



Dear Community Members:

There are many reasons to be proud of the Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa School District. Our learners are experiencing great success, both in and out of the classroom. Our dedicated staff is committed to personalizing learning to meet each student's needs. Our community business partners provide valuable work experiences, resources and scholarships for our learners. It's no surprise you can feel "**Jaguar PRIDE**" throughout the community.

While our primary focus will always be to customize high-quality learning experiences, we also need to develop a plan to:

- ✓ Address operational budget challenges
- ✓ Update learning environments
- ✓ Expand and update early childhood spaces
- ✓ Complete important safety and infrastructure updates
- ✓ Expand spaces for school and community use

Ultimately, the District's goal is to finalize a plan that reflects the support of our taxpayers. We are asking you to take 10 minutes to complete this survey.

TAKE THE SURVEY IN ONE OF TWO EASY WAYS

Online:

- 1) Simply go to the survey website: **www.Feedback2000.com**
- 2) Enter your Survey Access Number:
- 3) Take the survey!

By Paper:

If you do not have Internet access, please return the completed survey in the enclosed envelope to any school office or mail to: School Perceptions, 317 East Washington Street, Slinger, WI 53086.

The Survey Access Number can be used only once. To obtain additional access numbers for other adults in your household, please call the District Office at (320) 254-8211, ext. 1310.

Please complete the survey by June 12, 2019.

We are working with School Perceptions LLC, an independent firm with expertise in conducting community surveys. All survey data is returned to School Perceptions to ensure respondent anonymity.

Final survey results will be reported at a school board meeting and will also be available on the District website at www.bbejaguars.org.

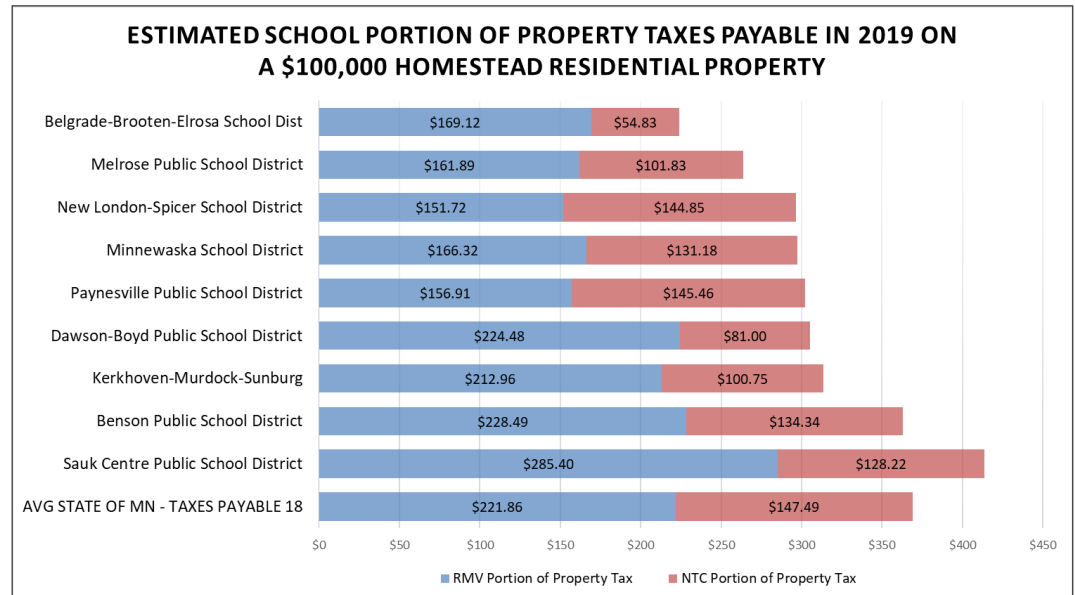
Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Sincerely,

Patrick Walsh
Superintendent

Financial Background

The District works hard to be good stewards of taxpayers' dollars. The District has the lowest taxes in the area and \$145.40 below the State average.



Funding to Support Operations

For many years, the Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa School District has been making difficult decisions to address ongoing budget challenges due to declining enrollment and a state funding formula that has not kept pace with operating expenses. This included moving to a 4-day school week, eliminating a bus route and reducing staff.

As you may be aware, last fall voters failed to support a \$365,000 operating levy. In response, the District cut additional expenses by:

- Further reducing building and department budgets
- Delaying building maintenance and safety and security updates
- Implementing a shared services model for contracted services

The District also utilized fund balance (cash reserves). It's important to note that this practice is not sustainable as the District needs a cash reserve to properly fund daily operations.

