

Hastings Board

Perspective On The 2025 Bond Proposal

March 25, 2025

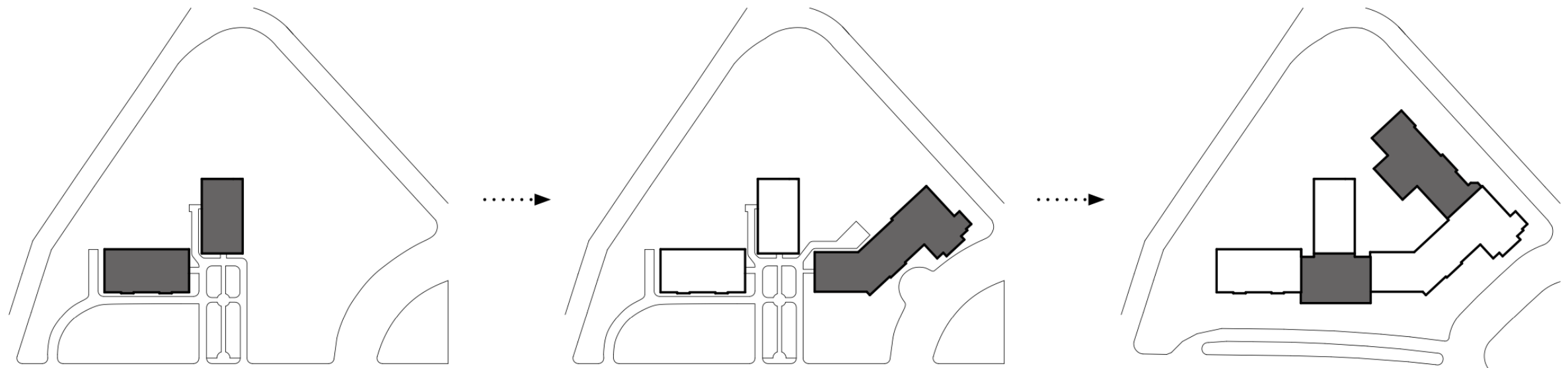
What's in the bond?

- 1) A new entryway — \$940,000 — \$1.30/mo
- 2) A new cafeteria — \$9.4M — \$13/mo
- 3) Renovation of the old cafeteria into new classroom space — \$4.3M — \$6/mo
- 4) Two athletic field upgrades at Burke — \$ — TBD
- 5) Building envelope & MEP work at FMS — \$5M — \$7/mo

* basic non-interest calculation of base total divided by 3,000 HOH domiciles

** does not include soft-costs which are spread over the entire scope

The Farragut Complex



ORIGINAL 1902 AND 1911 FARRAGUT AND WASHINGTON BUILDINGS

1925 MT HOPE ADDITION

1931 CENTRAL CONNECTION AND SCHOOL ST WING

The Farragut Complex is 5 buildings

1) Built in 1902, 1911, 1925, and 1931

2) They are the entirety of our Middle School and High School classroom space

Isn't the Farragut Complex large enough?

The Middle School portion of the school is much smaller than the High School

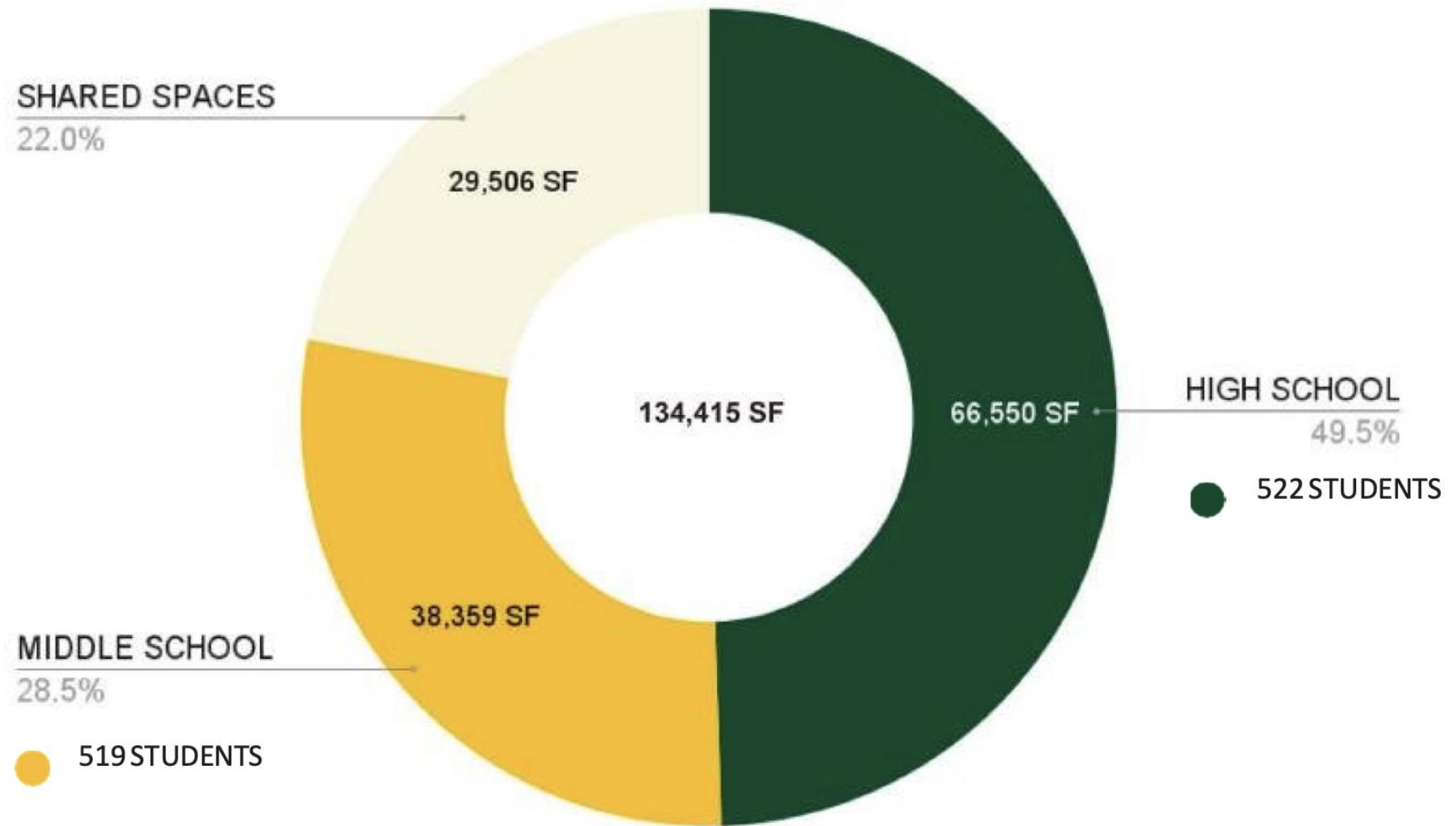
- **The Middle School has 40% less space**
- **Middle School has the same number of students**
- **20 of 24 classrooms below State minimums; many inaccessible**
- **Our Middle School no longer has the space to accommodate the level of programs and services for what NYS requires and what a modern school generally supports as part of a comprehensive education**

