



**MOUNT VERNON
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

“Protecting Opportunities. Building Stability.”

“Small Investment. Lifelong Return.”

Dr. Demario A. Strickland

Superintendent



A medium shot of Dr. Demario Strickland, a Black man with a beard and glasses, wearing a blue suit, white shirt, and red tie. He is seated in an office, looking slightly to his left with a serious expression. A red flower boutonniere is pinned to his lapel. The background is an office setting with a computer monitor and some papers on the wall.

DR. DEMARIO STRICKLAND

SUPERINTENDENT, MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT



DR. STRICKLAND

CORE BELIEFS

- 1. Every child has unlimited potential.**
- 2. Literacy is the key to unlocking a child's future.**
- 3. The quality of teaching determines the quality of learning.**
- 4. Strong relationships create strong outcomes.**
- 5. A child's ZIP Code should not determine their future.**



MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SHINES FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS

The Mount Vernon City School District is committed to excellence in education through our six foundational pillars that create an environment where every student **SHINES** and succeeds. These pillars guide our daily decisions, strategic planning, and vision for our students' future.

STUDENT-CENTERED EXCELLENCE

We prioritize every student's academic achievement, social-emotional growth, and individual potential. Through intentional guidance and high expectations, we bring students to where we are and empower them to take ownership of their path toward excellence. By equipping them with the skills, confidence, and opportunities to thrive, students rise to new heights and sustain their own success.

HIGH-QUALITY INSTRUCTION & INNOVATION

Our commitment to delivering rigorous, engaging, and culturally responsive teaching practices drives everything we do. We embrace innovative approaches, technology integration, and evidence-based strategies to ensure every classroom is a dynamic learning environment that prepares students for future success.

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY & CULTURE

We foster a welcoming, safe, and equitable environment where all students, families, and staff feel valued and supported. By celebrating diversity and ensuring every voice is heard and respected, we create a culture where everyone belongs and can contribute to our shared success.

NURTURING PARTNERSHIPS

Strong collaborative relationships between schools, families, community organizations, and stakeholders are essential to our mission. Together, we create a network of support that extends learning beyond classroom walls and strengthens the entire Mount Vernon community.

EXCELLENCE THROUGH FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

We maintain fiscal responsibility through strategic budgeting, building healthy fund balances, and securing diverse funding sources. Our commitment to long-term financial stability and operational excellence ensures we can support our educational mission and protect against economic uncertainties while maximizing resources for student success.

SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS & SYSTEMS

We build and maintain efficient, effective operational systems that support teaching and learning. Through strategic planning, continuous improvement, and sustainable practices, we ensure our infrastructure, technology, and processes serve our educational mission for generations to come.



Through these six interconnected pillars, the Mount Vernon City School District creates a comprehensive foundation for educational excellence, community engagement, and sustainable growth ensures every student **SHINES**.

MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

GEMS OF INSTRUCTION

We are committed to ensuring that every student in Mount Vernon experiences high-quality learning, equity, and success in every classroom, every day. Our GEMS framework represents the brilliance of our students and our shared vision for teaching and learning.

GROWTH IN GRADE-LEVEL CONTENT

Students engage with grade-level content daily, persevering through rigorous and relevant learning experiences supported by scaffolds, feedback, and high expectations.

STUDENTS SHOULD:

- Engage daily with grade-level texts and tasks
- Persevere through rigorous work
- Use feedback and scaffolds to improve
- Ask clarifying questions

TEACHERS SHOULD:

- Plan lessons prioritizing grade-level standards
- Provide scaffolds without reducing rigor
- Maintain high expectations
- Check for understanding and adjust

MASTERY OF THINKING AND LEARNING

Students do the majority of the cognitive work by developing and defending their thinking with evidence, engaging in opportunities that challenge, and extend ideas.

STUDENTS SHOULD:

- Do most of the talking and problem-solving
- Use evidence to justify reasoning
- Collaborate to refine and extend ideas
- Reflect on their learning process

TEACHERS SHOULD:

- Pose high-level open-ended questions
- Facilitate discussions, not dominate
- Provide structures for evidence-based dialogue
- Design tasks beyond recall (analysis, evaluation, creation)

EMPOWERED AND ENGAGED LEARNERS

Students feel affirmed in safe, culturally, and linguistically responsive classrooms that foster agency, voice, and curiosity

STUDENTS SHOULD:

- Express voice and choice in learning
- Contribute to discussions confidently
- Respect diverse perspectives
- Take academic risks safely

TEACHERS SHOULD:

- Create culturally responsive classrooms
- Encourage multiple pathways to success
- Promote safety and belonging
- Use student interests to spark curiosity

SUCCESS MEASURED THROUGH PROGRESS

Students understand the purpose of their learning and regularly track their progress toward meeting and exceeding goals, with growth celebrated for all.

