



ELKHORN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025-2026 BUDGET

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

Elkhorn Public Schools - Taxing Funds

GENERAL FUND - Finances all services of the district including instructional, operations & maintenance. Revenues come from taxes, state & federal grants, other local sources.

BUILDING FUND - Finances acquisition of land, site & building improvements.

BOND FUND - Records tax receipts and the payment of bond principal and interest, and other related costs.

Other Non-Taxing Funds:

- *Activities Fund* - accounts for revenues and expenses for student organizations, interschool athletics, and other self-supporting (or partially self-supporting) school activities.
- *Depreciation Fund* - used to reserve monies from the general fund to facilitate eventual purchases of costly capital outlays.
- *Employee Benefit Fund* - monies withheld from staff paychecks for contributions to flexible benefit accounts (dependent care & medical).
- *School Nutrition Fund* - records all operations for School Lunch, Breakfast, and other Meal programs. Revenue sources are participant fees, state and federal reimbursements.
- *Student Fee Fund* - fees collected for participation in extracurricular activities or other educational fees (such as computer device coverage and repairs)

SOURCES OF DISTRICT REVENUE

Fiscal Year 24-25

Local Taxes:

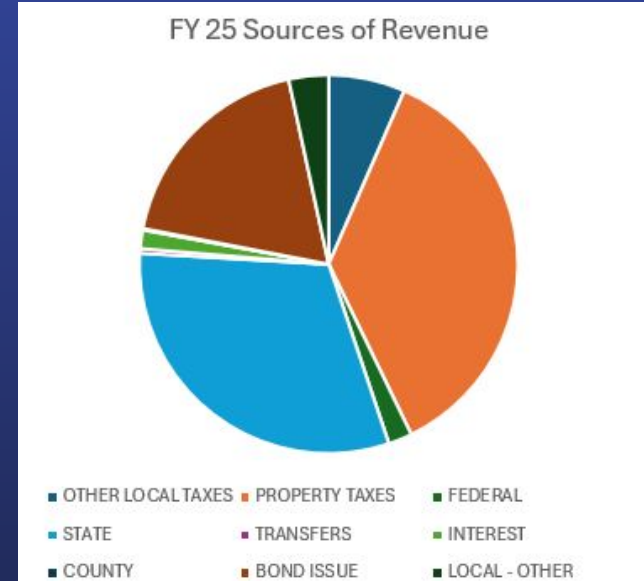
Motor Vehicle Taxes, Property Tax Credit/ Ag State, Pro-Rate Motor Vehicle, Public Power Dist Sales Tax, Property Tax Levy

Other Local Sources:

Private Contributions, Construction-related Refunds, Extra Curricular Fees, Lunch Program Sales Receipts. Bond financing sources of \$42.88 Million.

State Sources:

State Aid (14.55% of General Fund Revenues), Property Tax Credit (20% of Gen Fund Revenues), State Apportionment, SPED Reimbursements (10.4% of General Fund Revenues), and Other Reimbursements



Federal Sources:

School Nutrition Reimbursement, Grant Funding (IDEA, TITLE, ESSER), Medicaid Reimbursements

BREAKDOWN OF GENERAL FUND EXPENSES

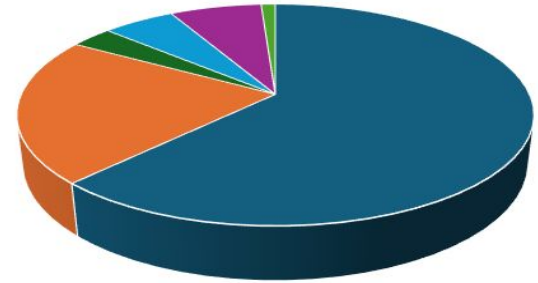
Fiscal Year 24-25

Salaries & Benefits: combines for 83.5% of General Fund Expense. A 9.4% increase (\$7.6 million) in wages relates to more filled positions & the negotiated 5% increase in Salary Packages for FY 25 which shifted more district dollars to salaries instead of health insurance. Certified Staff saw an increase in wages of 9.99% Benefits increased .49% largely due to the decrease in employer health insurance contributions.

