For Immediate Release

August 24, 2026

Edgar Board of Education Approves
Operational Referendum on November 3, 2026 Ballot

The Edgar School District Board of Education will ask voters for permission to exceed its state-set revenue limits by $1.4 million annually for five years in a non-recurring operational referendum that will be on the November 3 election ballot. The board approved the resolution at its regular August 19, 2026 meeting.

The district currently operates using funds from a referendum approved in 2022, which expires on June 30, 2027. If approved, this new referendum would begin on July 1, 2027. The new request is not on top of the existing referendum. If voters approve the referendum, the funds would help maintain current educational programs and services. This is a tax impact of $0.84 per $1000 of property value in the first year. For example, the average home value in Edgar is $229,000.00. For an average home, the referendum will cost approximately $16 per month in the first year, and financial projections indicate the tax mill rate decreases in years two through five.

If approved, the referendum would allow the district to:

- Pay for transportation, utilities, and other ongoing operating expenses
- Maintain class sizes and student services appropriate for enrollment
- Maintain current programming levels
- Maintain current staff wage levels
- Continue basic building maintenance
- Continue current levels of support for instruction and safety

In Wisconsin, school districts are allowed to ask voters for permission to exceed the revenue limits, which are placed on districts under state law. These limits cap the amount of revenue districts can receive in state aid and property taxes. Since the 2011-2012 school year, the State-imposed revenue limit has not kept pace with inflationary increases, and there has been no increase in State funding since the 2024-25 school year.

Approved referendums fund local school budgets and fill the gap left by decreases in State aid. Edgar School District continually seeks operational efficiencies and works to control costs wherever possible. Efficiencies alone are not projected to offset long-term gaps in state funding without reducing student programs and services.

“Further cuts could severely impact the district’s ability to serve students, and the Board of Education has to ask voters at the polls to exceed its revenue limits through the referendum process. The needs have not gone away, and state funding has not kept pace with inflation,” said Cari Guden, Edgar District Administrator.

“If the referendum is voter-approved, district officials will continue to contain costs and be responsible stewards of the district’s finances.” If the referendum fails, the district will be forced to make cuts that will impact student services and facility maintenance. Such cuts will likely be needed each year,” she said.

Additional information will be shared with the public via direct mailings, the District's website, and other public places. For immediate questions, please contact District Administrator Dr. Cari Guden at (715) 352-2351.