

# Legislative Report

Fiscal Year 2024 Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) Annual Report

**IOWA** | Department of Education



State of Iowa  
Department of Education  
Grimes State Office Building  
400 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

## **Administration**

McKenzie Snow, Director and Executive Officer  
of the State Board of Education

## **Office of the Chief Financial Officer**

Sandra Hurtado-Peters, Chief Financial Officer

## **Bureau of School Business Operations**

Kassandra Cline, Bureau Chief  
Ted Bauer, Education Program Consultant

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## Introduction

### Basis of Reporting

The Department is required to collect (Iowa Code § 423F.5) and report to the general assembly (Iowa Code § 256.9(19)) annual school district receipt and use of Secure an Advanced Vision for Education (SAVE) funds, which are intended to be used solely for property tax relief or infrastructure purposes. Districts report whether they used SAVE dollars to reduce local property tax levies and whether or not the local board adopted a revenue purpose statement to allow expenditures beyond those authorized in Iowa Code chapter 423F, which may include purchases for short-term needs (e.g., boiler, HVAC, building or playground safety needs, vehicle repairs, concrete), long-term planning needs (e.g., gym floor, windows, roof, new school bus, repayment of debt, remodeling, land purchase, new construction), or even infrastructure costs related to an executed 28E agreement (e.g., activity program, wellness center, community pool).

### Statutory References

#### **256.9 Duties of director.**

19. The department shall compile the financial information related to chapter 423F from the certified annual reports of each school district received pursuant to section 291.10, subsection 2, and shall submit the information to the general assembly in an annual report each February 1.

#### **291.10 Reports by secretary.**

1. The school district shall file an annual report with the director of the department of education on forms prepared for that purpose.

2. The annual report shall include the financial information required in section 423F.5, subsection 1, as related to monies received under chapter 423E or 423F, as applicable, for each budget year.

#### **423F.5 Contents of financial audit.**

1. A school district shall include as part of its financial audit for the budget year beginning July 1, 2007, and for each subsequent budget year the amount received during the year pursuant to chapter 423E or this chapter, as applicable. In addition, the financial audit shall include the amount of bond levies, physical plant and equipment levy, and public educational and recreational levy reduced as a result of the money received under chapter 423E or this chapter, as applicable. The amount of the reductions shall be stated in terms of dollars and cents per one thousand dollars of valuation and in total amount of property tax dollars. Also included shall be an accounting of the amount of moneys received which were spent for infrastructure purposes pursuant to chapter 423E or this chapter, as applicable.

## SAVE Data

### Aggregate District Data

District-by-district data related to the annual report to the legislature is posted to the [Secure an Advance Vision for Education \(SAVE\)](#) page of the Iowa Department of Education's website once available. Data used to populate the report are from two district-reported sources: Certified Annual Report (CAR) and the Facilities, Elections, and Sales Tax (FEST) application submissions. Aggregate district data is provided below.

### Sales Tax Financial Information – Fund 33

**Table 1: SAVE Balances**

Balance Type	FY23	FY24	Variance	Percent Change
School District Count	327	325	(2)	(1%)
Beginning Balance	\$939,179,371	\$1,185,035,919	\$245,856,548	26%
Ending Balance	\$1,185,035,919	\$1,137,120,040	(\$47,915,879)	(4%)

**Table 2: SAVE Revenues**

Revenue Type	FY23	FY24	Variance	Percent Change
Sales Tax Revenues	\$657,683,531	\$638,278,408	(\$19,405,123)	(3%)
Other Local Revenues	\$36,595,476	\$54,807,181	\$18,211,705	50%
Other State Revenues	\$804,647	\$1,327,911	\$523,264	65%
Federal Revenues	\$2,446,440	\$7,649,894	\$5,203,454	213%
Sale of Long-Term Debt	\$479,028,425	\$342,579,948	(\$136,448,477)	(28%)
Transfer from Other Funds	\$41,694,599	\$33,725,602	(\$7,968,997)	(19%)

Revenue Type	FY23	FY24	Variance	Percent Change
Other Revenue	\$29,030,009	\$27,473,193	(\$1,556,816)	(5%)
Total Revenues and Transfers	\$1,247,283,127	\$1,105,842,137	(\$141,440,990)	(11%)