Supplies: \$1.2 Million increase primarily for new Elem Reading Curriculum purchase which was on the rotation for FY 25 purchase including web/ cloud based softwares, instructional supplies, & books.

Contracted Professional & Technical Services: \$944,000 Increase Common Ground Pool, Arbor Family Counseling, Visiting Nurse, Occupational and Physical Therapy, HVAC, Security Equipment & Monitoring, 4 year Tech Agreement, Fiber Optic Mapping and Install, reduced service dollars from ESU means District funds ACT, Map Growth, Fastbridge, Financial Software costs, etc.

FY 25 General Fund Expenses



- Salaries & Wages
- Employee Benefits
- Contracted Prof & Tech Services
- Transportation & Other Purch Svcs (includes Utilities)
- Supplies
- Prop Related Exp, Transfers & Misc

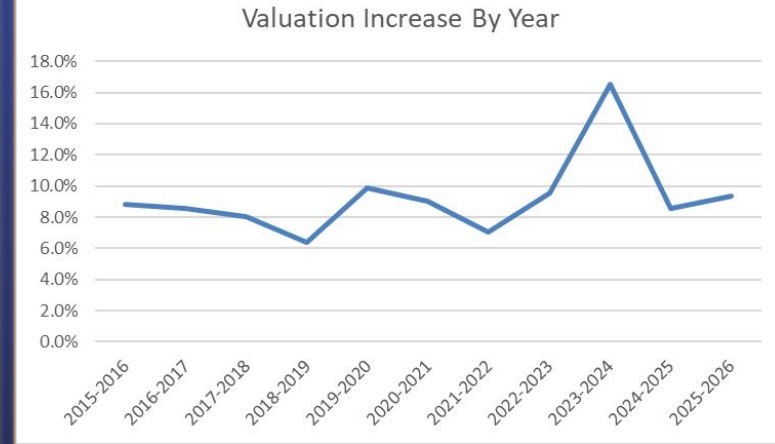
Transportation & Other Purchased Services: increased \$414,500 (12%) with 25% of that in property & liability insurance, and 16% in transportation.

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET

Budget for General Fund Revenues - Increase of 5.2% for all revenues before the Property Tax Levy due to SPED reimbursements.

KEY FACTORS:

- Information from outside sources such as NDE, plus a review of prior year trends and actual receipts
- Certified Valuation for Elkhorn School District increased 9.4% (new real growth of 3.29%)
- State Aid Certification for FY 26 increasing \$542,868
- General Fund Levy proposed is \$.69 (down 1 cent)
- Plan for drop in Motor Vehicle Tax revenue beginning 1/1/26



FOCUSED SPENDING



Per Pupil Expenditures ●
\$12,999
 Peers ● State ●
 \$14,920 \$15,899

Elkhorn Invests in Quality Education: #1 resource is the PEOPLE impacting students every day. Roughly \$119 million of the FY 25 Budget was spent on Salaries & Benefits for approximately 1,690 staff members - 921 certified staff (teachers/ counselors/ speech, OT/ PT, etc)

FY 25: 23 new FTE's were added (cert staff), more Teacher Assistant positions were filled
FY 26: 31 new FTE's were added (cert staff), opened 2 new elementary buildings, addition at VVMS

	<u>22-23</u>	<u>23-24</u>	<u>24-25</u>	<u>25-26</u>
Starting Teaching Salary	\$40,286	\$41,107	\$45,194	\$47,267
Average Teaching Salary	\$61,980	\$63,940	\$68,498	
Highest Teaching Salary	\$81,318	\$82,975	\$87,967	\$92,003

(MA+36 hrs, Doctorate, Specialist and at least 23 yrs)

Mandatory 9.78% pension deduction lowered to 8% in July 2025, for all staff who work 20 hours or more per week, District is required to contribute 101% to the pension fund. Rate reassessed annually beginning in 2025.

FY 25 Enrollment: 12 Elementaries served 5,501 students; 5 Middle Schools served 2,840 students; 3 High Schools served 3,235 students. Total District Enrollment has grown from 9,857 students in FY 19 to 11,576 in FY 25.

