

YOU Spoke, We LISTENED

2024 REFERENDUM



TEST SCORES INCREASE SINCE 2021

- **20% INCREASE**
Grade 4-8 – Math
Wisconsin Forward Exam
- **14% INCREASE**
Grade 4-8 – Reading
Wisconsin Forward Exam
- **71%** – RAHS students passed AP Exams
(Highest pass rate ever)



36 STUDENTS were involved in formal Youth Apprenticeships in 2023-24, the most ever at RAHS

CAREER READINESS

RAHS will offer 7 New Career Pathways and class offerings

Why?

Like many Wisconsin school districts, the School District of Reedsburg does not receive adequate funding from the state to keep pace with inflationary increases. Added operating funds will allow the District to continue on its upward trajectory. Renovated Career & Technical Education spaces at RAHS will allow the District to continue to build rigorous career pathways and academic programs for ALL students.

1 QUESTION ONE Operating Funds:

Exceed the revenue limit by \$4 million per year for the next four years (non-recurring), ending with the 2027-2028 school year, for the purpose of:

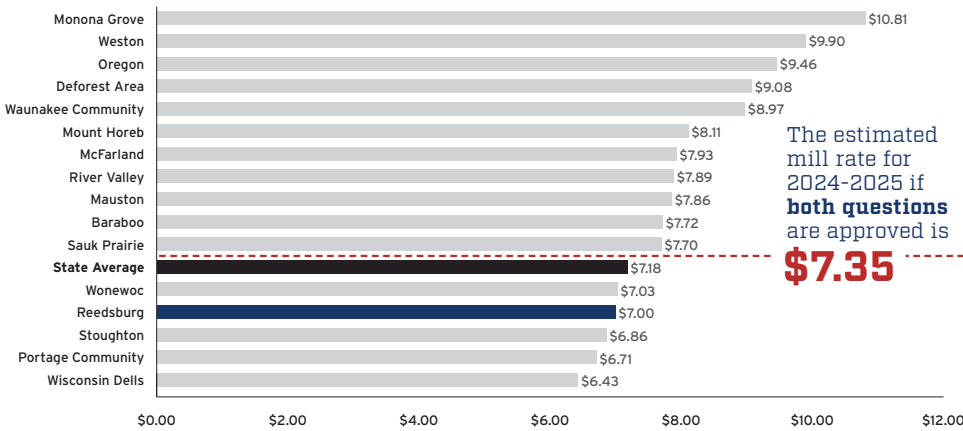
- » Filling projected budget deficits in each of the four years as a result of shortfalls in state funding;
- » Maintaining and expanding on our current focus to provide rigorous academic programs and career pathways for all students;
- » Keeping class sizes as low as possible;
- » Continuing to attract and retain high-quality staff;
- » Addressing the most urgent maintenance needs at Webb Middle School.

2 QUESTION TWO Facilities Project:

Invest \$14 million in the Reedsburg Area High School to:

- » Renovate and update equipment in the Construction Trades, Manufacturing and Engineering, and Agriculture spaces;
- » Add a new greenhouse and provide space for new and innovative programs in Agriculture, Animal Science, and Natural Resources;
- » Renovate the library, large group room, and two adjacent classrooms to create the new Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship;
- » Lightly renovate the cafeteria / commons.

» 2023-2024 Mill Rate Comparison



The estimated mill rate for 2024-2025 if both questions are approved is **\$7.35**

» Estimated Tax Impact

The estimated tax impact for **both referendum questions** combined is an increase of \$.35 cents per \$1,000 dollars of property value. The projected 2024-25 tax rate with both questions approved is estimated to increase from \$7.00 to \$7.35. The District will maintain this rate by adjusting its early payments on existing debt.

Equalized Property Value	Annual Impact*	Monthly Impact
\$100,000	\$35.00	\$2.92
\$250,000	\$87.50	\$7.30
\$350,000	\$122.50	\$10.21
\$450,000	\$157.50	\$13.13

*\$0.35 per \$1,000 of property value. The estimated tax rate increase is based on an estimated 9% increase in property values.

Learn More:

www.rsd.k12.wi.us/district/referendum-2024.cfm

Questions: referendum@rsd.k12.wi.us



SCAN QR CODE
to access Referendum website



Important Information...



FLIP THE BALLOT:

Both referendum questions will be on the back of the ballot.

1 QUESTION ONE Operating Funds:

» Reedsburg Operating Budget

TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET

Special Education Fund Transfer
(Average \$4.7 Million per year)

Remaining Dollars for District Operations

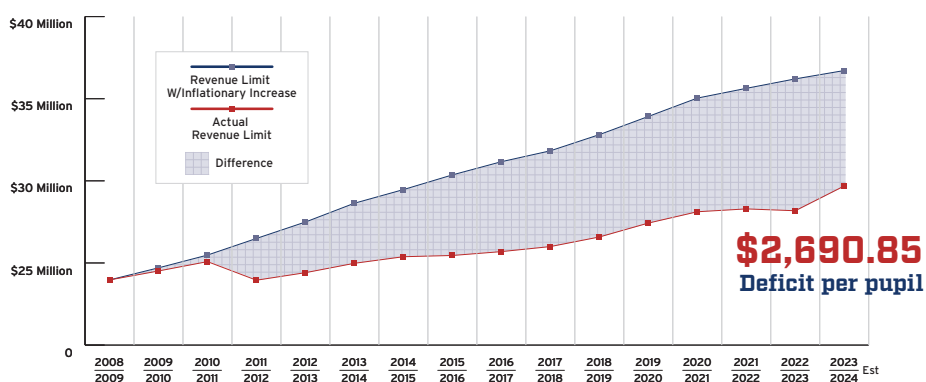
Because the state only funds Special Education at approximately 30%, SDR has needed to transfer an average of \$4.7 million per year over the past 10 years to support Special Education costs.



