

Joint ISD 110 School Board and St. Bonifacius City Council Work Session

Monday, September 14, 2026 6:00 PM

Waconia High School - Room B107, 1650 Community Drive, Waconia, MN 55387

1. Welcome and Introductions

Presenter: Kelly
Amott, ISD 110 School
Board Chair

2. State of ISD 110

Presenter: Dr. Brian
Gersich,
Superintendent



Waconia Public Schools

ISD 110

September 14, 2026

Agenda

- **Strategic Plan**
- **General State of District**
 - **Referendum**
 - **Permanent School Fund**
 - **Budget**
 - **Enrollment & High Level Long Term Projections**
 - **Student Outcomes**
- **Summary**



WACONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2024-2028 Strategic Plan



WACONIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS ISD 110

OUR MISSION

ISD 110 maximizes opportunities for all students to **explore their passions and create their success** by committing to a community that includes academic rigor, social growth, and emotional wellbeing.



OUR CORE VALUES

Respect

We honor and listen to all voices to ensure everyone feels valued.

Collaboration

We achieve our common goals through trust, teamwork, and partnership.

Inclusiveness

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- Inspiring students to explore a variety of pathways including academic offerings and extracurricular activities that will allow them to recognize who they are and who they will become.
- Fostering a community with a collective sense of belonging and wellbeing.
- Establishing efficient systems and structures as part of a world-class school district that will create opportunities for staff to engage in innovative teaching and students to experience academic success.

OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



Student Outcomes

- Evaluation of elementary student performance on MCAs.
- Assessment of middle school student performance on MCAs.
- Evaluation of high school student readiness for post-high school success.



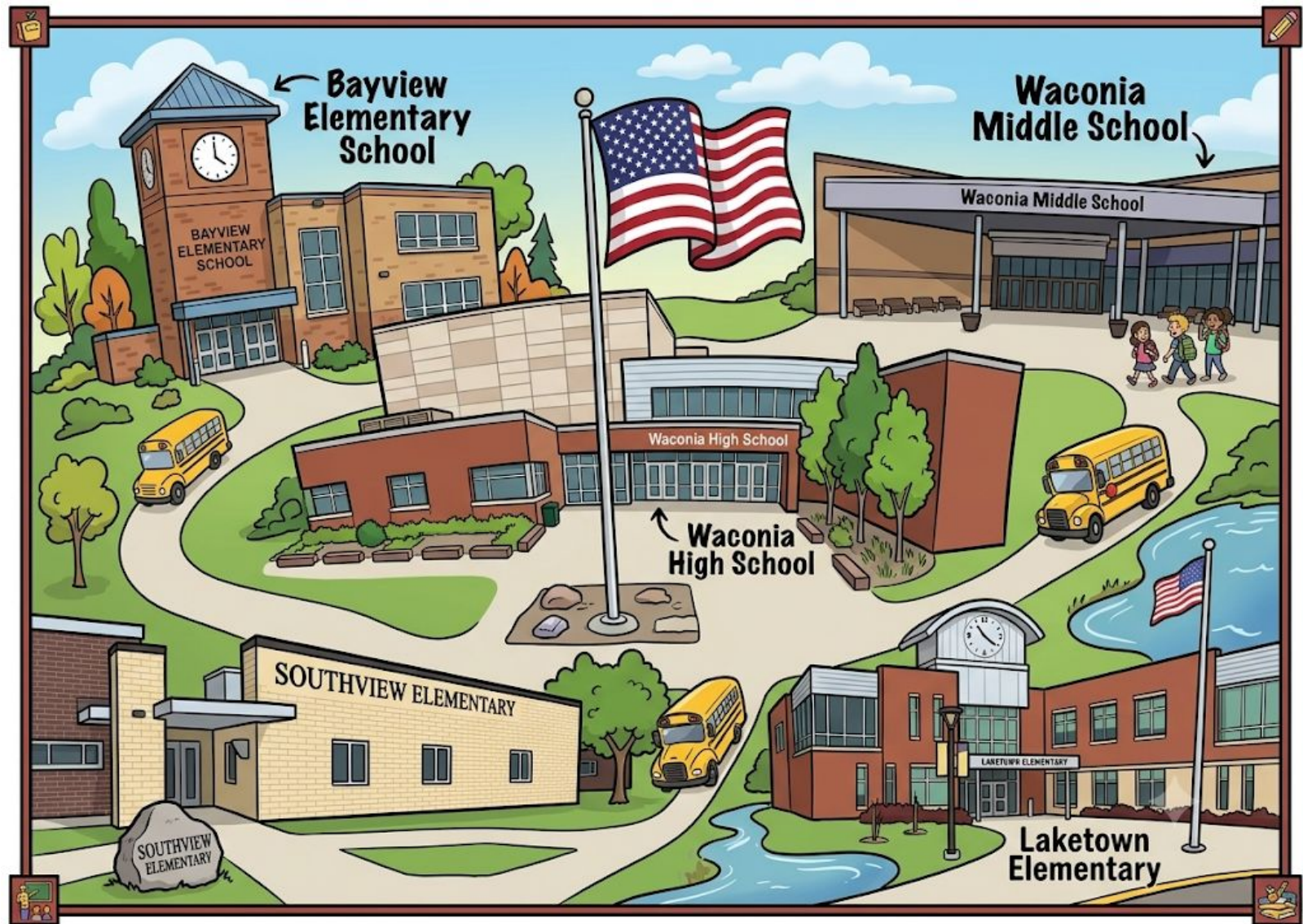
Student & Staff Experience

- Foster a physically and emotionally safe environment within the school.
- Promote recognition and responsiveness to cultural commonalities and differences, ensuring all individuals feel welcomed, respected, and heard.
- Provide access to inclusive academic, leadership, service, and social opportunities for all community members.



