund 39. This approach was designed to minimize the impact on the total tax levy and mill rate throughout the referendum period. The District aims to maintain the mill rate at or below 2023-24 levels.

Without the referendum, the District would have faced significant deficits starting in 2024-25, resulting in major cuts to programs, services, and staffing. The community's support reflects trust in the District's leadership and its commitment to students, staff, and families. The referendum not only preserves existing programs and services by addressing budget shortfalls and rising costs, but also enables investments in targeted initiatives to meet student and community needs, including:

Notes

- 2024 Operational Referendum funding is set to expire after the 2028-29 school year
- Total possible funding authority granted over the course of the 2024 referendum is \$10,200,000
- State funding has not increased to levels required to avoid the need for future referendums

- Maintaining smaller class sizes at elementary level
- Add Grade 1, Grade 2 Teachers, Increase Art to Full Time Equivalent
- Additional support at Willow Glen - 4K Aides (3), Supervisory Aides (2)
- Additional Student Services Supports - School Psychologist at High School, Special Education Aide at HS, Speech FTE Increase
- Math Coach
- Operational Funding, Utilities, Technology, Insurance, Long-Term Capital Planning

St. Francis Public School District

2024 Operational Referendum

Referendum Quick Facts

On Tuesday, November 5, 2024, the St. Francis community will vote on a proposed **five year non-recurring operational referendum** to authorize the SFSD to exceed the revenue limit by: **\$600,000** for the 2024-2025 school year and **\$2,400,000** per year for the next four years (2026-2029).

Listen-Learn & Lead Together

An approved referendum would enable SFSD to:

- Continue to implement award winning programs at all schools to best meet the needs of all students
- Balance the budget without utilizing fund balance reserves
- Recruit and retain high-quality teachers and support staff through a competitive compensation structure
- Manage continued increases to operational costs which includes: rising healthcare costs, safety & security, facility maintenance, & utilities
- Continue to invest in updated technology for students and staff

Why is a referendum needed?

- The District is currently facing projected deficits over the next five years as funding for school districts has not kept up with the costs of inflation since 2010. Revenue limits haven't kept pace with rising costs, forcing over 89% of WI school districts to go out for operational referendums approved by voters to maintain student services and programming.
- The State of Wisconsin **did not provide** public schools any funding with the 2021-2023 Biennial Budget. Federal ESSER funds expire in September 30, 2024.
- Many of the challenges we are facing are largely due to factors beyond our control, such as decades of inadequate state funding, inflation, rising operational costs, and unfunded mandates, especially in special education.

>>> Projected School Tax Impact

The tax impact of the 2024 Operational Referendum is projected to be flat from 2023-24 amounts. This is possible through a stable total school levy from 2023-24 amounts and decreasing mill rates in alignment with projected equalized property growth.

Learn more online at:
www.stfrancischools.org/page/2024-operational-referendum

For more information contact
Jackson Parker
 Director of Finance
 414-747-3912
 jparker@sfed.k12.wi.us

Thank you to the St. Francis Community for your continued support of St. Francis Public Schools and Students.

2025-2026 Annual Meeting Budget - Debt Service Funds

Fund 30's - Debt Service Funds are used for recording transactions related to the repayment of general obligation debts such as promissory notes, bonds and state trust fund loans.

Fund 38 - Non-Referendum Debt Fund

Fund 38 is used to manage certain types of school district debt that are paid through the property tax levy and fall within the state-imposed revenue limit.

Currently, this fund covers two separate debt payments: one from 2016 and another for \$905,000 to support the Stadium Turf Field Project. The final payments on the 2016 debt will be made in the 2025–26 school year. While the first payment on the new turf field loan will begin in spring 2026.

By aligning the new borrowing with the payoff of the old debt, the district was able to fund the stadium project without using referendum dollars and with minimal impact on the operating budget.

