Big Foot High School

CHIEFS

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS
U.S.News & WORLD REPORT
NATIONAL
2025-2026



BIG FOOT
UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
401 Devils Lane, Walworth

www.bigfoot.k12.wi.us
(262) 275-2116
facebook.com/BigFootHighSchool
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Year In Review

2025 - 2026 School Year
Volume 10

Big Foot High School

Year in Review

A LOOK AT THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

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VISION STATEMENT

The vision of Big Foot High School is to maximize each child's learning and develop responsible, productive citizens.

MISSION STATEMENT

Big Foot Union High School is dedicated to the academic and personal growth of our students. Our highly committed staff recognizes the value of challenging students through quality classroom instruction and extra curricular experiences. We strive to engage parents and community through effective communications and collaboration. Through diversified experiences, our students discover their potential, achieve readiness for college and careers, and succeed in a safe and caring environment.

ADMINISTRATORS' WELCOME

We are proud to look back on the 2025–2026 school year and celebrate all that our students, staff, and community have accomplished. As a district, our goal is to prepare every student to be college and career ready, and we know that means more than grades and test scores. It means helping students build confidence, develop new skills, solve problems, and discover their strengths. Throughout the year, we see our Portrait of a Graduate come to life in the ways our students learn, lead, and interact with others.



Mr. Doug Parker, Mr. Jeremy Andersen, Mr. Mike Welden, Ms. Bailey Racky, and Mrs. Stacie Sheppard

At Big Foot, we want our graduates to be CHIEFS:

- **C** – **Creative Problem Solvers** who generate original ideas, recognize alternatives, make connections, and explore multiple solutions.
- **H** – **Honorable Citizens** who show awareness of and respect for diverse experiences, feelings, and opinions.
- **I** – **Innovative & Agile Thinkers** who apply fresh perspectives and are willing to adapt to change.
- **E** – **Effective Communicators** who read, speak, write, and listen effectively.
- **F** – **Fully Responsible Leaders** who lead with character, build respectful relationships, honor commitments, and take ownership of their actions.
- **S** – **Self-Motivated Learners** who stay committed to learning and achieving their goals, even when faced with challenges.

As we look back on the year, we hope you see the hard work, growth, and pride that make Big Foot High School what it is. We are grateful to our school community for the many ways you contribute to BFHS and our students. It takes all of us working together to make Big Foot a place where students can learn, grow, and prepare for their futures.

We're very proud of what we've accomplished together and look forward to what's ahead.

The Big Foot High School Administrative Team, Go Chiefs!





Big Foot High School

Chiefs in Action

A LOOK AT THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

OUR DISTRICT AT A GLANCE



BIG FOOT HIGH SCHOOL
WALWORTH, WISCONSIN | GRADES 9-12 | 426 STUDENTS

A UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Big Foot High School (BFHS) is located in South Central Walworth County in the Village of Walworth, Wisconsin. As a union high school, BFHS operates as a grade 9-12 district with its own school board, district administrator, and students coming from four K-8 districts.

426	4	9-12
STUDENTS	K-8 PARTNER SCHOOLS	GRADE LEVELS

BFHS is one of ten union high school districts in Wisconsin with a student population of 426 students. Most union high school districts are found in Southeastern Wisconsin. The BFHS school district serves families from the villages of Fontana, Sharon, and Walworth, and the townships of Walworth, Delavan, Linn, and Sharon.

PARTNER SCHOOLS

PARTNER SCHOOLS

The Big Foot Union School District serves an area that includes four different K-8 school districts. It is a common misconception that our partner schools and BFHS are one district: we are not. We are a 9-12 district with four partner school districts. Each district runs independent of one another.

FONTANA	SHARON	REEK	WALWORTH
PRE K through 8TH GRADE	PRE K through 8TH GRADE	JUNIOR K through 8TH GRADE	JUNIOR K through 8TH GRADE
211 students	**164 students**	**177 students**	**383 students**
fontana.k12.wi.us	sharon.k12.wi.us	linn6.k12.wi.us	walworth.k12.wi.us

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

The Big Foot Union School District's Board of Education consists of five elected members from the surrounding communities. Our district is broken up into five geographic areas and each area is reprented by one school board member. All electors are able to vote in all general school board elections.

