



June 22, 2026

To: Dr. Josh Swanson, Superintendent
From: Jason Mutzenberger, Executive Director of Business Services
Re: Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract for Solar Arrays

The MN Solar for Schools Program is offering a new round of funding, with up to 100% of the cost of on-site solar, purchase and installation, covered by the grant. The district anticipates receiving its Solar for Schools grant in the amount of \$304,247.00 and a federal direct payment of \$202,831.00 that will cover 100% of the \$507,078 purchase and installation cost.

The application process comprises of two steps; the readiness assessment which demonstrates a school's readiness to proceed to procurement and a full application due by July 2, 2026. The district has already received approval of the first step and is in final process of completing the full grant application.

The district has retained Ideal Energies as our solar developer, which is the same company the district has used to install its other 24 rooftop solar arrays. As part of this process, the district is utilizing a Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract (GES), which is a performance-based procurement tool that allows the district to fund this energy upgrade with zero upfront capital expenses, should the grant not fund 100%. The last time the district utilized this tool was in 2023 to complete a district-wide LED lighting upgrade.

The district recommends the board approve the resolution authorizing the district to engage in a Guaranteed Energy Savings Contract Ideal Energies Solar Leasing, LLC.