How did the Middle School get so small?

Farragut Complex used to have more and better laid-out educational space

- In the 1990's the district enrollment ebbed to its lowest point, a little above 1,000 students (current enrollment is 1616)
- District offices were housed in the (condemned) Billie Burke house then moved into FMS
- The cafeteria was located where the current library is, moved to the basement without foodservice, then into taken-over classroom space in 1990 (cafeteria's current 6,000 sq. ft. location)

Isn't the Farragut Complex large enough?



TOTAL DISTRIBUTION OF SPACES BETWEEN MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL

Is the current cafeteria undersized?

New York State has reviewed our cafeteria and considers it substantially too small for our building population

- This is why NYSED is willing to extend 47% building aid to cover this project**
- Current building population is 1,100+ students and adults, having varying demands for breakfast and lunch**
- Building a new cafeteria unlocks the efficient conversion of the current cafeteria back to classrooms and educational spaces**

What is our NYS capital aid like?

NYSED currently extends Building Aid to us at a 47% rate, significantly higher than many sister districts

- There is good reason to believe we will soon have our reimbursement rate lowered significantly**
- Currently-considered projects (even critical ones) would cost millions more**
- Rockefeller Institution Foundation Aid Report**
<https://rockinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2024-12-Foundation-Aid-Report.pdf>

Hasn't HOH passed a lot of bonds?

HOH is one of the most-lightly bonded Districts amongst our peers

- The Farragut Complex educational spaces have barely been touched by a bond since the buildings were built
- Building work is often done out of budget, pressuring each year's budget and our reserves; **\$500K+ this year in unscheduled repairs**

Hasn't HOH passed a lot of bonds?

Hastings-on-Hudson UFSD

BOND / DEBT COMPARISON

In the past 20 years, Hastings-on-Hudson has invested \$18.15M into our physical plant via two bond issues—a 2000 bond for \$10M and a 2014 bond for \$8.15M.

This compares to an average of \$57.9M invested by the neighboring towns of Dobbs Ferry, Irvington and Ardsley over the same period (all of which invested over \$50M during this time). The effect can be seen in our annual debt service per student below:

TOWN	ANNUAL DEBT SERVICE/STUDENT (2017)
• Irvington	\$2742
• Ardsley	\$2270
• Dobbs Ferry	\$1483
• Hastings (Post Bond)	\$1266 (projected in 2020 if \$18M bond passes)

From 1997-2017, HOH invested \$18.15M into capital projects

The average of Dobbs, Ardsley, and Irvington over 1997-2017 was \$57.9M — none less than \$50M

Hasn't HOH passed a lot of bonds?

From 2017 to 2024, HOH passed an additional \$18.4M bond (2018)

In that same time:

Ardsey — \$59.4M (2023)

Dobbs — \$20M (2019)

Irvington — \$18.8M (2019)

Edgemont — \$62M (2024)

Tarrytown — \$93M (2023)

Hasn't HOH passed a lot of bonds?

