



MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM
FEBRUARY 18, 2025

At Kenosha Unified, we are proud of our local schools and the generations of students we have served over the years. Unfortunately, our district is facing serious financial challenges that we must address soon to maintain a quality educational experience for our students.

We are far from alone in facing these challenges. An increasing number of Wisconsin school districts are finding themselves in a similar situation due to rising costs, an outdated state education funding system, and a lack of state aid to public schools in recent years.

As expenses like curriculum, utilities, health insurance, transportation, and salaries continue to increase, our budget challenges will continue to grow. Despite closing multiple schools and reducing staff to balance the 2024-25 budget, we will still face a projected \$19+ million deficit for the upcoming fiscal year and beyond.



COMMUNITY TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Thursday, Jan. 9, 2025 • 5:30 p.m.
Bradford High School, 3700 Washington Road

Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025 • 5:30 p.m.
Reuther, 913 57th St.

Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025 • 10:30 a.m.
Educational Support Center, 3600 52nd St.

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2025 • 5:30 p.m.
Lance Middle School, 4515 80th St.



PROPOSED SOLUTION

On **Tuesday, February 18, 2025**, our community will vote on a proposed non-recurring referendum question for Kenosha Unified. If approved, the district will be able to increase its revenue limit by \$23 million per year through the 2029-30 school year. This increase will address the \$19+ million deficit and allow for additional safety enhancements.

This funding would allow us to:



Substantially reduce the structural deficit to protect class sizes, vital programs, and staff positions.



Implement and meet our district goal of increasing the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced in reading and math by 12%.



Implement state-mandated programs, such as Act 20 and its science of reading practices, to enrich reading instruction and increase student proficiency.



Retain our high-quality staff, whose dedicated professional time is essential for delivering exceptional education.



Implement key upgrades to enhance safety and security for students and staff, including upgrading controlled building entrances, modernizing surveillance systems, reinforcing exterior doors, installing shatter-resistant window film, upgrading digital video recorders, and implementing additional critical safety measures.

PROPERTY TAX IMPACT



If the operational referendum is approved, it would have an estimated initial property tax impact of **\$1.25 per year** on every \$1,000 of equalized property value in our community. For example, the owner of a **home worth \$250,000** would see a property tax increase of **\$313 per year** (or \$26 per month).



Find more information and answers to FAQs by scanning the QR code or visiting: kUSD.edu/referendum