Fund Balance- Fund 38	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026
Fund 38 Revenues	\$94,900	\$93,010	\$143,232
Fund 38 Expenditures	\$95,823	\$93,978	\$126,018
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$923)	(\$968)	\$17,215
Fund Balance	\$37,620	\$36,652	\$53,866
Fall Scheduled Payments		\$1,021	\$18,236
Balance Post-Fall Payments		\$35,630	\$35,630

Fund 39 - Referendum Approved Debt Fund

Fund 39 is used for debt approved by voters through referendum, and the tax levy that supports it falls outside the state revenue limit.

Currently, Fund 39 covers the debt from the 2021 Capital Referendum. All related construction was completed in 2024 and those expenses were accounted for in Fund 43. The district has implemented prepayment strategies on this debt to reduce interest costs and save taxpayers money.

The 2021 referendum debt is scheduled to be fully repaid by 2041.

Fund Balance- Fund 39	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026
Fund 39 Revenues	\$3,070,799	\$2,809,400	\$1,813,125
Fund 39 Expenditures	\$4,068,975	\$1,526,250	\$1,759,825
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$998,177)	\$1,283,150	\$53,300
Fund Balance	\$345,274	\$1,628,424	\$1,681,724
Fall Scheduled Payments		\$248,875	\$292,175
Balance Post-Fall Payments		\$1,379,549	\$1,389,549

Notes

- Fund 38 - \$905,000 Borrowing is scheduled to be paid off in 2036
- Fund 39 - Utilizing Fund balance surplus, the district plans to continue to prepay debt to save on interest costs.

2025-2026 Annual Meeting Budget - Capital Projects Funds

Fund 40's - Capital Project Funds are used to account for expenditures financed through bonds, promissory notes, state trust fund loans, land contracts, an expansion fund tax levy. Other capital projects funded through other sources of revenue such as gifts, grants and sale of capital objects may also be accounted for in these funds.

Fund 46 - Long Range Capital Project Trust Fund

Established in November 2024. Fund 46 will be used to help the district strategically plan for capital projects in the future. Funds are unavailable for 5 years to allow for investment earnings and build up fund balance. Revenues reflect a transfer from the general fund to build the fund balance. All expenditures with Fund 46 dollars must be for capital expenditures that are included in the St. Francis School District Long-Range Capital Plan.

Fund Balance- Fund 46	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026
Fund 46 Revenues	\$0	\$100	\$55,197
Fund 46 Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0
Surplus (Deficit)	\$0	\$100	\$55,197
Fund Balance	\$0	\$100	\$55,297

Notes

- Fund 43: 2021 Capital Referendum funds were fully spent with project completion in FY 2024-25.
- **Fund 46:** Projects in the District's 10-Year Capital Plan include:
 - Boiler replacement
 - High School elevator replacement
- **Fund 49:** Stadium project costs not covered by borrowing are funded through the NFL Turf Grant, Fundraising and other operating funds.

Fund 49 - Other Capital Projects Fund

Fund 49 is currently used to track the Stadium Turf Field Project costs. Funds received in Fund 49 were obtained through the debt issuance in May 2025. Debt payments for the \$905,000 borrowing are tracked in Fund 38. The Turf Field Installation was completed in August 2025.



Fund Balance- Fund 49	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026
Fund 49 Revenues	\$522,154	\$917,000	\$0
Fund 49 Expenditures	\$5,974,309	\$833,013	\$650,000
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$5,452,154)	\$83,987	(\$650,000)
Fund Balance	\$566,013	\$650,000	\$0

2025-2026 Budget - Other Funds

The following are summaries of all the other financial funds that make up the 2025-26 St. Francis School District Budget.

Fund 21 - Internal Activities

Fund 21 is used to track the majority of fundraising, gifts and donations issued to the district. Accounts include clubs, classes and other district sponsored activity accounts.

