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# Operating Levy Work Session and Question and Answer

Special Guest: Michael Hart of PTMA

March 23, 2026

**Superintendent Robert Routh**

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# Superintendent's Information from Tonight

- Located at the School's Website - [scschools.net](https://scschools.net)
- March 9th Letter - "Planning for a Stable Future"



## QUICK LINKS



- Other Operating Levy Updates
- Operating Levy Handout



## Community Information and Updates

School Finance Information

Superintendent Update

2026 Future Operating Levy Referendum

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# Superintendent's Information from Tonight: Five-Year Fund Forecast

- 5-Year Fund Forecast →

The screenshot shows a website interface with a 'Quick Links' sidebar on the left and a main content area on the right. The 'Quick Links' sidebar contains the following items: Welcome, Planning for a Stable Future: Future Operating Levy Referendum - March 9, 2026, Operating Levy Referendum November 2026, Five Year General Fund Forecast, Superintendent Board Meeting Notes, Superintendent Board Report, Tracking Federal Investments in Your Community, Saints Sentinel Fall 2025, and Staff Login. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail at the top: District > District Office > Superintendent > Five Year General Fund Forecast. A blue arrow points from the text 'Path from the homepage' to the 'Superintendent' link in the breadcrumb trail. Below the breadcrumb trail, the main heading reads 'Five Year General Fund Forecast - February, 2025'. At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the heading 'Five Year General Fund Forecast' and the text 'Five Year General Fund Forecast - February 2026'.

**Quick Links**

- Welcome
- Planning for a Stable Future: Future Operating Levy Referendum - March 9, 2026
- Operating Levy Referendum November 2026
- Five Year General Fund Forecast
- Superintendent Board Meeting Notes
- Superintendent Board Report
- Tracking Federal Investments in Your Community
- Saints Sentinel Fall 2025
- Staff Login

District > District Office > Superintendent > Five Year General Fund Forecast

Path from the homepage

**Five Year General Fund Forecast - February, 2025**

**Five Year General Fund Forecast**

Five Year General Fund Forecast - February 2026

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# Revenue Assumptions

- Enrollment Projections K-12: FY26
  - 90.02% of local residential students attend St. Charles
  - St. Charles's last large class is graduating this year at 91-students.
  - **High School** → the remaining grade levels average 69-students.
  - **Elementary** → the classes average 68-students with one grade as an outlier of 85-students.
  - The average K-12 for FY26 = 70-students per grade level.
    - For FY27, the projected average = 67-students
      - three students times 13-grades = 39-students just based on the average difference

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# Revenue Assumptions

- Enrollment Projections K-12 -
  - Enrollment Projections - **MDE Reports St. Charles “dollars per ADM served” = \$10,352**
    - PSEO - St. Charles is averaging about 12-ADM per year (numbers below do not reflect that calculation)
    - Last year: 24-25 = 937
    - This year: 25-26 = 913 (MARSS as of Jan. 2026); about *24-students x \$10,000 (easy math) = \$240,000 less in revenue*
      - *FY26 budget number = 908*
    - Next year: 26-27 = 882 (decline of 31-ADM) = \$310,000 less in revenue
      - *FY27 budget projected number = 870 (minimally includes PSEO)*
    - \$550,000 LESS revenue in two budget years;
  - It is not just the state formula impacted by less students. Several Revenue streams are impacted including approved Voter-approved Levies.





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Census Data 2026 = January 9, 2026

Age 0 = 69

Age 2 = 94

Age 5 = 62

Age 1 = 68

Age 3 = 78

Age 6 = 52

Age 4 = 89

# Enrollment History and Projection

## ADM (SMS and P-S Average)



FY25 to FY26: - 30 ADM

FY26 to FY27: - 32 ADM

FY27 to FY31: - 93 ADM

## District Office Projected ADM



FY25 to FY26: - 25 ADM

FY26 to FY27: - 30 ADM

FY27 to FY31: - 26 ADM

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# Expenditure Challenges

- Unfunded Mandates and additional expenditures
  - Summer Unemployment Hourly Staff - no state funding source or able to levy
    - FY26 = \$40k; FY25 = \$44k; FY24 = \$15k (fully reimbursed);
    - 2027 new governor and legislature problem moving forward, no plan for now
  - Employer Contribution to TRA (8.75% to 9.81%): FY26 = \$47k in addition to FY25
  - Paid Family Medical Leave Act - \$36,000 for the employer contribution

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# Expenditure Challenges

- Negotiated Increases in Salary/Benefits across the system every two years - increases every year regardless
- Compensatory Revenue → -(\$60,000)
- Commercial Insurance (Property and Workers Comp) increases - Average of FY21 to FY23 = \$105,068
  - FY24 = \$133,925 (27% increase or \$28,857)
  - FY25 = \$150,544 (12% increase or \$16,619)
  - FY26 = \$165,000 budgeted
  - FY27 = \$182,000 is anticipated budget

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# Overall Picture - District is Right-sizing

Revenue		Expenditures		Fund Balance - unassigned		Enrollment	
• FY21	\$11,431,606	• FY21	\$11,208,313	• FY21	\$633,730	• FY21	1007
• FY22	\$11,456,340	• FY22	\$12,532,332	• FY22	\$(255,234)	• FY22	1008
• FY23	\$12,623,097	• FY23	\$13,053,021	• FY23	\$(443,219)	• FY23	984
• FY24	\$12,241,005	• FY24	\$11,738,200	• FY24	\$242,049	• FY24	959
• FY25	\$12,459,338	• FY25	\$11,768,880	• FY25	\$749,017	• FY25	937
• FY26	\$12,151,268	• FY26	\$11,986,372	• FY26	\$1,070,302	• FY26	907

- *From FY22 to FY23 the district deficit spent. ESSER Funds aided the revenue but expenditures exceeded - \$1.5 million with no additional revenue to replace it.*
- *FY24 to FY26 - the expenditures are stable while enrollment declined by 52-students.*
- *The reductions came from people (FTE) and programs. Because of an additional reduction in student enrollment (30-students), FY27 is projecting more than \$300,000 in less revenue.*
- *An Operating Levy will not fix but will aid in maintenance.*





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Thank you so much for educating yourself on the financial future for St. Charles and public education in Minnesota.

*St. Charles students will continue to INVOLVE, CHALLENGE, and ACHIEVE. The St. Charles Community is very proud of its schools and students. Our focus is that we will be a beacon for high achievement and well-grounded students far into the future.*

Thank you.

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