Open Enrollment Webinar

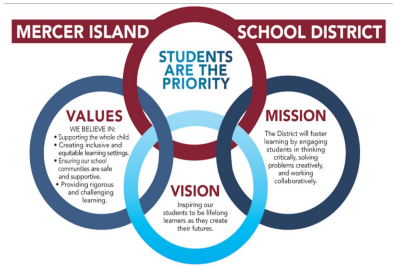
March 19, 2024

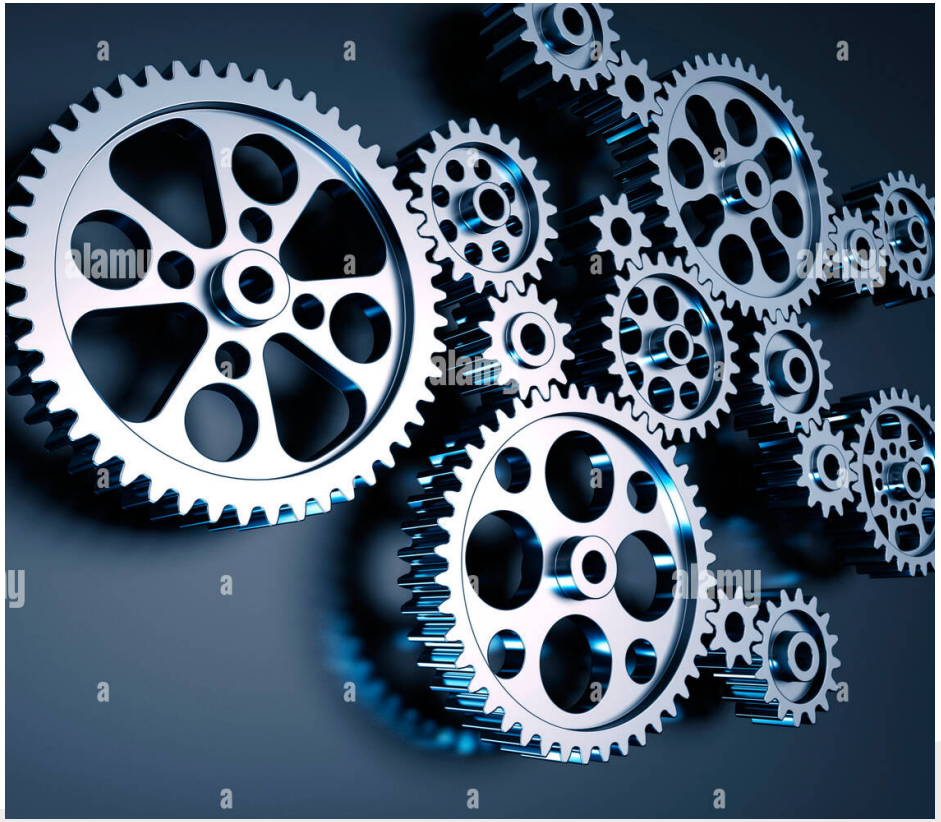
Mercer Island School District



Competing and Complementary Priorities

OE-1	Student-Focused Fundamentals
OE-3	Appropriate Treatment of Community Members
OE-6	Budgeting/Financial Planning
OE-10	Instructional Program
OE-11	Facilities and Capital Assets





Overview



- Challenges
- Attract Retain Return Framework
- Financial Hurdles
- Enrollment Update
- Strategies and Data Around Attracting and Retaining Students
- Open Enrollment- What? How? When? Why?
- Other District Approaches to Open Enrollment
- Q&A/FAQ

Short and Long-Term District Challenges

- Enrollment
- State Funding
- Aging Facilities
- Academic offerings and experiences
- Complexity of student needs
- Social and emotional well-being

None of the challenges we face can be solved with a single solution nor are they independent variables.