Fund Balance- Fund 21	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026
Fund 21 Revenues	\$235,802	\$235,000	\$200,000
Fund 21 Expenditures	\$212,128	\$235,000	\$200,000
Surplus (Deficit)	\$23,674	\$0	\$0
Fund Balance	\$142,797	\$142,797	\$142,797

Fund 50 - Food Service Fund

Fund 50 accounts for all revenues and expenditures related to the National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs. Since the expiration of federal pandemic-era funding, the food service program has operated at a deficit.

With rising costs, the district is working to increase meal participation to boost revenue. However, the Fund 50 fund balance is projected to be depleted during the 2025–26 school year. To prevent a negative fund balance, a transfer from the General Fund will be required.

Fund Balance- Fund 50	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026
Fund 50 Revenues	\$588,111	\$586,438	\$649,789
Fund 50 Expenditures	\$619,889	\$666,709	\$685,022
Surplus (Deficit)	(\$31,778)	(\$80,271)	(\$35,233)
Fund Balance	\$115,504	\$35,233	\$0

Fund 80 - Community Service Fund

The Recreation Program accounts for the majority of expenses in the Community Service Fund (Fund 80). Revenues are primarily generated through the Fund 80 tax levy, which is not subject to the state revenue limit. Recreation Program fees also help offset expenditures.

Most Fund 80 expenses are related to Recreation Department staffing. The fund also includes costs associated with the District’s contract with the St. Francis Police Department for the School Resource Officer, as well as utility expenses.

Fund Balance- Fund 80	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026
Fund 80 Revenues	\$467,432	\$513,000	\$584,010
Fund 80 Expenditures	\$444,130	\$538,966	\$583,636
Surplus (Deficit)	\$23,303	(\$25,966)	\$374
Fund Balance	\$107,751	\$81,785	\$82,159

Notes

- **Fund 21:** Largest source of revenues and expenses come from the Rec-Dance program and Costa Rica trip.
- **Fund 50:** Piloted Universal Free Breakfast at Deer Creek and the High School to boost participation and revenue.
- **Fund 80:** Recreation Program is expanding, adding Summer Camps and Girls Basketball.

2025-2026 Budget - Levy

The District's total tax levy is projected to increase by 1.04%, due to the following factors:

- Approval of the **November 2024 \$2.4 million operational referendum**
- An increase in **state revenue limit authority**
- Higher levies for **Community Services (Fund 80) and Non-Referendum Debt (Fund 38)**

Fund 10 – General Fund (Operations): Increase by \$991,970, primarily due to the 2024 operational referendum.

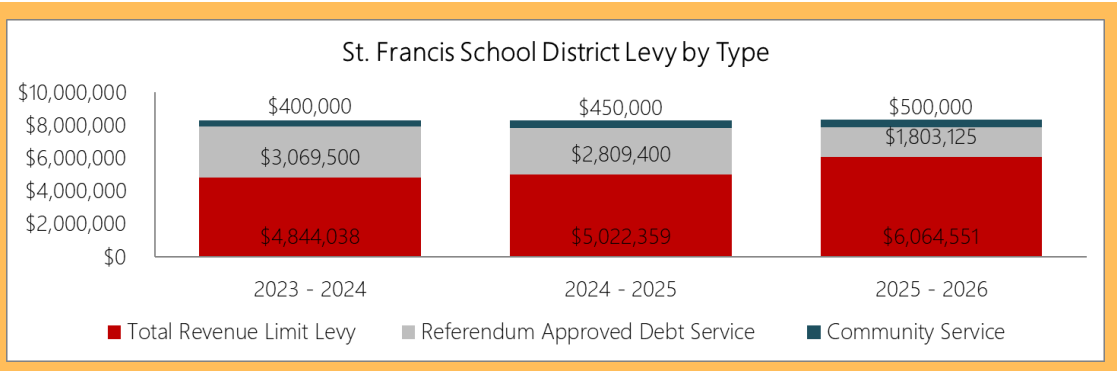
Fund 38 – Non-Referendum Debt: Increase to cover the first interest payment on the \$905,000 debt issuance planned for May 2025.