Systems & Structures

- Effective management of financial resources to support the school's mission and goals.
- Proactive planning for and maintenance of facilities to ensure a conducive learning environment.
- Monitoring and promotion of student enrollment to sustain and enhance the school community.



General State of District

- **Referendum passage**
 - Overall: Yes 60.75% (2,613) No 39.25% (1,688)
 - St. Boni: Yes 61.3% (404) No 38.7% (255)
- **Provides stability, but we are not flush with cash**
 - Public school funding in general can be inconsistent
- **Still some modest ability to invest and relieve some pressure points**



Public School Realities - In the News

TWIN CITIES SUBURBS

Minnesota schools again face budget deficits and cuts. Look up your district's shortfall.

Some school districts are grappling with deficits even after voters agreed last November to back new taxes for schools.

By Anthony Lonetree and Mara Klecker

The Minnesota Star Tribune

APRIL 12, 2026 AT 6:00AM

 marshallindependent.com

School cuts approved

MARSHALL — The Marshall Public School Board approved a final list of district cuts to take place next school year as the result of the...

Jan 23, 2026



 KIMT

Rochester Public Schools to consider \$8.3 million in budget cuts for the 2027 fiscal year

Evan Berg. Evan Berg joined KIMT News 3 in October 2023 as a Multi-Media Journalist, originally from Lakeville, Minnesota,...

Jan 5, 2026



 Duluth News Tribune

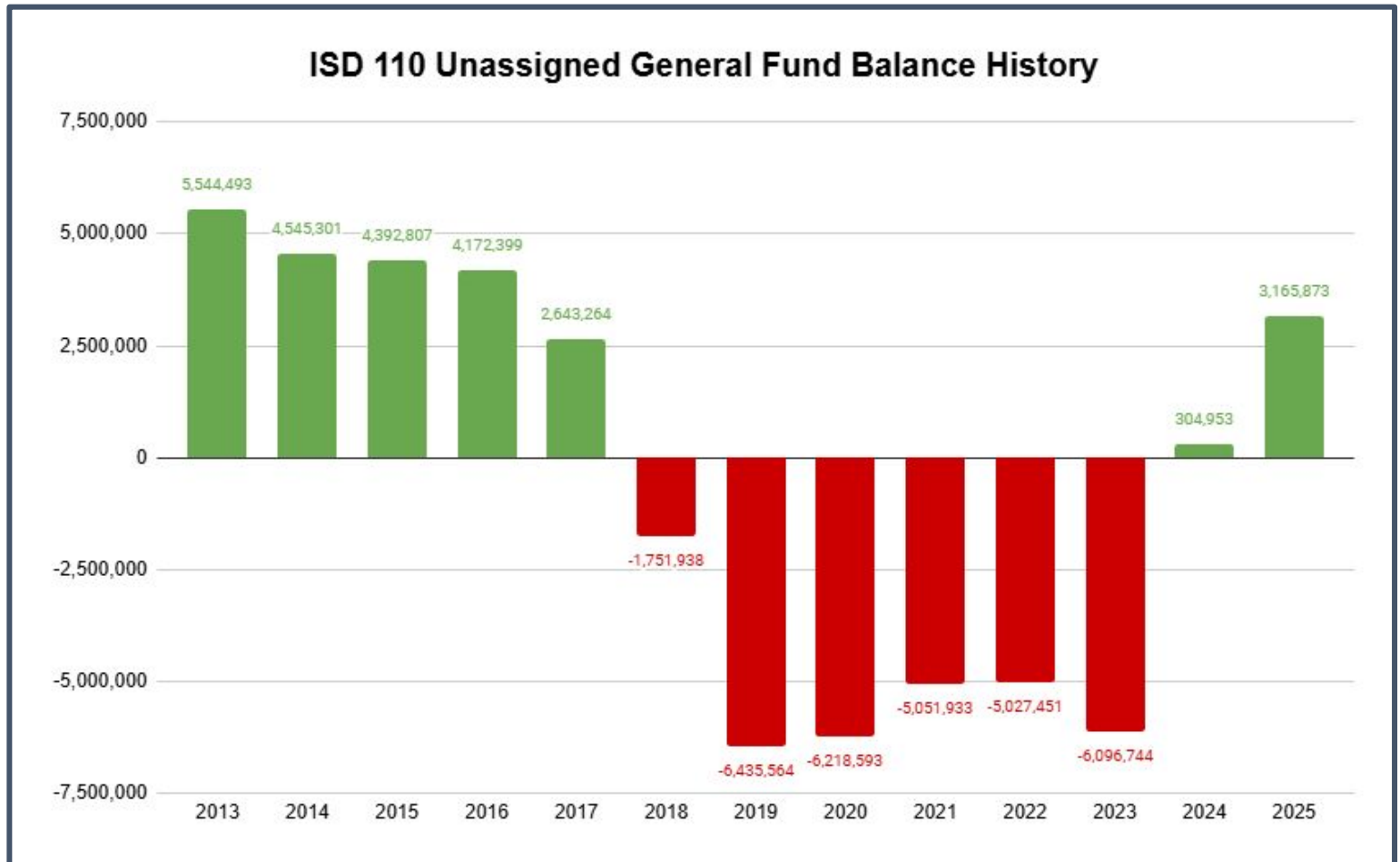
Reductions likely as Duluth schools face \$4 million funding gap

After significant budget reductions during the 2024-25 school year, rising education costs have left Duluth Public Schools facing an...