What Will the **BOND PROVIDE?**

FARRAGUT MIDDLE SCHOOL / HASTINGS HIGH SCHOOL

• Repoint Exterior	\$633,040
• Classroom Flooring	\$262,400
• Roofs and Skylights	\$1,968,000
• Public Address System	\$131,200
• Chimney	\$32,800
• Parapets	\$196,800
• Elevator	\$524,800
• Boiler Replacement	\$1,049,600
• Music Suite Renovation	\$721,600
• Auditorium Renovation	\$2,669,520
TOTAL FMS/HHS	\$8,189,760

HILL

• Repoint	
• Class	
• Roofs	
• Public	
• Wind	
• Build	
• Learn	

TOTA

- The 2018 Bond mostly addressed FMS building envelope and MEP

- Apart from the auditorium and music suite, no educational space was created nor repurposed nor fully-restored

2018 Bond Spending

Hasn't HOH passed a lot of bonds?

- The 2014 Bond was mostly about outdoor work, an auditorium upgrade, and MEP
- The 2000 Bond, likewise, focused on gyms, locker rooms, bathrooms, building envelope and MEP. The single work on educational space was an upgrade to the science labs.

Hasn't HOH passed a lot of bonds?

Under-utilization of capital bonding has led to deteriorating buildings which also pressure our budget and our reserves. This year alone:

- 1) \$30K ceiling failure in two classrooms over summer
- 2) FMS flood ~\$6-7M in costs (up to \$10M) — months out of operation
- 3) Stairwell ceiling failure — \$100,000 spent just this past weekend
- 4) Basement classrooms not accessible
- 5) No accessible entrance to whole FMS complex
- 6) No secure, single point of entry

Why is Hastings considering new fields, and considering artificial turf?

- 1) Field availability has emerged as a consistent problem. Even with a dedicated grounds crew, grass struggles to support the number of hours our programs require.**
- 2) The district often needs to modify or cancel practices. Home games are often moved to away games and the district needs to pay for busing.**

Why is Hastings considering new fields, and considering artificial turf?

3) The District has been spending ~\$30K a year on additional busing due to field unavailability

4) The inconsistent schedule and additional travel weigh on both student-athletes, their families, and our coaches

5) Our lack of proper facilities is contrary to the Hastings ethos in sports, which is to view athletics participation as a core, all-are-welcome endeavor

High School Athletics Participation

(2023-24)

Participation by Grade:	Total Students Per Grade:	Percentage by Grade:
Total Freshman Athletes: 102	Total Freshman: 132	Freshman: 77.3%
Total Sophomore Athletes: 87	Total Sophomores: 112	Sophomore: 77.7%
Total Junior Athletes: 88	Total Juniors: 128	Juniors: 68.8%
Total Senior Athletes: 80	Total Seniors: 136	Seniors: 58.8%
Merged Athletes (Hastings Lead School): 8		
Total Athletes: 357 (365 / Merged)	Total Students: 508 (516 w/merged)	Total Percent: 70.3%

Middle School Athletics Participation

(2023-24)

Participation by Grade:	Total Numer of MS Students:	Percentage by Grade:
Total 7th Grade Athletes: 105	Total 7th Grade Students: 130	7th Grade: 80.8%
Total 8th Grade Athletes: 117	Total 8th Grade Students: 144	8th Grade: 81.3%
Total # of 7th & 8th Grade Athletes: 222	Total # of 7th & 8th Graders: 274	Total Percentage: 81.02%

Bond Misconceptions

1) The bond will hit your taxes next year

The bond debt repayment will not start until 2029

2) The chaos in Washington will leave us over-extended

The bond process is inherently and continuously flexible

3) NYSED only pays back for 15 years while the bond term is 20 years. We'll leave money on the table.

NYSED payback is always over 15 years. We will receive the full 47% reimbursement, over 15 years.

Hillside Space Comparison

2018-2019

Elementary School

Square Feet

Enrollment

Sq ft per child

Irvington

83,180

513

162

Dobbs Ferry

100,530

653

154

Ardsley

120,609

787

153

Hastings on Hudson (after addition)

85,535

643

133

Hastings on Hudson (currently)

73,000

643

114

Before the 2018 bond, Hillside was a vastly undersized school in comparison to its peers.

This was not a “paper” issue either — both art and languages were on a cart and pushed-in to classes. There were many other shortcomings.

Current Farragut Middle School Sq. Ft. Per child is

Dedicated FMS: 74 sq. ft. per child

Including shared HHS spaces: 130 sq. ft. per child — HHS figure is 184 sq. ft. per child

HOH Per-Pupil Spend Comparison

(submitted 2024-25 budgets)