Even with these cuts, the District is projecting an operating budget shortfall of \$275,000 for each of the next 8 years. The District will need to secure approval of an operational levy to avoid additional cuts to programs and services.

The chart to the right identifies the estimated tax impact on various residential and commercial property values for a \$275,000 operating levy.

ANNUAL PROPERTY TAX IMPACT		
Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	\$275,000 operating referendum levy
All Taxable Property, except Seasonal Recreational Property and Agricultural land beyond the dwelling value (house, garage and 1 acre)	\$75,000	\$70.49
	\$100,000	\$93.99
	\$125,000	\$117.48
	\$150,000	\$140.98
	\$175,000	\$164.47
	\$200,000	\$187.97
	\$300,000	\$281.96

<p>Would you support a \$275,000 operational levy to maintain current programs and services?</p> <p><i>Tax impacts are identified in the table to the right.</i></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Definitely yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Probably yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Undecided</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Probably no</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Definitely no</p>
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Comments/suggestions:

Cost Saving Options

If voters do not support a levy, the District will need to make cuts to balance the budget. District-wide reductions will be made with the help of the survey results. While the District does not endorse any of the following, they must consider all options to reduce expenses.

<i>Please check your responses.</i>	
<p>School Class Size: Class sizes currently range from 17 to 30 students at the elementary level and 22 to 32 at the middle/high school level. Some classes are larger or smaller depending on enrollment.</p> <p>Should the District consider cutting teachers and increasing class sizes to save money?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion
<p>College in the School/Elective Courses: Currently, the high school offers College in the School courses, allowing students to potentially receive college credit while in high school. In addition, elective classes such as agriculture education, art, business, computer science, music, family and consumer science, technical education, world languages and other offerings are available for middle and high school students. The District could reduce or eliminate these offerings.</p> <p>Should the District consider reducing College in the School and/or elective courses to save money?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion
<p>Transportation: The District has already eliminated a bus route to save money. The District could reduce/eliminate another bus routes, requiring students to be picked up as early as 6 a.m. and further increasing ride time for some riders, while eliminating busing services for others.</p> <p>Should the District reduce busing services to save money?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion
<p>Athletic/Co-curricular Offerings: The District offers a number of athletic and co-curricular offerings for middle and high school students.</p> <p>Should the District consider reducing athletic/co-curricular offerings to save money?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion
<p>Technology: The District's technology infrastructure, including wireless access and servers, as well as classroom technology, computers and iPads, need to be updated on a regular basis to best meet students' learning needs.</p> <p>Should the District consider delaying technology updates to save money?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No opinion

Are there other cost saving measures the District should consider? If so, what are they?

Funding to Support Facility Updates

In addition to funding daily operations, the District has identified the following facility projects that could be funded through a bond referendum.

IMPROVE SAFETY AND SECURITY

The safety of our students and staff is a top priority. The District needs to modify the entrances to route all visitors through the school offices to better control building access. In addition, there is a need to redesign traffic flow at the elementary school. Dedicated bus and vehicle drop-off/pick-up lanes would better separate vehicles and pedestrians.

Estimated cost: \$1.5 million	
Would you support a plan that provides funding to improve school safety and security?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) UPDATES

Many portions of our schools need to be updated to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code compliance, including entrances, restrooms and areas with elevation changes.

Estimated cost: \$1 million	
Would you support a plan that provides funding to address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) code compliance?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided

SCIENCE LABS

Our science spaces have not been renovated since original construction in 1973. They need to be redesigned to provide the latest equipment and allow for greater learning experiences.

Estimated cost: \$1 million	
Would you support a plan that provides funding to update the science spaces?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION LEARNING AREAS

Our current Career and Technical Education learning areas have not been updated in over 45 years. The areas lack flexibility and space needed to incorporate the latest technology, equipment and learning experiences. Additional space is needed to expand course offerings in industrial technology, agriculture, family and consumer science and business education to meet current workforce demands.

Estimated cost: \$3 million	
Would you support a plan that provides funding to update the Career and Technical Education learning areas?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided

UPDATE BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE

While our schools have been well maintained, many of the major systems including electrical, plumbing and heating/ventilation (HVAC) have exceeded their service life and need to be replaced. The elementary school has single-pane windows that are inefficient and require replacement.

Estimated cost: \$7 million	
Would you support a plan that provides funding to update building infrastructure?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided

Comments/suggestions:

MEDIA CENTERS (Library)

Today's media centers are used differently than in the past. There is a need for flexible furniture and access to technology to allow for innovation, small group instruction and student collaboration. In addition, the District would like to create dedicated space for student broadcasting in both buildings.

