



FISCAL YEAR 2025-26

PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION APRIL 14, 2025



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1-3 School Funding 101

4 Enrollment

4 State Supplemental Aid

4 Revenues

4 Expenditures

5 Authorized Budget

6-8 Tax Levy Recommendation

8 General Fund Financial Issues

9 Notice of Public Hearing and Proposed Dubuque School Budget Summary

10 Levy Impact on Property Taxes

- › Residential
- › Commercial
- › Industrial

11 Adoption of Budget and Taxes

12 Glossary

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

On behalf of the Dubuque Community School District, I am pleased to provide you with the district's 2025-2026 Certified Budget Proposal - a transparent and accountable overview of how district funds are utilized and maximized to support student success.

Our goal across the district is to be **READY. FOR YOU.**

We are proudly ready to serve each and every student who comes to us, regardless of background or barrier. We proudly strive for excellence in our educational and extracurricular programming – providing the area's most robust selection of opportunities for our students to engage, learn and grow in and out of the classroom.

The district has a long history of being good stewards of the tax dollars entrusted to us and it is a responsibility we take incredibly seriously. We are committed to allocating our resources in ways that have the greatest positive impact on student, and we continue to work diligently to maintain a strong financial position. That being said, low state aid and rising operational costs continue forcing us to make difficult decisions to ensure this financial stability.

As we plan our finances moving forward, in the pages that follow, you can learn about school financing, the Iowa Code that governs it, and the current financial position of the Dubuque Community Schools.

It is important to note that this year's budget proposal has been developed using estimates as the state legislature did not officially set school funding amounts at the time of this document's production.

To maintain our strong financial position, we operate by working within our current budget realities while always focusing on our long-term financial stability. This work includes looking thoughtfully and strategically at ways to make district operations increasingly more efficient.

Guided by our new five-year strategic plan, which you can find at www.dbqschools.org/strategicplan, our work continues to include exploration of facility efficiencies that ensure both high-quality facilities while easing budget pressures on our general fund operating dollars.

We are proud of the district's long-term financial management and we remain strong because of it. We want you to know that we are always working to take steps that both enhance the learning experience for students while maintaining the financial health to do so for the long term.

Thank you for your support as we strive to provide students and families of Dubuque Community School District with a first-rate educational experience that will prepare them for a future filled with success.

Sincerely,

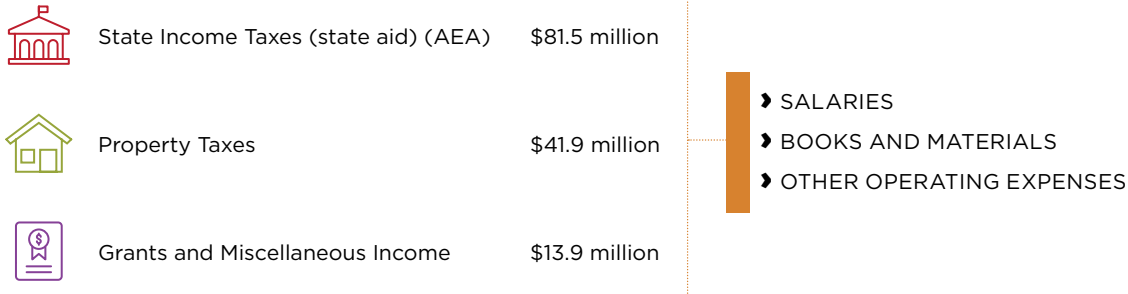


Amy Hawkins
Superintendent of Schools

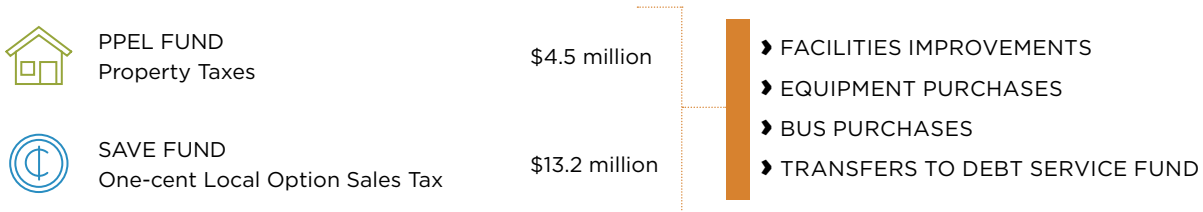
SCHOOL FUNDING 101:

