

**BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 59  
BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET HEARING  
Monday, September 11, 2023 6:00 PM**

**Mission Statement**

*"The mission of Bennington Public Schools is to provide educational opportunities in a safe, caring environment that will prepare all students to meet the challenges of the future."*

- I. Call Special Public Hearing to Order
- II. Presentation of the 2023-2024 Budget
- III. Conduct Public Hearing on the 2023-2024 Budget
- IV. Adjourn

**NOTICE: COPY OF OPEN MEETINGS ACT:** The Board of Education makes available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. The Act is posted on the wall of the Board room.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO SPEAK DURING PUBLIC FORUM:** Getting Started: When it is your turn to speak during the public forum portion of the agenda, please come forward to the table situated immediately in front of the Board, sign your name and address on the sign-in sheet and state your name to the Board of Education. Time Limit: You may speak only one time and must limit comments to 5 minutes or less. Personnel or Student Topic: If you are planning to speak about a personnel or student matter involving an individual, please understand that our policies require that such concerns initially be directed to the administration for consideration. Board members will generally not respond to any questions you ask or comments you may make about individual staff members or students. You are cautioned that slanderous comments are not protected just because they are made at the Board meeting. General Rules: Please remember that this is a public meeting for the conduct of business of the Board of Education. Offensive language, personal attacks and hostile conduct will not be tolerated.

BY: BENNINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# Bennington Public Schools 2023-24 Budget



September 2023



# 2023-24 Budget



## Growth Revenue

- Property Taxes
- State Aid
- Other Actual Receipts

Budget Limitation & Levy

General Fund Budget

Bond Fund

New Budget Law

Questions

	<u>Key Points on How Nebraska Funds Public School Districts</u>	<u>Key Points on What the State Funding Means for Bennington Public Schools</u>	<u>Key Points on What the State Funding Means for Other School Districts</u>
<b>Equalization Aid</b>	The state determines basic funding needs for all schools. What the local property taxes can't cover, the state will provide the difference in equalization aid.	The local property taxes will cover 43.38% of the GF budget. <b><u>BPS is extremely reliant on equalization aid as it accounts for 27.09% of basic funding needs.</u></b>	Some schools do not need equalization aid because their local property taxes can cover basic funding needs.
<b>Valuation &amp; Equalization Aid</b>	As valuation increases, equalization aid to the district decreases the following year.	The 21% increase in valuation for 2023-24 provides additional funds, but <b><u>BPS will lose an equal amount of equalization aid in 2024-25.</u></b>	For schools that do not need equalization aid, valuation increases result in additional funds for the school.
<b>Foundation Aid</b>	The new state funding formula provides \$1,500 per student of Foundation Aid.	If you are an equalized school like BPS, the \$1,500 per student results in <b><u>\$0 extra dollars to the district.</u></b>	Non-equalized schools receive \$1,500 per student resulting in additional funds for the school.
<b>SPED Funding</b>	The new state funding formula moves reimbursement from 50% to 80% for SPED expenses.	BPS will receive roughly <b><u>\$1,710,740 more in funding or 3.22%</u></b> of all GF 23-24 revenues.	These additional SPED funds will help both equalized and non-equalized schools.
<b>Student Enrollment Growth</b>	Average student enrollment growth in the state is 0.8%.	<b><u>Average student enrollment growth in BPS is 5-10%.</u></b> This results in additional needs each year.	Very few schools in the history of Nebraska have experienced enrollment growth like Bennington.
<b>Levy Reductions</b>	The added money from Foundation Aid and SPED funding should lower property tax levies.	<b><u>BPS will be lowering the GF/SBF levy by 5 cents or 4.76%</u></b> of the GF/SBF limit. Including Bond Funds <b><u>the total levy will reduce 7 cents or 4.74%.</u></b>	Metro area school districts are lowering their levy anywhere from 2-15 cents based on how each of the components above impact their district.

# Growth by the Numbers

## 4.30% Growth - 4,198 as of 9/1/23

- (AP-355, BE-389, HE-458, PC-548, ST-369, BMS-431, BSMS-597, HS-1,051)
- BPS is estimated to be over 5,000 K-12 students by 2027-28

## 513 BPS Employees

Certified Staff = 358 & Support = 155

20% of Certified Staff has 4 or less yrs.

56% of Certified Staff has 10 or more yrs.



