

# Creighton Community Schools

## Quarter 1 Community Update – 2025-2026

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### Budget Update

The 2025–2026 state budget was officially approved at our regular September board meeting. Creighton Community Schools continues to maintain a strong financial position.

While our property tax asking increased slightly this year to prepare for future building projects, it's important to note that our overall tax asking over the last three years remains in the negative. In contrast, most schools our size have experienced increases of \$200,000–\$300,000 over the same period.

Creighton Community Schools was one of only about 30% of districts in Nebraska that reduced their tax asking three years ago when additional foundation aid was provided by the State of Nebraska. This strategic decision has allowed us to invest in our future while continuing to prioritize responsible budgeting and community trust.

#### Budget Highlights (Past 3 Years):

##### 1. 2025–2026 Budget

- Total tax increase: \$66,371 (+1.5%)
- Total levy: 0.6459 (–9% compared to 2024–2025)

##### 2. 2024–2025 Budget

- Total tax increase: \$0
- Total levy: 0.711087 (–8% compared to 2023–2024)

##### 3. 2023–2024 Budget

- Total tax decrease: –\$75,000 (–1.6%)
  - Total levy: 0.7713 (–8% compared to 2022–2023)
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## Building Updates

Creighton Community Schools has taken steps to address long-standing exterior brick damage on the front of the school building. This damage, which worsened prior to the 2018 roof replacement, was caused in part by the softer, more fragile bricks used during original construction — which are much less durable than older brick types.

After evaluating multiple repair options, the school board approved the use of Thermal Cork spray as the best long-term solution. The goal is to use this product with the rest of our building over the next few years to ensure all areas are repaired and receive the same benefits listed below.

### Why Thermal Cork?

- 💰 Cost-Effective: Spray cork was significantly more affordable than brick replacement or metal siding.
- 🌡️ Energy Efficient: Increases wall R-value from about 4.5 to 20, reducing heating and cooling costs.
- 💧 Water-Resistant: Prevents further erosion and moisture damage.
- ☀️ Long-Lasting: Minimal fading over several years.

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## Academic Update

Our K–6 students complete Aims Web testing, a norm-referenced assessment, three times each school year in both literacy and numeracy. This testing helps us compare our students' progress nationally and identify those who may need additional support or intervention.

Our district's goal is to have 80% of students performing in the average range or above by the end of the year in both literacy and numeracy.

As you can see below, our students are already well above the expected percentages for just our Fall scores. We are excited to see what our Winter and Spring scores will show. Thank you to our teachers, staff, students, and families for your continued support of our literacy and numeracy instruction that has allowed us to see exceptional, continued growth.

Reading:

- 90% of all students in grades K–6 scored average or above compared to the national average.
- 46% scored “above average” or “well above average.”

Math:

- 86% of all students in grades K–6 scored average or above compared to the national average.
- 30% scored “above average” or “well above average.”