the basics on where the money comes from and where it goes

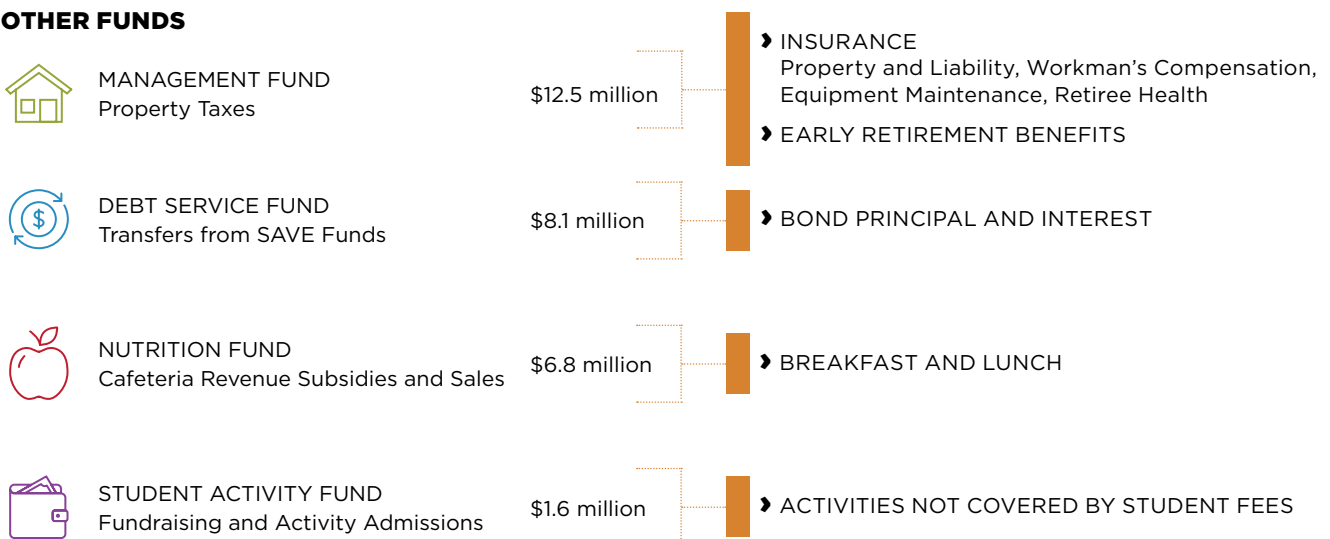
GENERAL FUND TOTAL REVENUE: \$137.4 MILLION



CAPITAL PROJECTS TOTAL: \$17.7 MILLION



OTHER FUNDS



AMOUNTS ARE FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 RESULTS

Navigating the labyrinth of public school funding is complicated. The budget is a maze of funding sources that, for the Dubuque Community School District (the “District”), total \$187 million for the current 2024-25 fiscal year.

The previous graph and the following questions and answers outline the routes that funds take coming from multiple sources, going to classrooms, playing fields, cafeterias, and libraries.

Although the dollar amounts differ between school districts, the funding concepts described here are generally the same for all school districts in Iowa.

Where does funding come from?

Like most states, Iowa pays for schools through a mix of state aid, local property taxes, and state sales taxes. Less than 6.5 percent comes from federal funding. The District has multiple funds (shown on the previous page), most of which are funded with the above sources.

In Iowa, **General Fund** revenue are mainly split between state aid and property taxes. The split of the funding varies from district to district and is determined by a statewide foundation formula.

How much funding does a district receive?

Most **General Fund** revenue for Iowa schools is based on the number of students enrolled on October 1. That figure is used in the calculation of the next fiscal year’s budget. For example, the 9,863 students counted on October 1, 2024, will determine funding for the 2025-26 school year general fund budget.

The funding formula uses certified enrollment multiplied by a **District Cost Per Pupil (DCPP)**. The **District Cost Per Pupil** is determined annually by the state legislature and approved by the governor. The annual increase is called **State Supplemental Aid (SSA)**. For 2025-26, **State Supplemental Aid** is estimated at 2.00 percent* which creates a **District Cost Per Pupil** of \$7,983.

Additional funding for the **General Fund** is generated by additional student weighting for students who qualify as special education students or English language learners.

Miscellaneous income, which includes grants and fees, also makes up part of this fund.

* NOTE: This budget proposal is based on an assumption of Supplemental State Aid for FY 2025-2026 in the amount of 2.00 percent, as the amount of school aid was not yet finalized by the legislature at the time of production.

How is District Cost Per Pupil (DCPP) calculated?

The increase in **District Cost Per Pupil** is called **Supplemental State Aid** and is a percentage based on the previous year. For FY 2024-25, **Supplemental State Aid** was 2.50 percent. For FY 2025-26, **Supplemental State Aid** is estimated at 2.00 percent.* This calculation shows how **District Cost Per Pupil** is determined for the FY 2025-2026:

\$ 7,826	District Cost Per Pupil (DCPP) for FY 2024-25
+ \$ 157	State Supplemental Aid (SSA) of 2.00%* for FY 2025-26
<hr/>	
= \$ 7,983	District Cost Per Pupil (DCPP) for FY 2025-2026

When the percentage of **State Supplemental Aid** is lower than the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the District must look at reducing costs since the revenue has not kept up to the rate of inflation. Schools are people-intensive establishments, with salaries and benefits consuming approximately 85 percent of the District's **General Fund** expenses.

* NOTE: This budget proposal is based on an assumption of Supplemental State Aid for FY 2025-2026 in the amount of 2.00 percent, as the amount of school aid was not yet finalized by the legislature at the time of production.

How can school districts afford to build and remodel buildings when they're cutting teachers?