Recent Budget Deficit Reduction Efforts

- » Changed health insurance carriers, made plan design changes, and added a Qualified High Deductible plan as a health insurance option
- » Reduced the number of ESSER-funded positions through attrition to adjust for the planned loss of ESSER funding
- » Closed Ironton-LaValle and Loganville elementary schools to reduce long-term operating costs in 2022
- » Reduction in Staff; 1 administrative, 13 teaching positions, 1 maintenance, two part-time custodial and 2 part-time clerical positions
- » Maximized Special Education funding
- » Paid off existing debt early resulting in net interest cost savings of \$3,346,708 and the removal of \$8,025,000 of principal from outstanding debt total

» Actual Revenue Limits vs Revenue Limits w/Inflationary Increases



Operational Referendum Funding Will Go Toward:

- » Filling projected budget deficits in each of the four years as a result of shortfalls in state funding
- » Maintaining and expanding on our current focus to provide rigorous academic programs and career pathways for all students
- » Keeping class sizes as low as possible
- » Continuing to attract and retain high-quality staff
- » Addressing the most urgent maintenance needs at Webb Middle School

2 QUESTION TWO Facilities Project:

Supporting Career Pathways:

The renovations and added space at RAHS are directly connected to the District's instructional programming and strategic goal to develop new and updated career pathways connected to work-based learning experiences for our students in the following areas:

- » Agriculture
- » Animal Science
- » Business & Marketing
- » Construction Trades
- » Engineering
- » Manufacturing
- » Natural Resources

“

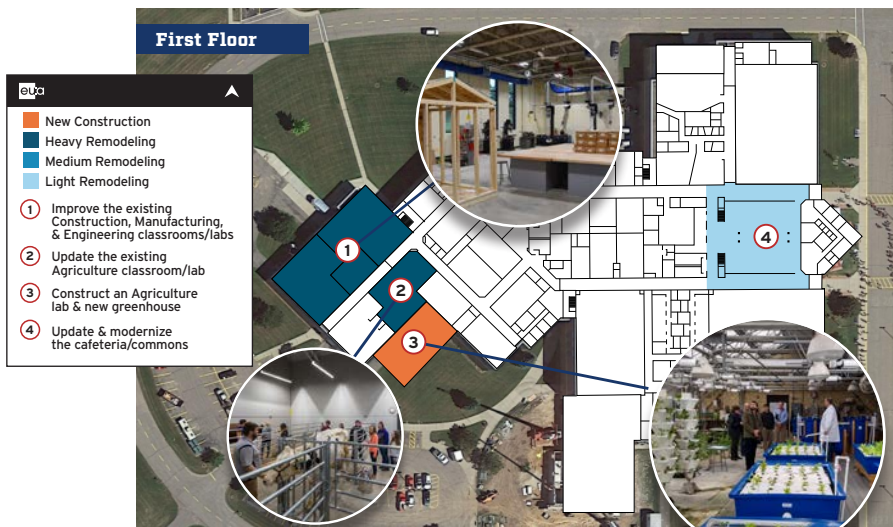
The U.S. skilled labor market is facing record-high pressure, particularly for companies with manufacturing and construction operations. Increasing scarcity has intensified competition for talent, raising the sectors' average wages by more than 20 percent since 2020.

- McKinsey & Company, April 9, 2024

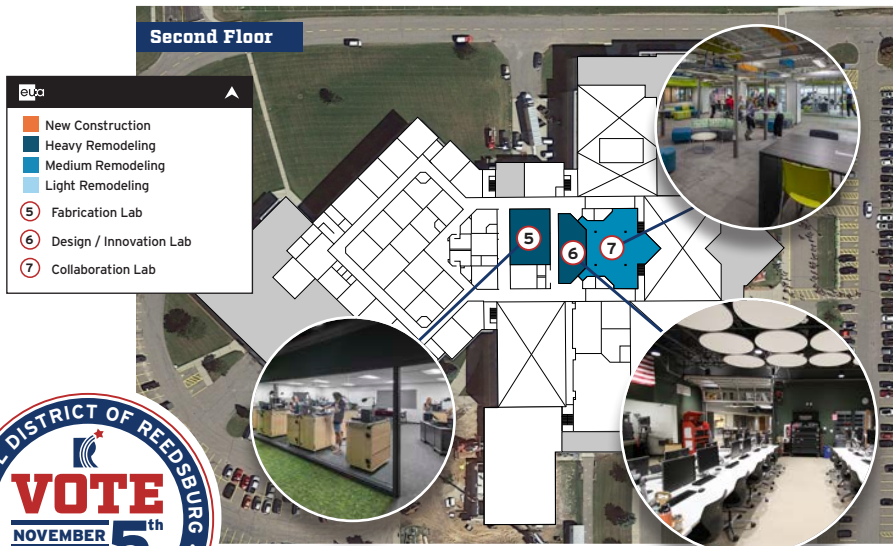
**SAUK COUNTY PROJECTS
6,726 NEW CONSTRUCTION
& MANUFACTURING
JOBS BY 2030**

Data from the Sauk County 2023 Workforce Profile

Proposed Renovations for Construction Trades, Manufacturing, Engineering, & Agriculture spaces



Proposed Renovations for Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship



NOTE: Site plans are preliminary and photos are only representative at this time. Final design will evolve pending a successful referendum.