

#PointerNation

MINERAL POINT
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024 OPERATING REFERENDUM



MINERAL POINT
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
OPERATING REFERENDUM



MISSION & VISION

MINERAL POINT

Grounded by our history, as one of the oldest publicly supported schools in Wisconsin, MPSD is the heart of a small community that educates and inspires our students for a bright future in a big world.



ENSURING EXCELLENCE



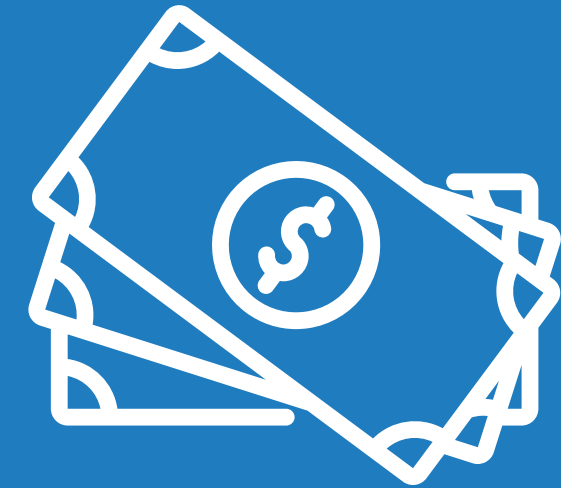
Maintain Academic Offerings, Class Sizes & Co-Curriculars



Retain & Attract High Quality Staff



Stay Current with Technology, Building Maintenance & Safety



Keep a Healthy Fund Balance for Emergencies

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Revenue Limits

Schools are locked in to what they spent per student in 1993, unless they ask taxpayers for an operational referendum

State Aid not Tied to Inflation Since 2009

\$0 increase for 6 of the last 10 years causing funding to lag approx. \$3,000 per student

ESSER Ending

ESSER funds were designed for one-time use items during the pandemic. Must be spent by 9/30/24.

Increasing Cost of Operations

- Water 18%
- Food 10%
- Electricity 9%
- Gas & Fuel 7%
- Property & Casualty Insurance 7%
- Health Insurance 6.5%

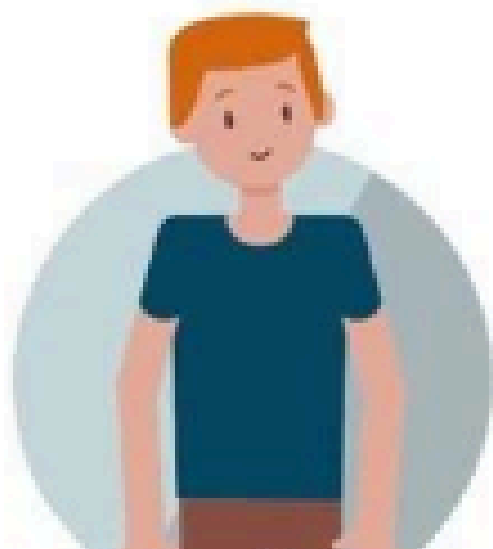




Wisconsin School Funding: Animated Video Explainer

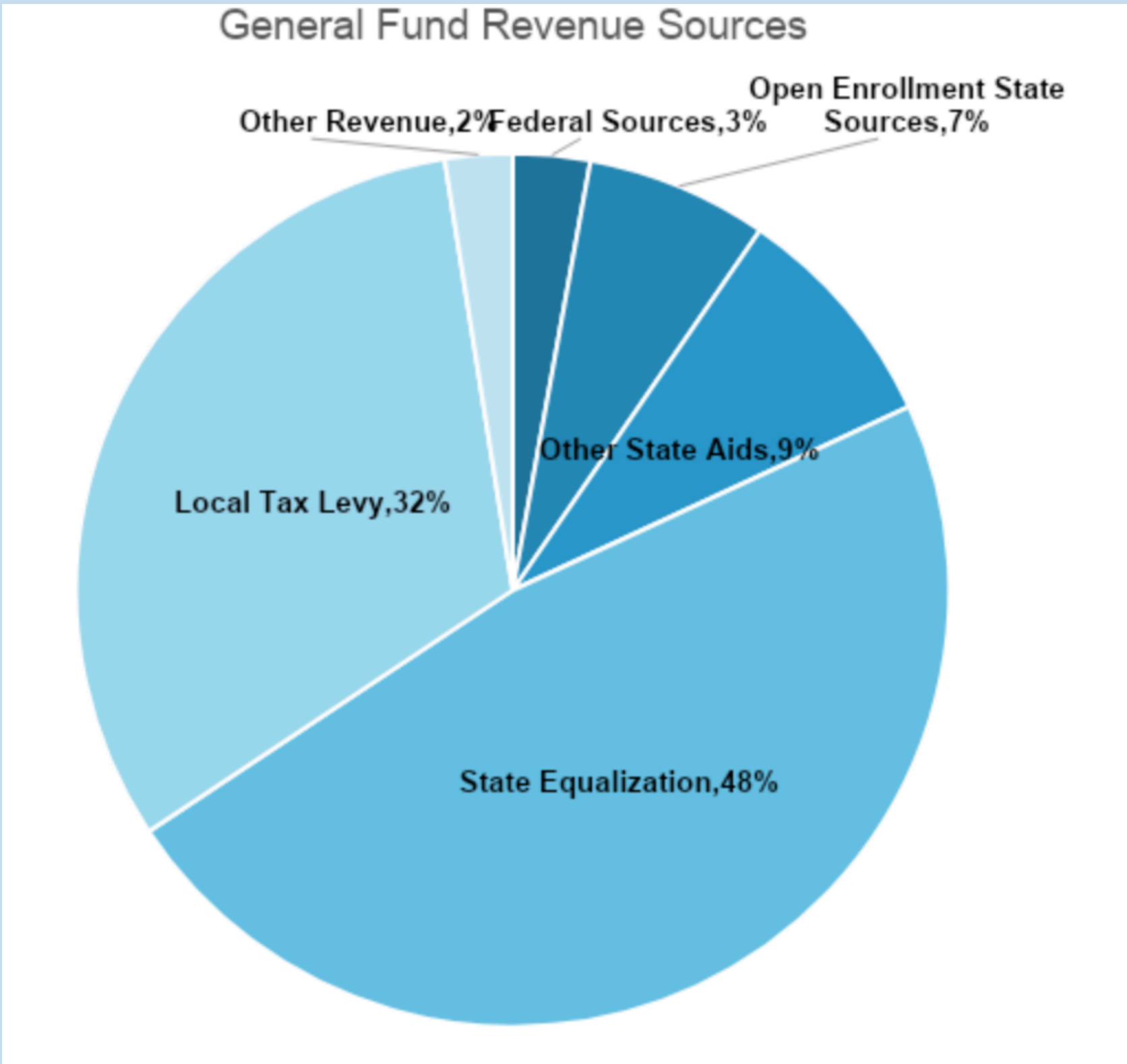
WSRA | wisconsin school
public relations
association

