

Budget Hearing
Monday, September 14, 2026 5:30 PM

School District Office 410 South St., Seward,
NE
410 South St
Seward, NE 68434

Agenda

1. Possible Discussion Items
2. Roll Call
 - 2.1. Action to excuse board members if necessary
3. 2026-2027 Budget Overview
4. Budget Hearing-Community Input and Discussion regarding support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the proposed 2026-2027 budget of all funds and to consider amendments relative thereto.
5. Adjournment

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD BUDGET

2026-2027



Mission of Seward Public Schools

Seward Public Schools - a district rooted in excellence - in cooperation with family and community members is committed to the development of the whole student and affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive, resilient, and contributing members of their community.

BUDGET PROCESS

- Fiscal Year for Schools – Sept. 1 to Aug. 31
- Budget must be adopted and submitted to the state by September 30.
- Hearings tonight pending board approval of budget and tax request resolution later in the evening.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION AND
PROPOSED BUDGET FIGURES FOR
THE 2026-2027 BUDGET

DATA COMPARISONS TO THE 10 LARGER AND 10 SMALLER SCHOOLS

(OUR STATE AID/FOUNDATION AID ARRAY) 20 out 144
districts

2026-2027 Statistical Information on 10 Larger-10 Smaller Schools										
School	General Fund Levy	Total Levy	2025-2026 Valuation	Property Tax per \$100,000	26-27 State aid	Free/Red	% Sped	24/25 Per Pupil Cost	14/15 Per Pupil Cost	
Norris	\$ 0.66	\$ 0.75	\$ 2,745,822,385	\$ 750	\$ 3,973,363	8%	8%	\$ 14,078	\$ 10,058	
Beatrice	\$ 0.77	\$ 0.91	\$ 1,903,405,982	\$ 910	\$ 4,326,912	50%	25%	\$ 15,722	\$ 10,871	
Gering	\$ 0.99	\$ 1.30	\$ 1,117,627,753	\$ 1,300	\$ 9,981,382	48%	19%	\$ 15,732	\$ 10,500	
Waverly	\$ 0.70	\$ 0.86	\$ 2,897,877,286	\$ 860	\$ 3,535,625	18%	18%	\$ 15,984	\$ 10,121	
Crete	\$ 0.90	\$ 1.09	\$ 1,790,575,048	\$ 1,090	\$ 9,603,920	66%	14%	\$ 17,428	\$ 12,091	
Plattsmouth	\$ 0.98	\$ 1.17	\$ 1,199,939,223	\$ 1,170	\$ 4,299,752	36%	19%	\$ 15,872	\$ 11,418	
Schuyler	\$ 0.91	\$ 0.99	\$ 1,977,174,190	\$ 990	\$ 2,870,366	51%	13%	\$ 15,940	\$ 11,182	
Bennington	\$ 0.98	\$ 1.36	\$ 3,096,216,080	\$ 1,360	\$ 16,780,008	11%	17%	\$ 13,388	\$ 9,276	
McCook	\$ 0.86	\$ 0.86	\$ 1,123,991,383	\$ 860	\$ 5,843,461	36%	19%	\$ 17,022	\$ 10,984	
Alliance	\$ 0.80	\$ 0.87	\$ 1,450,228,126	\$ 870	\$ 2,237,467	55%	27%	\$ 17,316	\$ 10,315	
Nebr. City	\$ 0.82	\$ 0.99	\$ 1,385,746,787	\$ 990	\$ 2,872,516	58%	23%	\$ 16,783	\$ 11,996	
York	\$ 0.76	\$ 1.02	\$ 1,702,141,887	\$ 1,020	\$ 2,923,733	41%	14%	\$ 15,843	\$ 12,366	
Sidney	\$ 1.04	\$ 1.20	\$ 820,495,471	\$ 1,200	\$ 5,141,987	44%	24%	\$ 17,341	\$ 11,420	
Aurora	\$ 0.67	\$ 0.69	\$ 2,260,650,832	\$ 690	\$ 2,007,645	29%	13%	\$ 18,784	\$ 12,295	
Springfield Platt	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.57	\$ 3,721,563,845	\$ 570	\$ 3,290,380	16%	17%	\$ 19,024	\$ 13,163	
Holdrege	\$ 0.73	\$ 0.80	\$ 1,594,139,673	\$ 800	\$ 1,596,484	38%	22%	\$ 18,829	\$ 11,395	
Gothenburg	\$ 0.90	\$ 0.97	\$ 1,168,215,070	\$ 970	\$ 1,483,559	40%	14%	\$ 20,181	\$ 11,472	
Lakeview	\$ 0.35	\$ 0.53	\$ 2,108,105,372	\$ 530	\$ 2,970,751	33%	14%	\$ 16,216	\$ 13,443	
Adams Cent.	\$ 0.53	\$ 0.62	\$ 2,542,061,825	\$ 620	\$ 2,022,503	13%	13%	\$ 18,240	\$ 12,885	
Wahoo	\$ 0.73	\$ 0.88	\$ 1,517,417,463	\$ 880	\$ 1,866,098	27%	21%	\$ 18,846	\$ 11,219	
SEWARD	\$ 0.63	\$ 0.74	\$ 2,191,752,753	\$ 740	\$ 2,412,066	19%	17%	\$ 16,845	\$ 11,917	
AVERAGE	\$ 0.76	\$ 0.91	\$ 1,919,768,973	\$ 913	\$ 4,382,856	35%	18%	\$ 16,924	\$ 11,447	

