



## Tiger Pride News and Notes Belinda Selfors Superintendent of Schools

### How Federal Funding supports Stewartville Students and Programs

As a public school district, our primary sources of revenue come from state aid, local property taxes, and federal aid.

The total amount of federal aid and funding support provided to Stewartville Public Schools in 2023-2024 was \$1,430,000.

- Title Programs \$195,000  
Title funding provides support for our students, primarily at Bonner and Bear Cave, who receive additional support in Reading. Funding is used to cover the costs of Reading Interventionists and paraprofessional positions.
- Special Education \$300,000  
The costs of teacher and paraprofessional positions, equipment, materials, and supplies for students with special needs in PreSchool through Grade 12 are paid for through special education aid. By law, the federal reimbursement for special education is supposed to be 40% of expenditures, however, it is actually about 6%. The full amount of the federal reimbursement has never been paid to public schools for the costs of special education.
- Learning Recovery \$70,000  
The ESSER program provided aid for Learning Recovery to support students during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding stream was discontinued after the 2023-2024 school year. In 2024-2025, districts were required to use monies from the general fund and/or discontinue the positions that were funded with ESSER dollars.
- Perkins \$5,000  
Perkins funding provides support for our Career and Technical education programs, such as Industrial Technology, Family and Consumer Sciences, Agriculture, and Business. Funds are used for field trips, curriculum, equipment, and teacher training.
- Medical Assistance \$150,000  
Medical Assistance funding is used to provide support for students with highly-specialized health needs such as tube-feeding, catheterization, diabetic care, mobility assistance, and the management of many other medical conditions. This aid is also used to partially cover the costs of services provided by speech pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, etc.
- E-Rate \$110,000  
E-Rate monies cover a portion of the costs of broadband connectivity through the internet including fiber connections and wireless services. It also helps to cover some of the costs of internal connections within and between school buildings, cabling, firewall services, routers, switches, and access points.
- Food Services \$600,000  
The federal government reimburses the costs of providing meals that meet nutrition requirements set forth by the USDA. The remaining costs of providing free meals to all students is paid for by the state of Minnesota.

In order for the school district to responsibly manage our financial resources, we are required to maintain a balanced budget. Any loss of funding through federal or state aid for our programs and services will require us to make extremely difficult and challenging decisions. Either these programs funded through state or federal aid would need to be reduced or eliminated and/or the costs taken out

of the general fund. If the general fund is negatively impacted, other programs and services may need to be reduced or eliminated.

It would be highly beneficial for our school district residents to advocate for continued federal funding for our programs so that we can continue to meet the needs of our students. If you need contact information for the representatives in the US Congress, go to this link: [www.congress.gov](http://www.congress.gov)

Please keep us in mind as we feverishly work to try and maintain focus throughout the process of planning our budget for the 2025-2026 school year and beyond.

Thank you for your support of our students, staff, and programs.

Go Tigers!