Benson Public Schools ISD #777
Potential Budget Adjustments/Reductions:
If the Fall 2026 Operating Referendum Does Not Pass

Over the past three years, Benson Public Schools has cut more than $1 million from its budget, including $300,000 this school year. Its savings are expected to shrink from $2.1 million to just $105,000 in a few years unless operating revenue increases. The school board unanimously voted to put an operating levy on the November 3, 2026, ballot that would give the district $700 more per student each year, or $522,000 annually.

If the referendum fails, $800,000 in cuts (about 6.5% of the total budget) are projected for 2027-28. The list below shows possible program and staff reductions under consideration, with estimated costs. A thorough staff and community engagement process will precede any formal school board action.

POTENTIAL BUDGET REDUCTIONS (in no specific order or priority)			
Impact	*Reduction/Adjustment*	*Description*	*Cost Savings*
Districtwide	Reduce superintendent hours by 25%	The superintendent's time leading Benson schools will be reduced 25%.	est. $50,000 Salary/Benefits
Districtwide	Reduce Administrative Support	Building and district secretarial staff	est. $16,600 Salary/Benefits
Districtwide	Implement a 4-day school week	Move from 5 to 4 instructional days for students. Reduced contracts for support staff and increased childcare costs for many parents/families.	est. $220,000-$320,000
Districtwide	Professional Development reassigned to General Fund	Eliminates professional development with no funding available. (Must be voted on by the BEA and Board.)	est. 2% of Budget
Districtwide	Reduce a bus route	This will increase the time a student spends on the bus; pickup/drop-off times will be changed.	est. $27,500
Elementary (Gr. K-5)	Increase elementary class sizes (Grades K-5)	K-5 classroom sizes increase up to 30 students per classroom; two grade-level classrooms may be combined.	Eliminate 5 FTE positions; est. $325,000 total
Secondary (Gr. 6-12)	Reduce course electives for students in Grades 6-12	Reductions could include: Ag, Building/Trades, Welding, Business, Art, Band, Choir, Physical Education, Health, and College in the Schools.	Eliminate 5 FTE positions; est. $325,000 total
Secondary (Gr. 6-12)	Reduce athletics & activities	Reduce athletic & activity opportunities (BPA, FFA, Speech, Clubs, etc.)	Eliminate 2 Athletics & 2 Activities; est. $11,878 total
Districtwide	Reduce academic and behavioral support services	Paraeducators/instructional assistants	Eliminate 2 FTE positions; est. $80,000 total
Districtwide	Reduce physical & mental health student support services	Social workers, counseling, cultural liaison, nursing, and cooperative services	Eliminate 2 FTE positions; est. $125,000 total