Regular Board Meetings
Date: 3rd Monday of the Month
Time: 6:00pm
Location: BFHS Lower Library

Edward Hayden, President
Village & Town of Sharon
eahayden@bigfoot.k12.wi.us

Barb Nordmeyer, Vice-President
Town of Walworth &
Town of Delavan
blnordmeyer@bigfoot.k12.wi.us

Margaret Labus, Treasurer
Village of Fontana
mklabus@bigfoot.k12.wi.us

Jane Palmer, Clerk
Town of Linn
jepalmer@bigfoot.k12.wi.us

Tracey Scott, Member
Village of Walworth
tascott@bigfoot.k12.wi.us





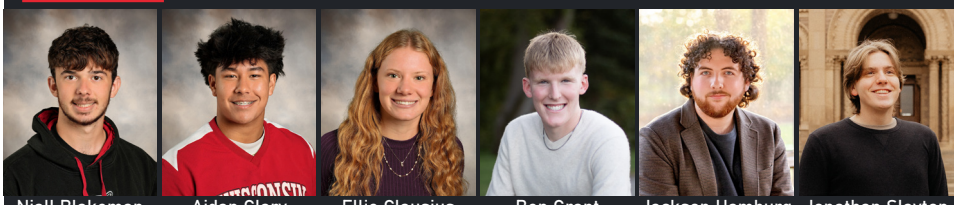
Big Foot High School

Year in Review

A LOOK AT THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

AP TESTING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AP SCHOLARS WITH DISTINCTION



Niall Blakeman | Aidan Clary | Ellie Clausius | Ben Grant | Jackson Hamburg | Jonathan Slayton

AP SCHOLARS WITH HONORS



Rex Augustson | Stephanie Barth | Kielyn Bendle | Frances Counter | Ethan Hartwig | Blake Matthes



Israel Mejia | Sophia Nelson | Emme Nyman | Brian Ortiz Hernandez | Luca Perez | Sophia Stewart

AP SCHOLARS



Charles Bona | Alex Cudnik | Lydia Farence | Nathan Finnegan | Ryne Huff



Rebecca Konkel | Chloe Pearce | Madelyn Perkins | Matilda Snyder | Quincy Torrez

AP TESTING

Big Foot High School is proud to offer a variety of AP classes that help students build confidence, succeed in college, and save both time and money on their degree.

AP Courses

17 AP courses offered in 2026

Participation

108 Students took 185 different exams

Passing Scores

75% of students taking an AP Exam passed with a score of 3 or higher

Class of 2026

20% of all of our graduating seniors scored a 3 or higher on an AP exam

10 Scholars

Scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams

12 Scholars with Honor

Average scores of 3.25 or higher on all AP exams and scores of 3 or higher on at least 4 exams

6 Scholars with Distinction

Average scores of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on at least 5 exams

14 Perfect Scores

AP Exams are scored on a 1 to 5 scale, with 5 being the highest possible score







Big Foot High School

Chiefs in Action

A LOOK AT THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT AWARDS AND SUCCESSES



The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. Students enter the competition by taking the PSAT or NMSQT®. Approximately 1.3 million students from over 22,000 high schools participate annually. Each year, approximately 50,000 students receive recognition. Of these, about 34,000 are named Commended Students in recognition of their exceptional academic promise. Big Foot High School is proud to recognize **Jackson Hamburg** from the Class of 2026 who earned the distinction of National Merit Commended Student.



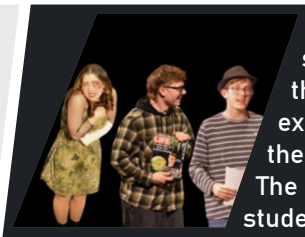
Wesley Cornue was selected to perform in the WSMA Honors Jazz Band. This honors band is to recognize outstanding musical talent and dedication, bringing together some of Wisconsin's most accomplished student musicians. Wesley joined as a guitarist.



The Big Foot FBLA chapter qualified 26 and sent 24 students to San Antonio, Texas for the National Leadership Conference. **Kacey Duber** and **Maddie Perkins** highlighted the event by becoming national finalists in Digital Video Production.