Enrollment and Open Enrollment- Both/And



Attract

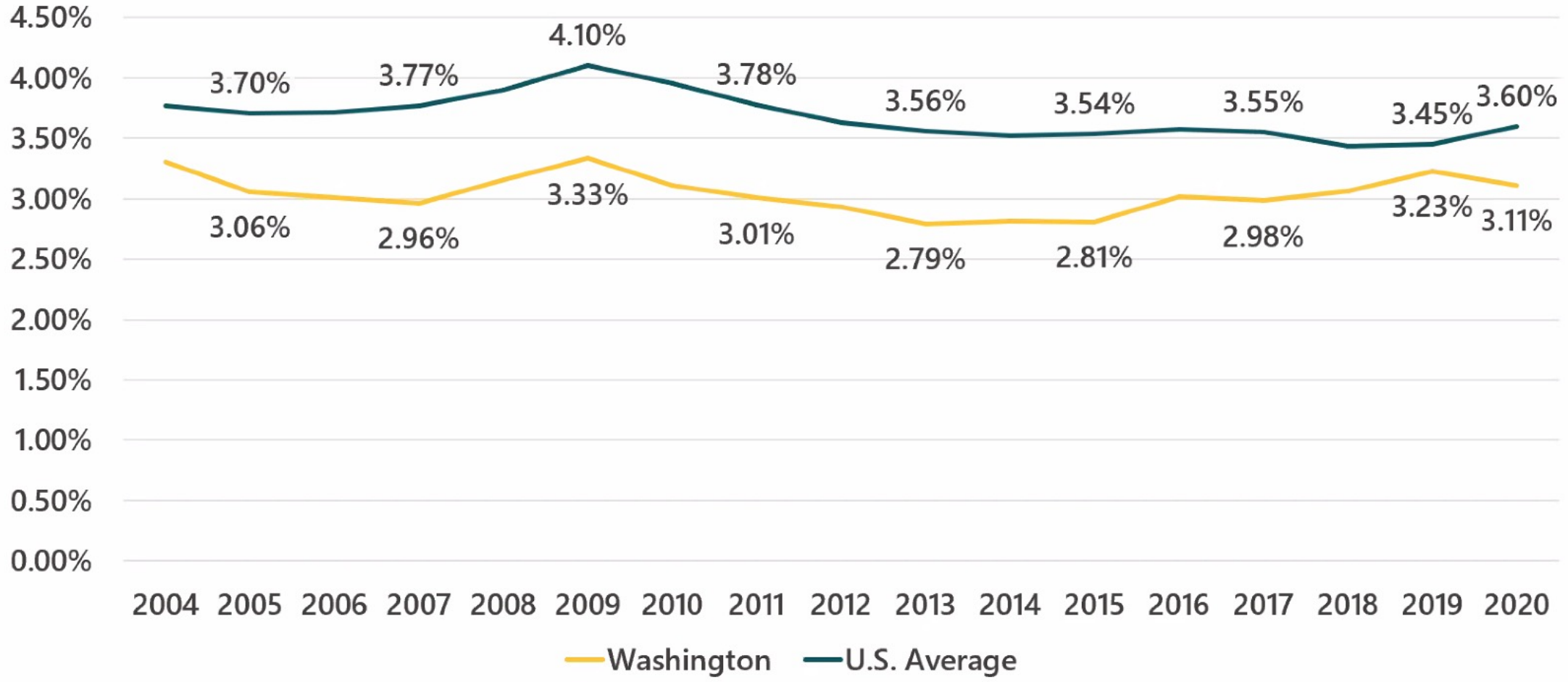
Retain

Return

Financial Considerations and Obstacles

Washington State

Investment in K–12 Education as a Percentage of Gross State Product

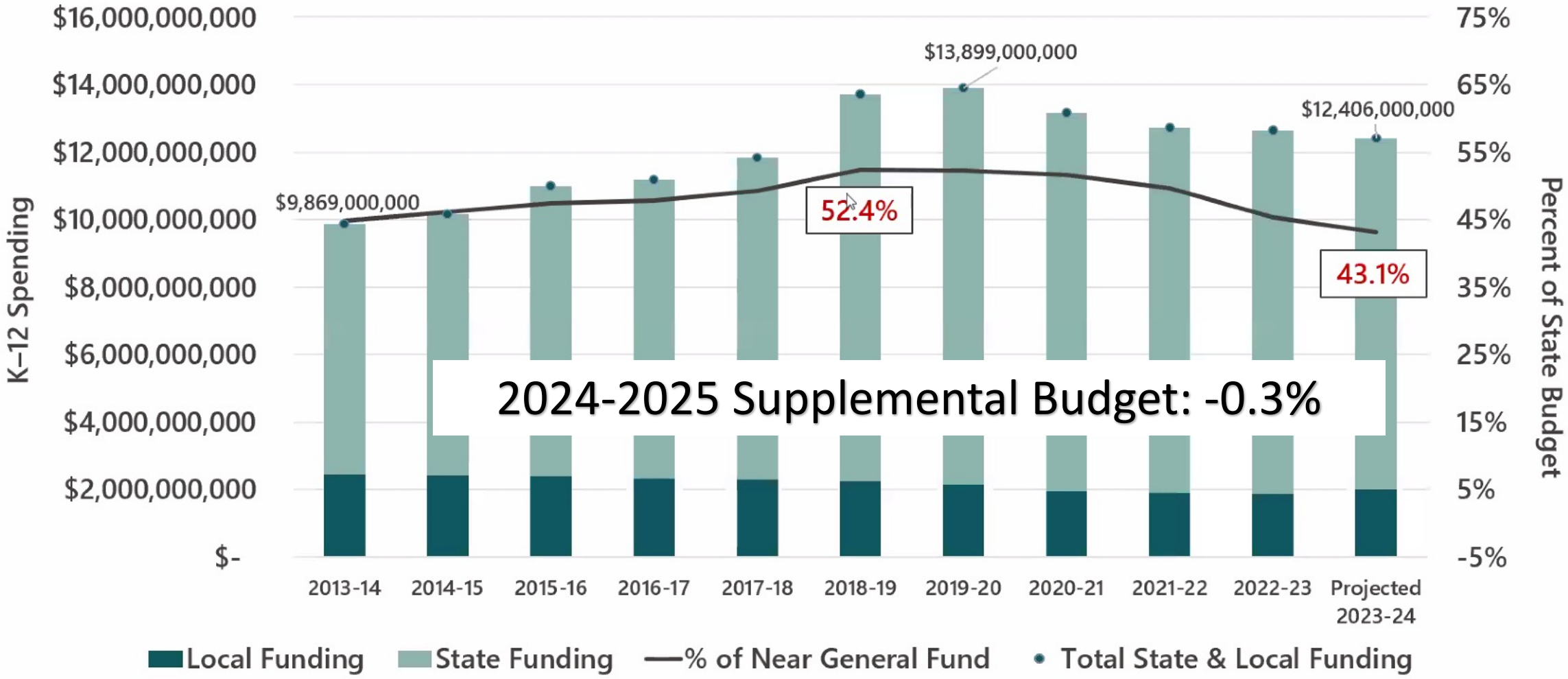


Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, State Superintendent

Source: School Finance Indicators Database

Washington State

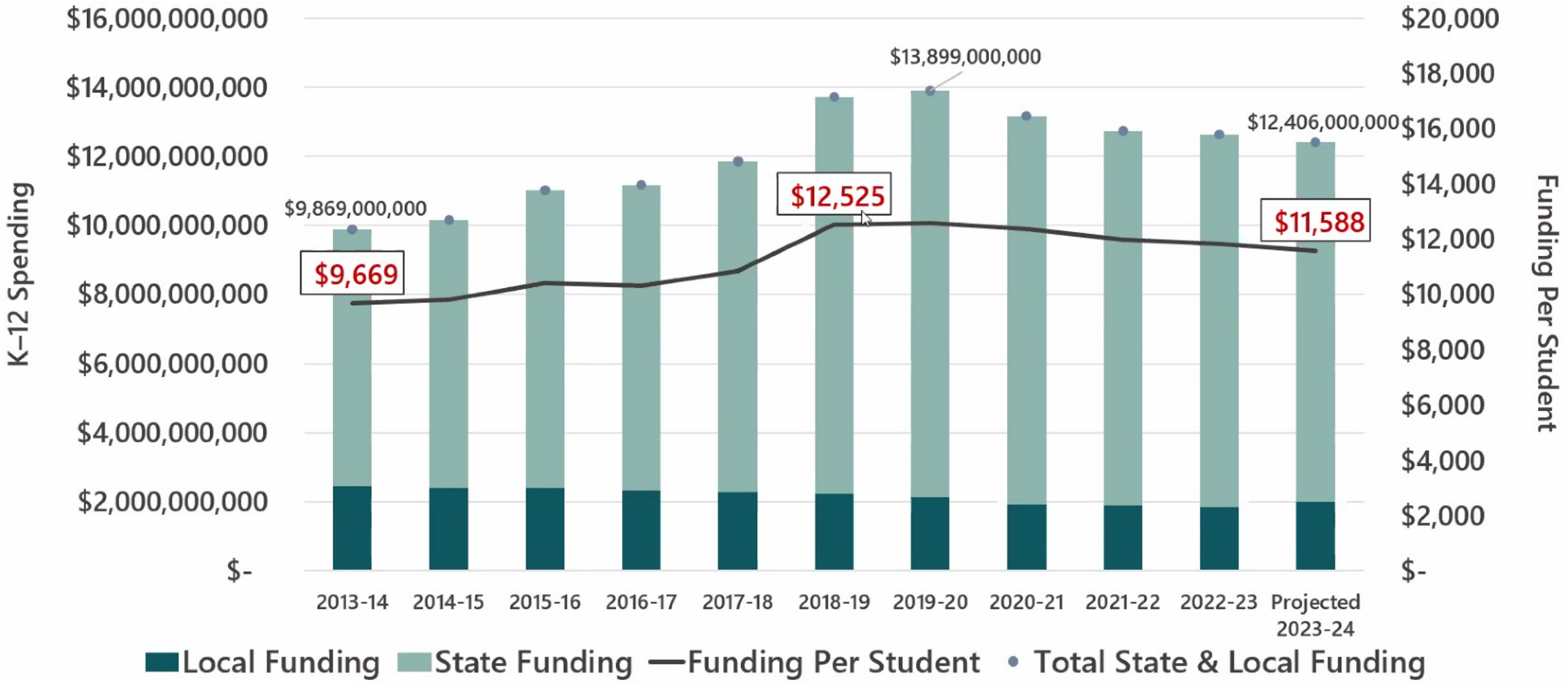
Inflation Adjusted K–12 Spending & Share of State Budget



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, State Superintendent

Washington State

Inflation Adjusted K–12 Spending & Funding Per Student

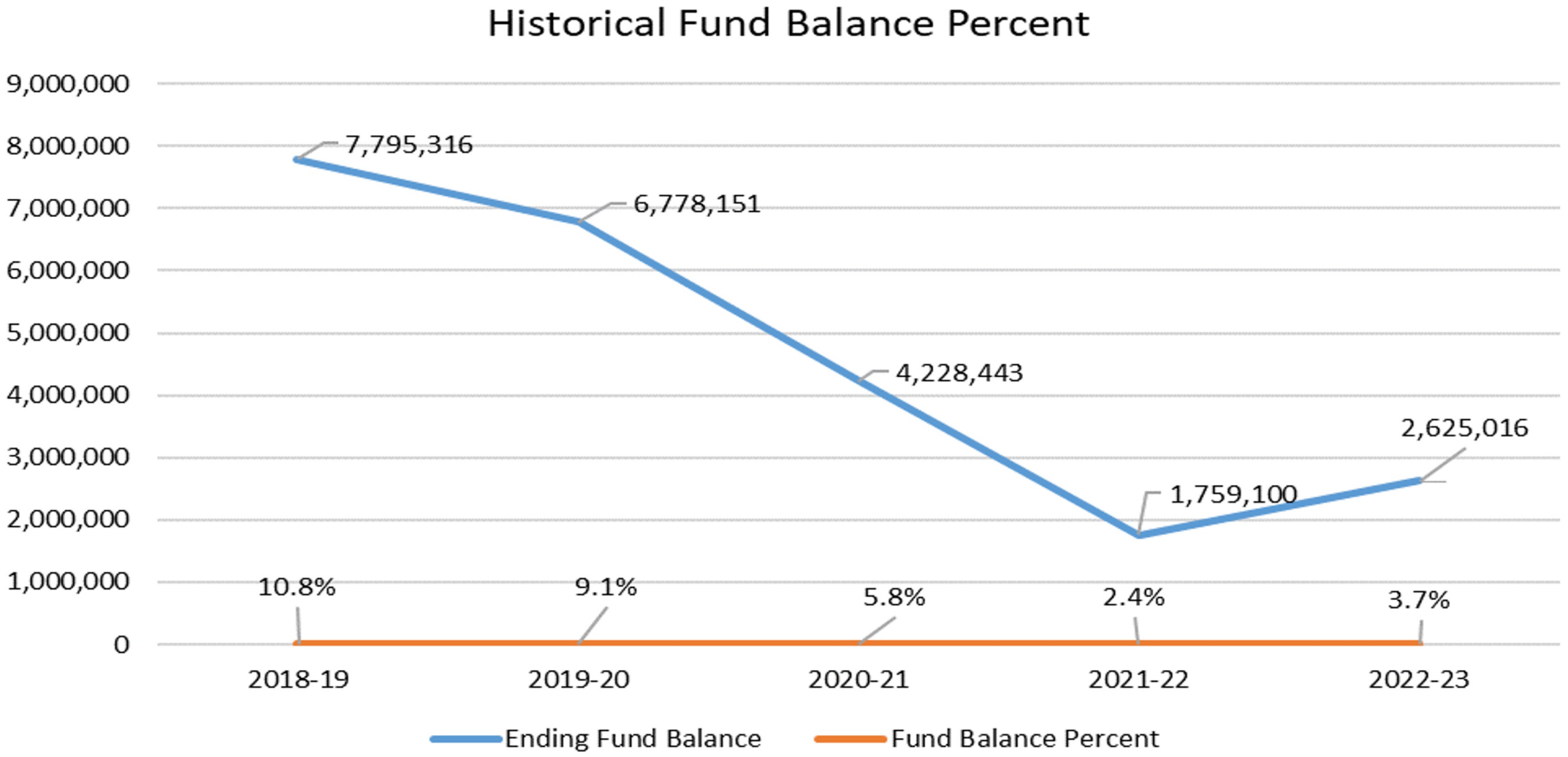


Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION
Chris Reykdal, State Superintendent

Financial Ripples from State's Under Funding

- MISD outspends special education funding by $4 million
- Benefits increased $1.2 million since 2016-2017
- State funds 299 of 432 Full Time Equivalent staff
  - For Example- State funds less than 2 nurses for all 6 schools
- State underfunds the average MI teacher by $27,552
- Insurance increased 137% in 5 years
- MISD receives less than $100K for Title I intervention
- Since 2017-2018 cost of employees increased by between 26% and 47%

Recovery in the Face of Adversity

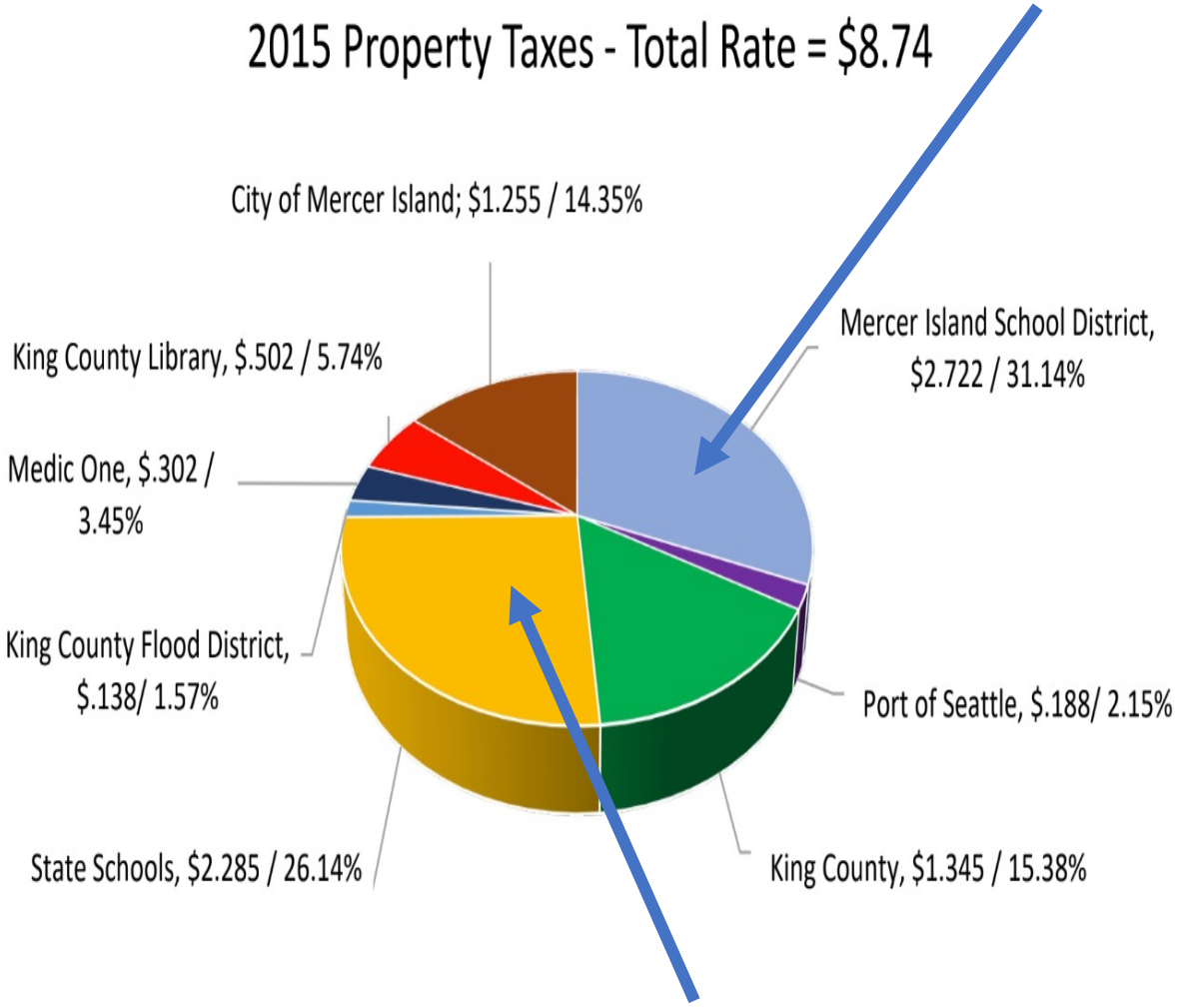


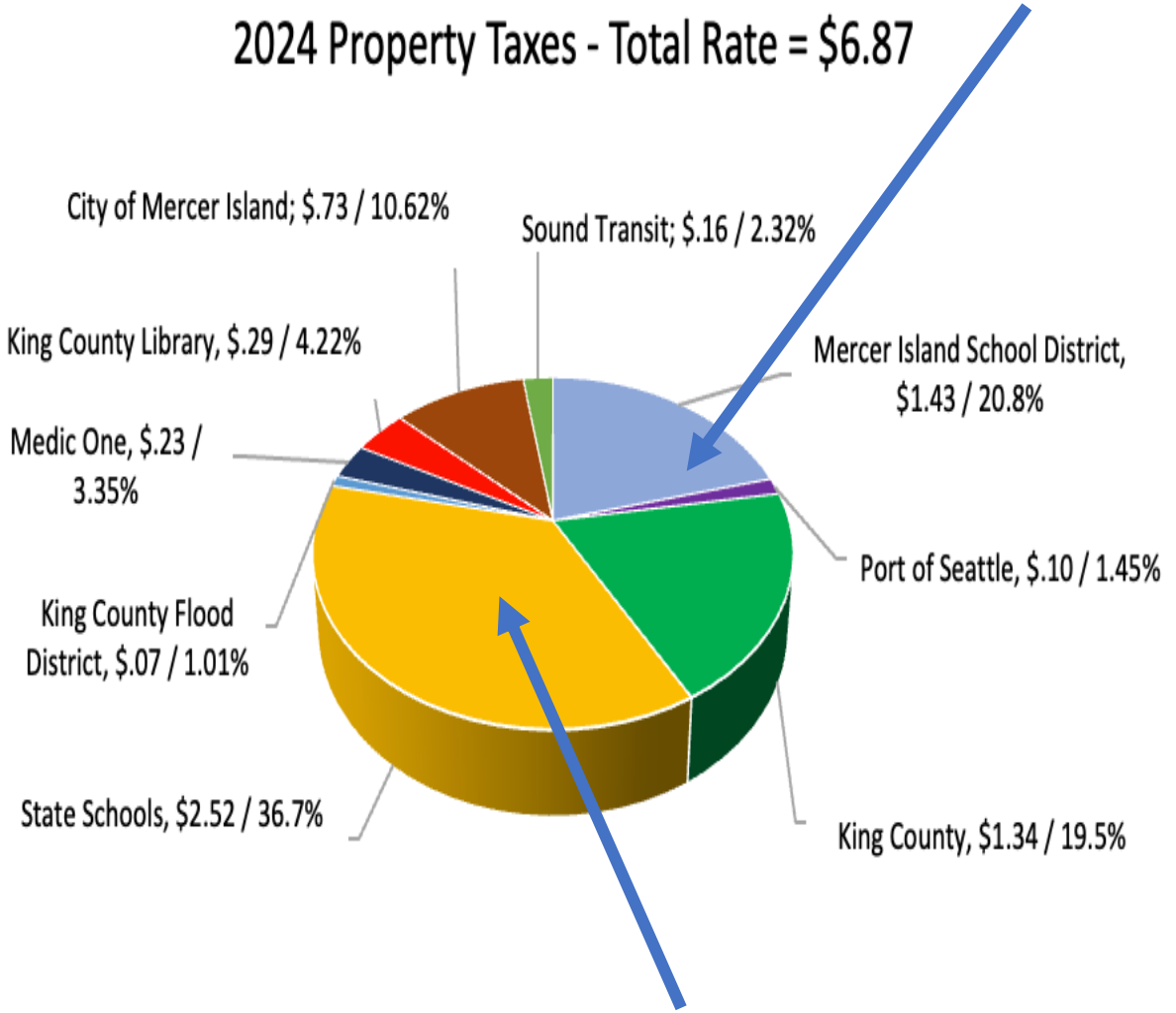
Recovery in the Face of Adversity

What has MISD done since July 1, 2022?

- Corrected enrollment projections
- Matched enrollment with staffing
  - Focus on K-8
- Reduced administrative, teaching, and support positions
- More strategically utilized funding opportunities and accounting practices
  - Levies, Safety Net
- Cut materials and supplies budgets across the district
- Collaborated with MIEA on contracts

Financial Picture for Local Taxpayers





Unpack the EP&O Levy

- **Enrichment Programs & Operations (EP&O)**
  - 4-year levy last approved in 2022
  - State law- $2,500 per student but approved by the voters
  - Adjusted for inflation for 2023-2024 = $3,100 per student
  - Close to $3,200 in 2024-2025
  - MISD set the cap at $12 million for the current levy cycle in 2022
    - MISD may collect up to $12 million/year for each of the 4 years of the levy
  - Current student enrollment- 3,880 students
    - 3,880 * 3,100 = $12,028,000
    - We will not collect our maximum or the equivalent of 9 students

- **Why is this relevant?**
  - Even if we enroll 1 student for open enrollment, we will still not impact the tax rate for current residents.

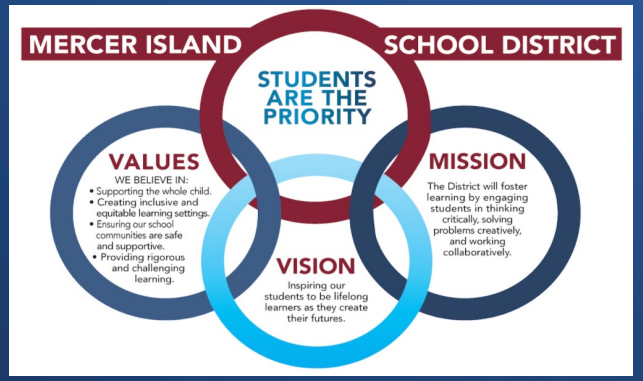
- **I want the district to collect the full amount of $3,200 per student. When can this happen?**
  - Must wait until voter approval in 2026

Unpack the Cap/Tech Levy

- **Capital and Technology Levy (Cap/Tech)**
  - 6-year levy last approved in 2022
  - Levy amount is set by the district based on demonstrated need and voter approval
  - 2023 collection amount- $7.7 million
  - 2024 collection amount- $8 million
  - Expenditures for this levy include but are not limited to:
    - Student and staff devices
    - Instructional technology coaches and staff
    - Facility repairs and replacements
  - Collected on an assessed value basis for each home
  - Not collected on a per/student basis

- **Why is this relevant?**
  - Many of the costs associated with this levy are ones we would incur whether we have 3,815 students next year or 3,915
    - Already purchased student devices
    - Most technology subscriptions are paid for several years to come
    - Carpet replacement at LR, IP, and WM will happen, and we are not closing a school

- **Will my child lose out on any benefit of the Cap/Tech levy if “off-island students” enroll?**



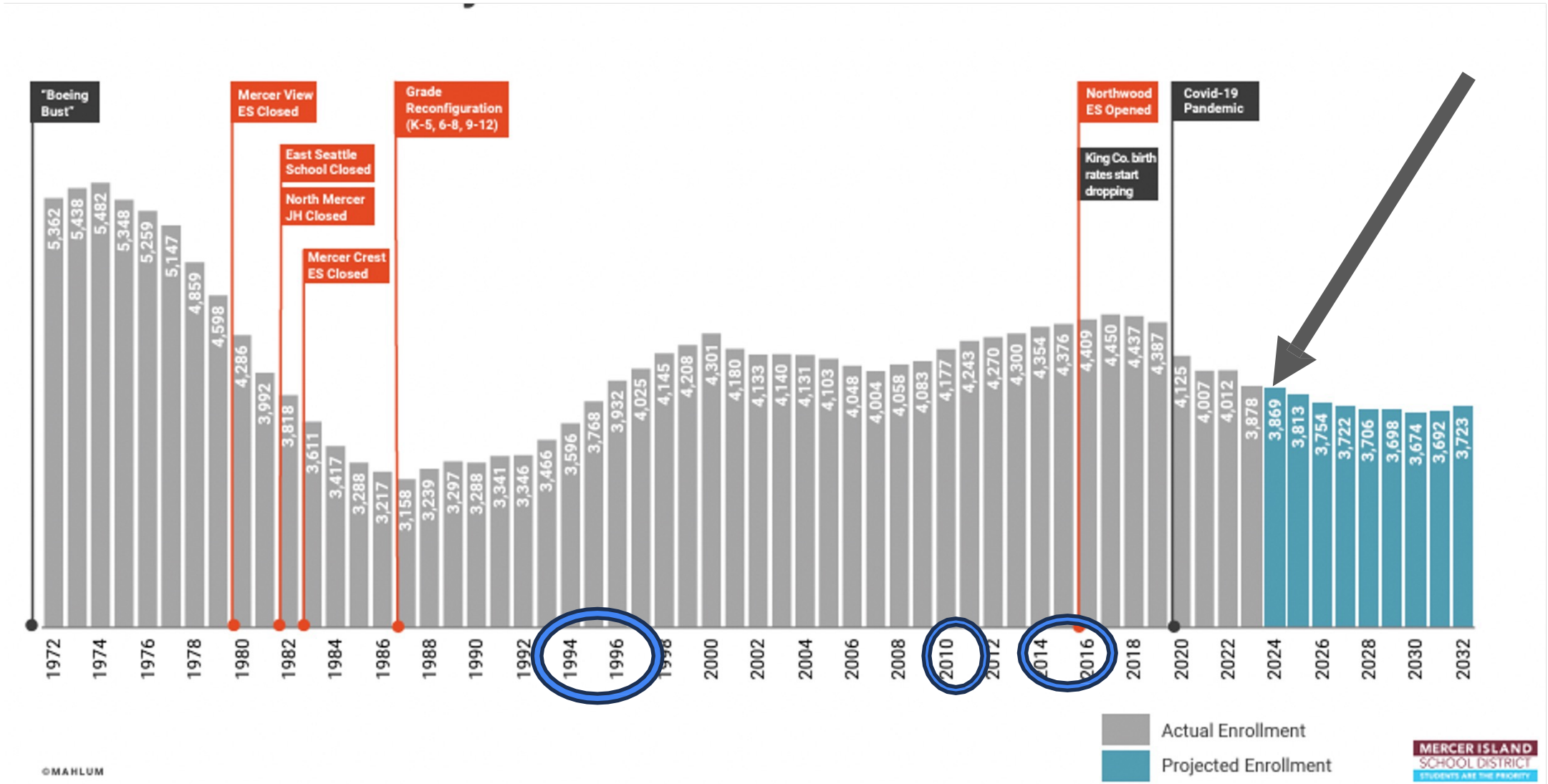
Did you know?

The Board approved refinancing the current Bonds from the 2013 bond, which will save MISD taxpayers $1.5 million.

If the Board does the same next year for the 2014 bond, it is anticipated to save another $1.5 million.

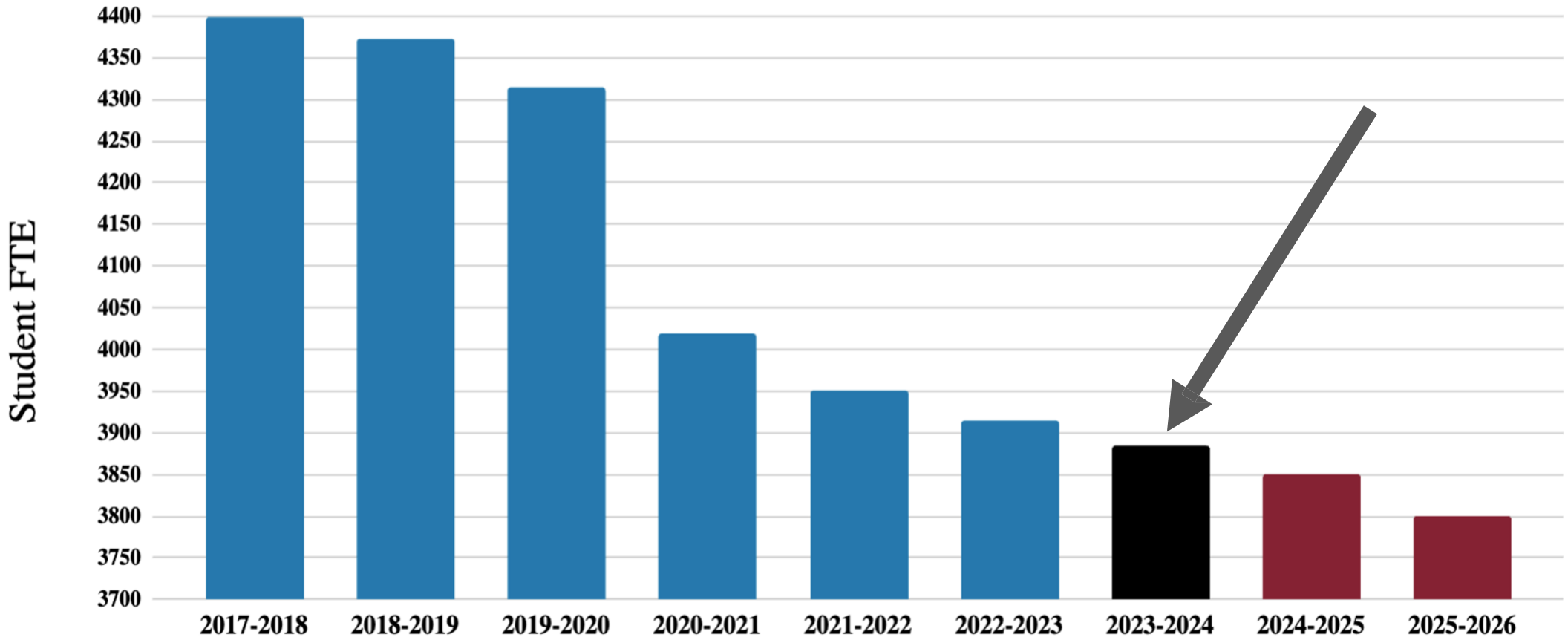
MISD Enrollment Data

MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT



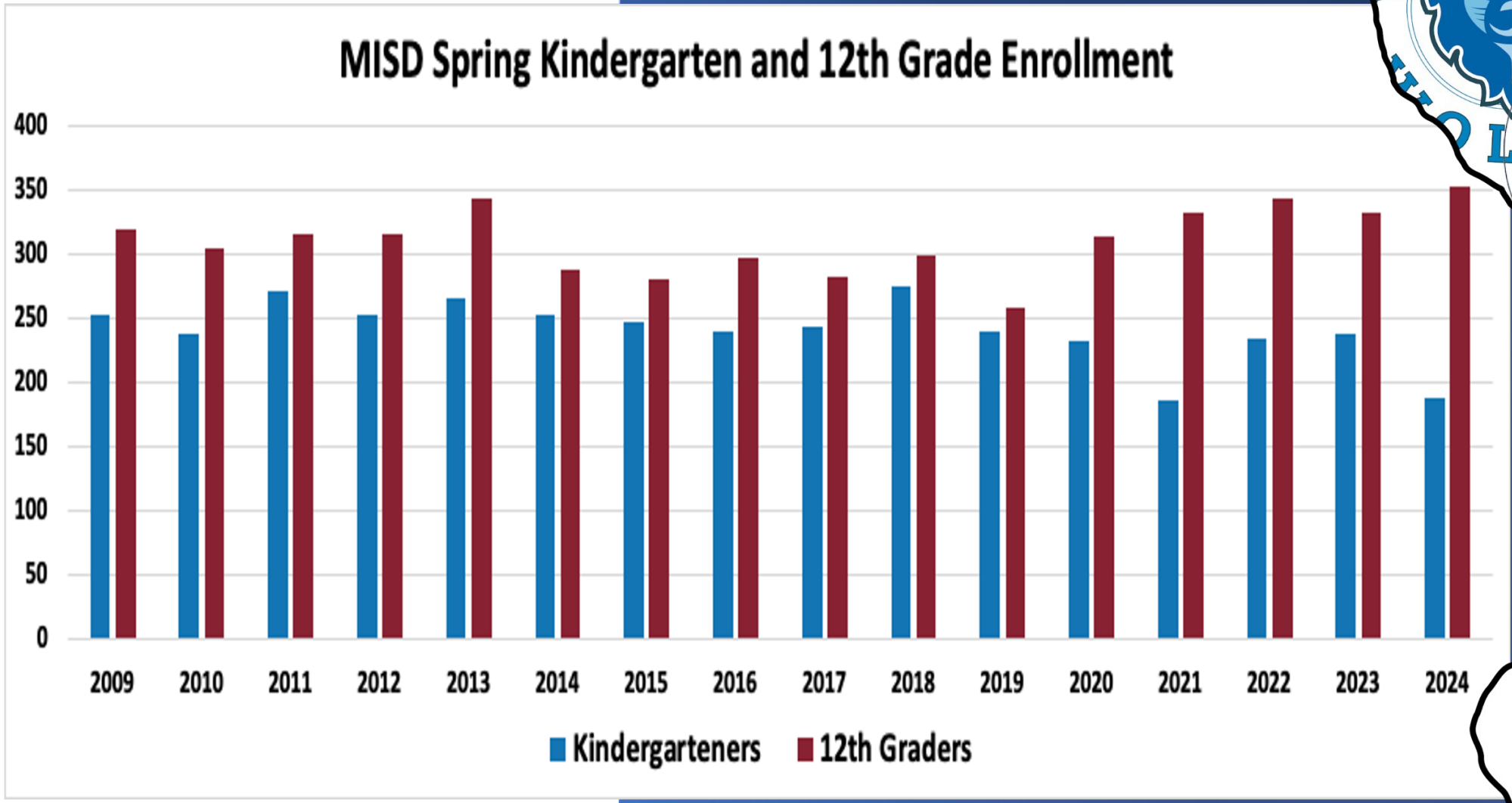
MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Enrollment Trends by FTE: Year-End Average

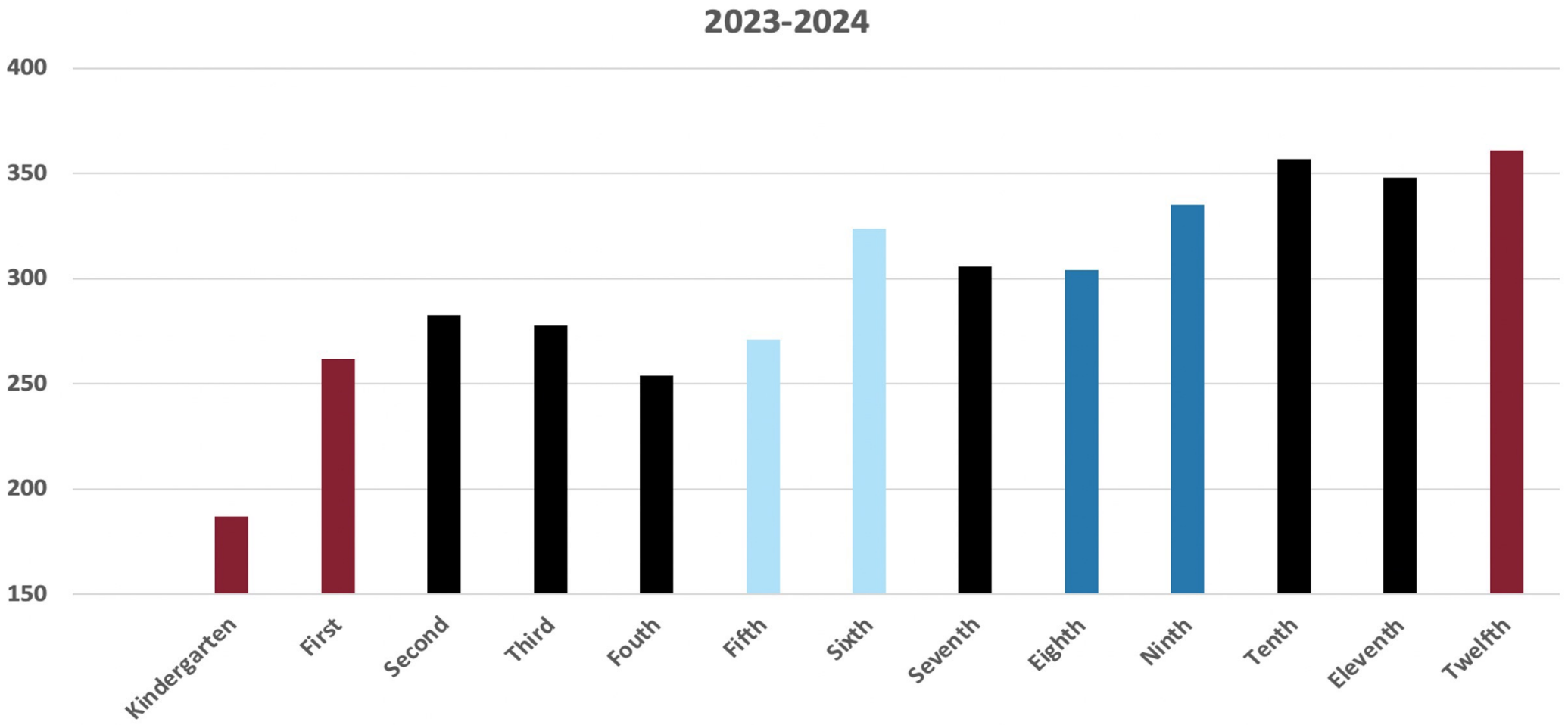


2023-2024 Average is as of December and 2024-2026 is Projected

Students are the priority


MISD Spring Kindergarten and 12th Grade Enrollment
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
Kindergarteners
12th Graders

Current Enrollment By Grade



Enrollment and Open Enrollment- Both/And

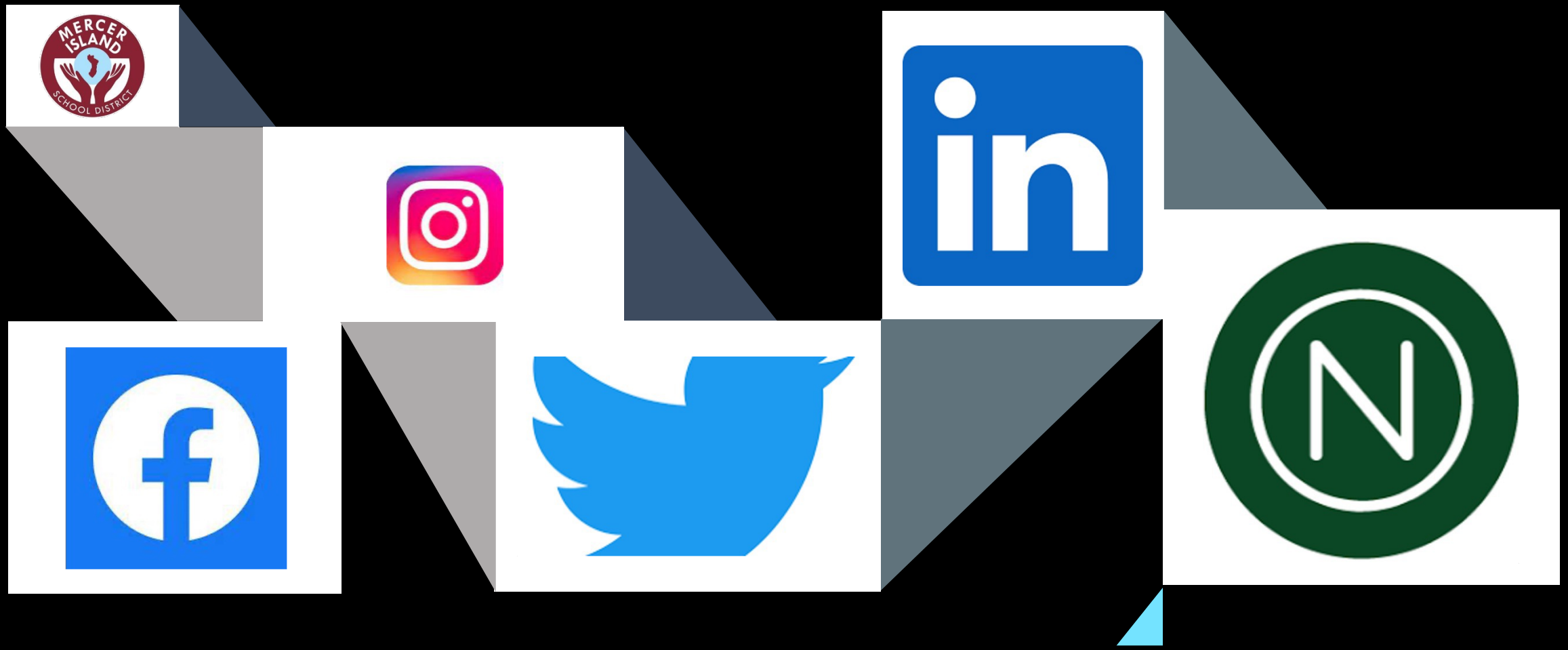


Attract

Retain

Return

What are we doing to ATTRACT?


MERCER ISLAND
SCHOOL DISTRICT



1. Individualized and School Tours
2. Future Islander Night
   - ❖ Identified 40 families who have withdrawn
3. Moved up 8th grade visit to MIHS
4. Superintendent family focus groups
   - ❖ Recently met with private school families
5. Student focus groups
6. Realtor outreach
7. Presence in community events
8. Journey to High School Presentations w/ PTSA for new families and incoming 8th grade families
9. Gator for a Night/Incoming 6th grade Parent Information Night
   - ❖Identified 53 families who have withdrawn



Competition for Students Has Never Been Greater…
Is it fair?

- Public Schools- open enrollment
- Private Schools
- Online Schools
- Charter Schools

Encouraging Trends- RETAIN/RETURN



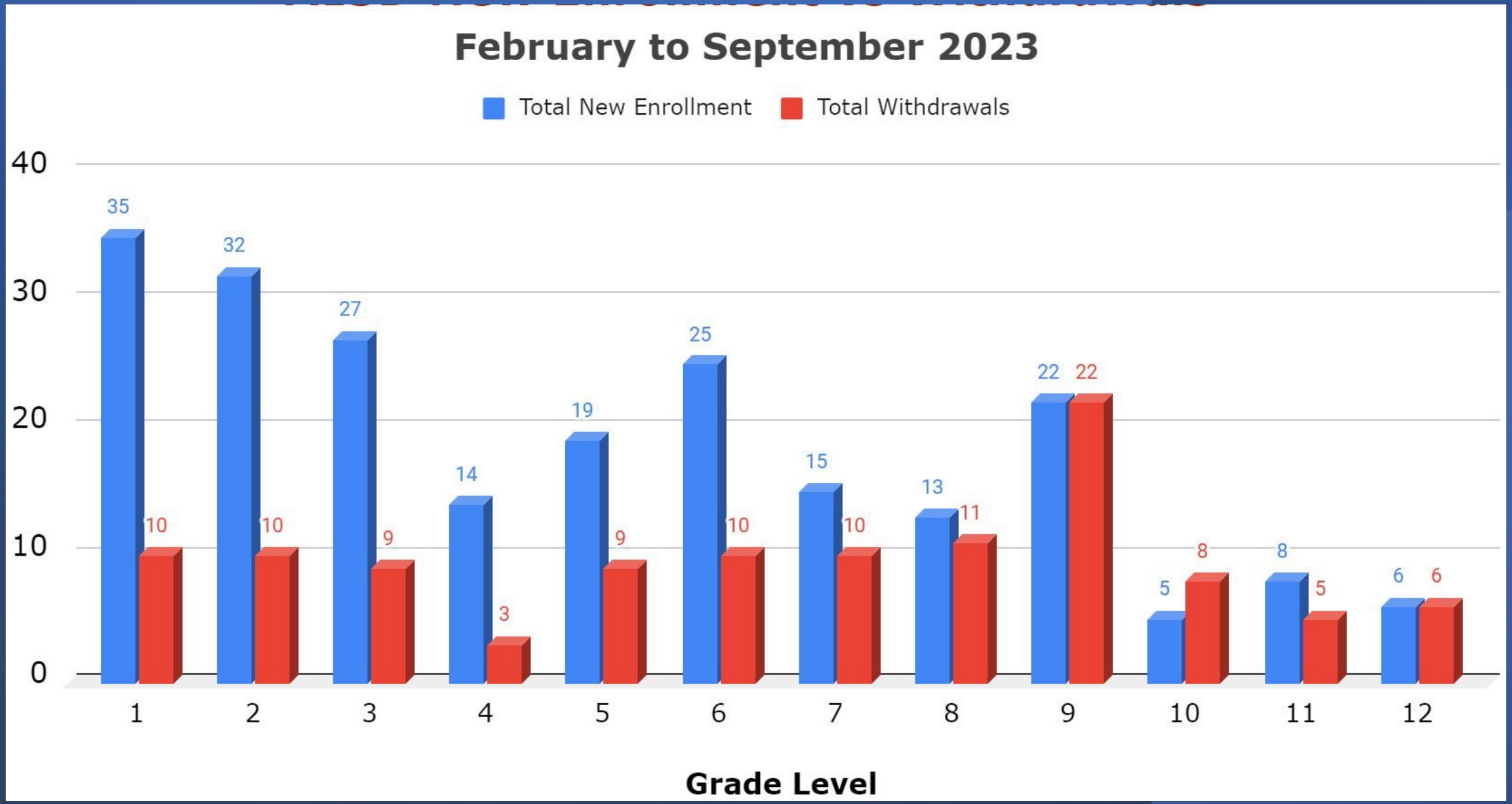
Withdrawal Trends

February 2019 to September 2019	4.5%
February 2020 to September 2020	7%
February 2021 to September 2021	7.7%
February 2022 to September 2022	5.3%
February 2023 to September 2023	3.2%

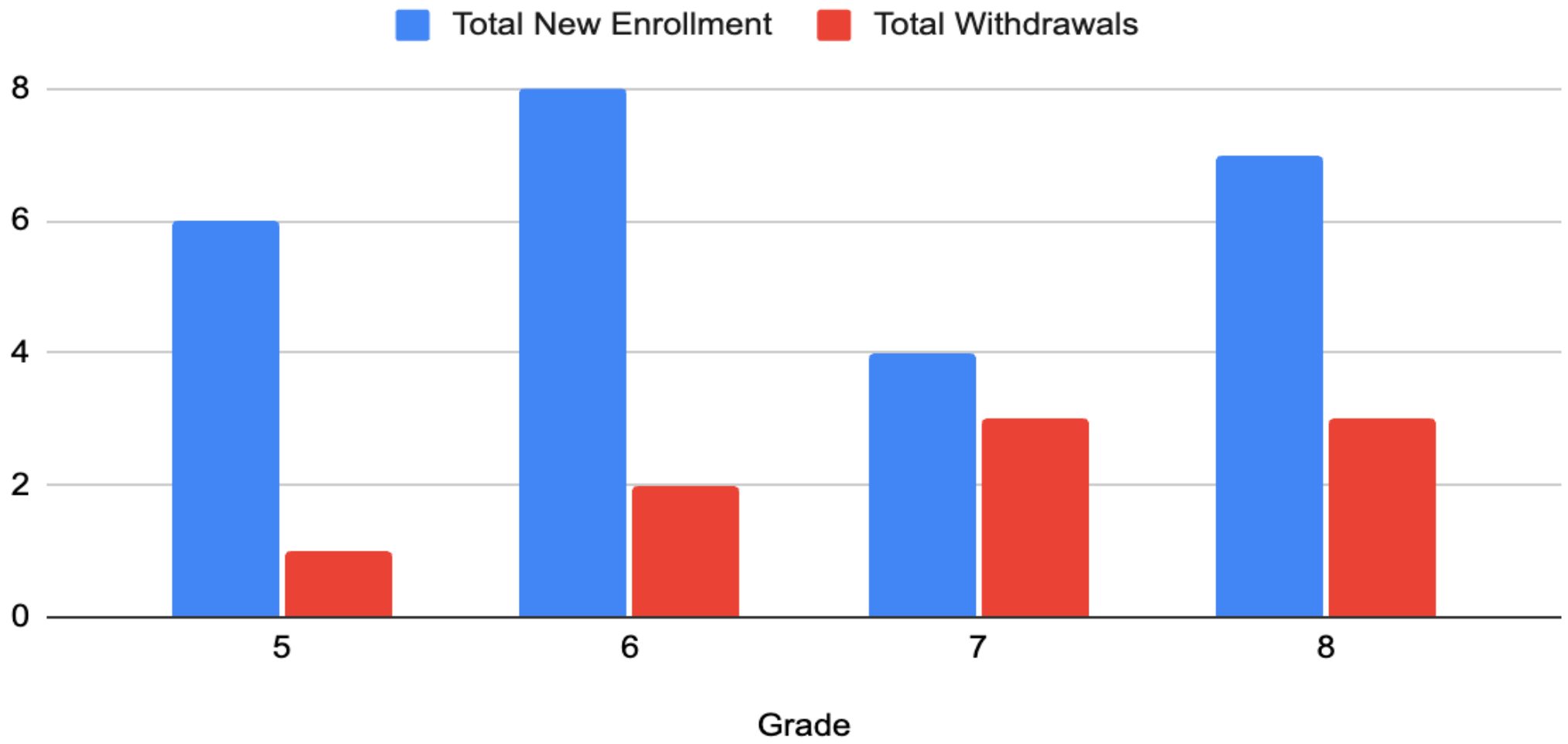


Enrollment Indicators to Note

- February 2023- September 2023
  - 221 New enrollments (not including kindergarten)
  - 113 Withdrawals (not including graduating seniors)
- IMS
  - Enrollment since the start of the year
    - 19 new students
    - 8 withdrawn students
  - 2024-2025 Enrollment
    - 12 enrolling from private schools


February to September 2023
Total New Enrollment
Total Withdrawals
40
30
20
10
0
35
10
32
10
27
9
14
3
19
9
25
10
15
10
13
11
22
22
5
8
8
5
6
6
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
Grade Level

Total 5-8 New Enrollment and Withdrawals Sept. 2023 to March 2024



Open Enrollment as ONE Strategy

Enrollment and Open Enrollment- Both/And



Attract

Retain

Return

What is Open Enrollment?

- District decision to allow students who do not live in a school district to enroll
- All neighboring districts have either been open or are now open to out of district students
- Means to attract students to a district to
  - Even out enrollment
  - Sustain programs and services
  - Create more predictable enrollment in the short and long term
- State apportionment ($11,600) follows the student





Are Any Current Students Open Enrolled?

- Staff members
  - 60 students
    - K-2: 7
    - 3-5: 8
    - 6-8: 20
    - 9-12: 25
- City staff
  - 3 Families
- Siblings of students who enrolled in 2008-2009?

How Would Open Enrollment Work?

- Superintendent makes recommendation to the Board by April 15
- If School Board approves (no decision as of March 19)
- Announce to the community MISD will accept open enrollment to nonresident 8th-12 graders for the 2024-2025 year
- Open the enrollment window in April
- Accept enrollment requests through April and beyond as needed
  - Intent to cap enrollment between 80 and 100 students
  - 30 is more likely in year one
- Students will be accepted for the 2024-2025 year
  - Enrollment is not guaranteed year after year
- Add staff children previously excluded such as athletic and activity coaches



Why Open Enrollment for 8th-12th Grade?

- Programs and services
- Primary objective
  - Sustain the services and programs that make MIHS exceptional
- Not to accelerate fund balance growth
- K-5- not closing schools and want to monitor future trends
- 6th and 7th- monitor enrollment similar to elementary
- 8th-12th
  - Provide opportunity to build connections at IMS
  - Sustain programs and services during years when MIHS is anticipated to decline in enrollment
  - Maintain an outstanding comprehensive high school in a one-high school district

"Trying to take the edge off of the impact and reduce negative consequences for students."