1 month ago

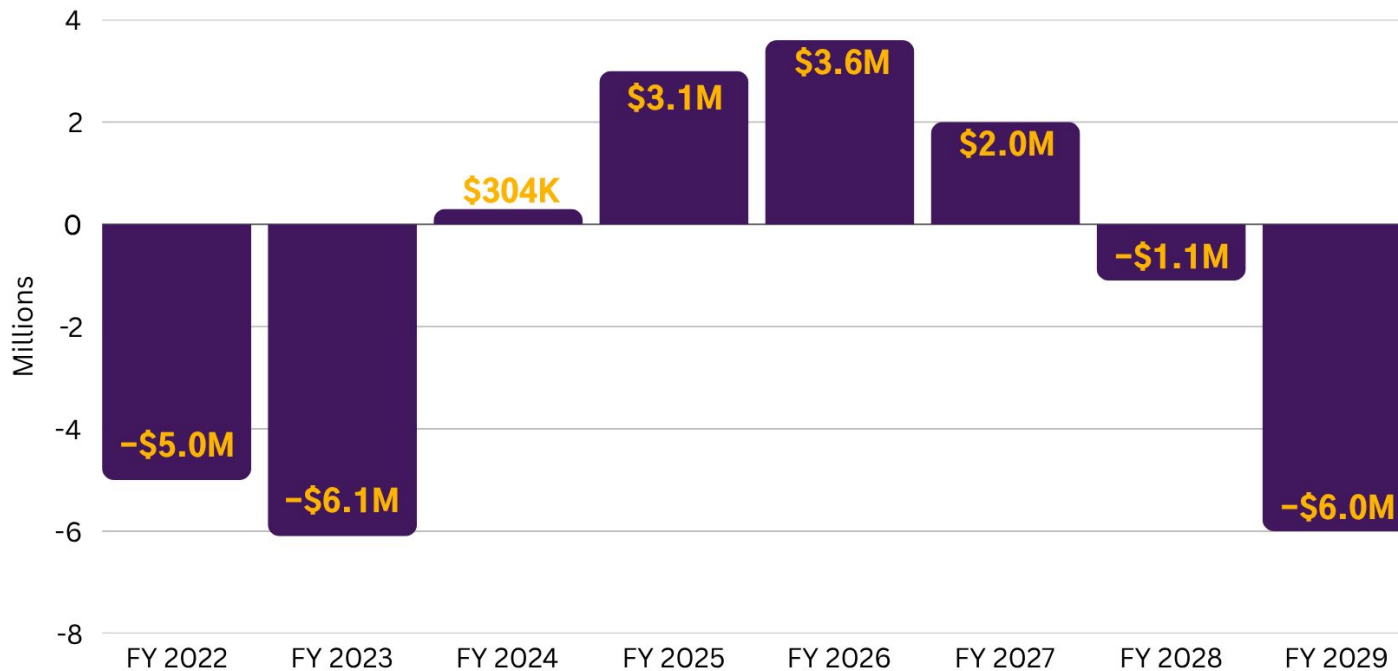


Fund Balance History



From Fall Referendum Slides

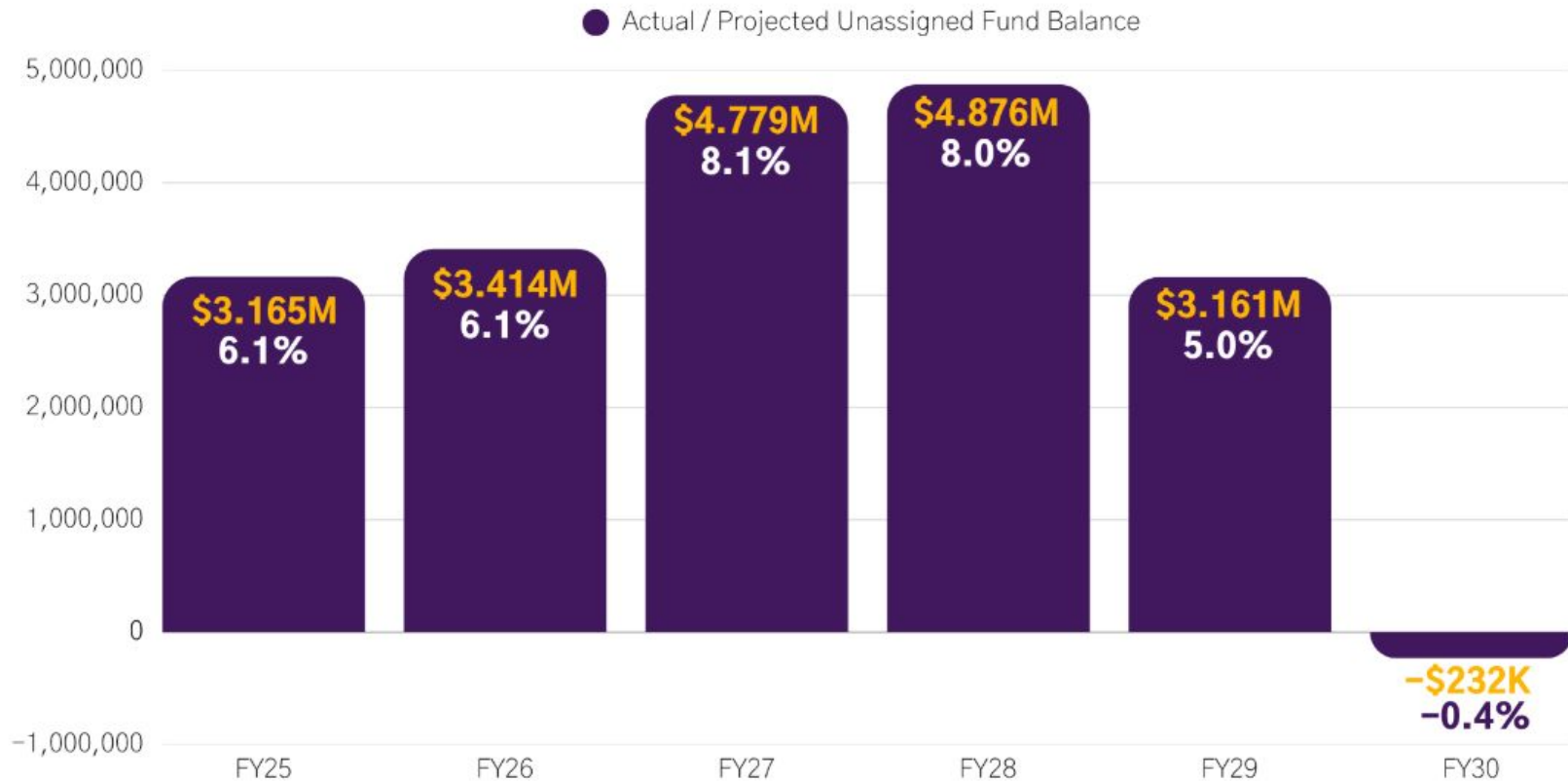
General Fund Balance Projections Without Additional Operating Levy