WASBO
Share



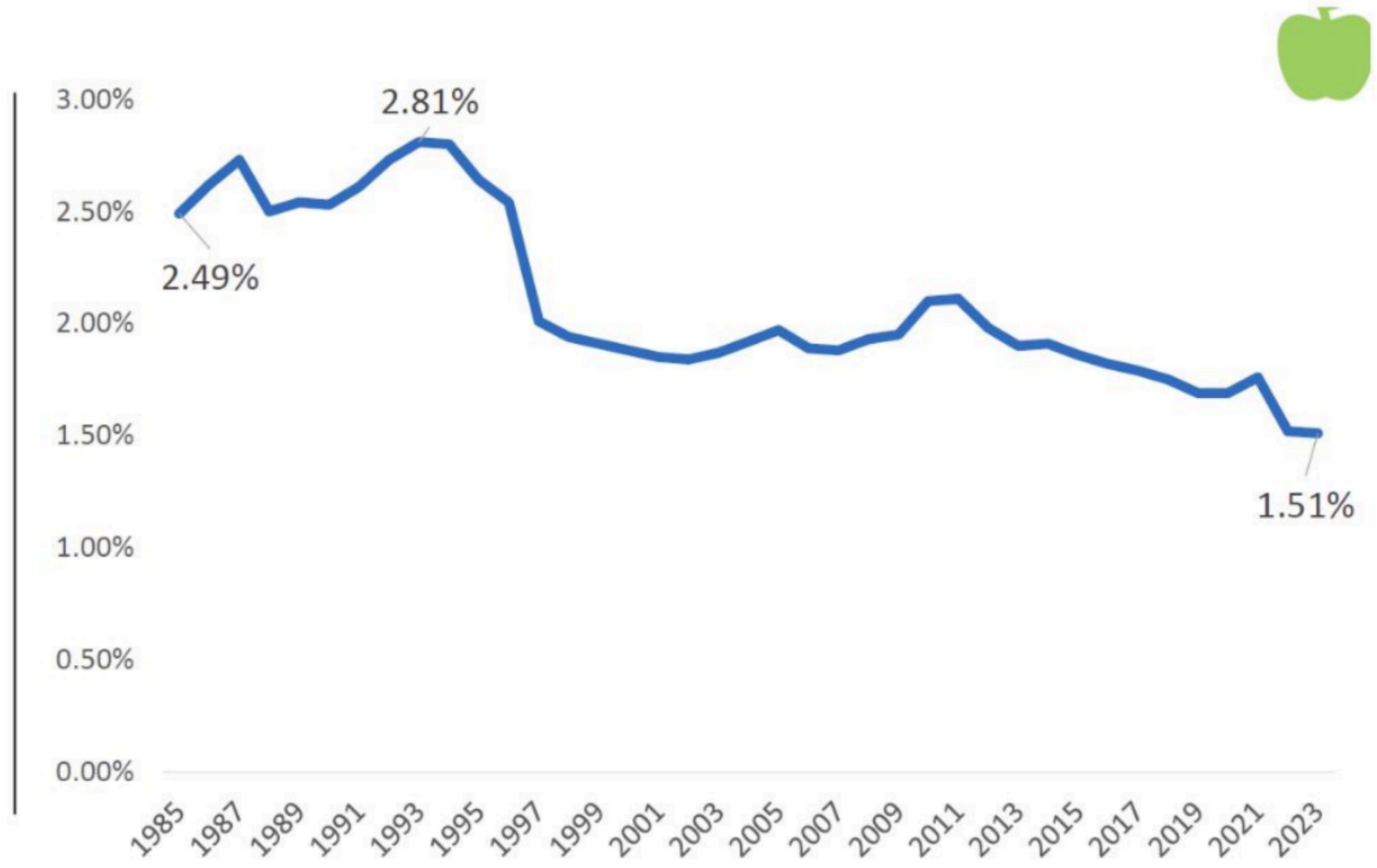
Watch on  YouTube

HOW ARE WE FUNDED?



HOW ARE WE FUNDED?