Fund 39 – Referendum-Approved Debt: Decreasing as part of a fiscal strategy to offset the General Fund levy increase tied to the 2024 referendum.

Fund 80 – Community Services: Increase by \$50,000 to support rising costs in recreation and other community programs.

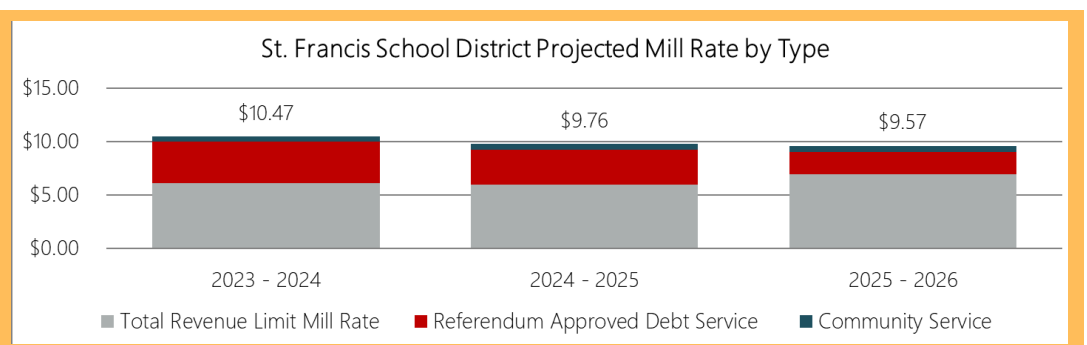
Notes

- Total 2025-26 School Levy: \$8,367,676
- Levy rates are measured in mills (tax dollars per \$1,000 of equalized property value).
- Projections assume a 3% increase in equalized value and higher equalization aid, though the state budget did not include an aid increase.
- Final levies and mill rates will be set during final budget adoption.



Although the total tax levy is projected to increase slightly, the mill rate is expected to decrease. This aligns with the District's commitment, communicated during the 2024 referendum campaign, to maintain the mill rate at or below 2023–24 levels for the course of the referendum.

The decrease is primarily due to projected growth in the District's equalized property value. A breakdown of the projected mill rate is provided below:



Budget Publication 2025-2026

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING PUBLICATION - 2025 - 2026
 Required Published Budget Summary Format

A budget summary, notice of the place where the budget in detail may be examined, the time and place for a public hearing on the budget must be published or distributed under s. 65.90. The required minimum detail for the published summary is as follows:

GENERAL FUND	Audited 2023 - 2024	Unaudited 2024 - 2025	Budget 2025 - 2026
Beginning Fund Balance	3,687,104.83	\$3,426,704.23	2,773,172.99
Ending Fund Balance	3,426,704.23	\$2,773,172.99	2,773,172.99
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
Transfers-In (Source 100)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Local Sources (Source 200)	5,067,372.33	5,215,548.27	6,161,319.00
Inter-district Payments (Source 300 + 400)	4,214,604.00	4,454,679.34	4,692,405.00
Intermediate Sources (Source 500)	9,454.55	6,327.75	6,000.00
State Sources (Source 600)	5,419,312.89	6,171,674.98	6,396,984.00
Federal Sources (Source 700)	1,408,926.26	470,235.13	315,223.00
All Other Sources (Source 800 + 900)	198,326.36	80,441.50	190,000.00
TOTAL REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	16,317,996.39	16,398,906.97	17,761,931.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES			
Instruction (Function 100 000)	7,078,211.72	6,975,807.98	7,223,633.00
Support Services (Function 200 000)	5,650,163.01	5,924,791.71	6,106,661.00
Non-Program Transactions (Function 400 000)	3,850,022.26	4,151,838.52	4,431,637.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES	16,578,396.99	17,052,438.21	17,761,931.00