STUDENTS SHOULD:

- Set personal learning goals
- Track their progress using tools
- Celebrate growth and improvement
- Identify next steps for learning

TEACHERS SHOULD:

- Make goals and success criteria explicit
- Provide timely, specific feedback
- Use data transparently to adjust instruction
- Celebrate progress for all learners



Shining Brilliance in Every Classroom



MOUNT VERNON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

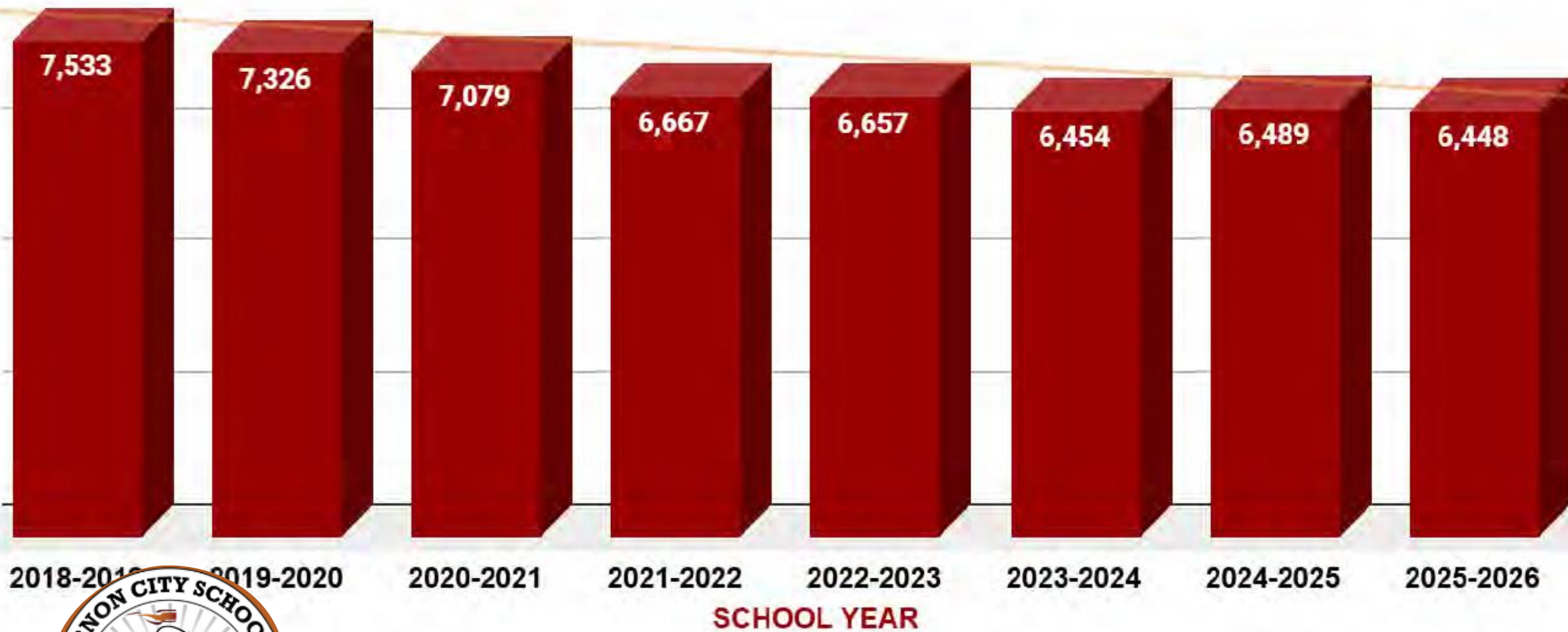
2025-26 GOALS

- Grade 3 students achieving proficient or above on the NYS ELA Assessment will increase from **48%** in June 2025 to **53%** in June 2026
- Grade 5 students achieving proficient or above on the NYS Mathematics Assessment will increase from **39%** in June 2025 to **44%** in June 2026
- The percentage of 9th grade students earning 5 or more credits will increase from **75.8%** in June 2025 to **80.8%** in June 2026
- The four-year cohort graduation rate will increase from **79%** in August 2025 to **84%** in August 2026

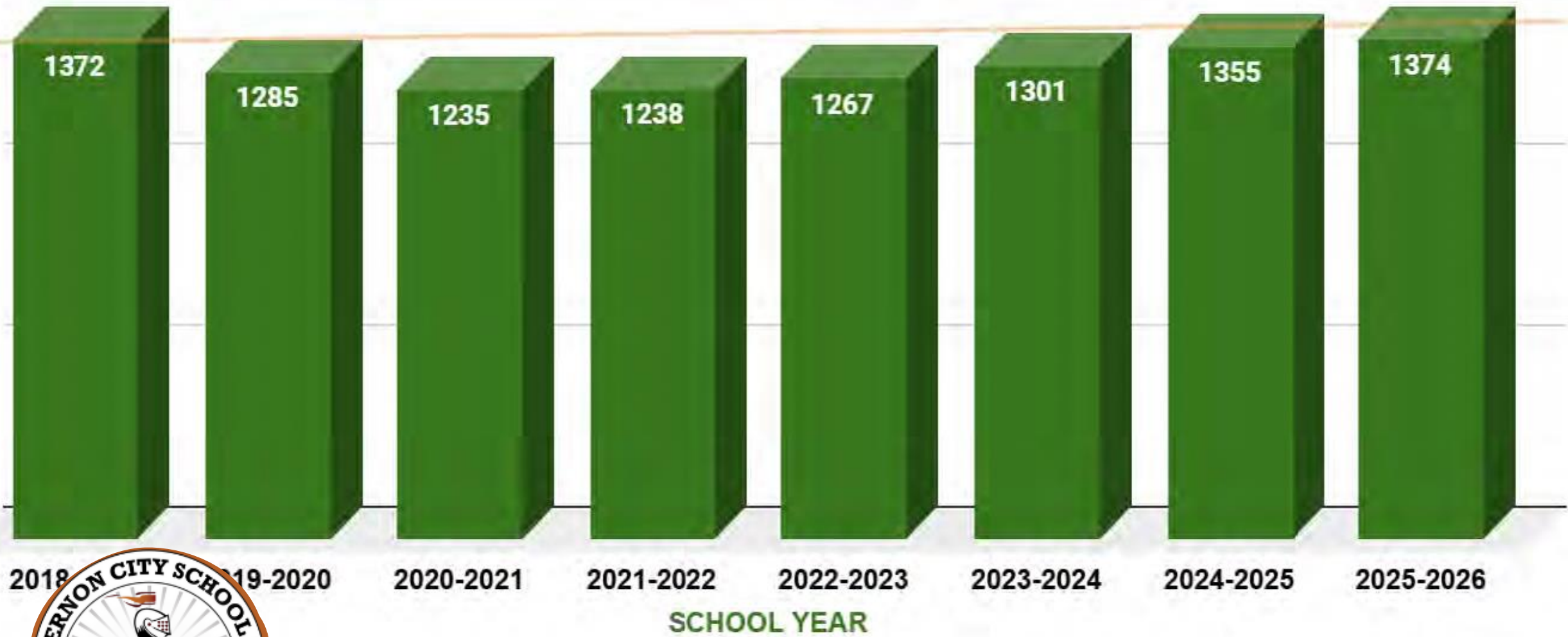


Who We Serve

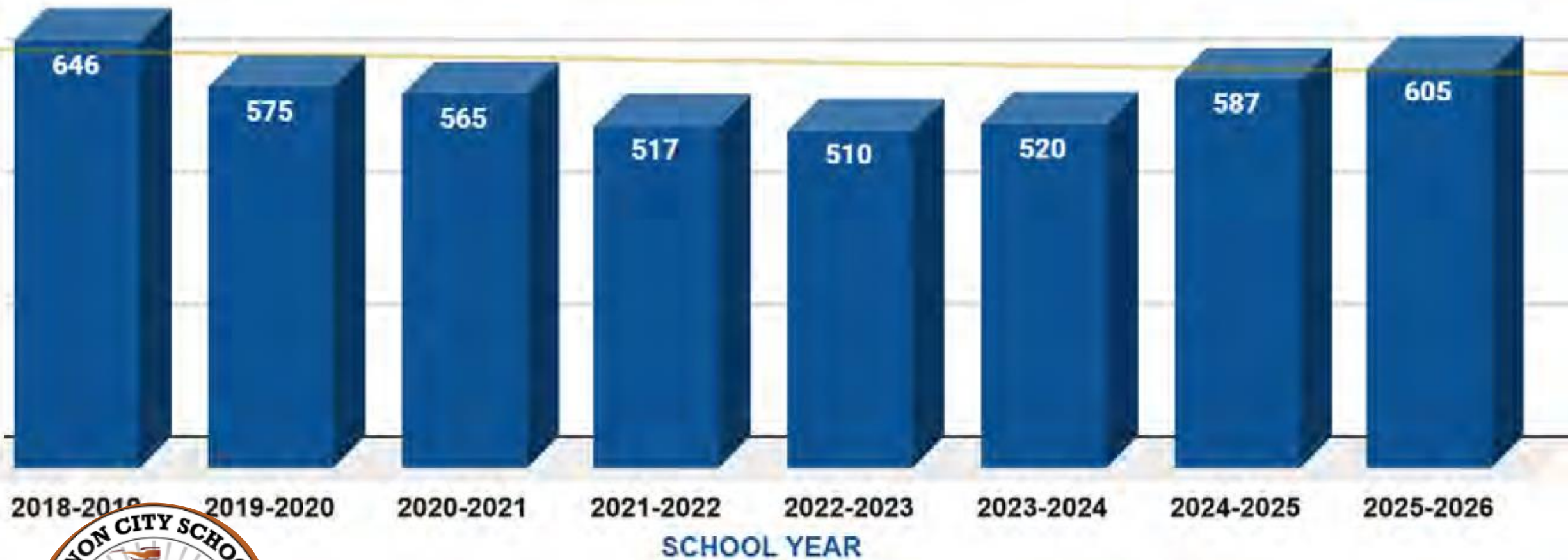
- 6,448 Students
- 4,900 Economically Disadvantaged
- 605 English Language Learners
- 1,374 Students with Exceptionalities
- 805 Unhoused Students