ASSESSED VALUATION

Fiscal Year	Property Valuation	Change	Percentage Increase
2012-2013	\$ 1,067,156,248	#REF!	#REF!
2013-2014	\$ 1,185,364,177	\$ 118,207,929	11.08%
2014-2015	\$ 1,389,634,455	\$ 204,270,278	17.23%
2015-2016	\$ 1,472,775,392	\$ 83,140,937	5.98%
2016-2017	\$ 1,538,357,114	\$ 65,581,722	4.45%
2017-2018	\$ 1,573,912,154	\$ 35,555,040	2.31%
2018-2019	\$ 1,613,503,350	\$ 39,591,196	2.52%
2019-2020	\$ 1,611,210,672	\$ (2,292,678)	-0.14%
2020-2021	\$ 1,628,308,485	\$ 17,097,813	1.06%
2021-2022	\$ 1,680,093,238	\$ 51,784,753	3.18%
2022-2023	\$ 1,765,502,611	\$ 85,409,373	5.08%
2023-2024	\$ 1,896,876,595	\$ 131,373,984	7.44%
2024-2025	\$ 2,007,893,020	\$ 111,016,425	5.85%
2025-2026	\$ 2,191,752,753	\$ 183,859,733	9.16%
2026-2027	\$ 2,350,688,840	\$ 158,936,087	7.25%

Breakdown of Taxes

- 48%- 25/26, 48%- 24/25 -- —Residential and Real Property
- 37% 25/26, 36% 24/25 — Agricultural Land
- The rest is Personal Property (4%), Commercial (7%) , Ag buildings(1%), Centrally Assessed Personal and Real (3%).

STATE AID/FOUNDATION AID HISTORY

Year	State Aid	Change
2014-15	\$ 350,863	#REF!
2015-16	\$ 40,564	\$ (310,299)
2016-17	\$ -	\$ (40,564)
2017-18	\$ 232,263	\$ 232,263
2018-19	\$ 233,555	\$ 1,292
2019-20	\$ 252,082	\$ 18,527
2020-21	\$ 293,213	\$ 41,131
2021-22	\$ 270,316	\$ (22,897)
2022-23	\$ 288,134	\$ 17,818
2023-24	\$ 2,460,649	\$ 2,172,515
2024-25	\$ 2,413,080	\$ (47,569)
2025-26	\$ 2,450,900	\$ 37,820
2026-27	\$ 2,412,066	\$ (38,834)

12 YEAR PROPERTY LEVY HISTORY

[illegible]

CASH HISTORY AS OF JULY 31, 2026

July 31 Balances							
Fund	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
General	\$6,349,391.00	\$6,084,292.00	\$6,148,749.00	\$5,008,412.00	\$7,139,021.00	\$9,558,848.00	10,095,706.52
Special Building	\$695,815.00	\$712,549.00	\$499,232.00	\$524,380.00	\$475,817.00	\$340,504.00	310,742.44
Depreciation	\$1,392,019.00	\$1,424,082.00	\$1,295,194.00	\$1,309,269.00	\$1,012,368.00	\$990,604.00	1,026,561.93
Bond	\$1,507,823.00	\$1,528,329.00	\$1,428,817.00	\$1,304,208.00	\$1,326,547.00	\$1,427,998.00	1,670,740.37
Quality Capital Purp.	\$148,938.00	\$147,882.00	\$142,371.00	\$139,943.00	\$15,517.00	\$1,135.00	1,179.14
TOTAL CASH	\$10,093,986.00	\$9,897,134.00	\$9,514,363.00	\$8,286,212.00	\$9,969,270.00	\$12,319,089.00	\$13,104,930.40

