

A blurred background image of a classroom. Students are seated at desks, and many have their hands raised, indicating an interactive lesson. A teacher is visible in the background, standing and facing the class. The image is overlaid with a blue wavy banner at the top and the title text in the center.

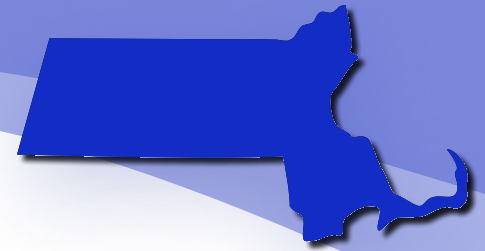
City School Funding 101

Sources of Information



A blurred background image of a classroom. Students are seated at desks, and many have their hands raised, indicating an interactive lesson. A teacher is visible in the background, standing and gesturing. The image is overlaid with a blue wavy graphic at the top and the title text in the center.

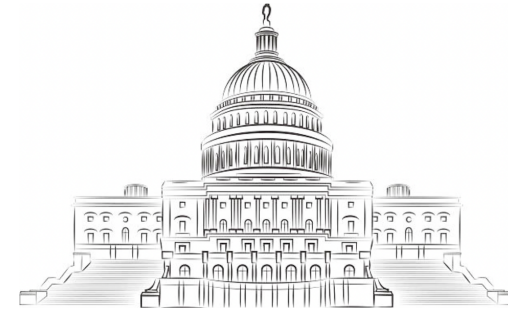
The State School Foundation Budget



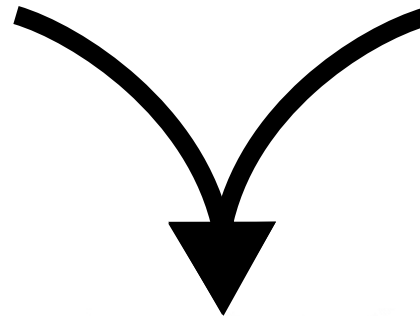
Where does the money for our school budget come from?



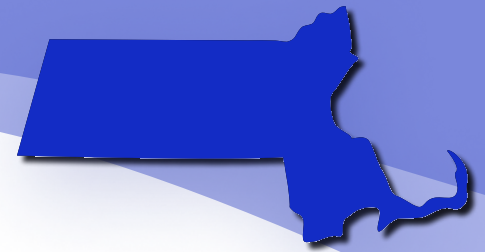
Property Taxes



State Funding



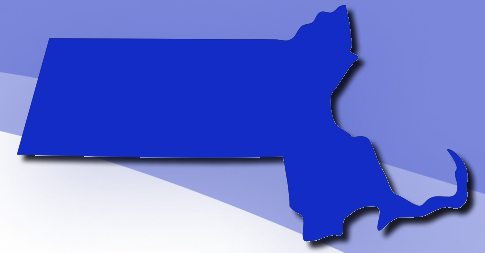
School Budget



The State Foundation Budget

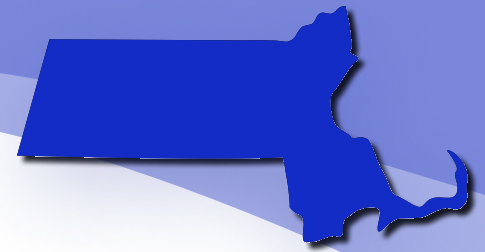
The State Foundation Budget is a per pupil spending amount that represents the minimum spending level needed to provide an adequate education to students.

(1993 Education Reform Act)



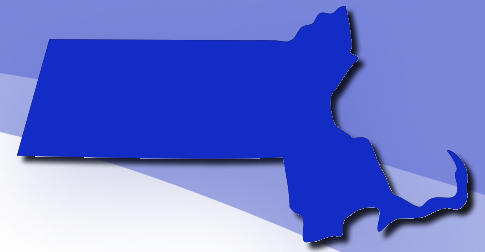
The State Foundation Budget

The State assumes that local contributions (property taxes) should cover 59% of the foundation budget, with state aid covering the remaining 41%.



The State Foundation Budget

The local contributions and state aid percentages for any individual city or town will vary in proportion to the municipality's wealth.

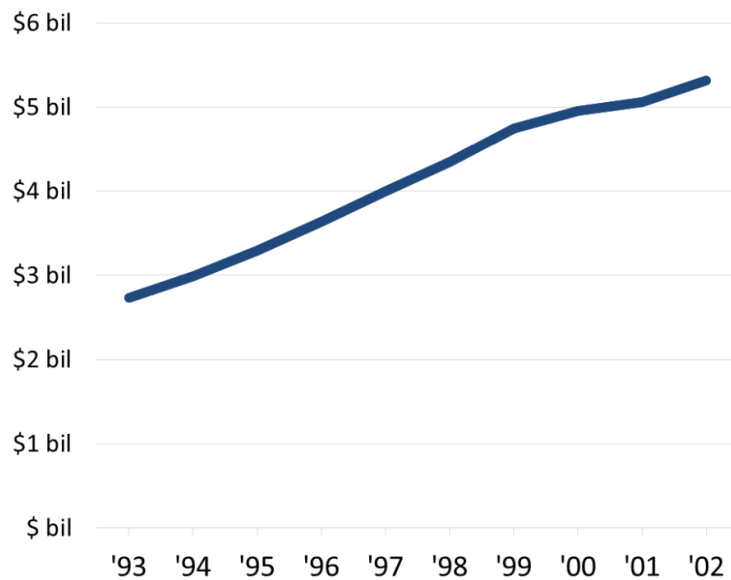


The State Foundation Budget

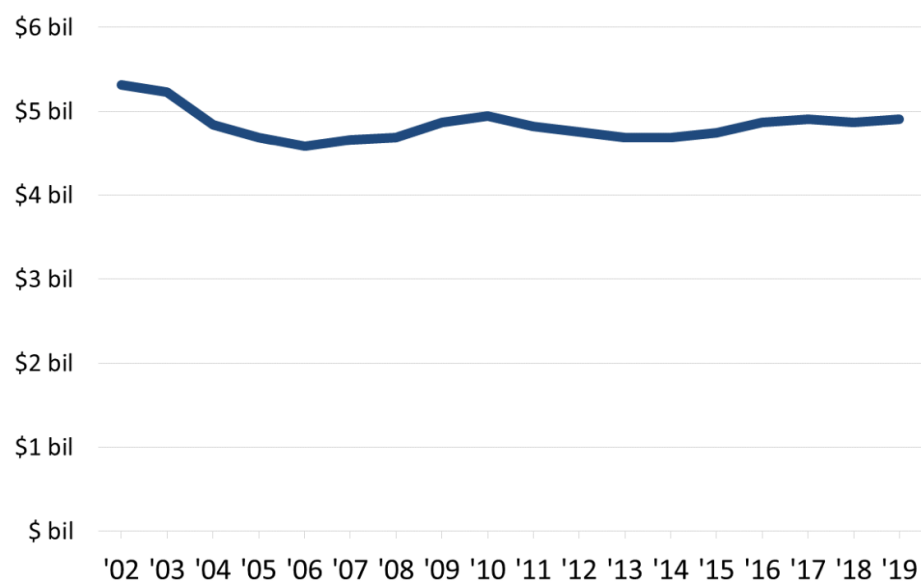
The State provides a minimum of 17.5% of a city's Foundation Budget through state aid, even to the wealthiest communities.