Ten students submitted work that was shown at the annual High School Art Show at Gallery 223. **Lourdes Bernal Cortes** received the GLAF Award for Young Emerging Artist.



The Jerry Awards are a statewide program in Wisconsin that recognizes and honors excellence in high school musical theatre. For their performance in The Little Shop of Horrors, twelve students and Ms. Elise Williams were nominated for Jerry Awards. Winners included **Nathan Polyock** and **Elijah Liptow** in the Spirit Award, and **Gianna Kud** for Outstanding Lead Performance.



In our music department, 26 students competed in the WSMA Solo and Ensemble competition. There were 10 students who qualified for state. State qualifiers included **Edelle Benedict**, **Lourdes Bernal Cortes**, **Braiden Bimrose**, **Lainie Esser**, **Jack Hamburg**, **Mallory Hohisel**, **Austin Kooyenga**, **Gianna Kud**, **Elijah Liptow**, and **Alaina Norman**.



In the second annual Culinary Arts Showdown, two teams joined professional cooks to compete against other local schools. Teams consisted of **Avery Andersen**, **Frances Counter**, and **Natalie Roehl**, who paired with Pier 290 in the Thai category, and **Levi Kirichkow**, **Lilith Smith**, and **Savannah Woods**, who paired with The Abbey Resort in the Moroccan category. Both teams took 2nd place in their respective division.



The **Big Foot FFA Chapter** earned several awards at their National Convention.
- A 3-Star National Chapter Award
- Three of their teams placed in the top ten.
- Alumni **John Rambatt** and **Amanda Bender** earned their American Degrees.



Big Foot's **National Honor Society** had their annual induction ceremony. In total 3 students from the class of 2027 and 15 students from the class of 2028 were inducted.







Big Foot High School

Year in Review

A LOOK AT THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

It is our goal that every student holds these qualities when they graduate from Big Foot High School. Each month, staff nominated students in each category. A random drawing of student nominees is chosen as a "winner."

C — CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVER

Gavin Baxter, Emma Dawson, Anastasia Troha, Bryan Ramirez, Braiden Bimrose, Carter Ries, Elijah Liptow, Gianna Kud

H — HONORABLE CITIZENS

Allie Stankevitz, Mallory Hohisel, Shayna Ferrell, Carla Castaneda, Natalie Roehl, Jadon Romero, Ryne Huff, Avery Andersen

I — INNOVATIVE AND AGILE THINKER

Keyshon Blake, Levi Kirichkow, Jonathan Slayton, Isaiah Cruz, Ethan Hartwig, Roman Vilona, Thomas Grossman, Rebecca Konkel

E — EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS

Olivia Boviall, Brooklyn Stewart, Jazmyn Mondragon Huerta, Piero Rea-Green, Giovanni Bernal, Wyatt Hexel, Emsley Yunker, Janet Castaneda Ortiz

F — FULLY RESPONSIBLE LEADERS

Aidan Clary, Kaitlyn Linker, Jayden Paul, Britanny Estrada, Amara Salzman, Camille Schoonover, Kinley Robbins, Chase Nitsch

S — SELF MOTIVATED LEADERS

Lainie Esser, Nora Nickel, Aideliz Renteria-Pena, James Buchanan, Alyvia Hanna, Keegan Chadwick, Ella Lippert, Sophia Stewart



US NEWS BEST SCHOOLS

Once again, Big Foot High School earned a high ranking in the 2026 Best High Schools according to the U.S. News and World Report. The evaluation includes a numerical ranking of nearly all public high schools nationwide (nearly 18,000 schools) based on multiple sources of objective data.

The ranking focuses on six indicators of school quality: college readiness; breadth of curriculum; scores on state proficiency tests; performance in reading, math, and science; underserved student performance; and graduation rates.

BEST HIGH SCHOOLS U.S.News & WORLD REPORT NATIONAL 2025-2026

BFHS STAFF AWARDS



LISA KONKEL

Earned her Honorary American Farm Degree for her outstanding contributions to agricultural education and FFA.



GREG LUECK

Recognized with the WASDA Athletic Service Award for outstanding dedication, leadership, and contributions to high school athletics.



LAURA LONG

Selected by the Geneva Lakes West Rotary Club to receive their Service Above Self award due to her work within the Big Foot Area Schools.

