

Inver Grove Heights School District No. 199
M.S. 123B.71

REVIEW AND COMMENT
PROPOSAL

2027 Capital Projects

Submitted by

Dave Bernhardson, Superintendent

July 3, 2026

July 14, 2026

Mr. Willie Jett, Commissioner
State of Minnesota
Department of Education
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113

Dear Mr. Jett:

Pursuant to M.S. 123B.71, the School Board, Superintendent, staff and communities of Inver Grove Heights School District No 199 are pleased to submit the following proposal for review and comment by the Minnesota Department of Education. The Inver Grove Heights School district 199 School Board reviewed and approved this report and the information contained herein at its regularly scheduled school board meeting of July 13, 2026.

The Capital Projects Levy was approved by voters in 2017 and is set to expire after the 2027-28 school year. The funds generated through this levy have allowed the district to implement replacement cycles on technology, equipment, furniture, and curriculum. All of this is needed to help ensure Inver Grove Heights students have the opportunity for equity with other schools districts and meet our mission of Inspire, Innovate, Excel, A Community Commitment. Thus, the district is proposing to ask district voters to consider the renewal of a Capital Projects Levy on November 3, 2026.

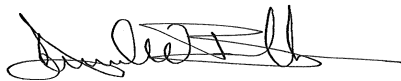
In addition to the Capital Projects Levy, district voters have approved two operating levies. One levy generates \$764.29 per pupil and has been renewed by the School Board. The second levy generates \$641.86 per pupil and is scheduled to expire in the 2034–35 school year. Together, these operating levies provide \$1,406.15 per pupil.

Even with this combined operating levy amount, our district remains in the lower range of local operating levy revenue among Dakota County school districts and below the statewide average for local operating levies. Approval of a Capital Projects Levy renewal helps reduce this funding gap by providing dedicated resources for facility and capital improvement needs while bringing the district closer to comparable local funding levels.

The question our district is proposing on the November 3, 2026 ballot was approved by our school board on July 13, 2026 and is as follows:

The school board of Independent School District No. 199 (Inver Grove Heights) has proposed a capital project levy authorization of 2.1724% times the net tax capacity of the school district. This authorization would renew the school district's existing authorization which is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2027. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$1,184,795 for taxes payable in 2028, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$11,847,950. The additional revenue from the proposed capital projects levy authorization will provide funds for the purchase of textbooks, curriculum materials, musical instruments, classroom furnishings, equipment, technology and software for student achievement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Bernhardson", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dave Bernhardson
Superintendent of Schools

**MS 123B.71
REVIEW AND COMMENT**

CHECKLIST

1. The geographic area and population to be served:

Inver Grove Heights School District No. 199 is a moderate sized suburban school district whose boundaries lie totally within Inver Grove Heights. ISD 199 is located 12 miles south of the City of St. Paul, serving a general population of approximately 36,000. The district encompasses approximately 22 square miles with a 2025-26 student enrollment of 3,404. District-wide enrollment data for the past five years and projections for the next five years are as follows:

Year	Actual Enrollment		Year	Projected Enrollment
2021-2022	3442		2026-2027	3347
2022-2023	3441		2027-2028	3276
2023-2024	3508		2028-2029	3225
2024-2025	3426		2029-2030	3166
2025-2026	3404		2030-2031	3108

2. A list of existing school facilities:

Inver Grove Heights School District No. 199 consists of 3 elementary buildings, 1 middle school and a high school. Listed below are the school buildings, their 2025-26 enrollment, their design capacity and the year they were constructed.

BUILDING (constructed)	ENROLLMENT	SQUARE FOOTAGE
Hilltop Elementary (1964)	622	92,793
Pine Bend Elementary (1958)	497	85,485
Salem Hills Elementary / Atheneum Gifted Magnet (1953)	353	56,206
Inver Grove Heights Middle School (1959)	794	314,970
Simley High School School (1971)	1066	220,728

3. A list of specific capital deficiencies:

Textbooks and Materials:

The current Capital Projects Levy has allowed our district to adopt instructional materials that align with newly adopted Minnesota academic standards. As state standards and instructional practices continue to evolve, we must continue updating curriculum and instructional resources to ensure students have access to a high-quality, standards-aligned education.

Unlike traditional textbook purchases, many of today's curriculum resources are subscription-based and include digital textbooks, online instructional tools, and annual student workbooks that must be replaced each year. Students now have continuous access to updated digital textbooks both at school and at home.

Without continued Capital Projects Levy funding, the district would be unable to sustain access to these essential digital resources and annual consumable materials. Levy funds allow us to purchase curriculum and instructional materials through our established curriculum and program review process, ensuring alignment with Minnesota academic standards, district scope and sequence, Concurrent Enrollment requirements, and the READ Act.

Learning Equipment and Furniture:

Funds from our current Capital Projects Levy have allowed our district to purchase flexible seating and establish a replacement cycle for classroom furniture and equipment. Our district has used levy funds to purchase flexible seating and desks for a significant number of K-12 classrooms. Newly acquired furniture and equipment aligns with our district's strategic directions of personalizing learning, developing students' core life skills, and ensuring that students are career and college ready.

Funds have also allowed our district to replace and update classroom furnishings and equipment that creates a flexible, accessible learning environment for all students. Thanks to the Capital Projects Levy, we can afford to replace or update furnishings and equipment that accommodate all student learning styles and needs, increase collaboration, facilitate learning, and provide up-to-date career and vocational equipment that is used in today's workplaces.