Iowa law requires school districts to maintain separate funds (restricted) for specific uses. Property insurance and early retirement benefits, for example, are paid from the **Management Fund**. These restricted funds have designated purposes and cannot be used for other types of expenses. Other examples of these restricted funds are the **Physical Plant and Equipment Levy Fund** and the **Secured an Advanced Vision for Education Fund**. The use of these funds is generally limited to facilities improvements, bond payments, and equipment purchases.

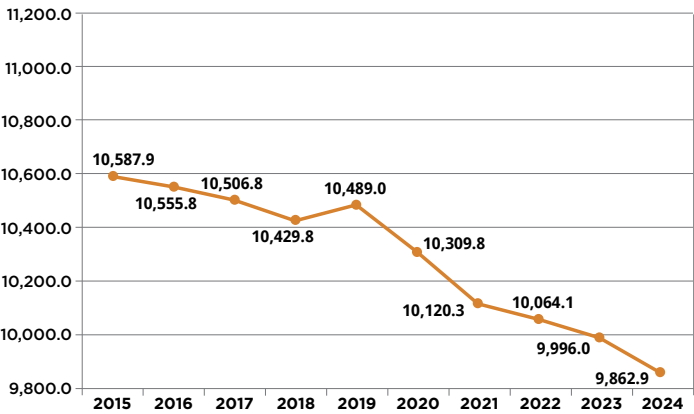
Who is accountable for school district budget decisions?

Iowa school boards, made up of elected citizens, are accountable to their communities for making decisions about spending school funds, and educators (superintendents and other administrators) are accountable to school boards for managing these funds.

ENROLLMENT

The following chart shows Dubuque’s certified enrollment for the ten years ending October 2024.

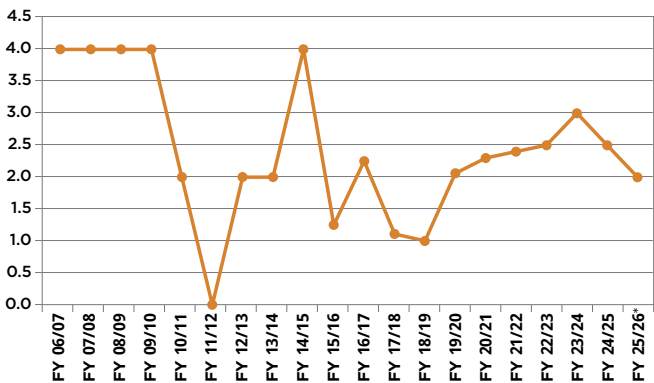
CERTIFIED ENROLLMENT



STATE SUPPLEMENTAL AID
(formerly known as allowable growth)

The Iowa Legislature sets the *State Supplemental Aid* percentage. This percentage is applied to the prior year’s state cost per pupil. The cost per pupil is multiplied by certified enrollment to yield the district’s regular-program district cost.

STATE SUPPLEMENTAL AID HISTORY



* Assumes 2.00% State Supplemental Aid

REVENUES

District *General Fund* revenues consist primarily of state foundation aid and property taxes. Both amounts result from application of the Iowa School Finance Formula to Dubuque’s specific enrollment and tax data. The application of the formula is shown in the *General Fund* levy table included in this document.

A third source of revenue is called Miscellaneous Income and includes all other sources of district revenue. The following table summarizes miscellaneous income for the years shown:

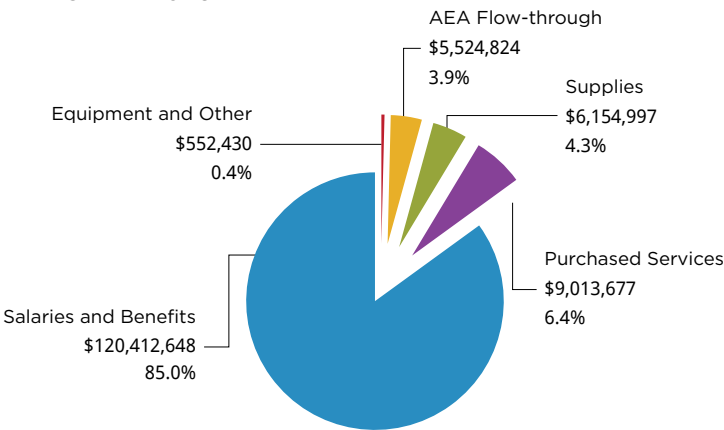
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME

	Actual FY 2023-24	Re-estimated FY 2024-25	Budget FY 2025-26
Federal Sources	\$ 7,805,693	\$ 6,211,571	\$ 6,113,918
State Sources	765,103	659,220	655,000
Local Sources	6,145,749	3,929,209	3,931,082
Totals	\$ 14,716,545	\$ 10,800,000	\$ 10,700,000

EXPENDITURES

Total district expenditures are reported annually to the Iowa Department of Education in a report called the Certified Annual Report (“CAR”). In addition, they are reported to the public in the comprehensive annual financial report. A summary of District expenditures is shown in the following chart:

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES
FOR FY 2023-24



AUTHORIZED BUDGET

The **Authorized Budget**, also called spending authority, is a calculation based on a state formula set in Iowa code. **Unspent authorized budget** (also called **unspent balance**) is the amount of accumulated unspent spending authority. This is a statutory concept that limits school district budgets. In general, a decline in year-end **unspent authorized budget** indicates a deteriorating financial position and an increase indicates an improving financial position. The State of Iowa monitors **unspent balance** by accumulating and reporting the following information. Certain FY 2024-25 and 2025-26 amounts shown are District estimates.

