

# Hortonville Polar Bear

# DEN DISPATCH

SPRING 2024



## GOOD NEWS FROM HASD

Welcome to the Den Dispatch, our newest way to share information about our schools and our district with you, our HASD Community.

We are proud of the incredible things we have going on in our schools every day to ensure every student learns at the highest level, and we are excited to share these things with you. We invite you to celebrate with us.

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- [H District Administrator's Message](#)
- [H Learning and Points of Pride at HASD](#)
- [H What is Fiscal Responsibility?](#)
- [H Understanding School Finance](#)
- [H Celebrating Success in our Schools](#)
- [H A Little About School Report Cards](#)

Join us in celebrating the achievements of our students and supporting their endeavors both inside and outside the classroom.

## STRONG SCHOOLS BUILD STRONGER COMMUNITIES

The Hortonville Area School District continues to grow, both in enrollment and opportunities for students in grades 4K-12 from Hortonville and its surrounding communities of Greenville, Ellington, Dale, Center, Hortonville, Liberty and Grand Chute.

We pride ourselves in providing an exceptional education to all students, and we respect and honor the role that this plays in continuing to build this strong community in which we live, work, and learn. From our youngest learners to our graduating seniors, we provide opportunities you can't find elsewhere in the Fox Valley.

Our mission expands well beyond classroom walls and school buildings, so we are grateful to be a part of this thriving, supportive community. We value the way you support students. We value your opinions and guidance. And through our collective efforts, we will continue to build the next generation of productive, inspired members of our community. Roll Bears!



**FROM THE DESK OF**

*Todd Timm*

It's hard to believe we've come to the end of another academic year in the Hortonville Area School District.

I'm both honored and humbled to be able to serve this incredible district, and it's with pleasure and enthusiasm that I say thank you for your help in supporting the success of our students, our staff, and our schools.

I'm excited to start using this platform to share with all of you highlights from our district — achievements, initiatives, successes and growth areas — in order to improve your vision into our district and our school buildings, as well as into the work we do to help students build successful futures.

I'd ask that you take specific note of some of the conversations in this edition of the Den Dispatch that give a little additional insight into our commitment as a district to high achievement, student involvement and fiscal responsibility.

I also invite you to join us in celebrating the achievements of our students and supporting their endeavors both inside and outside the classroom. Your involvement with our district, whether through volunteering, attending school events, or simply offering words of encouragement, is instrumental in shaping our district and our community.

Thank you, as always, for your unwavering support and for your passion for helping our community thrive.

Together, we will continue to inspire excellence, nurture talent, empower every student to succeed, and, of course, ensure every student learns at the highest level.

**Warm regards,**

*Todd Timm*

District Administrator  
Hortonville Area School District



# LEARNING IN HORTONVILLE SCHOOLS

Hortonville Area School District continues to evolve to meet the needs of our diverse and growing student body to prepare them for success in our ever-changing world. **That is no easy feat.**

Guided by a rigorous curriculum and supported by our exceptional faculty, our students consistently excel in standardized assessments, college admissions, and youth apprenticeship programming, as well as several of the other measurements we use to evaluate success. We take immense pride in the achievements of our students, whose dedication and hard work continue to inspire us year after year.

HASD is committed to continuous improvement to enhance learning experiences and find new ways to challenge and empower every student to reach their full potential. We place strong emphasis on social-emotional learning to support the holistic development of all HASD students, and our culturally-responsive teaching practices ensure all students feel valued and included, increasing their potential to learn and to thrive.

## OUR COMMUNITY ENSURES EVERY STUDENT LEARNS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL.

# Hortonville Area School District

## BY THE NUMBERS



**98.6%**

GRADUATION RATE



**15:1**

TEACHER-STUDENT RATIO



**43**

AP/CAPP/FVTC COURSES

**MORE THAN \$1 MILLION**

IN LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS GRANTED TO SENIORS



**464**

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN CTE COURSEWORK

	H	WI
ELA Proficiency	51.4%	39.2%
Math Proficiency	53.9%	41.1%
ACT Average	20.1	19.3
AP Participation	39%	16%