Irvington — \$44,000 ~ same sized district as HOH

Briarcliff — \$44,000 ~ same sized district as HOH

Putnam Valley — \$40,000 ~ same sized district as HOH

Chappaqua — \$39,500

Scarsdale — \$39,300

Edgemont — \$38,900 ~ same sized district as HOH

Dobbs Ferry — \$38,500 ~ same sized district as HOH

Hastings — \$37,700

Pleasantville — \$37,500 ~ same sized district as HOH

Croton-Harmon — \$37,300 ~ same sized district as HOH

Tarrytown — \$37,300

Ardsley — \$36,200

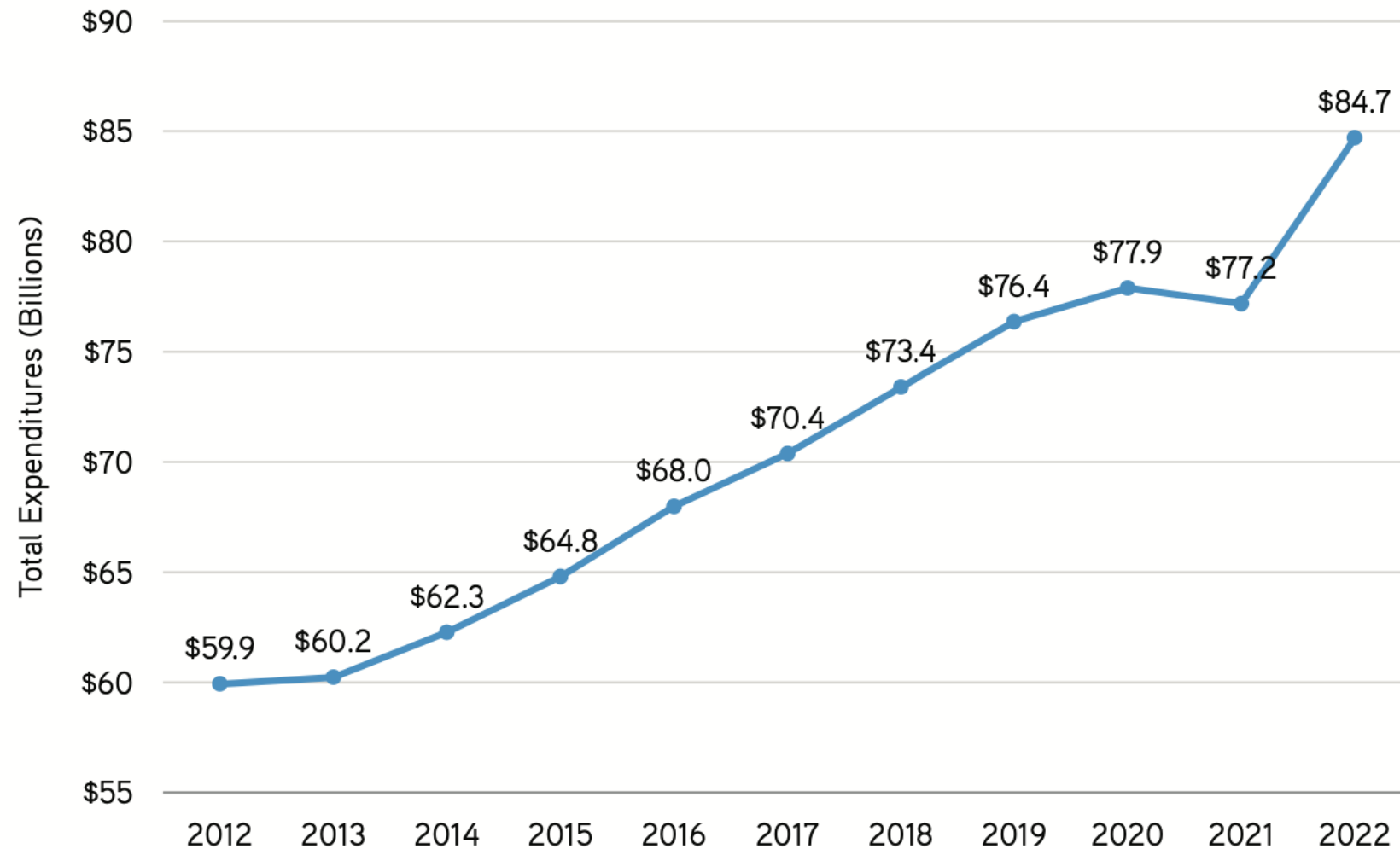
New York State Education Spending

In the **2023-2024 school year**, New York State's public school districts are projected to spend an average of **\$36,293 per student**, reflecting a 21% increase since the 2020-2021 school year. This substantial per-pupil expenditure is influenced by many factors, all of which contribute to the state's position as having the highest per-student spending in the nation.

<https://cbcny.org/research/highest-costs-middling-marks>

New York State Education Spending

FIGURE 4. Total Expenditures on Education in New York State, All Sources, 2012 to 2022

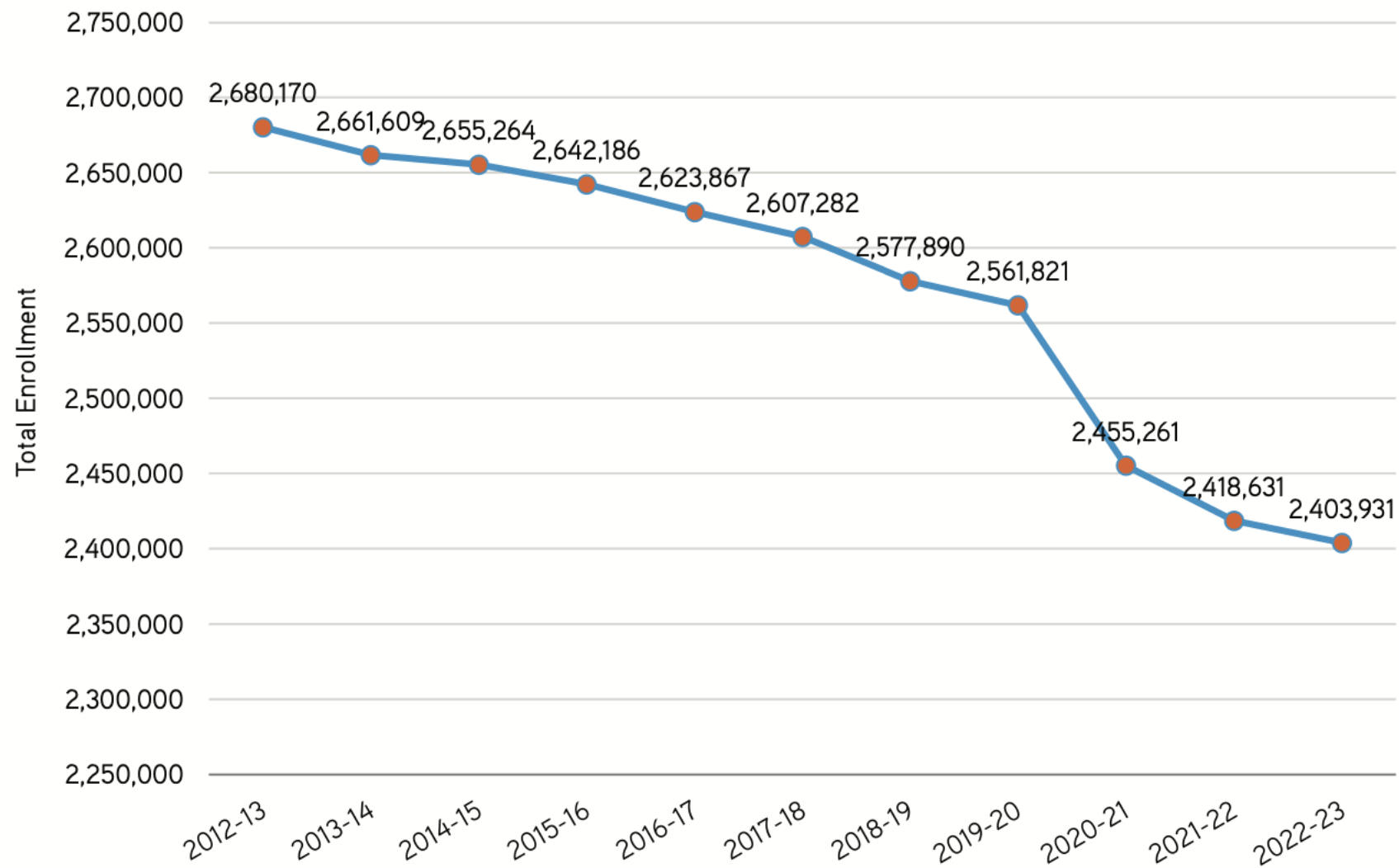


SOURCE: "Summary of Public Elementary-Secondary School System Finances: US and State: 2012-2022 (GS00SS01)," US Census Bureau, <https://data.census.gov>.

NOTE: The data represents a combination of federal, state, and local funding.

New York State Enrollment

FIGURE 5. Ten-Year Trend in Total Public School Enrollment in New York State, 2012 to 2022



SOURCE: Analysis of data by the Rockefeller Institute from the Enrollment Data Archive maintained by the New York State Education Department, <https://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/statistics/enroll-n-staff/ArchiveEnrollmentData.html>.

Pre-Tax Rate Cap HOH Spending

What were tax levy rises like before the NYS Tax Cap?

- 2000-2009 the average TAX LEVY increase was 8.36% per annum
- Budget went from \$22M to \$41.5M - up 88% as student pop grew 13%
- Cuomo TAX RATE cap - HOH has never had to pierce that
- 2001: +7.6%
- 2002: 9.8%
- 2003: 9.22%
- 2004: 7.89%
- 2005: 8.77%
- 2006: 10.79%
- 2007: 8.02%
- 2008: 6.95%
- 2009: 6.12%

Recent HOH Tax Levy Changes

Average 2.7% over past 4 years

2021— 2.83%

2022 — 1.92%

2023 — 2.83%

2024 — 3.19%

Federal inflation over this period: 4.85% per annum

Another Truth

We are all in this together

- **All levels of the District and BOE work very hard in consideration of all HOH residents**
- **A strong school benefits the whole community**
- **Students, the less-resourced, homeowners**

New York State Enrollment

- Only about 10% of 706 NYS school districts grew from 2013-2023; the rest shrank
- Of the ~56 districts in Westchester & Putnam, only 11 grew
- Hastings was one of those — +2.3% enrollment

Doesn't enrollment drive costs?

- There is little real correlation between enrollment and costs
- The following similarly-sized districts to HOH all lost enrollment

VALHALLA

(1357 students currently)

Enrollment loss 2013-2023: **-11.7%**

Total budget growth 2013-2023: **27%**

BLIND BROOK-RYE

(1289 students currently)

Enrollment loss 2013-2023: **-12.2%**

Total budget growth 2013-2023: **43%**

CROTON-HARMON

(1693 students currently)

Enrollment loss 2013-2023: **-7%**

Total budget growth 2013-2023: **36%**

HOH

(1616 students currently)

Enrollment **gain** 2013-2023: **+2.3%**

Total budget growth 2013-2023: **30%**

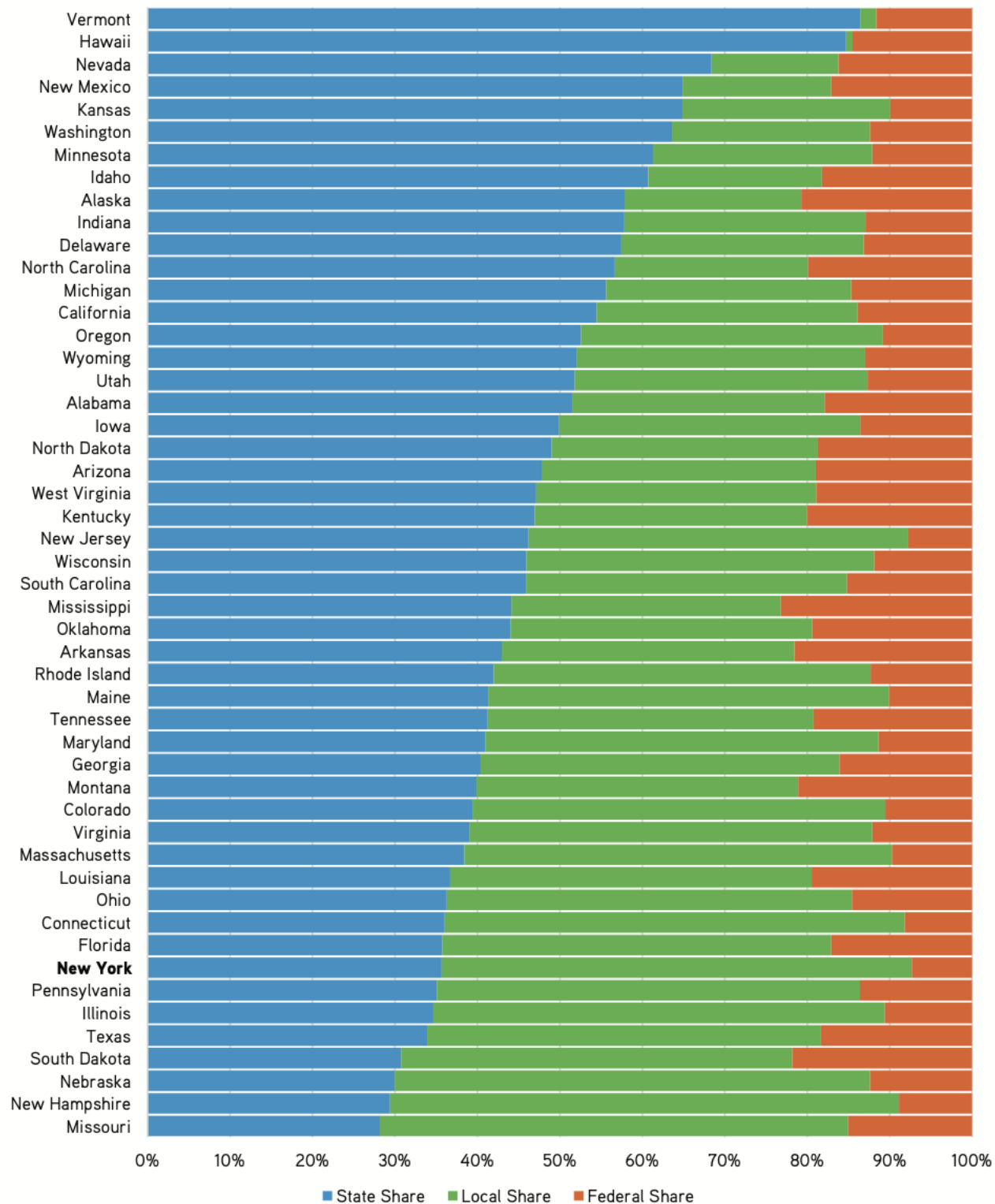
New York State Education Tax Burden

New York State ties for second-highest locally-funded-% schools in the US. Behind only NH.

New Hampshire's 2023 per-pupil spend was \$21,500

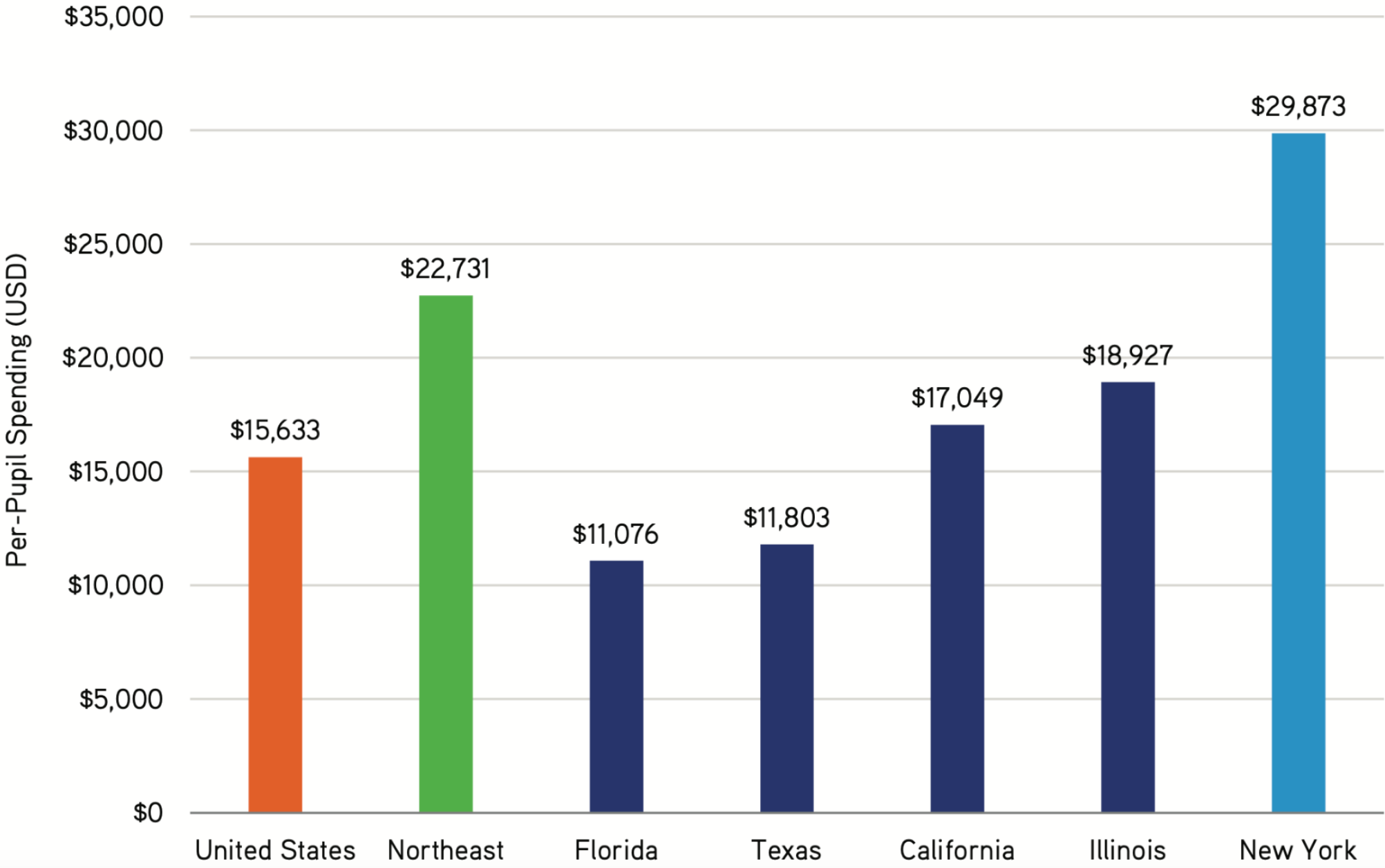
NYS's % of State funding for schools is 43rd out of the 50 states.

FIGURE 6. Source of Education Revenue: State, Federal, and Local, 2022



New York State Education Spending

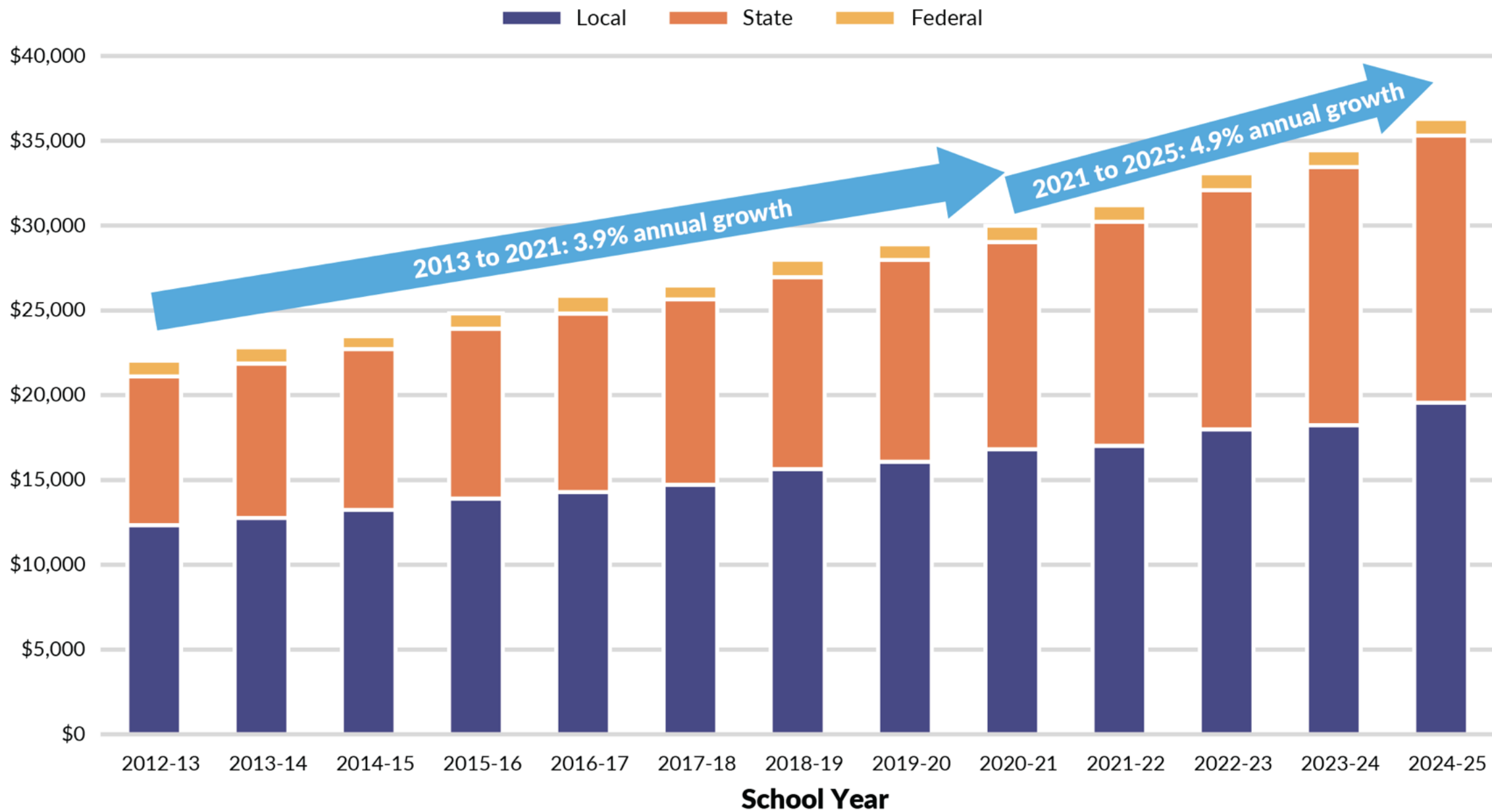
FIGURE 1. Per-Pupil Expenditure in New York, Large States, and Northeast States, 2022