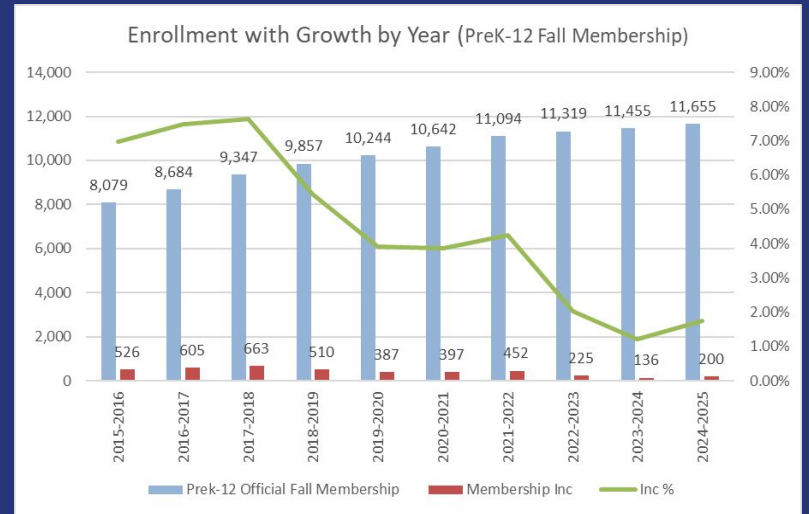
Elkhorn Public Schools Expenditure Cost per Pupil **FY 23-24** \$12,999
Nebraska State Average Expenditure Cost per Pupil **FY 23-24** \$15,899

GENERAL FUND EXPENSE BUDGET

Budget for General Fund expenses reflects an increase of 5.99%

KEY FACTORS:

- Add staffing for 2 new elementary buildings and to address areas of need (8 Reg Ed teachers, 2 new Special Ed teachers, 3 special services staff (Psych, Speech Path, Occ Therapist), 2 ELL teachers)
- Budget based on anticipated student growth of 4%
- Negotiated agreement provides for a 4.5% increase in salary & benefits for certified staff. Of the 101 new teacher hires for FY 26, only 2 are first year teachers, more than 76% of those new hires have a masters degree or higher.
- Added costs for utilities and insurance for new buildings



BUILDING FUND BUDGET

FY 26 Expense Budget to decrease from \$94,350,000 to \$40,5528,000

Proposed Special Building Fund Levy decreases from \$.021449 to \$.00152

Total Budget includes Construction Fund expenditures financed by bond proceeds as approved by voters.

PROJECTS TO POTENTIALLY Finance with Special Building Fund (non-bond):

HVAC Replacements / Repairs

Roofing

Concrete Projects throughout district

Flooring work

FY 26 Beginning Fund Balance is \$5.68 million for future project needs

Special Building Fund Expenses (non-Bond financed)

Just under \$1 million spent for property related needs in FY 24-25

EMS Elevator Repairs

EHS & Grandview Track Repairs

HVAC Repairs

Roof Repairs

Flooring Repairs/ Replacement

Lighting Repairs/ Upgrades

District plans to utilize federal rebates on geothermal repairs and installations to fund major repairs/ replacements in the next year

BOND FUND BUDGET

Budget reflects Bond Principal & Interest payments and Bond-related Fees

Proposed Levy decreasing another \$.03 for FY 26

- **Principal and Interest payments required from the Bond Fund in Fiscal Year 2026 total \$32,573,154. Budget also allows for possible refinance options which would save the District and taxpayers.**
- **The Bond Levy decreases by \$.03 in FY 26. The levy rate for FY 26 is proposed at \$.256361 compared to prior year at \$.289538**

OTHER FUNDS (non-taxing)

The budget allows for all potential expenses to avoid amending the budget due to unforeseen events

- **Activity Fund**- accounts for income & expenses for student organizations and athletics. Revenues primarily from families purchasing activity passes, gate receipts, etc. Budgeted expense set at \$3.8 million with cash reserve of \$500,000. Allows for sufficient spending authority to accommodate revenues and expenses that could be incurred (state qualifying teams would impact income and expenses)
- **Depreciation Fund** - records monies set aside from the general fund over a period of time to finance large-ticket replacement projects. Annual budget reflects the potential to spend all monies in the fund, though they may not all be spent in the current fiscal year. Prior years expenses have included vehicles, buses, technology replacement, mechanical system replacement, etc. Budgeted expense set at \$1.5 million.