Estimated cost: \$2 million	
Would you support a plan that provides funding to update the media centers (library)?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION SPACE

There is a growing demand for early childhood programming in the District. As a result, dedicated spaces designed for young learners are needed.

Estimated cost: \$3.5 million	
Would you support a plan that provides funding to create dedicated early childhood education spaces?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided

DEDICATED CAFETERIA/COMMONS

The high school cafeteria does not meet the needs of the student population. Lunch is served over multiple periods, impacting students' schedules. In the elementary school, lunch is served in the gym, which requires staff to set up/take down the lunch tables each day. This creates scheduling challenges and does not allow for a dedicated space to be used for instruction, collaboration and a gathering space for school and community use. Expanding the elementary school's office entrance will allow space to be repurposed for a dedicated cafeteria/commons space. In addition, both schools' kitchens need updates to replace outdated equipment and improve efficiency.

Estimated cost: \$2 million	
Would you support a plan that provides funding to create a dedicated cafeteria/commons and update the kitchens at both schools?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided

IMPROVE/EXPAND PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETIC SPACES

If a dedicated cafeteria/commons is created at the elementary school, the existing gym could be renovated to better meet the District's physical education and co-curricular needs. The stage could be removed to allow for additional court space and more bleachers. In addition, the high school's weight and wrestling rooms are too small, limiting physical education, athletic and community education programs.

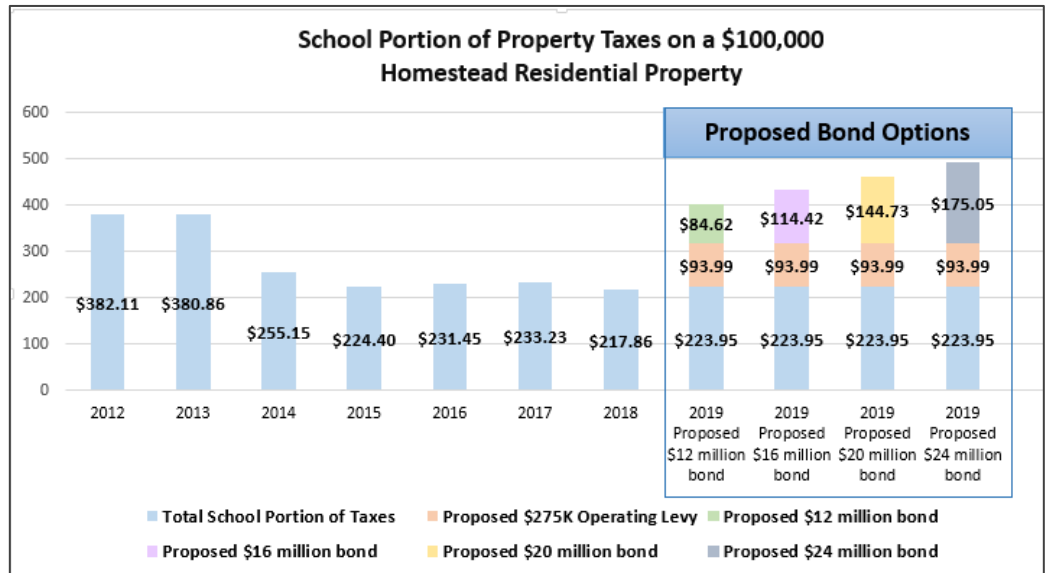
Estimated cost: \$3 million	
Would you support a plan that provides funding to Improve/expand physical education, activities and athletic spaces?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Undecided

Comments/suggestions:

Funding Support

The cost to complete all of the projects outlined in the survey is \$24 million. **We realize that given the cost, we may have to complete the identified projects in phases based on the community's priorities and their willingness to financially support the projects.**

The below table shows the annual tax impact for various bond referendum amounts. **The impacts would return the tax rate to at or near the rate paid in 2013 (see graph).**



The District would like to know your level of support, should they consider a bond referendum.