*District policy requires an unassigned fund balance of 5% of total expenditures (\$2.8 million)



Updated Projections Now





What is the Permanent School Fund?

The Permanent School Fund was established in Minnesota's Constitution when the state was founded in 1858. The fund was created using lands granted to Minnesota specifically to support public education.

Today, revenues generated from school trust lands - including timber, mining, leases, and other natural resource activities - are invested through the State Board of Investment, creating a permanent source of support for Minnesota's public schools.

Over the past decade, the fund has grown significantly - from approximately \$675 million in 2010 to more than \$2.3 billion today - yet constitutional restrictions written generations ago limit how much of that growth can be distributed to schools

- Minnesota School Boards Association 2026



What is being Proposed?

Following a comprehensive review by a bipartisan legislative task force, the Minnesota Legislature approved a constitutional amendment that would allow annual distributions to schools to be based on 4.5% of the fund's three-year rolling average market value, rather than primarily on interest and dividend earnings alone.

This modernized approach is widely used by university endowments, charitable foundations, and other long-term trusts because it:

- Increases annual distributions
- Provides more predictable funding
- Preserves the long-term health of the fund

- Minnesota School Boards Association 2026



How is this different from the operating referendum approved last fall?

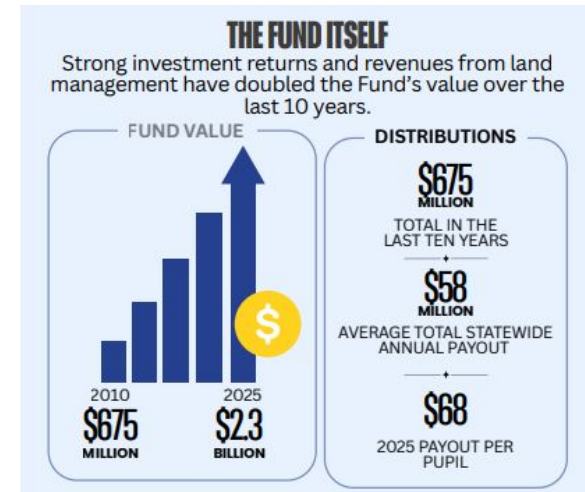
Fall 2025 Operating Referendum:

- Was for ISD 110 only
- \$731 per pupil in new revenue from local taxpayers



Permanent School Fund Amendment

- For all Minnesota Public Schools
- No tax increase
- Amount of increase is modest, estimated around \$25-30 per pupil
 - Current average annual per pupil amount is \$68
 - Note: Some materials and reports read “40% increase.” This is not for all revenue we receive, but of this specific fund