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2023 - 2024	Unaudited 2024 - 2025	Budget 2025 - 2026
Beginning Fund Balance	119,123.07	142,796.98	137,963.83
Ending Fund Balance	142,796.98	137,963.83	137,963.83
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
	3,234,943.68	3,585,706.44	3,927,716.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES			
	3,211,269.77	3,590,539.59	3,927,716.00

DEBT SERVICE FUND	Audited 2023 - 2024	Unaudited 2024 - 2025	Budget 2025 - 2026
Beginning Fund Balance	1,381,992.82	382,893.50	1,766,597.71
Ending Fund Balance	382,893.50	1,766,597.71	1,837,111.71
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
	3,165,698.66	2,918,081.71	1,956,357.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES			
	4,164,797.98	1,534,377.50	1,885,843.00

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	Audited 2023 - 2024	Unaudited 2024 - 2025	Budget 2025 - 2026
Beginning Fund Balance	6,914,724.63	1,462,570.21	1,494,936.95
Ending Fund Balance	1,462,570.21	1,494,936.95	900,133.95
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
	522,154.16	935,660.01	55,197.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES			
	5,974,308.58	903,293.27	650,000.00

FOOD SERVICE FUND	Audited 2023 - 2024	Unaudited 2024 - 2025	Budget 2025 - 2026
Beginning Fund Balance	139,588.58	107,810.14	50,204.49
Ending Fund Balance	107,810.14	50,204.49	14,971.49
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
	588,110.74	549,999.37	649,789.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES			
	619,889.18	607,605.02	685,022.00

COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND	Audited 2023 - 2024	Unaudited 2024 - 2025	Budget 2025 - 2026
Beginning Fund Balance	84,448.49	107,961.42	33,561.96
Ending Fund Balance	107,961.42	33,561.96	33,935.96
REVENUES & OTHER FINANCING SOURCES			
	467,432.31	545,548.75	584,010.00
EXPENDITURES & OTHER FINANCING USES			
	443,919.38	619,948.21	583,636.00

Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses

ALL FUNDS	Audited 2023 - 2024	Unaudited 2024 - 2025	Budget 2025 - 2026
GROSS TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS	30,992,581.88	24,308,201.80	25,494,148.00
Interfund Transfers (Source 100) - ALL FUNDS	1,655,188.66	2,052,306.09	2,342,843.00
Refinancing Expenditures (FUND 30)	0.00	0.00	0.00
NET TOTAL EXPENDITURES -- ALL FUNDS	29,337,393.22	22,255,895.71	23,151,305.00
PERCENTAGE INCREASE - NET TOTAL FUND EXPENDITURES FROM PRIOR YEAR		-24.14%	4.02%

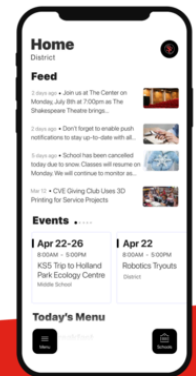
Budget Publication 2025-2026 - (continued)

PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY			
Levy Summary	Audited 2023 - 2024	Unaudited 2024 - 2025	Budget 2025 - 2026
General Fund	\$4,749,138	\$4,929,349	\$5,921,319
Referendum Debt Service Fund	\$3,069,500	\$2,809,400	\$1,803,125
Non-Referendum Debt Service Fund	\$94,900	\$93,010	\$143,232
Capital Expansion Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Community Service Fund	\$400,000	\$450,000	\$500,000
Prior Year Levy Chargeback	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Levy	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL SCHOOL LEVY	\$8,313,538	\$8,281,759	\$8,367,676
PERCENTAGE INCREASE --			
TOTAL LEVY FROM PRIOR YEAR		-0.38%	1.04%

Updated Website and School App

It's everything St. Francis Schools,
in your pocket.

- News
- Events
- Documents
- Staff
- Alerts
- Dining



Download the St. Francis Public Schools, WI app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and enable Notifications.