**Table 3: SAVE Expenditures**

Expenditure Type	FY23	FY24	Variance	Percent Change
School Infrastructure Construction	\$391,696,259	\$525,100,640	\$133,404,381	34%
Land Purchased	\$3,870,043	\$15,894,534	\$12,024,491	311%
Buildings Purchased	\$10,393,146	\$6,227,593	(\$4,165,553)	(40%)
Equipment	\$76,242,447	\$90,886,328	\$14,643,881	19%
Other	\$94,938,966	\$117,747,472	\$22,808,506	24%
Transfers to the Debt Service Fund	\$324,493,862	\$331,993,447	\$7,499,585	2%
Transfers to Other Funds	\$99,791,856	\$65,908,002	(\$33,883,854)	(34%)
Total Expenditures and Transfers	\$1,001,426,579	\$1,153,758,016	\$152,331,437	15%

“Other” expenditures refer to issuance costs and debt-related costs, purchased professional and technical services such as architectural and legal, salaries and benefits related to project costs, construction services, building construction supplies, equipment, and purchased property services.

**Table 4: Comparison of Total SAVE Expenditures to Total SAVE Revenues**

Fiscal Year	Expenditures as a Percentage of Revenues
2023	80.3%
2024	104.3%

### Revenue Bond Information

**Table 5: SAVE Fund Balances and Revenue Bonds Outstanding**

Fund or Bond Balance	FY23	FY24	Variance	Percent Change
Restricted Fund Balance (for Revenue Bond Reserve)	\$64,240,199	\$61,644,002	(\$2,596,197)	(4%)
Other Restricted Balance	\$1,245,058,173	\$1,130,201,116	(\$114,857,057)	(9.2%)
Unassigned Fund Balance	(\$124,703,203)	(\$59,780,369)	(\$64,922,834)	52%
Revenue Bonds Outstanding	\$1,953,554,382	\$2,151,723,273	\$198,168,891	10%
Non-spendable Fund Balance	\$440,750	\$5,055,291	\$4,614,541	1,047%

### Definitions for Revenue Bonds Information

**Non-spendable Fund Balance** – The non-spendable fund balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. This may include the long-term amount of loans and receivables, as well as property acquired for resale and the corpus (principal) of a permanent fund.

**Restricted Fund Balance** – The restricted fund balance classification should be reported when legally enforceable constraints placed on the use of resources are either (a) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

**Unassigned Fund Balance** – The unassigned fund balance classification is used to report the residual amount for all *other* governmental funds after non-spendable, restricted, and committed balances have been identified, if the residual amount is negative.

## Save Reporting

**Table 6: Revenue Purpose Statement (RPS) Summary**

RPS Status	FY23		FY24	
	School Districts	Percentage	School Districts	Percentage
School districts that reported RPS expires in 2029	90	28%	66	20%
School districts that reported RPS expires before 2029	7	2%	3	1%
School districts that reported RPS expires after 2029	228	70%	256	79%
School districts that did not report the RPS expiration date	2	1%	0	0%
School Infrastructure Purposes	324	99%	324	99.7%
Property Tax Relief	289	88%	289	89%
Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) Purposes	303	93%	304	94%
Public Education and Recreation Levy (PERL) Purposes	127	39%	124	38%
Share with other entities under a 28E agreement	50	15%	48	15%

**Table 7: Levy Information**

Did the district reduce levies as a result of the money received under Chapter 423E or 423F in the following funds?	FY23	FY24	Variance	Percent Change
<b>Debt Service Levy</b>				
Number of school districts that reported "yes"	14	9	(5)	(36%)
Amount of property tax reduction	\$11,870,801	\$8,923,316	(\$2,947,485)	(25%)
<b>PPEL</b>				
Number of school districts that reported "yes"	4	2	(2)	(50%)
Amount of property tax reduction	\$620,997	\$840,787	\$219,790	35%
<b>PERL</b>				
Number of school districts that reported "yes"	1	0	(1)	(100%)
Amount of property tax reduction	\$19,427	\$0	(\$19,427)	(100%)

**Table 8: Miscellaneous Information**

Other Data Points	FY23	FY24	Variance	Percent Change
Number of school districts that issued revenue bonds through Chapter 423F	135	137	2	1%
Amount of sales tax used to pay revenue bonds	\$179,111,442	\$193,623,683	\$14,512,241	8%
Number of school districts that reported if SAVE were not available, the district would have increased property taxes through a bond referendum, voter-approved PPEL, regular PPEL, and/or PERL	230	217	(13)	(6%)

Note: Due to rounding, numbers presented throughout this document may not add up precisely to the totals or percentages provided.

### Summary Data

All 325 school districts completed this reporting requirement. During FY24, SAVE transactions totaled \$1,105,842,137 of revenues and \$1,153,758,016 of expenditures.