YEARS OF SERVICE

During inservice, BFHS recognizes staff members who reach a 5-year increment in years of service.



5 Michael Vole, Lynette Vyhnanek, Kayla Guenveur, Brooke Byrom, Danielle Johnson

10 Anne Marie Kupstis, Ryan Zoellner, Susan Pruessing

15 Alison Krick, Chad Roehl

20+ Julie Beetstra (20)
Steve Bochat (25)
Tom Schauf (30)
Barry Walstra (30)

STAFF RETIREMENTS

Seven staff members retired after **127 years** of collective service to Big Foot High School



Laura Long (37 years)
Lisa Konkel (32 years)
Chyrstol Hovestol (22 years)
Jeff Fenrick (18 years)
John Karabas (10 years)
Wes Slawson (6 years)
Mary Kavanaugh (2 years)







Big Foot High School

Chiefs in Action

A LOOK AT THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

ACT COMMENDATIONS

ACT TESTING

Offered twice a year at Big Foot High School, the ACT measures college readiness and student proficiency against Wisconsin State Standards

Average Composite Score

The average composite score for the class of 2026 was 19.8

30 + Club Composite Score

2 members of the BFHS Class of 2026 scored a 30+

Composite Score 25 + Club

10 members of the BFHS Class of 2026 scored a 25+

Science Benchmark +23

31 members of the BFHS Class of 2026 met or exceeded the science benchmark

Math Benchmark +22

20 members of the BFHS Class of 2026 met or exceeded the math benchmark

English Benchmark +18

46 members of the BFHS Class of 2026 met or exceeded the English benchmark

Reading Benchmark +22

38 members of the BFHS Class of 2026 met or exceeded the reading benchmark

Meeting ACT benchmarks shows that a student has the skills to thrive in college courses

The ACT is administered to all juniors during the school year. Students also can take the test on their own in addition to the required in-school ACT. While it is not a benchmark for success, achieving a score of 30 or higher is quite an honor. Therefore, we would like to recognize the following students for earning a 30 or greater on at least one component of the ACT test.

ACT 30+ Club

A distinction for students who have scored 30+ on the ACT

*denotes a student who earned a composite score of 30 or higher



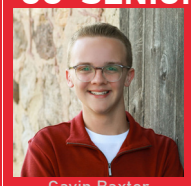
Rex Augustson, Kielyn Bendle, Edelle Benedict*, Braiden Bimrose, Niall Blakeman*, Aidan Clary, Frances Counter

Cameron Cripe, Kacey Duber, Nathan Finnegan, Ben Grant, Jackson Hamburg*, Ethan Hartwig, Eleanet Huerta Jimenez

Gianna Kud, Blake Matthes*, Amara Mueller, Sophia Nelson, Chloe Pearce, Lorelei Southwick

CLASS OF 2026 AWARDS

CO-SENIOR CHIEFS



Gavin Baxter, Mya Gonzalez

CHIEFTAINS



Stephanie Barth, Wrigley Grindle, Luca Perez

The senior Chief and Chieftains are the highest non-monetary awards given to members of the senior class. In order to be selected, the student must be nominated by a faculty member. This year, seven students were nominated for senior Chief and 21 students were nominated for Chieftain.

RVC ACADEMIC ALL CONFERENCE

Gavin Baxter
Braiden Bimrose
Mya Gonzalez
Benjamin Grant
Wrigley Grindle
Jackson Hamburg
Ava Hanna
Gwynith Jacobs
Rebecca Konkel
Kaitlyn Linker
Sophia Stewart
Mylee Walter







Big Foot High School

Year in Review

A LOOK AT THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

INDIVIDUAL STATE QUALIFIERS



- In cross country, **Amalya Gonzalez** qualified for state and took 83rd out of 150 total runners.
- Qualifying for state in singles tennis, **Annabelle Parker** and took 4th place overall in Division 2 tennis.
- In the 145lbs weight class, **Chloe Pearce** qualified for state in wrestling. Pearce was our first ever female state qualifier!
- A three-time state qualifiers in wrestling, this year in the 175lbs weight class, **Carter Ries** took 6th place overall.
- In track and field, **Lydia Farence** qualified for state in the 300 hurdles, **Ava Schoonover** qualified in the high jump, and **Maliyja Spearman**, **Allie Stankevitz**, **Lydia Farence**, and **Ava Schoonover** qualified in the 4x100 meter relay team. The hurdles and relay events broke school records.
- Bowler **Olivia Quiles** qualified for state in bowling.

