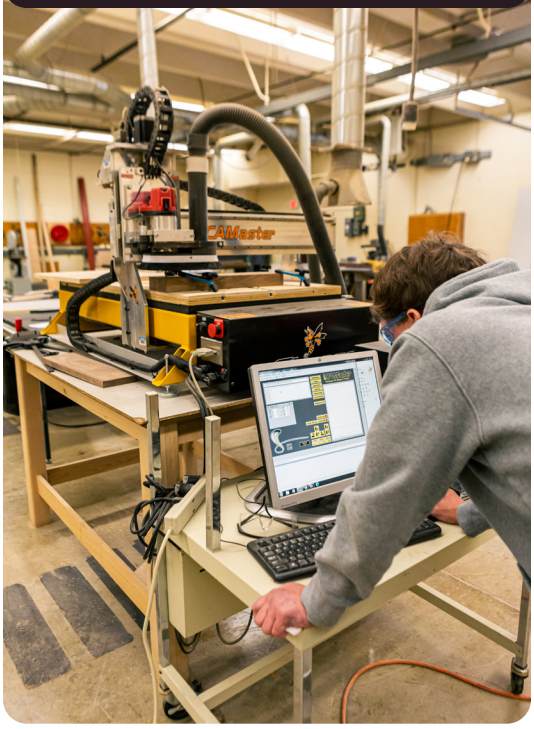
FROM $2.1 MILLION TO $105,000: BENSON SCHOOLS' SAVINGS ARE RUNNING OUT

District projects $800,000 in reductions for 2027-28 without referendum approval

Benson Public Schools has cut more than $1 million from its budget over the past three years. Savings are expected to shrink from $2.1 million to just $105,000 in a few years unless operating revenue increases. Without referendum approval, the district projects $800,000 in cuts (about 6.5% of the budget) for 2027-28.

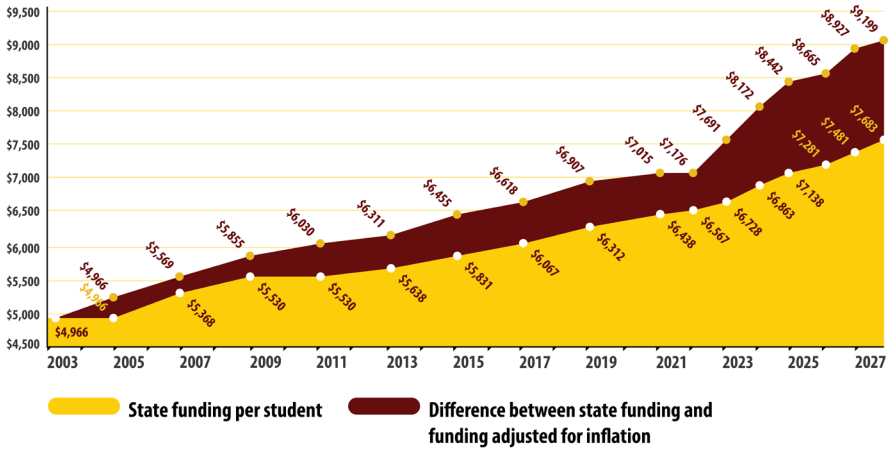
That's why the School Board voted unanimously to put a single referendum question on the Nov. 3, 2026 ballot.

DID YOU KNOW?
Over the past three years, Benson has cut more than $1 million, including $300,000 this school year.



2024-25 **$272,000**	4th Grade Teacher eliminated Business Dept. Teacher eliminated Business Office Position eliminated Instructional Assistant eliminated Maintenance Department eliminated Community Education/Activities Secretary eliminated
2025-26 **$889,000**	Administration - High School Principal position not replaced Teachers - One elementary and one secondary position eliminated Teacher reassignment Teacher contract days and overloads reduced High school instruction assistance and clerical support reduced Nursing reduced Social worker reduced College course costs reduced Student support software subscription eliminated Athletics & Activities stipends reduced Athletics broadcasting contract eliminated Capital expenses reduced Maintenance (services & contracts) reduced Funding/coding reassignments to reduce expenses in General Fund
2026-27 **$300,000**	Activities Director and Community Education Coordinator Positions combined. Director of Teaching & Learning Position eliminated Reduce Elementary PE Teacher Position to .6 Reduce SWWC School Psychologist Position to .5 Reduce School Resource Office to part-time Misc. reductions & cost-savings

STATE FUNDING HASN'T KEPT PACE WITH INFLATION

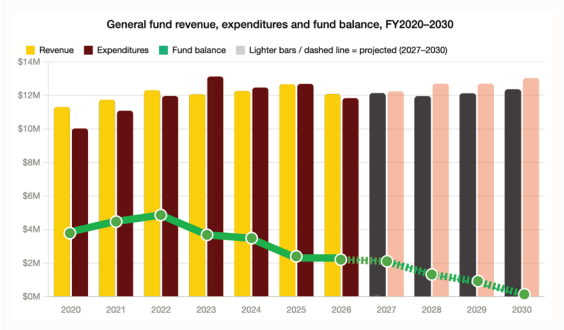


Had the allowance increased by the rate of inflation each year since 2003, the 2027 allowance per pupil would be $9,199.

If the per-pupil allowance had grown with inflation since 2003, it would be $9,199 in 2027. Instead, it falls short by $1,516 (19.7%).

REVENUE, EXPENSES, AND SAVINGS

If the referendum fails, the district projects $800,000 in cuts for 2027-28. Options under consideration:



- Reducing the superintendent's hours
- Eliminating about 10 teachers and staff, which would increase class sizes
- Cutting classes, programs, athletics, and activities
- Reducing academic and health support services
- Moving to a 4-day school week

Staff and community engagement will come before any formal board action.

ENROLLMENT CHALLENGES IN BENSON AND STATEWIDE

Some Benson kids attend school elsewhere, in nearby towns or at home. Families have their own reasons: beliefs, location, or concerns about student behavior. It matters because funding follows students. After Election Day, district leaders plan to learn why families are leaving and what can be done.



Operating Levy for Learning at a Glance

RECRUIT AND MAINTAIN EXCELLENT TEACHERS & STAFF

PRESERVE STUDENT CLASSES, PROGRAMS, AND SERVICES

PREPARE STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE, MILITARY, CAREERS, AND LIFE

It's happening across Minnesota. Families having fewer babies means smaller kindergarten classes, and more families are choosing other options. More than 93,000 students attend school in a town they don't live in, and about 31,000 are homeschooled. Small towns like Benson feel it most, so listening to families and giving them reasons to stay is key.



FALL 2026
OPERATING LEVY FOR LEARNING
Benson Public Schools

FUTURE FOCUSED
STRONG SCHOOLS = STRONG COMMUNITIES

The proposed levy would help Benson:

SUPPORT EVERY LEARNER

MAINTAIN REASONABLE CLASS SIZES

SUSTAIN HIGH-QUALITY SCHOOLS DESPITE RISING OPERATING COSTS

VOTE ON OR BEFORE NOV. 3

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REFERENDUM:

Prepared and paid for by Benson Public Schools - ISD #777, 1400 Montana Avenue, Benson, MN 56215.