**School
property tax
levy as % of
personal
income
(tax burden)**



Snapshot Storyboard of Wisconsin School Finances Last 10 Years

Revenue Limit Adjustments

15-16	\$0
16-17	\$0
17-18	\$0
18-19	\$0
19-20	\$175
20-21	\$179
21-22	\$0
22-23	\$0
23-24	\$325
24-25	\$325

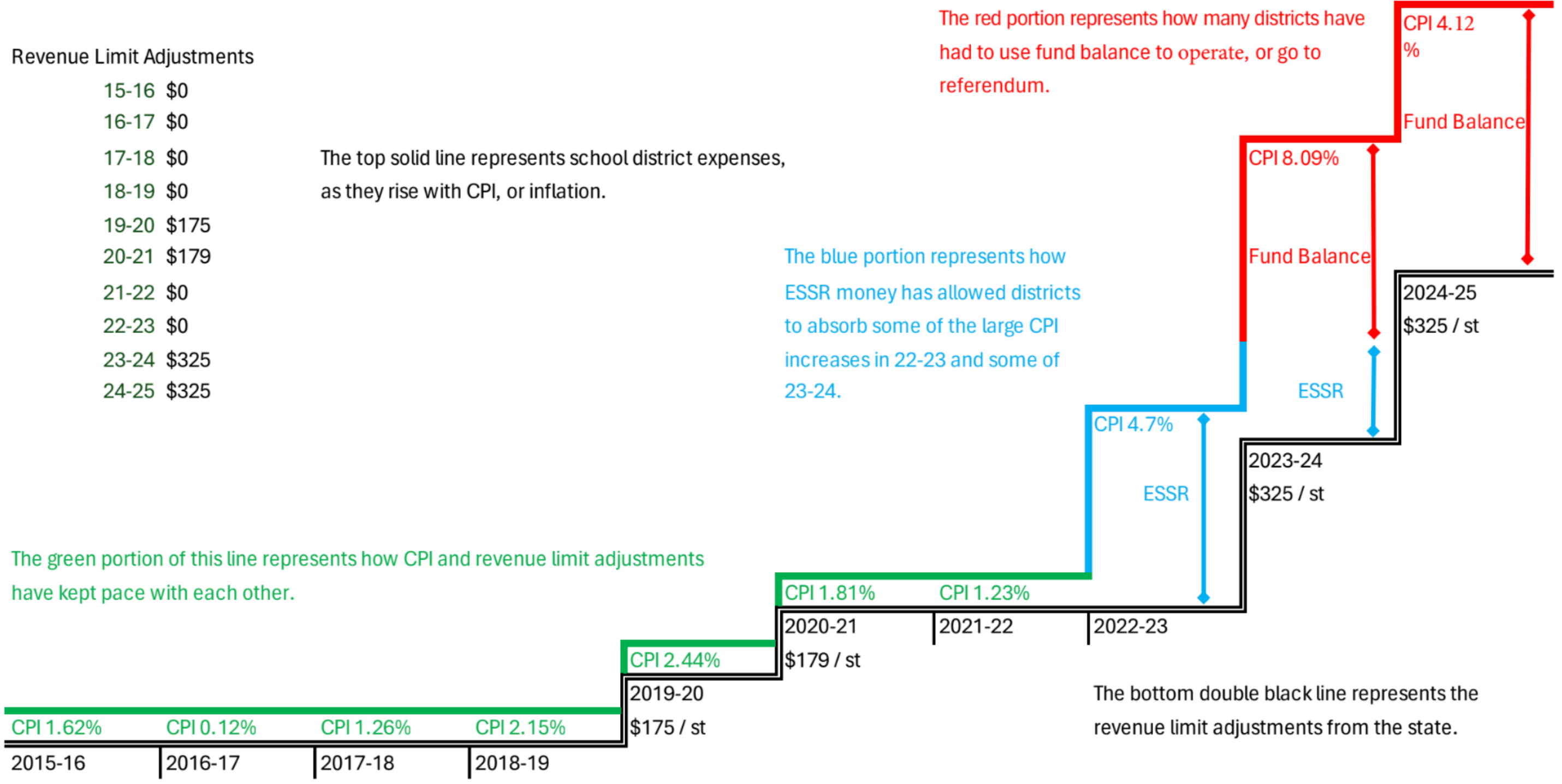
The top solid line represents school district expenses, as they rise with CPI, or inflation.

The red portion represents how many districts have had to use fund balance to operate, or go to referendum.

The blue portion represents how ESSR money has allowed districts to absorb some of the large CPI increases in 22-23 and some of 23-24.

The green portion of this line represents how CPI and revenue limit adjustments have kept pace with each other.

The bottom double black line represents the revenue limit adjustments from the state.



REVENUE LIMITS

APPLIED TO A BUSINESS



WHAT IS FUND BALANCE?

