



MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF
FINANCE
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2024–25 Superintendent's Proposed Budget

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Submitted to the Milwaukee Board of School Directors

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Financial Section

The Milwaukee Public Schools budget is organized into four sections: Executive Summary; Organizational; Financial, including Schools, Central Services, and Line Items; and Informational, including City Profile, MPS Profile, and Glossary.

The Financial Section of the 2024–25 Superintendent’s Proposed Budget provides a general narrative as well as detailed information on district revenues and expenditures, forecasts, fund balance, capital, and debt.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO READER: Summary information on district-wide revenues and expenditures precedes the fund-by-fund descriptions, where clarifying information is provided. It is helpful to review the fund-specific narrative to understand the summary-level information. The 2024–25 pro forma summary (Chart 3.11) shows the current budget for each fund by the object (or type) of expenditure. The district use-of-funds summary (Chart 3.8) shows the budget by the organizational functions that manage the funded activities. Finally, some of the individual fund charts are designed to show funding by program or project because that is particularly meaningful for the way that resources are distributed in those funds.

In this budget document, the terms “actual” and “actuals,” in the context of the financial information presented in tables and graphs, refer to actual revenues received and actual expenditures incurred for the fiscal year indicated. Many of the tables and charts in the Financial Section express revenues and expenditures in millions of dollars. These are indicated by (\$M) in the title of the table or chart. In addition, the sum of figures does not always equal the total displayed due to rounding.

Charts and tables are prepared from the district’s financial management system or other internal documents except where noted. The district prepares five-year projections for each statutory fund as part of the spring budget process for the following fiscal year. Given the nature of state funding for school districts in Wisconsin, revenue estimates are dependent on factors that are not predictable. Nonetheless, the forecasts realistically illustrate the need for MPS to obtain supplementary resources and reduce costs. Forecasts are reviewed and updated as needed.

Fund Overview

The district, as required under Government Accounting Standards Board Statement Number 34, utilizes various fund types to report the financial activity for its operating units. The five funds used by MPS are the **School Operations, School Nutrition Services, Construction, Extension, and Categorically Aided Programs** Funds. Within these funds, expenses are budgeted and recorded in schools, departments, and other MPS entities.

Two additional funds are identified within the **School Operations Fund**. The “taxing” portion of this fund is used for the majority of the district’s operations, including debt. The **School Nutrition Services** is a fund within the School Operations Fund that accounts for the breakfast, lunch, and other meal programs supported primarily through the National School Lunch Program. The School Nutrition Services Fund is expected to generate sufficient revenue to cover costs.

The **Construction Fund** is used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditures for the acquisition or construction of capital facilities. It is also used to fund the additions to and/or remodeling of existing buildings.

The **Extension Fund** is used to record financial transactions related to recreational activities and is jointly managed by the Office of Finance, the Office of Academics, the Office of Communications and School Performance, and the Office of Operations. Increased funding will support increased costs as a result of growing inflation.

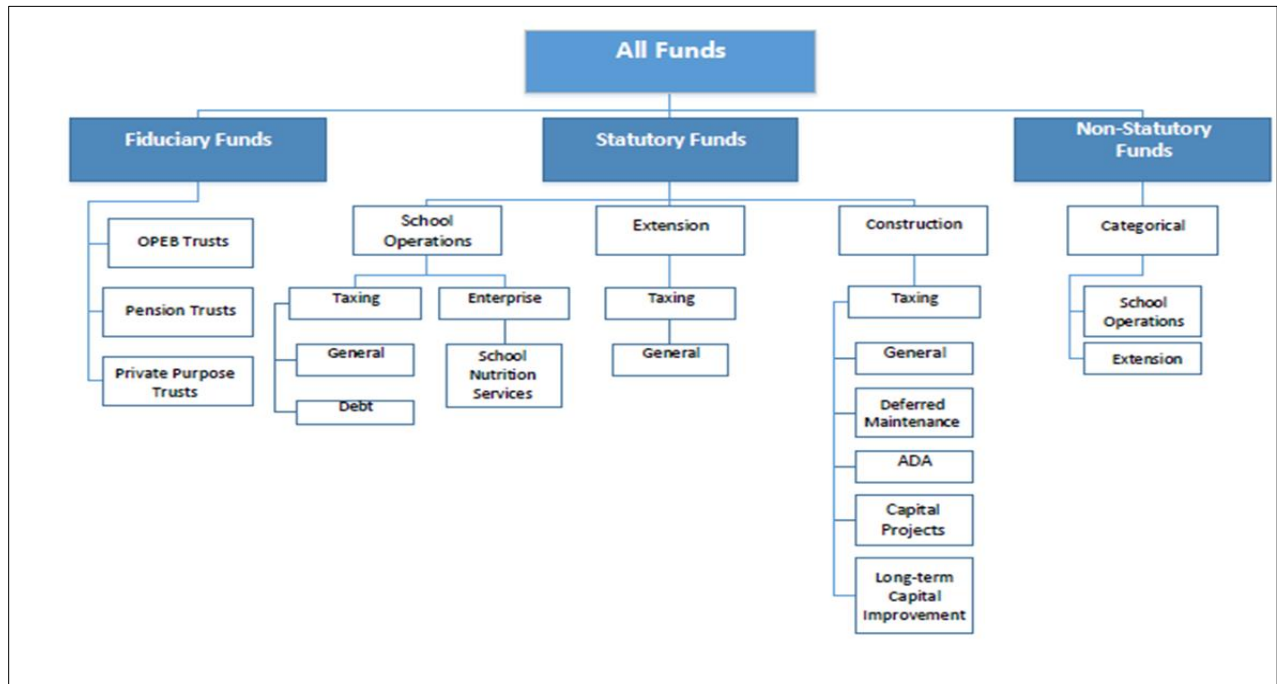
The **Categorically Aided Programs Fund** is used to account for proceeds from federal, state, and private grants that supplement core/basic instructional programs and services across the district. Most categorical programs are developed to serve a specific, targeted group or audience. MPS uses the term “categorical” funding to refer to all grant resources, and these terms are used interchangeably.

Outside the scope of the annual budget, the district also manages fiduciary funds. These are primarily composed of trusts for pension, private-purpose trusts for other postemployment benefits (OPEB), and construction.

Further descriptions of the funds can be found in the pages that follow and the glossary.

The 2024–25 Superintendent’s proposed budget is balanced. A balanced budget is one in which authorized expenditures for each fund match the projected revenues. Specific financial strategies and plans to support the Milwaukee Board of School Directors’ goals and objectives are described in the following pages. They are organized by fund: School Operations (including debt service), School Nutrition Services, Extension, Construction, and Categorical. Chart 3.1 shows an overview of the district’s fiduciary, statutory, and non-statutory funds.

Chart 3.1 District Fund Overview



The focus of the 2024–25 Superintendent’s Proposed Budget is on the statutory funds while also including categorical fund information for completeness. The district publishes an Annual Comprehensive Financial Report that includes detailed information on the district’s balance sheet and the fiduciary funds. It is available on the district’s website:

<http://mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/en/District/About-MPS/Departments/Office-of-Finance/Financial-Services.htm>

Summary of All Funds

Revenues by Source – All Funds

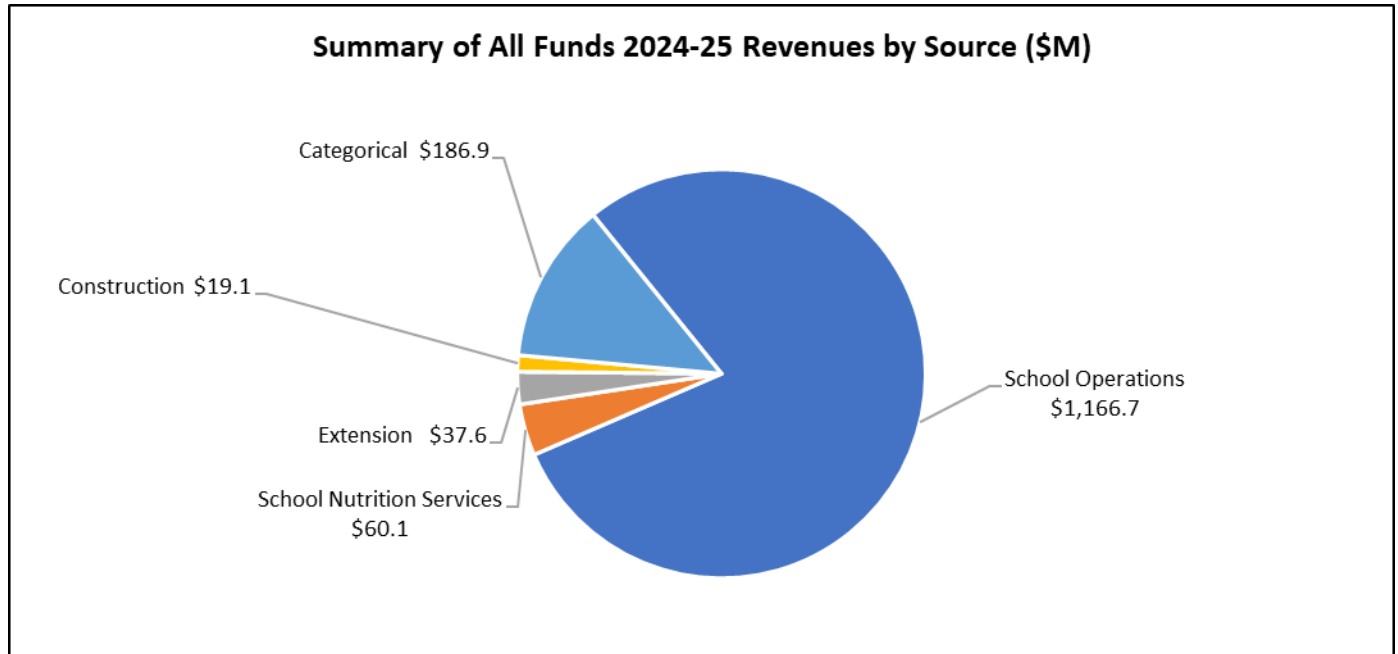
Chart 3.2 shows a summary of district revenue by source. Information includes: (a) the actual expenditures for 2020–21, (b) the actual expenditures for 2021–22, (c) the Final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, (d) the Final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, (e) the Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and (f) the change from 2023–24 to 2024–25.

Chart 3.2 Summary of All Funds – Revenues by Source

Summary of All Funds – Revenues by Source (\$M)						
	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	FY25 Inc
	Actual	Actual	F.A.	F.A.	P.B.	/(Dec)
School Operations Fund						
Property Tax Levy/Equalization Aids	\$856.5	\$889.7	\$879.1	\$848.1	\$974.2	\$126.1
State Handicapped Aids	56.6	55.0	55.5	68.4	60.0	(8.4)
Other State Aids	66.4	67.1	60.0	63.0	62.7	(0.3)
Federal Aids	26.4	6.0	23.1	39.4	39.4	0.0
Local Revenues (Non-Property Tax)	5.0	16.9	28.8	28.4	30.4	2.0
Subtotal	\$1,010.9	\$1,034.8	\$1,046.5	\$1,047.3	\$1,166.7	\$119.4
School Nutrition Services Fund						
Federal Aids, Commodities	\$11.6	\$47.2	\$47.6	\$52.2	\$55.4	\$3.2
State, Sales, and Other Aid	1.0	0.4	0.3	5.5	4.7	(0.8)
Subtotal	\$12.6	\$47.5	\$47.9	\$57.7	\$60.1	\$2.4
Extension Fund						
Property Tax Levy	\$27.2	\$29.7	\$34.7	\$112.4	\$29.9	(\$82.6)
Applied Surplus	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	5.8	5.8
Other	(1.6)	3.6	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0
Subtotal	\$25.6	\$33.3	\$42.3	\$114.4	\$37.6	(\$76.8)
Construction Fund						
Property Tax Levy	\$4.6	\$2.9	\$1.8	\$5.0	\$15.0	\$10.0
Other	32.5	32.9	1.8	2.1	4.1	2.0
Subtotal	\$37.1	\$35.8	\$3.6	\$7.1	\$19.1	\$12.0
Categorical Fund						
Federal	\$172.7	\$176.1	\$692.4	\$327.0	\$137.2	(\$189.9)
State	28.9	26.6	43.9	45.3	47.6	2.3
Private	6.0	8.1	6.4	9.0	2.2	(6.8)
Subtotal	\$207.6	\$210.7	\$742.7	\$381.3	\$186.9	(\$194.3)
Total	\$1,293.8	\$1,362.3	\$1,883.1	\$1,607.8	\$1,470.5	(\$137.4)

The district’s Five Priorities for Success are necessarily built within the confines of predictable resources. Chart 3.3 shows the revenue sources for the 2024–25 Superintendent’s proposed budget.

Chart 3.3 Summary of All Funds –2024–25 Revenues by Source



Expenditures by Object – All Funds

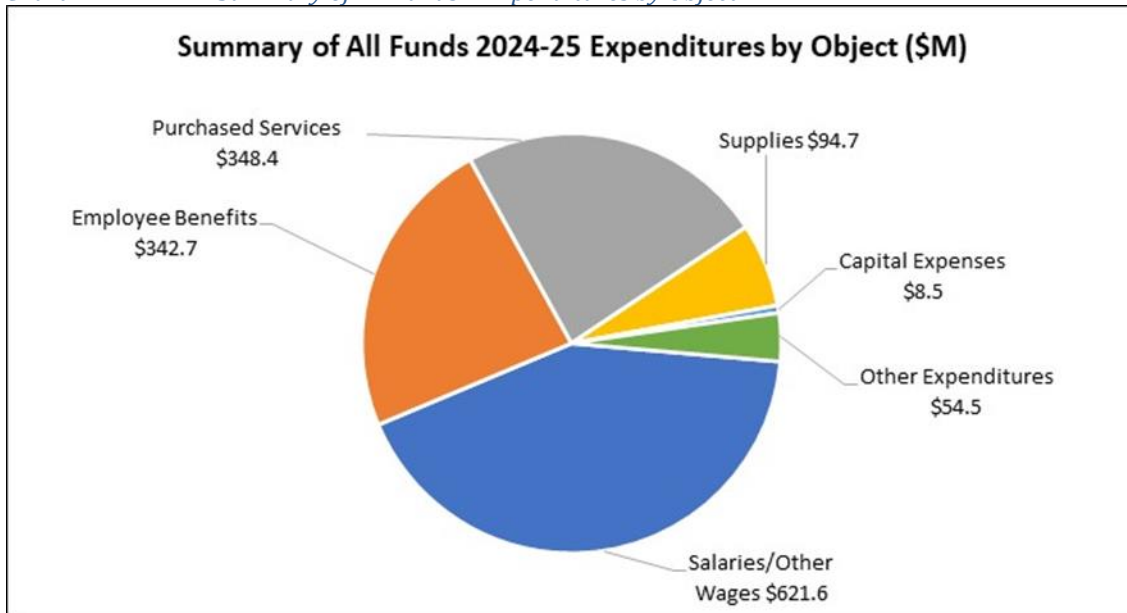
Chart 3.4 shows a summary of district expenditures by object. Information includes: (a) the actual expenditures for 2020–21, (b) the actual expenditures for 2021–22, (c) the Final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, (d) the Final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, (e) the Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and (f) the change from 2023–24 to 2024–25.

Chart 3.4 Summary of All Funds – Expenditures by Object

Summary of All Funds - Expenditures by Object (\$M)						
Object	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Inc/(Dec)
	Actual	Actual	F.A.	F.A.	P.B	
Salaries/Other Wages	\$528.9	\$544.0	\$582.6	\$599.1	\$621.6	\$22.5
Employee Benefits	317.0	305.9	299.5	317.5	342.7	25.3
Purchased Services	285.8	349.7	312.1	403.7	348.4	(55.3)
Supplies	80.0	121.6	83.0	85.8	94.7	8.8
Capital Expenses	7.2	2.1	5.4	8.6	8.5	0.0
Other Expenditures	46.1	47.1	585.6	193.2	54.5	(138.7)
Total	\$1,265.0	\$1,370.4	\$1,868.2	\$1,607.8	\$1,470.5	(\$137.4)

Chart 3.5 shows the types of expenditures for the 2024–25 Superintendent’s Proposed Budget.