OTHER AWARDS



- In football, **Owen Smith** was selected to the WFCA All Region Team as a defensive end.
- Twenty-four (24) of our athletes earned Academic All-State awards in their respective seasons.
- As an infielder, **Kate Hummel** was selected to play in the WFSCA All-Star game. Hummel also joined the 100-hit club in her season and earned All-State Honors.
- On the 190-yard par 3 12th hole at Lake Lawn golf course, **Luke DeMarco** got a hole-in-one.
- In wrestling, **Carter Ries** broke a school record with 125 career wins. **Jonah Henningfeld** also joined the 100 career win mark.
- Competing in powerlifting, **Aidan Winn** qualified for both state and nationals. At nationals, Winn took 2nd place lifting a total of 1,328 pounds!

ALL-CONFERENCE WINNERS

1 PLAYER OF THE YEAR
MYA GONZALEZ, GIRLS SOCCER

19 1ST TEAM
ALL CONFERENCE ATHLETES

21 2ND TEAM
ALL CONFERENCE ATHLETES

30 HONORABLE MENTION
ALL CONFERENCE ATHLETES



Mya Gonzalez

TEAM SUCCESSES

GIRLS TRACK
Rock Valley Conference
Rock Division
Conference Champions



GIRLS SWIM
- Southern Lake Conference Champions
- WIAA Regional Champions



POST-SECONDARY COMMITMENTS



Mikey Alfano	Mya Gonzalez	Owen Smith	Claire Patek	Carter Ries
Lakeland University Soccer	St. Norbert Soccer	Illinois State Football	Lakeland University Softball	UW-Eau Claire Wrestling







Big Foot High School

Chiefs in Action

A LOOK AT THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

SCHOLARSHIPS

It is tradition at Big Foot High School that the Saturday night before graduation, the seniors are celebrated and presented with well-earned scholarships. The community comes together to recognize and provide financial support to our senior class.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP STATITISTICS

49
STUDENT RECIPIENTS

155
SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN

$218,274
LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP

$696,250
TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS

CONTRIBUTE TO SCHOLARSHIPS

If you would like to donate to the Education Foundation, please contact our coordinator, Bailey Racky, or mail donations to the BFHS Education Foundation at:

401 Devils Lane
Walworth, WI 53184

RECREATION DISTRICT

The Big Foot Recreation District provides community education, fitness, sports, and enrichment programs for residents in the Big Foot High School District area.

Key Activities & Programs

- **Youth & Adult Sports:** Youth baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, volleyball, cheer and pom, and pickleball.
- **Fitness & Wellness:** Group fitness classes as well as access to the Big Foot Fitness Center.
- **Arts, Crafts & Music:** Painting, clay/sculpting classes, sewing, crochet, piano lessons, and holiday craft fairs.
- **Enrichment & Life Skills:** Babysitting courses, home-alone safety classes, Spanish classes, and regional tours/trips.
- **Community Events:** Seasonal activities like Easter Egg hunt, trunk-or-treat, and community craft/vendor fairs.

BOOSTER CLUB

The Big Foot Booster Club is a non-profit organization that raises money for BFHS athletics along with promoting good sportsmanship. Donations from the Booster Club have included:

- Senior athletes' banners for all teams
- Assisting with the payment of the site-wide Hudl license for all sports to use
- Yearly concussion Impact Testing for all athletes
- $2,000 to the athletic facility complex

The Big Foot Booster Club holds fundraising events throughout the year to help fund these activities. Past activities include a bingo night, craft fair, and cookouts.

FINE ARTS FOUNDATION

EVENT SCHEDULE

7 NOV — YOUNG ORIGINAL
Young Original blends classic American music with original songs, impressive musicianship, and stunning vocal harmonies, captivating audiences nationwide through energetic live performances.

20 DEC — SONS OF SERENDIP
Sons of Serendip is a classical-crossover quartet blending vocals, harp, piano, and cello to create soulful, emotionally stirring interpretations of popular music.