Ballot Language

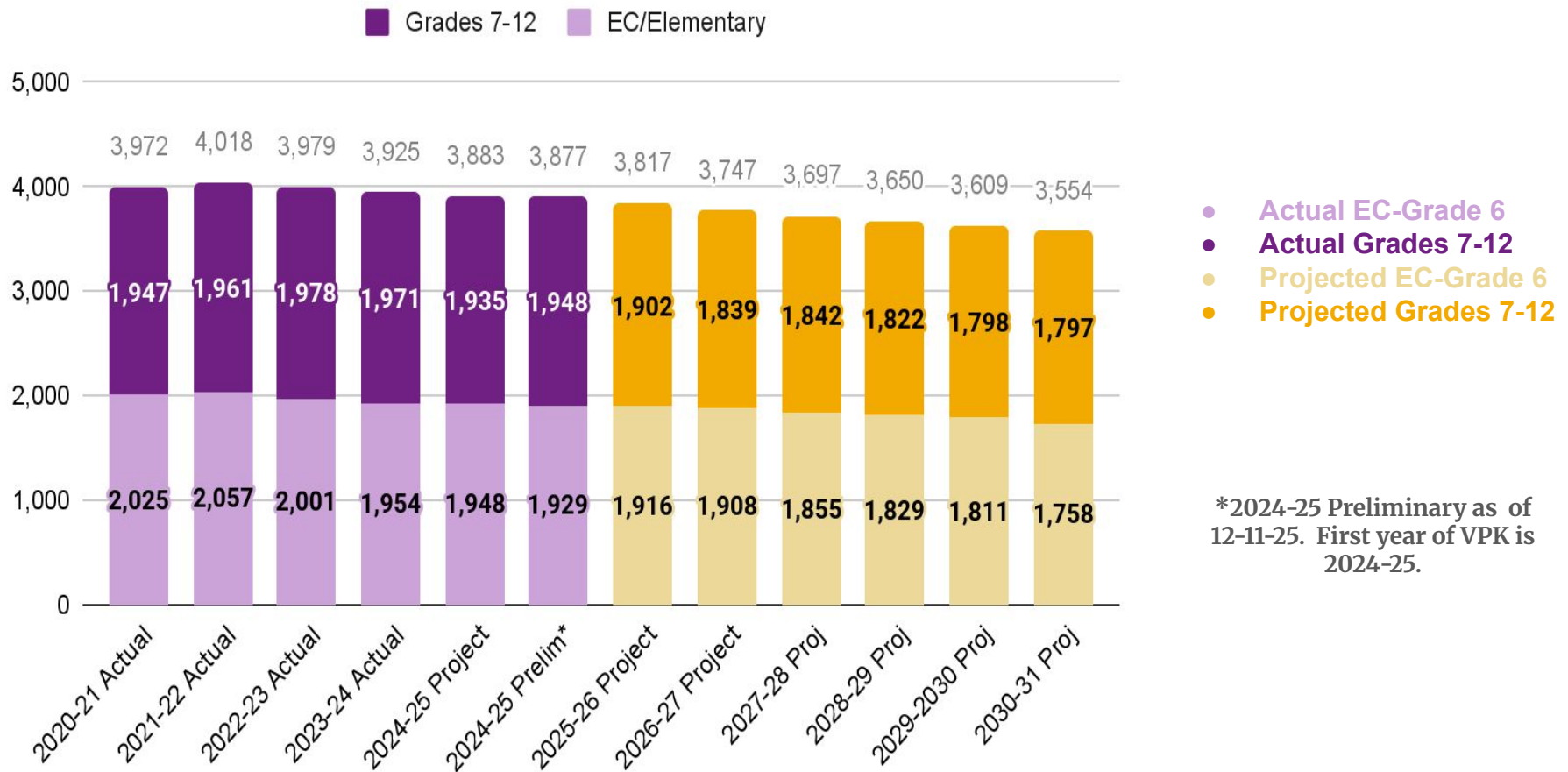
“Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to increase the funding going to all school districts from the permanent school fund, which is a fund that supports school districts without raising individual income or property taxes, effective July 1, 2027?”

CRITICAL VOTING RULE:

- Leaving the question blank is a “No” vote
- In Minnesota, constitutional amendments require a majority of all voters casting ballots in that election to pass.



EOY ADM Enrollment Projections





Student Achievement

MCA

- Can be volatile year to year, grade to grade
- New reading test last spring and results are not yet public
- 2025 results: 5th grade reading and math were the highest of those we share borders with



Student Achievement

ACT: Test of College Readiness

	Composite	English	Math	Reading	Science	STEM
2026	23.4	21.5	24.6	23.9	23.9	24.5
2025	21.8	20.2	22.3	22.2	22.0	22.4
2024	22.2	20.6	22.8	22.8	22.2	22.8
2023	21.9	20.5	21.8	22.7	22.1	22.2
2022	21.7	20.6	21.8	22.1	22.1	22.2



Advanced Placement Honor Roll

Schools earn this recognition based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit, and maximizing college readiness.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Total AP Students	227	246	273	300	312	332
Number of Exams	379	381	399	440	454	519
AP Students with Passing Score (3 or higher)	177	196	199	264	283	311
% AP students with Passing Score (3 or higher)	78%	80%	73%	88%	91%	94%



College Courses Offered On WHS Campus

College in the Schools (U of M), College Now (SMSU), BizInnovator (University of Iowa)

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Total CIS Students	241	315	342	368	392
“C” or Above	236	302	326	351	378
% of Students with “C” or above	98%	96%	95%	95%	96%



Career Exploration Opportunities

Students are given opportunities to explore careers, some examples:

- **Manufacturing Program:** Courses offered in Woods, Metal and Auto. Students have onsite visits to local manufacturers, dealerships, cabinetry, etc
- **Science:** Visit to University of River Falls to learn about professions in science
- **Conservation Club:** Many career exploration opportunities connected to DNR, fish and wildlife, NGO (Non-government Organizations - Pheasants Forever, Red Cross)
- **Health Industry:** Students can earn credit for working in health related organizations, like an assisted living facility. SW Metro courses on campus.
- **Arts:** Connections to local photographers and artists.
- **Work Experience Course:** Classroom seminar along with real work experience



Summary

- The ISD 110 community supports its schools!
- This is a great place to be!



