

September 25, 2024  
Lunch & Learn Webinar

# Finding Your Voice—Part I: Examining WASA's Legislative Platform

# Unpacking WASA's Legislative Platform

- State Budget Update
  - Budget Trends
  - 2025-27 Budget Situation
- WASA 2025 Legislative Platform & Strategy
- 2025 Platform Planks
- Resources

# 2023-25 Operating Budget (ESSB 5187)

• 2022 Supplemental		\$64.1 Billion
• '23-25 Maintenance Level	\$936 Million	
• '23-'25 Policy Level	\$4.7 Billion	
• Total Increase		<u>\$5.6 Billion</u>
• 2023-25 Operating Budget		\$69.8 Billion

## 2023-25 K-12 Impacts

Total K-12 Increase	\$2.9 Billion
K-12 Maintenance Level	\$2.56 Billion
K-12 Policy Level	\$345.6 Million

# 2024 Supplemental Operating Budget (ESSB 5950)

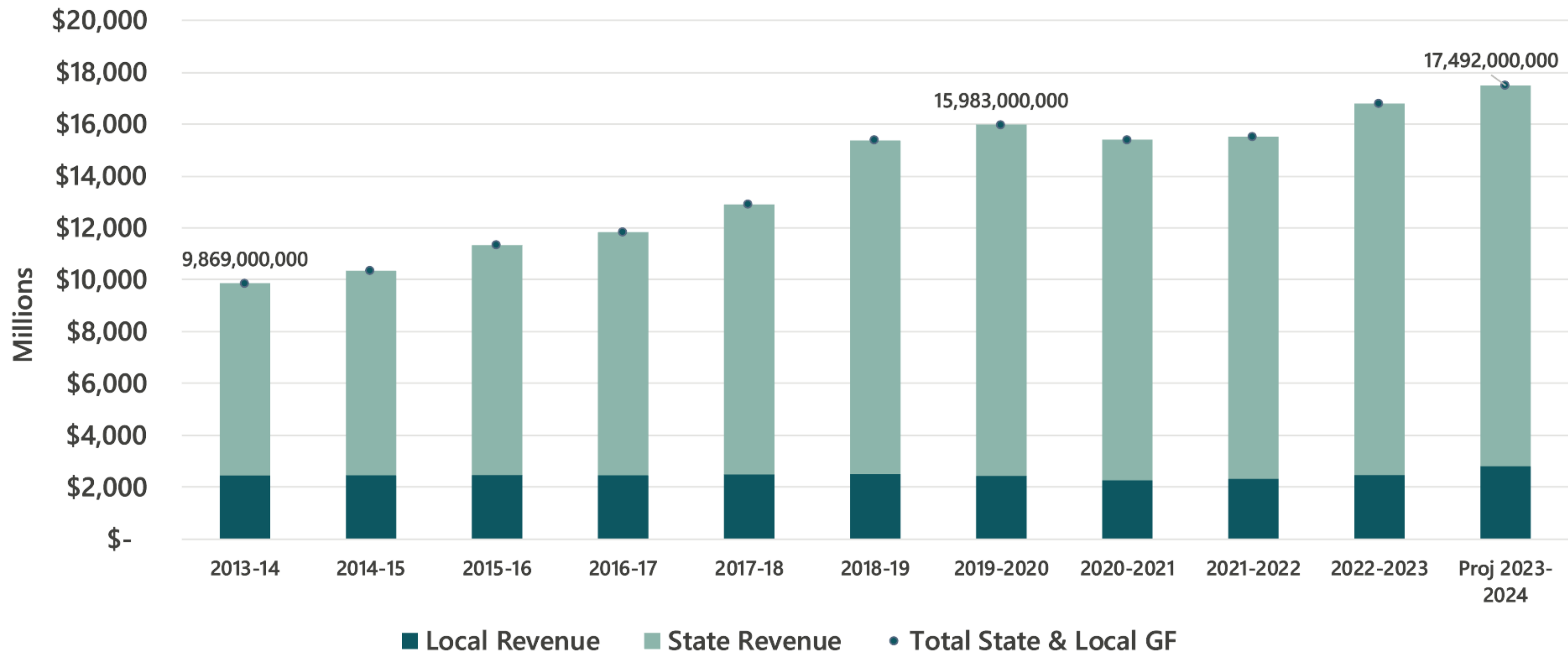
• 2023-25 Operating Budget		\$69.8 Billion
• '24 Maintenance Level	\$1.11 Billion	
• '24 Policy Level	\$1.03 Billion	
• Total Increase		<u>\$2.14 Billion</u>
• 2023-25 Operating Budget (Final)		\$71.95 Billion

## 2024 K-12 Impacts

Total K-12 Increase		\$525.5 Million
K-12 Maintenance Level	\$190.5 Million	
K-12 Policy Level	\$335.0 Million	



# K-12 Spending Over Time



# K-12 Spending Over Time vs. State Spending Over Time

## K-12 Spending (biennial, dollars in thousands):

- 2013-15 \$15,208,877
- 2019-21 \$27,304,334
- 2023-25 \$31,202,962 (not including vetoes)

**K-12 Ten Year Spending Increase: 105.2% increase**

## State Spending (biennial, dollars in thousands):

- 2013-15 \$33,631,274
- 2019-21 \$52,598,622
- 2023-25 \$71,947,256 (not including vetoes)