Mariner Nation 2025



Empower - Achieve - Lead

**Adoption of Tax Levy Resolution
for General and Debt Services Funds
Annual Meeting - September 8, 2025**

Suggested Motion:

I hereby move that a property tax be levied on behalf of the St. Francis Public School District in the amount of:

- \$5,921,319 (five million, nine hundred twenty-one thousand, three hundred nineteen dollars) for **General - Fund 10** (the Operation of the district schools)
- \$500,000 (five hundred thousand) for the **Community Service - Fund 80**;
- \$1,803,125 (one million, eight hundred three thousand, one hundred twenty five dollars) for the Discharge of **Referendum Debt Obligation - Fund 39**;
- \$143,232 (one hundred forty three thousand, two hundred thirty two dollars) for the Discharge of **Non-Referendum Debt Obligations - Fund 38**;
- **Total Sum** of \$8,367,676 (eight million, three hundred sixty-seven thousand, six hundred and seventy-six dollars for the 2025-2026 School Year.



Our

POINTS OF PRIDE

Located on the beautiful shores of Lake Michigan in southeastern Milwaukee County, the St. Francis Public School District consists of three welcoming school environments that serve and celebrate our diverse student population. Our highly qualified instructional staff proudly provides a safe, inclusive and collaborative education that supports all students' growth and achievement.



Willow Glen Primary - PreK-3rd Grades- Enrollment: 266

Principal: Eddy Ringsby

- 2023 National Blue Ribbon High Performing Elementary School
- 2025 - US News & World Report - Received "Best Elementary School" designation once again
- Continued growth & achievement in reading and math
- Strong PBIS and Character Education programming
- Expanded Recreation Department After-school programs, along with before & after school care.
- Robust Parent Teacher Organization with Deer Creek
- Class size average 22 per class (2024-25 school year)

Deer Creek Intermediate - 4th-8th Grades-Enrollment: 295

Principal: Dr. Seth Larson and Teri Bartsch, Assistant Principal

- Strong focus on literacy and math to build core academic skills
- Celebration of academic success and character education
- Partnership with Willow Glen and PTO to strengthen community ties
- Modern learning environments with breakout spaces for collaboration and innovation
- Expanded enrichment programs: Creative Writing, Passion Projects, Lifetime Fitness, Robotics, World Cultures
- Enhanced extracurriculars through collaboration with the recreation department
- Small class sizes averaging 22-25 students for a more personalized learning experience



Home of the Mariners - #Mariner Nation



ST FRANCIS PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Our

POINTS OF PRIDE



St. Francis High School-Enrollment: 514

Principal: Michael Lewandowski & Timothy Riedl, Assistant Principal

- 97% graduation rate
- 91.7% attendance rate
- 68% students with 2.5 GPA or better
- Average Class sizes of 26 students or less
- 2025 Graduating Class had over \$2 Million in scholarships
- Scholar student earned a full ride scholarship to an IVY league school
- Sold out drama productions with the fall play & spring musical
- Championship Dance & Poms Teams - Regional & State
- Continued increases with students that earned CTE credits.
- 2025 Promising Practice Award Winner by Wisconsin Character Education Partnership
- Activities/Athletics participation at all time high
- 304 Total Participants in Athletics with 20 Sports
- 45 High School Coaches including Co-ops
- 2025 Division II Boy's State 400m Track and Field Champion



St. Francis Community & Recreation Department

Director: David Cunningham

The mission of the St. Francis School District Department of Recreation is to enhance the quality of life of its students, families, and community members by providing youth development, education, recreation, and social opportunities in partnership with schools, organizations, and the St. Francis community. This will include activities and projects that are recreational, vocational, avocational, civic, and cultural in collaboration with the school district.

We hope that you join us in participating in your favorite activities and special events. If you have any thoughts on future programs that are of interest to you, please reach out and we will do our best to add it to our offerings.





