

2024-25 Budget Hearing



2023-24 Fiscal Year Review

What did fiscal activity look like last year?



2023-24 FY

For the 2023-24 fiscal year, the District added \$2,310,411 to fund balance in the General Fund with revenue exceeding projections and expenditures coming in under what was budgeted.



The ending fund balance in the General Fund as of June 30, 2024 was \$22,888,581, which is 63% of General Fund expenses for 2023-24. For a public school district, fund balance is a number that represents assets minus liabilities at the end of the year. During the year, the amount of cash on hand for a district fluctuates significantly due inconsistent revenue schedules and, as a result, some districts will need to short-term borrow to maintain cash flow. However, the Whitefish Bay School District does not have to short-term borrow and is able to avoid interest costs due to its strong fund balance percentage.



2024-25 Budget Summary

What is planned for this year?

Balanced Budget

For the 2024-25 fiscal year, a balanced budget is expected in the General Fund. The budget is balanced as a result of an increase in per pupil funding as part of the 2023-25 state biennial budget.

Compensation Increases

An increase of 4.12% for all staff is included in the 2024-25 budget. This commitment to compensation by the School Board will help retain and attract high quality staff for the District.

Per Pupil Increase

The biennial state budget included a per pupil increase of \$325 for 2024-25. The additional \$325 per pupil for Whitefish Bay increases the maximum amount per member the District is able to collect within the revenue limit by 2.7%.

State Aid

General Aid is currently estimated to be \$14.7 million in 2024-25, which would be a slight increase over last year. However, any increase would not result in any new usable revenue for the District since increases in aid are offset by the tax levy within the revenue limit.

Capital Projects

Two significant capital projects, renovations to the high school science labs and tower, will be concluding during the first half of the 2024-25 fiscal year. These two projects were part of the ten-year capital improvement plan for the District.

Long-Term Debt Payments

The long-term debt payments will be \$1,095,496 in 2024-25 and the District is scheduled to pay down the majority of remaining principal (\$2,871,000) from outstanding debt obligations within the next three years.

Total revenues in the General Fund are anticipated to decrease by 3.65% compared to 2023-24 actuals with expenditures expected to increase by 2.43%.



Revenue Limit

What is it and how does it impact the budget?



General Aid

General Aid, or Equalization
Aid, is certified every year on
October 15th. Membership,
property values and spending
trends determine the
distribution of aid per district.



Tax Levy

The other portion of the revenue limit is the tax levy. A district is not allowed to set a levy that exceeds the revenue limit unless approved through a referendum or exemption.



Revenue Limit

A complex formula is used to set the revenue limit each year. The biggest factors that can change the revenue limit are membership and per pupil changes from the state.

The revenue limit for the Whitefish Bay School District is projected to increase by \$842,456 in 2024-25. This additional funding within the revenue limit is due to a \$325 per pupil increase that was included in the 2023-25 state budget. A \$325 per pupil increase represents a 2.7% increase to the maximum amount per member that the District is able to collect in funding through the revenue limit. Conversely, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is a number used to account for inflationary increases for staff compensation and other expenditures, increased by 4.12% this year.



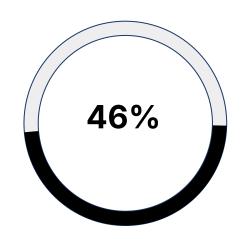
General Fund Revenue by Source

What is the source of funding?



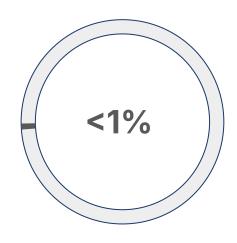
Local Sources

Local property tax levy, school fees, facility use rentals



State Sources

General Aid, various categorical aid



All Other

Federal grants, miscellaneous revenue

Revenue for public school districts in Wisconsin comes primarily from local and state sources. For the Whitefish Bay School District, revenue from local sources, such as the tax levy, is slightly higher than revenue from state sources, such as General Aid and categorical aid. Federal grants and other miscellaneous revenue make up the remaining amount of total revenue.



General Fund Expenditures by Object

How is funding spent?



