



## 2025 South Dakota Legislature

# Senate Bill 55

*Introduced by: The Chair of the Senate Committee on Appropriations at the request of the Bureau of Finance and Management*

1 **An Act to revise property tax levies for school districts and to revise the state aid to**  
 2 **general and special education formulas.**

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 **Section 1. That § 10-12-42 be AMENDED:**

5 **10-12-42.** For taxes payable in ~~2025~~ 2026, and each year thereafter, the levy for  
 6 the general fund of a school district is as follows:

7 (1) The maximum tax levy is five dollars and ~~forty-four and four-tenths~~ twenty-one and  
 8 one-tenth cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation, subject to the limitations  
 9 on agricultural property as provided in subdivision (2) of this section and owner-  
 10 occupied property as provided in subdivision (3) of this section;

11 (2) The maximum tax levy on agricultural property for the school district is one dollar  
 12 and ~~nineteen and seven-tenths~~ twelve and five-tenths cents per thousand dollars  
 13 of taxable valuation. If the district's levies are less than the maximum levies as  
 14 stated in this section, the levies must maintain the same proportion to each other  
 15 as represented in the mathematical relationship at the maximum levies; and

16 (3) The maximum tax levy for an owner-occupied single-family dwelling pursuant to  
 17 § 10-13-40 for the school district is two dollars and ~~sixty-seven and nine-tenths~~  
 18 fifty-one and eight-tenths cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation. If the  
 19 district's levies are less than the maximum levies as stated in this section, the  
 20 levies must maintain the same proportion to each other as represented in the  
 21 mathematical relationship at the maximum levies.

22 All levies in this section must be imposed on valuations where the median level of  
 23 assessment represents eighty-five percent of market value as determined by the  
 24 Department of Revenue. These valuations must be used for all school funding purposes.  
 25 If the district has imposed an excess levy pursuant to § 10-12-43, the levies must  
 26 maintain the same proportion to each other as represented in the mathematical

1 relationship at the maximum levies in this section. The school district may elect to tax at  
2 less than the maximum amounts set forth in this section.

3 **Section 2. That § 13-13-10.1 be AMENDED:**

4 **13-13-10.1.** The education funding terms and procedures referenced in this  
5 chapter are defined as follows:

6 (1) Nonresident students who are in the care and custody of the Department of Social  
7 Services, the Unified Judicial System, the Department of Corrections, or other state  
8 agencies and are attending a public school may be included in the fall enrollment  
9 of the receiving district when enrolled in the receiving district;

10 (2) "Fall enrollment," is calculated as follows:

11 (a) Determine the number of kindergarten through twelfth grade students  
12 enrolled in all schools operated by the school district on the last Friday of  
13 September of the current school year, and add to that number the product  
14 of 0.10 multiplied by the number of children who participated in the prior  
15 school year in high school interscholastic activities sanctioned or sponsored  
16 by the South Dakota High School Activities Association, as permitted by  
17 § 13-36-7, while receiving alternative instruction pursuant to § 13-27-3;

18 (b) Subtract the number of students for whom the district receives tuition  
19 except for:

20 (i) Nonresident students who are in the care and custody of a state  
21 agency and are attending a public school district; and

22 (ii) Students who are being provided an education pursuant to § 13-28-  
23 11;

24 (c) Add the number of students for whom the district pays tuition.

25 When computing state aid to education for a school district pursuant to § 13-13-73, the  
26 secretary of the Department of Education shall use the school district's fall  
27 enrollment;

28 (3) "Target teacher ratio factor," is:

29 (a) For school districts with a fall enrollment of two hundred or less, the target  
30 teacher ratio factor is 12;

31 (b) For districts with a fall enrollment of greater than two hundred, but less  
32 than six hundred, the target teacher ratio factor is calculated as follows:

33 (i) Multiplying the fall enrollment by .00750;

34 (ii) Adding 10.50 to the resulting product;

1 (c) For districts with a fall enrollment of six hundred or greater, the target  
2 teacher ratio factor is 15.

