

Budget Update 2020-21

***Budget recommendation**



Due to a continued pattern of declining enrollment affecting roughly 40% (Schools for Equity in Education) of school districts in Minnesota; combined with funding from the legislature not keeping pace with inflation, and special education under-funding, North Branch Area Public Schools must realize savings for the 2020-21 school year. However, needed adjustments to the 2020-21 budget are mitigated by several factors:

- Ended 2018-19 better than projected
- Current enrollment higher than projected, but continues to decline overall
- Safe schools allocation of \$99,000
- Staff development support for media specialists

To address the projected deficit for the 2020-21 school year, North Branch Area Public Schools (NBAPS) has identified \$480,713 in budget savings through the Budget Boot Camp (BBC) process. As part of that process, NBAPS focused on the following priorities:



NBAPS vision: Inspire dreams, build integrity, and instill hope in our students, our staff, our families, and our communities

Class size

Career and Tech Ed

Expand gifted and talented

Arts opportunities

Fulfill the promise of 2017 referendum

Financial literacy and life skills

Budget recommendation highlights

Staffing reductions:

The following positions are recommended for reduction:

- .67 Business Office Clerk
- .33 Community Education Clerk
- 1.0 Maintenance Technician
- .5 School Keeper
- 2.0 Intervention Teachers
- 1.0 Science Teacher
- 1.0 Behavior Technician
- 3.75 Educational Assistants
- 1.0 Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA)

Total FTE Reductions Recommended: 11.25

Other highlights:

- Expand gifted and talented programming
- WIFI on buses discontinued for lack of use
- Appoint Interim Middle School Principal to full-time Principal
- Hire full-time Middle School Asst. Principal
- Implement weather-related e-learning days
- Expand co-teaching to 11th grade English Language Arts
- \$20 increase to activity fees
- Explore Knowledge Bowl for grades 5-6
- Develop community fitness center use process
- Finalize energy conservation guidelines
- Repair digital sign at Ed Center
- Add a behavior technician at Sunrise
- Class size reductions in 5th and 6th grade



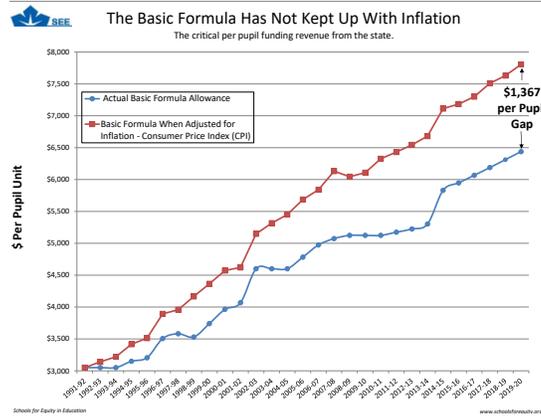
Change is Needed Now!

Although the need to make fewer budget adjustments for the 2020-21 school year is great news for North Branch Area Public Schools, challenges remain. Enrollment projections continue to show a pattern of decline for upcoming years, and the school district projects a loss of 25 students for the 2020-21 school year.

As well, staff costs the school district has been able to fund through construction dollars will revert back to the general fund once construction projects are complete.

Most importantly, state revenue continues to fall short of even inflationary increases. Schools for Equity in Education notes:

While the general education basic formula was increased 2% for the 2019-20 (current) school year and is set to increase 2% for the 2020-21 school year, this vital source of school funding has not kept pace with inflation. The organization Schools for Equity in Education has calculated a \$1,367 per pupil gap between the 19-20 actual formula allowance and an inflation-adjusted formula allowance. For TCU the impact of this is enormous, equating to a \$2.7MM gap between funding and inflationary costs in the 19-20 school year alone.



This chart demonstrates how state funding has fallen behind inflation by over \$1,300 per pupil, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Budget questions or comments?

Do you have questions about school district budgeting or state funding? Would you like a better understanding of state education funding prior to contacting lawmakers? Use the information below to contact the school district. Staff presented a budget recommendation to the school board on Thursday, Feb. 27, and action is expected by the school board on March 5. Both meetings are open to the public.

The following options exist for providing input on the budget recommendation:

- E-mail: budgetinput@isd138.org
- Voicemail: 651-674-1080

For disability accommodation or a language interpreter, call the district office at 651-674-1000

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