ANNUAL AUTHORIZED BUDGET ("BUDGET") AND UNSPENT BALANCE

	Actual FY 2023-24	Re-estimated FY 2024-25	Budget FY 2025-26
Regular Weighting (certified enrollment)	10064,100	9996,000	9862,900
Supplemental Weighting	146,765	171,099	201,822
Special Education Weighting (additional)	1945,010	1923,480	1892,580
Total Weighted Enrollment	12,155,875	12,090,579	11,957,302
District Cost Per Pupil (set by State)	\$ 7,635	\$ 7,826	\$ 7,983
District Cost	\$ 92,810,029	\$ 94,620,871	\$ 95,455,142
State Categorical Funds	12,115,164	14,391,725	16,222,405
Enrollment Adjustment	(178)	(76)	(17,295)
Budget Guarantee	0	0	275,452
AEA Flow Through (net of prorata reduction)	5,524,824	5,571,449	6,170,717
Drop-out Prevention	3,730,259	3,815,973	3,859,353
Instructional Support	5,663,064	5,769,367	6,132,347
Preschool Foundation Aid	2,538,748	2,696,152	2,686,201
Miscellaneous Income	13,938,805	10,800,000	10,700,000
Budget Authority - <u>Before</u> SBRC Additions	\$ 136,320,715	\$ 137,665,461	\$ 141,484,322
SBRC - Special Education Deficit *	\$ 4,130,206	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 5,000,000
SBRC - ELL Deficit *	587,514	605,000	624,000
SBRC - Open Enrolled Out not on Previous Year's Count **	390,094	515,967	532,000
SBRC - ELL Beyond Five Years **	179,651	193,223	200,000
	\$ 5,287,465	\$ 5,814,190	\$ 6,356,000
Total Annual Budget Authority	\$ 141,608,180	\$ 143,479,651	\$ 147,840,322
Expenditures *	\$ 141,658,576	\$ 141,500,000	\$ 143,500,000
Increase <Decrease> Unspent Balance	(50,396)	1,979,651	4,340,322
Year-end Unspent Balance	\$ 14,988,048	\$ 16,967,699	\$ 21,308,021

* FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26 are estimated amounts

** FY 2025-26 are estimated amounts and assumes 2.00% State Supplemental Aid

TAX LEVY RECOMMENDATION

School district tax levies are intended to provide funds to support district education objectives and to achieve financial-condition goals. The District's levy has three components: the **General Fund** levy, the **Management Fund** levy and the **Physical Plant and Equipment Levy**.

The **General Fund** levy is the largest and most significant component of the total district levy. The following table shows how the total Budget Authority is financed.

GENERAL FUND LEVY

FINANCING BUDGET AUTHORITY	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26 *
State Aid	\$ 80,917,882	\$ 83,983,167	\$ 86,493,545
Property Taxes Levied (includes utility replacement)	41,055,504	42,116,295	43,345,101
Miscellaneous Income	13,938,805	10,800,000	10,700,000
C & I State Replacement Adjustment - Started FY 23-24	404,984	521,972	410,040
Utility Replacement Adjustment	7,492	(17,961)	56
Adjustments that will be made once SSA has been determined		0	283,164
Adjustment for Property Tax Appeal Assessment	(3,952)	0	0
Two-Tiered Assessment	0	261,988	252,416
General Fund Revenues (excluding cash reserve)	<u>\$ 136,320,715</u>	<u>\$ 137,665,461</u>	<u>\$ 141,484,322</u>
Taxable Valuation without TIF	\$ 3,979,675,395	\$ 4,217,961,036	\$ 4,383,035,339
General Fund Levy Rate (excluding cash reserve)	8.89330	8.61718	8.55478
General Fund before ISL	\$ 35,392,447	\$ 36,346,929	\$ 37,495,903
Taxable Valuation with TIF	\$ 4,507,740,909	\$ 4,932,216,092	\$ 5,045,961,158
ISL Levy Rate	1.25630	1.16973	1.15918
ISL	\$ 5,663,075	\$ 5,769,361	\$ 5,849,177
Combined General Fund Levy Rate	10.14960	9.78691	9.71396
Combined General Fund	\$ 41,055,522	\$ 42,116,291	\$ 43,345,080

* Assumes 2.00% State Supplemental Aid

The **Management Fund** levy consists of amounts needed to fund insurance and early retirement programs, the components of which are shown in the following table:

MANAGEMENT FUND LEVY

	Actual FY 2023-24	Re-estimated FY 2024-25	Requested FY 2025-26
General and Liability Insurance	\$ 1,117,599	\$ 1,499,025	\$ 1,584,258
Transportation Equipment Insurance	154,314	168,229	168,229
Equipment Maintenance Insurance	1,536,096	1,594,185	1,753,604
Workers' Comp. Insurance & Unemployment	844,681	786,251	828,835
Early Retirement Programs	877,168	722,310	1,059,074
Total	<u>\$ 4,529,858</u>	<u>\$ 4,770,000</u>	<u>\$ 5,394,000</u>

The **PPEL** levy has two components. One part is set by school board action and the balance by public referendum. The **PPEL** levy can only be used for specific purposes – generally facilities improvements and equipment. It cannot be used for salaries.