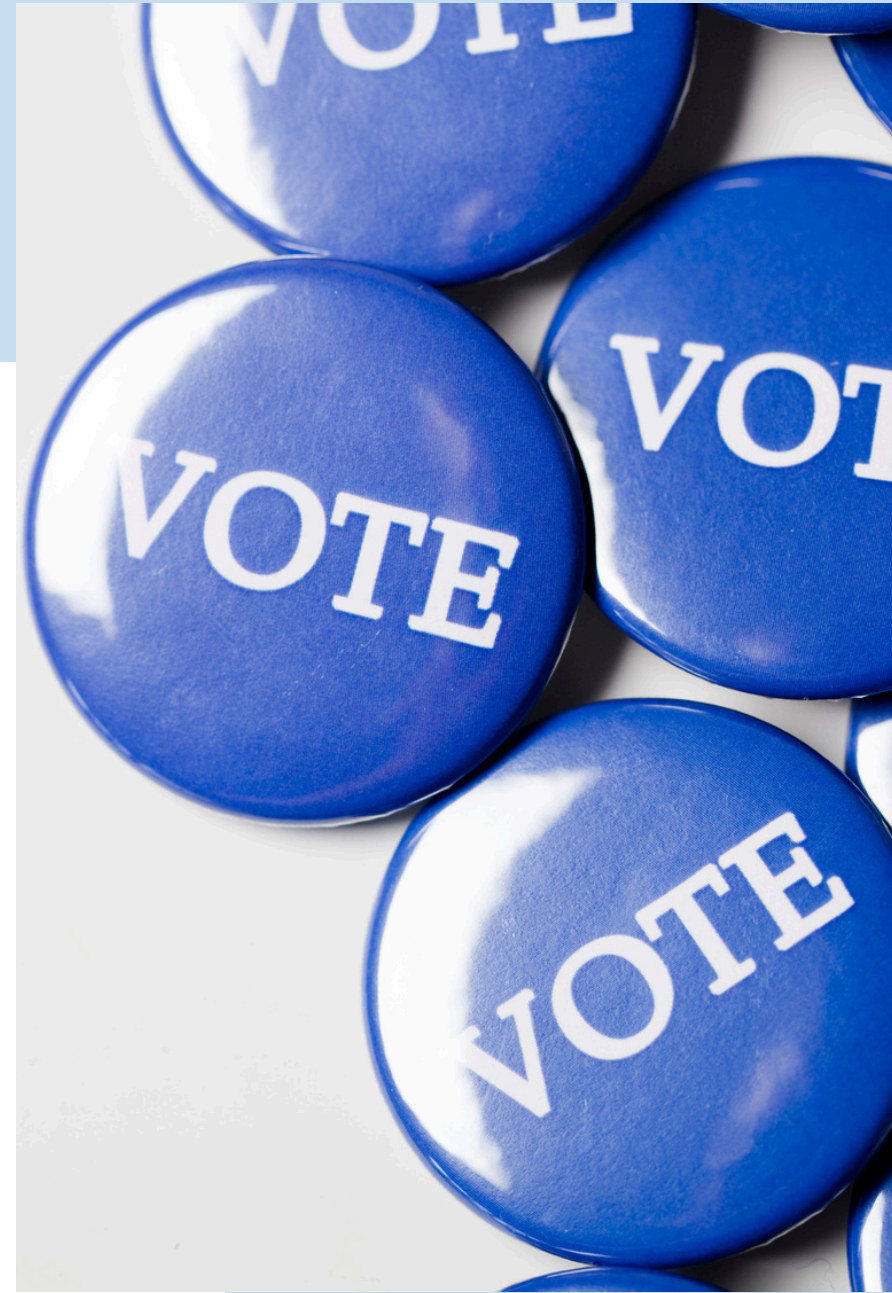
For the current 2024-25 school year, the District will use Fund Balance (“rainy day fund”) to cover our projected budget deficit. It is also a combination of cash and physical assets, such as computers or district-owned vehicles. Spending down reserves is unsustainable. Our Board policy states the Fund Balance must be no less than 15% of the total operating budget.

The Board of Education recognizes the need to maintain an operating reserve in the general fund for the following purposes:

1. Hold adequate working capital to meet cash flow needs during the fiscal year.
2. Reduce the need for short-term borrowing.
3. Serve as a safeguard for unanticipated expenditures of the District.
4. Show fiscal responsibility to maintain a high credit rating which will help reduce future borrowing costs.



Without a successful referendum, the District’s Fund Balance will drop to 14.25% next school year, putting us in violation of our own School Board policy of a Fund Balance of at least 15%. In four years, the Fund Balance would be completely depleted.