Chart 3.5 2024–25 Summary of All Funds – Expenditures by Object



Five-Year Projection – All Statutory Funds

The district prepares five-year projections by statutory fund as part of the spring budget process for the following fiscal year. The district also develops a forecast in December/January, in part to help set the parameters for budget planning. Our projections include assumptions for future years, such as inflation rate and salary assumptions for raises. The five-year projection tables shown in the individual fund sections below and a summary thereof were presented to the MBSD in January of 2024.

See Charts 3.16 (School Operations Fund), 3.29 (School Nutrition Services Fund), 3.34 (Construction Fund), and 3.44 (Extension Fund) for individual fund five-year projections.



Chart 3.6 is the summary of individual fund projections and shows the five-year projection for district revenues and expenditures for the district’s statutory funds. This chart does not include our categorical funding.

Information includes (a) two years of actuals, 2020–21, 2021–22, (b) the final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, (c) the final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, the Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and an early estimate of revenues and expenditures for each year, 2025–26, 2026–27, 2027–28, 2028-29 and (d) the change from the Proposed Budget 2024–25 budget to the estimated 2028–29 budget.

Chart 3.6 All Statutory Funds – Five-Year Projection

All Statutory Funds - Five Year Projection (\$M)										
	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	FY29 vs FY25
	Actual	Actual	F.A.	F.A.	P.B.	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Inc / (Dec)
Federal Revenues	\$38.1	\$53.2	\$70.9	\$88.0	\$94.8	\$97.3	\$100.0	\$102.7	\$105.5	\$10.7
State Revenues	\$704.3	739.2	711.0	777.9	727.5	747.2	767.4	788.2	809.6	82.1
Local Revenues	\$343.9	359.1	358.5	360.7	451.5	463.7	476.3	489.2	502.5	51.0
Total Revenues	\$1,086.2	\$1,151.5	\$1,140.4	\$1,226.5	\$1,273.7	\$1,308.2	\$1,343.7	\$1,380.1	\$1,417.5	\$143.9
Salaries/Other Wages	\$325.7	\$335.0	\$497.2	\$484.0	\$540.3	\$563.3	\$580.2	\$594.7	\$606.6	\$66.3
Position Benefits	\$200.4	190.1	250.3	261.9	299.1	314.5	330.6	347.5	365.3	66.1
Purchased Services	\$235.8	261.1	269.3	359.0	298.9	303.4	307.9	312.6	317.2	18.3
Supplies	\$35.8	61.7	73.7	76.8	86.8	88.1	89.4	90.7	92.1	5.3
Capital Expenses	\$4.3	1.3	5.6	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.8	8.9	9.0	0.5
Other Objects	\$232.4	93.3	44.3	36.4	49.9	50.3	50.8	51.2	51.6	1.7
Total Expenditures	\$1,034.4	\$942.5	\$1,140.4	\$1,226.5	\$1,283.5	\$1,328.1	\$1,367.6	\$1,405.5	\$1,441.8	\$158.3
Balance (before use of prior-year funds)	\$51.8	\$209.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	(\$9.8)	(\$19.9)	(\$23.9)	(\$25.4)	(\$24.3)	(\$14.5)
Use of Prior-Year Funds for Legacy Costs	-	-	-	-	9.80	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$51.8	\$209.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	(\$9.8)	(\$19.9)	(\$23.9)	(\$25.4)	(\$24.3)	
Cumulative Surplus/(Deficit)	\$167.3	\$376.3	\$376.3	\$376.3	\$366.5	\$346.6	\$322.8	\$297.4	\$273.1	

Summation of Five-Year Projections

The District continues to operate in a challenging financial environment. Revenue limits and other financial constraints limit options for coping with inflationary pressure. However, this proposed budget plans for the use of critical funding that was approved by voters on April 2, 2024. This generous support of our students will stabilize the district’s financial outlook while preserving educational services for students.

The district has responded to demands for high-quality programs in suitable facilities by authorizing a few remodel/expansion sites. While there is more need for such strategic investments, revenue trends point toward limited options.

Long-Term Financial Plan

Previous sections of this publication have presented the district’s strategic plan, including the “Five Priorities for Success.” Through determined focus on its core mission, the district intends to earn the support of the Milwaukee community and key stakeholders who will join us in ensuring that students in Milwaukee Public Schools receive excellent preparation for their futures. Specific strategies to guard the district’s financial viability are as follows:

1. By providing a variety of quality educational environments, being sensitive to the demand that families are demonstrating in their choices, MPS intends to maintain or grow its enrollment. As explained in “Keys to Understanding the Financial Environment and Plan of MPS”, at the end of this section, enrollment is the primary driver of revenues.

2. Continuing to build business and other community partnerships, MPS is leveraging talents and donations (financial and in kind) that are available from people who demonstrate care for the city’s children.
3. As a school district, our success is entirely dependent on the day-to-day work of staff. Careful recruiting hiring, and providing well-researched professional development, and competitive compensation will enable talents to be deployed at all levels.
4. Disciplined budgeting and spending will continue to ensure that the district’s fund balance is preserved and that debt is at a manageable level for the level of revenues received by MPS. Forecasts are developed to adequately prepare for predictable ebbs and flows of resources, and expenditures are authorized to the level of available revenues. Expenditure monitoring and adjustment is part of the culture of MPS, with school and Central Services leaders accountable for managing the resources in their scope of responsibility. An internal audit division is in place to guard against fraud or waste of the funds entrusted to MPS’s care.
5. A proactive and enterprise-wide risk management strategy is in place to limit financial exposures for the district.
6. The district has a formal process of setting priorities for lobbying. Since MPS is funded primarily through government funds, the board, superintendent, and others work in concert to make sure that legislators are aware of the special challenges of providing education in a high-poverty urban setting.
7. The administration is actively seeking ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operations. MPS looks to other school districts and other industries for best-practice methodologies that will allow for meeting the needs of students with available resources.

Fund Balance

The district’s policy regarding fund balance is as follows:

- Use of the unassigned fund balance shall require a two-thirds majority vote of the board and shall not impair interim financing (cash-flow borrowing) arrangements. Fund balance is a critical factor in the district’s financial planning and budget process. The board will strive to maintain a fiscally responsible fund balance.
- A sufficient fund balance shall be maintained in order to
 - avoid excessive borrowing,
 - accumulate sufficient assets to make designated purchases or cover unforeseen expenditure needs, and
 - demonstrate financial stability to preserve or enhance the district’s bond rating, thereby lowering the debt-issuance costs.

A five-year view of the district’s fund balance is provided in Chart 3.7. The district has proposed a balanced 2024–25 budget for the following funds: School Operations, School Nutrition Services, Construction, Extension, and Categorical.

Chart 3.7 shows (a) the actual district fund balance for years ended June 30, 2021; June 30, 2022; June 30, 2023; and the final Adopted budget ending June 30, 2023, the final Adopted budget ending June 30, 2024 and (b) the projected fund balance for June 30, 2025.

Chart 3.7 Fund Balance – Five Years

Fund Balance – Five Years (\$M)					
Description	Fund Ending Balance 2020-21 Actual	Fund Ending Balance 2021-22 Actual	Fund Ending Balance 2022-23 F.A.	Fund Ending Balance 2023-24 F.A.	Fund Ending Balance 2024-25 P.B.
School Operations	57.8	219.0	219.0	219.0	219.0
School Nutrition	(4.9)	(2.5)	(2.5)	(6.9)	(11.0)
Construction	67.1	105.2	105.2	105.2	105.2
Extension	24.3	31.6	26.0	26.0	20.2
Categorical	(16.1)	(233.7)	(233.7)	(233.7)	(233.7)
Total	\$128.2	\$119.5	\$113.9	\$109.5	\$99.7



Expenditures by Schools and Office (District Use-of-Funds Summary)

Chart 3.8 shows a district-wide summary of expenditures by the organizational unit or category that uses the funds. For context, “school allocations” are funds directly distributed to the schools. “In school allocations” and “other school allocations” are funds that are centralized by the district but identified to assist schools.

Information includes (a) the actual expenditures for 2020–21, (b) the actual expenditures for 2021–22, (c) the actual expenditures for 2022–23, (d) the Final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, (e) the Superintendent’s Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and (f) the change from 2023–24 to 2024–25.

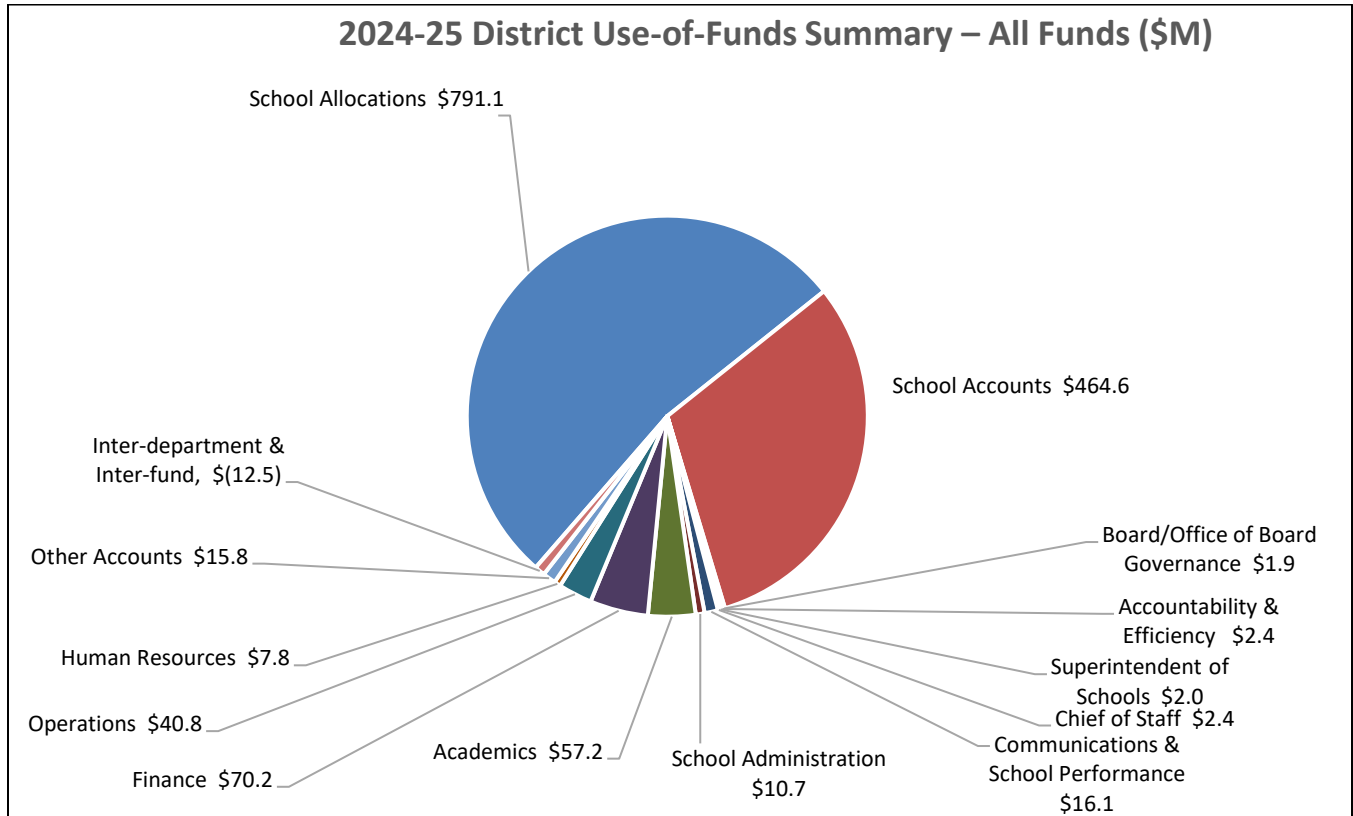
Chart 3.8 District Use-of-Funds Summary

District Use-of-Funds Summary – All Funds (\$M)						
School/Department	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Actual	2022-23 F.A.	2023-24 F.A.	2024-25 P.B.	Inc/(Dec)
School Allocations	\$564.1	\$534.6	\$794.3	\$654.6	\$791.1	\$136.5
School Accounts	474.2	546.1	658.9	625.7	464.6	(161.1)
Schools Subtotal	\$1,038.3	\$1,080.7	\$1,453.2	\$1,280.3	\$1,255.7	(\$24.6)
Board/Office of Board Governance Accountability & Efficiency	\$2.4	\$2.3	\$2.5	\$2.8	\$1.9	(\$0.9)
Superintendent of Schools	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.2	2.4	1.2
Chief of Staff	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.9	2.0	0.1
Communications & School Performance	-	1.2	11.9	4.3	2.4	(1.9)
School Administration	43.2	47.5	45.3	21.1	16.1	(5.0)
Academics	55.9	53.5	23.2	15.3	10.7	(4.6)
Finance	47.1	82.7	99.9	72.8	57.2	(15.6)
Operations	50.3	77.0	60.4	81.1	70.2	(10.9)
Human Resources	-	-	138.3	123.8	40.8	(83.0)
Offices Subtotal	\$207.0	\$274.5	\$400.0	\$344.4	\$211.5	(\$132.9)
Other Accounts Inter-department & Inter-fund	\$26.0	\$22.1	\$25.5	(\$6.4)	\$15.8	\$22.2
	(6.3)	(6.9)	(10.5)	(10.5)	(12.5)	(2.0)
Total	\$1,265.0	\$1,370.4	\$1,868.2	\$1,607.8	\$1,470.5	(\$137.3)

Note: “Actual” expenditures in this chart do not include the district’s commitments at year-end.

Chart 3.9 shows the Final Adopted Budget district-wide summary of expenditures by the organizational unit or category using the funds.

Chart 3.9 2024–25 District Use-of-Funds Summary – All Funds



Overview of the Budget Process

The district’s financial planning and budget development is a year-round process, kicking off in August and continuing through the following June for the next fiscal year. The process is guided by the MPS Strategic Plan and the Milwaukee Board of School Directors’ and the superintendent’s unwavering focus on students and schools.

This document and the spending plans herein have been developed by hundreds of stakeholders: community members, business partners, MPS families, school and district staff, etc. Their insights over the budget development time period, coupled with significant internal deliberation and debate on the most prudent investment of resources, result in a budget aligned with our strategic plan and district priorities

Summaries by Fund

The district’s total projected revenue for 2024–25 is \$1,470.5 billion, down \$137.4 million compared to the final adopted budget of \$1,607.8 billion for the previous year.

In spring 2020, the voters of the city of Milwaukee passed a referendum that contributed an additional \$3 million into the 2023–24 budget. The referendum approved by Milwaukee voters in spring of 2024 stabilizes the district’s financial outlook, however, the district has limited resources to keep up with inflationary pressures in light of state revenue limits.

Specifically, the district needs to attract, train, deploy, and retain its staff in the most effective manner to meet student achievement goals. Compensation is an important part of employee morale and motivation. Like many employers in southeastern Wisconsin, MPS faces medical cost increases year after year. Other cost increases include further investment in projects and activities that are showing promise. Given the challenges faced by our community, MPS continues to prioritize areas that show promise for the future success of students.

Chart 3.10 shows a revenue comparison between the 2024–25 Superintendent’s Proposed Budget and the 2023–24 Final Adopted Budget for the district’s five funds.

Chart 3.10 District Revenue Overview

District Revenue Overview: 2024-25 Preliminary Budget Compared to 2023-24 Amended Adopted Budget (\$M)						
	Operations	Nutrition	Extension	Construction	Categorical	Total
2023-24 Amended Adopted Budget	\$1,047.3	\$57.7	\$114.4	\$7.1	\$381.3	\$1,607.8
2024-25 Proposed Budget	1,166.7	60.1	37.6	19.1	186.9	1,470.5
Year-to-Year Increase/(Decrease)	\$119.4 11.4%	\$2.4 4.1%	(\$76.8) -67.1%	\$11.9 169.0%	(\$194.3) -51.0%	(\$137.4) -8.5%



Chart 3.11 shows the pro forma budgeted revenues and expenditures for the 2024–25 Proposed Budget. The purpose of this pro forma summary is to display the district-wide budget in a manner that gives readers a summary of 2023–24 projected expenditures by fund and the types of costs budgeted.