OTHER FUNDS (non-taxing)

- ***Employee Benefit Fund*** - This fund sets aside the monies withheld from employee pay, that then goes into the flexible spending account program (medical and child care expenses). Expenses reflect claims for reimbursement which are coordinated by a third party administrator, Omnify. The budgeted expense is set at \$750,000, and there is no budgeted cash reserve since funds are set aside and then used for the reimbursement.
- ***School Nutrition Fund*** - records income and expenses for the breakfast and lunch programs. Revenues primarily come from family payments, and state/ federal reimbursements. Budgeted expense is \$8,100,000 with a cash reserve of \$900,000 (reflects payments received from families in July & August for the new school year).
- ***Student Fee Fund*** - records income and expenses related to student participation in activities as outlined in the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Revenue sources include participation fees & computer device protection. Budgeted expense is set at \$550,877 (primarily reflects athletic participation fees used to fund athletic competition expenses over the course of the year, as well as the device protection that is used to fund the expense of those repairs and replacements. Families who qualify for free or reduced price meals may request a waiver of these fees.

Budget Breakdown & Comparison for FY 26

Budgeted Expense & Cash Reserve for 24-25 compared to 25-26

Budgeted Expense by Fund:

	24-25	25-26
General	\$148,047,799	\$156,909,140
Building	\$ 94,350,000	\$ 40,528,000
Bond	\$ 96,134,913	\$ 97,973,154
Depreciation	\$ 2,315,193	\$ 1,505,512
Employee Benefit	\$ 850,000	\$ 750,000
Activities	\$ 3,850,000	\$ 3,850,000
School Nutrition	\$ 7,787,500	\$ 8,140,000
Student Fee	\$ 595,000	\$ 550,877

Cash Reserve by Fund:

	24-25	25-26
	\$27,294,366	\$29,876,316
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$27,833,713	\$30,722,635
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ -	\$ -
	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
	\$ 950,000	\$ 900,000
	\$ 100,000	\$ -

Levy Breakdown & Comparison for FY 26

Combined Anticipated Levy comparison

Levy Rates By Fund:

	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
General	\$1.022626	\$.899579	\$.700297	\$.693385
Building	\$0.027374	\$.010137	\$.021449	\$.001520
Bond	<u>\$0.333066</u>	<u>\$.299985</u>	<u>\$.289499</u>	<u>\$.256361</u>
TOTAL	\$1.383066	\$1.209701	\$1.011245	\$0.951266

Property Tax Request:

	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26
	\$87,462,625	\$89,641,350	\$75,746,419	\$82,016,292
	\$ 2,341,212	\$ 1,010,101	\$2,320,000	\$ 179,798
	\$28,486,306	\$29,892,929	\$31,313,131	\$30,303,030

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET SUMMARY

Elkhorn Public Schools (28-0010) in Douglas County, Nebraska

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-501 to 13-513, that the governing body will meet on the 8th day of September, 2025 at 6:00 o'clock, PM, at Elkhorn Public Schools, 20650 Glenn St, Elkhorn, NE 68022 for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the following proposed budget and to consider amendments relative thereto. The budget detail is available at the office of the Clerk/Secretary during regular business hours. For more information on statewide receipts and expenditures, and to compare cost per pupil and performance to other school districts, go to: <https://nep.education.ne.gov>