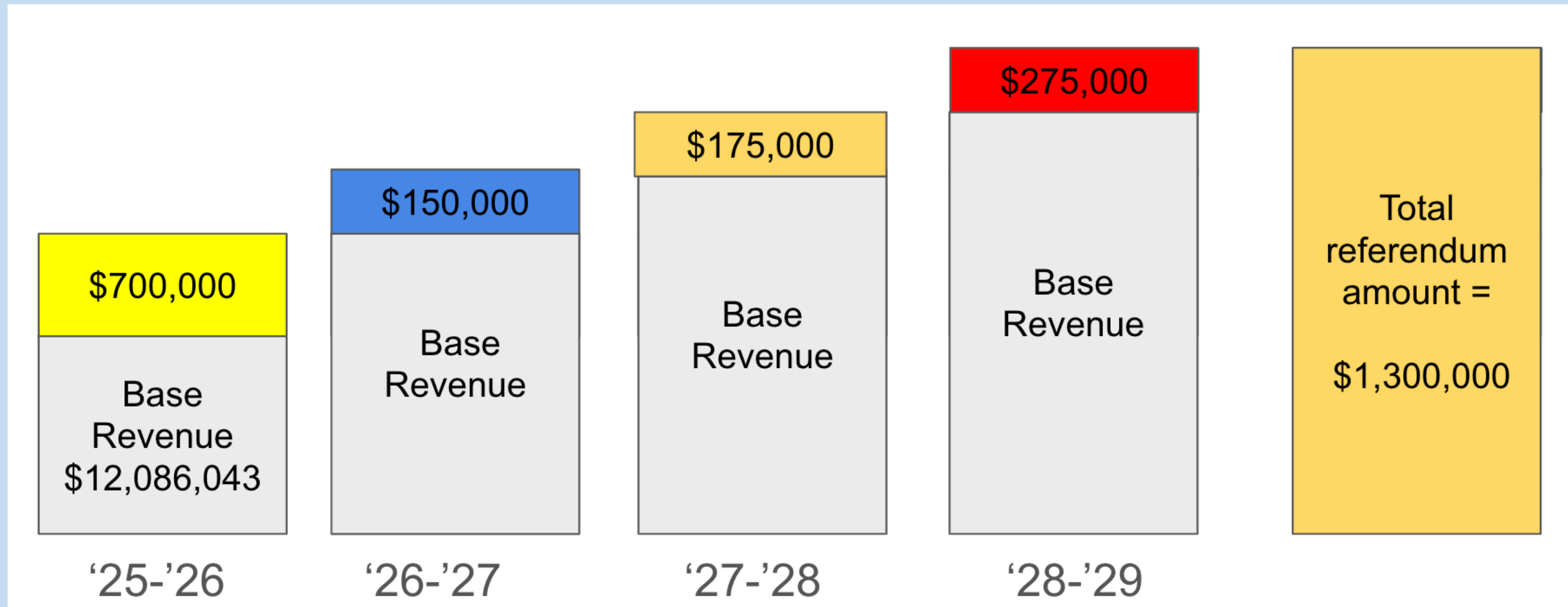


NOV. 5 BALLOT QUESTION

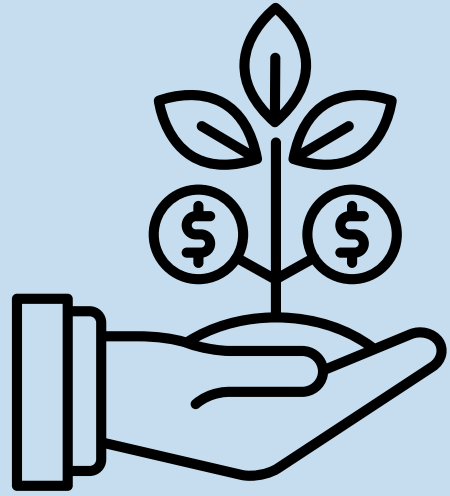
Ballot Question: “Shall the Mineral Point Unified School District, Iowa and Lafayette Counties, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$1,300,000 for the 2025-2026 school year and thereafter, for recurring purposes consisting of ongoing operational expenses?”

The intent is to levy up to an additional:

- **\$700,000 for the 2025-26 school year;**
- **\$150,000 for the 2026-27 school year;**
- **\$175,000 for the 2027-28 school year;**
- **and \$200,000 for the 2028-29 school year, for a total of an additional \$1.3 million.**



When a district passes a recurring referendum, it means the money is added to its base revenue and stays there. It does not mean the district is asking for \$1,300,000 each year.



THE INVESTMENT

YEAR	ANNUAL IMPACT	MONTHLY IMPACT
	per every \$100,000 of valuation	per every \$100,000 of valuation
2025-26	\$62	\$5.17
2026-27	\$32	\$2.67
2027-28	\$33	\$2.75
2028-29	\$35	\$2.92

The School Board has stated its commitment to debt defeasance in an effort to keep the mill rate stable.

Additionally, the Board is committed to fiscal responsibility, using only the amount of revenue authority necessary to maintain current programs and does not intend to levy the full amount unless it is absolutely necessary each year.



WITH REFERENDUM

With Referendum	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026	2026 - 2027	2027 - 2028	2028 - 2029
Fund 10 Revenues	\$12,014,253	\$11,965,743	\$11,894,010	\$12,786,043	\$13,168,417	\$13,575,792	\$14,008,170
Fund 10 Expenditures	\$11,562,422	\$11,960,771	\$12,426,319	\$12,777,927	\$13,157,969	\$13,563,034	\$13,993,916
Surplus (Deficit)	\$451,831	\$4,972	-\$532,309	\$8,116	\$10,448	\$12,758	\$14,254
Fund Balance	\$3,019,567	\$3,024,539	\$2,492,230	\$2,500,346	\$2,510,794	\$2,523,552	\$2,537,806
Fund Balance as % of Exp	26.12%	25.29%	20.06%	19.57%	19.08%	18.61%	18.14%

COST OF INACTION

With a failed referendum, the Board will be faced with tough decisions.

Some possibilities include:



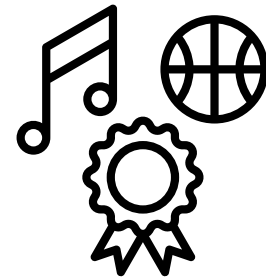
Longer
Transportation



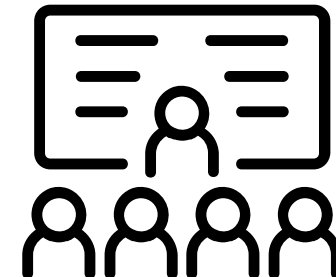
Depleted
Fund Balance



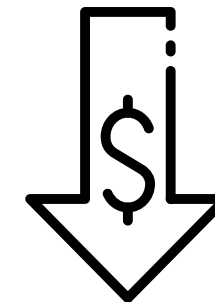
Less Academic
Offerings



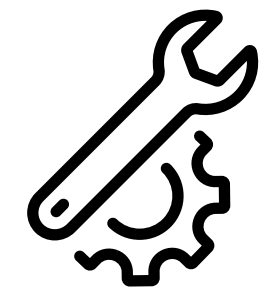
Reduced Co-
Curriculars



Staff Reductions,
Larger Class Sizes



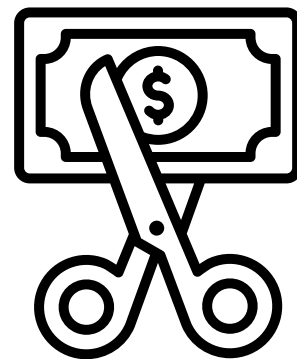
Less Competitive
Wages & Benefits



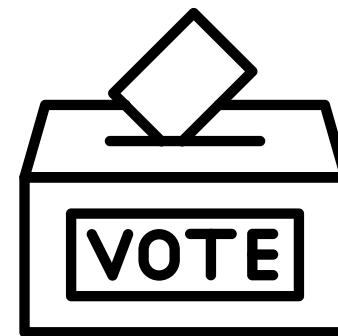
Deferred maintenance,
technology & safety
updates

