



PRESCOTT SCHOOL DISTRICT

1220 St. Croix Street Prescott, WI 54021

April 3, 2024

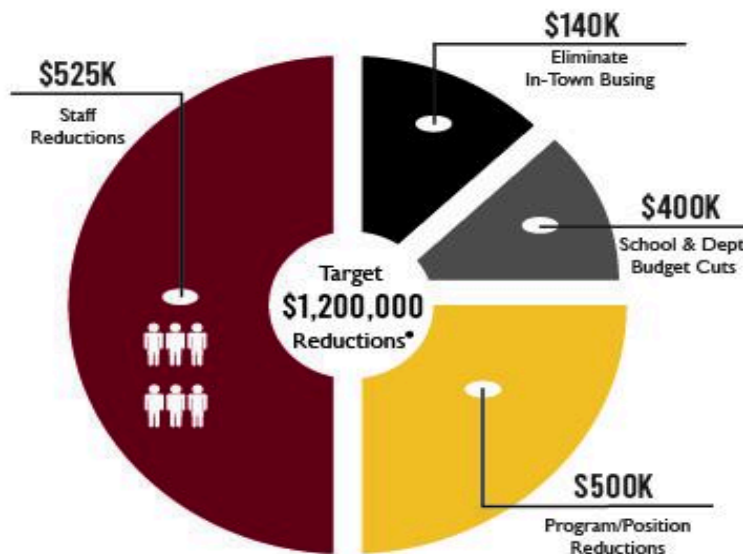
Prescott School District Staff and Families:

Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote in yesterday's operating referendum and school board election. To all individuals inside and outside the organization who remained focused on the shared values, vision, and commitment to retaining a strong, viable Prescott School District - Thank you!

As all of you have heard by now, the results of the operational referendum last night did not turn out in our favor. We fell short by twelve votes. *Twelve*. Unfortunately for our students and staff, the outcome of the community's vote means that the district may not levy an additional \$1.2M above the state-imposed cap for ongoing operational costs and retaining the vast programming currently in place. As a group of educators for our youth, the road ahead will not be easy. The School Board and administrative team will be required to make tough decisions in the short term. We will pause, reflect, and evaluate the community's decision and develop a plan to move our district forward.

ADDITIONAL BUDGET CUTS 2024 & FORWARD

If the operational referendum fails on April 2, 2024, an additional \$1.2M must be cut from the PSD budget. These cuts are beyond the \$650K adjustments that are already in process.



+ The sum of the cuts exceeds School Board target of \$1.2M to allow for flexibility.
** Eliminates educational opportunities.

ADDITIONAL STAFF REDUCTIONS

- Class sizes will increase above school board range set at 20-24, reducing staff.
- An equivalent of 15 full-time positions will be eliminated across the district.
- Departmental reorganizations and positions will be merged.

ELIMINATE IN-TOWN BUSING

- Bus routes within a 2-mile school radius with a reduction of fleet and drivers.
- Includes the consolidation of routes.

ADDITIONAL BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

- Outsourcing departmental services to external vendors: Food Service, Janitorial, Transportation.
- Examination of a four-day school week.
- Pay freezes throughout the PSD organization.
- Eliminate HSA and 403B contributions.
- Rebid Health Care and plan options, F2025.
- Reduce or eliminate off-site staff travel, professional development, and student exhibitions.

PROGRAM REDUCTION CONSIDERATIONS**

- Food service support for St. Joseph's School.
- Athletic 'C' teams and coaches.
- Non-conference and overnight travel.
- MS and HS theatrical performances will be reduced or eliminated.
- Enrichment, extensions, and intervention programs will be reconfigured into the regular classrooms.
- MS will consider an 8-period day, reducing exploratories. This is a poor instructional model for both students and staff.



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While the results may not be what we had hoped for –*to sustain our excellence and continue to invest in our staff, programs, and performance* – the community has spoken. Now we must work within these constraints.

As the Prescott School Board has directed, I will immediately convene our administrative team as we begin the necessary steps to further reduce the 2024-25 school year budget to include up to an additional \$1.2M above the planned \$650K reductions. The roadmap that will be followed as we begin the budget-building process for fall 2024 appears above.

Implementation of these reductions will commence before the end of this academic year. The areas for cuts will focus on services that are not required of public schools but have been part of our ongoing community services and partnerships. Based on these parameters, I will bring forward positional reductions before the required nonrenewal April 30th state deadline and take immediate actions during the last month of the current academic year to curtail immediate non-essential expenses/services that will not occur in 2024-25 and beyond. As we did throughout the budget and referendum process, we will continue to engage our community to ensure the community's voice is included in the future of PSD.

As a school board and administrative team we will continue to be strong advocates for our children and good stewards on behalf of taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Rick Spicuzza, Ph.D.
Prescott Superintendent

**Prescott School Board: Mike Matzek, Vicki Rudolph, Tanya Holub,
Pat Block, and Helen Stoeckel**