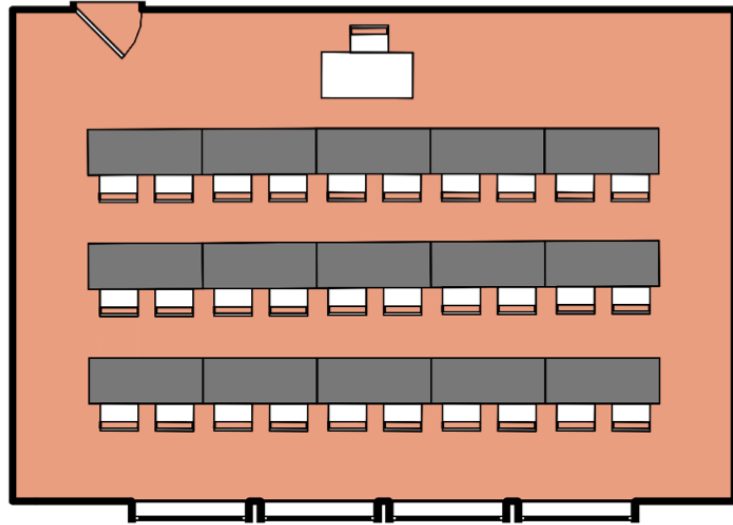
New York State Education Spending

Figure 1: New York Per-Student All Funds Spending Growth

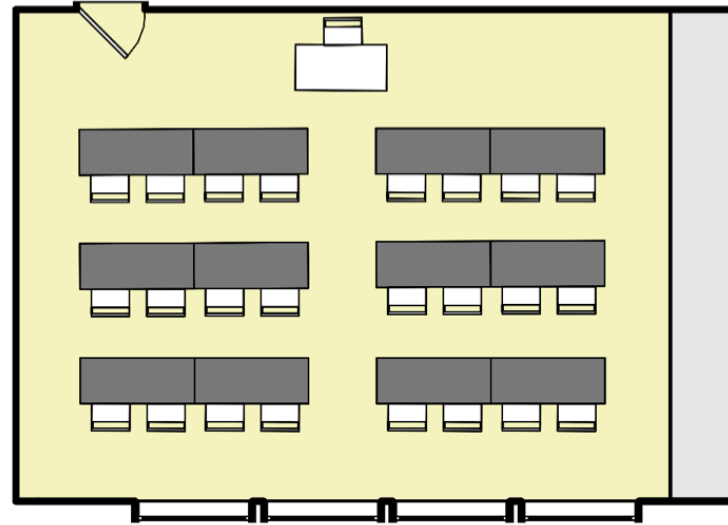
(in dollars)



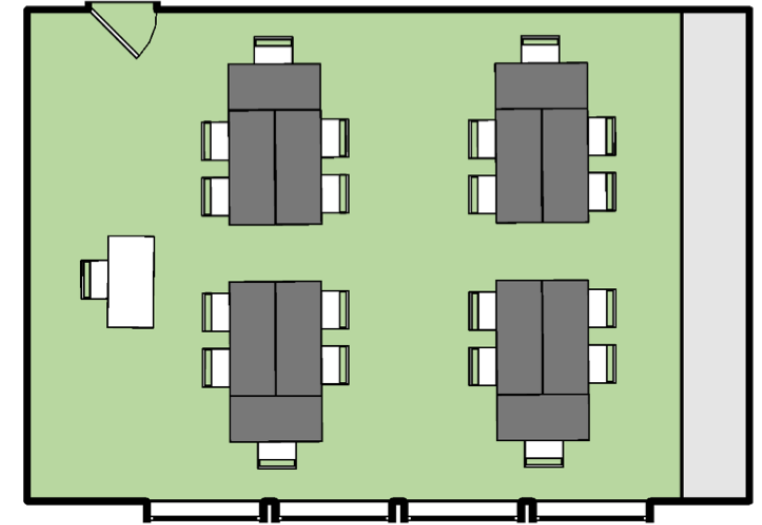
FMS Space Classroom Space Usage



1.
680 SF
30 students
22 SF/student
Not recommended



2.
680 SF
24 students
28 SF/student
Current usage



3.
680 SF
20 students
34 SF/student
Recommended