20 MAR — THE LOONEY LUTHERANS
The Looney Lutherans deliver hilarious country-themed entertainment featuring cowboy wisdom, practical living tips, and comedic parodies of classic country songs.

24 APR — BRUBECK BROTHERS QUARTET
The Brubeck Brothers Quartet delivers dynamic jazz performances blending decades of musical experience, outstanding musicianship, and diverse styles inspired by their legendary jazz heritage.

23 MAY — LG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
The LGSO will present a concert featuring Mozart's concerto for two pianos played on a unique double piano built by a master piano builder from Washington Island, Wisconsin.

WWW.BIGFOOTFINEARTS.ORG







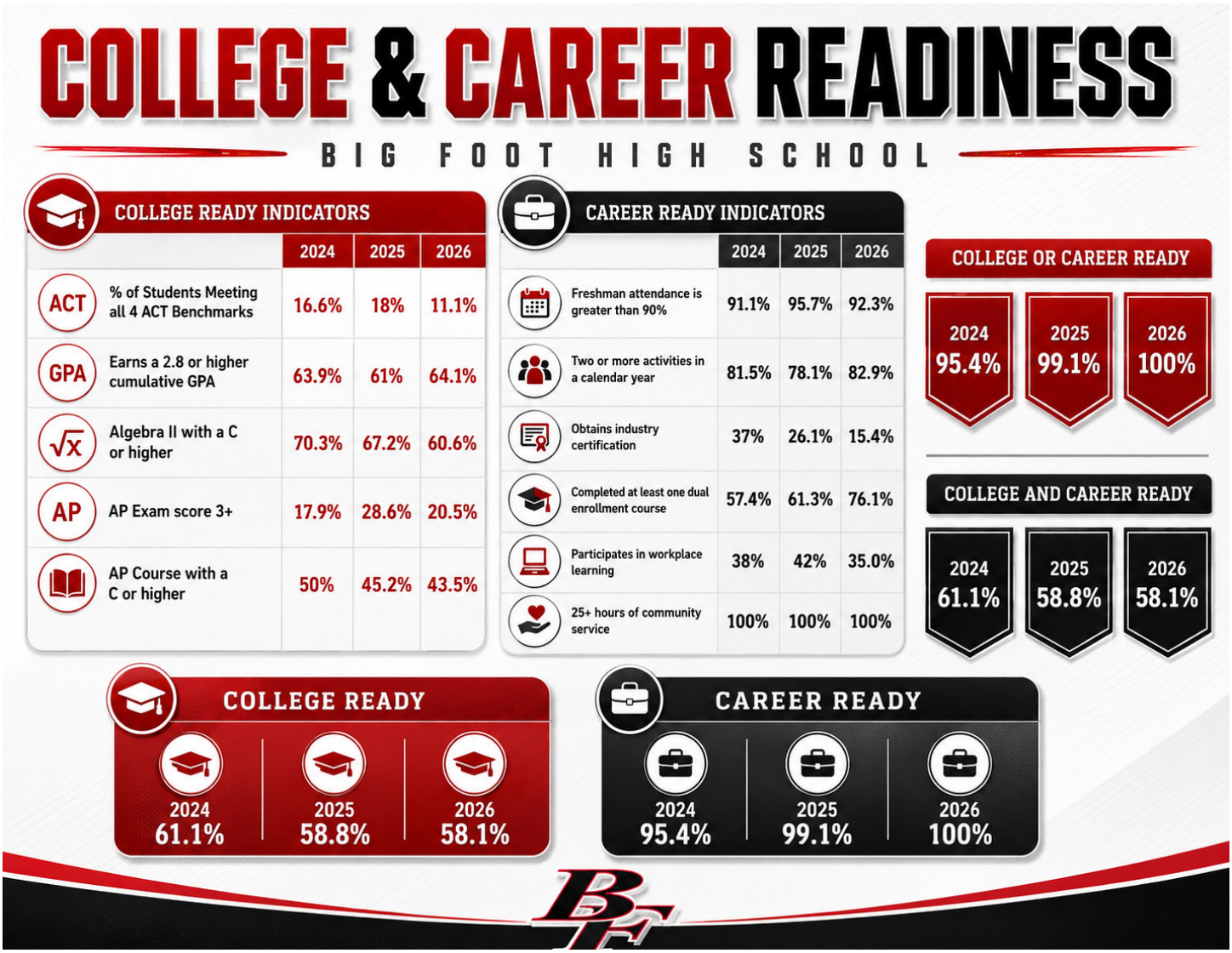
Big Foot High School

Year in Review

A LOOK AT THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