EXCEEDING STATE PROFICIENCY AND ACHIEVEMENT AVERAGES



**36**

SERVICE LEARNING HOURS REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION



23 SUMMA CUM LAUDE  
29 MAGNA CUM LAUDE  
47 CUM LAUDE

ACADEMIC SCHOLARS



**30**

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS



**62**

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES



**90%**

EXTRA-CURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT (6-12)

# TAKING CARE OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS



## FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AT HASD

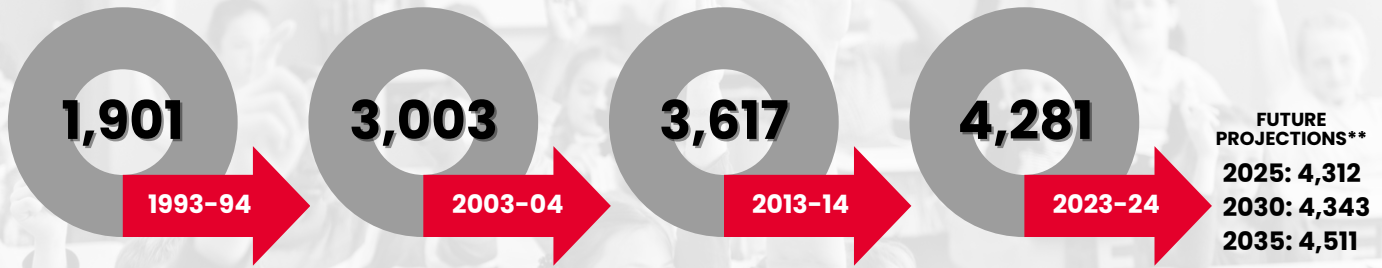
At the heart of the work we do to educate the children in the Hortonville Area School District is an understanding of and a commitment to fiscal responsibility as it relates to taxpayer dollars. HASD aims to ensure that every dollar entrusted to us by our community is used judiciously to support the educational needs of district students and programs.

**HASD is a low-revenue district.** This means that the money we receive from state and local funding is less than that of other comparably-sized districts throughout the state. Additionally, since 2009, the amount of money that the district receives from the state has lagged behind inflation by approximately \$3,200 per student; in Hortonville, that equates to nearly \$14 million.

As ESSER III (federal COVID relief) funds expire in September 2024, districts across the state are facing even larger deficits during the 2024-25 school year and beyond, forcing them to extend their asks to the community through operational referendum. In fact, in 2023, 249 of the 421 school districts in Wisconsin were under an operational referendum to extend the state-imposed revenue limits, raising local taxes in order to pay their operating expenses and balance their budgets. We expect that number to increase.

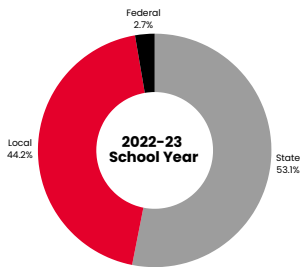
Through the diligent work of our business team and the Board of Education, prudent financial management, and strategic planning, HASD has been able to keep per-pupil spending in our district low, helping decrease the ask on our community by maintaining a low mill rate, while upholding the standards of excellence and achievement that have come to define our district.

## INCREASING ENROLLMENT\*



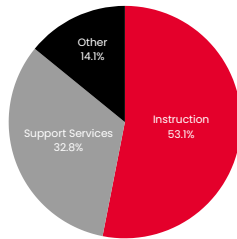
Enrollment numbers as reported by Wisconsin's Information System for Education Data Dashboard (WISEdash)  
 \*\*Projections reported in December 2023 Community Growth & Projections Report presented to HASD by MDROffers Consulting.

## REVENUE SOURCES



The majority of HASD revenue is received through state and local sources. Some federal funding is received as part of federally-supported projects like the Every Student Succeeds Act, Title I, and Carl Perkins.

