

# SF2472: Unspent Balance Carryforward Maximum

[Senate File 2472](#) (SF2472), Sec. 84 (Iowa Acts 2026), established a limit to the unspent balance amount that can be carried forward into a succeeding fiscal year. This resource explains the implementation of the law in general and for FY27, illustrates the implementation within a technical resource, and shares multiple anticipated questions.

## General Implementation - For FY 2027

*UAB Carryforward Limit Amount:* 35% of FY 2025 (lookback period)

*Effective Budget Year:* July 1, 2027 (budget year)

*Year from which Carryforward is Limited:* Immediate prior year (base year)

*Lookback Period:* Two years prior to the fiscal year to the related budget year (year preceding base year or FY 2025)

## Implementation: FY27 Maximum Authorized Expenditures

Budget Year: FY27

Carryforward Year: FY26

Lookback Period for Calculation: FY25

## Resource

The Unspent Authorized Budget Report, published by the Department of Management and dated June 17, 2026, available on the [School Resources](#) web page, shows the calculation of the 35% and how the FY26 carry forward amount will be tested against the limit.

## Resource Example

### Step 1: Overview

In the illustration below, the district's FY25 max budget (Row 39 of Excel) is multiplied by 35%. (Row 44 of Excel) is used to pre-populate the maximum carryforward for the budget year (FY27, Row 38). If you are below the 35% amount the file will update with your carryforward amount from the prior year.

		Actual FY 2019	Actual FY 2020	Actual FY 2021	Actual FY 2022	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024	Actual FY 2025	Estimated FY 2026	Estimated FY 2027	Estimated FY 2028
37	30 Other Miscellaneous Income	308,823	348,620	509,987	487,922	458,981	507,070	337,733			
	Unspent Auth Budget - Previous Year or										
38	31 Under 35% Cap 2 years prior	555,749	688,893	958,611	1,371,883	1,642,070	1,934,385	2,183,196	2,483,840	1,928,203	1,903,005
39	32 Maximum Authorized Budget	3,322,088	3,698,511	4,133,181	4,451,914	4,757,964	5,150,663	5,509,151	5,437,156		
40	33 Expenditures	2,633,195	2,739,900	2,761,298	2,809,844	2,823,579	2,967,467	3,025,311			
41	34 Unspent Authorized Budget	688,893	958,611	1,371,883	1,642,070	1,934,385	2,183,196	2,483,840			
42											
43	UAB Ratio = Unspent Authorized Budget / Maximum Authorized Budget							45.1%	#VALUE!		
44	Maximum Carryforward to FY 2027 (35% of Maximum Authorized Budget) =							1,928,203			
45	Maximum Carryforward to FY 2028 (35% of Maximum Authorized Budget) =							1,903,005			
46											
47											
48											
49											

Note - District can fill in FY 2026 Miscellaneous Income and Expenditures to calculate an estimated UAB Ratio For FY 2026 and the Cap for FY 2028 will also update.

## Step 2: Enter Data

Editable fields include Expenditures (Row 40 of Excel) and Miscellaneous Income (Row 37 of Excel).

Enter - Enter the FY26 anticipated miscellaneous income and expenditures.

The lesser of the 35% calculated limit from FY25 or the ending UAB from FY26 (Row 44 or Row 41) is the new carryforward amount for FY27.

### Outcome A:

The 35% limit (Row 44) exceeds the actual carry forward (Row 41) so the entire amount of carryforward from FY 2026 is available in FY27.

	Actual FY 2019	Actual FY 2020	Actual FY 2021	Actual FY 2022	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024	Actual FY 2025	Estimated FY 2026	Estimated FY 2027	Estimated FY 2028
37 Other Miscellaneous Income	810,288	747,852	1,392,675	1,484,965	1,812,099	1,772,505	1,426,327	1,400,000		
38 Unspent Auth Budget - Previous Year or Under 35% Cap 2 years prior	1,614,265	2,132,271	3,003,890	3,602,530	4,422,553	5,459,823	5,426,921	4,273,059	2,876,927	5,521,924
39 Maximum Authorized Budget	11,178,635	11,523,816	12,976,315	13,818,860	15,186,015	16,557,221	17,091,803	15,776,927		
40 Expenditures	9,046,364	8,519,926	9,373,785	9,396,307	9,726,192	11,130,300	12,818,744	12,900,000		
41 Unspent Authorized Budget	2,132,271	3,003,890	3,602,530	4,422,553	5,459,823	5,426,921	4,273,059	2,876,927		
42										
43 UAB Ratio = Unspent Authorized Budget / Maximum Authorized Budget							25.0%	18.2%		
44 Maximum Carryforward to FY 2027 (35% of Maximum Authorized Budget) =							5,982,131			
45 Maximum Carryforward to FY 2028 (35% of Maximum Authorized Budget) =								5,521,924		

### Outcome B:

The 35% limit (Row 44) is less than the actual carry forward (Row 41) from FY 2025 so the amount carried forward and available in FY27 is equal to the 35% limit.

	Actual FY 2019	Actual FY 2020	Actual FY 2021	Actual FY 2022	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024	Actual FY 2025	Estimated FY 2026	Estimated FY 2027	Estimated FY 2028
37 Other Miscellaneous Income	626,320	805,776	825,234	971,332	1,118,442	1,487,874	1,163,113	1,250,000		
38 Unspent Auth Budget - Previous Year or Under 35% Cap 2 years prior	3,797,842	3,745,898	3,599,330	3,509,814	3,398,560	3,347,955	3,260,874	3,169,519	2,619,206	2,624,675
39 Maximum Authorized Budget	7,149,924	7,180,172	7,103,113	7,157,002	7,275,774	7,691,122	7,483,447	7,499,070		
40 Expenditures	3,404,026	3,580,842	3,593,299	3,758,442	3,927,819	4,430,248	4,313,928	4,550,000		
41 Unspent Authorized Budget	3,745,898	3,599,330	3,509,814	3,398,560	3,347,955	3,260,874	3,169,519	2,949,070		
42										
43 UAB Ratio = Unspent Authorized Budget / Maximum Authorized Budget							42.4%	39.3%		
44 Maximum Carryforward to FY 2027 (35% of Maximum Authorized Budget) =							2,619,206			
45 Maximum Carryforward to FY 2028 (35% of Maximum Authorized Budget) =								2,624,675		

## Anticipated Questions

**Question:** If an unspent balance is decreased for this purpose, does it affect the district's cash balance?

**Response:** No, any adjustment made to unspent balance is singular to the unspent balance amount.

**Question:** Is there a mechanism to carry forward an unspent balance that exceeds 35% of the lookback period?

**Response:** Yes, a district may individually petition the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) to exceed the 35% balance limit. The first step to appearing before the SBRC is to submit an [SBRC Hearing Request](#). Upon receipt, additional information including the listing of exhibits required to make such a request, will be provided. Required exhibits will include a cover letter, narrative explaining the request, demonstration of need, local impact, unspent balance policy, and board minutes authorizing such a request to the SBRC.