**State Ten Year Spending Increase: 113.9% increase**

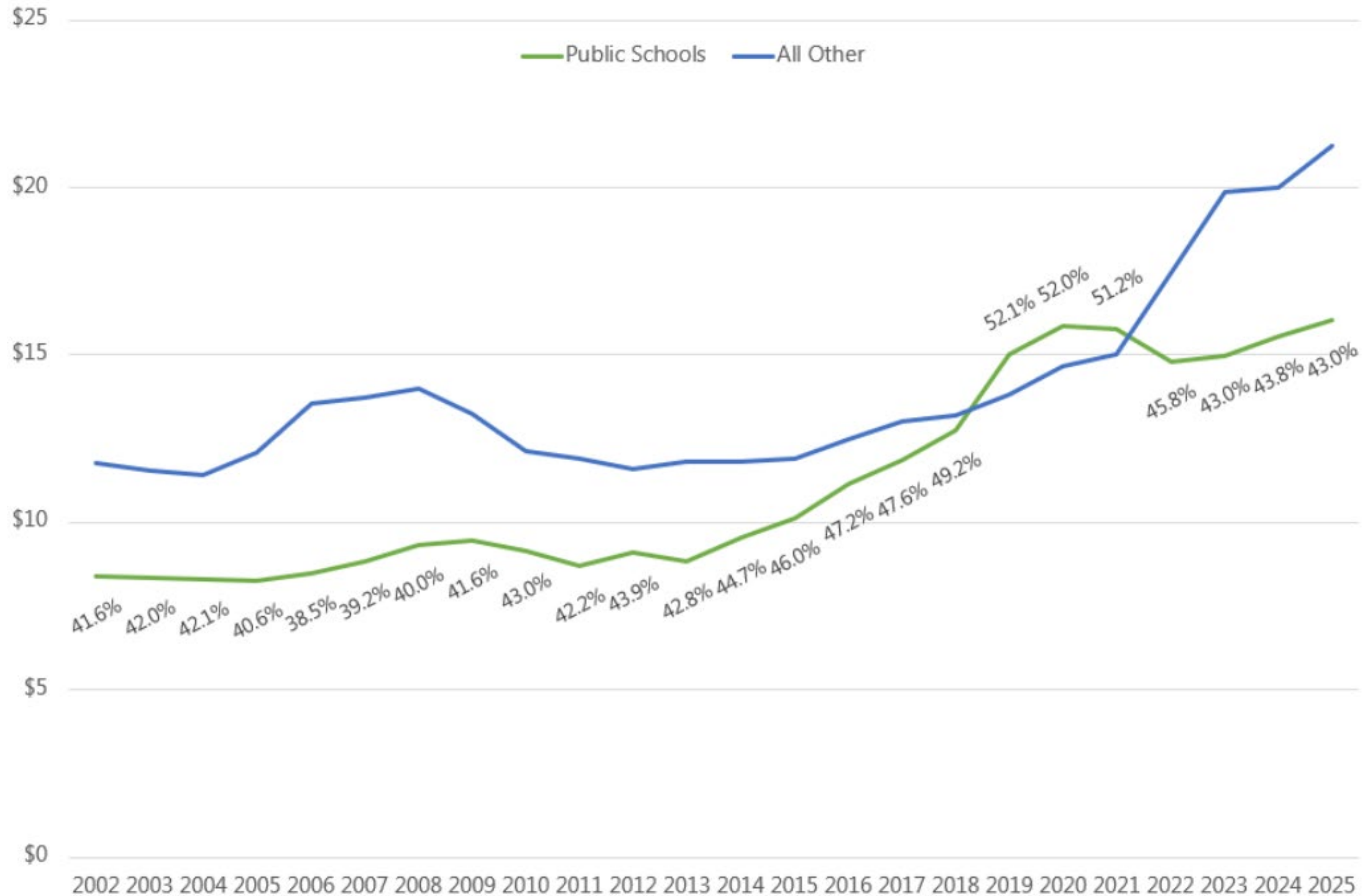
# K-12 Education Funding Trends

## Percentage of K-12 Funding in State Operating Budget

- 2015-17 biennium: 47.5%
  - 2016 Supplemental, 2015-17 final: 47.3%
- 2017-19 biennium: 50.3%
  - 2018 Supplemental, 2017-19 final: 51.0%
- 2019-21 biennium: 52.0%
  - 2020 Supplemental, 2019-21 final: 51.1%
- 2021-23 biennium: 47.8%
  - 2022 Supplemental, 2021-23 final: 43.3%
- 2023-25 biennium: 43.7%

