

# How will this funding be applied?

If approved the funds will go to maintain current staffing levels, keep up with ongoing costs like utilities, curriculum resources, supplies, staff compensation improvement.

## Comparisons in staff-

Our schools are already behind in compensation and staffing levels for most employee groups. We are well below average for our spending per pupil and teacher salaries.

1 The average teacher in Ashland earns about \$4,000 less than the average teacher in Northern Wisconsin

2 Over the course of a career our teachers will earn \$42,000 less than the average teacher in Northern, WI



Lake Superior Elementary School



Ashland Middle School



Marengo Valley School



Ashland High School

## SDA

## REFERENDUM 2024

## **VOTE** NOVEMBER 5

## QUESTIONS? GET IN TOUCH

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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ASHLAND  
— EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION —

# FUNDING SYSTEM

The state of Wisconsin school funding system does not provide uniform per pupil funding. Most districts receive different amounts. The system is unequal. The disparity is often significant.

District	Per pupil funding
Ashland	\$11,000
Bayfield	\$15,350
Washburn	\$11,466
Northwestern/Maple	\$11,000
South Shore.	\$18,034
Solon Springs	\$12,450
Chequamegon	\$11,413
State Average	\$12,505

## How do these per pupil funding differ from our School District of Ashland Budget?

- 1 Bayfield receives \$4,350 per pupil more than SDA. If this was applied to the SDA student count we could receive about \$8,047,500 more per year.
- 2 South Shore- receives \$7,034 per pupil more than SDA. If this was applied to the SDA student count we would receive about \$13,012,900 more per year.
- 3 Washburn- receives \$466 per pupil more than SDA. If this was applied to the SDA student count we would receive about \$862,100 more per year.
- 4 The state average- the average school receives \$1,505 per pupil more than SDA. If this was applied to the SDA pupil count we would receive about \$2,784,250 more per year.

## WHO-

- The School District of Ashland is asking all eligible voters living in our district if they will approve an operations referendum.
- The question will impact our 1,850 students, 264 staff members, and our entire school district.

## WHAT-

- A 5 year non-recurring operations referendum. If Approved, this will increase funding by \$2,000 per year.
- The funds would go for maintaining current staffing levels, allow for compensation improvements for staff, and to pay for increased costs related to operations such as utilities, transportation, supplies and curriculum materials.

## WHY-

- The state of Wisconsin has not kept up with education funding. Due to funding cuts and freezes beginning in 2010 (ACT 10) per pupil funding for the School District of Ashland increased at about half the rate of inflation.
- Most recently, during the height of the pandemic the federal government gave funding to schools to mitigate COVID and help students recover from learning loss and the social/emotional effects of the pandemic. The state of Wisconsin chose to freeze funding during this time.
- Another way of stating this is that if funding had increased at the rate of inflation over the last 15 years funding for the SDA would have increased by \$1,838 per pupil or \$3,400,00 for the district.

## WHY NOW?

During the pandemic the federal government sent funds to school districts to help with COVID mitigation, air quality, supporting students who fell behind in academics, social skills, and mental wellbeing. The state of Wisconsin did not increase funding for schools with the rationale that the federal government added funding.

The federal funding amounted to about \$1,650,000 per year. This September that funding runs out. If we do not add to our funding our district will be facing major cuts.

## What will the cost be to me?

The referendum vote in November will request up to \$2,000,000 per year for five years. The equates to about \$1,081 more funding per pupil.

The estimated cost for a homeowner (\$200,000 home value- Ashland average home value is~ \$195,000)  
\$ 186 in year one,  
\$ 72 in year two,  
\$ 42 in year three  
\$ 32 in year four,  
Year five could return to the current year tax values or see a slight decrease.

## What will happen if voters do not pass the referendum?

Our district will need to reduce spending in all areas. Our business office will develop a list of potential cuts. These will be across all areas- compensation, staffing, programs, facilities, supplies, and materials. The staff will make recommendations to the Board of Education who will make the final decision on the budget.