Funding Progress in Massachusetts Has Eroded

Chapter 70 Aid doubled over first decade

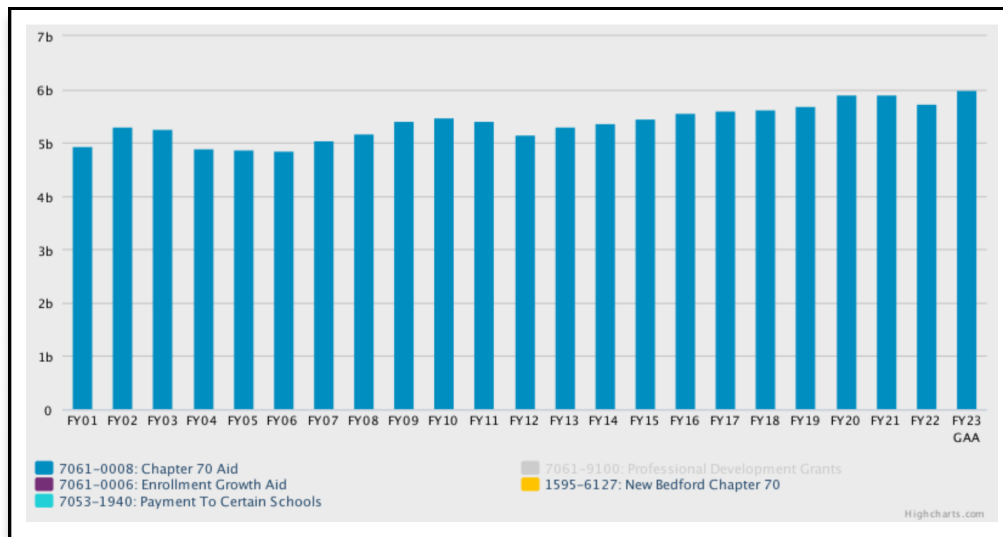


...and has been cut \$413 mil since FY 2002



Inflation adjusted using factor identified in CH70 law (Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government), 2019 \$

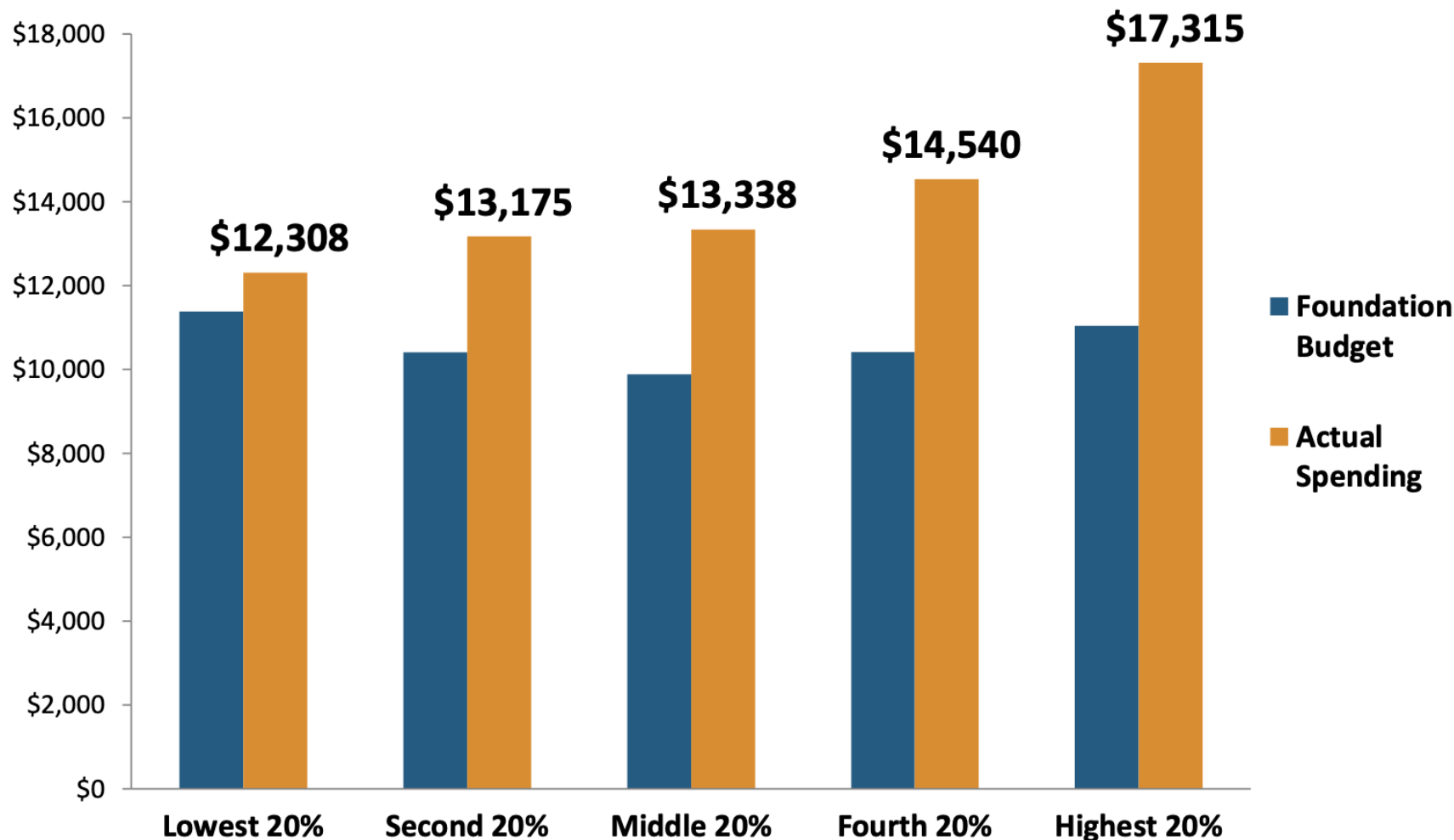
State spending on Local Schools 2001 - 2023