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURE HISTORY- 3.2% 10- year average

Year	Spent	Dollar Increase	Percent Increase
2015-2016	\$ 15,666,649	#REF!	#REF!
2016-2017	\$ 16,105,773	\$ 439,124	2.8%
2017-2018 * (SPED 582,320)	\$ 17,099,651	\$ 993,878	6.2%
2018-2019	\$ 16,791,407	\$ (308,244)	-1.8%
2019-2020	\$ 17,378,922	\$ 587,515	3.5%
2020-2021	\$ 18,060,137	\$ 681,215	3.9%
2021-2022	\$ 18,798,607	\$ 738,470	4.1%
2022-2023	\$ 19,650,543	\$ 851,936	4.5%
2023-2024	\$ 19,673,158	\$ 22,615	0.1%
2024-2025	\$ 20,483,473	\$ 810,315	4.1%
2025-2026	\$ 21,431,920	\$ 948,447	4.6%

Why behind expenditures

- New Chromebooks for 9-12th grade students
- Curriculum each year-
- Salaries/Benefits- Increase
- Inflation- Paper, Gas, Shipping

PROPOSED BUDGET OF EXPENDITURES

- The vast majority of the increases are increased staffing costs
- Cost of materials, gas, insurance, etc.
- We will have Spanish and Music curriculum cycle this year.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET SUMMARY

Seward Public Schools (80-0009) in Seward County, Nebraska

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-501 to 13-513, that the governing body will meet on the 14th day of September, 2026 at 5:30 o'clock, P.M., at Seward Public Schools District Office-410 South Street, Seward, NE 68434 for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the following proposed budget and to consider amendments relative thereto. The budget detail is available at the office of the Clerk/Secretary during regular business hours. For more information on statewide receipts and expenditures, and to compare cost per pupil and performance to other school districts, go to: <https://nep.education.ne.gov>

FUNDS	Actual Disbursements & Transfers	Actual/Estimated Disbursements & Transfers	Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers	Necessary Cash Reserve (4)	Total Available Resources Before Property Taxes (5)	Total Personal and Real Property Tax Requirement (7)
	2024-2025 (1)	2025-2026 (2)	2026-2027 (3)			
General	\$ 20,483,473.00	\$ 24,235,000.00	\$ 27,127,134.00	\$ -	\$ 13,244,483.00	\$ 14,022,880.00
Depreciation	\$ 242,453.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 1,374,560.00		\$ 1,374,560.00	
Employee Benefit	\$ 576.00	\$ 10,320.00	\$ 26,186.00	\$ -	\$ 26,186.00	
Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Activities	\$ 750,945.00	\$ 765,000.00	\$ 1,175,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,175,500.00	
School Nutrition	\$ 940,359.00	\$ 987,500.00	\$ 944,500.00	\$ 223,084.00	\$ 1,167,584.00	
Bond	\$ 1,553,965.00	\$ 1,950,300.00	\$ 3,899,561.00	\$ -	\$ 1,979,561.00	\$ 1,939,394.00
Special Building	\$ 612,458.00	\$ 575,000.00	\$ 25,511,790.00		\$ 24,829,790.00	\$ 688,889.00
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,135.00	\$ 1,135.00	\$ -
Cooperative	\$ 196,425.00	\$ 158,000.00	\$ 202,000.00	\$ -	\$ 202,000.00	
Student Fee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,291.00	\$ -	\$ 1,291.00	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTALS	\$ 24,784,654.00	\$ 28,881,120.00	\$ 60,262,522.00	\$ 224,219.00	\$ 44,002,090.00	\$ 16,651,163.00
				Bond Purposes	Non-Bond Purposes	Total
			Breakdown of Property Tax	\$ 1,939,394.00	\$ 14,711,769.00	\$ 16,651,163.00

GENERAL FUND CASH

GENERAL FUND CASH

- We have always maintained the goal of keeping 3 months of cash in reserve to help smooth out the peaks and valleys. In years when we lost a lot of state aid, this cash on hand helped us maintain a consistent levy. In the future it could help us if property values decline.
- We were right at \$5,308,402 in our lowest point of the year (December). We spend right at \$1.83 million a month, so we are at 2.9 months in reserve at our low point.