The following table shows the current and prior years' levy rates and compares them with the recommendation for FY 2025-26:

**DISTRICT LEVY RATES
PER \$1,000 OF TAXABLE VALUATION**

Levy Components	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	Recommended FY 2025-26 *
General Fund			
Combined District Cost	\$ 8.89330	\$ 8.61718	\$ 8.49193
Instructional Support	1.25630	1.16973	1.15918
Budget Guarantee	0.00000	0.00000	0.06285
Cash Reserve:			
Increased Enrollment	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Increased Enrollment/Open Enrolled Out	0.00000	0.00000	0.11772
LEP Beyond 5 Years	0.00000	0.00000	0.04408
Special Education Deficit	0.22066	0.72120	0.94232
LEP Deficit	0.00000	0.00000	0.13404
Solvency Ratio Purposes	0.00000	0.00000	0.36282
General Fund Total	<u>\$ 10.37026</u>	<u>\$ 10.50811</u>	<u>\$ 11.31494</u>
Management Fund	3.14096	1.48769	0.73009
Regular PPEL Fund	0.33000	0.33000	0.33000
Voted PPEL Fund	0.67000	0.67000	0.67000
Total	<u>\$ 14.51122</u>	<u>\$ 12.99580</u>	<u>\$ 13.04503</u>
% Increase (Decrease)	4.3%	(10.4%)	0.4%

* Assumes 2.00% State Supplemental Aid

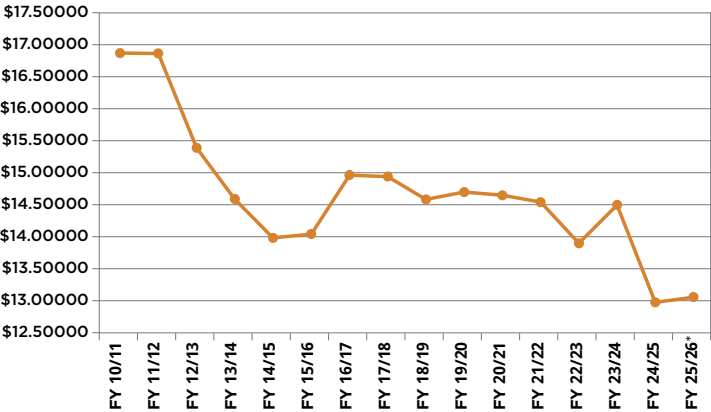
The FY 2025-26 Cash Reserve levy for solvency ratio purposes flow generates funds to improve the district’s **solvency ratio** and to offset the large cash reduction. Over the past few years, the District’s cash reserve has effectively generated an accumulation of cash that allows the District to cash flow during summer months when there are no payments from the State of Iowa. For FY 2025-26, there will not be a Cash Reserve levy for cash flow purposes as the District has accumulated a sufficient cash balance to meet the summer cashflow needs. The breakdown of cash flow needs are listed above.

The Cash Reserve levy is the most variable part of the total tax levy and Iowa Code sets a maximum of what it may be. The following table shows recent Cash Reserve levies in comparison to the legally allowed maximum:

CASH RESERVE LEVY

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Levy Amount	\$ 878,172	\$ 3,041,993	\$ 7,017,143
Legal Maximum	\$ 878,172	\$ 3,041,993	\$ 7,017,143

The following graph shows a fifteen-year history of the District’s total levy rate and the proposed total levy rate for FY 2025-26.*



* Assumes 2.00% State Supplemental Aid

The following table compares the District’s proposed FY 2025-26 levy rate to the other UEN schools’ proposed FY 2025-26 rates.

UEN SCHOOLS’ FY 2025-26
TOTAL PROPERTY TAX RATES COMPARED TO
DUBUQUE’S RECOMMENDED 2025-26 RATE
(Includes Income Surtax Levy Equivalents for Applicable Districts)

District	Proposed FY 2025-26
Waterloo	16.74494
Council Bluffs	16.15424
Iowa City	16.10106
Des Moines	14.67444
Davenport	13.83173
Cedar Rapids	13.64639
Dubuque	13.04503
Sioux City	12.38141

Dubuque strives to meet its student achievement goals while at the same time maintaining financially efficient delivery of education and support services.

GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL
ISSUES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-26
AND BEYOND

The 2024-25 fiscal year had 2.50 percent **State Supplemental Aid**. FY 2025-26 is estimated at 2.00 percent. The District will need to continue to find ways to reduce costs and create operational efficiencies by making changes in our facility operations. The District will need to monitor future expenditure levels very closely as future school funding levels are expected to remain low.