Compensation for

employees, employee

benefits

Salary and Benefits Purchased Services Leases, utilities, technology

9%



11%



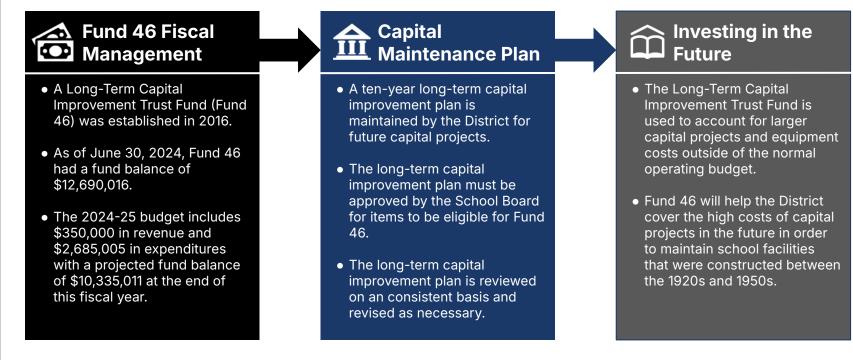
All Other General supplies, capital equipment, liability insurance

In most school districts, salaries and benefits make up the majority of expenditures. In the Whitefish Bay School District, salaries and benefits represent roughly three-quarters of all the expenses in the General Fund. When the Fund 27 transfer is included, which is mostly for employee salary and benefit expenses in special education, that percentage exceeds 85%.



Capital Improvement Trust (Fund 46)

How are long-term capital projects managed?



One of the primary reasons why school districts establish and use a Long-Term Capital Improvement Trust Fund is because expenses out of the fund do not count against a district's shared costs for Equalization Aid. For the Whitefish Bay School District, more shared costs leads to less aid, which could result in a higher property tax levy.



Membership

How are students counted and how does that impact the budget?

Count Dates



Membership counts occur twice per year in September and January. Membership counts are based on resident students whether they attend the district or not.

Membership Snapshot



The two count dates provide a membership snapshot for the year. Membership is then calculated for the revenue limit using a three-year average.

Membership Trend



After a decrease during the COVID-19 pandemic, membership numbers have stabilized over the last three years and have remained relatively flat.



The trend across the state has been declining enrollment. Declining enrollment has a significant impact on a district's finances.

State Average

2015

2803

2018

N

2021

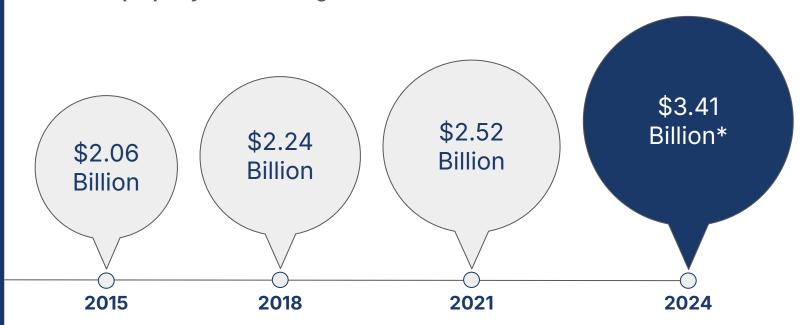
2024*

^{*}The membership full-time equivalency (FTE) for 2024 is still an estimate at this time until the official count is conducted on the 3rd Friday of September. The estimate of 2,732 would be a decrease from last year's count of 2,760.



Local Property Values

How have property values changed over time?



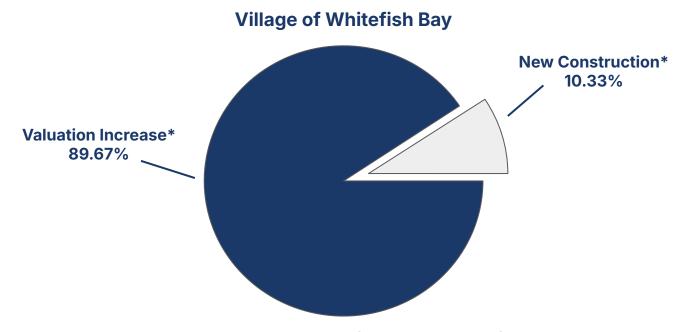
Property values for the Whitefish Bay School District have seen a steady rise since 2015 and are estimated to increase again in 2024 by 6%. Increasing property values leads to a larger tax base for a school district to administer the tax levy each year, which usually results in a decrease in the tax levy rate.

^{*}The property valuation for the current year is an estimate until the October 1 Tax Apportionment Value Certification.



Local Property Values

What are the sources of property value increases?