# Property Taxes - \$24,265,997

- **General Fund: \$24,265,997**

(minus 1% Treasurer fee)

- \$2,163,886 Increase
- This is 39.47% of the total General Fund Revenue

- **Special Building Fund:**

**\$1,223,469** (minus 1% fee)

- Douglas County 97%
- Washington County 3%

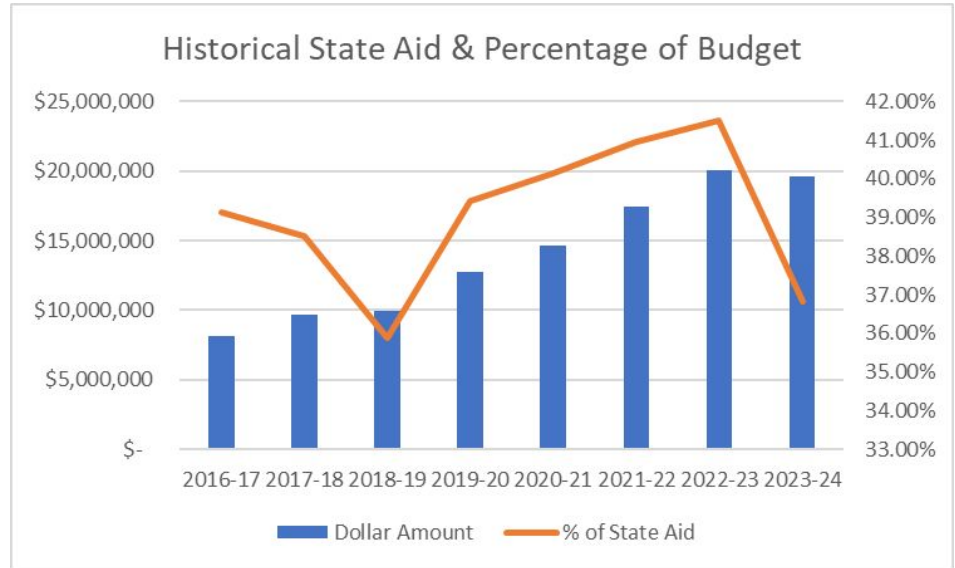
Year	District Assessed Valuation	Yearly Increase	Percentage Increase
2019	\$1,499,101,306	\$176,185,936	13.32%
2020	\$1,671,808,941	\$172,707,635	11.52%
2021	\$1,875,308,934	\$203,499,933	12.17%
2022	\$2,128,252,110	\$252,943,176	13.49%
2023	\$2,574,696,225	\$446,444,115	20.97%
2014-23	Ten year average	\$174,745,221	12.05%
2014-18	Previous 5 Yr. Avg.	\$98,594,270	9.81%
2019-23	Last 5 Year Avg.	\$250,356,171	14.30%

Property Breakdown (2022): Residential/Central Assessed – 92.32%, Ag Land – 3.75%, Comm. and Indust. – 3.93%



# State Aid - \$19,595,537

- **\$476,470 DECREASE**
  - First Decrease in 10 Years
    - New School Adjustment (\$1.2m)
    - Valuation Increase (13.4%)
- This is 36.84% of the total estimated General Fund Revenue
  - Lowest % in 2007-08 at 7.87%



# Other Actual Receipts - \$10,784,297

- \$2,850,870 Increase (Est.)
- This is 20.27% of the total General Fund Revenue
- New SPED funding accounts for over \$1,700,000 of increase.
- ESSER Funding accounts for \$624,989 of increase.

## Examples of OAR:

Special Education:	\$3,476,992
Motor Vehicle Taxes:	\$2,800,000
Federal Receipts:	\$1,699,826
Property and Personal Tax Credit:	\$ 970,644
State Apportionment:	\$ 750,000
Homestead Exemption:	\$ 400,000
Transportation Fees:	\$ 175,000
County Fines & License Fees:	\$ 100,000
Public Power District Sales Tax:	\$ 40,000
Tuition:	\$ 35,000
Local License Fees:	\$ 500



# Budget Limits and Levy

## General Fund Limitations:

- General Fund Revenue
  - \$53,189,871
- State Expenditure Limitations
  - \$52,751,851

## LEVY

- General Fund 0.952000
  - Building Fund 0.048000
  - Bond Fund 0.340000
  - QCPUF Fund 0.018000
- Combined Levy = 1.358000