Chart 3.11 2024-2025 Pro Forma Summary

2024-25 Pro Forma Budgeted Revenues and Expenditures (\$M)						
	School Operations	School Nutrition	Categorical	Extension	Construction	Total
Revenues	\$1,166.7	\$60.1	\$186.9	\$37.6	\$19.1	\$1,470.5
Expenditures						
Salaries and Wages	509.2	\$16.1	81.3	\$14.7	\$0.2	\$621.5
Employee Benefits	282.3	11.1	43.6	5.7	0.1	342.7
Total Salary and Benefits	\$791.6	\$27.2	\$124.9	\$20.4	\$0.2	\$964.3
Student Transportation	\$59.5		\$0.3	\$0.0		\$59.8
Contracted Services	12.3	0.2	43.4	11.8	1.6	69.3
Construction Contracts	113.4	1.7			15.6	130.6
Interdistrict Student Tuition	43.2	-	0.1	-	-	43.3
Utilities	27.1	-		0.4	-	27.5
Maintenance Contracts	6.5	-	-	0.1	-	6.7
Telephone	2.4	0.0	-	0.0	-	2.4
Postage	0.8	-	0.0	0.1	-	0.9
Other Purchased Services	0.7	0.3	5.7	1.3	-	8.0
Total Purchased Services	\$265.8	\$2.2	\$49.5	\$13.7	\$17.2	\$348.4
Debt Service	\$37.3	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$37.3
Textbooks	\$24.7	\$0.0	\$0.1	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$24.7
Non-Text Books	4.5	-	0.0	-	-	4.6
Consumable Supplies	22.4	27.0	7.3	0.6	0.2	57.4
Other Supplies	4.6	2.5	0.5	0.3	-	7.9
Total Supplies	\$56.2	\$29.5	\$7.9	\$0.9	\$0.2	\$94.6
Insurance	\$7.9	\$0.1	\$0.0	\$0.3	\$0.0	\$8.4
Capital Expenses	\$1.2	\$0.5	\$0.0	\$2.2	\$0.0	\$4.0
Building Modifications	2.4	0.5	0.0	0.2	1.5	\$4.6
Total Capital Expenses	\$3.6	\$1.0	\$0.0	\$2.4	\$1.5	\$8.5
Other Accounts	\$4.28	\$0.0	\$4.6	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$8.9
Total Expenditures	\$1,166.7	\$60.1	\$186.9	\$37.6	\$19.1	\$1,470.5

Summary Data by Fund

School Operations Fund

The majority of district revenues are capped by the state’s revenue limit regulations in place since 1993. For MPS, the projected revenue limit for 2024–25 is \$974.2 million, which is \$126.7 million higher than 2023–24. This includes the \$3.0 million referendum fund increase for the year bringing the referendum total to \$87.0 million.

The district will see an overall decrease of 1.0 percent in the district’s operating fund, which will lead to difficult choices that will have to be made to provide services to children.



Revenues by Source – School Operations Fund

Chart 3.12 shows a summary of the School Operations Fund revenues by source and type. Information includes (a) the actual expenditures for 2020–21, (b) the actual expenditures for 2021–22, (c) the Final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, (d) the Final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, (e) the Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and (f) the change from 2023–24 to 2024–25.

Chart 3.12 School Operations Fund – Revenues by Source

School Operations Fund – Revenues by Source (\$M)							
Description	2020–21	Actual	2021–22 Actual	2022–23 F.A.	2023–24 F.A.	2024–25 P.B.	FY24 vs. FY25 Inc/(Dec)
Property Tax Levy, Equalization and Integration Aids							
Property Tax Levy		\$276.1	\$273.1	\$283.6	\$202.7	\$369.9	\$167.2
General Equalization Aid		536.1	572.7	550.9	604.9	595.3	(9.6)
Integration Aid		30.5	31.2	33.2	33.1	-	(33.1)
Poverty Aid		5.0	3.9	3.9	-	-	-
Computer Aid		8.8	8.9	7.5	8.9	8.9	-
Deduction for Choice/Charter		-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal		\$856.5	\$889.7	\$879.1	\$849.6	\$974.2	\$124.6
State Handicapped Aids							
Handicapped Aids		\$56.6	\$55.0	\$55.5	\$67.3	\$60.0	(\$7.3)
Subtotal		\$56.6	\$55.0	\$55.5	\$67.3	\$60.0	(\$7.3)
Other State Aids							
Transportation Aid		\$2.2	\$1.4	\$1.3	\$1.8	\$2.3	\$0.5
Library Aid		5.2	5.3	4.7	8.1	8.5	0.3
Bilingual Aid		1.3	1.4	1.7	1.7	1.5	(0.2)
Summer School Aid		-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuition from State		0.2	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.2	(0.3)
General State Aid		55.1	53.4	51.6	50.1	49.4	(0.7)
Other State Aids		2.5	5.6	0.8	-	0.8	0.8
Subtotal		\$66.4	\$67.1	\$60.6	\$62.2	\$62.7	\$0.5
Federal Aids							
Other Federal Aids		\$8.5	\$1.8	\$0.0	\$0.3	\$0.0	(\$0.3)
Federal Reimbursement - QSCB		-	-	3.8	3.8	3.8	-
Indirect Cost Aids		12.8	-	14.9	28.2	28.2	-
Medicaid Reimbursements		6.2	8.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	-
Subtotal		\$27.5	\$10.3	\$26.1	\$39.7	\$39.4	(\$0.3)
Local Revenues							
TIF and Other City Related		\$0.0	\$2.0	\$0.3	\$0.3	\$0.3	\$0.0
Student Programs Reimbursement		-	-	0.3	0.3	0.3	-
Student Fees/Admissions		-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuition		19.0	18.5	15.0	18.0	18.0	-
Interest Earned		0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	-
Debt Proceeds		-	-	-	-	-	-
Rental		2.8	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.9	-
OPEB Member Contributions		-	-	5.0	5.2	7.2	2.0
Refunds/Ins. Proceeds		9.7	10.5	1.1	1.1	1.1	-
Miscellaneous		(27.9)	(21.1)	0.3	0.3	0.3	-
Subtotal		\$3.9	\$12.7	\$25.2	\$28.4	\$30.4	\$2.0
Total without Carryover		\$1,010.9	\$1,034.8	\$1,046.5	\$1,047.3	\$1,166.7	\$119.4
Carryover		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total with Carryover		\$1,010.9	\$1,034.8	\$1,046.5	\$1,047.3	\$1,166.7	\$119.4

The 2024–25 revenue estimates for major sources were made in accordance with the state biennial budget.

Other aids and revenues are estimated on the basis of recent trends and/or specific information available from funding sources. For example, handicapped aids are based on prior-year expenditures. Spring projections for this revenue rely on estimates of a year-end level of costs, but the Final Adopted Budget uses prior-year actuals (unaudited) as the basis for the projection.

Major revenue sources for the School Operations and School Nutrition Services Funds are described below. Descriptions for other revenue categories are included in the glossary.

Equalization Aid

Equalization aid is based on the following: (1) expenditures and enrollment of the prior year; (2) district property values, which the state considers to be a measure of community wealth; and (3) the cost of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, which the district is required to subsidize.

Integration Aid

The state makes payments to school districts to encourage racial and cultural balance by means of intra- and inter-district transfers. MPS operates an *intra-district program*, making it legally responsible for transporting both city and suburban pupils in the *inter-district program*. This has been declining since the state legislature stopped enrollment as of 2015–16.

State Handicapped Aid

Handicapped aid is paid by the state to assist districts with the education and transportation of children with special education needs. The aid is calculated as a percentage of prior years' special needs transportation, salary, and benefit costs.

Other State Aids

Other aids paid by the state include computer aid, poverty aid, bilingual education aid, transportation aid, library aid, and general aid.

Federal Aids

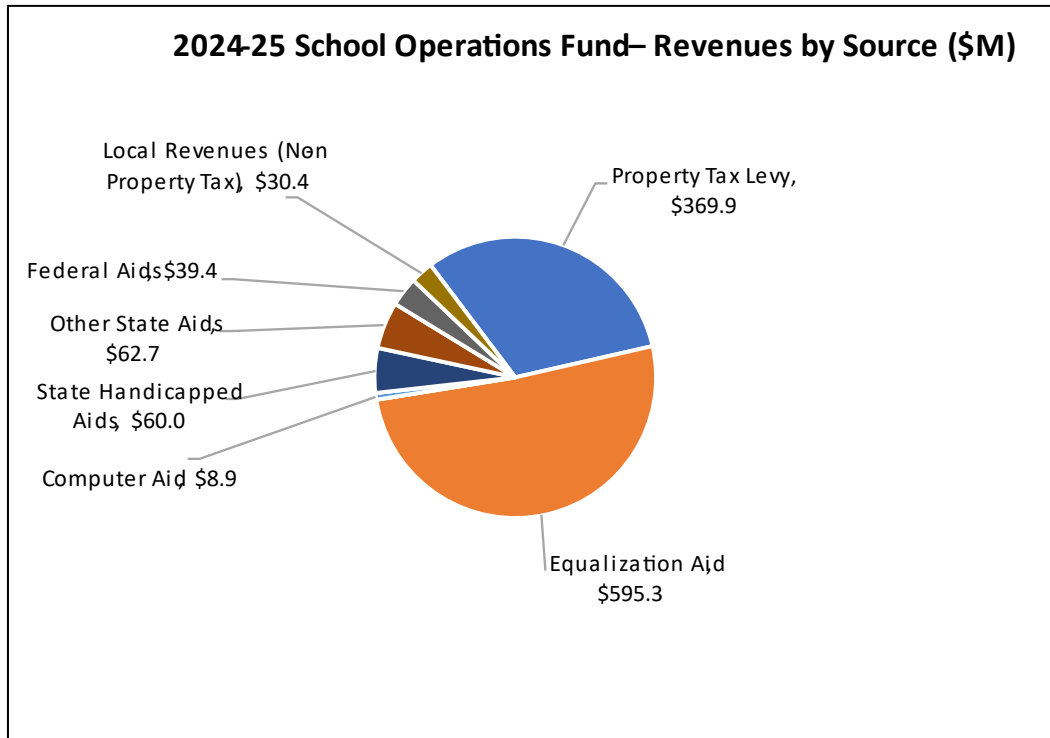
Federal aids include school nutrition aid, Medicaid billing aid, and indirect aid. The school nutrition aid is distributed through the state as reimbursement for food service programs operated by the district. Medicaid billing aid is the reimbursement for health-related services being provided by schools to Medicaid-eligible special education students. Indirect aid is the reimbursement for costs that are required to operate a program but are not directly identifiable to a specific program.

Local Revenues

Local revenues include the revenues received from the sale of à la carte food items to students and meals to adults as well as interest earned on the district's checking accounts, mobile home fees, rental income, and tuition.

Chart 3.13 shows the major revenue sources for the School Operations Fund 2024–25 Proposed Budget.

Chart 3.13 2024–25 School Operations Fund – Revenues by Source



Expenditures by Object – School Operations Fund

Chart 3.14 shows the School Operations Fund expenditures by object. Information includes (a) the actual expenditures for 2020–21, (b) the actual expenditures for 2021–22, (c) the Final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, (d) the Final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, (e) the Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and (f) the change from 2023–24 to 2024–25.

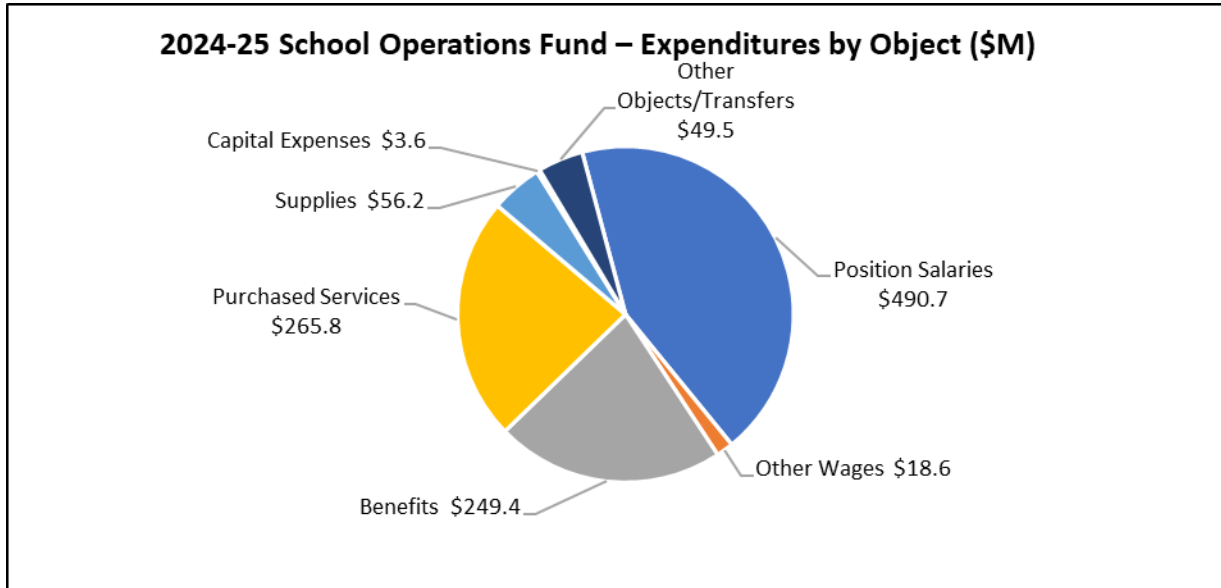
Chart 3.14 School Operations Fund – Expenditures by Object

School Operations Fund – Expenditures by Object (\$M)						
Object	2020–21 Actual	2021–22 Actual	2022–23 F.A.	2023–24 F.A.	2024–25 P.B.	FY24 vs. FY25 Inc / (Dec)
Position Salaries	\$290.7	\$291.5	\$449.2	\$437.0	\$490.7	\$53.7
Other Wages	15.4	20.7	18.6	17.6	18.6	1.0
Benefits	191.4	178.5	235.9	247.4	249.4	2.0
Purchased Services	210.1	245.2	242.3	258.2	265.8	7.6
Supplies	26.7	37.8	53.2	46.9	56.2	9.3
Capital Expenses	3.6	1.0	3.4	4.1	3.6	(0.5)
Other Objects	231.8	98.9	43.9	36.0	49.5	13.5
Total	\$969.8	\$873.6	\$1,046.5	\$1,047.3	\$1,166.7	\$119.4

Chart 3.14 above shows insignificant changes in year-to-year expenditures, including a slight increase in expenditures in 2024–25.

Chart 3.15 shows the expenditures by object for the School Operations Fund of the 2024-25 Proposed Budget.

Chart 3.15 2024–25 School Operations Fund – Expenditures by Object



Five-Year Projection – School Operations Fund

Chart 3.16 shows an estimate of revenues and expenditures in the School Operations Fund (general and debt) for each year through 2028–29. Information includes (a) 2021–22, (b) the final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, the final Adopted Budget for 2023–24 (c) the Proposed Budget for 2024-25, and an early estimate of revenues and expenditures for each year, 2025–26, 2026–27, 2027–28, 2028-29 and (d) the change from the Proposed Budget 2024–25 budget to the estimated 2028–29 budget.