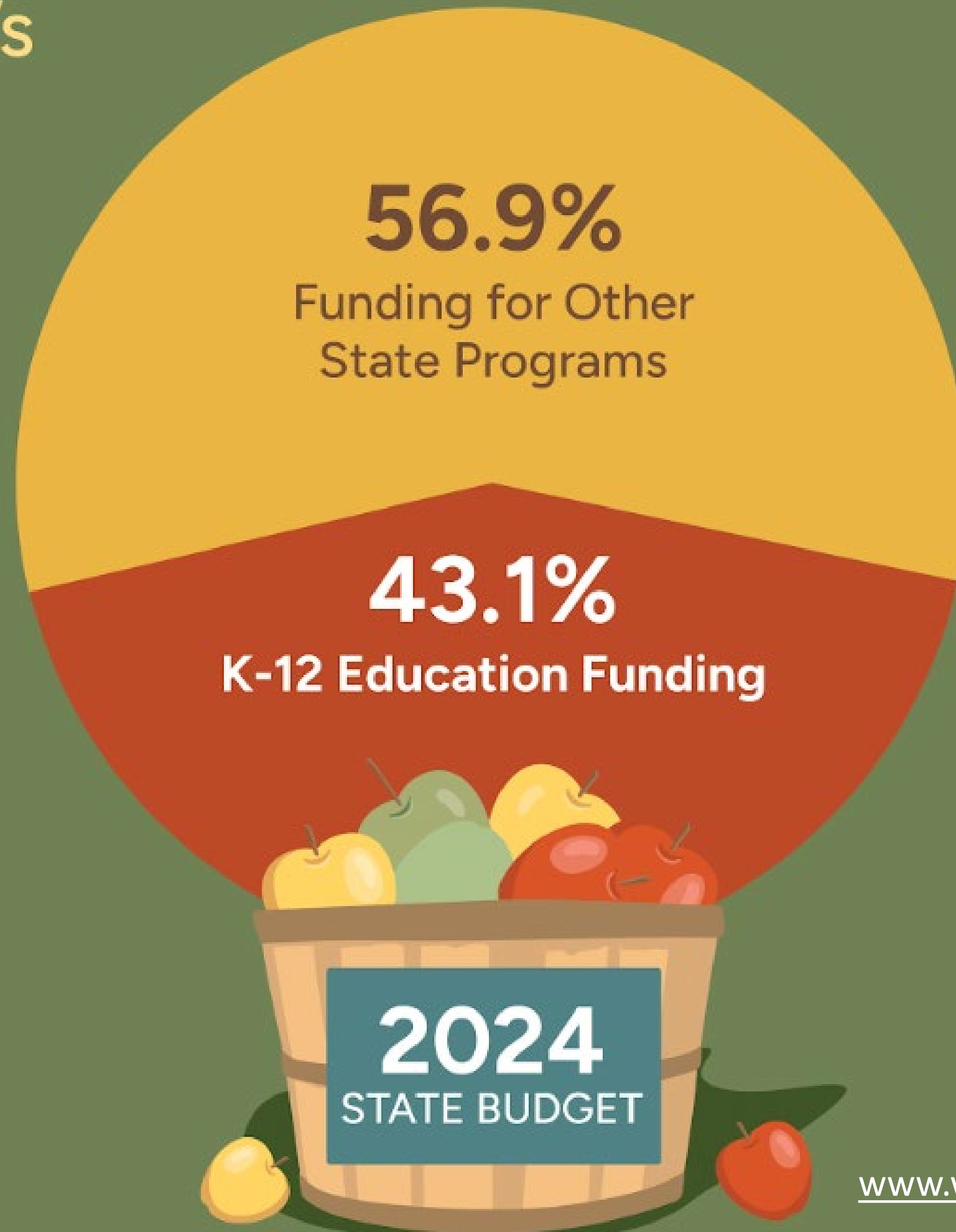
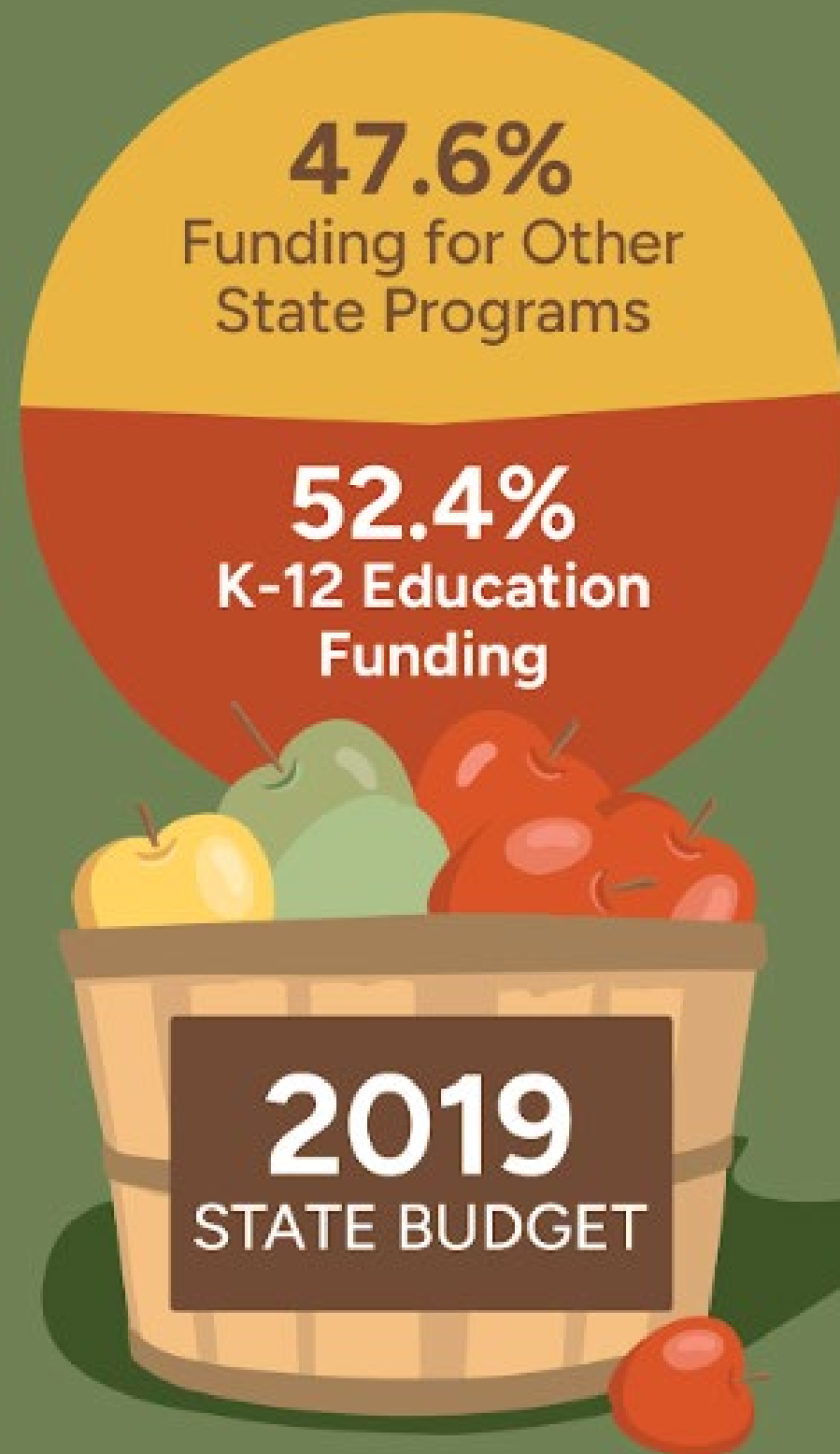
# Legislative Spending—Funds Subject to Outlook

(Dollars in Billions, Adjusted for Inflation. Percentages Are K-12's Share of NGFO Budget)





# Washington State's Operating Budget Over Time:



# State Budget Update

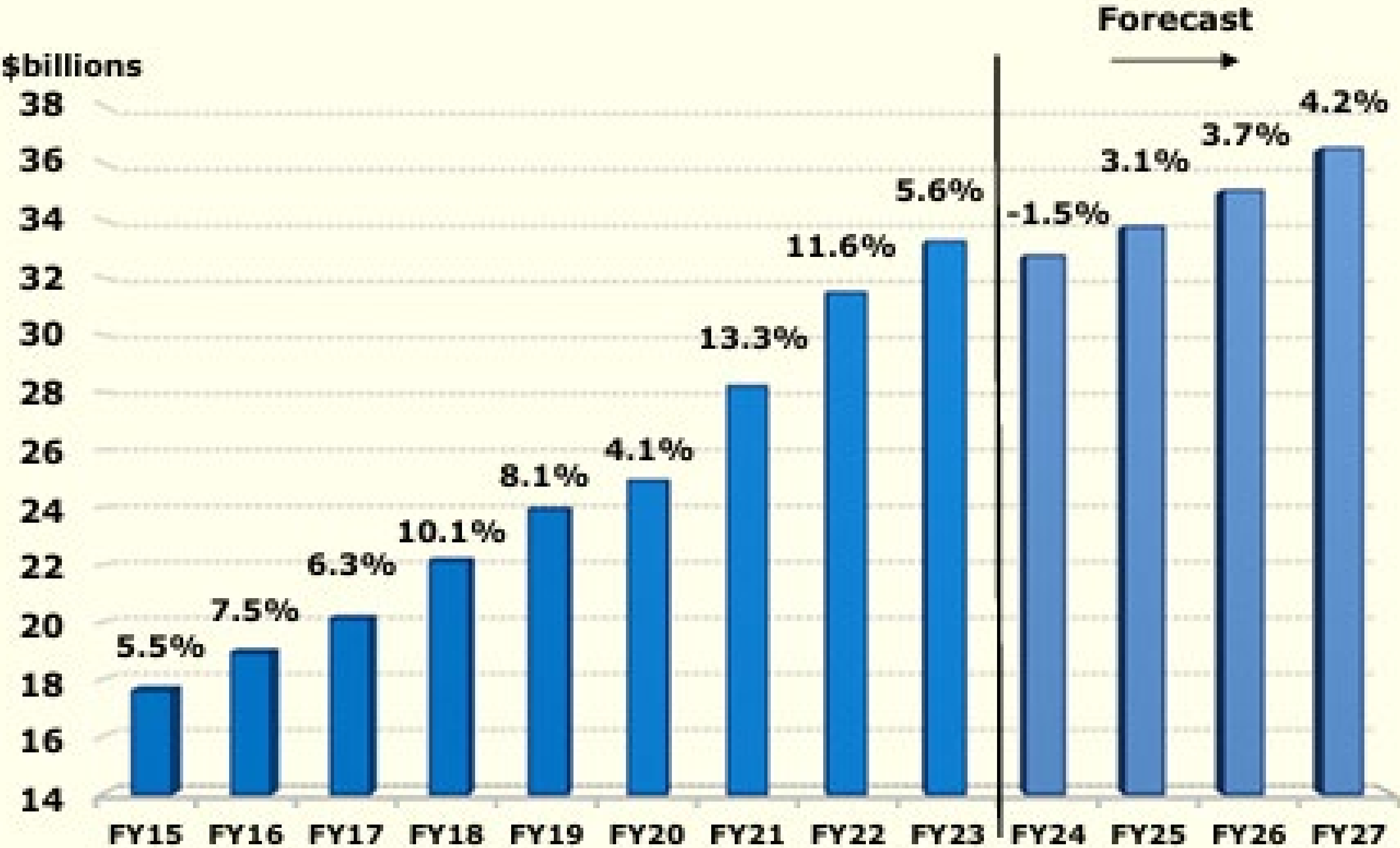
## Forecast Change—June 2024:

- Projected Revenue for **2023-25** is \$477 Million **below** February forecast
- Projected Revenue for **2025-27** is \$189 Million **below** February forecast
- July Revenue Collections: \$10.3 million **above** June forecast
- August Revenue Collections: \$33.1 million **below** June forecast
- September Revenue Collections: \$30.6 million **above** June forecast

Cumulatively, collections are **\$26.0 million higher** (0.4%) than forecasted in June

*Next Revenue Update: September 27*

# Forecasted Revenue Growth



# State Budget Update

## On-going Risks to Forecast:

- Continued High Interest Rates & Inflation
- Potential Recession/Economic Downturn
- Ukraine-Russia War
- Israel-Hamas War
- Potential Federal Government Shutdown
- Initiatives on ballot in November

# State Budget Update

## 2025 Ballot Initiative Impacts

### ➤ **I-2109: Capital Gains Repeal**

- \$2.2 Billion revenue loss through Fiscal Year 2029

	SFY 2025	SFY 2026	SFY 2027	SFY 2028	SFY 2029
Education Legacy Trust Account	(\$424,000,000)	(\$398,000,000)	(\$422,000,000)	(\$447,000,000)	(\$472,000,000)
Common School Construction Account	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	(\$424,000,000)	(\$398,000,000)	(\$422,000,000)	(\$447,000,000)	(\$472,000,000)

### ➤ **I-2117: Climate Commitment Act Repeal**

- \$3.8 Billion revenue loss and \$1.7 Billion reduced expenditures through Fiscal Year 2029



# **WASA 2025 Legislative Platform**

# WASA Legislative Platform

## Legislative Platform Strategy:

- WASA's ongoing strategy is to be **BOLD** and **HONEST**, advocating for what our students and school districts **NEED**—not what we think we might be able to achieve
- WASA will also continue to play the “long game,” building momentum and laying the groundwork for future success

# WASA 2025 Legislative Platform

**WASA's underlying Goal in 2025  
is to prioritize K-12 Education funding**



# 2025 Legislative Platform & Strategy

➤ **The Goal:** Prioritize K-12 Education funding

➤ **The Strategy:**

- Adopt a Platform that narrowly focuses on key Basic Education issues;
- Align school administrators—*and education community*—to speak with one voice; and
- Provide members with a Tool Kit with key messages, talking points, videos, social media content, and other communications to assist/ensure engagement with “Message Discipline”



# 2025 Legislative Platform

## 2025 Focus:

### Three Major Budget Priorities:

- **Special Education**
- **MSOC**
- **Pupil Transportation**

<https://bit.ly/4ayesaA>



# 2025 Legislative Platform & Strategy

- Why focus on Special Education; Materials, Supplies & Operating Costs (MSOC); and Pupil Transportation?
  - 1) Success in 2025 will positively impact ALL 295 school districts; automatically serves to unify WASA members
  - 2) Each issue is a Basic Education program, constitutionally required to be fully funded; there is clear, documented evidence none are fully funded
  - 3) School administrators are committed to ensuring each and every student is provided with the opportunity to learn and achieve their educational goals and aspirations—full funding of the three priorities will provide needed resources

# Additional Priority Issues

- While the Goal is to focus on a narrow set of K-12 funding issues, school administrators—and other associations that will support the effort—will want to address additional issues

**With a narrow, focused Platform, what happens with other issues?**

- WASA—and our partners—will continue to engage on important education issues; however, most of our focus and energy will be fixed on the three Platform issues