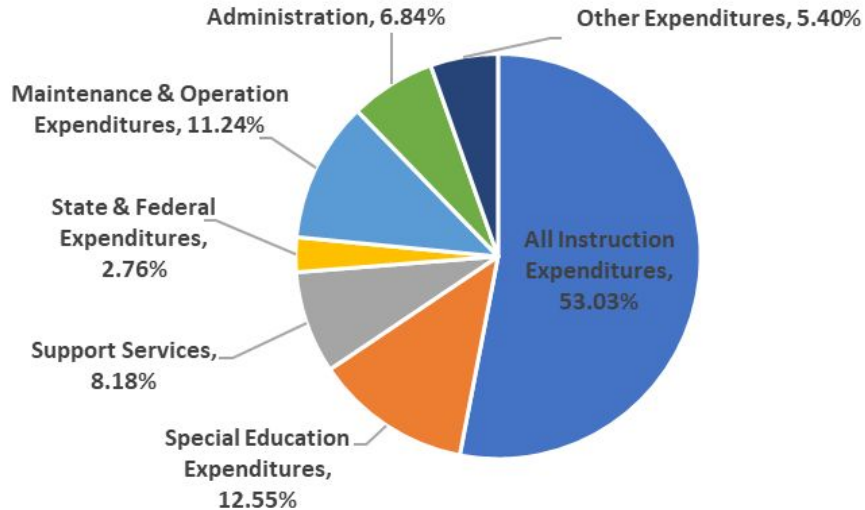


- Levy Reduction of 6.76 Cents
- This will be the lowest the levy has been in 12 years!
- General Fund will be levying \$0.95 which is the lowest in over 17 years!

# General Fund Budget - \$ 51,615,779

- 2023-24 Actual GF Budget of \$51,615,779
  - 2023-24 State GF Budget of \$52,751,851
- ✓ Personnel costs make up 77.11% of the total budget
  - ✓ Personnel Increase is estimated at \$3,724,317 or appx. 96.9% of total increase
  - ✓ Lowered elem. class size (19.4) for fourth straight year
  - ✓ Payroll increase of 10.26%, and Accounts Payable increase of 1.00%.
  - ✓ \$2,990 under the state average for per pupil costs which equates to 79% of State Avg.
    - LOWEST IN STATE OF NEBRASKA

## Financial Expenditures for 2023-24



Category	Percent	Funds
All Instruction Expenditures	53.03%	\$ 27,373,150
Special Education Expenditures	12.55%	\$ 6,478,324
Support Services	8.18%	\$ 4,221,059
State & Federal Expenditures	2.76%	\$ 1,425,564
Maintenance & Operation Expenditures	11.24%	\$ 5,804,138
Administration	6.84%	\$ 3,528,281
Other Expenditures	5.40%	\$ 2,785,263
Total Actual GF Budget		\$ 51,615,779

# Bond Fund

- Six Bond Issues since 2003 - \$198 million
- Since 2004 the levy has ranged from 0.26 to current 0.38
- Bond Fund Levy is \$.358 (**1.8 cent DECREASE**) generating \$9,217,412
- The District has approximately \$172,630,000 in outstanding debt at this time
- A 6.5% valuation increase per year over next four years is needed to make the 2027-28 bond payment.



# Joint Public Hearing - Pink Postcard

## Joint Public Hearing

- Applies to counties, cities, school districts, and community colleges
- Entity must participate in a joint public hearing if budget exceeds two percent or more in growth rate excluding bonds
- The representative of each political subdivision must give a brief presentation at the hearing
- The county assessor will mail postcards on Sept 14th
- An elected official must also be in attendance

## Pink Postcard Questions

### **Why did I receive this postcard in the mail?**

- Answer: Districts that increase their tax-asking by more than two percent, plus growth, are mandated to attend a Joint Public Hearing with all other political subdivisions that also increased their tax-asking by more than two percent. The public has a chance to provide comment to all political subdivisions at the meeting.

### **Does this postcard mean my taxes are going up?**

- Answer: The postcard means the property tax-asking requested by the district went up more than two percent.

### **Did you say the levy was going down? Why did I get this postcard?**

- Answer: While the BPS levy is going from \$1.42 to \$1.35 (down seven cents), the district tax-asking is increasing compared to the previous year because of the valuation increases within the school district boundaries.

# Questions?