3 The fall enrollment used for the determination of the target teacher ratio for a school  
4 district may not include any students residing in a residential treatment facility  
5 when the education program is operated by the school district;

6 (4) "English learner (EL) adjustment," is calculated by multiplying 0.25 times the  
7 number of kindergarten-through-twelfth-grade students who, in the prior school  
8 year, scored below level four on the state-administered language proficiency  
9 assessment as required in the state's consolidated state application pursuant to  
10 § 1111(b)(2)(G) of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. ~~For the 2021-2022~~  
11 ~~calculation only, the EL adjustment is calculated by multiplying 0.25 times the~~  
12 ~~number of kindergarten through twelfth grade students who scored below level~~  
13 ~~four on the state administered language proficiency assessment in school year~~  
14 ~~2019-2020 or 2020-2021, whichever is greater;~~

15 (5) "Index factor," is the annual percentage change in the consumer price index for  
16 urban wage earners and clerical workers as computed by the Bureau of Labor  
17 Statistics of the United States Department of Labor for the year before the year  
18 immediately preceding the year of adjustment or three percent, whichever is less;

19 (6) "Target teacher salary," for the school fiscal year beginning July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025, is  
20 ~~\$62,045.62~~ \$62,821.19. Each school fiscal year thereafter, the target teacher  
21 salary is the previous fiscal year's target teacher salary increased by the index  
22 factor;

23 (7) "Target teacher benefits," is the target teacher salary multiplied by twenty-nine  
24 percent;

25 (8) "Target teacher compensation," is the sum of the target teacher salary and the  
26 target teacher benefits;

27 (9) "Overhead rate," is thirty-eight and seventy-eight-hundredths percent.

28 Beginning in school fiscal year 2018, the overhead rate must be adjusted to take into  
29 account the sum of the amounts that districts exceed the other revenue base  
30 amount;

31 (10) "Local need," is calculated as follows:

32 (a) Divide the fall enrollment by the target teacher ratio factor;

33 (b) If applicable, divide English Learner (EL) adjustment pursuant to subdivision  
34 (4) by the target teacher ratio factor;

35 (c) Add the results of subsections (a) and (b);

- 1 (d) Multiply the result of subsection (c) by the target teacher compensation;
- 2 (e) Multiply the product of subsection (d) by the overhead rate;
- 3 (f) Add the products of subsections (d) and (e);
- 4 (g) When calculating local need at the statewide level, include the amounts set
- 5 aside for costs related to technology in schools and statewide student
- 6 assessments; and
- 7 (h) When calculating local need at the statewide level, include the amounts set
- 8 aside for sparse school district benefits, calculated pursuant to §§ 13-13-
- 9 78 and 13-13-79;
- 10 (11) "Alternative per student need," is calculated as follows:
- 11 (a) Add the total need for each school district for school fiscal year 2016,
- 12 including the small school adjustment and the English learner adjustment,
- 13 to the lesser of the amount of funds apportioned to each school district in
- 14 the year preceding the most recently completed school fiscal year or school
- 15 fiscal year 2015 pursuant to §§ 10-33-24, 10-35-21, 10-36-10, 10-43-77,
- 16 11-7-73, 13-13-4, and 23A-27-25, ~~10-33-24, 10-36-10, 11-7-73, 10-35-~~
- 17 ~~21, and 10-43-77;~~ and
- 18 (b) Divide the result of (a) by the September 2015 fall enrollment, excluding
- 19 any adjustments based on prior year student counts;
- 20 (12) "Alternative local need," is the alternative per student need multiplied by the fall
- 21 enrollment, excluding any adjustments based on prior year student counts;
- 22 (13) "Local effort," the amount of ad valorem taxes generated in a school fiscal year by
- 23 applying the levies established pursuant to § 10-12-42. Beginning on July 1, 2017,
- 24 local effort includes the amount of funds apportioned to each school district in the
- 25 year preceding the most recently completed school fiscal year pursuant to §§ 10-
- 26 33-24, 10-35-21 as provided by subdivision (15), 10-36-10, 10-43-77, 11-7-73,
- 27 13-13-4, and 23A-27-25 and that exceeds the other revenue base amount;
- 28 (14) "Other revenue base amount," for school districts not utilizing the alternative local
- 29 need calculation is the amount of funds apportioned to each school district pursuant
- 30 to §§ 10-33-24, 10-35-21 as provided by subdivision (15), 10-36-10, 10-43-77,
- 31 11-7-73, 13-13-4, and 23A-27-25, calculated as follows:
- 32 (a) Beginning on July 1, 2017, equals the greatest of the amounts of the funds
- 33 apportioned to each school district pursuant to §§ 10-33-24, 10-35-21 as
- 34 provided by subdivision (15), 10-36-10, 10-43-77, 11-7-73, 13-13-4, and
- 35 23A-27-25 for school fiscal years 2013, 2014, and 2015;