ADDITIONAL FAILED REFERENDUM PENALTY IMPOSED BY THE STATE

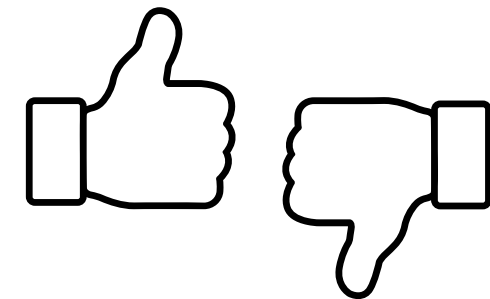
A FAILED REFERENDUM MEANS:



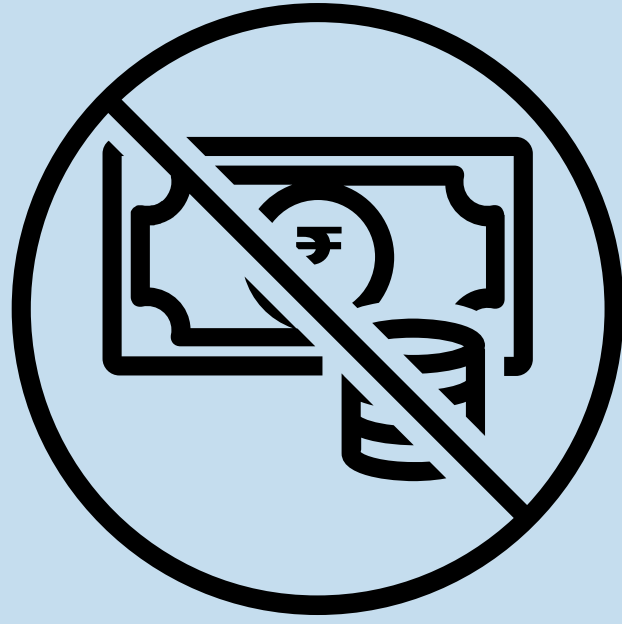
Cuts will not be
enough



Another referendum
will still be needed



Cuts will affect the
quality of education
the community
expects from our
schools



WITHOUT REFERENDUM

Without Referendum	2022 - 2023	2023 - 2024	2024 - 2025	2025 - 2026	2026 - 2027	2027 - 2028	2028 - 2029
Fund 10 Revenues	\$12,014,253	\$11,965,743	\$11,894,010	\$12,086,043	\$12,318,418	\$12,550,793	\$12,783,168
Fund 10 Expenditures	\$11,562,422	\$11,960,771	\$12,410,734	\$12,773,202	\$13,158,372	\$13,565,666	\$13,997,288
Surplus (Deficit)	\$451,831	\$4,972	-\$516,724	-\$687,159	-\$839,954	-\$1,014,873	-\$1,214,120
Fund Balance	\$3,019,567	\$3,024,539	\$2,507,816	\$1,820,657	\$980,703	-\$34,170	-\$1,248,290
Fund Balance as % of Exp	26.12%	25.29%	20.21%	14.25%	7.45%	-0.25%	-8.92%

146 OPERATING REFERENDA THIS YEAR IN WISCONSIN

421 SCHOOLS DISTRICTS IN THE STATE

APRIL

SUCCESSFUL



- BARNEVELD
- HIGHLAND
- POTOSI
- RICHLAND
- SOUTHWESTERN

NOVEMBER

SCHEDULED



- ARGYLE
- BELMONT
- CUBA CITY
- DARLINGTON
- DODGEVILLE
- IOWA-GRANT
- ITHACA
- MINERAL POINT
- PLATTEVILLE
- PRAIRIE DU CHIEN
- RIVER RIDGE

31 SCHOOLS IN CESA 3



VOUCHERS

Mineral Point lost approximately \$349,000 over the last five years to the Milwaukee & Racine Voucher Programs.

SPECIAL ED

We only receive 33% reimbursement from the state for special education costs. This means, last year alone, we had to divert \$1.2 million from the general education fund to cover special education.

HISTORIC

The state budget expanded private school vouchers by up to almost \$3,000 per student, or nearly ten times more, than what public schools received.

COST SAVINGS



- **Paid less than CPI for staff wage increases in several recent years**
- **Increased staff share of insurance (Point of Service vs HMO)**
- **Used ESSER money to offset increases**
- **Cuts to the technology budget**
- **Cuts to the maintenance budget**
- **Moved technology expenses to ERate (60% reimbursement) [24-25 school year]**
- **Brought back the food service program under the District's umbrella (no more management fees)**
- **Analyze the true need for a position following retirements/resignations**
- **Competitively bid on large projects (transportation)**
- **Reduced lease agreements (copiers/printers)**
- **Staff have already been held to salary/step/lane freezes in past contract years**
- **Have not funded all steps on the salary structure (steps, lanes, etc)**
- **Use what is known as Train the Trainer model (one person attends Professional Development then shares out)**
- **Frozen or reduced classroom budgets**
- **Extended the life of curriculum and technology before updating**
- **Pushing of classroom furniture purchases**
- **Purchased programs (IXL, Apex, etc.) through CESA instead of individually as a District**

REVENUE GENERATING



- **Took over Options In Education School from CESA 3 (Other Districts can purchase seats to have their students attend)**
- **Increased revenue in interest income**
- **Open Enrollment (plus 105 for the 2024-25 school year) {10 years ago it was plus 35}**
- **Advertising sales through Pointer Media for athletics**
- **Fund 46 Capital Maintenance Fund**
- **Excellence In Education Endowment Fund provides grants to classroom projects through private donations**
- **Community Foundation gave large grant for before/after school program for first year**
- **Booster Group financial support**
- **Youth Apprenticeships – local businesses that provide work options**
- **Increase successful grant applications**