# Legislative Priorities

School administrators have ongoing concerns about the state's K-12 funding structure that must be addressed. These issues must continue to remain on legislators' radar:

- **Update Staff Allocations**
- **Modify Regionalization/Experience Factor**
- **Reform Levy/Local Effort Assistance**
- **Support Capital Facilities**

<https://bit.ly/4ayesaA>



# 2025 Platform Planks

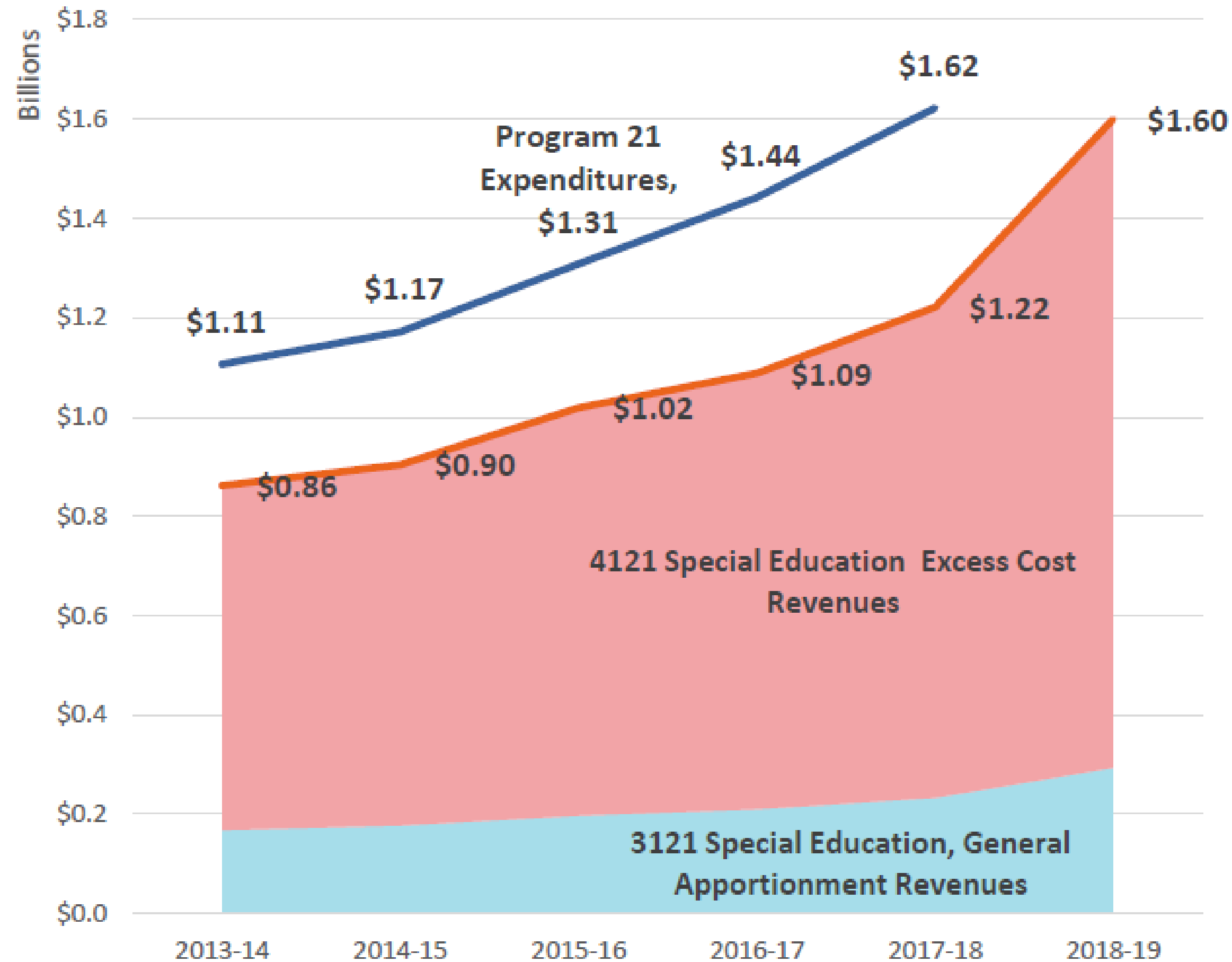
# Special Education

**The 2025 Legislature must fully fund  
the cost of special education services**

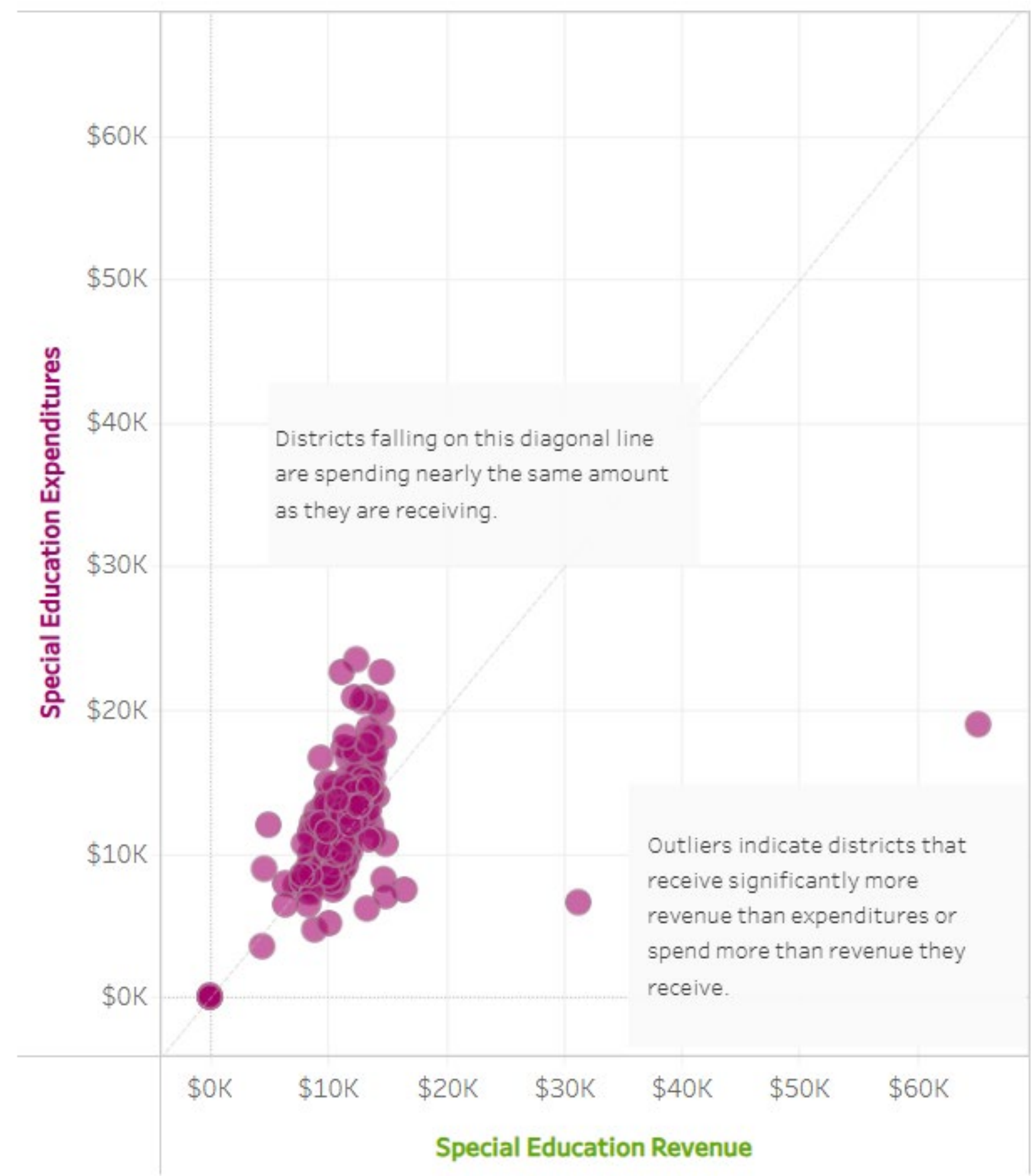
School districts have a legal obligation to serve all students with disabilities in Washington, regardless of cost of services, yet they do not have the necessary resources to provide those services.



# State Special Education Revenues and Expenditures



# Special Education Expenditures vs Revenues Per Student (SY 2018-19)



# Special Education

- Our “ask” is to significantly increase the special education **tiered multipliers** to eliminate the gap between state funding and school district expenditures
- There are three multipliers (Tier 2 & 3 have the same multiplier):
  - Pre-K, Ages 3-5
  - Ages K-21 in Tier 1; students placed in general education classrooms for 80-100% of the school day
  - Ages K-21 in Tier 2\*; students placed in general education classrooms for 40-79% of the school day
  - Ages K-21 in Tier 3\*; students placed in general education classrooms for 0-39% of the school day

\*NOTE: Tiers 2 & 3 use the same multiplier

# Special Education

- There are multiple additional potential “asks” for special education, including:
- Eliminate the Enrollment Cap;
  - Revise the Safety Net threshold;
  - Professional Development for special education staff;
  - Continue Inclusionary Practices Technical Assistance Network;
  - Implement statewide online IEP system;
  - Fund Paraeducators/Instructional Aides to support special education;
  - Increase special education funding to Age 22

**We intend to stay focused on increasing the Tiered Multipliers**

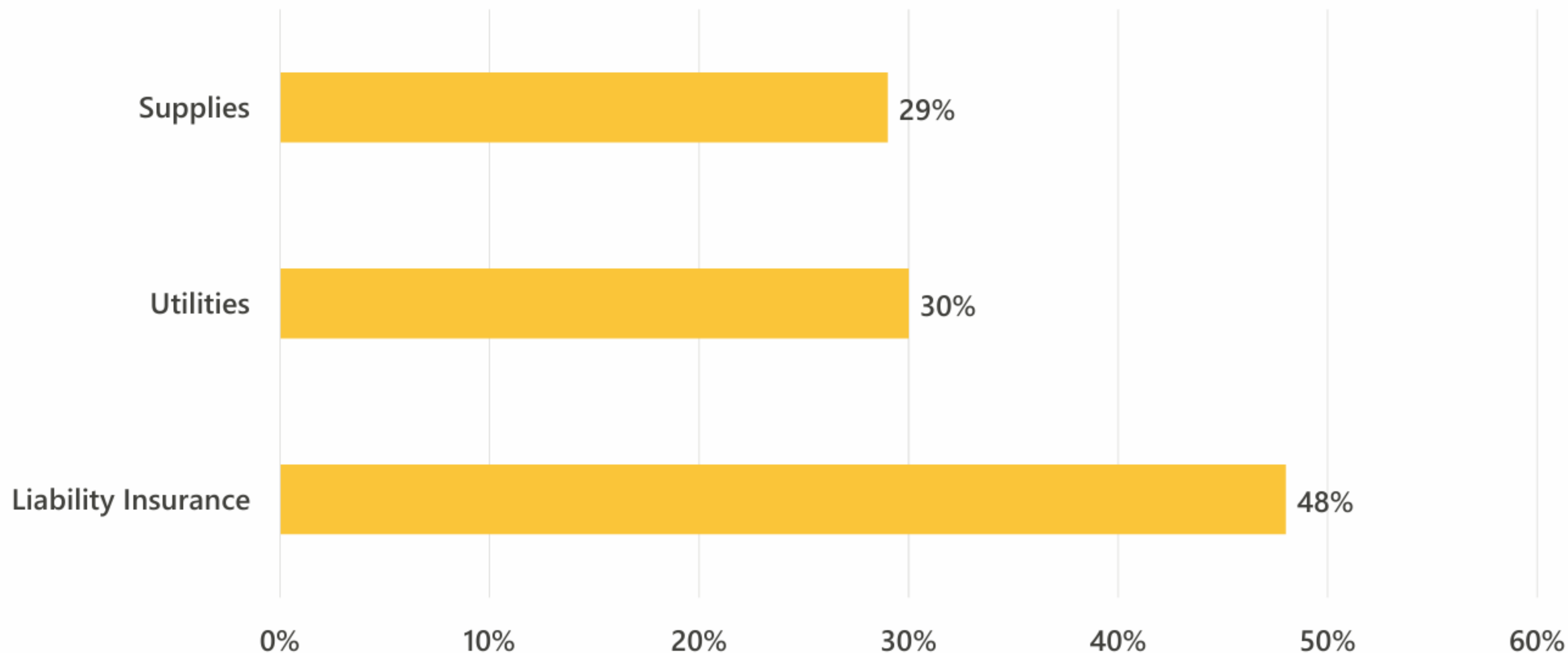
# Materials, Supplies & Operating Costs

**The 2025 Legislature must immediately address the significant underfunding of allocations for Materials, Supplies, & Operating Costs (MSOC)**

- State funding for MSOC has not kept pace with actual school district costs. When required costs of running a school district exceed state funding, local revenues, mostly levies, must be used to fill the gap, reducing local resources for school district and community expectations.



# Increase in School District Spending from 2019–20 to 2022–23



# Materials, Supplies & Operating Costs

- Our “ask” is to increase the per student allocations for MSOC to close the significant gap between the actual operational costs districts face and what the state provides for these expenses
- Specifically, we seek three things:
  - A one-time “catch up” to eliminate the underfunding of MSOC since the 2018-19 school year;
  - Adjust future MSOC allocations by inflation, as determined by the Consumer Price Index (CPI);
  - Rebase the MSOC formula at least every four years to ensure allocations keep up with cost increases that are beyond a district’s control

# Materials, Supplies & Operating Costs

- Insurance and Utilities costs have far outpaced other categories in the MSOC formula
- Strategically, we are asking legislators to address allocations in each category of MSOC, rather than seeking fixes for insurance and/or utilities alone; singling out insurance and/or utilities will detract from our effort to ensure MSOC allocations are fully funded

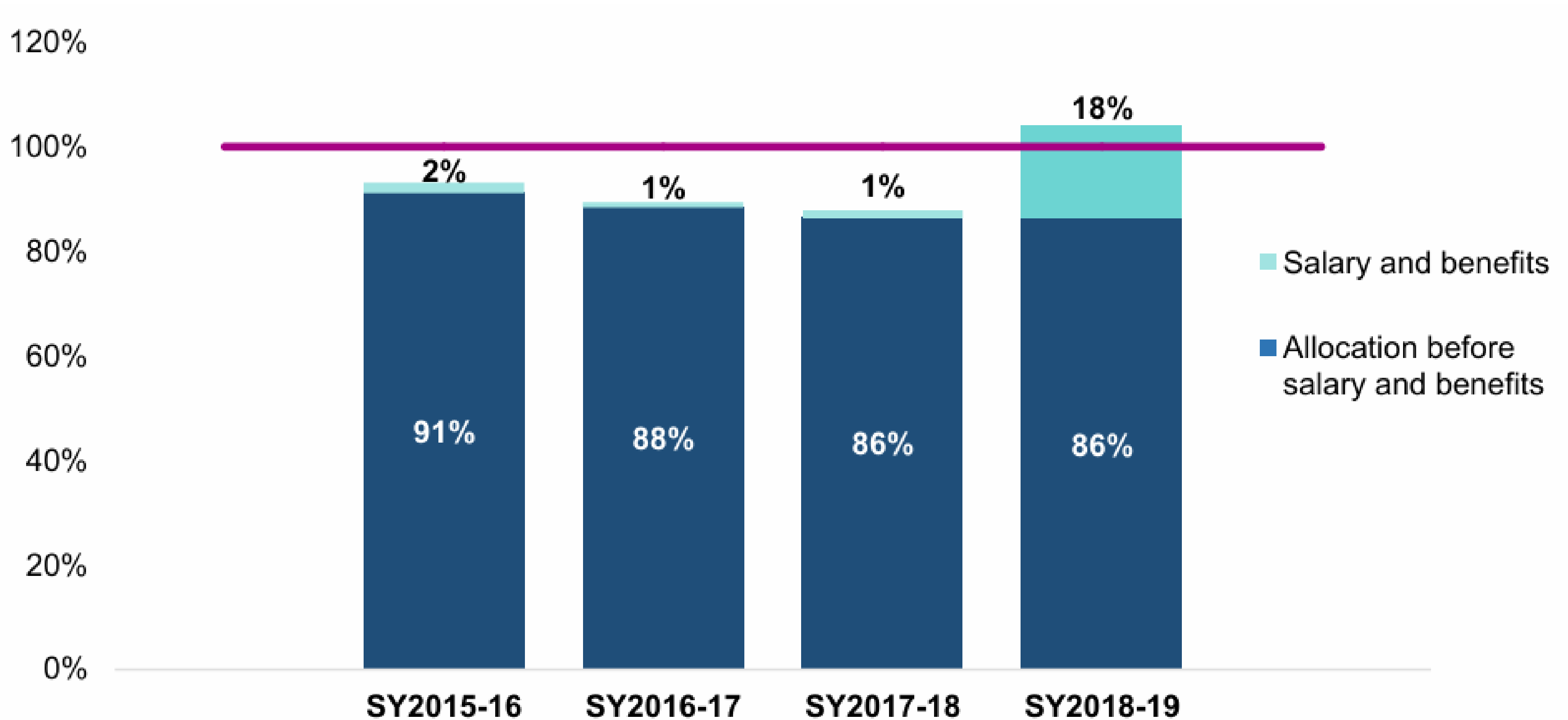
# P u p i l T r a n s p o r t a t i o n

**The 2025 Legislature must comprehensively fix the pupil transportation formula to ensure it is more transparent, predictable, and adequately funded**

- State the current transportation formula consistently underfunds districts' actual pupil transportation expenditures. The formula cannot forecast allocations with credible accuracy, calculates a final allocation in February which complicates budget decisions for school districts and the Legislature, and uses an efficiency rating that is detrimental to efficient districts because they are at risk of less funding in the model.

# Pupil Transportation

How much districts spend in a school year vs. how much they received





# P u p i l T r a n s p o r t a t i o n

- Our “ask” is to overhaul the current Student Transportation Allocation Reporting System (STARS) to allow the Legislature to allocate funding to districts that aligns with actual costs of providing school transportation services.

# Additional Issues

- We will address and engage in issues that fall outside of the “Big 3”
- Our larger amount of time and energy, however, will be focused on Special Education, MSOC, and Pupil Transportation; we will strive to “stay on message” and not be distracted by other issues
- Beware the growing conversation about completely overhauling the current K-12 finance system. We have told legislators that we would love to have that conversation—in 2026. Many districts are struggling financially and we will be taking a “First Things First” attitude and urge legislators to address the full funding of basic education in 2025



# Resources



# Core Issues with School Funding

- **School Funding website:** [www.waschoolfunding.org](http://www.waschoolfunding.org)
  - Useful—and easy to understand—information on the current funding dilemma so many school districts currently face
- **School Funding Toolkit** (or: <https://bit.ly/46yIFFp>)
  - Includes key messages, talking points, sample social media content, graphics, school funding FAQs, and other resources to assist and align our members (and partners) as you engage with your own legislators

# WASA Legislative Advocacy Training

## “Finding Your Voice”

### Two-Part Lunch & Learn Webinar

#### Part I:

Examining WASA’s Legislative Platform

September 25, 2024, 12:00–1:00pm

#### Part II:

The Importance of Legislative Advocacy

October 25, 2024, 12:00–1:00pm

October 25, 2024  
Lunch & Learn Webinar

## Finding Your Voice—Part II: The Importance of Legislative Advocacy



- To help you ease you into your advocacy role—especially if you have not engaged in the process before—this webinar will provide tips, tools, and resources to help you engage with the Legislature and effectively advocate for your schools, your students, and your staff



# 69<sup>th</sup> Washington State Legislature

2025 Session Preview and Pre-Session  
Legislative Platform Launch  
Lunch & Learn Webinar

December 11, 2024, 12:00–1:00pm

December 11, 2024  
Lunch & Learn Webinar

## 69<sup>th</sup> Washington State Legislature: 2025 Session Preview



- With the start of the 2025 Session rapidly approaching, this webinar will provide a post-election review of the Legislature's composition, an overview of the state budget situation, expected priorities—including budget requests from the governor and OPSI, and a pre-session progress report on WASA's Platform

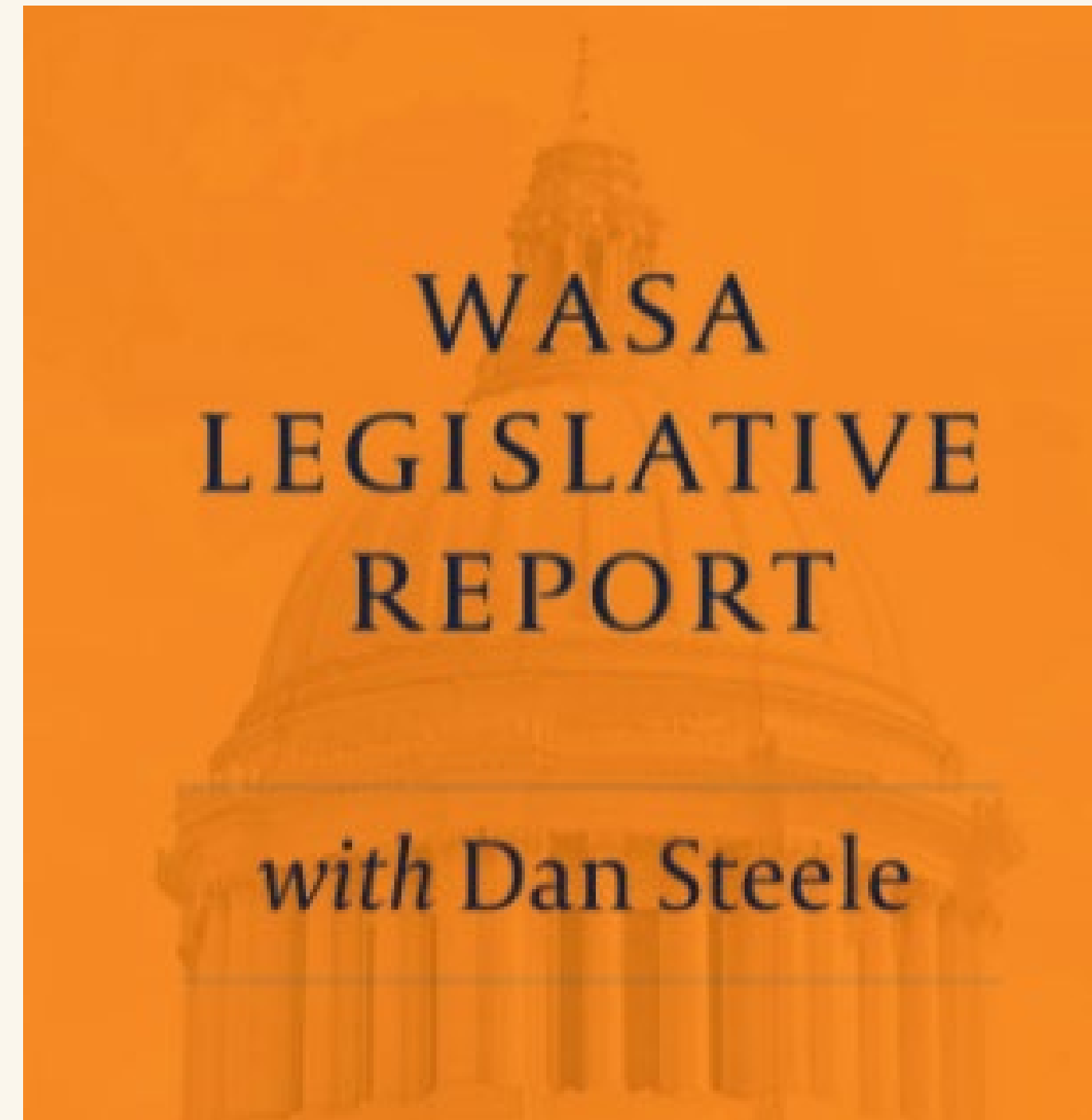


# *TWIO*

*This Week In Olympia*

- Legislative newsletter e-mailed every Friday during the Legislative Session, along with intermittent “special editions” covering budget proposals and other extraordinary events
- All issues are also archived on the WASA website at:  
[www.wasa-oly.org/TWIO](http://www.wasa-oly.org/TWIO)

# WASA Legislative Podcast



Archived Podcasts and Subscription Information:

<https://bit.ly/2QlgWT0>

# Questions?



The prophetic oracular sphere from Tyco®

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