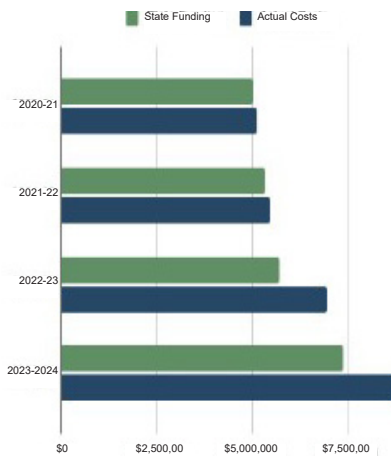


2025 Legislative Priorities: Close the Funding Gaps

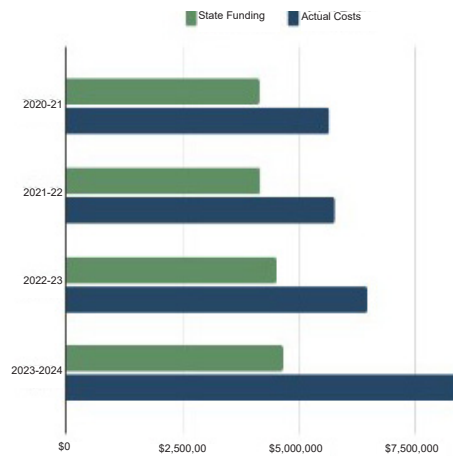


Since 2020, ASD5 has been underfunded for Special Education by \$2,820,281.

Special Education

Aberdeen is one of 26 districts that remains underfunded for special needs students. The Legislature funds special education up to 16.5%, but more than 18% of our student population qualifies for Special Education.

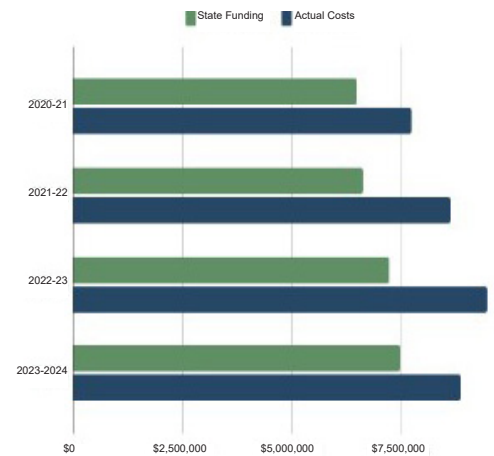
In the absence of adequate funding, Aberdeen is spending \$1.94 million this year in local levy funds to remain in compliance. The Legislature should remove this arbitrary cap and fully fund the special needs of our students.



Since 2020, ASD5 has been underfunded for MSOCs by \$8,909,323.

MSOCs

Materials, Supplies & Operating Costs. For 2024-2025, we are budgeted to spend \$2.48 million more on MSOCs than the state allocation. Of that, \$695,300 is to cover our insurance and utility costs — costs we have no control over. These costs have increased 46% in the past three years. The Legislature should fully fund these costs and connect future increases to inflation so that local levy dollars intended for activities such as music, athletics and electives aren't diverted.



Since 2020, ASD5 has been underfunded for certificated salaries by \$13,755,768.

Certificated Salaries

The Legislature's funding formula for salaries is woefully inadequate. For 2024-2025, the state is funding \$11.8 million to fund the average salaries of 162 certificated staff in Aberdeen. Our actual costs are \$18.35 million for 194 teachers and certificated staff.

Our district also employs 163 classified staff. The state funds 68. The Legislature should revisit the basic education funding model so that local dollars can be used for enrichment.

~ These funding gaps have cost Aberdeen schools \$25.5 million ~

Unfunded Requirements

Substitute Costs: School Districts are required to provide at least 10 days leave for staff. The state currently only provides enough funding to cover four days for teacher substitutes at a rate of \$151.86 per day — about \$16 per hour — and no funding for required leave for other staff. Districts use local funds to make up the difference. In our district, that's about \$784,420 for 2024-2025.

New Laws: The Legislature and state agencies should pause on the adoption of new policies and requirements so districts can focus on academics and students. According to the Washington Association of School Administrators, the Legislature has added 77 new school year requirements since 2018 — including nine for this year — without additional funding or staff to support implementation. Another eight go into effect next year. It's time to let the system rest to allow school districts to focus on helping students succeed academically.

"It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders ..."

~Washington State Constitution, Article IX, Section 1