GENERAL FUND MONTHLY CASH –(This is for our low month)

2025-2026	INCREASE/DECREASE FROM PRIOR YEAR
26,535,948.00	1,008,405.00
9,149,804.70	1,446,775.27
7,609,053.01	1,329,843.42
6,116,382.85	668,664.72
5,308,492.17	962,945.79
6,238,015.68	998,311.41
6,098,200.66	-1,310,962.89
7,786,767.54	678,434.25
6,813,771.52	-34,162.40
11,928,373.90	1,324,747.84
11,364,291.78	428,041.57
10,095,706.52	536,858.30
	-8,153,763.57

Sept.

Oct

Nov.



Dec.

Jan

Feb.

March

April

May

June

July

OTHER FUNDS

BOND Fund

- For 2026-27 I'm proposing \$ 1,920,000 we will get in property taxes and our payments will be \$1,538,967. The bond levy would be a at .082.
- Our last bond payment for the middle school is December 2027- The hope is to have enough collected to pay that off in the 2026-2027 school year.
- Our total payoff of the MS bond is \$2,823,967
- We have \$1,600,000 in the bank to make the December 26 payment.
-

QUALIFIED CAPITAL PURPOSES UNDERTAKING FUND

- Options- Do we look at another QCPUF bond?
- Our last QCPUF bond was 1.2 million- 10 year bond with \$176,000 payments.
- I do have to count dollars toward safety ect. If we don't have a QCPUF bond.
- We can tax up to \$0.03- \$705,000 per year

COOPERATIVE FUND

- The Cooperative Fund is a pass through account for Sixpence. We are the fiscal agent so the money will run through our budget. If we use this fund, it has no impact on our state aid, or levy/expenditure limits for any of the three school districts. We did receive a grant again this year so we will need to budget again. We increase the amount because when we get paid may not fall in line with our budget year.

SPECIAL BUILDING FUND

- Last year we levied \$400,000 at \$.02.
- This year the proposal is .03 - \$682,000

PROPERTY TAX AND LEVY IMPACT

What does a Penny Generate?

Last year a penny will generate \$219,000

This year a penny will generate \$ 235,000

PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX IMPACT FOR ALL TAXABLE FUNDS-

2025-2026 Budget Information					
2025-2026 Operating Budget	2025-2026 Proposed Property Tax Request	Proposed 2025 Tax Rate	Change in Tax Rate	Change in Operating Budget	
26,535,948.00	13,891,980.00	0.633830	-5%	4%	General Bond
1,950,300.00	1,818,182.00	0.082956	3%	-4%	
		0.000000	#DIV/0!	0	
		0.000000	#DIV/0!	0	
		0.000000	#DIV/0!	0	
918,775.00	444,444.00	0.020278	1%	-6%	Special Build QCPUF
-	-	0.000000	#DIV/0!	-100%	
		0.000000	#DIV/0!	0	
		0.000000	#DIV/0!	0	
29,405,023.00	16,154,606.00	0.737064	-4%	3%	Total

25-26

2026-2027 Budget Information					
2026-2027 Operating Budget	2026-2027 Proposed Property Tax Request	Proposed 2026 Tax Rate	Change in Tax Rate	Change in Operating Budget	
27,127,134.00	14,022,880.00	0.596543	-6%	2%	
3,899,561.00	1,939,394.00	0.082503	-1%	100%	
		0.000000	#DIV/0!	0	
		0.000000	#DIV/0!	0	
		0.000000	#DIV/0!	0	
25,511,790.00	688,889.00	0.029306	45%	2677%	
-	-	0.000000	#DIV/0!	0	
		0.000000	#DIV/0!	0	
		0.000000	#DIV/0!	0	
56,538,485.00	16,651,163.00	0.708352	-4%	92%	