FUNDS	Actual Disbursements & Transfers	Actual/Estimated Disbursements & Transfers	Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers	Necessary Cash Reserve (4)	Total Available Resources Before Property Taxes (5)	Total Personal and Real Property Tax Requirement (7)
	2023-2024 (1)	2024-2025 (2)	2025-2026 (3)			
General	\$ 133,260,676.00	\$ 148,040,581.00	\$ 156,909,140.00	\$ 29,876,316.00	\$ 105,589,326.00	\$ 82,016,292.00
Depreciation	\$ 2,918,156.00	\$ 2,315,193.00	\$ 1,505,512.00		\$ 1,505,512.00	
Employee Benefit	\$ 496,706.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 750,000.00	\$ -	\$ 750,000.00	
Contingency	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Activities	\$ 2,656,968.00	\$ 3,500,000.00	\$ 3,850,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 4,350,000.00	
School Nutrition	\$ 6,848,071.00	\$ 7,161,500.00	\$ 8,140,000.00	\$ 900,000.00	\$ 9,040,000.00	
Bond	\$ 49,444,393.00	\$ 30,705,756.00	\$ 97,973,154.00	\$ 30,722,635.00	\$ 98,695,789.00	\$ 30,303,030.00
Special Building	\$ 26,910,118.00	\$ 78,269,075.00	\$ 40,528,000.00		\$ 40,350,000.00	\$ 179,798.00
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cooperative	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Student Fee	\$ 343,196.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 550,877.00	\$ -	\$ 550,877.00	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
TOTALS	\$ 222,878,284.00	\$ 270,692,105.00	\$ 310,206,683.00	\$ 61,998,951.00	\$ 260,831,504.00	\$ 112,499,120.00

	Bond Purposes	Non-Bond Purposes	Total
Breakdown of Property Tax	\$ 30,303,030.00	\$ 82,196,090.00	\$ 112,499,120.00

Notice of Special Hearing To Set Final Tax Request

Elkhorn Public Schools (28-0010) in Douglas County, Nebraska

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Section 77-1632, that the governing body will meet on the 8th day of, September 2025 at 6:00 o'clock P.M., at Elkhorn Public Schools, 20650 Glenn St, Elkhorn, NE 68022 for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request.

	2024-2025	2025-2026	Change
Property Valuations	10,816,329,135	11,828,386,370	9%

2024-2025 Budget Information

2025-2026 Budget Information

Fund	2024-2025 Operating Budget	2024-2025 Property Tax Request	2024 Tax Rate	Property Tax Rate (2023-2024 Request Divided By 2024 Valuation)	2025-2026 Operating Budget	2025-2026 Proposed Property Tax Request	Proposed 2025 Tax Rate	Change in Tax Rate	Change in Operating Budget
General Fund	148,047,799.00	75,746,418.77	0.700297	0.640378	156,909,140.00	82,016,292.00	0.693385	-1%	6%
Bond Fund(s) K - 12 PRE 2022	96,134,913.01	28,280,000.00	0.281457	0.239086	97,973,154.00	23,972,913.00	0.202673	-22%	2%
Bond Fund(s) K - 12 POST 2022		3,033,131.00	0.028081	0.025643		6,330,117.00	0.053688	91%	0
Bond Fund(s) 9 - 12			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Bond Fund _____			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Special Building Fund	94,350,000.00	2,320,000.00	0.021449	0.019614	40,528,000.00	179,798.00	0.001520	-93%	-57%
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund K - 12			0.000000	0.000000	-	-	0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund K - 8			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund 9 - 12			0.000000	0.000000			0.000000	#DIV/0!	0
Total	338,532,712.01	109,379,549.77	1.011245	0.924721	295,410,294.00	112,499,120.00	0.951266	-6%	-13%

RESOLUTION SETTING THE PROPERTY TAX REQUEST
for Douglas County School District 0010 (Elkhorn Public Schools)

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1632 and 77-1633 provides that the Governing Body of Elkhorn Public Schools passes by a majority vote a resolution or ordinance setting the tax request; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Governing Body of Elkhorn Public Schools resolves that:

1. The 2025-2026 property tax request be set at:

General Fund:	\$ 82,016,292.00
Bond Fund:	\$ 30,303,030.00
Special Building Fund:	\$ 179,798.00

2. The total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 9.36 percent.
3. The tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property would be 0.924721 per \$100 of assessed value.
4. Elkhorn Public Schools proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be 0.951266 per \$100 of assessed value.
5. Based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of Elkhorn Public Schools will increase (decrease) last year's budget by -12.35 percent.
6. A copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the County Clerk on or before October 15, 2025.



ELKHORN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS