



Wednesday, February 4, 2026

#WGBUILDINGFutures

A Note From Mr. Lane

As the 2026 Iowa Legislative Session heats up, decisions are being made in Des Moines that will define the educational opportunities for Woodward-Granger students. While the Governor has recommended a 2.0% increase in State Supplemental Aid (SSA) and the Senate is discussing 1.75%, we are advocating for a 4.0% increase.

This isn't just a random number. A 4.0% increase is the vital threshold needed to ensure our district can keep up with the rising costs of a high-quality education while managing the unique challenges of our growing enrollment.

The "4% is Not 4%" Reality

To understand why the state can afford 4.0%, we have to look at the math behind the statewide numbers. Across Iowa, public school enrollment declined by over 7,300 students this year. Because state funding is per-pupil, fewer students naturally saves the state money—approximately \$80.6 million compared to last year.

Because of these natural savings:

- **Actual Cost is Lower:** A 4.0% SSA increase results in only a 2.06% real increase in cost to the state.
- **State Revenue is Strong:** State revenue is projected to grow by 4.2%.
- **Pennies on the Dollar:** Current proposals, like the 1.75% increase, represent spending only about 7 cents of every available new dollar of state revenue growth on public schools.

The Cost of Growth: Educating Students for Free

While many districts across Iowa are managing declining enrollment, Woodward-Granger is in a different position: our enrollment is increasing. While growth is a positive sign for our community, the state's funding formula creates a unique financial challenge.

#WGBUILDING Futures

Iowa schools are funded based on the "Certified Enrollment" count from the previous year. This means our funding for the current school year is based on the number of students we had a year ago, not the number of students actually sitting in our classrooms today.

When our enrollment grows, we must educate those additional students with zero additional state funding for their first year. In essence, the formula forces us to educate these new students "for free" until the funding catches up the following year.

This "funding lag" puts a significant strain on our resources. We are forced to stretch our budget to cover more students than the state is paying us for. This makes a 4.0% SSA increase even more critical. It provides the necessary resources to maintain class sizes and support services for *all* our students—funded or not—without compromising the quality of education.

The Impact on Our Classrooms

For Woodward-Granger, the difference between these percentages is real money that affects our ability to operate. According to the ISFIS New Money Calculator, here is the "New Money" available to our district under different scenarios:

SSA Increase	Regular Program Budget Increase
1.75%	\$219,518.00
2.00%	\$241,804.00
4.00%	\$420,092.00

With inflation running at **2.70%**, a 2.0% increase generates only enough revenue to cover basic cost increases. A 4.0% increase ensures we can pay competitive wages, cover utility hikes, and handle the costs of our growing student body without being forced into drastic cuts.

How You Can Help

Our legislators need to hear from the parents and patrons who see the value of our schools every day. When you reach out, please be sure to thank them for representing our school district and our communities.

Tell them that Woodward-Granger is growing, and we need a 4.0% SSA increase to ensure every student gets the education they deserve.

Find your legislator here: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>

HAWKS

2026-2027 School Calendar Public Hearing will be Held on Monday, February 16

The Woodward-Granger CSD Board of Directors will hold a Public Hearing at 5:30 pm on Monday, February 16, 2026. The Public Hearing is part of the Regular February Meeting, and will be held in the WG Middle School/High School Media Center.

A draft of the 2026-2027 school calendar is below. You can access a printable calendar at the link below.



DRAFT Woodward-Granger Schools 2026-2027 Calendar

August 2026							January 2027							One-Hour Early Dismissal Each Wednesday		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	AUGUST		
						1							1	2	Aug. 13	New Teacher Academy
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Aug. 14 & 17	Flex Day	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	Aug. 18-21	In-Service Days	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	Aug. 24	First Day of School	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Aug. 31	First Day of School (Preschool)	
30	31						31							SEPTEMBER		
September 2026							February 2027							Sept. 7	No School - Labor Day	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	OCTOBER		
														Oct. 16	No School - In-Service Day	
1	2	3	4	5			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	NOVEMBER		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Nov. 9, 10, 12	Early Out for P/T Conferences	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	Nov. 13	Flex Day	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	28							Nov. 25-27	No School - Thanksgiving Recess	
27	28	29	30				March 2027							DECEMBER		
October 2026							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Dec. 18	Last Day Before Break 1:30 pm Dismissal	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	Dec. 21	Flex Day		
							7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Dec. 21-31	No School - Winter Recess	
1	2	3					14	15	16	17	18	19	20	JANUARY		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	Jan. 1	No School - Winter Recess	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	28	29	30	31				Jan. 4	School Resumes	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	April 2027							Jan. 18	No School - MLK Jr. Day	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	FEBRUARY		
November 2026							1	2	3					Feb. 19	No School - In-Service Day	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	MARCH		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Mar. 5, 9, 11	Early Out for P/T Conferences	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Mar. 12	No School - Flex Day	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	25	26	27	28	29	30		Mar. 15-19	No School - Spring Recess	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	May 2027							APRIL		
29	30						S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Apr. 23	No School - In-Service Day	
December 2026							1	2	3					MAY		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	May 19	Seniors' Last Day	
1	2	3	4	5			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	May 23	Commencement	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	May 27	Last Day of School 1:30 pm Dismissal	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	May 28	No School - Flex Day	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	30	31						JUNE		
27	28	29	30	31			S	M	T	W	T	F	S	JULY		
June 2027							1	2	3	4	5			AUGUST		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SEPTEMBER		
							13	14	15	16	17	18	19	OCTOBER		
1	2	3					20	21	22	23	24	25	26	NOVEMBER		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	27	28	29	30				DECEMBER		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	August 2026							JANUARY		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	1	2	3	4	5			FEBRUARY		
27	28	29	30	31			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	MARCH		
September 2026							13	14	15	16	17	18	19	APRIL		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	MAY		
							27	28	29	30			JUNE			
1	2	3	4	5			January 2027							JULY		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5			AUGUST		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	SEPTEMBER		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	OCTOBER		
27	28	29	30	31			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	NOVEMBER		
October 2026							27	28	29	30				DECEMBER		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	February 2027							JANUARY		
							1	2	3	4	5	6	Jan. 1	No School - Winter Recess		
1	2	3	4	5			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Jan. 4	School Resumes	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Jan. 18	No School - MLK Jr. Day	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	FEBRUARY		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	28	29	30	31				Feb. 19	No School - In-Service Day	
27	28	29	30	31			March 2027							MARCH		
November 2026							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Mar. 5, 9, 11	Early Out for P/T Conferences	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	Mar. 12	No School - Flex Day		
							7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Mar. 15-19	No School - Spring Recess	
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S	M	T	W	T	F	S	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	May 28	No School - Flex Day	
1	2	3	4	5			11	12	13	14	15	16	17	JUNE		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	JULY		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	25	26	27	28	29	30		AUGUST		
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12	27	28	29	30				MARCH		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	January 2027							APRIL		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	1	2	3	4	5			MAY		
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1	2	3	4	5			February 2027							OCTOBER		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	NOVEMBER			
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27	28	29	30	31			January 2027							FEBRUARY		
January 2027							1	2	3	4	5			Jan. 1	No School - Winter Recess	
S	M	T	W													

Now Accepting Open Enrollment for the 2026–2027 School Year



Community School District

Woodward-Granger Schools is currently accepting Open Enrollment applications for the 2026–2027 school year. Applications for students in grades 1 through 12 are due by March 2, 2026. Applications for students enrolling in Transitional Kindergarten or Kindergarten will be accepted through September 1, 2026.

Why choose Woodward-Granger CSD

- WG is an ideal size for a strong sense of community and robust student opportunity
 - Wide variety of fine arts and athletic opportunities
 - Advanced Placement, Concurrent Enrollment, and Jobs for America's Graduates (iJAG) programming
 - Small class sizes
 - Robust Talented and Gifted, English Learner, and Special Education programs
 - New 6–8 WG Middle School opening in August of 2026



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Access the most current Iowa Department of Education Open Enrollment application form [here](#).

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2026-27 Preschool Registration

OPENING: February 6th 2026 @ 5 PM

Preschool Program Options

Welcome to our program! Please note that while we do our best to honor your schedule preferences, they are considered but not guaranteed.

Program Type	Hours	Days	Monthly Cost
4-Year-Old Half Day	AM: 8:15 – 11:20 or PM: 12:15 – 3:20	Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri	FREE (State Funded)
4-Year-Old Full Day	8:15 am – 3:20 pm	Mon – Fri*	\$425 (Partially State Funded)

*Note: Full-day students have early dismissal every Wednesday at 2:15.

"Hawks Nest" Extended Care & Wrap-Around

If you need care outside of standard school hours or want to "bridge" a half-day program into a full day, we offer the following Hawks Nest packages:

- **The Bridge (\$400/mo):** * Combines the Half-Day PK with "wrap-around" care to create a full school day.
 - No before or after-school care included.
- **The Half-Day Plus (\$800/mo):** * Combines Half-Day PK + Wrap-around care **PLUS** Before and After-school care.
- **The Full-Day Plus (\$825/mo):** * Full-Day PK program **PLUS** Before and After-school care.

**Look for
Annual Registration
information in
next months
newsletter**

Quick Summary of Costs

- Standard Half-Day: \$0
- Standard Full-Day: \$425/month
- Half-Day + Wrap-Around: \$400/month
- Half-Day + Wrap + Before/After Care: \$800/month
- Full-Day + Before/After Care: \$825/month

Preschool Contacts

Lindie Truitt
lindietruitt@wghawks.school
Shawna Fink
shawnafink@wghawks.school
515-999-8058

Hawks Nest Contact

Jill Vermaas
515-999-2287
jillvermaas@wghawks.school

It is the policy of the Woodward-Granger Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact Mr. Jake Mohling, Middle School Principal, jakemohling@wghawks.school, (515) 306-4263 West Third Street, Woodward, Iowa 50276.