The clear challenge will be maintaining an acceptable level of **unspent balance**, which is set within the District strategic plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Demmer

Lisa Demmer
Chief Financial Officer

Rick Till

Rick Till
Director of Finance

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Proposed DUBUQUE School Budget Summary
Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026

Location of Public Hearing: (entered upon publish)	undefined	undefined
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The Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 25/26 school budget at the above noted location and time. At the hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of the revenues and expenditures on file with the district secretary. A copy of the details will be furnished upon request.

		Budget 2026	Re-est. 2025	Actual 2024	Avg % 24-26
Taxes Levied on Property	1	57,513,387	55,262,128	57,668,029	% -0.1
Utility Replacement Excise Tax	2	1,094,818	1,103,390	1,236,924	% -5.9
Income Surtaxes	3	0	0	0	
Tuition\Transportation Received	4	1,232,582	1,030,709	1,644,734	
Earnings on Investments	5	2,441,000	3,343,690	4,365,581	
Nutrition Program Sales	6	2,205,000	2,100,000	2,057,210	
Student Activities and Sales	7	1,110,000	1,080,000	1,083,642	
Other Revenues from Local Sources	8	3,093,500	3,496,585	3,122,745	
Revenue from Intermediary Sources	9	0	0	0	
State Foundation Aid	10	86,493,545	84,087,127	80,800,492	
Instructional Support State Aid	11	283,164	0	0	
Other State Sources	12	14,761,660	15,059,420	14,068,736	
Two Tier Assessment Limitation Replacement	13	1,019,634	1,019,634	1,088,301	
Title I Grants	14	2,178,918	2,262,623	2,534,824	
IDEA and Other Federal Sources	15	7,724,800	7,558,323	9,038,627	
Total Revenues	16	181,152,008	177,403,629	178,709,845	
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	17	0	14,995,000	0	
Transfers In	18	8,187,282	8,644,506	8,540,443	
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Dispositions	19	55,000	75,161	120,904	
Special Items/Upward Adjustments	20	0	0	0	
Total Revenues & Other Sources	21	189,394,290	201,118,296	187,371,192	
Beginning Fund Balance	22	94,121,580	82,549,111	85,733,977	
Total Resources	23	283,515,870	283,667,407	273,105,169	
*Instruction	24	98,301,003	97,466,764	95,887,347	% 1.3
Student Support Services	25	11,297,298	11,107,778	8,784,635	
Instructional Staff Support Services	26	4,241,328	4,191,251	5,969,337	
General Administration	27	1,579,385	1,611,699	1,568,660	
School Administration	28	8,535,735	8,344,001	8,105,709	
Business & Central Administration	29	6,572,372	7,351,038	7,345,535	
Plant Operation and Maintenance	30	15,553,267	14,654,550	14,079,859	
Student Transportation	31	5,262,423	6,652,116	5,797,517	
*Total Support Services (lines 25-31)	31A	53,041,808	53,912,433	51,651,252	% 1.3
*Noninstructional Programs	32	7,137,600	6,948,733	6,017,883	% 8.9
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	33	12,995,000	9,974,844	15,409,538	
Debt Service (Principal, interest, fiscal charges)	34	8,093,819	8,522,052	7,524,771	
AEA Support - Direct to AEA	35	4,134,189	4,616,416	5,524,824	
*Total Other Expenditures (lines 33-35)	35A	25,223,008	23,113,312	28,459,133	% -5.9
Total Expenditures	36	183,703,419	181,441,242	182,015,615	
Transfers Out	37	8,187,282	8,104,585	8,540,443	
Other Uses	38	0	0	0	
Total Expenditures, Transfers Out & Other Uses	39	191,890,701	189,545,827	190,556,058	
Ending Fund Balance	40	91,625,169	94,121,580	82,549,111	
Total Requirements	41	283,515,870	283,667,407	273,105,169	
Proposed Property Tax Rate (per \$1,000 taxable valuation)		13.04503			

LEVY IMPACT ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY – CITY OF DUBUQUE

	BUDGET YEAR 2025-26 *	BUDGET YEAR 2024-25 *	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Average Property Value *	\$ 196,507	\$ 159,503	\$ 37,004	23.20%
Equalization Order *	1.0000	1.2320	(0.2320)	-18.83%
Average Property Value after Equalization Order *	\$ 196,507	\$ 196,508	\$ (1)	0.00%
Rollback *	0.474316	0.463428	0.01089	2.35%
Taxable Value *	\$ 93,206	\$ 91,067	\$ 2,139	2.35%
School Tax Rate	\$ 13.04503	\$ 12.99580	\$ 0.04923	0.38%
School Tax	\$ 1,215.88	\$ 1,183.49	\$ 32.39	2.74%

* The above information is produced from the City of Dubuque's Fiscal Year 2026 Recommended Budget Resident's Guide, page 178.