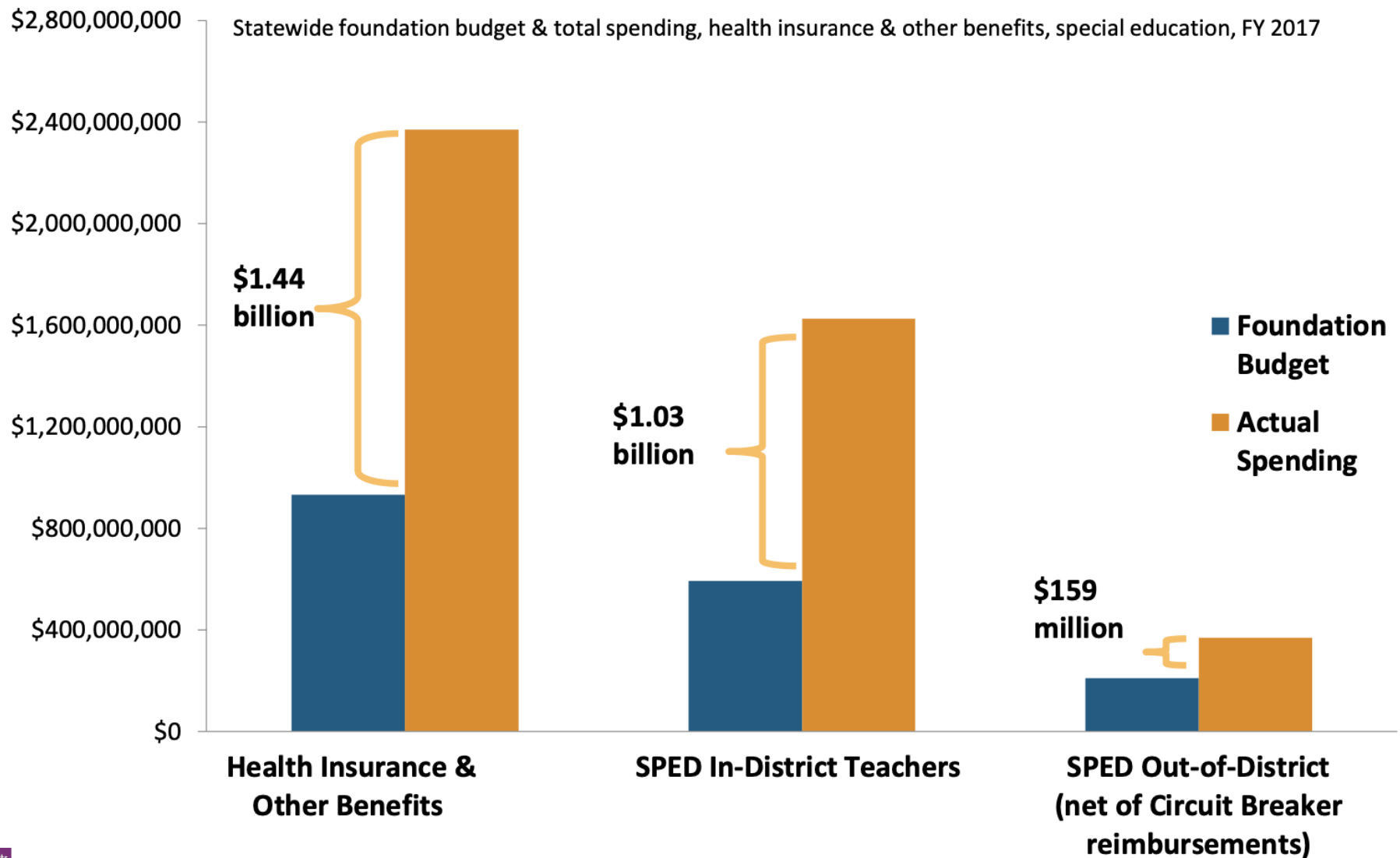
Funding Year	Adjusted for Inflation (CPI)	Not Adjusted for Inflation
FY 2023	\$5,988,520,366	\$5,988,520,366
FY 2022	\$5,741,351,499	\$5,503,268,224
FY 2021	\$5,898,542,056	\$5,283,651,632
FY 2020	\$5,910,631,640	\$5,176,002,652
FY 2019	\$5,692,675,762	\$4,907,573,321
FY 2018	\$5,620,515,705	\$4,746,953,715
FY 2017	\$5,602,524,589	\$4,628,013,618
FY 2016	\$5,563,554,216	\$4,511,882,199
FY 2015	\$5,462,506,684	\$4,400,696,186
FY 2014	\$5,377,223,854	\$4,301,214,591
FY 2013	\$5,298,783,773	\$4,173,532,545
FY 2012	\$5,155,685,609	\$3,993,515,799
FY 2011	\$5,413,787,132	\$4,073,796,736
FY 2010	\$5,478,120,184	\$4,042,022,844
FY 2009	\$5,404,484,344	\$3,948,824,059
FY 2008	\$5,170,482,177	\$3,725,671,328
FY 2007	\$5,045,433,138	\$3,505,520,040
FY 2006	\$4,856,724,683	\$3,288,931,062
FY 2005	\$4,878,290,086	\$3,183,282,601
FY 2004	\$4,906,247,489	\$3,108,140,588
FY 2003	\$5,257,807,021	\$3,258,969,179
FY 2002	\$5,307,761,169	\$3,219,017,737
FY 2001	\$5,019,926,485	\$2,991,481,788

Foundation Budget is Substantially Less Than What All Districts Need, Wealthier Communities Spend More to Compensate

Districts clustered by community property wealth and income. Total district spending per pupil, FY 2017



Foundation Budget Undercounts Critical Costs by \$2.63 Billion

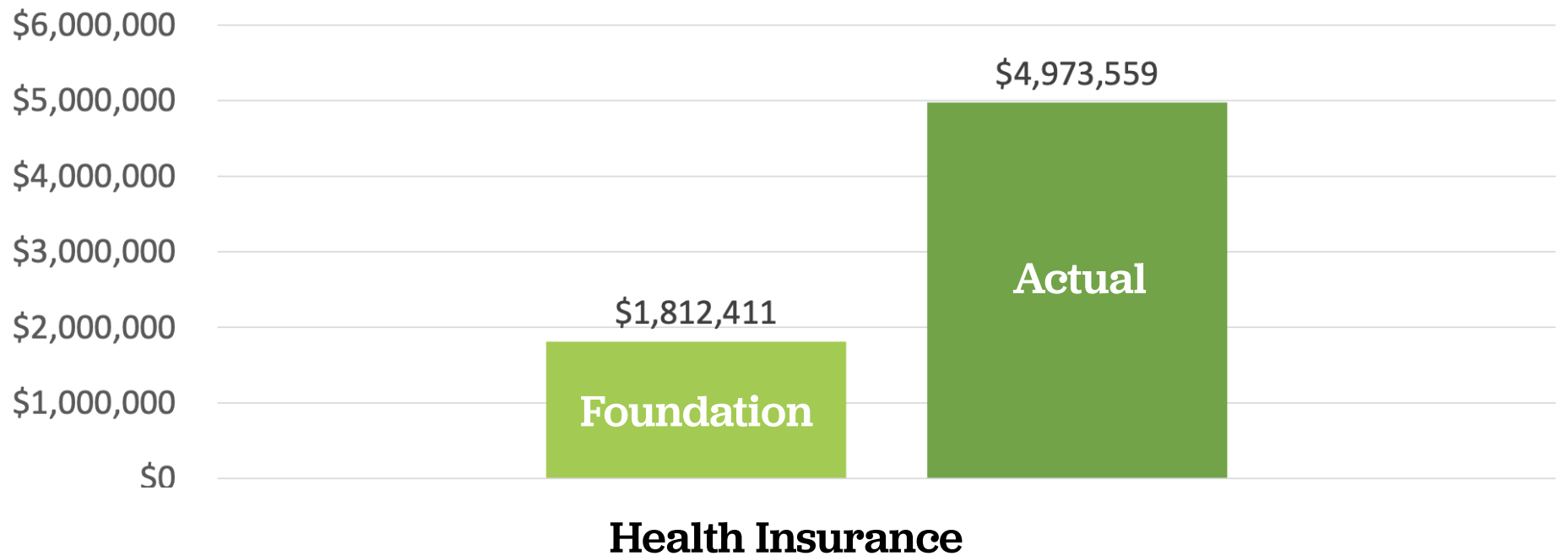




Undercalculated Education Costs



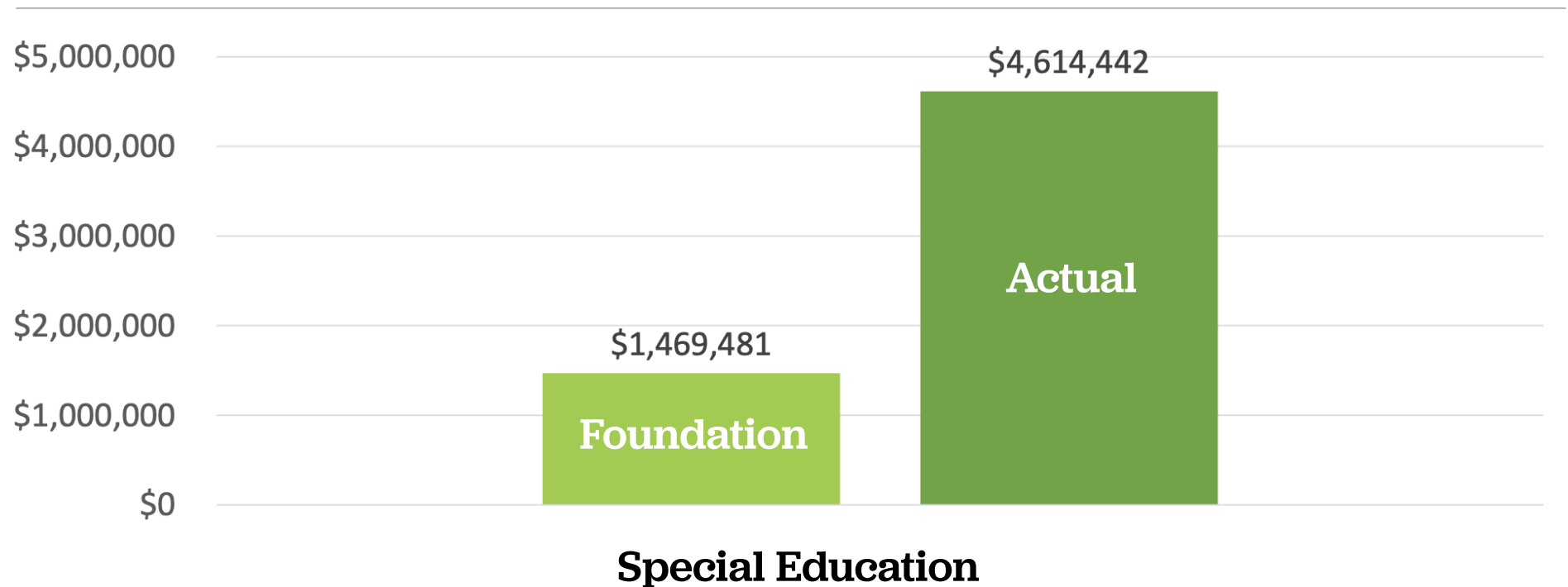
Under-calculated: Health Insurance



Compares FY17 foundation budget of July 2017 for this category decreased by charter enrollment to actual GPS reported spending per the FY17 End of Year report.



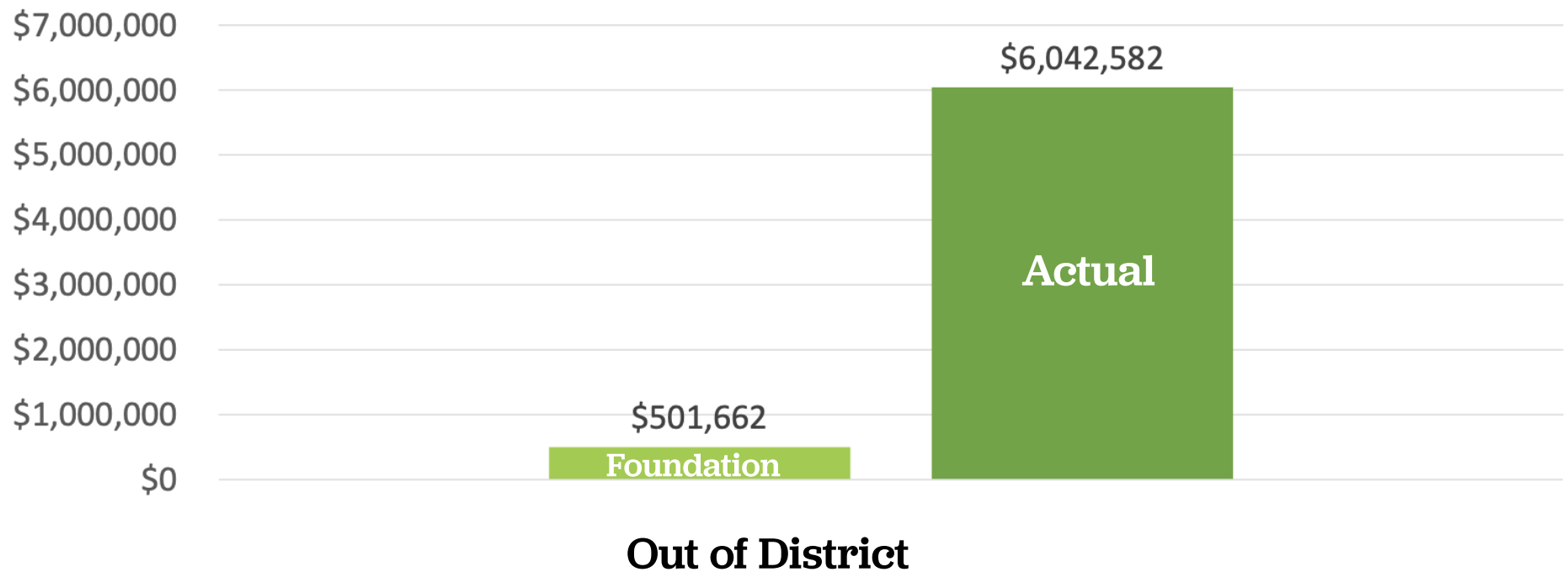
Under-calculated: In-district Special Education



Compares FY17 foundation budget of July 2017 for this category decreased by charter enrollment to actual GPS reported spending per the FY17 End of Year report.



Under-calculated: Out-of-district Special Education



Note that a percentage (intended to be 75%) of out-of-district special education is reimbursed the following year for costs above four times the state average foundation rate through the state circuit breaker account.



Municipal Cost Impacts of Massachusetts's Hotel/Motel-Based Homeless Families Shelter Program 2015

Greenfield, with only 0.27% of the state's population, hosted 4.28 percent of the state's homeless families and in 2014 was hit with \$179,464 in unreimbursed education costs related to 74 families living in two hotels.

(See Page 8 and Page 13 of State Auditor's report)



Educational Services for Students in Foster Care and State Care 2019 State Auditor Report

Greenfield paid \$219,000 in transportation for foster children in the 2017-18 school year — which ranks third in the state, behind Brockton at \$293,000 and Boston at \$721,000. However, per capita Greenfield paid 4 times more than Brockton and 12 times more than Boston.

(Appendix e page 47 of Auditor's Report)

Greenfield

City Budget: \$58.3 million

Population: 17,456

Median income: \$33,110

Brockton

City Budget: \$515 million

Population: 105,643

Median income: \$55,140

Boston

City Budget: \$3.99 billion

Population: 675,647

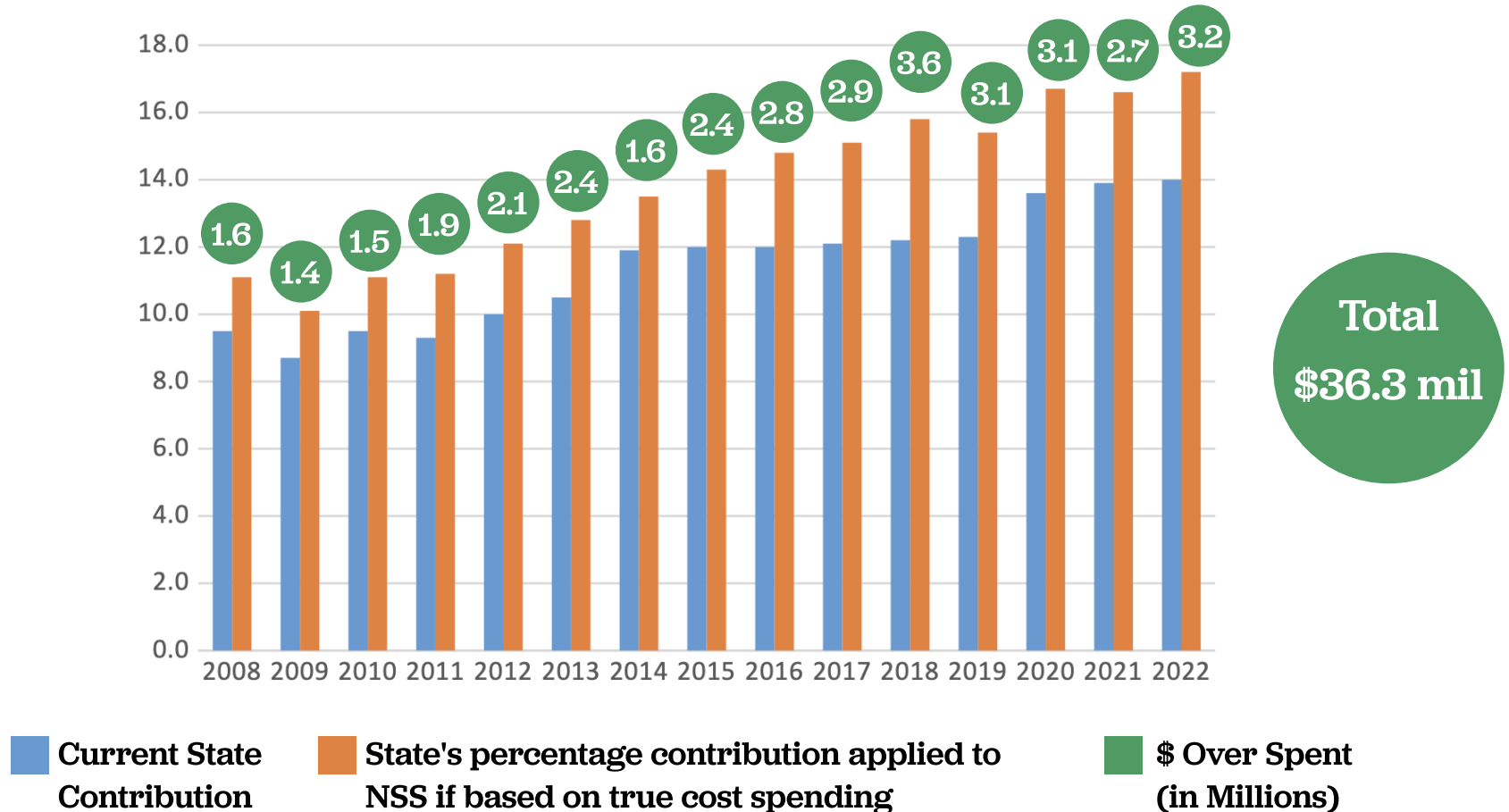
Median income: \$51,739



* Budgeted



Chapter 70 funding: Greenfield State's Foundation Budget % contribution applied to Actual Net School Spending



The state's contribution in chapter 70 funding is derived from the Foundation budget which is undercalculated. That amount over 14 years for Greenfield equals \$36,000,000.



Health Insurance Cost Increase VS Chapter 70 Aid Increase

Requirement																"Adjusted" Requirement	
Required Net																	
School Spending																	
Foundation		Foundation		Required Local		Chapter 70 Aid		Aid + Local		Required NSS		Dollars		Local			
Enrollment	% Chg	Budget	% Chg	Contribution	Reflects Penalties, where applicable	% Chg	Contribution	Includes Carryover	% Chg	Actual NSS	% Chg	Over/Under Requirement	% Over/Under	Contribution	Insurance		
FY93	2,388	13,345,941		6,101,012	5,139,639		11,240,651	11,240,651		11,240,651							
FY94	2,433	13,626,756	2.1%	6,306,341	5,673,175	10.4%	11,979,516	11,979,516	6.6%	12,223,931	8.7%	244,415	2.0%				
FY95	2,486	14,218,427	4.3%	6,236,125	5,600,020	14.6%	12,736,145	12,736,145	6.3%	12,784,258	4.6%	48,113	0.4%				
FY96	2,462	14,588,787	2.6%	6,407,504	7,110,130	9.4%	13,517,634	13,517,634	6.1%	13,695,138	7.1%	177,504	1.3%				
FY97	2,434	14,669,843	0.6%	6,409,111	7,624,596	7.2%	14,033,707	14,033,707	3.8%	14,186,621	3.6%	152,914	1.1%				
FY98	2,388	14,835,140	1.1%	6,489,539	8,041,806	5.5%	14,531,345	14,531,345	3.5%	15,148,973	6.8%	617,628	4.3%				
FY99	2,402	15,327,322	3.3%	6,649,780	8,377,816	4.2%	15,027,596	15,027,596	3.4%	16,066,332	6.1%	1,038,736	6.9%				
FY00	2,445	15,685,763	2.3%	6,972,359	8,926,951	6.6%	15,898,950	15,898,950	5.8%	16,770,813	4.4%	871,863	5.5%				
FY01	2,415	16,237,440	3.5%	7,092,566	9,349,216	4.7%	16,441,782	16,441,782	3.4%	17,313,800	3.2%	872,018	5.3%				
FY02	2,405	16,884,007	4.0%	7,432,572	9,512,771	1.7%	16,945,343	16,945,343	3.1%	18,696,720	8.0%	1,751,377	10.3%	9,183,949			
FY03	2,333	16,682,305	-1.2%	7,922,105	9,512,771	0.0%	17,434,876	17,434,876	2.9%	19,051,408	1.9%	1,616,532	9.3%	9,538,637			
FY04	2,289	16,903,525	1.3%	8,278,307	8,625,218	-9.3%	16,903,525	16,903,525	-3.0%	19,099,034	0.2%	2,195,509	13.0%	10,473,816			
FY05	2,246	17,191,021	1.7%	8,620,309	8,625,218	0.0%	17,245,527	17,245,527	2.0%	19,079,667	-0.1%	1,834,140	10.6%	10,454,449			
FY06	2,149	17,313,166	0.7%	9,111,371	8,732,668	1.2%	17,844,039	17,844,039	3.5%	19,852,426	4.1%	2,008,387	11.3%	11,119,758			
FY07	2,076	17,803,364	2.8%	9,283,824	9,054,173	3.7%	18,337,997	18,337,997	2.8%	20,291,107	2.2%	1,953,110	10.7%	11,236,934			
FY08	2,050	18,475,981	3.8%	9,232,071	9,486,783	4.8%	18,718,854	18,718,854	2.1%	21,611,410	6.5%	2,892,556	15.5%	12,124,627			
FY09	1,953	18,457,058	-0.1%	9,067,762	8,710,983	-8.2%	18,802,490	17,778,745	-5.0%	21,462,741	-0.7%	3,683,996	20.7%	12,751,758			
FY10	1,915	18,757,501	1.6%	8,914,962	9,540,033	9.5%	18,454,995	18,454,995	3.8%	21,853,676	1.8%	3,398,681	18.4%	12,313,643			
FY11	1,899	18,168,642	-3.1%	8,874,442	9,267,538	-2.9%	18,141,980	18,141,980	-1.7%	22,050,716	0.9%	3,908,736	21.5%	12,783,178			
FY12	1,951	19,123,336	5.3%	9,165,933	9,957,403	7.4%	19,123,336	19,123,336	5.4%	23,196,705	5.2%	4,073,369	21.3%	13,239,302			
FY13	1,985	19,845,138	3.8%	9,446,211	10,481,762	5.3%	19,927,973	19,927,973	4.2%	24,238,363	4.5%	4,310,390	21.6%	13,756,061			
FY14	2,051	21,688,417	9.3%	9,832,399	11,932,187	13.8%	21,764,586	21,764,586	9.2%	24,622,253	1.6%	2,857,666	13.1%	12,690,065			
FY15	2,065	21,246,904	-2.0%	9,761,739	11,983,812	0.4%	21,745,551	21,745,551	-0.1%	25,437,147	3.3%	3,691,596	17.0%	13,453,335			
FY16	2,048	21,378,359	0.6%	9,879,409	12,035,012	0.4%	21,914,421	21,914,421	0.8%	26,331,015	3.5%	4,416,594	20.2%	14,296,003			
FY17	1,909	20,360,059	-4.8%	9,575,385	12,140,007	0.9%	21,715,392	21,715,392	-0.9%	25,389,169	-3.6%	3,673,777	16.9%	13,249,162	3,154,403		
FY18	1,913	20,807,903	2.2%	9,604,767	12,197,397	0.5%	21,802,164	21,802,164	0.4%	26,922,069	6.0%	5,119,905	23.5%	14,724,672	4,301,684		
FY19	1,984	22,188,291	6.6%	9,949,467	12,256,917	0.5%	22,206,379	22,206,379	1.9%	27,899,823	3.6%	5,693,444	25.6%	15,642,986	4,584,890		
FY20	1,989	23,758,804	7.1%	10,147,449	13,611,355	11.1%	23,758,804	23,758,804	7.0%	29,171,544	4.6%	5,412,740	22.8%	15,560,189	4,794,969		
FY21	1,965	24,159,292	1.7%	10,256,971	13,902,321	2.1%	24,159,292	24,159,292	1.7%	28,796,145	-1.3%	4,636,853	19.2%	14,893,824	4,714,377		
FY22	1,859	23,851,070	-1.3%	10,181,012	13,958,091	0.4%	24,139,103	24,139,103	-0.1%	29,306,141	1.8%	5,167,038	21.4%	15,348,050	4,869,752		
FY23	1,848	26,326,536		10,621,969	15,704,567		26,326,536	26,326,536		33,001,416		6,674,880		17,296,849	5,054,549		



Increases in % over Required Local Contribution

														% Over / Under		Local Contribution	Insurance
				Chapter 70 Aid <i>Reflects Penalties, where applicable</i>			Required Net School Spending <i>Aid + Local</i>		Required NSS <i>Includes Carryover</i>		Actual NSS		Dollars Over/Under Requirement		% Over/Under		
Foundation Enrollment	% Chg	Foundation Budget	% Chg	Required Local Contribution	% Chg		Contribution			% Chg		% Chg					
FY93	2,388			6,101,012		5,139,639	11,240,651		11,240,651		11,240,651						
FY94	2,433	1.9%	13,626,756	2.1%	6,306,341	5,673,175	10.4%	11,979,516	11,979,516	6.6%	12,223,931	8.7%	244,415	2.0%			
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FY98	2,388	-1.9%	14,835,140	1.1%	6,489,539	8,041,806	5.5%	14,531,345	14,531,345	3.5%	15,148,973	6.8%	617,628	4.3%			
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FY03	2,333	-3.0%	16,682,305	-1.2%	7,922,105	9,512,771	0.0%	17,434,876	17,434,876	2.9%	19,051,408	1.9%	1,616,532	9.3%		9,538,637	
FY04	2,289	-1.9%	16,903,525	1.3%	8,278,307	8,625,218	-9.3%	16,903,525	16,903,525	-3.0%	19,099,034	0.2%	2,195,509	13.0%		10,473,816	
FY05	2,246	-1.9%	17,191,021	1.7%	8,620,309	8,625,218	0.0%	17,245,527	17,245,527	2.0%	19,079,667	-0.1%	1,834,140	10.6%		10,454,449	
FY06	2,149	-4.3%	17,313,166	0.7%	9,111,371	8,732,668	1.2%	17,844,039	17,844,039	3.5%	19,852,426	4.1%	2,008,387	11.3%		11,119,758	
FY07	2,076	-3.4%	17,803,364	2.8%	9,283,824	9,054,173	3.7%	18,337,997	18,337,997	2.8%	20,291,107	2.2%	1,953,110	10.7%		11,236,934	
FY08	2,050	-1.3%	18,475,981	3.8%	9,232,071	9,486,783	4.8%	18,718,854	18,718,854	2.1%	21,611,410	6.5%	2,892,556	15.5%		12,124,627	
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FY10	1,915	-1.9%	18,757,501	1.6%	8,914,962	9,540,033	9.5%	18,454,995	18,454,995	3.8%	21,853,676	1.8%	3,398,681	18.4%		12,313,643	
FY11	1,899	-0.8%	18,168,642	-3.1%	8,874,442	9,267,538	-2.9%	18,141,980	18,141,980	-1.7%	22,050,716	0.9%	3,908,736	21.5%		12,783,178	
FY12	1,951	2.7%	19,123,336	5.3%	9,165,933	9,957,403	7.4%	19,123,336	19,123,336	5.4%	23,196,705	5.2%	4,073,369	21.3%		13,239,302	
FY13	1,985	1.7%	19,845,138	3.8%	9,446,211	10,481,762	5.3%	19,927,973	19,927,973	4.2%	24,238,363	4.5%	4,310,390	21.6%		13,756,601	
FY14	2,051	3.3%	21,688,417	9.3%	9,832,399	11,932,187	13.8%	21,764,586	21,764,586	9.2%	24,622,253	1.6%	2,857,666	13.1%		12,690,065	
FY15	2,065	0.7%	21,246,904	-2.0%	9,761,739	11,983,812	0.4%	21,745,551	21,745,551	-0.1%	25,437,147	3.3%	3,691,596	17.0%		13,453,335	
FY16	2,048	-0.8%	21,378,359	0.6%	9,879,409	12,035,012	0.4%	21,914,421	21,914,421	0.8%	26,331,015	3.5%	4,416,594	20.2%		14,296,003	
FY17	1,909	-6.8%	20,360,059	-4.8%	9,575,385	12,140,007	0.9%	21,715,392	21,715,392	-0.9%	25,389,169	-3.6%	3,673,777	16.9%		13,249,162	
FY18	1,913	0.2%	20,807,903	2.2%	9,604,767	12,197,397	0.5%	21,802,164	21,802,164	0.4%	26,922,069	6.0%	5,119,905	23.5%		14,724,672	
FY19	1,984	3.7%	22,188,291	6.6%	9,949,462	12,256,917	0.5%	22,206,379	22,206,379	1.9%	27,899,823	3.6%	5,693,444	25.6%		15,642,906	
FY20	1,989	0.3%	23,758,804	7.1%	10,147,449	13,611,355	11.1%	23,758,804	23,758,804	7.0%	29,171,544	4.6%	5,412,740	22.8%		15,560,189	
FY21	1,965	-1.2%	24,159,292	1.7%	10,256,971	13,902,321	2.1%	24,159,292	24,159,292	1.7%	28,796,145	-1.3%	4,636,853	19.2%		14,893,824	
FY22	1,859	-5.4%	23,851,070	-1.3%	10,181,012	13,958,091	0.4%	24,139,103	24,139,103	-0.1%	29,306,141	1.8%	5,167,038	21.4%		15,348,050	
FY23	1,848		26,326,536		10,621,969	15,704,567		26,326,536	26,326,536		33,001,416		6,674,880			17,296,849	

FY1993-1996



2% or lower

FY1997-2001



7% or lower

FY2002-2007

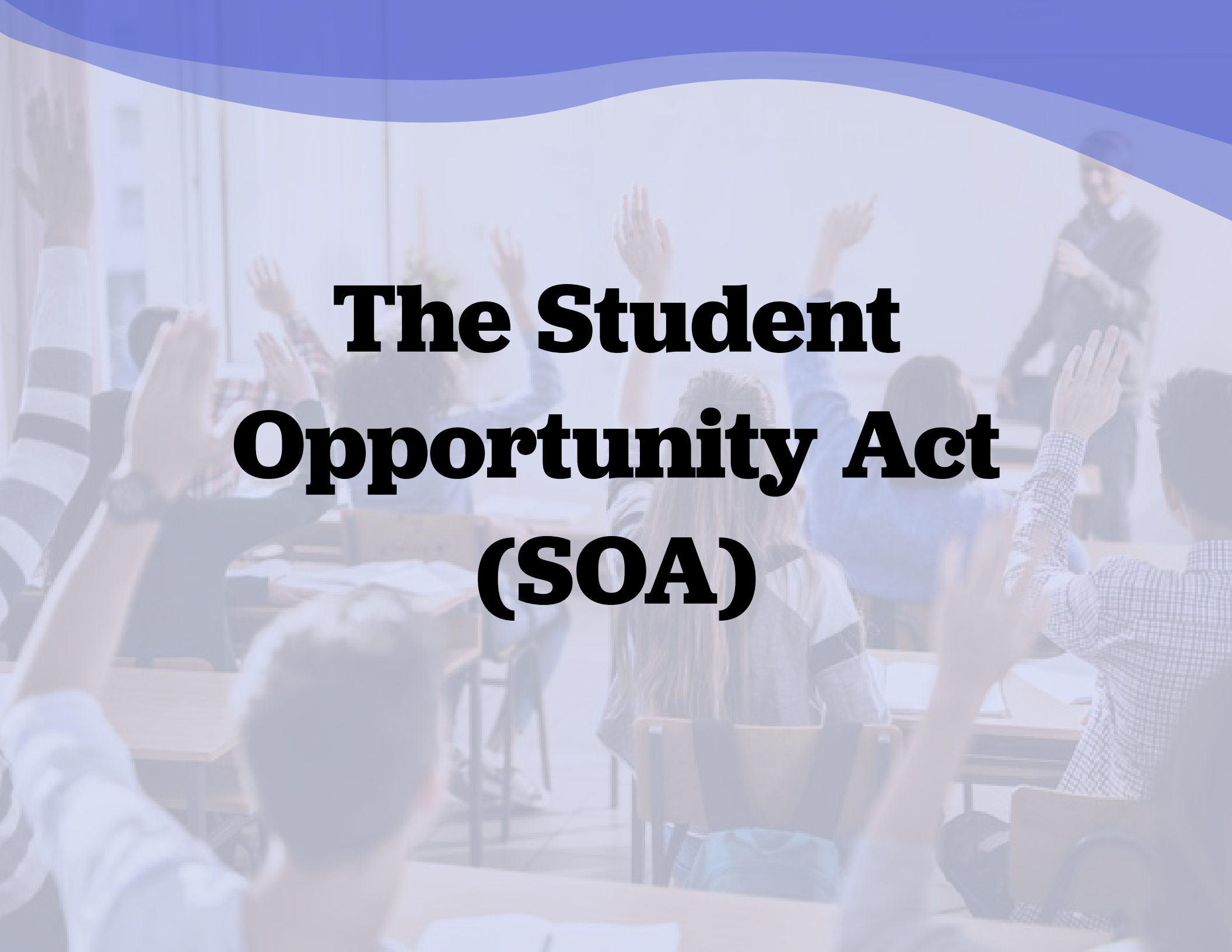


10%~

FY2008-2022



20%~



The Student Opportunity Act (SOA)

The Student Opportunity Act (SOA)



This act signed in 2019 by state legislators pledged an investment in new funding to public schools by \$1.5 billion annually when fully phased in over the next seven years.

This legislation also adjusts funding formulas to consider health care costs for employees and increases special education funding providing an additional \$500 million in indirect funding adjustments.

The SOA also sets a three-year schedule to fully fund the charter school reimbursement line item.

The Student Opportunity Act (SOA)



Fact Sheet on the *Student Opportunity Act*

The **Student Opportunity Act**, signed into law on Nov. 26, provides a major infusion of new funding to Massachusetts public schools. Backed by the Fund Our Future Coalition, the act is by far the most significant update of the state education funding system since the Massachusetts *Education Reform Act* was enacted in 1993. The primary beneficiaries will be low-income students, students of color and English learners who have been left behind by the outdated system.

FUNDING INCREASES

Under the *Student Opportunity Act*

The new law, Chapter 132 of the Acts of 2019, updates the foundation budget. A unique foundation budget is created for each district specifying the minimum level of education spending required to adequately educate the district's students. The costs are shared between municipalities and the state. First, the state calculates how much a municipality must contribute, largely based on local income and property tax wealth. Next, the state determines the difference between the "required local contribution" and the foundation budget. State Chapter 70 aid is then allocated to make up that difference.

Under the *Student Opportunity Act*, a relatively small number of districts will have to spend more on their local schools than they otherwise would have, but the majority will not because they already contribute more than mandated. Most of the new money under the act will come from the state. Projections show that new Chapter 70 allocations will exceed **\$2 billion a year by 2027** in actual dollars — or about **\$1.4 billion** over what the aid would have been without the SOA.

The act addresses the real costs of:

- Educating low-income students. The SOA defines low-income families as those whose incomes are at or below 185 percent of the federal poverty level, up from the current 133 percent. In addition, the law provides increased per-pupil funding above the baseline level depending on a community's concentration of poverty, ultimately providing twice as much funding — a 100 percent increment — for low-income students in districts with the highest concentrations.
- Educating special education students and English learners.
- Providing guidance and psychological services.
- Providing health insurance to employees and retirees.



Fact Sheet on the *Student Opportunity Act*

The SOA adds another estimated \$100 million annually by:

- Expanding special education circuit breaker reimbursements to include transportation costs and fixing an unintended side effect that reduces these reimbursements as the foundation budget increases (**\$90 million annually after four-year phase-in**).
- Establishing a new grant program called the Twenty-First Century Education Trust Fund intended to support innovative programs (**\$10 million annually**).