Technology Tools (equipment, software and salaries):

Capital Projects Levy funds have helped us ensure that all students have equitable access to digital tools for learning. Digital tools throughout the district are used to give students multiple ways to access learning and to demonstrate what they have learned. Instruction is differentiated using digital tools to meet the needs of all students. Funds are also used to enhance projection, audio, and other technology systems that directly support student learning. Funds will specifically address ensuring access for all students, developing innovative practices to personalize learning, providing professional learning opportunities for teachers, and establishing a sustainable replacement cycle.

Musical Instruments:

Prior to the passage of the Capital Projects Levy in 2017, our district had no formal musical instrument replacement cycle. Many instruments were 20 to 50 years old, dating back to the inception of their respective buildings or programs, and some were beyond repair.

The passage of the levy allowed us to finally implement a sustainable replacement and repair schedule. Renewing this levy will allow us to maintain those essential purchases and repairs, ensuring that all students across elementary, middle, and high school can continue to actively participate in instrumental music.

4. Estimated costs by year:

	Technology	Curriculum	Furniture	Musical Instruments	Total
2028-29	424,795	590,000	150,000	20,000	1,184,795
2029-30	590,000	424,795	150,000	20,000	1,184,795
2030-31	424,795	590,000	150,000	20,000	1,184,795
2031-32	590,000	424,795	150,000	20,000	1,184,795
2022-23	424,795	590,000	150,000	20,000	1,184,795
2023-24	590,000	424,795	150,000	20,000	1,184,795
2024-25	424,795	590,000	150,000	20,000	1,184,795
2025-26	590,000	424,795	150,000	20,000	1,184,795
2026-27	424,795	590,000	150,000	20,000	1,184,795
2027-28	590,000	424,795	150,000	20,000	1,184,795

Technology and curriculum purchases will be alternated between curriculum adoption and technology purchases in an effort to accommodate large purchases and minimize financing costs. Most classroom furniture replacement costs range from about \$12,000-16,000 per classroom. An allocation of \$150,000 per year provides the opportunity to replace about 10 classrooms per school year. An allocation of \$20,000 for musical instruments allows us to maintain a replacement cycle, minimize repair costs of aged instruments through replacement, and have adequate instruments available to ensure all students have the option to participate.

5. Specification of the source of project financing:

The ISD 199 School Board is scheduled to approve the submission of the Capital Projects Review and Comment and Ballot language on July 13, 2026. Pending voter approval implementation is scheduled for 2028. Financing of the project is subject to voter approved levy under the guidelines for Capital Project Levies. The following table shared the tax impact for our Capital Project Levy:

Inver Grove Heights Schools, ISD #199
Estimated Tax Impact of Potential Capital Project Levy
November 2026 Election

May 5, 2026

Year Taxes are Payable	2027	2028	
	Expiring Authority	Renewed Authority	Net Change
Annual Revenue	-\$1,153,085	\$1,184,795	\$31,710

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Taxes for Capital Project Levy*		
Residential Homestead	\$100,000	-\$15	\$15	\$0
	150,000	-27	27	0
	200,000	-40	40	0
	250,000	-53	53	0
	300,000	-65	65	0
	350,000	-78	78	0
	400,000	-91	91	0
	450,000	-104	104	0
	500,000	-116	116	0
	600,000	-146	146	0
	700,000	-175	175	0
	800,000	-204	204	0
Commercial/ Industrial +	\$100,000	-\$22	\$22	\$0
	250,000	-63	63	0
	500,000	-137	137	0
	1,000,000	-286	286	0
	2,500,000	-732	732	0
Apartments and Residential Non-Homestead	\$250,000	-\$73	\$73	\$0
	500,000	-146	146	0
	1,000,000	-292	292	0
	2,000,000	-584	584	0

- * The amounts in the table are based on school district taxes for the proposed capital project levy only, and do not include tax levies for other purposes. Tax increases shown above are gross increases, not including the impact of the homeowner's Homestead Credit Refund ("Circuit Breaker") program. Some owners of homestead property may qualify for a refund, based on their income and total property taxes. This would decrease the net tax impact for those property owners.
- + For commercial-industrial property, the estimates above are for property in the City of Inver Grove Heights. The tax impact for commercial-industrial property in other municipalities in the school district may be slightly different, due to the varying impact of the Twin Cities Fiscal Disparities program.

6. Document obligating the school district and contractor to comply:
Not applicable.

Narrative Description of the project:

The Inver Grove Heights School District is pursuing a Capital Projects Levy renewal in November. The levy is being pursued to provide our students with updated learning resources and equipment. Prior to the Capital Projects Levy passing in 2017, limited resources made it

challenging to sustain a feasible replacement cycle. The replacement cycle implementation has provided up-to-date resources and tools for students to be career and college ready upon graduation. Renewing this levy will allow us to maintain this replacement cycle, and therefore, allow us to offer a variety of educational programs, learning experiences, instructional approaches, and academic-support strategies that address the distinct learning needs, interests, aspirations, or backgrounds of individual students. Educational programs require current materials and the ability to access resources and communication tools. This empowers students to manage their own learning, increases staff productivity, and provides more value-added services for families and communities.

This levy will give the district the authority to maintain a replacement cycle for textbooks, curriculum materials, software, equipment, classroom furniture, technology, and musical instruments. Approval provides ISD 199 the authority to spread out the purchase of items, such as curriculum and technology, over a specified number of years.

The Capital Projects Levy strengthens the district's fiscal stability by providing limited, yet much-needed financial relief to the District General Fund, which is used for day-to-day operating expenses.