



Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Schools

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Every Student!

Superintendent's Report 09/21/2026 Enrollment Update

Initial enrollment numbers for the school year are encouraging:

- Early Childhood: 99
- Elementary: 486
- Secondary: 487
- Thunder Online Academy: 25
- Total K-12: 998

During the second week of school last year, K-12 enrollment was 990. Enrollment remained strong through January before declining into the 960s during the spring. Our current enrollment places us close to the highest point reached last year, which was approximately 1,000 students in early October.

Enrollment can still fluctuate considerably during the year, but the initial numbers are a positive start.

Preliminary Levy 2026 Payable 2027

The preliminary levy currently reflects roughly flat funding. Overall property valuations have increased by approximately 3.2% or more, which may limit the impact of the school district levy on many individual properties. Actual tax changes will vary based on property value, classification, and other taxing jurisdictions.

Changes in the levy appear to be driven primarily by enrollment and adjustments within individual funding formulas, namely prior-year levy adjustments.

I recommend that the Board certify the preliminary levy at the maximum. Preliminary levy calculations continue to change as state information is finalized, and the district may reduce the levy before final certification in December but cannot increase it beyond the preliminary amount.

School Age Child Care authority temporarily raises the estimated maximum levy increase to approximately 4.2% because the statutory maximum is \$200,000. We do not currently anticipate



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having sufficient qualifying expenses to levy that full amount and presently anticipate approximately \$60,000.

Federal Title - Current federal Title allocations are:

- Title I: \$235,017.33
- Title II: \$34,700.24
- Title III: \$45,230.42
- Total: \$314,947.99
- Approximate reduction from 2025–26: \$120,000

That is a meaningful reduction and is consistent with the broader concern that federal K–12 funding is likely to remain flat or decline.

Preliminary State Aid Runs:

Revenue	Current Preliminary Run	Prior Comparison
Basic	\$8,586,597.63	\$8,344,980.69
Compensatory	\$1,180,633.86	\$1,791,480.24
English Learner	\$661,375.00	\$559,869.44
Total	\$11,464,285.30	\$11,698,216.36
Difference	-\$233,931.06	

State aid runs completed before October 1 rely heavily on enrollment and other estimates provided by the district. We are currently using relatively stable enrollment assumptions. As with most years, actual enrollment will remain one of the strongest drivers of the district's ultimate revenue.

Permanent School Trust Fund: If approved, the proposed Permanent School Fund constitutional amendment is estimated to generate approximately \$30,000 in additional annual revenue for LPGE without increasing local taxes. The proposal changes the method used to calculate distributions from the fund, using a percentage of a multi-year average market value. The proposed rate was developed with the intent of increasing and stabilizing distributions while preserving the fund's long-term value.

For more information visit: <https://mnmsba.org/advocacy/permanent-school-fund/>



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Blue Ribbon Commission: Preliminary recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Commission, which was charged with identifying approximately \$250 million in state savings, include changes that could significantly affect school districts. Areas under consideration include elimination of ADSIS funding, reductions in transportation funding for certain students with special circumstances and IEPs, and reductions in state support for unreimbursed special education costs.

If the recommendations affecting LPGE were ultimately adopted in their current form, our preliminary estimate is that the district could lose approximately \$500,000 in annual funding. These remain recommendations rather than final legislative action, and we will continue monitoring the process closely.

Summary: The initial enrollment picture is positive and provides some stability as we begin the year. At the same time, several external funding trends are concerning. Federal Title allocations are approximately \$120,000 lower than last year, preliminary state aid runs are approximately \$234,000 below the comparison amount, and proposed Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations could create an additional significant reduction if ultimately adopted.

These figures can not simply be added together to calculate a projected district deficit because they represent different funding streams, assumptions, and stages of the state and federal funding process. However, collectively they would support a conservative financial planning approach.

The two state-level issues I will be watching most closely are the future treatment of compensatory funding and whether the Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations move forward. Enrollment will also remain a major factor in our actual revenue. The preliminary levy increase of approximately 2.4% is comparatively modest and, by itself, will not materially offset significant reductions in state or federal revenue.

Candidate Forum: The Chamber of Commerce is hosting a public forum for the offices of Mayor, City Council, and School board on October 21 at 6:30 PM. Good luck to all of the candidates.