When property values increase, the two main sources of that increase are from reassessments on existing property and new construction. If the tax levy rate remains the same, a property owner could pay more in taxes if their valuation increased from last year. However, this could be offset by new construction, which grows the tax base and could potentially increase the number of taxpayers in the community.

^{*} Wisconsin Department of Revenue 2024 Statement of Changes in Equalized Values by Class and Item



Tax Levy Rate

What is the tax levy rate for this year and how has it changed over time?



The tax levy rate for the Whitefish Bay School has decreased by over 40% within the last ten years and it is anticipated to decrease again in 2024-25.



The estimated tax levy rate for 2024-25 is \$5.81, which would be a decrease from last year's rate of \$5.96. The statewide average for the tax levy rate in 2023-24 was \$7.18.

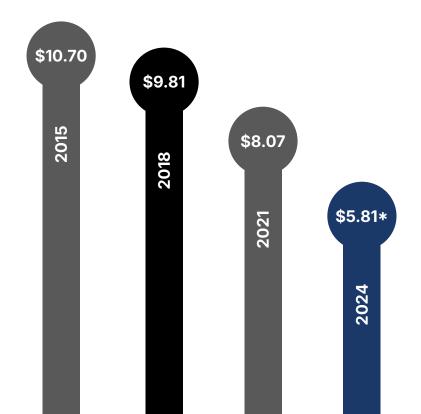


The total tax levy amount for 2024-25 is estimated to be \$19,823,174, which would be an increase of 3.44% compared to last year. However, this is also just an estimate at this time.



Included in the tax levy is \$1,093,496 for debt service payments and \$53,622 for the community service fund.

^{*}The tax levy rate for the current year will be an estimate until General Aid is certified in mid-October.





School Levy Tax Credit

How does the school levy tax credit impact tax bills?

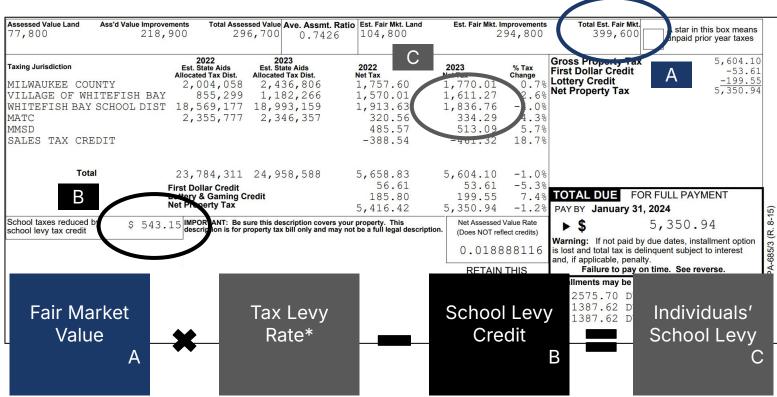


For the first time in over five years, the school levy tax credit increased last year and is scheduled to increase again in 2024-25. In 2023-24, total funding for the school levy tax credit increased by \$255 million, or 27% compared to 2022-23. For 2024-25, the school levy tax credit will increase by an additional \$80 million, or another 7%. These funding increases will result in further credits for a taxpayer on their tax bill.



Tax Levy Rate

How is the tax levy rate calculated on a tax bill?



^{*}The tax levy rate for 2023-24 was \$5.96 for every \$1,000 of property value. Therefore, the calculation for this example would be \$399,600 (fair market value) multiplied by .00595573 (tax levy rate divided by 1,000) minus \$543.15 (school levy credit).

2024-25 Budget Hearing Recap

The fund balance in the General Fund as of June 30, 2024 was \$22,888,581, which is 63% of General Fund expenditures for 2023-24.

A balanced budget is projected in the General Fund for 2024-25 as a result of a funding increase included in the 2023-25 state budget.

While per pupil funding did increase this year by 2.7% for the District, it is still below the 4.12% increase to CPI for 2024-25.

Membership is projected to decrease in 2024-25 compared to last year, but the official count will not be completed until mid-September.

The tax levy rate is estimated to be \$5.81 in 2024-25, which would be a decrease from the 2023-24 rate of \$5.96.



Educational Equity and Excellence



Tradition and Innovation



Safety and Well-being



Individual and Community



Stewardship and Integrity

More information can be found in the 2024-25 Annual Meeting Packet