Chart 3.16 School Operations Fund – Five-Year Projection

School Operations Fund – Five-Year Projection (\$M)										
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	FY29 vs. FY25
	Actual	Actual	F.A.	F.A.	P.B.	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Inc/(Dec)
Federal Revenues	\$27.5	\$10.3	\$26.1	\$39.7	\$39.4	\$40.5	\$41.6	\$42.7	\$43.9	\$4.5
State Revenues	703.3	738.9	711.6	776.5	727.0	746.7	766.9	787.7	809.0	82.1
Local Revenues	280.0	285.7	308.8	231.1	400.3	411.2	422.3	433.8	445.5	45.2
Revenues (without applied surplus)	\$1,010.9	\$1,034.8	\$1,046.5	\$1,047.3	\$1,166.7	\$1,198.4	\$1,230.8	\$1,264.2	\$1,298.4	\$131.7
Expenditures										
Salaries/Wages	\$306.1	\$312.2	\$467.8	\$454.6	\$509.2	\$530.9	\$546.8	\$560.5	\$571.7	\$105.9
Benefits	191.4	178.5	235.9	247.4	282.3	296.8	312.0	327.9	344.7	80.5
Purchased Services	210.1	245.2	242.3	258.2	265.8	269.6	273.5	277.3	281.3	19.1
Supplies/Materials	26.7	37.8	53.2	46.9	56.2	56.9	57.5	58.2	58.9	11.3
Capital Purchases	3.6	1.0	3.4	4.1	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.8	(0.3)
Other Objects	231.8	98.9	43.9	36.0	49.5	50.1	50.7	51.3	51.9	15.3
Total Expenditures	\$969.8	\$873.6	\$1,046.5	\$1,047.3	\$1,166.7	\$1,207.9	\$1,244.2	\$1,279.0	\$1,312.3	\$231.7
Balance (before use of prior-year funds)	41.0	161.2	-	-	-	(9.6)	(13.3)	(14.8)	(13.9)	-
Use of Prior-Year Funds for Legacy Costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Final Surplus/(Deficit)	\$41.0	\$161.2	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	(\$9.6)	(\$13.3)	(\$14.8)	(\$13.9)	
Cumulative Surplus/(Deficit)	\$57.8	\$219.0	\$219.0	\$219.0	\$219.0	\$209.5	\$196.1	\$181.3	\$167.4	

Revenue projections for the School Operations Fund are conservative. The district’s revenue limit will increase only if the state adjusts the revenue limit formula or MPS enrollment grows. The per-pupil categorical aid has been stagnant for several years, only increasing in 2024–25 by \$325 per student. MPS also needs to allocate more tax levy authority to the Construction Fund in future years per MBSD parameters.

Debt Service

Debt service refers to financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditures for the payment of general long-term debt principal, interest, and related costs. These costs are reported in the School Operations Fund for budgeting purposes. The 2024–25 Superintendent’s Proposed Budget for the year’s total debt payments due within the year is \$37.3 million for FY25. New debt was issued in December 2017 to fund major maintenance projects at numerous schools.

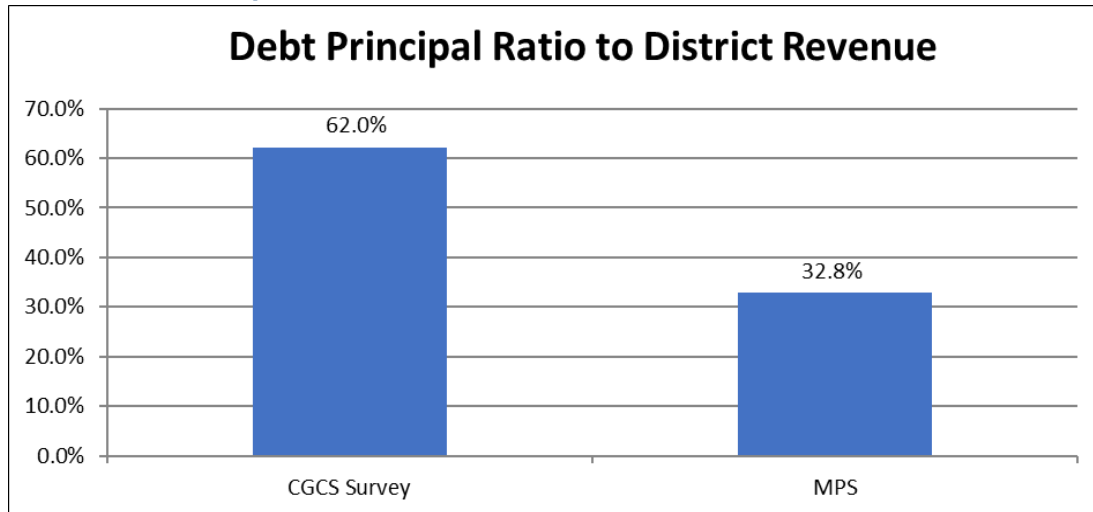
The Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS) conducts an annual survey of urban school districts. From this survey, information on the debt principal ratio is collected. The ratio measures the outstanding principal debt at a point in time as a portion of the entity’s annual revenues for that year.

For comparative purposes, in fiscal year 2021–22 (the most recent CGCS year of data), the median debt principal ratio to district revenue for urban school districts was 62. percent, while MPS’s was 32.8 percent. This indicates that MPS is leveraged at a much lower level than many other school districts, making more funds available for learning resources.



Chart 3.17 shows MPS's 2021–22 ratio (the most recent year for data) compared to a survey of CGCS districts.

Chart 3.17 Debt Principal Ratio to District Revenue



Source: Managing for Results in America's Great City Schools, CGCS, October 2022

Debt Management

MPS was established on February 3, 1846, and operates under Chapter 119 of Wisconsin Statutes. MPS is effectively treated as a department of the City of Milwaukee but authorized by law to adopt its own budget. The city is required to levy and collect property taxes to support the MPS budget.

MPS does not have the authority to issue debt. The City of Milwaukee has authority under Chapters 67 and 119 of Wisconsin Statutes to issue municipal obligations for specific school purposes. Bonded indebtedness issued by the city under Chapter 119 for school purposes is limited to 2.0 percent of the full value of taxable property in Milwaukee. Bonded indebtedness issued by the city under Chapter 67 for school purposes counts against the city's debt limit of 5.0 percent of the full value of taxable property in the city. Retaining the City's high "investment grade" bond rating is of prime importance and serves to maintain low borrowing costs. The low costs of borrowing, both for capital and cash flow purposes, produce direct benefits to the taxpayer. The City continues to maintain a high investment grade rating of AA- from Fitch and grade A from Standard & Poor's for the City's most recent 2021 General Obligation Bonds. By definition, the bond ratings are a measure of the quality and safety of a bond based on the issuers' financial condition.

When debt financing is contemplated, MPS enters into an intergovernmental cooperation agreement with the City of Milwaukee for any issuance. Financing structures are formulated to provide the most effective cost and maturity structure for the district while enabling the achievement of the desired project goals. The Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee (RACM) is the entity that has issued debt on behalf of MPS for some of the district's financing needs. Tables on subsequent pages include notation of RACM where appropriate.

An example of debt issuance directed by strategic goals was the revenue bonds for the Neighborhood Schools Initiative. The bonds were issued to improve neighborhood school attendance and thereby reduce transportation costs. Another example is taxable pension funding bonds, which financed unfunded actuarial accrued liability to save the district millions of dollars in interest annually.

MPS conforms to all state and local statutes governing the investment of public funds as well as applicable federal and state regulatory requirements. All issuance of debt, whether short-term or long-term, is approved by the MBSD.

Chart 3.18 Outstanding Debt – 10 Years

Outstanding Debt	
Fiscal Year	Debt Outstanding (\$M)
2014	337.3
2015	367.2
2016	359.3
2017	382.8
2018	402.8
2019	385.2
2020	366.0
2021	348.0
2022	327.9
2023	306.8

Debt costs are budgeted and managed in the School Operations Fund and recorded as a non-major fund in the district’s annual financial report. Chart 3.18 just above provides a summary of MPS’s outstanding debt over ten fiscal years. Debt amounts for the 2014 through 2023 fiscal years were stated in the 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR).

Debt Capacity

Short-Term and Long-Term Borrowing – Statutory Borrowing Limitations

Wisconsin Statute § 67.12(1)(a) limits issuance of short-term notes—borrowing that lasts less than two years—to 60 percent of the estimated School Operations Fund revenues for the respective fiscal year. Due to the cash provided by the American Rescue Plan Act, the City did not issue the regular School Revenue Anticipation Notes during the Fall 2021. This increased the district’s short-term borrowing capacity. Charts 3.19–3.22 highlight the district’s short- and long-term borrowing.

Chart 3.19 Short-Term Borrowing – Statutory Borrowing Limitations

Description	Amount (\$M)
Total School Operations Fund Revenues for 2024-25	\$1,226.8
Statutory Borrowing Limit of 60 percent of Estimated School Operations Revenue	\$736.1
Less Outstanding School Revenue Anticipation Notes, None issued in 2022	\$0.0
Unused Short-Term Borrowing Capacity	\$736.1

Chart 3.20 Short-Term Borrowing Percentages

Description	Percentage
Percentage of Borrowing Limit Used	0.0%
Percentage of Borrowing to Estimated Revenues	0.0%

Chart 3.21 Short-Term Borrowing – Statutory Borrowing Limitations

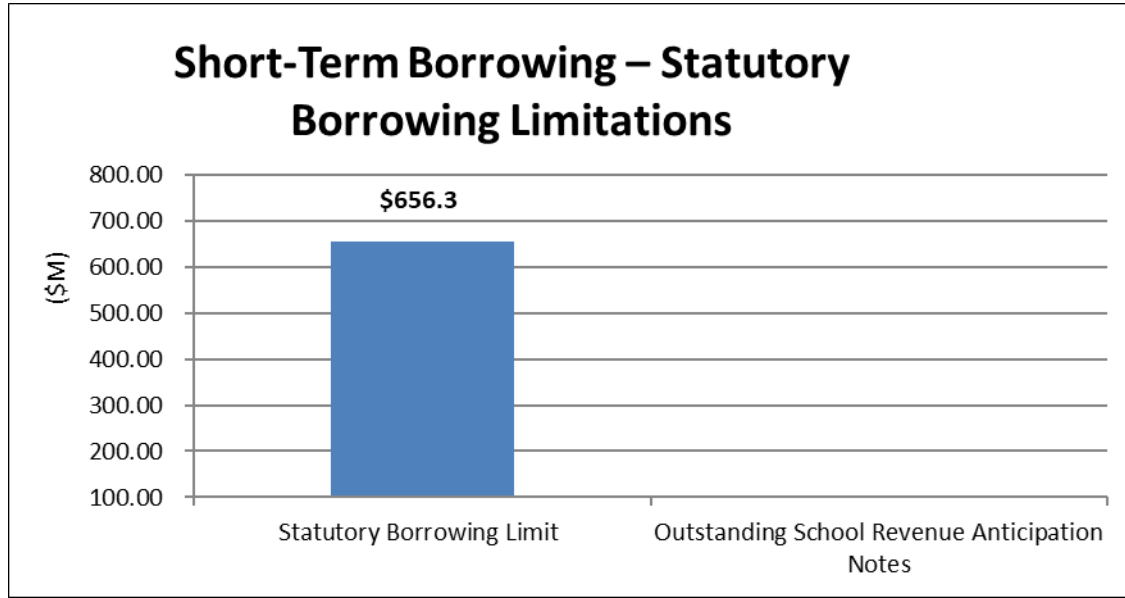


Chart 3.22 Short-Term Borrowing – Statutory Borrowing Limitations

Description	Amount (\$M)
2 Percent of City of Milwaukee Equalized Value for 2022	\$789.0
Outstanding General Obligation Debt Subject to 2 Percent Limit at 10/1/2021	(\$1.5)
Total Unused Debt Capacity for School Purpose Borrowing	\$787.5
Total Unused Debt Capacity for School Purpose Borrowing Percentage	99.8%

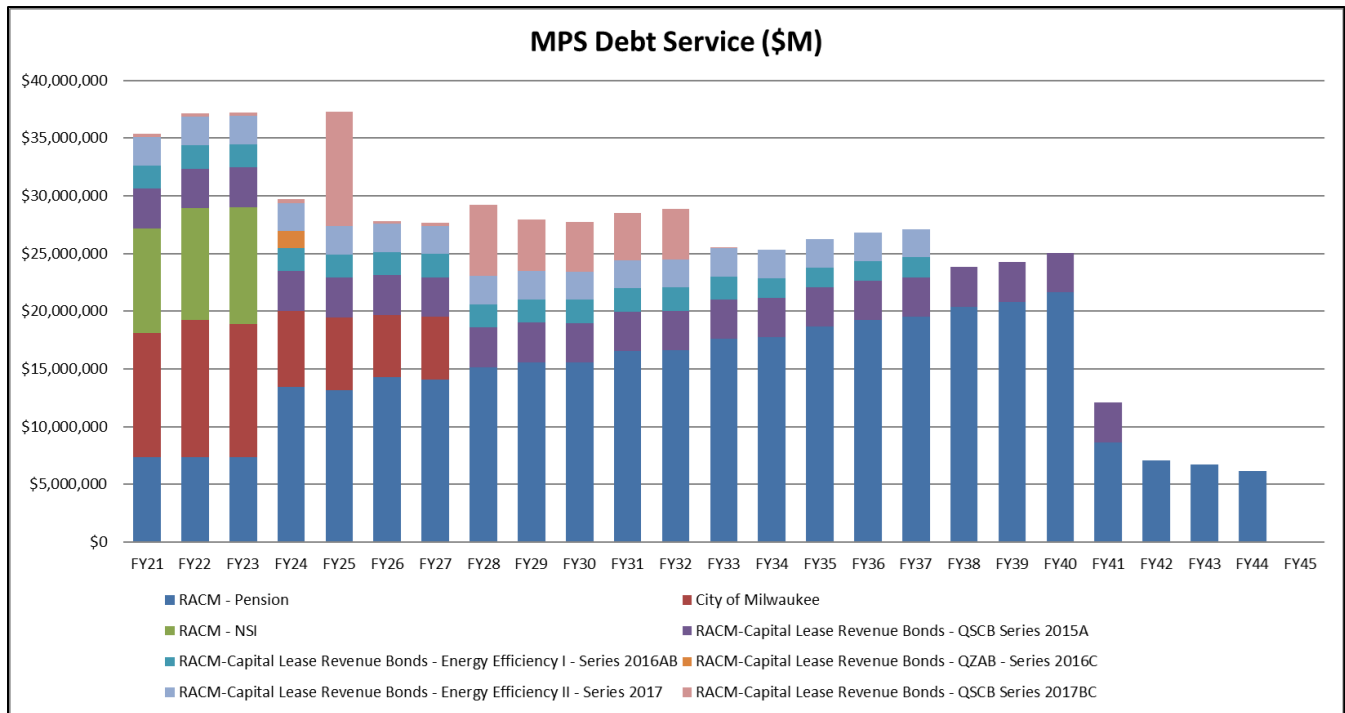
Chart 3.23 is a table of MPS’s existing debt service requirements, assuming no IRS subsidy rebate and no interest earnings on the sinking fund payments (annual payments to a trustee for future debt principal obligations).

Chart 3.23 Milwaukee Public Schools Debt

Milwaukee Public Schools Debt as of 6/30/2023				
Purpose	Name of Bond Issue	Maturity	Original Amount	Outstanding Principal Balance at 6/30/2023
Americans with Disabilities Act loans:				
ADA loans for improvements and modifications to comply with provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.	Series 2009 N1 Notes	Feb, 2019	2,700,000	0
	Series 2009 B2 Bonds	Feb, 2024	1,350,000	0
	Series 2012 N2 Bonds (partially refund ADA Series W & Y)	May, 2019	443,810	0
Qualified School Construction Bonds:				
Provide financing for various school construction projects.	Series 2009 M6 Bonds (QSCBs)	Dec, 2025	12,000,000	1,793,750
	Series 2010 M6 Bonds (QSCBs)	Feb, 2027	37,300,000	12,800,000
Promissory Notes RACM Lease Revenue Bonds:				
To fund additions and improvements at:				
Athletic Facilities and various MPS Schools.	RACM Series 2015A (from QSCB Allocation)	June, 2041	38,000,000	26,307,695
Energy Efficiency - I at various MPS Schools	RACM Series 2016A	Nov, 2032	18,710,000	13,515,000
Energy Efficiency - I at various MPS Schools	RACM Series 2016B (QECBs)	Nov, 2036	6,275,000	6,275,000
Culinary and Arts Academies	RACM Series 2016C (from QZAB Allocation)	Nov, 2051	1,470,000	1,470,000
Energy Efficiency - II at various MPS Schools	RACM Series 2017	Nov, 2036	29,730,000	24,670,000
To fund additions and improvements at various MPS Schools.	RACM Series 2017B (from QSCB Allocation)	Nov, 2050	10,000,000	9,780,000
	RACM Series 2017C (from QSCB Allocation)	Nov, 2050	24,933,000	24,133,000
General Obligation Bonds:				
GO Bonds to refinance a portion of the RACM Series 2005A bonds.	Series 2013 N2 Bonds (partially refund RACM Series 2005)	May, 2021	4,095,000	0
GO Bonds to refinance a portion of the ADA Series A5 Bonds issued for Schools June 7, 2005 "Refunded".	2015 N2 (Refunding of Series A5 Bonds issued for Schools June 7, 2005 "Refunded")	Mar, 2020	3,515,347	0
GO Bonds to refinance a portion of the RACM Series 2005A Lease Revenue Bonds.	2015 N2 (Refunding of RACM Series 2005A, refinanced 2013)	Mar, 2025	3,175,000	1,651,844
GO Bonds to refinance a portion of the RACM Series ADA GO Series 2009 B2 Bonds.	Series 2019 N3 Notes	Apr, 2024	1,236,560	247,312
RACM Revenue Bonds:				
Provide funds in conjunction with the Neighborhood Schools Initiative, the district's multifaceted program that enhances district facilities and programs while positively impacting district transportation.	RACM Series 2002A and 2003A issued 2002 & 2003, refinanced 2007, 2013, and 2017 for the Neighborhood Schools Initiative Bonds.	Aug, 2023	218,570,000	0
Pension Debt Refinancing:				
Provide funds to retire an unfunded actuarial accrued liability owed to the Wisconsin Retirement System with respect to retirement benefits for MPS employees.	RACM Series 2003D index bonds (pension obligation bonds)	Oct, 2043	130,850,000	130,850,000
	RACM Series 2003C Capital Appreciation Bonds	Apr, 2041	110,525,000	53,299,736
	GO Series 2003 M10 Capital Appreciation Bonds	Apr, 2023	46,715,000	0
Total				\$306,793,337

Chart 3.24 shows a graphical representation of MPS’s existing debt service requirements to fiscal year 2045, assuming no IRS subsidy rebate and no interest earnings on the sinking fund payments.