PROPERTY TAX IMPACT					
Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Bond Referendum Estimated Impact Per Year			
		\$12 million	\$16 million	\$20 million	\$24 million
Residential Homestead	\$75,000	\$53.04	\$71.71	\$90.71	\$109.71
	\$100,000	\$84.62	\$114.42	\$144.73	\$175.05
	\$125,000	\$116.68	\$157.77	\$199.55	\$241.37
	\$150,000	\$148.85	\$201.27	\$254.58	\$307.92
	\$175,000	\$180.91	\$244.62	\$309.41	\$374.24
	\$200,000	\$213.09	\$288.12	\$364.43	\$440.80
	\$300,000	\$341.55	\$461.83	\$584.14	\$706.54
Commercial/Industrial	\$250,000	\$500.90	\$677.28	\$856.66	\$1,036.17
	\$500,000	\$1,090.19	\$1,474.08	\$1,639.16	\$2,255.19
Ag Homestead*# (average value per acre)	\$3,000	\$1.06	\$1.44	\$1.82	\$2.20
	\$4,000	\$1.42	\$1.91	\$2.42	\$2.93
	\$5,000	\$1.77	\$2.39	\$3.03	\$3.66
Ag Non-Homestead* (average value per acre)	\$3,000	\$2.12	\$2.87	\$3.63	\$4.39
	\$4,000	\$2.83	\$3.82	\$4.84	\$5.85
	\$5,000	\$3.54	\$4.78	\$6.05	\$7.31

*Ag2School Property Tax Relief Bill: The Estimated Market Value tax impact listed above *includes* the 40% reduction due to the School Building Bond Agricultural Credit. #Homestead examples exclude the house, garage, and one acre, which has the same tax impact as a residential homestead. Further, tax impacts per acre assume the total estimated market value of the Ag. Homestead properties are less than \$1,900,000.

How much of a tax impact would you support through a bond referendum, assuming the projects included were acceptable to you?

Assumes a 20-year borrowing term with a True Interest Cost of 3.90%.

- I would support a \$24 million bond referendum
- I would support a \$20 million bond referendum
- I would support a \$16 million bond referendum
- I would support a \$12 million bond referendum
- I would only support a smaller bond referendum
- I would not support any bond referendum
- I'm not sure/need more information

Comments/suggestions:

Respondent Information

What is your age?

- 18-25
 26-35
 36-45
 46-55
 56-64
 65 and older

Do you live in the Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa School District? Yes No

In which municipality do you reside?

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Belgrade | <input type="checkbox"/> Norway Lake Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Crow River Township |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Brooten | <input type="checkbox"/> Chippewa Falls Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake George Township |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Elrosa | <input type="checkbox"/> Rolling Forks Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Henry Township |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Regal | <input type="checkbox"/> Gilchrist Township | <input type="checkbox"/> North Folk Township |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Burbank Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Johanna Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colfax Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Getty Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not live in the School District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Roseville Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Raymond Township | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bangor Township | <input type="checkbox"/> Crow Lake Township | |

Do you own property in the School District that is taxed as agricultural land? Yes No

Are you an employee of the Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa School District? Yes No

Do you have children attending our schools? Yes No

If you have school-aged children, what school(s) do they attend? (Select all that apply)

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BBE Elementary | <input type="checkbox"/> BBE High School | <input type="checkbox"/> Public school outside of District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private/parochial school | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeschool | <input type="checkbox"/> Online/virtual school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | | |

Communication

How would you like to receive information regarding the Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa School District?

(Select all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School mailings | <input type="checkbox"/> Email | <input type="checkbox"/> District newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District/school website | <input type="checkbox"/> Text message | <input type="checkbox"/> Attend meetings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Board meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Skyward Parent Access | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>West Central Daily Tribune</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Bonanza Valley Voice</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Belgrade Observer</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Local television news |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Radio | <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook | <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | | |

District Feedback

Please tell us how well you believe we are doing in each of the following areas: (Circle your response)

Delivering a high-quality educational experience	Great	Good	Fair	Poor	Unable to Evaluate
Hiring and retaining high-quality faculty and staff	Great	Good	Fair	Poor	Unable to Evaluate
Keeping the public informed	Great	Good	Fair	Poor	Unable to Evaluate
Maintaining school facilities	Great	Good	Fair	Poor	Unable to Evaluate
Providing a safe learning environment	Great	Good	Fair	Poor	Unable to Evaluate
Overall, how satisfied are you with the Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa School District?	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Not satisfied	Very unsatisfied	No opinion

Comments/suggestions:

Thank you for your participation. We sincerely value your time and input.

Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa School District
250 2nd Street
Brooten, MN 56316

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Please complete the survey before June 12, 2019.

This publication was produced for the residents of the Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa School District. Due to the overlap of postal routes, residents from neighboring school districts may receive this publication. Given the limitations of bulk mailing, this overlap was difficult to eliminate without significant cost. Thank you for your understanding.