

OCONOMOWOC AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Operational Referendum



On November 3, 2026, residents within the Oconomowoc Area School District will have the opportunity to vote on a recurring operational referendum. If approved, the referendum would close the projected budget deficit. Keep reading for more information about the funding challenges affecting the OASD.

INADEQUATE STATE FUNDING



20 Years of Funding Lagging Behind Inflation

State per-pupil funding for public schools has lagged behind inflation, failing to keep pace with real-world costs for over 20 years, creating structural deficits.

IMBALANCE IN SCHOOL FUNDING

\$11 MILLION

LESS FUNDING ANNUALLY

The OASD is one of the lowest-funded districts in Waukesha Cty., receiving \$11 M less each year than our closest neighbor, Kettle Moraine School District.

2025-26 Revenue Limit Per Pupil

OASD	\$11,763
WAUKESHA COUNTY K-12 AVERAGE	\$12,418
KETTLE MORaine SCHOOL DISTRICT	\$14,049

\$5.8 MILLION

REDIRECTED TO CHARTERS & VOUCHERS

Local public charter and private voucher students are funded at a higher amount than OASD students.

2025-26 Revenue Limit Per Pupil

OASD STUDENT	\$11,763
PUBLIC CHARTER STUDENT	\$12,369
PRIVATE VOUCHER 9-12 STUDENT	\$13,371

A BROKEN FUNDING FORMULA

Financial Impact of Declining Enrollment Outpaces Fixed Costs



- ✓ Modest enrollment declines are spread across all 8 schools and many grade levels, making it difficult to reduce fixed costs like staffing, utilities, and transportation.
- ✓ Under the state's funding formula, the loss of revenue resulting from modest enrollment declines far outpaces the district's ability to reduce its operational costs.

COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE FOR QUALITY STAFF



Personnel Make Up 75% of District Costs

Being one of the lowest-funded districts in the area, it's increasingly difficult to maintain competitive compensation packages and compete for exceptional staff.

Before you vote, **GET MORE FACTS** at www.oasd.org/Referendum

EXHAUSTED REDUCTIONS & SAVINGS

Reduced Staffing by Over 49 FTE + Cut \$9.4M Over Last 4 Years



Maximized Operational Efficiencies: The district has exhausted the opportunities for efficiencies in busing, food service, utilities, and technology leases.



Budget Cuts: School and department budgets, vehicle replacement, capital project budgets, and retiree and employee benefits have been redesigned and reduced multiple times.

IMPACTING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE



At The Tipping Point

The district has reached a stage where further budget cuts will impact the student and family experience.



Points of Pride: We pride ourselves on our strong academic programs, steady increases in student achievement, nationally recognized visual and performing arts programs, unparalleled career readiness programs, and strong partnerships with our community. Our schools contribute to Oconomowoc and help make it a destination for businesses and families.



Changes Ahead: To close projected future budget deficits, the district will have to make changes to class sizes, further reduce staffing, and change or reduce program offerings, negatively affecting the experiences that draw families to Oconomowoc and differentiate us in the region.

NOVEMBER 3 REFERENDUM

Why An Operational Referendum?



Closing the Budget Deficit: The proposed referendum would close the anticipated budget deficit in each of the next 5 years to maintain the exceptional educational experiences that differentiate the OASD and the Oconomowoc community.



Responsible Approach: The operational referendum is structured to fill the anticipated budget deficit each year, not exceed it. After 5-years, the operational referendum (ranging between \$2 M and \$3 M annually) totals \$12.2 M.



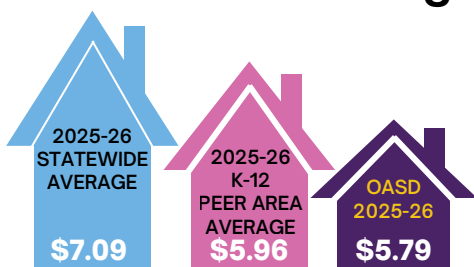
Ensuring Our Exceptional Programs Continue: The operational referendum will close the budget deficit and allow the OASD to maintain current class sizes, support our unique career pathway opportunities, maintain robust academic and career course offerings, sustain partnerships across the community, and compete for talented staff.

82%

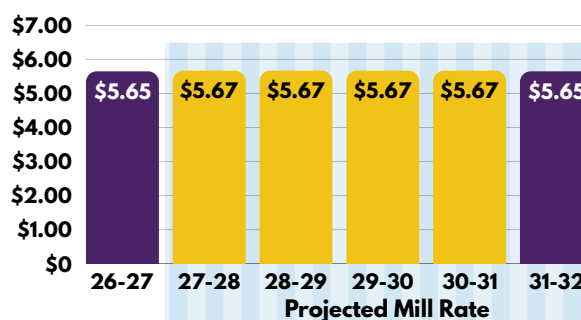
WI school districts
have sought an
**Operational
Referendum**

TAX IMPACT

OASD Mill Rate Below Area Average



Projected Mill Rate If Referendum Is Supported



**GET THE
FACTS**

SCAN OR VISIT

www.oasd.org/Referendum