Chart 3.24 Milwaukee Public Schools Debt Service



*Note: As described earlier, RACM refers to the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee, and NSI is the Neighborhood Schools Initiative.

Chart 3.24 above also shows how various existing debt obligations will grow or shrink in future years. For example, in 2023–24, MPS retired the RACM-NSI debt, have lower obligations for funds borrowed directly from the City of Milwaukee, and face a significant increase in payments due for pension financing.

School Nutrition Services Fund

The School Nutrition Services Fund is an enterprise fund that accounts for the breakfast, lunch, and other meal programs operated by the district for students. The Department of Nutrition Services within the Office of Finance manages the fund and administers the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs in all MPS schools as well as the USDA Afterschool Snack Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, and the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program. Revenues for the fund include federal and state aids and revenue earned from cafeteria sales.

Revenues by Source – School Nutrition Services Fund

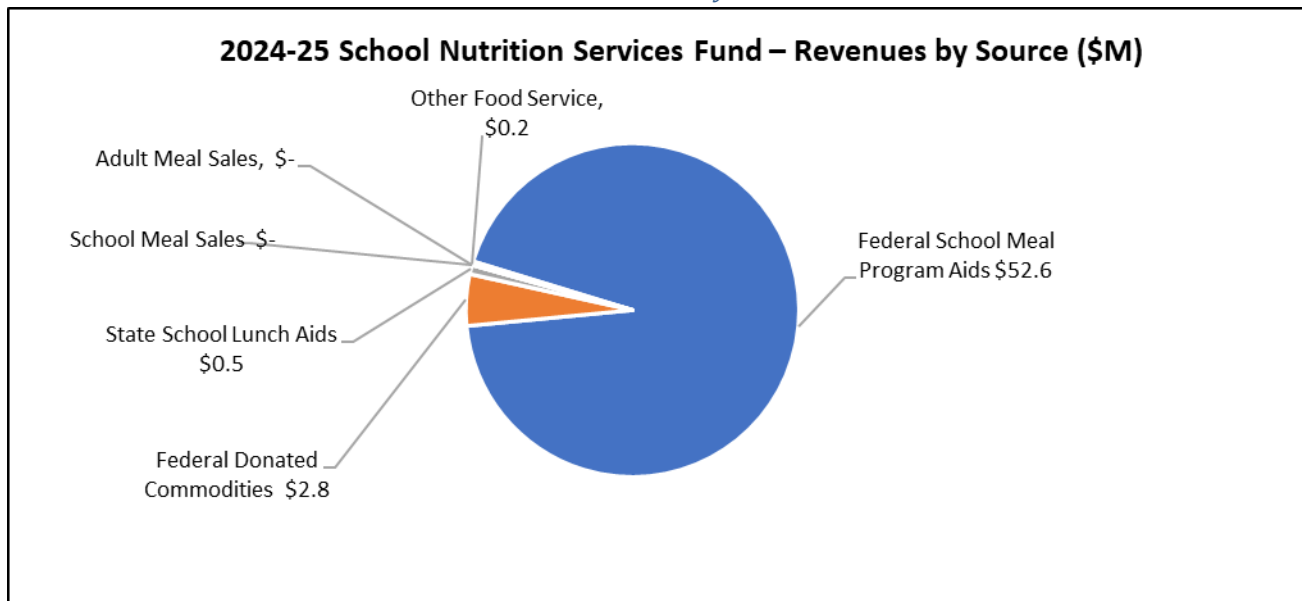
Chart 3.25 shows the revenues by source in the School Nutrition Services Fund. Information includes (a) the actual expenditures for 2020–21, (b) the actual expenditures for 2021–22, (c) the Final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, (d) the Final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, (e) the Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and (f) the change from 2023–24 to 2024–25.

Chart 3.25 School Nutrition Services Fund – Revenues by Source

School Nutrition Services Fund – Revenues by Source (\$M)						
Description	2020–21 Actual	2021–22 Actual	2022–23 F.A.	2023–24 F.A.	2024–25 P.B.	FY24 vs. FY25 Inc / (Dec)
Federal School Meal Program Aids	\$8.3	\$42.8	\$44.0	\$49.4	\$52.6	\$3.2
Federal Donated Commodities	3.4	4.4	3.6	2.8	2.8	-
State School Lunch Aids	0.8	-	-	0.9	0.5	(0.4)
School Meal Sales	-	0.3	-	-	-	-
Applied Surplus	-	-	-	4.4	4.0	(0.4)
Adult Meal Sales	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Food Service	0.1	-	0.3	0.2	0.2	-
Total	\$12.6	\$47.5	\$47.9	\$57.7	\$60.1	\$2.4

Chart 3.26 shows the revenues by source for the School Nutrition Services Fund of the 2024-25 Superintendent’s Proposed Budget.

Chart 3.26 2024–25 School Nutrition Services Fund – Revenues by Source



Expenditures by Object – School Nutrition Services Fund

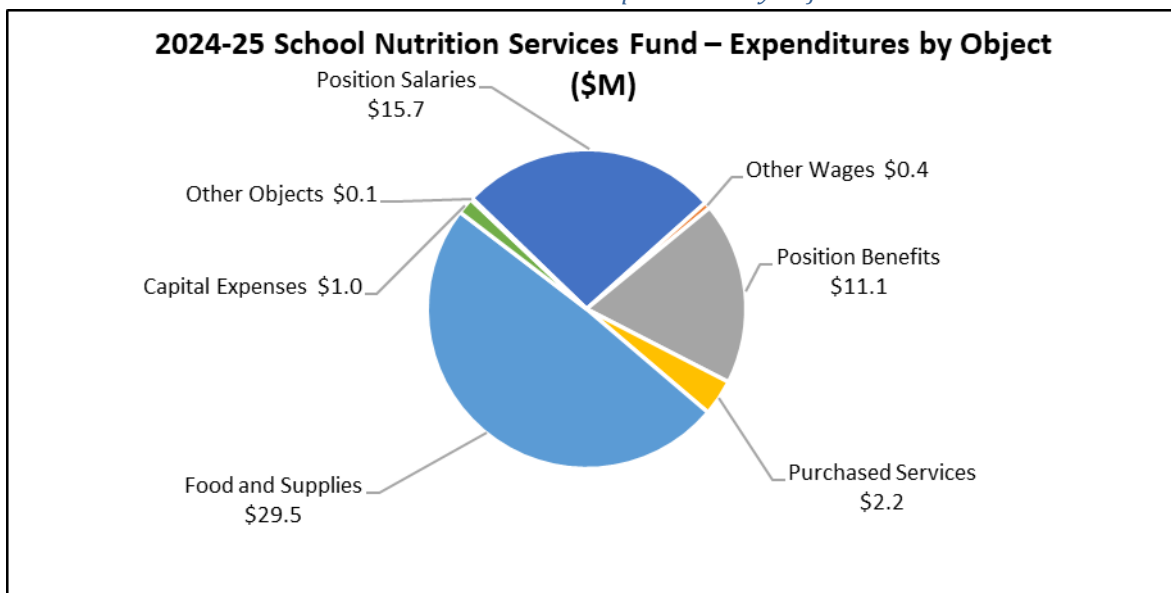
Chart 3.27 shows the School Nutrition Services Fund expenditures by object. Information includes (a) the actual expenditures for 2020–21, (b) the actual expenditures for 2021–22, (c) the Final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, (d) the Final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, (e) the Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and (f) the change from 2023–24 to 2024–25.

Chart 3.27 School Nutrition Services Fund – Expenditures by Object

School Nutrition Services Fund – Expenditures by Object (\$M)						
Object	2020–21 Actual	2021–22 Actual	2022–23 F.A.	2023–24 F.A.	2024–25 P.B.	FY24 vs. FY25 Inc / (Dec)
Position Salaries	\$10.9	\$11.9	\$15.0	\$15.2	\$15.7	\$0.5
Other Wages	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.2
Position Benefits	7.1	7.9	9.5	9.6	11.1	1.5
Purchased Services	1.3	1.4	1.5	2.1	2.2	0.1
Food and Supplies	7.8	23.0	19.8	29.2	29.5	0.3
Capital Expenses	0.3	0.1	1.3	1.3	1.0	(0.3)
Other Objects	-	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	-
Total	\$28.3	\$45.2	\$47.9	\$57.7	\$60.1	\$2.4

Chart 3.28 shows the expenditures by object for the School Nutrition Services Fund of the 2024–25 Superintendent’s Proposed Budget.

Chart 3.28 2024–25 School Nutrition Services Fund – Expenditures by Object



Five-Year Projection – School Nutrition Services Fund

In 2024–25, MPS will be in its tenth year of participating in the Community Eligibility Provision, wherein high-poverty districts serve free meals to all students. Revenues are projected to increase modestly in future years, due to increased student participation and the rate of reimbursement that has kept pace with inflation. Like the School Operations Fund, the School Nutrition Services Fund must cover the cost of employee medical coverage. The program also includes a major component—food—where general inflation and more stringent nutritional requirements may outpace the rate of reimbursement. The Department of Nutrition Services staff will continue to develop operational efficiencies to maintain a balanced budget.

Chart 3.29 shows an estimate of revenues and expenditures in the School Nutrition Services Fund for each year through 2028–29. Information includes (a) two years of actuals, 2020–21, 2021–22, (b) the final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, (c) the final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, the Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and an early estimate of revenues and expenditures for each year, 2025–26, 2026–27, 2027–28, 2028–29 and (d) the change from the Proposed Budget 2024–25 budget to the estimated 2028–29 budget.

Chart 3.29 School Nutrition Services Fund – Five-Year Projection

School Nutrition Services Fund – Five-Year Projection (\$M)										
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	FY29 vs. FY25
	Actual	Actual	F.A.	F.A.	P.B.	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Inc/(Dec)
Federal Revenues	\$11.6	\$47.2	\$47.6	\$52.2	\$55.4	\$56.9	\$58.4	\$60.0	\$61.6	\$6.2
State Revenues	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1
Local Revenues	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0
Applied Surplus	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.4	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Revenues	\$12.6	\$47.5	\$47.9	\$57.7	\$60.1	\$57.5	\$59.1	\$60.7	\$62.3	\$6.3
Expenditures										
Salaries/Other Wages	\$11.7	\$12.5	\$15.6	\$15.4	\$16.1	\$16.8	\$17.3	\$17.7	\$18.1	\$2.3
Benefits	7.1	7.9	9.5	9.6	11.1	11.6	12.2	12.9	13.5	3.3
Purchased Services	1.3	1.4	1.5	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.2
Supplies/Materials	28.3	45.2	47.9	57.7	60.1	61.8	63.4	65.0	66.5	7.3
Total Expenditures	\$28.3	\$45.2	\$47.9	\$57.7	\$60.1	\$61.8	\$63.4	\$65.0	\$66.5	\$7.3
Final Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$15.7)	\$2.3	\$0.0	(\$4.4)	(\$4.0)	(\$4.3)	(\$4.3)	(\$4.3)	(\$4.2)	
Cumulative Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$4.9)	(\$2.5)	(\$2.5)	(\$6.9)	(\$11.0)	(\$15.2)	(\$19.5)	(\$23.8)	(\$28.0)	

Construction Fund

The Construction Fund is used to account for and report financial resources that are intended for the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and the additions to or remodeling of existing buildings. The fund is managed by the Department of Facilities and Maintenance Services within the Office of School Administration and provides services to maintain district facilities and grounds in a safe, clean, and environmentally compliant manner.

In January and May 2017, the MBSD approved resolutions to exceed the revenue limit by the amount needed to finance energy efficiency projects. The resolutions note that this action is under authority granted in Wisconsin Statute § 121.91(4)(o).

The 2024–25 Proposed Budget for the Construction Fund anticipates revenues and authorizes expenditures of \$19.1 million.

The district maintains a Long-Term Capital Improvement Trust Fund, which DPI has identified as Fund 46. Fund 46 is for the purpose of accumulating funds for future capital projects. The district established this new fund in the Final Adopted Budget, which is a portion of the Construction Fund in 2015 under state guidelines, Wisconsin Statute § 120.137. The funds can be used only for construction/maintenance purposes and may be accessed five years after the initial deposit. The trust balance is currently \$129 million.

Revenues by Source – Construction Fund

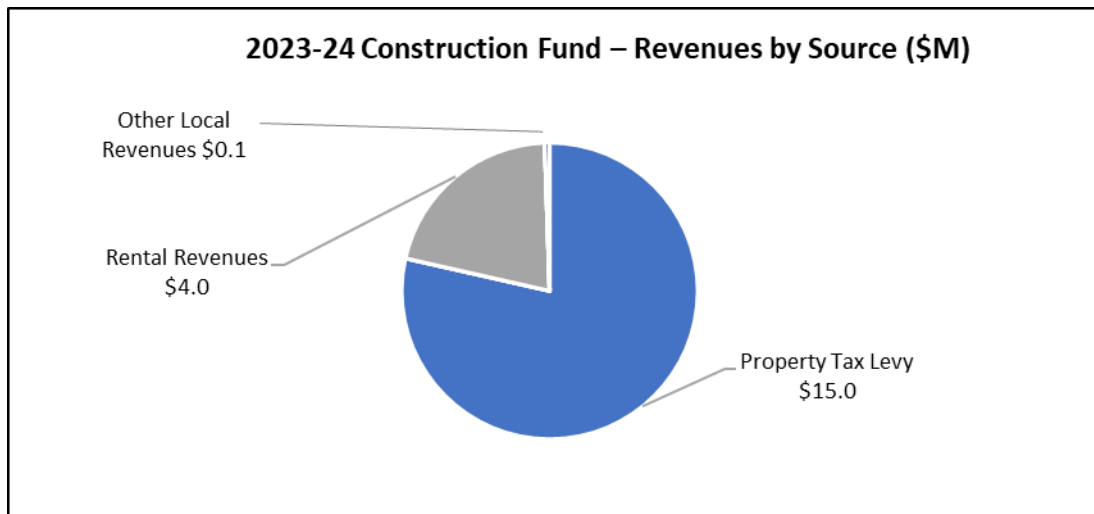
Chart 3.30 shows the revenues by source for the Construction Fund. Information includes (a) the actual expenditures for 2020–21, (b) the actual expenditures for 2021–22, (c) the Final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, (d) the Final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, (e) the Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and (f) the change from 2023–24 to 2024–25.

Chart 3.30 Construction Fund – Revenues by Source

Construction Fund – Revenues by Source (\$M)						
	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	FY24 vs. FY25
Description	Actual	Actual	F.A.	F.A.	P.B.	Inc / (Dec)
Property Tax Levy	\$4.6	\$2.9	\$1.8	\$5.0	\$15.0	\$10.0
Proceeds from Borrowing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rental Revenues	1.9	2.1	1.8	1.9	4.0	2.0
Capital/Fixed Asset Sale	0.6	0.8	-	-	-	-
Capital Trust Fund	30.0	30.0	-	-	-	-
Applied Surplus	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Local Revenues	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	-
Total	\$37.1	\$35.8	\$3.6	\$7.1	\$19.1	\$12.0

Chart 3.31 shows the revenues by source for the Construction Fund of the 2024-25 Proposed Budget.

