

# YAKIMA SCHOOL DISTRICT

# 2025 Legislative Priorities



**TO OUR LEGISLATORS:** Thank you for your ongoing support of education in Washington State. We recognize and appreciate the recent steps to increase funding for schools and remain committed to working together to address the remaining needs in our district. Below are the key legislative priorities of Yakima School District for 2025:

## 1 Address Gaps in Funding for Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC)

State funding for materials, supplies, and operating costs has not kept pace with Yakima School District's expenses. This gap has grown over recent years, impacting our ability to maintain essential resources and services within our schools.

- » **Request:** We respectfully ask for adjustments to MSOC funding to better reflect the actual costs that districts incur. Ensuring adequate support for these foundational needs will help Yakima and other districts continue providing students with essential resources.

## 2 Support Special Education Needs with Adequate Funding

Yakima School District's Special Education programs face a considerable funding gap. Despite recent increases in the cap on Special Education funding, state support does not fully cover the costs of services for our students with disabilities, placing strain on district resources.

- » **Request:** We encourage consideration of a more comprehensive approach to Special Education funding. Such adjustments would help districts meet the needs of students requiring special services, ensuring a fair and supportive learning environment for all.

## 3 Increase Funding for Substitute Teachers and Staff

The state's current funding for substitute staff is not enough to cover Yakima School District's actual expenses, leading to challenges in providing consistent coverage in classrooms. This issue has become more pronounced in recent years, affecting continuity in instruction.

- » **Request:** We respectfully request additional support for substitute staffing. Enhanced funding in this area would allow districts to better manage instructional needs during staff absences, promoting consistent learning experiences for students.

## 4 Improve Support for Student Transportation

Transportation funding remains below actual costs, impacting Yakima School District's ability to provide reliable, safe transportation for students across the region. This underfunding can create barriers for families that rely on district transportation services.

- » **Request:** We urge the Legislature to consider adjustments to the transportation funding model to reflect the rising costs and unique needs of districts. Aligning funding with actual expenses will help ensure equitable access to transportation for all students.

**Since 2020, state funding shortfalls in these areas have impacted Yakima School District significantly, with a cumulative cost of \$182 million.**

See full district cost breakdown on reverse. 

Addressing these gaps will help sustain the quality of education that our students deserve. We look forward to continued collaboration with our legislators to support equitable, effective education for all.

Learn more at:  
[YSD7.org/budget](https://www.yakimaschools.org/budget)



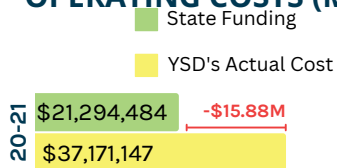
**Yakima**  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DISTRITO ESCOLAR

(509) 573-7000  
104 N 4th Ave, Yakima, WA 98902

# GAPS IN STATE FUNDING



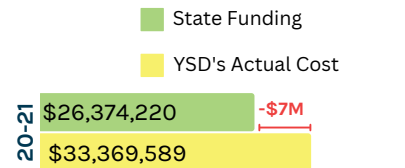
## MATERIALS, SUPPLIES & OPERATING COSTS (MSOC)



Since 2020, YSD has been underfunded for MSOC by **\$108.5 million.**



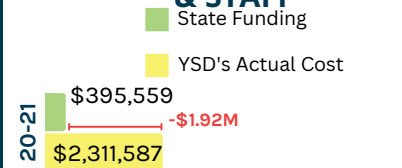
## SPECIAL EDUCATION



Since 2020, YSD has been underfunded for Special Education by **\$42.18 million.**



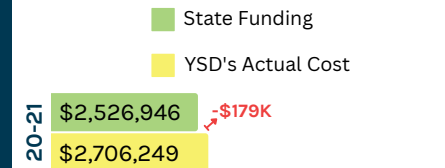
## SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS & STAFF



Since 2020, YSD has been underfunded for Substitutes by **\$26.5 million.**



## TRANSPORTATION



Since 2020, YSD has been underfunded for Transportation by **\$4.83 million.**

**SINCE 2020, STATE FUNDING GAPS HAVE COST YSD \$182M.**

\*Budgeted

Federal pandemic relief (ESSR) funds/expenditures are not included in this data.

