

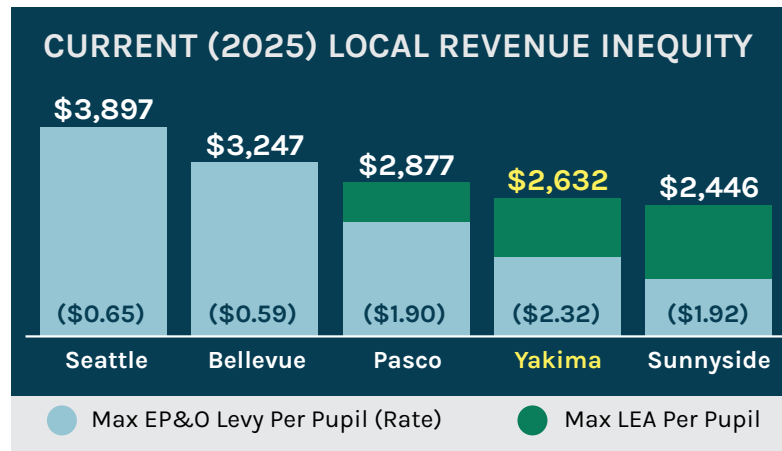
2026 Legislative Priorities



Addressing Washington's Ongoing K-12 Funding Gaps

1 Local Equity and Levy Protection (LEA Stability)

- » **What we ask:** Preserve, raise, and stabilize Local Effort Assistance (LEA). Correct last year's action by increasing LEA to match the higher levy lid so property-poor districts are not left behind. Codify LEA in statute rather than leaving it in a temporary two-year budget cycle.
- » **Why it matters to Yakima:** When the levy lid was raised without elevating LEA, the equity gap widened and districts like Yakima lost buying power. Yakima already generates far less local revenue than property-rich districts, even at maximum effort. Stabilizing and codifying LEA protects communities that cannot absorb higher tax burdens and prevents levy changes from deepening inequity for high-need students.



Since 2021, state funding shortfalls in these areas have impacted Yakima School District significantly, with a cumulative cost of **\$202.5 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



2 Preserve Recent Special Education Progress

- » **What we ask:** Maintain last year's special education funding improvements and avoid reductions. In a tight state budget, stability is critical.
- » **Why it matters to Yakima:** Yakima serves a high-needs population and is grateful for the Legislature's recent progress. Sustaining current levels prevents further diversion of limited local dollars away from general education, enrichment, and early learning. Any backward movement would have immediate classroom impact.

3 Stabilize State-Required Substitute Coverage

- » **What we ask:** Protect existing substitute funding levels and avoid unfunded changes to leave rules or benefit thresholds that drive substitute costs higher.
- » **Why it matters to Yakima:** Substitute underfunding contributes to instructional disruption, burnout, and pressure on local levies. With Yakima already operating at 9.83 percent central office administrative overhead after multiple reductions and RIFs, the district cannot absorb additional unfunded staffing requirements.

4 Basic Education Operations Stability

- » **What we ask:** Use unallocated enrollment dollars to relieve MSOC pressure and avoid new mandates that increase operational costs. Maintain current transportation funding and avoid reductions during formula evaluation.
- » **Why it matters to Yakima:** Since 2021, utilities, insurance, technology, and curriculum costs have risen far faster than state allocations. Each unfunded cost must be covered by limited levy resources, crowding out enrichment and co-curricular programs families value.



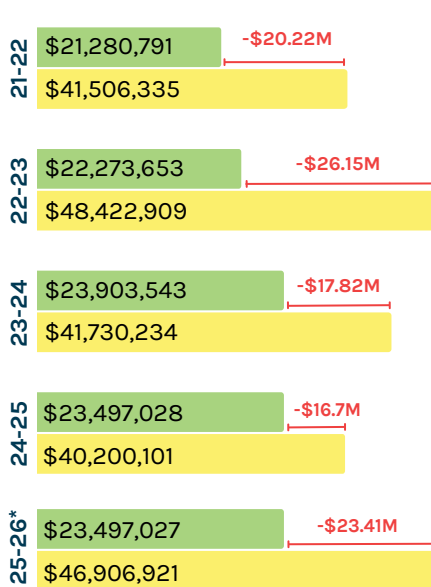
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GAPS IN STATE FUNDING



MATERIALS, SUPPLIES & OPERATING COSTS (MSOC)

State Funding YSD's Actual Cost

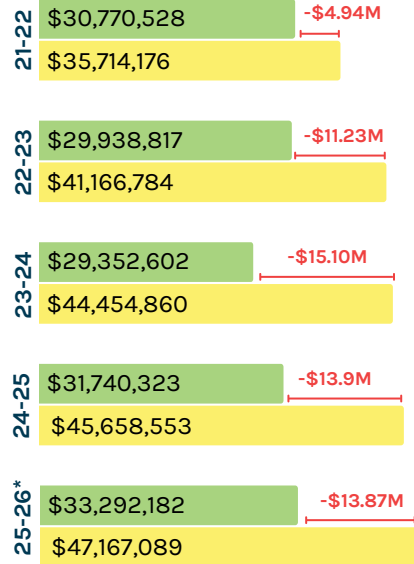


Since 2021, YSD has been underfunded for MSOC by **\$104.31 million**



SPECIAL EDUCATION

State Funding YSD's Actual Cost

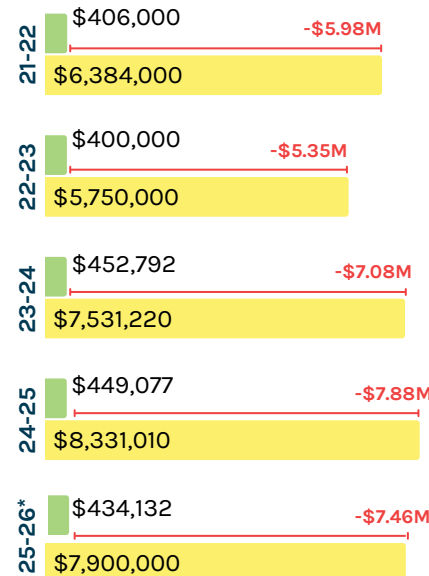


Since 2021, YSD has been underfunded for Special Education by **\$59.07 million**



SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS & STAFF

State Funding YSD's Actual Cost

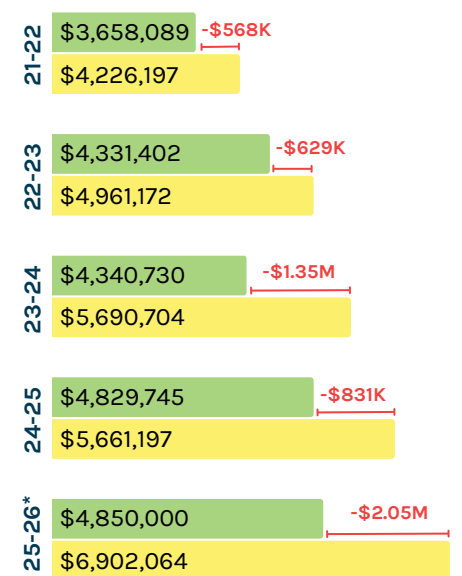


Since 2021, YSD has been underfunded for Substitutes by **\$33.75 million**



TRANSPORTATION

State Funding YSD's Actual Cost



Since 2021, YSD has been underfunded for Transportation by **\$5.4 million**

SINCE 2021, STATE FUNDING GAPS HAVE COST YSD \$202.5M.

*Budgeted

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