Chart 3.31 2024–25 Construction Fund – Revenues by Source



Expenditures by Project – Construction Fund

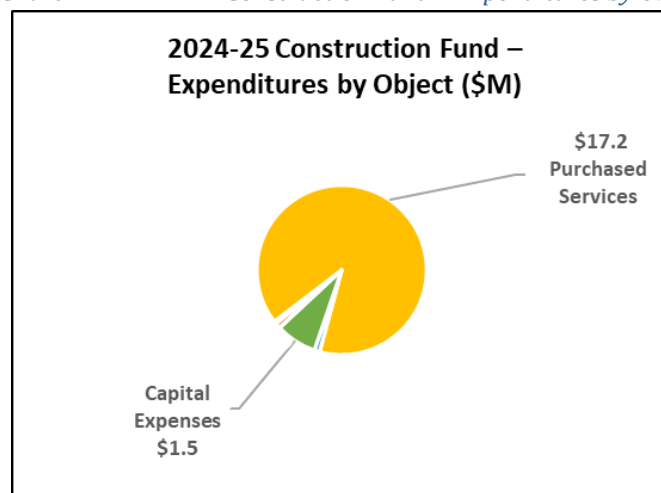
Chart 3.32 shows the Construction Fund expenditures by object. Information includes (a) the actual expenditures for 2020–21, (b) the actual expenditures for 2021–22, (c) the Final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, (d) the Final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, (e) the Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and (f) the change from 2023–24 to 2024–25.

Chart 3.32 Construction Fund – Expenditures by Object

Construction Fund – Expenditures by Object (\$M)						
Project	2020–21 Actual	2021–22 Actual	2022–23 F.A.	2023–24 F.A.	2024–25 P.B.	FY24 vs. FY25 Inc / (Dec)
Position Salaries	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Other Wages	-	-	-	-	0.2	0.2
Position Benefits	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.1
Purchased Services	15.6	3.7	3.1	6.6	17.2	10.6
Food and Supplies	-	-	-	-	0.2	0.2
Capital Expenses	-	-	0.5	0.5	1.5	1.0
Other Objects	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$15.6	\$3.7	\$3.6	\$7.1	\$19.1	\$3.5

Chart 3.33 shows the expenditures by project for the Construction Fund of the 2024–25 Superintendent’s Proposed Budget.

Chart 3.33 2024–25 Construction Fund – Expenditures by Object



Five-Year Projection – Construction Fund

The Construction Fund projection allocates limited resources available for maintenance and remodeling. The forecast estimates approximately \$19.1 million of major maintenance annually based on the district’s capacity to complete quality repairs and improvements. In past years MPS has spent more than the estimate. If this trend continues, the fund balance could be depleted by the 2026–27 school year.

Chart 3.34 shows an estimate of revenues and expenditures in the Construction Fund for each year through 2028–29. Information includes (a) two years of actuals, 2020–21, 2021–22, (b) the final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, (c) the final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, the Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and an early estimate of revenues and expenditures for each year, 2025–26, 2026–27, 2027–28, 2028-29 and (d) the change from the Proposed Budget 2024–25 budget to the estimated 2028–29 budget.

Chart 3.34 Construction Fund – Five-Year Projection

Construction Fund – Five-Year Projection (\$M)										
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	FY29 vs. FY25
	Actual	Actual	F.A.	F.A.	P.B	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Inc/(Dec)
Revenues										
Property Tax	\$4.6	\$2.9	\$1.8	\$5.0	\$15.0	\$17.5	\$20.0	\$22.5	\$25.0	\$10.0
Other Revenues/ Transfers In	32.5	32.9	1.8	2.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	-
Total Revenues	\$37.1	\$35.8	\$3.6	\$7.1	\$19.1	\$21.6	\$24.1	\$26.6	\$29.1	\$10.0
Expenditures										
Salaries/Other Wages	-	-	-	-	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	-
Benefits	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	-
Purchased Services/ Capital Outlay:	15.6	3.7	3.1	6.6	17.2	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	0.3
Capital Expenses/Transfers	-	(6.0)	0.5	0.5	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.1
Total Expenditures	\$15.6	(\$2.3)	\$3.6	\$7.1	\$19.1	\$19.4	\$19.4	\$19.5	\$19.5	\$0.1
Final Surplus/(Deficit)	\$21.5	\$38.1	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$2.2	\$4.7	\$7.1	\$9.6	
Cumulative Surplus/(Deficit)	\$67.0	\$105.1	\$105.1	\$105.1	\$105.1	\$107.3	\$112.0	\$119.1	\$128.7	

Capital Expenditures and the Construction Fund

The district’s primary annual capital spending is for the proper maintenance of its facilities. Its facilities serve a student enrollment of over 66,000 as well as administrative and maintenance needs. MPS currently manages over 17 million square feet of facilities on 207 sites. Wisconsin Statute § 65.07(1)(f) provides for taxes not exceeding \$0.6 million on each dollar of the assessed valuation of all taxable property in the city to fund MPS’s Construction Fund, as constituted and for the purposes specified in Wisconsin Statute § 119.48, including constructing and maintaining school buildings, additions thereto, or remodeling existing buildings.

In October 2017, MPS contracted with MGT of America Consulting, LLC to develop recommendations for long-range facility master planning to address the future facility needs of the district. Using input from the community, the goal of a master plan was to create a blueprint or roadmap based on best-practice facility standards that identified and prioritized facility needs and presented strategies for effective and efficient facility improvement and usage over the planning period. For this project, the MGT team gathered facility and community data.

A long-range facilities master plan provides a cost-effective, actionable plan to address the short- and long-term facility needs of the district. The plan includes a comprehensive analysis of education trends, school programming, capacity-building standards, operating costs, and other factors. This information will be used to allocate resources and make decisions for the long-term best interests of our students and community. The community input/feedback sessions included a total of eight large-group meetings held at various locations across the district and two informal opportunities at scheduled recreation program events. An online survey that was open to the community at large and open to high school students during a social studies class allowed even greater participation.

A total of more than 8,000 people responded to the online survey, including nearly 4,000 students. The long-range facilities master plan was approved by the board in the spring of 2018.

The district’s 2024–25 Proposed Budget for the Construction Fund projects revenues that total \$19.1 million.

Chart 3.35 shows the major maintenance capital projects that are budgeted in the Construction Fund.

Chart 3.35 Major Maintenance Capital Projects – Construction Fund

FY25 Facilities and Maintenance Capital Projects – Construction Fund (\$M)	
Project Description	Estimate (\$)
Facilities Support Recreation	\$1.3
Facilities Projects Recreation	0.7
Vehicle Replacement	1.5
Major Maintenance	14.1
Major Remodeling	1.0
Security Projects	0.0
Regional Development	0.5
OSHA/ST Mandates	0.0
Total	\$19.1

Routine Capital Spending

The district adopted a cyclic maintenance plan in 1999 that guides the annual prioritization of facility improvements such as window replacements and boiler repairs. The plan identifies thirty-six primary components that the Department of Facilities and Maintenance Services replaces and repairs to keep district buildings safe, attractive, and efficient.

Non-Routine Capital Spending

Based on the strategic plan, enrollment trends, and specific educational or operational goals, the district periodically identifies remodeling and refurbishing projects. New construction for instructional school buildings has not been funded in the district for several years, given an inventory of buildings that are available for a smaller student population. Energy savings performance contract firms are working on energy savings and infrastructure improvements in the 2024–25 fiscal year.

Impact of Capital Spending on the Annual Budget

The cyclic maintenance plan is designed and executed to maximize the useful life of facility components. The Department of Facilities and Maintenance Services uses repair data and expertise to minimize investment in, for example, boiler or roof repairs when the frequency of repairs will cost more than a replacement. Therefore, the capital spending as listed in Chart 3.35 represents an investment that reduces routine repair costs and/or energy consumption. This enables the district to use more resources for classroom-focused spending.

When borrowed funds are used for capital improvement, the subsequent debt costs are an annual draw on the district’s operating revenues. When the district is paying for annual debt service related to a capital improvement, the cost of that improvement is effectively spread over the number of years that it is being used by the district.

Capital Assets

The child-bearing-age population in Milwaukee is not growing, the Milwaukee population is getting older, and the live birth rate is declining. Therefore, unless programmatic or facility changes lead to higher student recruitment and retention rates, MPS can reasonably expect that its enrollment will decline over the next ten years.

In Milwaukee, many schools are inefficient in regard to their use of space for enrollment and programming. There are forty-two schools that have enrollment efficiency ratings of less than 70.0 percent. These schools are significantly underutilized. They may have empty spaces or may have expanded people/programs to occupy the spaces. They may or may not have created spaces for all required programs—for example, art and music—because they may not have staff to lead these programs.

There are also forty-two schools that have enrollment efficiency ratings of more than 110.0 percent. These schools are significantly overutilized. They have no empty spaces and likely have expanded people and programs into every possible location in the building. The buildings with overcapacity likely lack core space—restrooms, media center, cafeteria, and hall spaces—to accommodate the enrollment. They may have to operate with multiple lunch periods and maybe move students at different times to reduce overcrowding in corridors.

Milwaukee has many old buildings, with the average age approaching 80 years old. Many buildings may have difficulty meeting the district’s goal of offering schools that provide 21st-century learning opportunities and support the needs of diverse learners. Despite the age of district schools, the average building condition score of 79 is at the top of the “fair” category and indicates that many buildings have been well maintained. The highest average score is for technology readiness, which reflects how well the district’s infrastructure supports the standards in place. The high technology-readiness scores are likely due to the significant emphasis that the district has placed on technology for both student and teacher support.

The district defines capital assets as listed in Chart 3.36 below and uses a straight-line depreciation method over the useful life of the asset.

Chart 3.36 Capital Asset Depreciation

Asset Type	Capitalization Threshold	Estimated Useful Life
Buildings	\$5,000	50 years
Furniture and Equipment	5,000	5-20 years
Vehicles	5,000	5-15 years
Computers and Related Equipment	5,000	5 years
Major Computer	50,000	7 years
Intangible Assets	50,000	7 years

Source: 2022 MPS ACFR

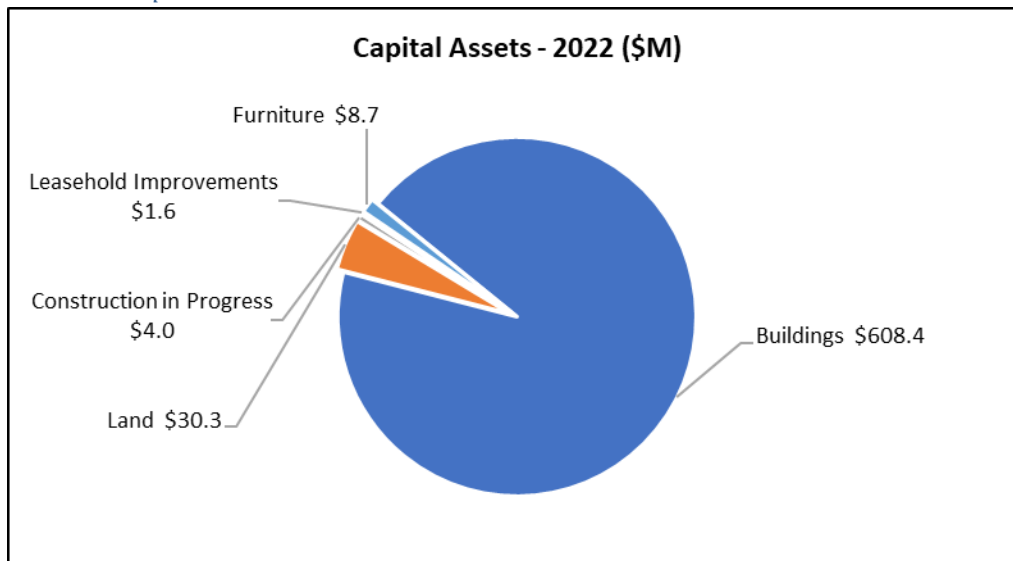
Charts 3.37 and 3.38 show that the district’s capital assets of \$652.9 million are primarily buildings.

Chart 3.37 Capital Assets

Capital Assets - 2022 (\$M)	
Asset Type	Balance
Buildings	\$ 608.4
Land	\$ 30.3
Construction in Progress	\$ 4.0
Leasehold Improvements	\$ 1.6
Furniture	\$ 8.7
Total	\$652.9

Source: 2022 MPS ACFR

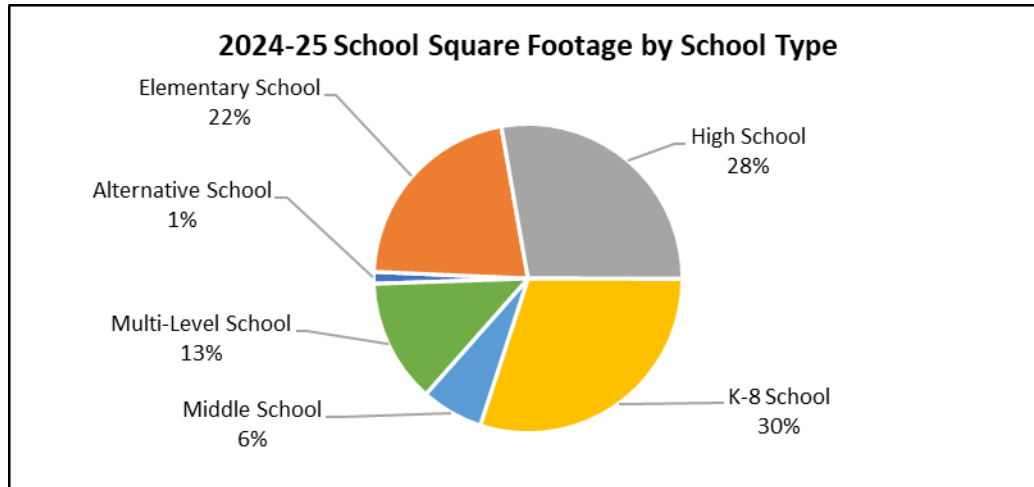
Chart 3.38 Capital Assets



Source: 2022 MPS ACFR

Chart 3.39 illustrates the breakdown of square footage by school type for MPS traditional and instrumentality charter schools.

Chart 3.39 2024–25 School Square Footage by School Type



Extension Fund

The Extension Fund is used to record financial transactions related to recreational activities and is jointly managed by the Office of Finance, the Office of Communications and School Performance, the Office of Academics, and the Office of Operations. The 2024-25 Proposed Budget for the Extension Fund totals \$37.6 million.

Revenues by Source – Extension Fund

Chart 3.40 shows the revenues for the Extension Fund. Information includes (a) the actual expenditures for 2020–21, (b) the actual expenditures for 2021–22, (c) the Final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, (d) the Final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, (e) the Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and (f) the change from 2023–24 to 2024–25.