Thank You



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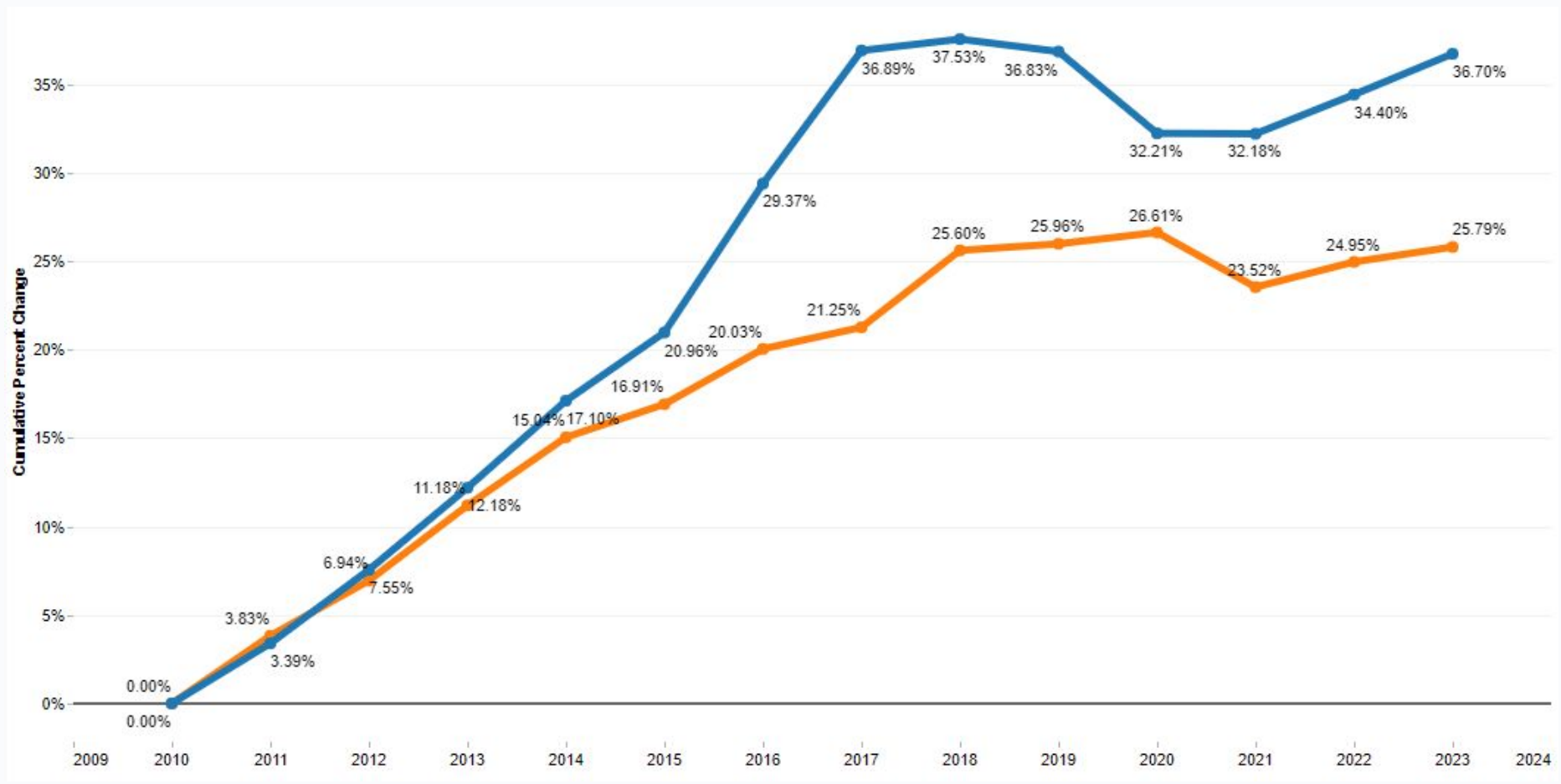
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Long Term Budget Forecast and Stability Planning

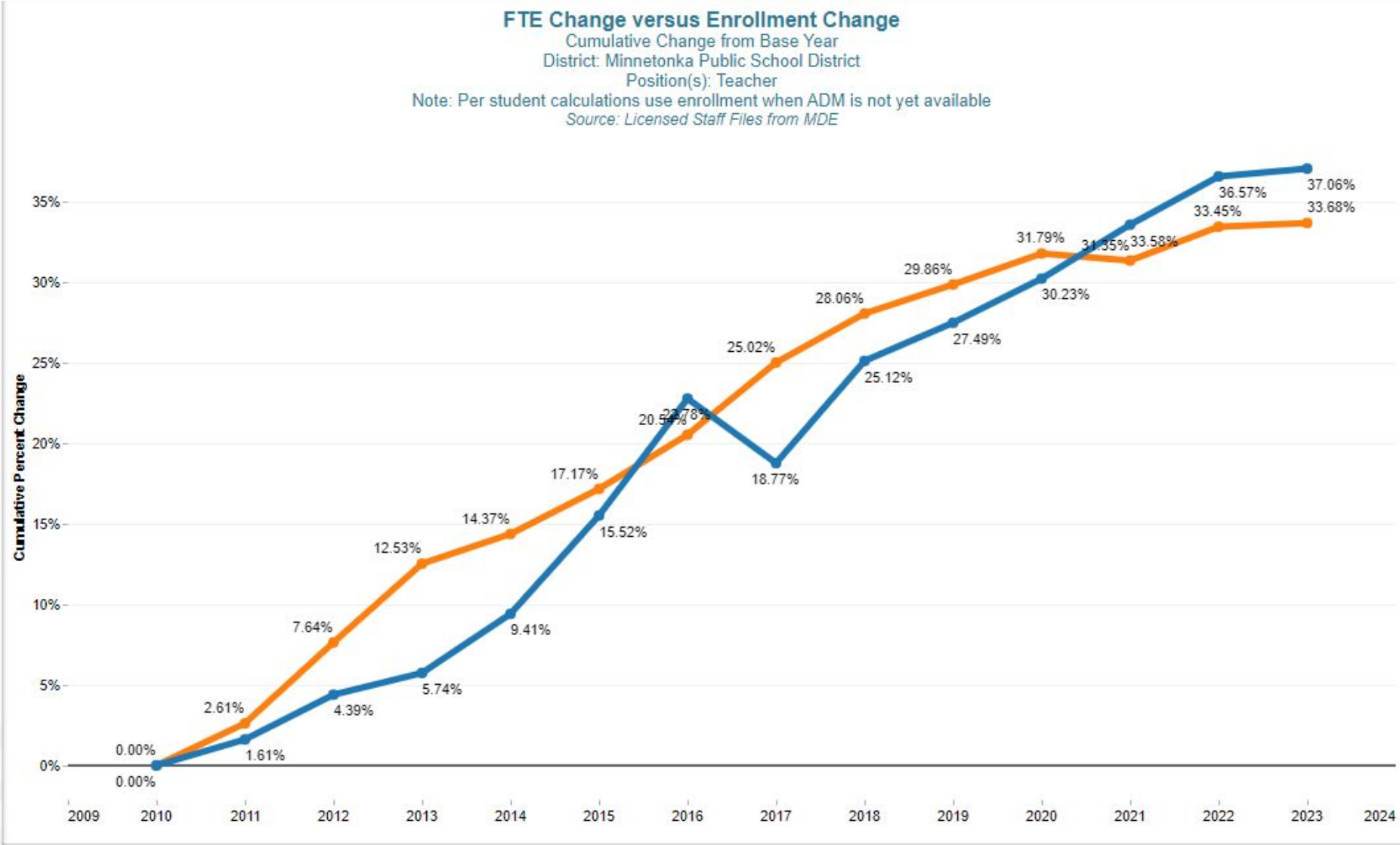
Definitions	Actual 2024-2025	Budget 2025-2026	Projected 2026-2027	% Chg	Projected 2027-2028	% Chg	Projected 2028-2029	% Chg	Projected 2029-2030	% Chg
Revenue	\$56,900,515	\$56,890,482	\$60,205,991	5.8%	\$60,467,990	0.4%	\$60,725,585	0.4%	\$61,045,568	0.5%
Expenditures	\$51,795,268	\$56,353,420	\$59,269,889	5.2%	\$60,866,538	2.6%	\$63,042,551	3.6%	\$65,591,018	4.0%
Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	\$5,105,247	\$537,062	\$936,102		(\$398,548)		(\$2,316,967)		(\$4,545,450)	
Fund Balance	\$9,661,025	\$10,198,087	\$11,134,188		\$10,735,640		\$8,418,673		\$3,873,223	
Restricted & Assigned Fund Balance	\$6,495,152	\$6,783,394	\$6,354,604		\$5,858,806		\$5,257,402		\$4,105,315	
Unassigned Fund Balance	\$3,165,873	\$3,414,692	\$4,779,584		\$4,876,834		\$3,161,271		(\$232,092)	
Percent Unassigned	6.1%	6.1%	8.1%		8.0%		5.0%		-0.4%	
Unassigned Target Fund Balance %	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		0.0%		0.0%		0.0%	
Minimum Unassigned Fund Balance	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0		\$0	
Fund Balance Over (Under) Target	\$3,165,873	\$3,414,692	\$4,779,584		\$4,876,834		\$3,161,271		(\$232,092)	