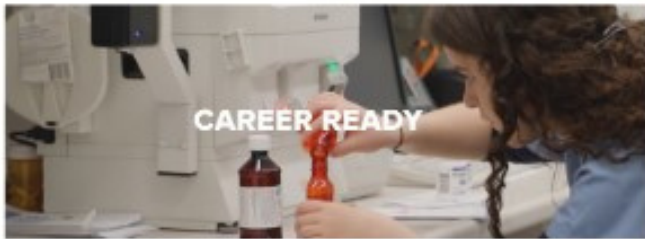
More

POINTS OF PRIDE



College Readiness Indicators

- 45% of Advanced Placement tests with 3+ score
- 68% Students with 2.5 GPA or higher
- We have six pathways and continue to add more
- Top Priority for College is affordability
- Top Areas of Study - Nursing, Business, Criminal Justice & Engineering



Career Readiness Indicators

- 10 Youth Apprenticeship
- 66 industry recognized certifications were earned by students this year! (Total of 165 certifications last four years!)
- Expanded every year for four years straight



Life Readiness Indicators

- 97% Graduation Rate at High School
- Strong Intergenerational Pride with Alumni and St. Francis Community
- Continuous growth in placements in the military and work force

First Medical Assistants Program in State - "High School to Health Care"



In collaboration with the Southwest MKE Consortium of Schools and Center for Healthcare Careers, this accelerated program is designed to equip our students with the skills and hands-on experience needed to become a certified Medical Assistant immediately after high school. Through a combination of classroom instruction, lab practice, and real-world clinical training, students gain the knowledge and confidence to work alongside healthcare professionals in a fast-paced medical setting.



Check out this video

College Board

Advanced Placement Female Representation in Computer Science

This "award" from the College Board related to computer science is the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award, which recognizes high schools that achieve significant female student representation in their AP Computer Science A and/or AP Computer Science Principles courses. The high school has received this award two years in a row!



2024 AP[®] CSP Female Diversity Award



St. Francis Public School District

Dr. Deborah Kerr

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Christopher Osowski

Director of Buildings & Grounds
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Offices

St. Francis High School

Michael Lewandowski, Principal
Timothy Riedl, Assistant Principal
(414) 747-3601
www.stfrancisschools.org/o/sfhs

Deer Creek Intermediate School

Dr. Seth Larson, Principal
Teri Bartsch, Assistant Principal
(414) 482-8401
www.stfrancisschools.org/o/deercreek

Willow Glen Primary School

Edward Ringsby, Principal
Teri Bartsch, Assistant Principal
(414) 486-6301
www.stfrancisschools.org/o/willowglen

Athletic Department

Doug Sarver, Athletic Director & Niki Hoppe, Athletic Trainer, Asst. AD
(414) 747-3694 (414) 747-3649
dsarver@sfsd.k12.wi.us nhoppe@sfsd.k12.wi.us
www.stfrancisschools.org/o/sfhs/page/st-francis-high-school-athletics

David Cunninham - Recreation Director

(414) 482-8481
dcunnin@sfsd.k12.wi.us
<https://www.stfrancisschools.org/page/sf-recreation>

Meet the
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Meet the
BOARD OF EDUCATION

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2025-2026 BOARD MEETINGS

The St. Francis School Board meets regularly twice each month on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in the St. Francis High School Library with some exceptions due to scheduling conflicts. All School Board meetings are publicly posted. The following are scheduled meeting dates for the 2025-2026 school year:

September 8, 2025/September 22, 2025

October 6, 2025 / October 27, 2025

November 3, 2025 / November 17, 2025

December 15, 2025 (One Meeting Month)

January 5, 2026 / January 19, 2026

February 2, 2026 / February 16, 2026

March 2, 2026 / March 16, 2026

April 6, 2026 / April 20, 2026

May 4, 2026 / May 18, 2026

June 1, 2026 / June 22, 2026

Let's stay in touch

St. Francis Public School District

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Web: www.stfrancisschools.org



Empower - Achieve - Lead