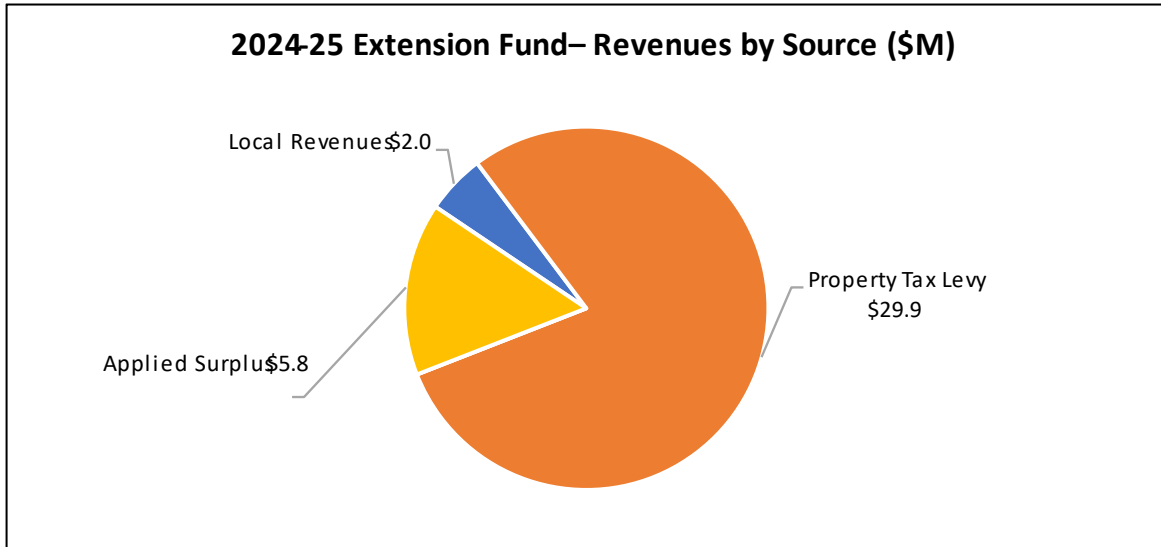
Chart 3.40 Extension Fund – Revenues by Source

Extension Fund – Revenues by Source (\$M)						
	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	FY24 vs. FY25 Inc
Description	Actual	Actual	F.A.	F.A.	P.B.	/(Dec)
Local Revenues	\$0.2	\$1.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$0.0
Property Tax Levy	27.2	29.7	34.7	112.4	29.9	(82.6)
State/Federal Revenues	(1.8)	2.6	-	-	-	-
Applied Surplus	-	-	5.6	-	5.8	5.8
Total	\$25.6	\$33.3	\$42.3	\$114.4	\$37.6	(\$76.8)

Wisconsin Statutes § 120.13(19) and § 119.47 give the Milwaukee Board of School Directors authority to establish a fund to support community programs and services outside the regular curricular and extracurricular programs. As stated in the statute, “The school board may establish and collect fees to cover all or part of the costs associated with such programs and services.”

Chart 3.41 shows the revenues by source for the Extension Fund of the 2024–25 Proposed Budget.

Chart 3.41 2024–25 Extension Fund – Revenues by Source



Expenditures by Object – Extension Fund

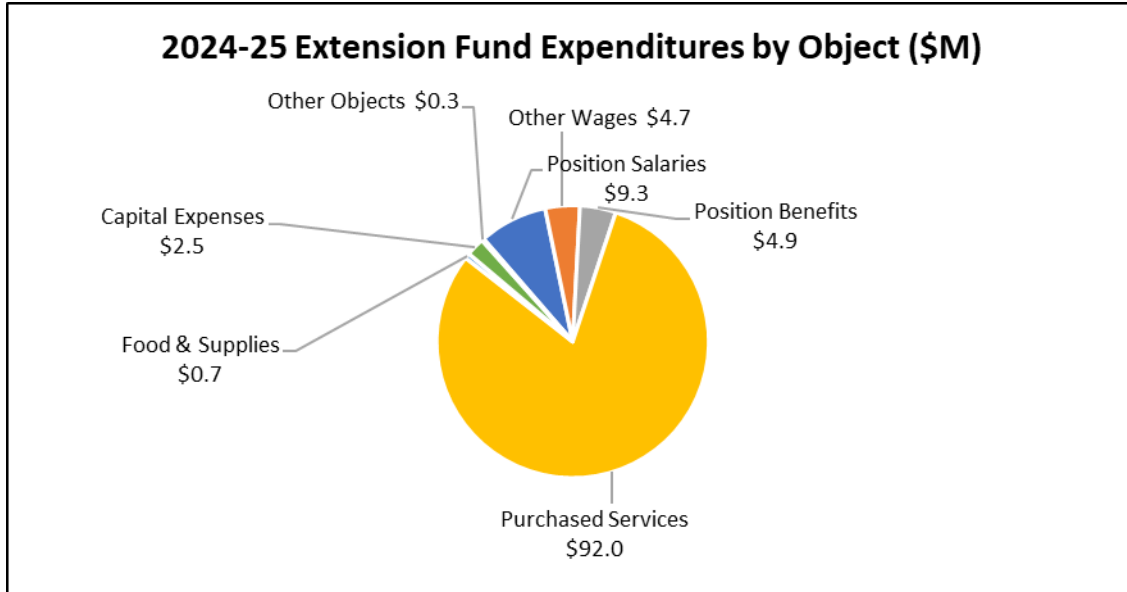
Chart 3.42 shows the Extension Fund expenditures by object. Information includes (a) the actual expenditures for 2020–21, (b) the actual expenditures for 2021–22, (c) the Final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, (d) the Final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, (e) the Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and (f) the change from 2023–24 to 2024–25.

Chart 3.42 Extension Fund – Expenditures by Object

Extension Fund – Expenditures by Object (\$M)						
Object	2020–21 Actual	2021–22 Actual	2022–23 F.A.	2023–24 F.A.	2024–25 P.B.	FY24 vs. FY25 Inc / (Dec)
Position Salaries	\$5.8	\$6.3	\$8.6	\$9.3	\$10.0	\$0.7
Other Wages	2.0	4.0	5.2	4.7	4.7	-
Position Benefits	1.8	3.8	4.8	4.9	5.7	0.8
Purchased Services	8.8	10.8	22.3	92.0	13.7	(78.3)
Food and Supplies	1.3	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.2
Capital Expenses	0.3	0.1	0.5	2.5	2.4	(0.1)
Other Objects	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	-
Total	\$20.6	\$26.0	\$42.3	\$114.4	\$37.6	(\$76.7)

Chart 3.43 shows the expenditures by object for the Extension Fund of the 2024–25 Superintendent’s Proposed Budget.

Chart 3.43 2024–25 Extension Fund – Expenditures by Object



Five-Year Projection – Extension Fund

For purposes of the forecast, the tax levy revenue shows that the \$5.0 million increase in FY23 has been held constant for the years displayed in the forecast. In the fall of each year, the board has the opportunity to set the levy for this fund in the context of the district’s overall levy. The levy for the Extension Fund is not limited by the state’s revenue limit for school districts. Using fund balance (i.e., applied surplus) is feasible for a few years insofar as the Extension Fund balance exceeds 40.0 percent of the annual operating cost. Over time, use of fund balance would diminish the district’s overall financial position.



As with other MPS funds that include personnel costs, increased medical costs are a key factor in projected resource shortfalls. The administration will continue its efforts to identify revenue sources that support our high-quality community programs and examine all related cost drivers that might be managed more effectively.

Chart 3.44 shows an estimate of revenues and expenditures in the Extension Fund for each year through 2028–29. Information includes (a) two years of actuals, 2020–21, 2021–22 (b) the final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, (c) the final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, the Proposed Budget for 2024-25 and an early estimate of revenues and expenditures for each year, 2025–26, 2026–27, 2027–28, 2028-29 and (d) the change from the Proposed Budget 2024–25 budget to the estimated 2028–29 budget.

Chart 3.44 Extension Fund – Five-Year Projection

Extension Fund – Five Year Projection										
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	FY29 vs. FY25
	Actual	Actual	F.A.	F.A.	P.B.	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Inc/(Dec)
Revenues										
Local Revenues	\$0.2	\$1.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.0	\$2.1	\$2.1	\$2.2	\$2.2	\$0.2
Property Tax Levy	27.2	29.7	34.7	112.4	29.9	30.9	30.9	30.9	30.9	1.0
State/Federal Revenues	(1.8)	2.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Applied Surplus	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	0.0
Total Revenues (including Applied Surplus)	\$25.6	\$33.3	\$42.3	\$114.4	\$37.6	\$38.7	\$38.7	\$38.8	\$38.9	\$1.2
Total Revenues (not including Applied Surplus)	\$25.6	\$33.3	\$36.7	\$114.4	\$31.9	\$32.9	\$33.0	\$33.0	\$33.1	\$1.2
Expenditures										
Salaries/Other Wages	\$7.9	\$10.3	\$13.8	\$13.9	\$14.8	\$15.5	\$15.9	\$16.3	\$16.6	\$1.9
Benefits	1.8	3.7	4.8	4.9	5.7	6.0	6.3	6.6	6.9	1.3
Purchased Services	8.8	10.8	22.3	92.1	13.7	13.9	14.3	14.6	14.9	1.3
Supplies/Materials	1.9	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.1
Capital Improvements	0.3	0.1	0.5	2.5	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.5	0.1
Total Expenditures	\$20.6	\$26.0	\$42.3	\$114.4	\$37.6	\$38.8	\$40.1	\$41.2	\$42.3	\$4.6
Final Surplus/(Deficit)	\$5.0	\$7.3	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	(\$0.1)	(\$1.4)	(\$2.4)	(\$3.4)	
Cumulative Surplus/(Deficit)	\$24.3	\$31.6	\$31.6	\$31.6	\$31.6	\$31.5	\$30.1	\$27.7	\$24.3	

Categorically Aided Programs Fund

The Categorically Aided Programs Fund is used to account for proceeds from federal, state, and private grants that fund social and curriculum needs of special populations within the district. MPS uses the term “categorical” funding to refer to all grant resources, and these terms are used interchangeably. Most grants awarded to the district are for specific purposes within a specific time frame. The 2024–25 Superintendent’s proposed budget for the Categorical Fund assumes total revenue and expenditures of \$186.9 million, which is a decrease of \$381.3 million compared to 2023–24. This decrease is due to MPS expending ESSER-received funding in FY24.

The district’s allocations for the Every Student Succeeds Act depends on the relative economic status of all other districts in the state. The district will also be required to distribute more of its allocation to non-public schools.

Between March 2020 and March 2021, Congress passed three stimulus bills under ESSER with allocations of funding for school districts. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding provides emergency funds to address the impact of COVID-19 in communities. This includes relief funds for school districts. The Education Stabilization Fund appropriates funds through the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Program and the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) program. Milwaukee Public Schools is the fiscal agent for these two funding sources; therefore, aid will flow through MPS-to-MPS public schools, including non-instrumentality charter schools and to private schools located in Milwaukee.

Revenues by Source – Categorical Fund

Chart 3.45 shows the revenue received, or estimated to be received, from categorical resources. Information includes (a) the actual expenditures for 2020–21, (b) the actual expenditures for 2021–22, (c) the Final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, (d) the Final Adopted Budget for 2023–24, (e) the Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and (f) the change from 2023–24 to 2024–25.

Chart 3.45 Categorical Fund – Revenues by Source

Categorical Fund – Revenues by Source (\$M)						
Description	2020–21 Actual	2021–22 Actual	2022–23 F.A.	2023–24 F.A.	2024–25 P.B.	FY24 vs. FY25 Inc / (Dec)
Federal						
ESEA, Title I-A	\$68.5	\$71.8	\$81.0	\$90.8	\$88.3	(\$2.5)
ESEA, Title II	9.1	7.6	7.1	8.2	5.7	(2.5)
ESEA, Title III	1.2	1.1	2.9	2.1	2.7	0.5
ESEA, Title IV	5.1	5.1	6.3	7.2	4.1	(3.0)
SIG ¹	1.7	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
IDEA ²	30.3	34.8	34.2	46.7	25.9	(20.8)
Head Start	9.7	11.9	10.4	14.0	10.5	(3.6)
Cares Act	30.8	21.4	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
GEER	5.0	4.5	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
ESSER II	0.0	16.3	158.5	50.1	0.0	(50.1)
ESSER III	0.0	0.0	372.0	48.0	0.0	(48.0)
Other	16.2	0.0	14.9	58.5	0.0	(58.5)
Subtotal Federal	\$172.7	\$176.1	\$692.4	\$325.6	\$137.2	(\$188.4)
State						
AGR ³	\$24.2	\$23.7	\$43.9	\$42.8	\$47.6	\$4.8
Other	61.3	57.9	0.0	8.0	0.0	(8.0)
Subtotal State	\$85.5	\$81.6	\$43.9	\$50.8	\$47.6	(\$3.2)
Private						
GE Foundation	\$1.1	\$0.2	\$6.4	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Other	4.9	8.0	0.0	4.8	2.2	(2.7)
Subtotal Private	\$6.0	\$8.1	\$6.4	\$4.8	\$2.2	(\$2.7)
Transfers						
Total Categorical Fund	\$406.5	\$265.7	\$742.7	\$381.3	\$186.9	(\$194.3)

¹School Improvement Grant; ²Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; ³Achievement Gap Reduction Grant

Chart 3.46 shows an estimate of revenues and expenditures in the Categorical Fund for each year 2028–29. Information includes (a) 2021–22, (b) the final Adopted Budget for 2022–23, the final Adopted Budget for 2023–24 (c) the Proposed Budget for 2024–25, and an early estimate of revenues and expenditures for each year, 2025–26, 2026–27, 2027–28, 2028–29 and (d) the change from the Proposed Budget 2024–25 budget to the estimated 2028–29 budget.

Chart 3.46 Categorical Fund – Five-Year Projection

Categorical Fund – Five-Year Projection (\$M) - Without Transfers to Other Funds										
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	FY29 vs. FY25
	Actual	Actual	F.A.	F.A.	P.B. Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Inc/(Dec)
Federal Revenues	\$172.7	\$176.1	\$692.4	\$325.6	\$137.2	\$140.9	\$144.7	\$148.6	\$152.6	\$15.5
State Revenues	85.5	81.6	43.9	50.8	47.6	50.4	52.3	53.8	55.3	7.7
Local Revenues	6.0	8.1	6.4	4.8	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.1	0.0
Revenues (with indirect)	\$406.5	\$265.7	\$742.7	\$381.3	\$186.9	\$193.5	\$199.2	\$204.8	\$210.1	\$23.1
Expenditures										
Salaries/Wages	\$203.2	\$209.0	\$157.3	\$115.4	\$81.3	\$84.8	\$87.3	\$89.5	\$91.3	(\$24.1)
Benefits	116.7	115.7	81.8	58.3	43.6	45.8	48.2	50.6	53.2	(5.1)
Purchased Services	50.0	88.6	374.1	40.9	49.5	50.2	50.9	51.6	52.4	11.4
Supplies/Materials	44.2	59.9	108.5	5.5	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.2	8.3	2.8
Capital Expenses	2.9	0.8	12.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
Other Objects/Transfers	\$15.0	\$12.1	\$9.0	\$161.1	\$4.6	\$4.6	\$4.7	\$4.8	\$4.8	(156.3)
Total Expenditures	\$431.9	\$486.2	\$742.7	\$381.3	\$186.9	\$193.5	\$199.2	\$204.8	\$210.1	(\$171.2)
Current Year Surplus (Deficit)	(13.3)	(220.4)	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	0.0	-
Cumulative Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$16.1)	(\$233.7)	(\$233.7)	(\$233.7)	(\$233.7)	(\$233.7)	(\$233.7)	(\$233.7)	(\$233.7)	\$0.0



Keys to Understanding the Financial Environment and Plan of MPS

These keys are written to explain and summarize the financial environment of MPS without technical detail. The concepts and terms are presented in more detail in the previous pages and/or in other sections of the budget document.

Key 1: Major Revenue Sources

MPS receives its revenue from four major sources

While the fund overview on the previous pages demonstrates the many categories of funds (\$1.5 billion) under the stewardship of the district, annual budgetary decisions are focused on general operating funds received from a limited number of sources. The four major sources are as follows.

1. **State Aid**—State aid is funding that MPS receives from the state and is paid directly to the district. The amount of state aid is estimated by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in July, and the amount is certified in October.
2. **Property Taxes**—The portion of total revenue that comes from local property taxes varies widely across Wisconsin’s school districts, due largely to the way that the equalization aid is distributed. MPS does not estimate the local property taxes until DPI provides an estimate of the equalization/integration aids in July of each year. In October, DPI certifies equalization and integration aids for school districts. Like all Wisconsin school boards, the MBSD adopted the local district tax levy for 2023–24 in late October.
3. **Federal Aid**—Most federal aid to schools comes through four channels: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Coronavirus Aid, Relief & Economic Security Act (CARES), Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) or through distribution formulas and competitive grants.
4. **Local Sources**—Another source of school funding comes from grants, local fees, interest earnings, and gifts. Additional sources of local non-property tax revenue include tuition from student learning options such as open enrollment tuition, intergovernmental agreements, and rental revenues for the use of school facilities.

Why this is important

A diversity of revenue sources is beneficial to any organization. To a limited extent, MPS leverages the flexibility it has in having multiple revenue sources. However, most general operations funding (state aid and local property tax levy) is capped by the state’s revenue limit, as explained in the next key.