26-27

PROPERTY TAX ASKING HISTORY

Fiscal Year	General Fund Property Tax Asking	Change	Percentage Change
2015-2016	\$12,165,810.00	#REF!	#REF!
2016-2017	\$12,264,498.87	\$98,688.87	0.81%
2017-2018	\$12,545,826.14	\$281,327.27	2.29%
2018-2019	\$12,730,870.00	\$185,043.86	1.47%
2019-2020	\$13,245,248.00	\$514,378.00	4.04%
2020-2021	\$13,750,299.00	\$505,051.00	3.81%
2021-2022	\$14,094,055.00	\$343,756.00	2.50%
2022-2023	\$14,949,495.00	\$855,440.00	6.07%
2023-2024	\$13,350,505.00	-\$1,598,990.00	-10.70%
2024-2025	\$13,451,515.00	\$101,010.00	0.76%
2025-2026	\$13,891,980.00	\$440,465.00	3.27%
2026-2027	\$14,253,183.00	\$361,203.00	2.60%
Fiscal Year	Total Property Tax Asking (all funds)	Change	Percent Change
2015-2016	\$14,548,662.00	#REF!	#REF!
2016-2017	\$14,747,300.87	\$198,638.87	1.37%
2017-2018	\$14,921,251.00	\$173,950.13	1.18%
2018-2019	\$15,025,859.00	\$278,558.13	0.70%
2019-2020	\$15,409,985.00	\$488,734.00	2.56%
2020-2021	\$15,573,721.00	\$163,736.00	1.06%
2021-2022	\$16,013,220.00	\$439,499.00	2.82%
2022-2023	\$16,678,232.00	\$665,012.00	4.15%
2023-2024	\$15,138,384.00	-\$1,539,848.00	-9.23%
2024-2025	\$15,471,717.00	\$333,333.00	2.20%
2025-2026	\$16,154,606.00	\$682,889.00	4.41%
2026-2027	\$16,644,092.00	\$489,486.00	3.03%

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	2025-2026	2026-2027	Change						
Property Valuations	2,191,752,753	2,350,688,840	7%						
	2025-2026 Budget Information				2026-2027 Budget Information				
Fund	2025-2026 Operating Budget	2025-2026 Property Tax Request	2025 Tax Rate	Property Tax Rate (2025-2026 Request Divided By 2026 Valuation)	2026-2027 Operating Budget	2026-2027 Proposed Property Tax Request	Proposed 2026 Tax Rate	Change in Tax Rate	Change in Operating Budget
General Fund	26,535,948.00	13,891,980.00	0.633830	0.590975	27,127,134.00	14,022,880.00	0.596543	-6%	2%
Bond Fund(s) K - 12	1,950,300.00	1,818,182.00	0.082956	0.077347	3,899,561.00	1,939,394.00	0.082503	-1%	100%
Bond Fund(s) K - 8			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Bond Fund(s) 9 - 12			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Bond Fund			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Special Building Fund	918,775.00	444,444.00	0.020278	0.018907	25,511,790.00	688,889.00	0.029306	45%	2677%
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund K - 12			0.000000	0.000000	-	-	0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund K - 8			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund 9 - 12			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Total	29,405,023.00	16,154,606.00	0.737063	0.687229	56,538,485.00	16,651,163.00	0.708352	-4%	92%

SUMMARY

- General Fund –3% increase to our general fund for staff/insurance costs. As a reminder salary/insurance increase will be around \$ 600,000 for staff
- Bond Fund – We will be able to pay off Middle School Bond I hope in June 2027 and will budget for new bond 27/28 budget year.
- Special Building Fund: I have it at .03 to keep the overall ask at \$688,889
- Total tax asking 3.0% increase.
- No Pink Postcard-

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Depreciation	\$ 242,453.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 1,374,560.00		\$ 1,374,560.00	
Employee Benefit	\$ 576.00	\$ 10,320.00	\$ 26,186.00	\$ -	\$ 26,186.00	
Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Activities	\$ 750,945.00	\$ 765,000.00	\$ 1,175,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,175,500.00	
School Nutrition	\$ 940,359.00	\$ 987,500.00	\$ 944,500.00	\$ 223,084.00	\$ 1,167,584.00	
Bond	\$ 1,553,965.00	\$ 1,950,300.00	\$ 3,899,561.00	\$ -	\$ 1,979,561.00	\$ 1,939,394.00
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Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,135.00	\$ 1,135.00	\$ -
Cooperative	\$ 196,425.00	\$ 158,000.00	\$ 202,000.00	\$ -	\$ 202,000.00	
Student Fee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,291.00	\$ -	\$ 1,291.00	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTALS	\$ 24,784,654.00	\$ 28,881,120.00	\$ 60,262,522.00	\$ 224,219.00	\$ 44,002,090.00	\$ 16,651,163.00

	Bond Purposes	Non-Bond Purposes	Total
Breakdown of Property Tax	\$ 1,939,394.00	\$ 14,711,769.00	\$ 16,651,163.00