## EXPENDITURES

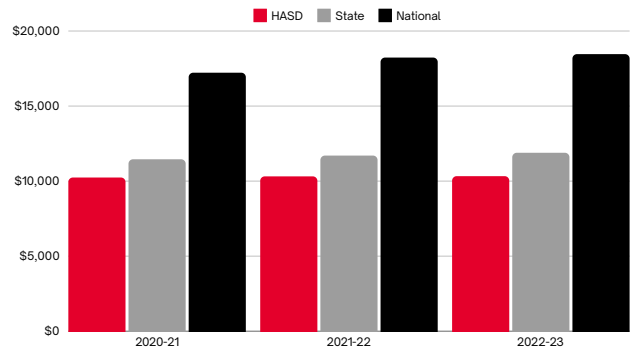


**2022-23 BUDGET: \$52.54 MILLION**

Expenditures are categorized by a state-mandated accounting system, which presents a uniform financial and accounting structure for public schools in Wisconsin.

## HASD PER PUPIL REVENUE

Hortonville Area School District per pupil revenue falls significantly behind state and national averages. This means we receive less funding per student than other districts throughout the state, and Wisconsin schools fall well below the national average as well.

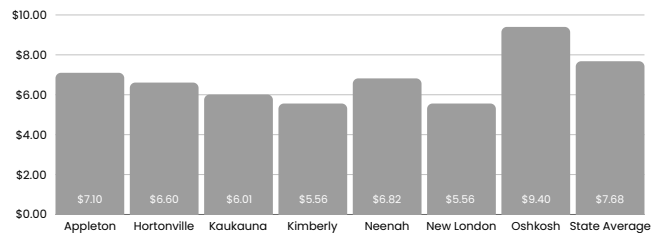


## HASD HISTORICAL MILL RATE



The HASD mill rate has continued to drop for the last nine years straight.

## CURRENT MILL RATE COMPARISON



Our mill rate is well below the state average of \$8.64, and continues to be among the lowest in the Fox Valley.

We will continue to monitor and be transparent about funding changes and how they impact the HASD budget. Our intention is to continue investing in innovative programs, state-of-the-art facilities and top-notch educators, as we believe they are instrumental in creating environments for academic success of all students.

Thanks to community support, our 2021 facilities referendum allowed us to update Greenville Middle School and Hortonville High School to meet the needs associated with increasing enrollment and to uphold the facilities expectations of our district.

We are grateful for the unwavering support of the residents of the Hortonville Area School District, and are passionate about being good stewards of taxpayer funds while providing the best opportunities for all students in our schools.

# Celebrating Success

## COMPETING AT A NEW LEVEL

The 2023-24 school year saw an incredible opportunity for Hortonville High School with the creation of the Adapted Sports League (ASL): indoor soccer, floor hockey and baseball for 7th-12th grade students with differing abilities. The program allows students with special needs to experience competitive sports and earn a letter in the same way our varsity athletes do, traveling and competing against other regional schools with similar programs.

Ten students participated in the program this year and it has been a phenomenal experience for them. We look forward to running and expanding the program in the years ahead.



## MAKING CONNECTIONS

This year, North Greenville Elementary School implemented a monthly "Northern Connections" event, where students and staff connect with an assigned "school family" group to promote social-emotional learning and relationship-building.

Students loved completing crafts, reading, and simply spending time together. Older students connected with and supported younger learners.

NGES is excited to continue to build these connections into next school year, too!



## EMPOWERING FUTURES

In an effort to better serve our students with special needs, HASD held its first "Empowering Futures" resource event to share community resources and opportunities with families of students of all abilities, and to give those families the opportunity to connect with one another, talk, collaborate and support each other as well.

This resource fair was a vision of our district's transition coordinator, Jessica St. John, our parent liaison, April Welbes, and the district neurodiversity planning team, and was supported by more than 20 community partners and vendors who support special needs students within our community.



## TOP COMMUNITY FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

HASD is proud to announce that our district has been selected as one of the 2024 Best Communities for Music Education for the 24th consecutive year. Each year, the NAMM Foundation recognizes and celebrates districts for their support and commitment to music education. This recognition is a testament to the exceptional music education opportunities available to HASD students.