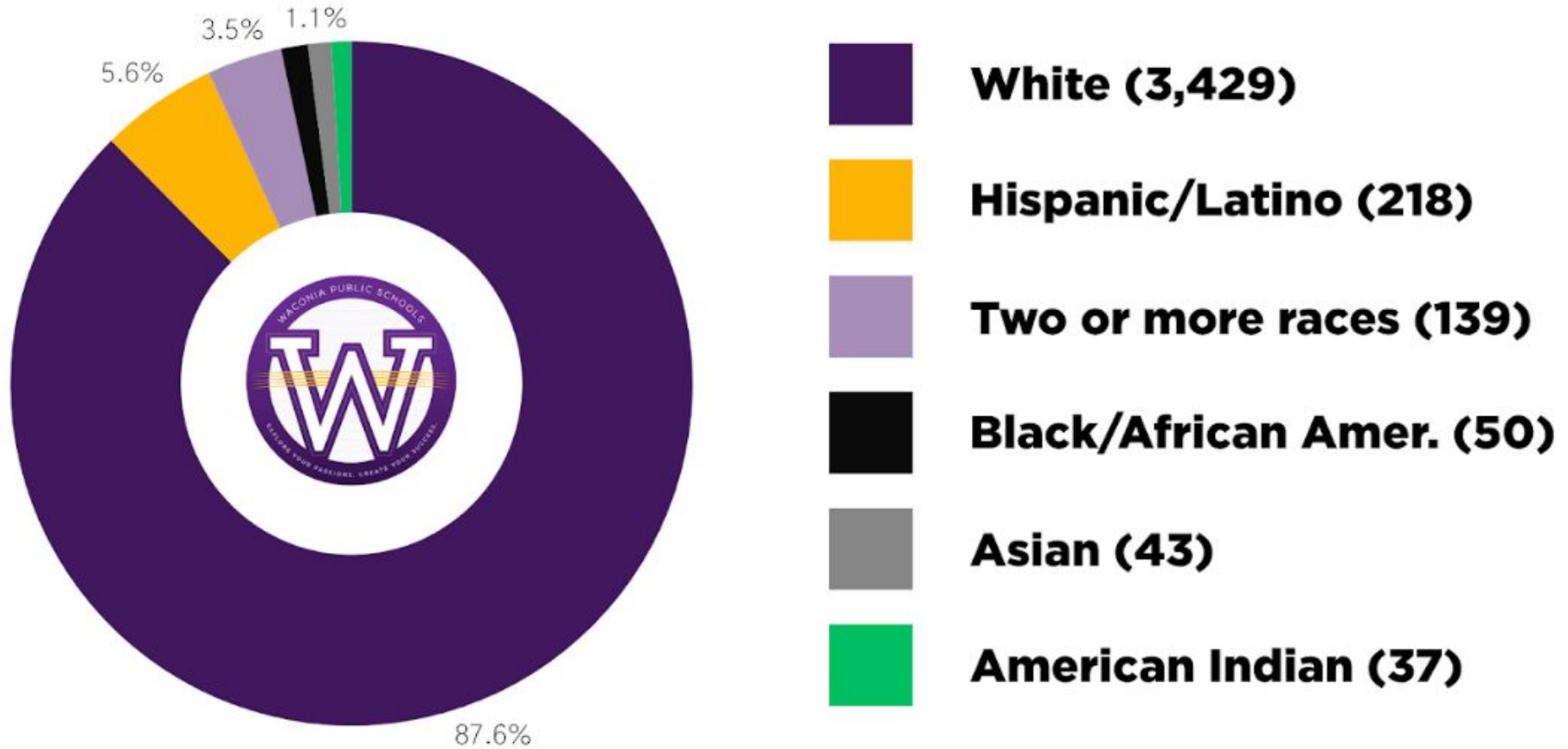
Enrollment vs Teacher Staffing History



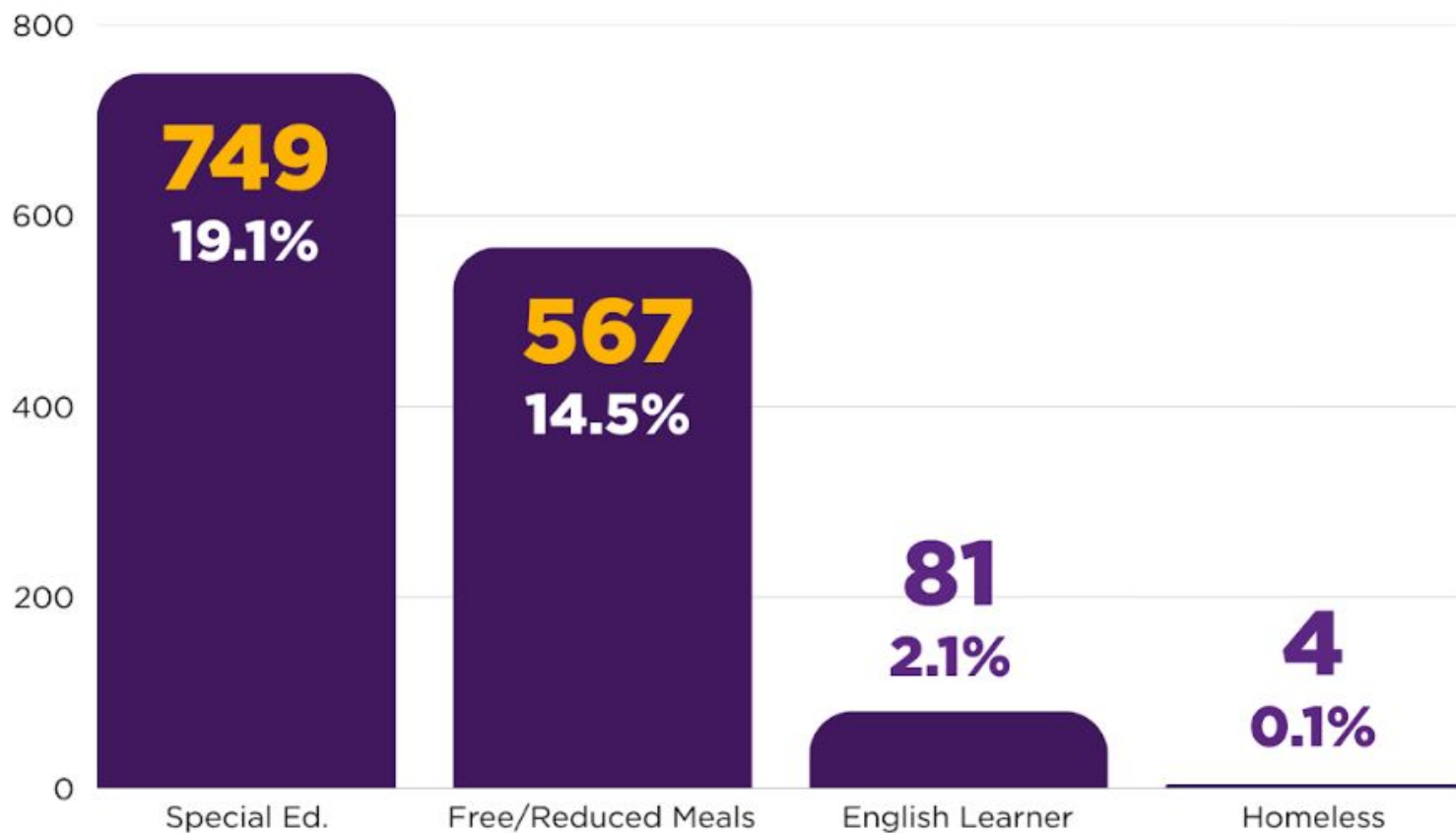
Comparison - Minnetonka



Student Demographics - Race/Enthnicity



Student Demographics - Other Criteria



Waconia Schools

- Our community values and trusts its public schools
- Our students and staff are proud to be a part of our district
- Our kids are thriving

95%

Waconia teachers and staff say they are proud to be part of and work in ISD 110

*2025 Staff Survey

88%

District residents agree that our community receives a good value from its investment in Waconia Public Schools.

*Morris Leatherman Community Survey

87%

District residents say they trust the School Board & Administration to do what is right for children in the district.

*Morris Leatherman Community Survey

91%

District residents rate the quality of education provided by Waconia Public Schools as either "excellent" or "good".

*Morris Leatherman Community Survey

91%

Waconia students say they are engaged and involved in their school.

*2025 Student Survey

93%

District residents rate the job performance of teachers and instructional staff in Waconia Public Schools as either "excellent" or "good".

*Morris Leatherman Community Survey



3. State of St. Bonifacius

4. Discuss and Identify Potential Opportunities
for Collaboration and Intersection

5. Closing