POINTS OF PRIDE

A sampling of our success in 2023-24:

ACADEMICALLY



- Exceeding Expectations State Report Card
- \$1.6m Scholarships to 2024 Seniors
- 861 College Credits Earned in 23-24
- 7 Herb Kohl Fellows on Staff
- 3 Nationally Board Certified Staff
- Model PLC Elementary School

ATHLETICALLY



- State Boys Basketball
- State Cross Country
- State Golf
- State Gymnastics
- State Trap
- State Track & Field
- State Wrestling



ARTISTICALLY



- State Civics Games
- State Forensics
- State Music Honors Project
- State Solo & Ensemble
- Musical Jerry Awards

SKILLFULLY



- State & National FBLA
- State & National FFA
- State & National Skills USA
- 27 Certified Youth Apprentices
- Sources of Strength

PER PUPIL SPENDING

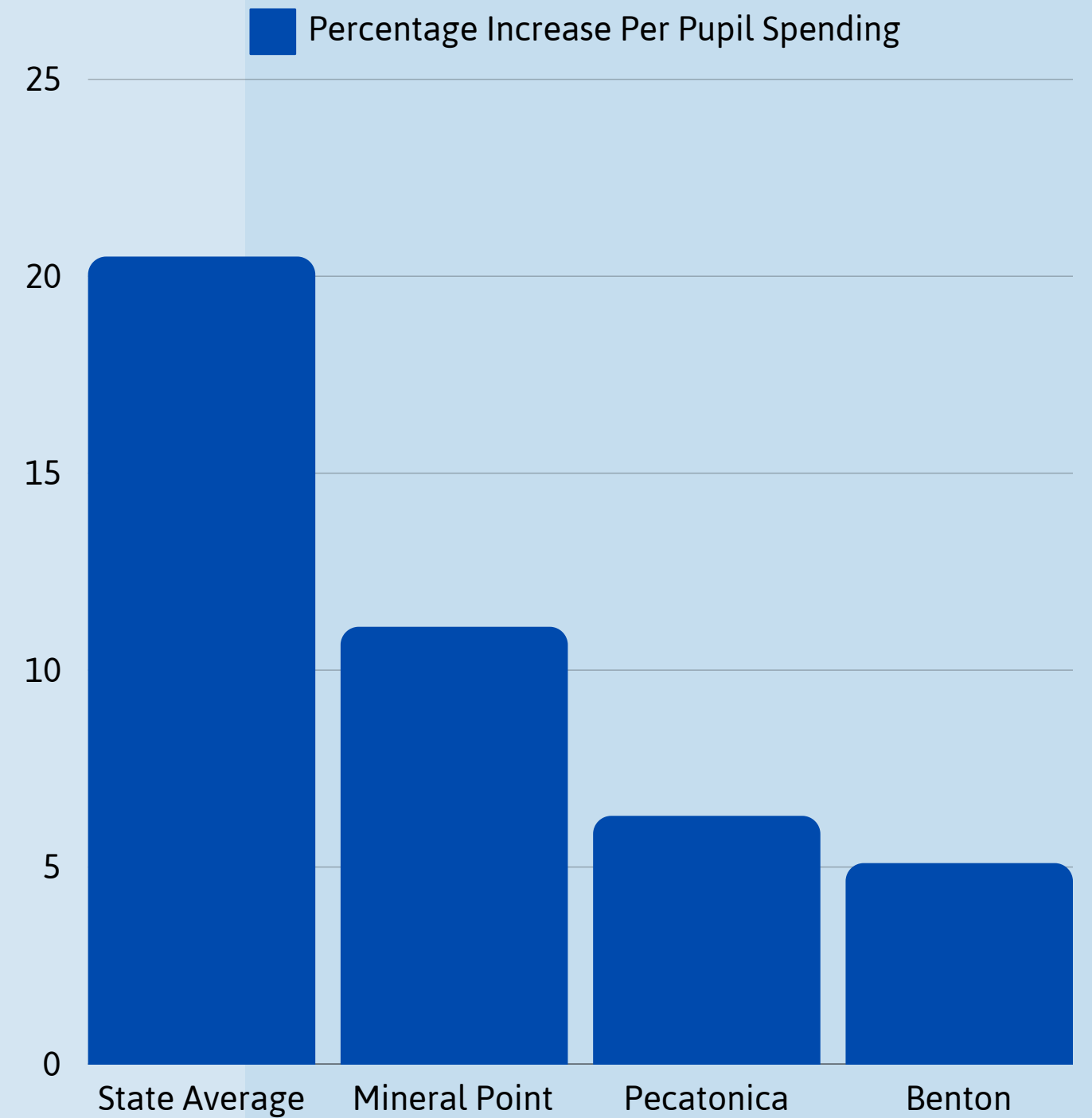
From
2019-20

To
2022-23

Mineral Point ranked 3rd lowest in percentage increase of per pupil spending of the 48 schools in the 17th Senate District.

Only Pecatonica and Benton were lower.

MP increase was 9% less than the stage average.