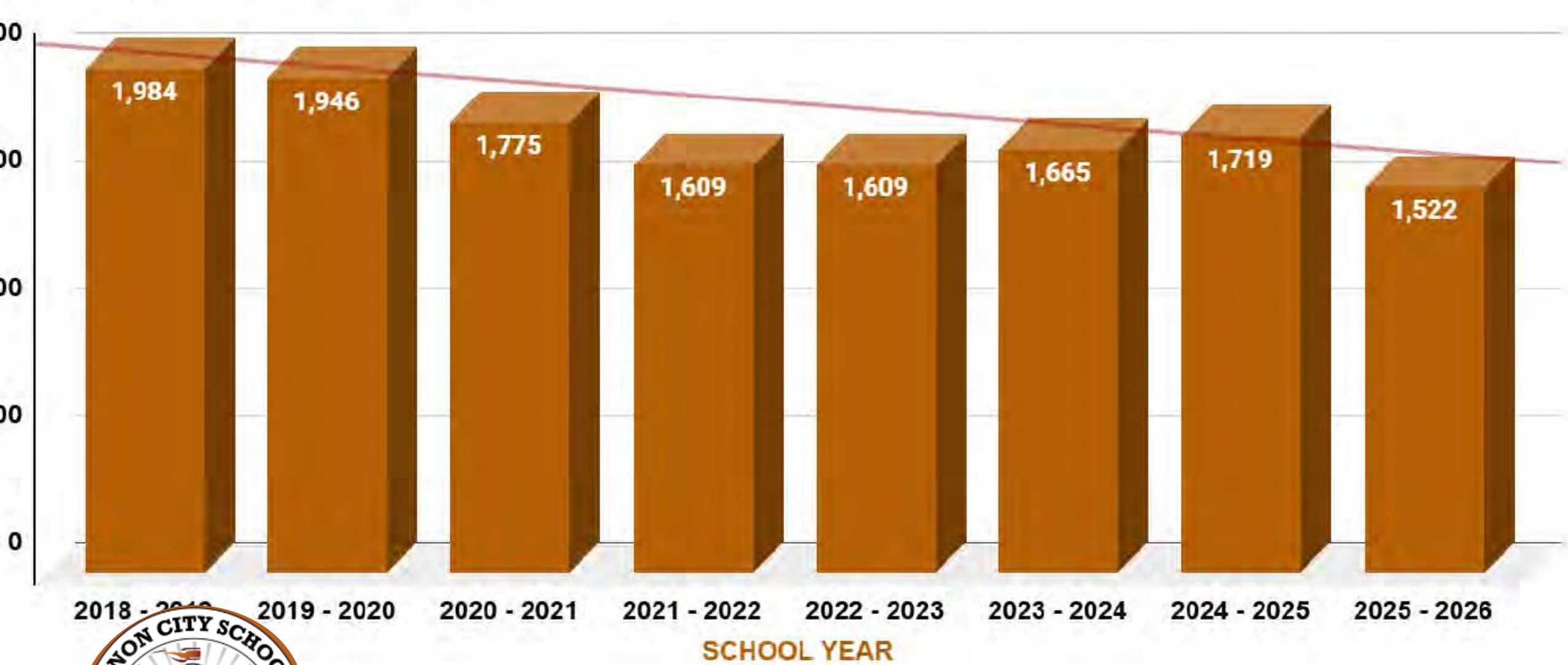
TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT



STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS



MVCSD STAFF TOTALS

Mount Vernon Students Need and Deserve Strong Investment

MT VERNON CARES for a Higher Percentage* of Economically Disadvantaged Scholars than ANY of the 39 Westchester County School Districts

10% to 50% MORE Than:

- 1 GREENBURGH 11
- 2 PEEKSKILL
- 3 YONKERS
- 4 NEW ROCHELLE
- 5 TARRYTOWN
- 6 WHITE PLAINS
- 7 OSSINING
- 8 ELMSFORD

51% to 80% MORE Than:

- 8 GREENBURGH
- 9 HAWTHORNE KNOLLS
- 10 HENDRICK HUDSON
- 11 GREENBRG-NO CASTLE
- 12 GREENBURGH-GRAHAM
- 13 BEDFORD
- 14 TUCKAHOE
- 15 VALHALLA
- 16 LAKELAND
- 17 MAMARONECK
- 18 NORTH SALEM
- 19 HARRISON
- 20 POCANTICO HILLS
- 21 RYE NECK
- 22 CROTON HARMON
- 23 DOBBS FERRY
- 24 PLEASANTVILLE

81% to 99% MORE Than:

- 25 YORKTOWN
- 26 PELHAM
- 27 MT PLEASANT CENT
- 28 SOMERS
- 29 ARDSLEY
- 30 KATONAH LEWISBORO
- 31 CHAPPAQUA
- 32 BYRAM HILLS
- 33 BRIARCLIFF MANOR
- 34 BRONXVILLE
- 35 HASTINGS ON HUDSON
- 36 EASTCHESTER
- 37 RYE
- 38 IRVINGTON
- 39 EDGEMONT

73% of total Scholars attending Mt Vernon CSD are Economically Disadvantaged

Source: Student Information Repository System (SIRS) BEDSnap1

Data as of 01/10/2026, pulled 01/27/2026.

* *Economically Disadvantaged Scholars as percent of total BEDS enrollment*

WHAT THIS BUDGET PROTECTS



Athletics



Arts



Music



Clubs



Counseling



Safety



Technology



**Career
Pathways**



**Gifted &
Talented**



Dual Language



Investments Families Will See!



**More Math Support
Specialists**



**Expanded Bilingual
Supports**



**Continued CTE
Pathways**



**Safe
Schools**



**Technology
Access**



**Student Wellness
Supports**





Budget Snapshot

\$276.2M Budget

1.5% Budget

Increase from 25-26

1.99% Tax Levy
Increase

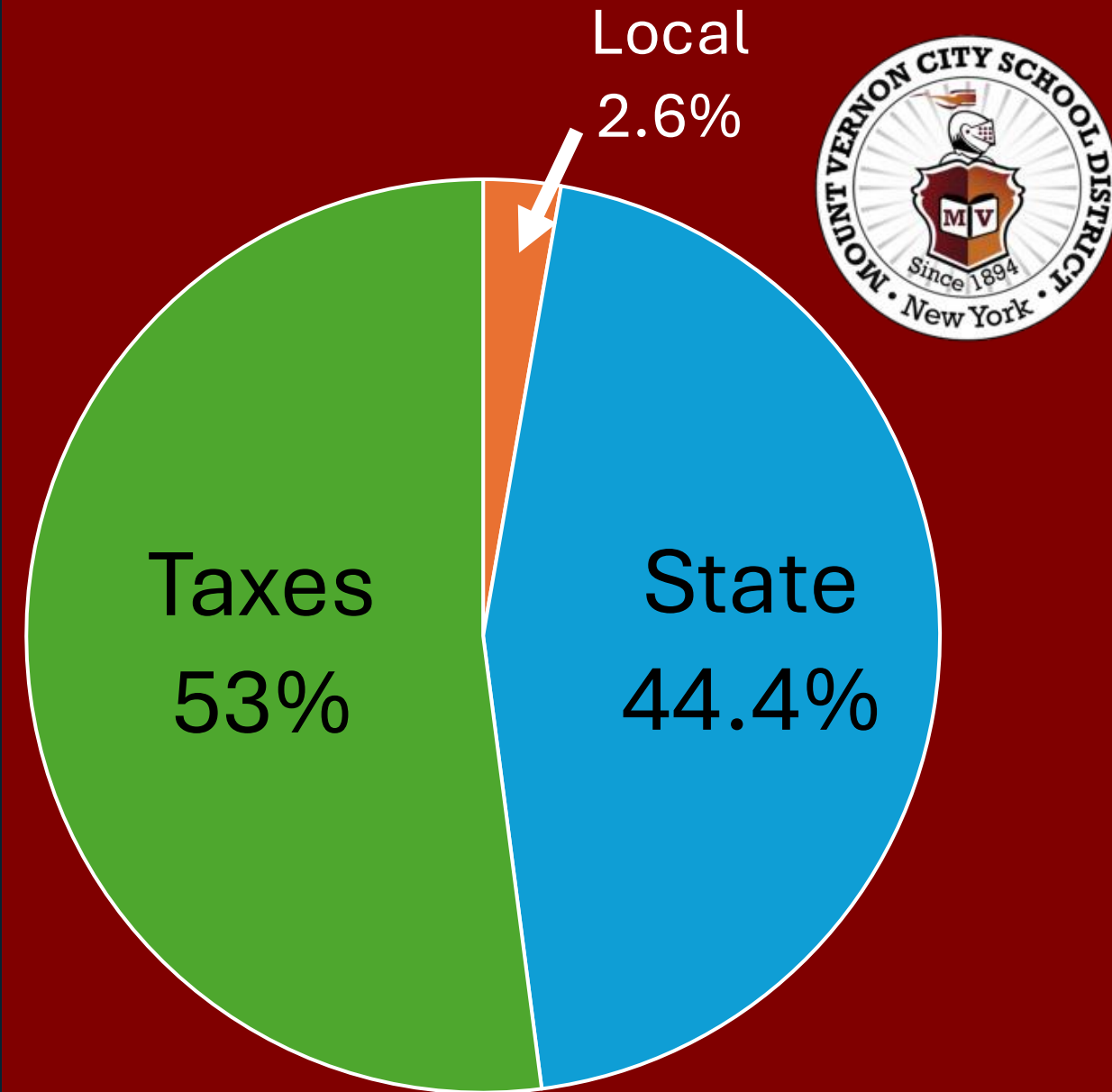
Below the 2.6% Tax Cap



26-27 Revenue Sources

General fund revenue is the amount of funding received from external agencies.

The District's primary sources are from the City of Mount Vernon Taxes and State Aid.



Options for 2026-27 Tax Levy

2025-26 Levy	Line 19 Cap % (Limit 2.5%)	Line 20 (Max is \$3.5M)	Line 16 Cap \$ (Limit \$144M)	2026-27 Options (Line 18)
\$ 140,433,372	0.00%	\$ -	143,227,996	143,227,996
	0.25%	\$ 351,083	140,784,455	140,784,455
	0.50%	\$ 702,167	141,135,539	141,135,539
	0.75%	\$ 1,053,250	141,486,622	141,486,622
	1.00%	\$ 1,404,334	141,837,706	141,837,706
	1.25%	\$ 1,755,417	142,188,789	142,188,789
	1.50%	\$ 2,106,501	142,539,873	142,539,873
	1.99%	\$ 2,794,624	143,227,996	143,227,996
	2.00%	\$ 2,808,667	143,242,039	143,242,039
	2.25%	\$ 3,159,751	143,593,123	143,593,123
	2.49%	\$ 3,496,791	143,930,163	143,930,163
Max 2026-27 ->	2.60%	\$ 3,580,700	144,014,072	144,014,072



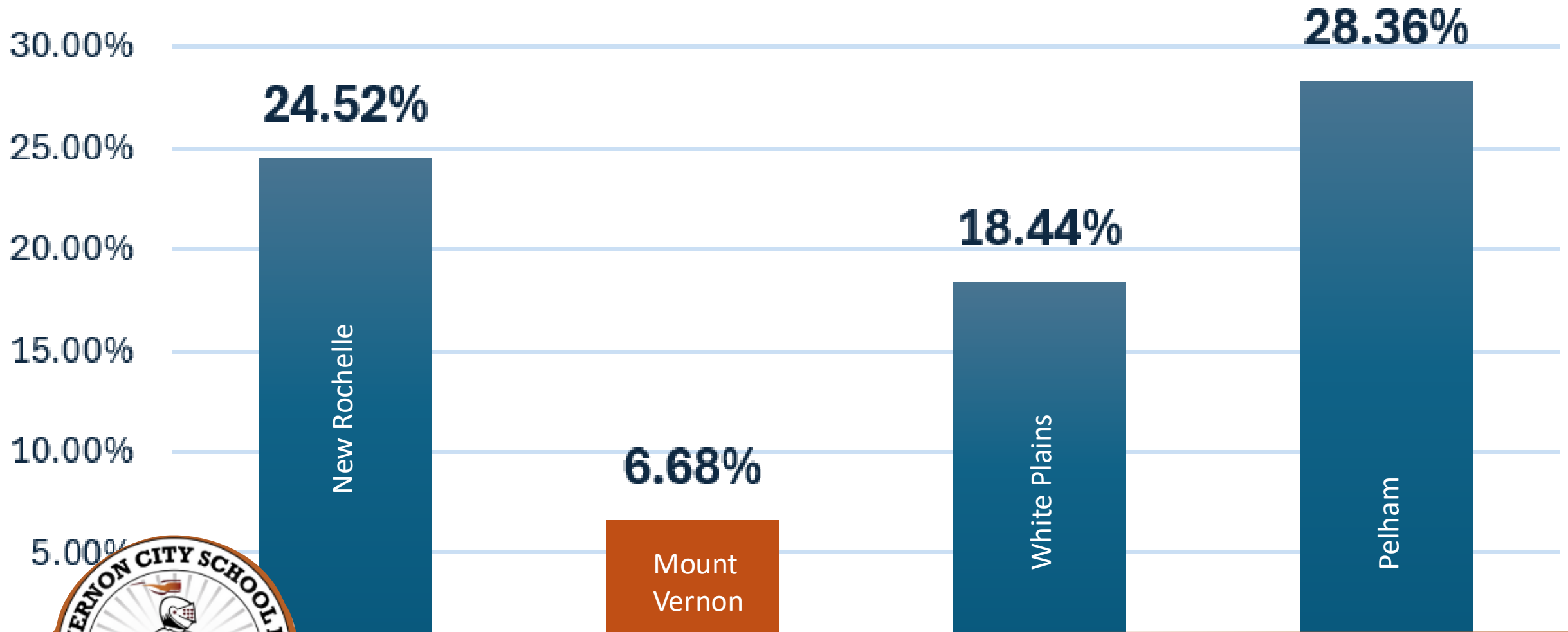
Total Tax Levy Increase by Year

Year	New Rochelle	Mt Vernon	White Plains	Pelham
2016-17	1.11%	0%	0.24%	0.05%
2017-18	1.99%	0%	2.48%	1.98%
2018-19	2.23%	0.89%	2.90%	2.97%
2019-20	2.20%	0%	2.44%	3.17%
2020-21	0.89%	0%	2.91%	3.15%
2021-22	2.29%	0.50%	1.23%	2.47%
2022-23	0.98%	0%	0.00%	2.62%
2023-24	0.98%	0%	1.91%	2.07%
2024-25	3.95%	0%	1.06%	2.68%
2025-26	3.95%	3.30%	1.67%	3.48%
2026-27	3.95%	1.99%	1.60%	3.72%
Total	24.52%	6.68%	18.44%	28.36%



TOTAL TAX LEVY INCREASES PAST 10YRS

2016 to 2026



TOTAL TAX LEVY INCREASES PAST 10YRS

Eastchester UFSD	6.31%
Bronxville UFSD	4.80%
Poughkeepsie CSD	4.21%
Pelham UFSD	3.72%
Edgemont UFSD	3.50%
Ardsley UFSD	3.40%
Scarsdale Public Schools	3.37%
Mamaroneck UFSD	3.07%
Greenburgh CSD	3.03%
Chappaqua CSD	2.99%
Pleasantville UFSD	2.96%

Rye UFSD	2.96%
Tuckahoe UFSD	2.68%
Bedford CSD	2.62%
Brewster CSD	2.60%
Ossining UFSD	2.43%
Yorktown CSD	2.38%
Rye Neck UFSD	2.38%
Somers CSD	2.31%
Croton-Harmon UFSD	2.19%
Mount Vernon CSD	1.99%
New Rochelle	1.85%



TAX LEVIES FOR 2026-2027



RESPONSIBLE DECISIONS TO PROTECT CLASSROOMS

- Central office reorganization (only adding positions from vacant positions that are needed)
- Staffing alignment
- Operational efficiencies
- Grant Leveraging
- Planning for MVAG & CSEA Contract Negotiations
- Long-Term Strategic Planning