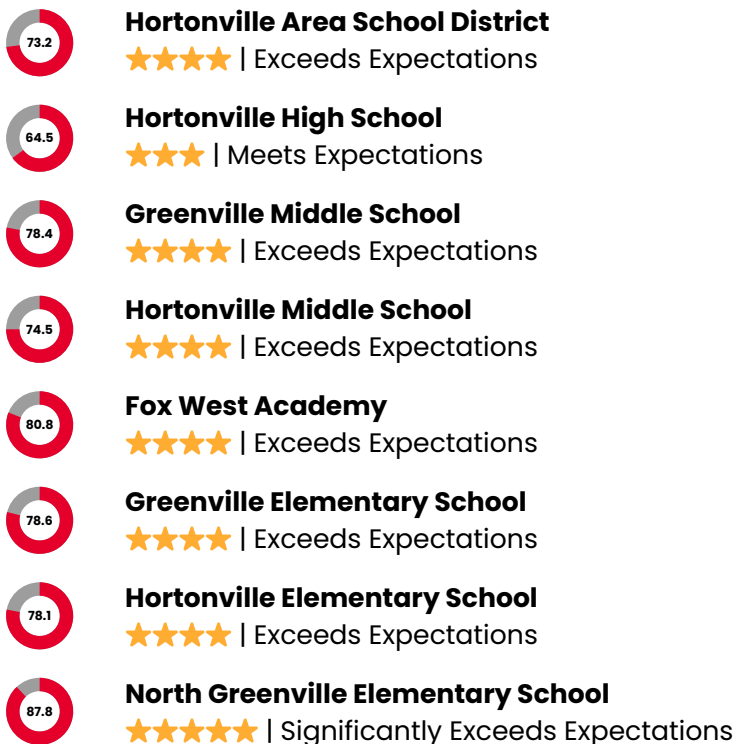
# HASD EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Hortonville Area School District is committed to success for all students. We use several measurements throughout each school year to evaluate our strengths and opportunities for growth to ensure that we continue to provide the best education and opportunities for our students.

One such measurement is the school report card, issued to all public schools each November by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The report cards measure and report on the following priority areas in all public schools throughout the state:

- Achievement: proficiency in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics on annual state assessments
- Growth: students' year-to-year progress in ELA and math achievement
- Target Group Outcomes: outcomes for students with the lowest test scores
- On-Track to Graduation: reliable predictors of how successfully students are progressing toward completing their K-12 education

Below are the overall scores for our district and each school. We are proud to report that our district **exceeds expectations**. We will continue to celebrate our high-achieving district, but also remain committed to finding ways to improve and expand opportunities for all HASD students.



# Board of Education



**President:** Robert VanDenElzen  
**Vice President:** Dana Ramshak  
**Treasurer:** Andrea Marcks-Ziegler  
**Clerk:** Brett Eidahl

### Members At-Large:

Jessica Hartjes  
Douglas Ellerman  
Craig Dreier

Hortonville Area School District Board of Education encourages you to become more involved in the work we do. We welcome you to attend Board of Education meetings and be part of the conversations.

Meetings are generally held on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the District Board Room, located at 246 North Olk Street in Hortonville. Please enter through Door #9.

If you have questions or concerns, we welcome you to call the District Administrative Office at (920) 779-7921. You may additionally send communications to the Hortonville Area School District Administrative team at P.O. Box 70; Hortonville, WI 54944.

For agendas and past meeting minutes visit [hasd.org](http://hasd.org).

# Our Mission

Our Community ensures every student learns at the highest level.



**HORTONVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**246 NORTH OLK STREET**  
**HORTONVILLE, WI 54944**

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT HASD



For our most up-to-date event calendar, and the latest district news and information, scan the QR code here, or visit [www.hasd.org](http://www.hasd.org).

**September 3**

First Day of School for the  
2024-25 School Year

Follow along with [@HortonvilleSD](https://twitter.com/HortonvilleSD)



or visit [www.hasd.org](http://www.hasd.org) to learn more!



**Please Note:** This publication is produced for residents of the Hortonville Area School District. In order to be good stewards of taxpayer funds, a cost-effective bulk mailing service was used for this publication. Due to the overlap of several carrier routes into neighboring school district, some residents of other districts may receive this publication. It is impossible to eliminate this overlap without significant added cost. Thank you for understanding.