LEVY IMPACT ON COMMERCIAL PROPERTY – CITY OF DUBUQUE

	BUDGET YEAR 2025-26 *	BUDGET YEAR 2024-25 *	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Average Property Value *	\$ 540,594	\$ 432,475	\$ 108,119	25.00%
Equalization Order *	1.0000	1.2500	(0.2500)	-20.00%
Average Property Value after Equalization Order *	\$ 540,594	\$ 540,594	\$ 0	0.00%
First Tier Rollback	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 0	0.00%
Less Residential Rollback Factor*	0.474316	0.46343	0.01089	2.35%
Taxable Value *	\$ 71,147	\$ 69,514	\$ 1,633.00	2.35%
Second Tier Rollback *	\$ 39,094	\$ 390,594	\$ (351,500.00)	-89.99%
Less Rollback Factor *	0.900000	0.900000	0	0.00%
Second Tier Taxable Value*	\$ 351,535	\$ 351,535	\$ 0	0.00%
Total Taxable Value*	\$ 422,682	\$ 421,049	\$ 1,633.00	0.39%
School Tax Rate	\$ 13.04503	\$ 12.99580	\$ 0.05	0.38%
School Tax	\$ 5,513.90	\$ 5,471.87	\$ 42.03	0.77%

* The above information is produced from the City of Dubuque's Fiscal Year 2026 Recommended Budget Resident's Guide, page 183.

LEVY IMPACT ON INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY – CITY OF DUBUQUE

	BUDGET YEAR 2025-26 *	BUDGET YEAR 2024-25 *	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
Average Property Value *	\$ 632,952	\$ 599,500	\$ 33,452	5.58%
Equalization Order *	1.0000	1.0558	(0.0558)	-5.29%
Average Property Value after Equalization Order *	\$ 632,952	\$ 632,952	\$ 0	0.00%
First Tier Rollback	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 0	0.00%
Less Residential Rollback Factor*	0.474316	0.463428	0.01089	2.35%
Taxable Value *	\$ 71,147	\$ 69,514	\$ 1,633.00	2.35%
Second Tier Rollback *	\$ 482,952	\$ 482,952	\$ 0	0.00%
Less Rollback Factor *	0.900000	0.900000	0	0.00%
Second Tier Taxable Value*	\$ 434,657	\$ 434,657	\$ 0	0.00%
Total Taxable Value*	\$ 505,804	\$ 504,171	\$ 1,633.00	0.32%
School Tax Rate	\$ 13.04503	\$ 12.99580	\$ 0.05	0.38%
School Tax	\$ 6,598.23	\$ 6,552.11	\$ 46.12	0.70%

* The above information is produced from the City of Dubuque's Fiscal Year 2026 Recommended Budget Resident's Guide, page 184.

ADOPTION OF BUDGET AND TAXES JULY 1, 2025 - JUNE 30, 2026
DUBUQUE
DISTRICT NUMBER - 1863

Department of Management - Form S-TX

Total Special Program Funding					
Instructional Support (A&L line 10.27)		6,132,347			
Educational Improvement (A&L line 11.3)		0			
Voted Physical Plant & Equipment (A&L line 19.3)		3,380,794			
Special Program Income Surtax Rates					
Instructional Support (A&L line 10.15)		% 0			
Educational Improvement (A&L line 11.4)		% 0			
Voted Physical Plant & Equipment (A&L line 19.4)		% 0			
Utility Replacement and Property Taxes Adopted					
		Utility Replacement AND Property Tax Dollars	Levy Rate	Property Taxes Levied	Estimated Utility Replacement Dollars
Levy to Fund Combined District Cost (A&L line 15.3)	1	37,495,918			
+Educational Improvement Levy (A&L line 15.5)	2	0			
+Cash Reserve Levy - SBRC (A&L line 15.9)	3	7,017,143			
+Cash Reserve Levy - Other (A&L line 15.10)	4	0			
-Use of Fund Balance to Reduce Levy (A&L line 15.11)	5	0			
=Subtotal General Fund Levy (A&L line 15.14)	6	44,513,061	10.15576	43,660,722	852,339
+Instructional Support Levy (A&L line 15.13)	7	5,849,183	1.15918	5,751,892	97,291
=Total General Fund Levy (A&L line 15.12)	8	50,362,244	11.31494	49,412,614	949,630
	9				
Management	10	3,200,000	0.73009	3,138,737	61,263
Amana Library	11	0	0	0	0
Voted Physical Plant & Equipment (Loan Agreement)	12	0			
+Voted Physical Plant & Equipment (Capital Project)	13	3,380,794			
=Subtotal Voted Physical Plant & Equipment	14	3,380,794	0.67000	3,324,564	56,230
+Regular Physical Plant & Equipment	15	1,665,167	0.33000	1,637,472	27,695
=Total Physical Plant & Equipment	16	5,045,961			
	17				
Reorganization Equalization Levy	18	0	0.00000	0	0
Emergency Levy (for Disaster Recovery)	19	0	0.00000	0	0
Public Education/Recreation (Playground)	20	0	0.00000	0	0
Debt Service	21	0	0.00000	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	22	58,608,205	13.04503	57,513,387	1,094,818
1-1-2024 Taxable Valuation WITH Gas & Electric Utilities		4,383,035,339	WITHOUT Gas & Elec	4,299,109,307	
1-1-2024 Tax Increment Valuation WITH Gas & Electric Utilities		662,925,819	WITHOUT Gas & Elec	662,925,819	
1-1-2024 Debt Service, PPEL, ISL Valuation WITH Gas & Electric Utilities		5,045,961,158	WITHOUT Gas & Elec	4,962,035,126	