The SOA also sets a three-year schedule to fully fund the charter school reimbursement line item, though it does not address the long-term impact of charter schools. Additionally, it lifts the annual cap on Massachusetts School Building Authority spending by \$200 million — from \$600 million to \$800 million.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Under the *Student Opportunity Act*

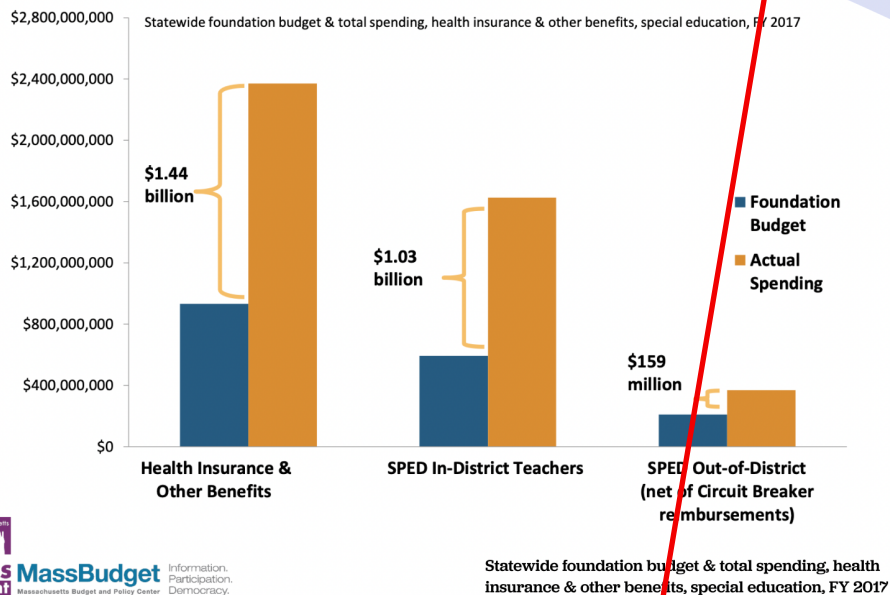
The SOA requires superintendents, in consultation with their school committees, to create three-year improvement plans that specify how the new funding will be spent. It states that the superintendent "shall consider input and recommendations from parents and other relevant community stakeholders, including but not limited to special education and English learner parent advisory councils, school improvement councils and educators in the school district." The first plans must be submitted to the state by April 1, 2020.

- The plans must address "persistent disparities in achievement among student subgroups" based on metrics developed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- The law lists nine programs described as "evidence-based"; districts must either include such programs in their plans or explain why they do not believe they will "effectively address persistent disparities in achievement." In addition, the law adds a 10th catchall: "any other program determined by the commissioner [of education] to be evidence-based."
- The commissioner has the authority to review community-developed plans to ensure that they address all of the provisions in the law.

It is very important that educators and parents participate in the development of the district improvement plans to make sure the money is allocated to the services that they know students need. Plans that have an impact on unionized employees' wages, hours and working conditions are subject to bargaining.

SOA Falls Short of Actual Cost by \$630 million

Foundation Budget Undercounts Critical Costs by **\$2.63 Billion**



The Student Opportunity Act (SOA)



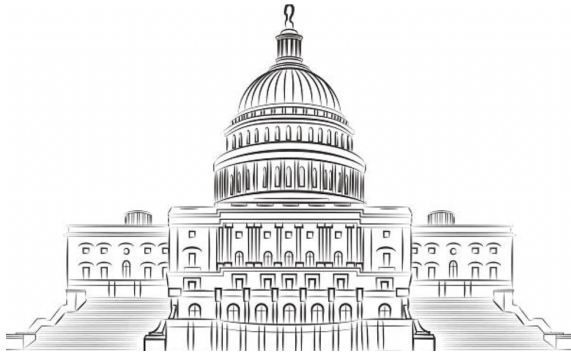
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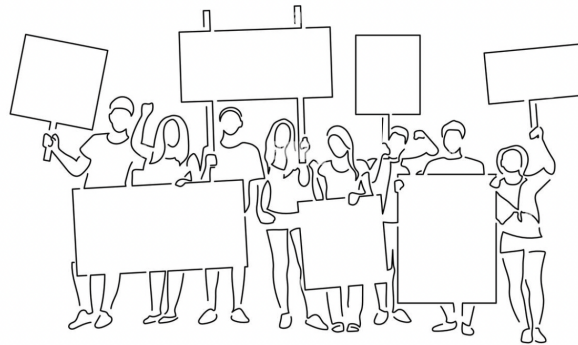
\$2.63 billion ≠ \$2 billion

Chapter 70 Funding: **Inflation**



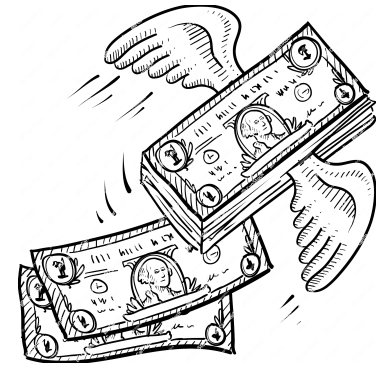
The State caps an inflation increase in state school aid at

4.5%



Education advocates are asking for the cap to increase to

5.9%



Actual rate of Inflation in Massachusetts 2022

7%

Message from the Massachusetts Teachers Association on Budget Priorities 2022:

The MTA strongly believes that the statutory cap on inflation should be lifted for Chapter 70 funding from **4.5% to **5.9%**. Not doing so will have an immediate impact on meeting district needs and will establish an artificially-lower foundation for future funding that will lock-in the negative impact of high inflation. In FY 2022, this means increasing Chapter 70 education funding by a total of \$98 million over the governor's budget recommendation.**



Fair Share Amendment 2022



The FAIR SHARE AMENDMENT passed by voters in 2022, raises a surcharge tax of 4% on income over \$1 million dollar. The amendment is projected to raise between \$1.2 and \$2 billion dollars in new revenue annually.

Mass. Taxpayers Foundation estimates 'historic' budget surplus of \$3.6 billion



**Baker-Polito Administration Announces
Details for Return of \$2.941 Billion in Excess
Tax Revenue to Taxpayers.**



What Can We Do?

Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution FCCPR (Education task force)

- Visit the website to sign up by email for budget season updates and for action steps to support legislation
- View and share the information from this presentation on the website
- Join us! In creating a regional advocacy organization for more state school aid for low income school districts

<https://fccpr.us/taskforces/education-taskforce/>



State Legislative Priorities For Elementary and Secondary Education

- Continued support for implementing the Student Opportunities Act and MTA's budget recommendations
- Thank State Senator Jo Comerford for sponsoring legislation <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/SD612>
- Support state education advocates in their efforts to shift the funding burden from cities to the state <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/SD987>

IDEA #1

Regional Organizing for State Education Funding

The formation of a regional advocacy group for Western Mass education advocates to meet annually after the Governor's budget message in March but before the budget is finalized in June to brainstorm ideas for participation in the state budget process.



IDEA #2

One-time School Funding Relief Bill

A one time single year request of additional chapter 70 funding to low income Commonwealth school districts to bridge the gap between 20 years of undercalculated costs and the implementation of the Student Opportunities Act.



Governor Healey's Budget Message (Good Schools, Strong Communities)

Fully Funding the Student Opportunity Act (SOA)
The administration is focused on ensuring that all students have access to a high-quality education. H.1 funds Chapter 70 school aid at \$6.585 billion, a \$586 million (9.8%) increase over FY23, representing the largest nominal increase in the history of the program and the largest percentage increase in more than two decades.

Read full Budget Message Here:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/fy-2024-budget-recommendation-brief-local-aid>



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