

Knowledge Open 2026
Masters Knowledge Challenge Quiz – answer key
18-hole

Tee box 1

Wisconsin enacted the core framework of its current public school funding formula in 1973.

Later, modern constraints of this formula were established by the state that implemented strict revenue limits, capping how much money districts can raise per pupil.

In what school year were the modern constraints of the funding formula established?

- A. 1982-1983
- B. 1993-1994
- C. 2005-2006
- D. 2013-2014

Answer: B. 1993-1994

Sponsored by Gary and Debbie Jahnke

Tee box 2

The average U.S. public school teacher spends \$895 out of pocket on classroom and student supplies each year. The Appleton Education Foundation is launching a new program—the Educators’ Resource Fund—this fall to help lessen this burden. Four AASD schools piloted this program during the 2025-26 school year. What were the top ordered items?

- A. Snacks, dry-erase markers, pens
- B. Organizing bins, batteries, snacks
- C. Sticky notes, calculators, composition notebooks
- D. Wet-erase markers, packs of graph paper, pens

Answer: A. Snacks, dry-erase markers, pens

Sponsored by Lee and Amy Allinger

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Tee box 3

The Appleton Area School District passed an operational referendum on April 7, 2026. How many more "yes" votes did the district receive than "no" votes?

- A. 515
- B. 2,076
- C. 5,013
- D. 8,095

Answer: D. 8,095

Sponsored by Greg and Karen Hartjes

Tee box 4

Great Northern Laminations has been in business for 53 years. During those years, the Appleton company has folded and glued a lot of paper together to make edge protection. If you could fold a single piece of paper (roughly .004" thick) in half 53 times, approximately how many layers thick would it be?

- A. 53 layers
- B. 53,000 layers
- C. 53 million layers
- D. More than 9 quadrillion layers

Answer: D. More than 9 quadrillion layers

Sponsored by Aaron and Kristin Sass

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Tee box 5

In 2025, how many library cards did the newly renovated Appleton Public Library issue, replace or renew?

- A. 20,915
- B. 25,915
- C. 30,915
- D. 40,915

Answer: C. 30,915

Sponsored by Don and Kris Hietpas

Tee box 6

A recent Appleton Education Foundation grant funded dramatic play prop boxes that rotate among Appleton Community 4K classrooms. Each year, more than 700 students will have equitable opportunities to participate in play-based learning with props representing a café, campsite, doctor's office, and other places. During the 2025-26 school year, what percentage of 4K teachers reported their students exhibited enhanced peer-to-peer engagement due to the use of the dramatic play prop boxes?

- A. 65%
- B. 78%
- C. 89%
- D. 100%

Answer: D. 100%

Sponsored by Jay and Janet Fulkerson

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Tee box 7

Established by Appleton West grad Alex Tyink, Fork Farms has revolutionized hydroponic gardening. Today, Fork Farms products are in all 50 states and more than 10 countries. You can find Fork Farms' Flex Farms in many Appleton schools across all grade levels. Several Appleton Education Foundation grants have supported these systems. Approximately how many pounds of produce can be grown in 28 days in a Flex Farm?

A. 10 lbs.

B. 18 lbs.

C. 25 lbs.

C. 32 lbs.

Answer: C. 25 lbs.

Sponsored by Rick and Susan Stezenski

Tee box 8

Blood donation is a simple act with extraordinary impact. Because blood cannot be manufactured, it depends entirely on the generosity of donors to support surgeries, trauma care, and life-saving treatments. A single donation can save multiple lives, making it one of the most powerful ways to give back and make a real difference.

The Community Blood Center is the sole provider of blood and blood products for Appleton area hospitals. In 2025, the Community Blood Center provided _____ lifesaving products to local area hospitals:

A. 29,284

B. 32,461

C. 35,692

D. 38,549

Answer: D. 38,549

Sponsored by Nancy and Steve Johnshoy

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Tee box 9

How many elevators does the Appleton Area School District own and operate?

- A. 24
- B. 26
- C. 29
- D. 32

Answer: C. 29 (There are 29 elevators in 24 buildings.)