REDEFINING READY SCORECARD

Students are more than just the number they earn on a standardized test. Big Foot High School strives to provide students with rigorous academic programs, personalized and career-specific learning experiences, along with social and emotional skills that prepare them to be global citizens in an ever-changing world. Redefining Ready is a multi-metric, research based approach to determining what it means to be college ready, career ready, and life ready. Big Foot High School adopted and implemented the Redefining Ready indicators in 2019 and has been collecting the data ever since.







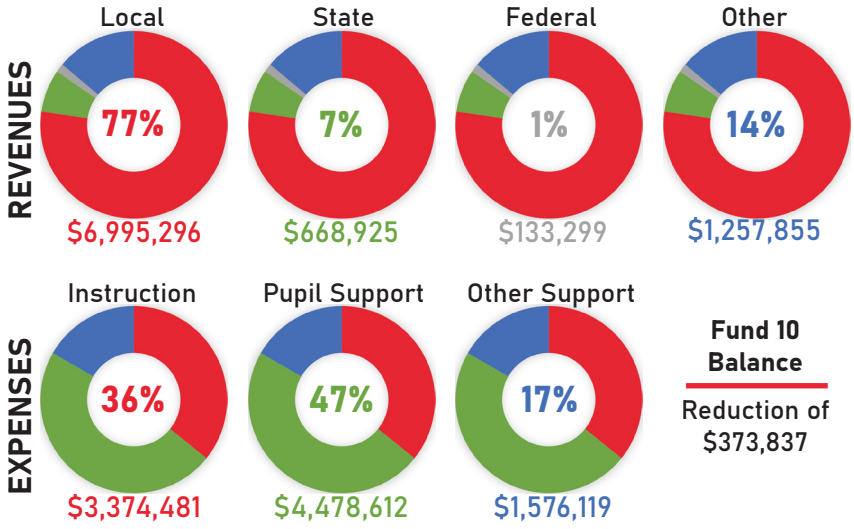


Big Foot High School

Chiefs in Action

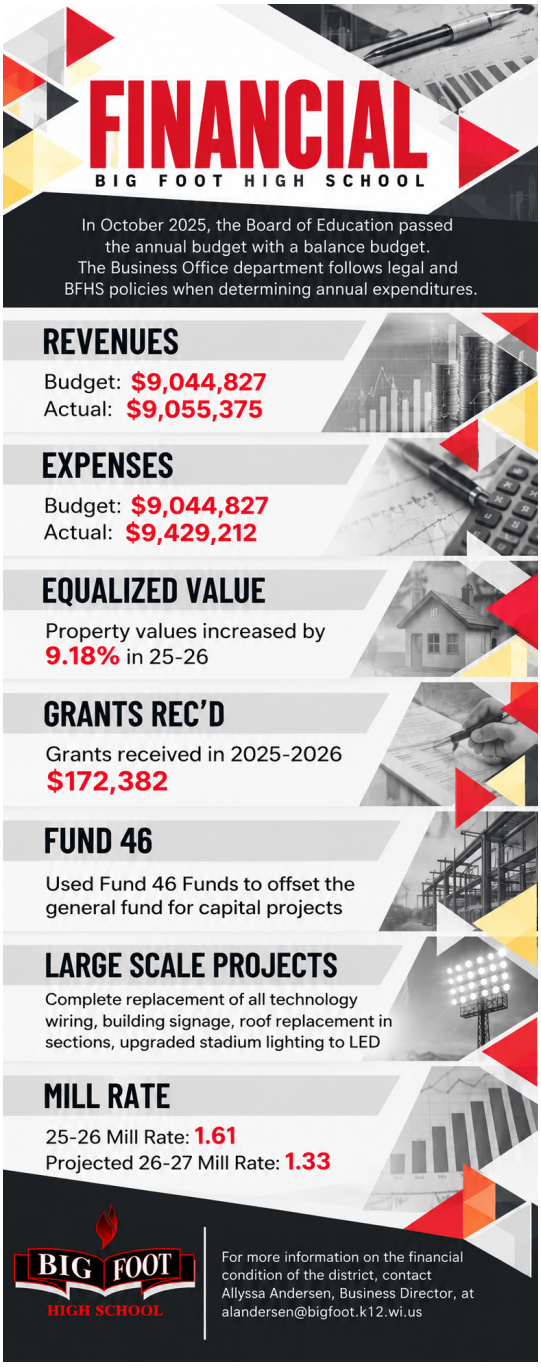
A LOOK AT THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