- 1 (b) Beginning on July 1, 2018, multiply eighty percent times subsection (a);
- 2 (c) Beginning on July 1, 2019, multiply sixty percent times subsection (a);
- 3 (d) Beginning on July 1, 2020, multiply forty percent times subsection (a);
- 4 (e) Beginning on July 1, 2021, multiply twenty percent times subsection (a);
- 5 and
- 6 (f) Beginning on July 1, 2022, is zero;

7 For school districts utilizing the alternative local need calculation, the other revenue base  
 8 amount is zero until the school district chooses to no longer utilize the alternative  
 9 local need calculation. At that time, the other revenue base amount is calculated  
 10 as defined above.

11 For a school district created or reorganized after July 1, 2016, the other revenue base  
 12 amount is the sum of the other revenue base amount for each district before  
 13 reorganization, and the new school district may not utilize the alternative local  
 14 need calculation.

15 In the case of the dissolution and annexation of a district, the other revenue base amount  
 16 of the dissolved school district will be prorated based on the total number of  
 17 students in the fall enrollment as defined in subdivision (2) who attend each district  
 18 to which area of the dissolved district were annexed to in the first year of  
 19 reorganization. The amount apportioned for each district will be added to the  
 20 annexed districts' other revenue base;

21 (15) "Wind energy tax revenue," any wind energy tax revenue apportioned to school  
 22 districts pursuant to § 10-35-21 from a wind farm producing power for the first  
 23 time before July 1, 2016, is considered local effort pursuant to subdivision (13) and  
 24 other revenue base amount pursuant to subdivision (14). However, any ~~any~~ for wind  
 25 energy tax revenue apportioned to a school district from a wind farm producing  
 26 power for the first time after June 30, 2016, one hundred percent must be retained  
 27 by the school district to which the tax revenue is apportioned for the first five years  
 28 of producing power, eighty percent for the sixth year, sixty percent for the seventh  
 29 year, forty percent for the eighth year, twenty percent for the ninth year, and zero  
 30 percent thereafter. If a wind farm begins producing power for the first time  
 31 between October first and December thirty-first in a calendar year, any revenues  
 32 generated for that time period must be retained by the school district and that time  
 33 period may not be counted against the first five-year period;

34 (16) "Per student equivalent," for funding calculations that are determined on a per  
 35 student basis, the per student equivalent is calculated as follows:

- 1 (a) Multiply the target teacher compensation times the sum of one plus the
- 2 overhead rate; and
- 3 (b) Divide subsection (a) by 15;
- 4 (17) "Monthly cash balance," the total amount of money for each month in the school
- 5 district's general fund, calculated by adding all deposits made during the month to
- 6 the beginning cash balance and deducting all disbursements or payments made
- 7 during the month;
- 8 (18) "General fund base percentage," is determined as follows:
- 9 (a) Forty percent for a school district with a fall enrollment as defined in
- 10 subdivision (2) of two hundred or less;
- 11 (b) Thirty percent for a school district with fall enrollment as defined in
- 12 subdivision (2) of more than two hundred but less than six hundred; and
- 13 (c) Twenty-five percent for a school district with fall enrollment as defined in
- 14 subdivision (2) greater than or equal to six hundred.
- 15 When determining the general fund base percentage, the secretary of the
- 16 Department of Education shall use the lesser of the school district's fall enrollment
- 17 as defined in subdivision (2) for the current school year or the school district's fall
- 18 enrollment from the previous two years; and
- 19 (19) "Allowable general fund cash balance," the general fund base percentage multiplied
- 20 by the district's general fund expenditures in the previous school year.