ELEMENTARY

376

MIDDLE

160



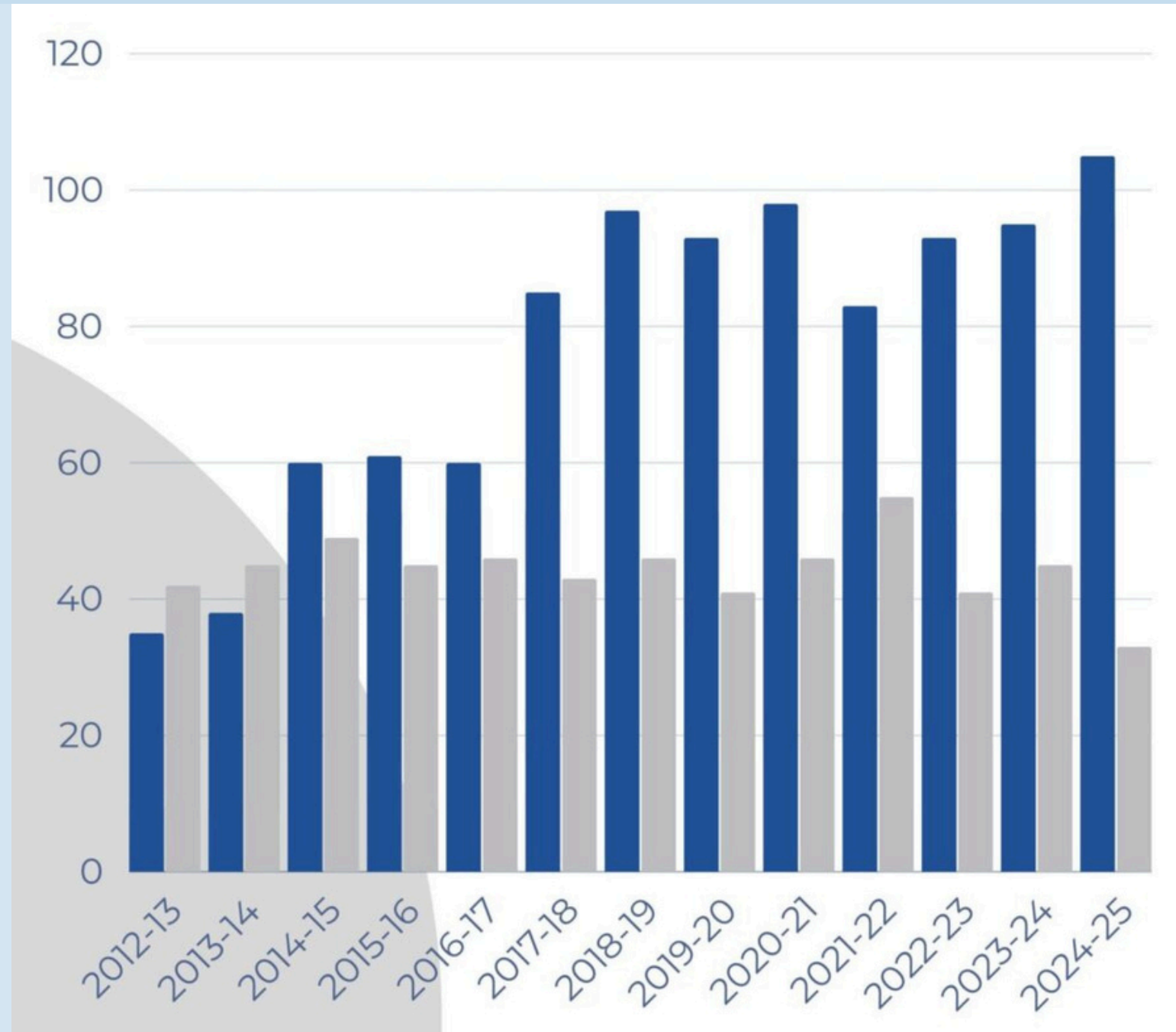
HIGH

253

789

OPEN ENROLLMENT

A student's resident district pays approximately 70% tuition to the student's district of choice



OPEN ENROLLMENT
Blue is OE in; Gray is OE out

2012-13

35 students open enrolled
into the District

2024-25

105 students choosing
Mineral Point over their
resident district

Out of 48 Schools in 17th Senate District,
MP Ranks 6th highest for \$ generated
through Open Enrollment.

Note: The District closes open enrollment for
certain grade levels and programs where it
would be necessary to hire additional staff.

Mineral Point High School

Opens Tuesday, Sept. 5th



Trains Students for Citizenship and for College

The Mineral Point High School is fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools so graduates may enter all colleges without examination.

Students are prepared for business in a well equipped Commercial Department. Courses are offered in bookkeeping, shorthand, typewriting, commercial arithmetic, commercial geography, commercial law and economics.

Students are prepared for teaching in a Teachers Training Department. Graduates will be granted licenses to teach.

Other vocational courses are offered in the Manual Training and Domestic Science Departments.

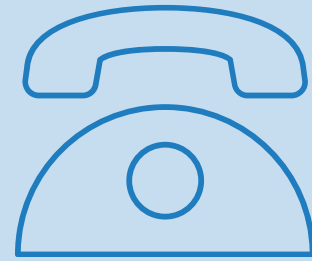
Cultural courses are offered in English, Latin, French, Science, Mathematics, History, Citizenship and Music.

Good Equipment, Strong Faculty High Standards

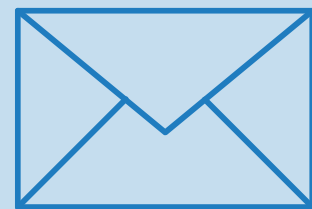
Tuition for non-resident students is paid by the township from which student comes

EST.
1829

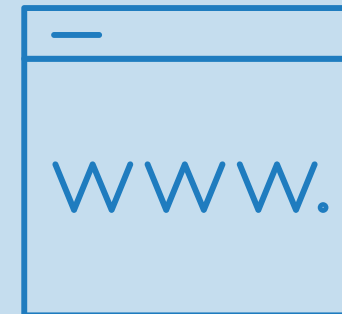
LEARN MORE



608-987-0740



mitch.wainwright@mp.k12.wi.us



<https://mineralpointschools.org/2024-referendum/>



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Thank You, #PointerNation