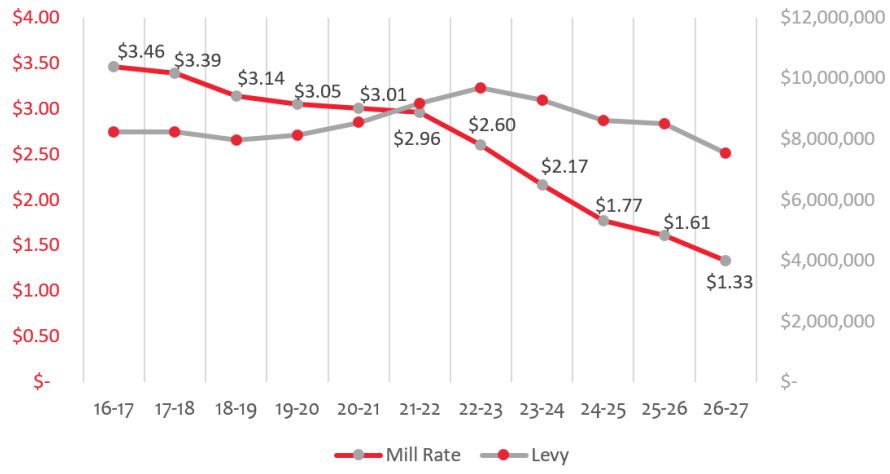
Fund 10 Balance

Reduction of $373,837



MILL RATE / LEVY INFORMATION

The mill rate is the tax responsibility for each property tax owner based on $1,000 of assessed value. In each of the last eleven years, the Big Foot High School mill rate has declined with a total decrease of $2.13, a 62% reduction.





Big Foot High School

Year in Review

A LOOK AT THE 2025 - 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

GENERAL CONTACTS



Telephone Number ..... (262) 275-2116

Recreation District..... (262) 275-2117

Counseling Office ..... (262) 394-4510

ADMINISTRATORS / SUPERVISORS

District Administrator, Doug Parker ..... (262) 394-4501

Principal, Jeremy Andersen ..... (262) 394-4401

Co-Athletic Dir./Asst Principal (A-L), Bailey Racky..... (262) 394-4409

Co-Athletic Dir./Asst Principal (M-Z), Mike Welden ..... (262) 394-4407

Director of Pupil Services, Stacie Sheppard..... (262) 394-4513

Business Director, Allyssa Andersen ..... (262) 394-4503

Building & Grounds Supervisor, Ryan Zoellner ..... (262) 394-4419

Food Service Director, Brenda Utesch..... (262) 394-4418

Technology Director, Beth Grever..... (262) 394-4494

Recreation District Director, Chuck Theisenhusen..... (262) 394-4481

Scholarships Coordinator, Bailey Racky ..... (262) 394-4409



PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL BOLAND

OPEN ENROLLMENT

If you live outside of the Big Foot High School district and are interested in open enrolling to Big Foot High School, please refer to the following information to process your application.

WHEN

Monday, February 2, 2027
to Friday, April 30, 2027

Note: Application Period closes promptly at 4pm on April 30

HOW

Enrollment Application
1) For paper copy, contact
Jessie Hopkins
2) For electronic submission, please visit:
https://dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment/applications/

CONTACT

For more information, contact:

Jessie Hopkins
Open Enrollment Coordinator
jmhopkins@bigfoot.k12.wi.us
(262) 394-4402

Share the Year-in-Review with a friend!