While there are a variety of benefits from local partnerships, one of them is financial support. The district is continuing its recently increased allocation of resources for the purpose of cultivating partnerships. This includes participation in a funder’s collaborative to identify ways to match interested community investors with MPS student needs.

Key 2: MPS Enrollment Continues Downward Trend

District enrollment drives revenue

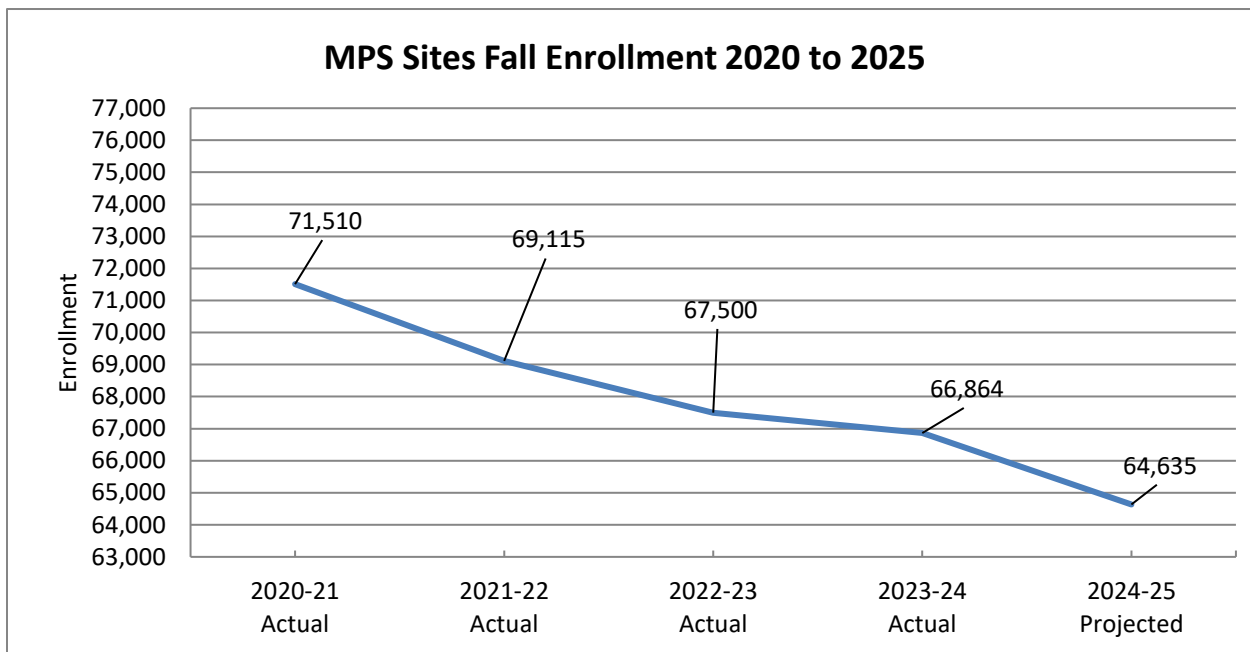
Student enrollment has a strong impact on school district finances, as many programs have allocation formulas predicated on the number of students served. MPS enrollment is projected to decrease in 2024-25, and enrollment drives revenue over time.

From fall 2024 to fall 2025, Milwaukee Public Schools' enrollment will decrease primarily due to a decrease in MPS traditional and instrumentality charter school enrollment. The number of students attending MPS schools will decrease by 0.09% to 66,377.

Milwaukee Parental Choice Program (MPCP) enrollment increased to 29,003 in the 2023-24 school year (FY24) from 28,958 in FY23. This is a 3.3% increase. For FY25, 130 private schools indicated their intent to participate in MPCP, according to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Chart 3.47 below shows that MPS enrollment has declined in the past five years.

Chart 3.47 MPS Sites – Fall Enrollment 2020–25



Source: DPI – Wisconsin DPI WISEdash Public Portal

Why this is important

Frequent school moves can have a negative impact on a student's academic routine and potential success. Mobility and absenteeism are often associated with poor school performance. Improving enrollment stability supports the consistency of school services and student success.

Larger student enrollment counts generally lead to economies of scale. The district's fixed costs can be efficiently funded when there are more students to serve. As the number of students has declined, a greater percentage of revenues was needed for fixed costs. By attracting and retaining a stable number of students from year to year, the district stops the growth in fixed costs per pupil. Nonetheless, the district faces specific challenges in "right-sizing" operations. When schools are operating with large unused capacity or a larger percentage of administrative

costs relative to instruction, the district is challenged to identify more efficient ways to meet its mission.

Key 3: Revenue Limit

Limited state per-student revenue

In fall 1993, the Wisconsin legislature (§ 120.90) instituted a limit or control on the revenue that a school district is entitled to receive each year. The control applies to revenue received from two sources:

- General state aid (equalization, special adjustment, and integration aids)
- Select local levies (general operations, capital projects, and non-referendum debt)

With each biennial budget, the Wisconsin legislature/governor sets an amount by which the revenue limit will change for school districts. MPS's per-student revenue limit in 2024-25 is \$12,316, or 6.0 percent more than it was in 2023-24.

As part of the spring election on April 7, 2020, the community overwhelmingly voted in support of the referendum. This monumental victory will meaningfully impact the quality of the educational experience that MPS is able to provide for Milwaukee children. The referendum authorizes the district to exceed the revenue limit by \$57.0 million in 2020–21, an additional \$20.0 million (\$77.0 million total) in 2021–22, an additional \$7.0 million (\$84 million total) in 2022–23, and an additional \$3.0 million (\$87.0 million total) in 2023–24, and each year thereafter. This additional funding allowed the district to attract and retain high-quality certified teachers, offer more career and technical education programs, and expand art, music, physical education, and language programs.

Since 2020, MPS has made significant investments in students, resulting in smaller class sizes and expanded art, music, libraries, and physical education. MPS wants to maintain these investments. In 2021 and 2022, the State of Wisconsin froze per-pupil funding for public schools for two years in a row for the first time ever. That freeze, coupled with the highest inflation since 1981, accelerated the decline in support for our children. The last time that per-pupil funding matched inflation was 2009. Due to the State of Wisconsin's underfunding of schools, however, MPS was facing a \$200 million budget shortfall in the 2024-2025 school year.

The Board directors of Milwaukee Public Schools voted to authorize a referendum question to appear on the spring election ballot. Milwaukee voters approved the Milwaukee Public Schools referendum question on Tuesday, April 2. The approved recurring referendum allows the district to exceed the revenue limit by \$252 million. The referendum will be phased in over four years, allowing the district to exceed the revenue limit by \$140 million for the 2024-25 school year. The referendum will allow MPS to do the following:

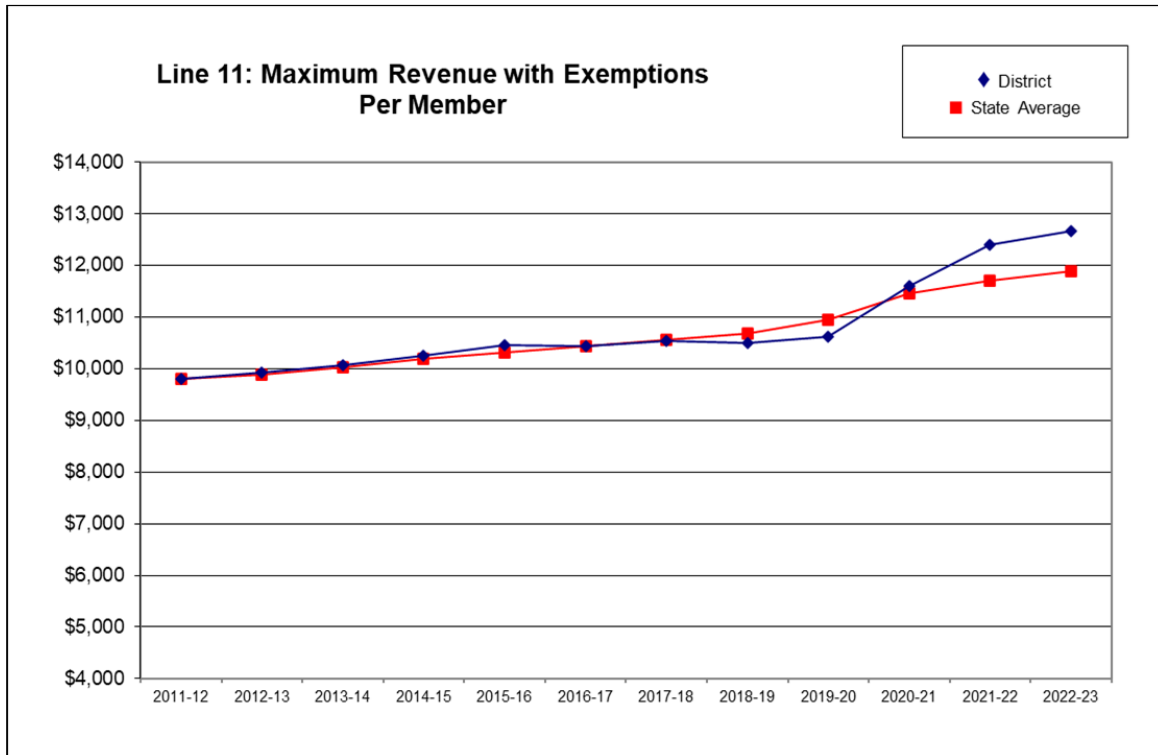
- Maintain smaller class sizes
- Retain programming in art, music, libraries, and physical education
- Keep high-quality teachers

The measure also will allow MPS to further invest in language programs, career and technical education, and mental health support. Every school in MPS will receive more funding, directly supporting children and teachers in the classrooms.

Even with approval of the question, the school district must find efficiencies in Central Services for necessary cost savings that will help make up the remaining budget shortfall. Next year, MPS will implement a plan to generate millions in cost savings through streamlining and rightsizing the district.

Chart 3.48 demonstrates that MPS’s revenue limit per pupil has followed the statewide average closely and that recent growth returns the amount only to a level similar to 2012. Note that this chart is “with exemptions.” The figures include non-recurring exemptions such as adjustments for declining enrollment or local property tax changes. MPS has a base per-pupil amount of \$12,391 as compared to the state average of \$11,703.

Chart 3.48 Revenue Limit – MPS and State Average



Source: Wisconsin DPI

Why this is important

A district’s main source of general-purpose funding can exceed the revenue limit only when approved by public referendum or for other technical reasons. Consequently, the revenue limit is the key factor governing increases in a school district’s combined amount of state equalization *and* local property tax levy.

It is important to note that even when the state allocates additional money for equalization aid or the school tax credit, the new funds will not be used for K–12 education but instead will go for property tax relief unless the revenue limit is changed.

Key 4: Federal Aids Face an Uncertain Future

Federal budget deliberations are under way

Federal-aid changes are driven by an increase in Title I funds awarded to the State of Wisconsin, thus impacting the amount of Title I funds received by the district. The higher allocation to the district will allow the district to maintain the per-pupil amount of \$645 as part of the Final Adopted Budget process for the 2024–25 fiscal year. Title I school spending power was impacted by the slight decrease in the fringe benefit rate (see Key 5), allowing more spending power to the Title I schools.

Why this is important

The administration in Washington can have a significant impact on MPS finances because federal funds provide the means to deliver various supplemental services that are critical to the low-income families that MPS serves. Even though federal resources have slightly increased, more pressures are placed on state and local sources if services are to be continued. Also, the use of carryover funds shapes the options available for making progress on student achievement. Knowing that a portion of the funds will not be available the following year, administrators cannot build plans to show promise for lasting, sustainable student progress.

Key 5: Rising Medical Costs

Medical costs for employees are on the rise

Projections for 2024–25 call for a higher level of medical claim costs with significant inflation on the horizon. MPS actuarial consultants are projecting 5.0 percent inflation for medical costs and 10.0 percent for prescription drug expenses.

Why this is important

Starting in 2010, MPS began to bring its healthcare costs under control by instituting actions such as redesigning its medical, dental, and pharmaceutical plans; hiring a new third-party administrator; and differentiating premium costs by creating low- and high-cost plans. Subsequent changes followed, such as the district’s decisions to raise the employee threshold to receive fringe benefits from 20 to 30 hours a week and close the district’s supplemental teacher retirement plan to new employees.

The district’s overall fringe benefit rate has increased from 51.0 percent in 2023-2024 to 54.0 percent in 2024–25. This will provide some spending relief to the district.

Key 6: Salaries Are Critical to the District’s Operations

Like any school district, the heart of the organization is people

Personnel costs represent 60.0 percent of the district’s budget. Salaries alone are \$621.6 million of the \$1.5 billion budget. Even a small increase in salaries—for example, 1.0 percent—represents an annual cost of over \$9.0 million when salary-driven benefits are included.

With revenues not significantly rising, the district cannot afford to add positions that show promise for more effective services to children. In addition, the current staff cannot be provided with raises without reducing the number of personnel or canceling other critical activities.

Why this is important

MPS must remain competitive in its compensation package to attract and retain well-qualified staff to serve the children of Milwaukee.

Key 7: Strategic Initiatives

Finding solutions to entrenched problems

The budget continues to reflect the Five Priorities for Success as described in the preceding sections of this document. Several initiatives have been continuing as planned since 2016, and a few new ones are funded in the 2024–25 budget. Extensive school budget planning and review was done to ensure that class size would not

increase significantly, if at all. The several-year effort to fund art, music, and physical education for every school is continuing.

Why this is important

As in 2024, the 2025 budget allows MPS to move forward with implementing its Five Priorities for Success, and it integrates that plan into the budget process. The plan is organized around “five priorities” for improving student outcomes that also includes a school portfolio plan for increasing the number of high-performing schools. In essence, MPS is attempting to raise the level of student achievement in schools that have high student poverty while at the same time seeking to make MPS the #1 choice for families.

Key 8: Fund Balance and Debt-to-Revenues Ratio

Fiscal integrity leads to strong bond rating

MPS has maintained a stable fund balance and received favorable bond ratings when debt is incurred; the district’s debt-to-revenues ratio is well below that of peer districts. Just as a personal credit rating is used for a variety of purposes, a school district’s strong bond rating is advantageous. The most obvious reason is to lower the costs of borrowing.

The operations fund balance has been increasing in previous years. Due to the time that it will take to fill all the additional positions in the second year of the referendum and a number of vacant hard-to-fill positions, the fund balance should see some relief. Increases in salaries and benefit costs will still increase the pressure on the fund balance; however, the district has implemented strategies to reverse the trend.

Why this is important

The district’s history shows that MPS is capable of managing complex, unpredictable, and adverse financial conditions. Fiscal and societal realities point to a future where there will be a continued need for difficult decisions and prudent management of resources. With rigorous planning and collaborative efforts focused on student needs, the district will be able to pursue its vision while maintaining fiscal integrity.

The district defines a balanced budget as one in which authorized expenditures in all funds do not exceed the level of projected revenues for the funds. The 2024–25 budget is balanced in this regard.

Key 9: Capital Asset Planning

Capital asset planning is being taken to a new level

In addition to the long-range facilities master plan that was adopted by the board in the spring of 2018 (described in the capital expenditures section above), the board authorized borrowing in November 2017 to fund major maintenance projects that have been deferred from their planned schedule.

Why this is important

With respect to teachers, school facilities affect teacher recruitment, retention, commitment, and effort. With respect to students, school facilities affect health, behavior, engagement, learning, and growth in achievement. Thus, researchers generally conclude that without adequate facilities and resources, it is extremely difficult to serve large numbers of children with complex needs.

Long-range capital planning will ensure that adequate resources are available when needed for renovations; repairs for failing systems, including HVAC, electrical systems, and networking; replacement of equipment and

school furniture; and other major maintenance projects. The process will also embark upon facility planning, design, and new construction should district needs warrant it.

Key 10: MPS's Additional Fiscal Responsibilities

The district's annual budget includes funds for open enrollment, non-public schools, citywide recreation programs, and school nutrition.

Why this is important

The district takes responsibility, as a fiscal agent, for costs that include students who do not attend MPS and for meeting non-academic needs (such as school nutrition). Failure to acknowledge this fact leads some critics to believe that the district has no need for additional funds. It is incumbent on all MPS supporters to use and share accurate information in advocating for the priority of K–12 education in the state's largest city.