**Section 3. That § 13-37-16 be AMENDED:**

**13-37-16.** For taxes payable in ~~2025~~ 2026, and each year thereafter, the school board shall levy no more than one dollar and ~~forty-eight~~ forty-six and ~~eight-tenths~~ four-tenths cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation, as a special levy in addition to all other levies authorized by law for the amount so determined to be necessary, and the levy must be spread against all of the taxable property of the district. The proceeds derived from the levy constitute a school district special education fund of the district for the payment of costs for the special education of all children in need of special education or special education and related services who reside within the district pursuant to the provisions of §§ 13-37-8.4 to 13-37-8.10, inclusive. The levy in this section is based on valuations where the median level of assessment represents eighty-five percent of market value as determined by the Department of Revenue. The total amount of taxes that would be generated at the levy pursuant to this section is considered local effort. Money in the special education fund may be expended for the purchase or lease of any assistive

1 technology that is directly related to special education and specified in a student's  
2 individualized education plan. This section does not apply to real property improvements.

3 **Section 4. That § 13-37-35.1 be AMENDED:**

4 **13-37-35.1.** Terms used in chapter 13-37 mean:

- 5 (1) "Level one disability," a mild disability;
- 6 (2) "Level two disability," cognitive disability or emotional disorder;
- 7 (3) "Level three disability," hearing impairment, deafness, visual impairment, deaf-  
8 blindness, orthopedic impairment, or traumatic brain injury;
- 9 (4) "Level four disability," autism;
- 10 (5) "Level five disability," multiple disabilities;
- 11 (5A) "Level six disability," prolonged assistance;
- 12 (6) "Index factor," is the annual percentage change in the consumer price index for  
13 urban wage earners and clerical workers as computed by the Bureau of Labor  
14 Statistics of the United States Department of Labor for the year before the year  
15 immediately preceding the year of adjustment, or three percent, whichever is less;
- 16 (7) "Local effort," must be calculated for taxes payable in ~~2025~~ 2026 and thereafter  
17 using a special education levy of one dollar and ~~twenty-eight~~ twenty-six and eight-  
18 ~~tenths~~ four-tenths cents per one thousand dollars of valuation;
- 19 (8) "Allocation for a student with a level one disability," for the school fiscal year  
20 beginning July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025, is ~~\$7,556.00~~ \$7,650.45. For each school year  
21 thereafter, the allocation for a student with a level one disability must be the  
22 previous fiscal year's allocation for the child increased by the index factor;
- 23 (9) "Allocation for a student with a level two disability," for the school fiscal year  
24 beginning July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025, is ~~\$16,553.00~~ \$16,759.91. For each school year  
25 thereafter, the allocation for a student with a level two disability must be the  
26 previous fiscal year's allocation for the child increased by the index factor;
- 27 (10) "Allocation for a student with a level three disability," for the school fiscal year  
28 beginning July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025, is ~~\$22,854.00~~ \$23,139.68. For each school year  
29 thereafter, the allocation for a student with a level three disability must be the  
30 previous fiscal year's allocation for the child increased by the index factor;
- 31 (11) "Allocation for a student with a level four disability," for the school fiscal year  
32 beginning July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025, is ~~\$17,831.00~~ \$18,053.89. For each school year  
33 thereafter, the allocation for a student with a level four disability must be the  
34 previous fiscal year's allocation for the child increased by the index factor;

