

# ISD 318 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## November 2023 Referendum

We are  
**318**

Stable Funding.  
Strong Schools.

At ISD 318, we are dedicated to excellence. Over the past decade, we have faced significant financial challenges as state funding has not kept pace with the rising costs of education. After years of temporary fixes and budget cuts, we need a new solution.

On Tuesday, November 7, ISD 318 voters will consider a proposal to increase funding for our schools so we can stabilize our finances, restore programming and advance excellence.

For more information about the plan and its tax impact, visit the district's referendum website

**WeAre318.org**

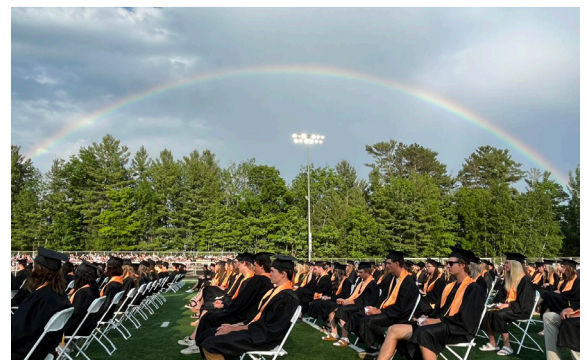
### Our Financial Challenges

Over the past four years, our district has **reduced our budget by \$7.4 million**. These cuts have affected every aspect of education and impacted our community.

To balance our budget, we made difficult decisions to:

- Cut administrative and staff positions.
- Reduce the number and range of courses available in our middle schools and high schools.
- Eliminate the K-5 art program.
- Delay and reduce investments in technology, transportation and safety and security.
- Increase activity fees.
- Charge the community for use of our school facilities.

**We can't cut our way to excellence.** We have managed our budget as efficiently and effectively as possible without seeking additional funding from our residents. Over 70% of Minnesota school districts rely on voter-approved funding to support their schools. Unlike most school districts, **ISD-318 does not have a voter-approved operating levy**. This means we spend hundreds of dollars less per student than similar school districts.





## The Plan

Over the past year, district leaders sought input on the needs of our schools through a community survey, community information sessions and meetings with teachers, staff and residents. Based on this feedback, the school board is proposing an investment plan that will:

- **Stabilize our finances** to maintain operations and avoid budget cuts.
- **Restore programming** to bring back class offerings, high school electives and programming that our students lost due to budget cuts and retain and attract quality staff.
- **Advance excellence** by maintaining small class sizes, enhancing career and technical education and providing a wide range of curriculum and programming.

To achieve these goals, the district is proposing three ballot questions on Tuesday, November 7:

- **Question One:** A \$1,100 per pupil operating levy that would provide the district with an additional \$4.6 million each year to stabilize its finances and avoid deeper budget cuts in the future.
- **Question Two:** A \$2.5 million annual capital projects levy that would restore programming that was lost due to budget cuts, retain and attract quality staff, provide sustainable funding for school safety and invest in technology and school buses. Question Two cannot pass unless Question One also passes.
- **Question Three:** A \$300 per pupil operating levy that would provide the district with an additional \$1.2 million each year to maintain small class sizes, enhance career and technical education and update curriculum and programming. Question Three can only pass if Question One and Question Two also pass.

If approved by voters, the levies would be in place for seven years.

## The Tax Impact

If voters approve the three ballot questions, a home valued at \$200,000 in the district would see an estimated property tax increase of \$30.75 per month starting in 2024. A home valued at \$300,000 would see an estimated increase of \$46.75 per month.

## Vote

Your voice matters. This is an important community decision. For more information on voting, visit [WeAre318.org/vote](https://www.weare318.org/vote).

### Learn More

Scan this QR code to learn more about our challenges and the plan to address them, the cost and tax impact and voting information.



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