



# Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Schools

A Small School with Big  
Opportunities for Each and  
Every Student!

## **Superintendent's Report 03/16/2026**

**Solar for Schools Grant:** The Solar for Schools grant application has been submitted. Next month, iDeal Energies will attend a board meeting to answer questions about the grant process and their services. The district has previously been awarded this grant twice but was unable to complete the projects at that time. I am optimistic about our current application and will keep the board updated as we move through the review process.

**Enrollment Update:** Enrollment at the secondary school has declined by 30 students since the beginning of the year. This decrease is largely due to students transitioning to the Accelerated Learning Center (ALC) or to online instruction options. At the elementary level, enrollment is up by six students since September.

High school students generate 1.2 adjusted pupil units, meaning that for approximately every five high school students, the district generates funding equivalent to an additional student. Historically, our final enrollment numbers tend to stabilize near February levels. We typically end the year between our high enrollment (1,000 students) and our low enrollment (966 students). Current projections suggest we will finish above our projected enrollment for the year.

**Surplus Auction:** We are planning a surplus auction for items the district no longer uses but that still have value. I am working with custodial staff, administrators, and Career and Technical Education teachers to identify potential items.

All items must be approved by the board before being sold. Lists of proposed items will be presented for review and approval. We are targeting June or July for the auction date.

**Negotiations:** The teacher, clerical, and support contracts have been settled. We are currently working through individual contracts and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). Legal counsel has reviewed updated language to ensure clarity and compliance with current law.

We met with the custodial union on March 12 and are tentatively down to wages as the final item to come to an agreement on. We meet again on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Legislative Update:** The Minnesota Legislature is moving toward key committee deadlines in late March and April. The political environment remains closely divided, and many education funding proposals are still under discussion.

A quick to encourage you to speak with our representatives Mike Wiener and Paul Utke on issues important to our district.



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**1. Compensatory Aid:** One major issue this session is how compensatory aid is calculated. Compensatory aid supports districts serving students from low-income families.

The state had planned to move away from paper income forms toward automatic data collection. That change has been delayed. A Compensatory Revenue Task Force has been created to study the formula and make recommendations later this year.

If the formula ultimately shifts away from paper forms without adjustment, LPGE could lose as much as \$700,000 in compensatory revenue. This remains an area we are closely monitoring.

**2. Special Education Funding:** Lawmakers are reviewing proposals to increase special education aid and adjust how cross-subsidy aid is calculated. Cross-subsidy aid helps districts cover special education costs not fully funded by federal dollars.

A Blue-Ribbon Commission has been directed to develop recommendations to reduce special education costs statewide. If sufficient savings are not identified, the Legislature may consider reducing future special education funding.

This area has significant financial implications for our district and will require careful attention.

**3. English Learner (ELL/MLL) Funding:** There are proposals aimed at increasing funding for English learner services and adjusting the formula to better reflect inflation and service costs.

Changes to ELL/MLL funding directly impact our staffing and programming. We will continue to monitor developments in this area.

**4. Budget Outlook:** The state budget forecast has improved in the short term, but legislators remain cautious about long-term spending commitments. While education funding remains a priority, future biennium budgets may require difficult decisions.

Ensuring stability in compensatory aid and avoiding reductions to special education funding will be key areas of focus before the legislative session concludes in May.

Please feel free to call me at 357-3605 or email me at [dludvigson@lpge.k12.mn.us](mailto:dludvigson@lpge.k12.mn.us) with questions.

Daniel Ludvigson, the Superintendent of Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Public School