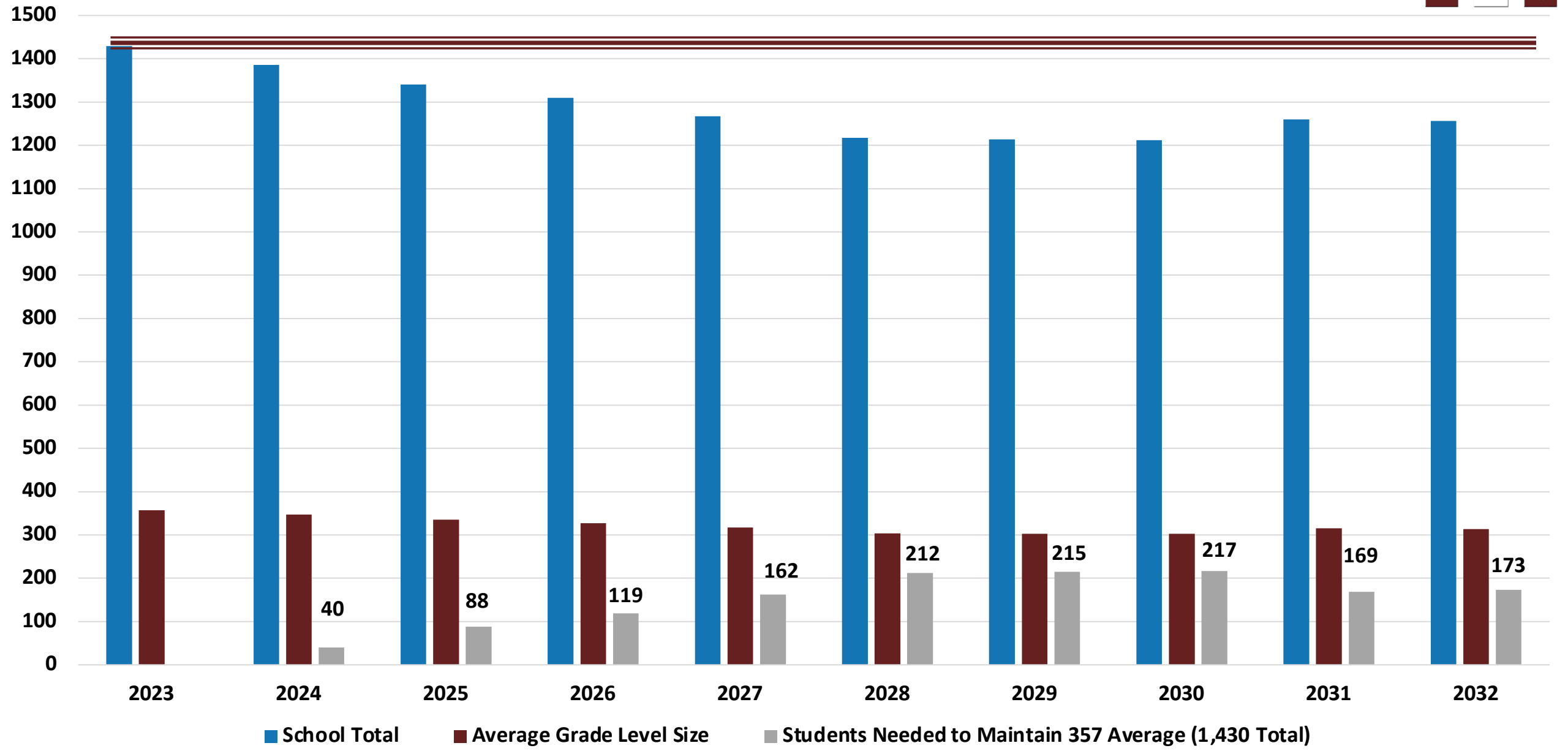


How did Superintendent Rundle come up with 80-100 students?

Davis Demographics – Version 2

Historic In-District Counts				Current	Forecasted In-District Counts									
Grade	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
K-5	1,739	1,568	1,535	1,583	1,542.7	1,579.6	1,613.8	1,607.7	1,584.3	1,555.1	1,579.2	1,548.6	1,549.9	1,553.8
6-8	1,139	1,031	960	931	926.6	897.2	858.5	836.6	871.4	933.0	904.4	913.5	881.7	903.7
9-12	1,534	1,542	1,541	1,518	1,453.4	1,392.7	1,341.2	1,310.0	1,266.7	1,217.9	1,214.4	1,212.3	1,260.1	1,265.6
K-12	4,412	4,141	4,036	4,032	3,922.7	3,869.4	3,813.5	3,754.3	3,722.4	3,706.0	3,697.9	3,674.4	3,691.7	3,723.2

Total MIHS Enrollment
Average Class Size
Students Needed to Maintain 2023 Number



Neighboring Districts

What are other districts doing with Open Enrollment?

DISTRICT	CHOICE for 2024-2025
Bellevue SD	• Opened Dec 11, 2023 - students placed on a waitlist and applications are processed in order of submission • Non-resident families can only apply to ONE neighborhood school • Only FULL TIME student applications will be considered • Placement can be offered as late as the beginning of September • Placement is for ONE Year only. Each year decisions will be made based on space- available basis
Issaquah SD	• Open any time after February 1st for the next school year only for schools that are OPEN. • Transfers are approved on a space-available basis after transfers within the district have been accommodated. • New requests from out-of-district students will be placed on waiting lists in order of the request date • Placement is for ONE Year only. Each year decisions will be made based on space- available basis
Lake Washington SD	• Open any time after February 1st for the next school year • Transfers are approved on a space-available basis after transfers within the district have been accommodated. • Multiple schools are CLOSED for non-resident enrollment • Placement is for ONE Year only. Each year decisions will be made based on space-available basis

What are other districts doing with Open Enrollment?

DISTRICT	CHOICE for 2024-2025
Northshore SD	• Most schools are CLOSED to non-resident enrollment (only Inglemoor HS is open). • Schools that are closed are not able to accept any waivers except for Children of district employees. • Waivered students transferring to a new level of schooling will need to submit a new choice transfer request (from elem to middle or from middle to high school)
Snoqualmie Valley SD	• Open any time after February 1st for the next school year • Transfers approved on a space-available basis • Approvals will be processed in late June
Tahoma SD	• Opened Feb 1, 2024; Will reopen in Aug 2024 as well • Limited to elementary as middle and high schools are at capacity • Typically have ~200 out of district students (including staff) • Do not include seasonal employees' students • Commit to families for one year at a time; but continuity is desired • Lawsuits for denials without evidence of a financial hardship

Takeaways

1. Superintendent Recommendation to School Board
   - Limited Open Enrollment in Grades 8-12- 2024-2025
     - 80-100 students
     - Continue focus on attracting, retaining, and returning students
     - Allows for greater control over the process
2. Revisit open enrollment in spring 2025
3. K-7th Grade- Continue focus on attracting and retaining
   - Study enrollment trends in coming years
   - Honor community request and commitment
4. Purpose for 8th-12th Open Enrollment
   - Maintain enrollment levels to offer commensurate experiences and opportunities for today's students
   - Maintain the quality of high school we expect in a one high school 3A district
5. Open enrollment will not nor should be the only strategy to increase enrollment



Questions Comments Concerns?



Answers to frequently asked questions from our community, including those on the next couple of slides, can be found at www.mercerislandschools.org/openenrollment

Why doesn’t the District reduce staff to match enrollment at MIHS just like the elementary schools?

What is the reason to add 8th grade along with MIHS?

If more students enroll in grades 8th-12th won’t class sizes go up?

Where can I learn more about the courses available at MIHS?

Why didn’t the Superintendent recommend open enrollment last year? What has changed?

People move to MI for the schools. Is there a concern that families will leave the District if students from outside Mercer Island are allowed to enroll?

What are the forecasted effects of doing nothing and staying closed to open enrollment like previous years?

Which courses or programs will be affected without open enrollment as a tool to increase student numbers?

How do families open enroll in the district and will this be the same for Mercer Island if adopted by the Board?

Kindergarten enrollment is historically smaller than the 12th grade graduating classes. Doesn’t the District anticipate growth over time? If so, what is the concern?

Will open enrollment effect the 7-period school day and how does the 7th period factor into school funding?

The high school anticipates a reduction of 3.0 staff FTE for the 2024-2025 school year. What does this mean in terms of impact to the school?

What is MISD doing to listen to families and focus on STEM, something that is lacking in our schools?

Why are the schools not improving faster coming out of COVID?

Is the district ducking its responsibility to improve such that students do not leave for private schools?

Why did the District close Open Enrollment so quickly in 2008-2009?

What is the number of elective courses offered at MIHS and how does this compare to other schools?

How many school-aged students are on Mercer Island compared to previous years?

If approved, will nonresident open enrolled students need to reapply each year?

If the District is in better financial condition than a year ago and living within its means, what is the purpose of open enrollment?

What are next steps after this meeting?

Can organizations such as MISF and PTA help overcome funding gaps?

Where can parents learn more?

What’s On Your Mind Tonight?