- 1 (12) "Allocation for a student with a level five disability," for the school fiscal year  
2 beginning July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025, is ~~\$36,582.00~~ \$37,039.28. For each school year  
3 thereafter, the allocation for a student with a level five disability must be the  
4 previous fiscal year's allocation for the child increased by the index factor;
- 5 (12A) "Allocation for a student with a level six disability," for the school fiscal year  
6 beginning July 1, ~~2024~~ 2025, is ~~\$11,692.00~~ \$11,838.15. For each school year  
7 thereafter, the allocation for a student with a level six disability must be the  
8 previous fiscal year's allocation for the child increased by the index factor;
- 9 (13) "Child count," is the number of students in need of special education or special  
10 education and related services according to criteria set forth in rules promulgated  
11 pursuant to §§ 13-37-1.1 and 13-37-46 submitted to the Department of Education;
- 12 (14) "Fall enrollment," the number of kindergarten-through-twelfth-grade students  
13 enrolled in all schools operated by the school district on the last Friday of  
14 September of the previous school year minus the number of students for whom  
15 the district receives tuition, except any nonresident student who is in the care and  
16 custody of a state agency and is attending a public school and any student for  
17 whom tuition is being paid pursuant to § 13-28-42.1, plus the number of students  
18 for whom the district pays tuition;
- 19 (15) "Nonpublic school," a sectarian organization or entity accredited by the secretary of  
20 education for the purpose of instructing children of compulsory school age. This  
21 definition excludes any school that receives a majority of its revenues from public  
22 funds;
- 23 (16) "Nonpublic fall enrollment," the number of children under age eighteen, who are  
24 approved for alternative instruction pursuant to § 13-27-3 on the last Friday of  
25 September of the previous school year plus:
- 26 (a) For nonpublic schools located within the boundaries of a public school  
27 district with a fall enrollment of six hundred or more on the last Friday of  
28 September of the previous school year, the number of kindergarten-  
29 through-twelfth-grade students enrolled on the last Friday of September of  
30 the previous regular school year in all nonpublic schools located within the  
31 boundaries of the public school district;
- 32 (b) For nonpublic schools located within the boundaries of a public school  
33 district with a fall enrollment of less than six hundred on the last Friday of  
34 September of the previous school year, the number of resident  
35 kindergarten-through-twelfth-grade students enrolled on the last Friday of



- 1                   September of the previous school year in all nonpublic schools located  
 2                   within this state;
- 3       (17) "Special education fall enrollment," fall enrollment plus nonpublic fall enrollment;
- 4       (18) "Local need," an amount to be determined as follows:
- 5           (a)     Multiply the special education fall enrollment by 0.1062 and multiply the  
 6                   result by the allocation for a student with a level one disability;
- 7           (b)     Multiply the number of students having a level two disability as reported on  
 8                   the child count for the previous school fiscal year by the allocation for a  
 9                   student with a level two disability;
- 10          (c)     Multiply the number of students having a level three disability as reported  
 11                   on the child count for the previous school fiscal year by the allocation for a  
 12                   student with a level three disability;
- 13          (d)     Multiply the number of students having a level four disability as reported on  
 14                   the child count for the previous school fiscal year by the allocation for a  
 15                   student with a level four disability;
- 16          (e)     Multiply the number of students having a level five disability as reported on  
 17                   the child count for the previous school fiscal year by the allocation for a  
 18                   student with a level five disability;
- 19          (f)     Multiply the number of students having a level six disability as reported on  
 20                   the child count for the previous school fiscal year by the allocation for a  
 21                   student with a level six disability;
- 22          (g)     When calculating local need at the statewide level, include the amount set  
 23                   aside for extraordinary ~~costs~~ expenses defined in § 13-37-40;
- 24          (h)     When calculating local need at the statewide level, include the amount set  
 25                   aside for the South Dakota School for the Blind and Visually Impaired; and
- 26          (i)     Sum the results of subdivisions (18)(a) to (h), inclusive; and
- 27       (19) "Effort factor," the school district's special education tax levy in dollars per thousand  
 28                   divided by ~~\$1.288~~ \$1.264. The maximum effort factor is 1.0.