Sponsored by Edward and Janis Ruffolo

Tee box 10

How much did Appleton Education Foundation award in grants and scholarships during the 2025 calendar year?

- A. \$265,000
- B. \$325,000
- C. \$386,000
- D. \$409,000

Answer: D. \$409,000

Sponsored by Dean and Pam Gruner

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Tee box 11

A recent grant expanded Fox River Academy's gardens, giving educators more space and resources to integrate gardening experiences into everyday learning for students in first through eighth grades. Third- and fourth-grade students learned about perimeter and area using the garden beds. Solve this math problem: There are four identical garden beds. Each is 3' x 6'. What is the total area of all four garden beds.

- A. 36 square feet
- B. 72 square feet
- C. 144 square feet
- D. 180 square feet

Answer: B. 72 square feet

Sponsored by Joe and Ann Toonen

Tee box 12

With financial markets experiencing ups and downs so far in 2026, it's important to remember, especially for younger investors, that time and the power of compounding can be your greatest allies.

Since 1926, large-cap stocks have produced an average annual return of approximately 10.5%. Based on that, if you invested \$5,000 per year from ages 25 to 35 and never contributed another dollar, you would have about \$1.8 million by age 65.

Now consider this: If you waited until age 45 and then invested \$5,000 per year through age 55, how much would you have at age 65?

- A. \$148,000
- B. \$244,000
- C. \$402,000
- D. \$663,000

Answer: B. \$244,000

Sponsored by The Savides Group of Baird

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Tee box 13

How many 500-foot wells were drilled for the geothermal-based heating and cooling system at Sandy Slope Elementary, AASD's newest school building?

- A. 55
- B. 107
- C. 153
- D. 205

Answer: B. 107

Sponsored by Scott and Dar Jones

Tee box 14

What is the only letter in the English alphabet that does not appear in the name of a U.S. state?

- A. Q
- B. X
- C. Y
- D. Z

Answer: A. Q

Sponsored by Steve Seifert

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Tee box 15

How many miles do Lamers Bus Line buses cover in a single day to pick up and drop off Appleton Area School District students?

- A. 450 miles
- B. 2,500 miles
- C. 3,250 miles
- D. 4,500 miles

Answer: D. 4,500 miles

Sponsored by Dave and Kay Eggert

Tee box 16

The majority of non-English speaking students in AASD speak Hmong and Spanish. The fastest-growing languages spoken by AASD students are Spanish, Swahili, Dari, and Farsi. Approximately how many languages are spoken by AASD students?

- A. 15
- B. 36
- C. 57
- D. 63

Answer: D. 63

Sponsored by Kathi Seifert

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Tee box 17

AASD has four sets of twin buildings where the construction and floor plans are basically the same. Which of the following contains the correct grouping of twin buildings?

- A. Kaleidoscope/Wilson, Highlands/McKinley, Horizons/Houdini, Berry/Ferber
- B. Kaleidoscope/Wilson, Dunlap/Franklin, Berry/Horizons, Houdini/Ferber
- C. Einstein/Madison, Dunlap/Franklin, Highlands/McKinley, Berry/Horizons
- D. Kaleidoscope/Wilson, Berry/Horizons, Houdini/Ferber, Highlands/McKinley

Answer: A. Kaleidoscope/Wilson, Highlands/McKinley, Horizons/Houdini, Berry/Ferber

Sponsored by Appleton Education Foundation

Tee box 18

Einstein Middle School is more than 60 years old. The large stone eagle displayed on the front of Einstein was salvaged from which Appleton building years after the school was built.

- A. Another school
- B. The former library
- C. The former post office
- D. An old veterinary office

Answer: C. The former post office

Sponsored by Ed and Sue Patschke

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19th Hole

Appleton Education Foundation will turn 30 years old in 2027! The Foundation has benefited from strong volunteer board members. The following individuals all served on the founding board of directors in 1997. Who served as AEF's first board president?

A. Tom Boldt

B. Jeff Riester

C. Paul Hoffman

D. Dr. John E. Mielke

Answer: B. Jeff Riester

Sponsored by Appleton Education Foundation