FY 2026 Adopted Budget Control Lines - The amounts below must be equal to or less than the publication amounts to be certified to the County Auditor

Taxes Levied on Property (Line 1) = 57,513,387

Instruction (Line 24) = 98,301,003

Total Support Services (Line 31A) = 53,041,808

Noninstructional Programs (Line 32) = 7,137,600

Total Other Expenditures (Line 35A) = 25,223,008

The School District by signing below certifies the following:

1. The Proposed Property Tax Notice (first hearing notice) was available on the School District website on the day it was also published in the newspaper.
2. The Proposed Property Tax Notice or a link to the Notice was posted on all social media sites controlled by the school district.

(entered upon adoption)

District Secretary

Date Budget Adopted

County Auditor

GLOSSARY

Comprehending Iowa school finance concepts assumes an understanding of certain unique technical terms and phrases whose meanings have evolved over the past decades. Some of these terms and phrases are defined in Iowa statutes. Others are simply used by finance practitioners who have developed a common understanding of their meanings. Some of these terms and phrases are defined below.

Regular-Program District Cost per Pupil (cost per pupil), also called **district cost per pupil**, was originally established by dividing the school district's expenditures by the number of pupils in the district. Iowa Code 257.10(1). Each school district had its own district cost per pupil. In FY 1990-91, each district's cost per pupil was recalculated by the state and subsequent changes were only made by statute.

Supplemental State Aid is also called state percent of growth. This percentage is legally required to be established annually by the legislature and is used (along with other factors) to calculate a district's authorized budget, real estate tax levy and state aid. Supplemental State Aid has ranged between 1.0 percent and 2.50 percent during the past five years. State Supplemental Aid is extremely important to districts.

Authorized Budget, sometimes called spending authority, is the sum of:

- Property tax and state aid (as calculated under the Iowa School Finance Formula)
- Miscellaneous income (all revenues not included above)
- Unspent balance from previous years
- Other amounts granted by School Budget Review Committee ("SBRC")

Unspent Balance (also known as **Unspent Authorized Budget**) is the end-of-fiscal-year amount remaining after all expenditures are subtracted from authorized budget.

Special Education Deficits occur when current-year special education expenditures exceed current-year special education receipts. Receipts come from various sources including taxes, state program dollars, nonresident tuition, Federal IDEA Part B program dollars, and the Medicaid program. Expenditures include general program expenses, special program expenses, and tuition paid to other districts for resident students served elsewhere. A special education deficit is not part of the Iowa School Finance Formula and therefore funding is not automatically provided. However, upon district application, the SBRC retroactively grants authorized budget for the year in which the deficit occurred. A district may then use the cash reserve levy to subsequently collect taxes to cover this deficit.

Solvency Ratio is a percentage determined by dividing the (assigned plus unassigned fund balance) by (total general fund revenue – AEA support).

School Budget Review Committee ("SBRC") is established in Section 257.30, Code of Iowa. One of its enumerated duties is to grant supplemental aid to school districts for unusual or extraordinary circumstances.

Assigned Fund Balances are those amounts that are set aside by the governing body itself, by another body (budget or finance committee), or by an official who has been delegated the authority to assign those amounts for a specific purpose by the governing body.

Unassigned Fund Balances are those amounts in the general fund that have not been classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, or assigned.

Cash Reserves money comes from General Fund dollars not used in prior year; kept as savings and may be used for any General Fund operating expenses.

General Fund money primarily comes from property taxes, state aid, state and federal grants, and student fees; used for salaries, supplies and other operational costs, and specific activities and materials funded by the student fees.

Student Activity Fund money comes from fundraising and activity admissions only, not taxes; used to augment district-sponsored and supervised student activities such as athletics, band, speech, and student council.

Management Levy Fund money comes from special property tax levy; used for liability insurance, unemployment benefits, early retirement incentives, and legal judgments.

Capital Projects Fund money comes from bond proceeds, PPEL property taxes, and the one-cent local option sales tax; used for purchase and construction of major capital projects, such as new schools.

Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) Fund money comes from the one-cent local option sales tax and bond proceeds; may be used only for buildings, grounds, and certain equipment.

Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) Fund money comes from special property tax levy and/or income surtax; may be used only for buildings, grounds, and certain equipment.

Debt Service Fund money comes from a separate property tax levy approved by voters and/or local option sales tax revenue; used to pay principal and interest on long-term debt such as bonds. Money is also transferred here from the SAVE fund.

Nutrition Fund is a separate fund used to manage the revenue and expenses for the district's food service program.