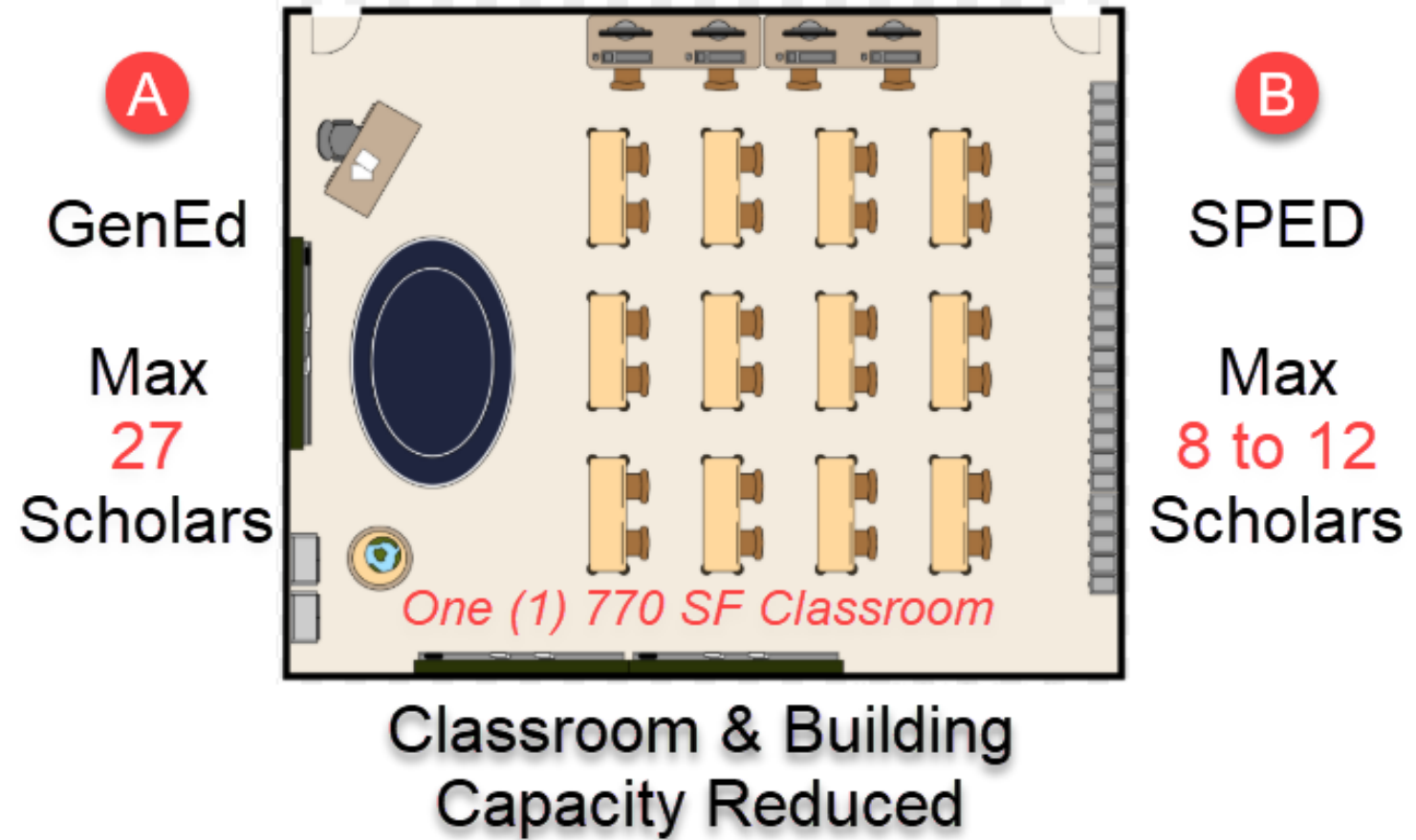
Managing Financial Challenges

- Charter Schools: \$17.5 Million - **+25%**
- Special Education: \$40.0 Million - **+25%**
- Transportation: \$16.1 Million – **(8%)**
- Healthcare: \$33.5 Million - **+8.7%**

Financial realities we are responsibly managing.

School utilization, including current capacity versus enrollment and any considerations around consolidation or reconfiguration.

Driving Factors Beyond Enrollment Impacting Maximum Use of Facilities



2026-2027 Efficiency Considerations

Where We Stand: Academics & Fiscal Health

Mt. Vernon City School District | 2025–2026



Academic Standing

All 13 Schools + District

LSI Standing

Local Support for Improvement

Every school in Mt. Vernon has met New York State's academic accountability standards, a testament to the hard work of our students, teachers, and staff.

vs.



Fiscal Health

NYS Comptroller's Office Rating

Significant Fiscal Distress

NYS Comptroller Designation

Despite our academic success, the NYS Comptroller has rated the district in Significant Fiscal Distress. This budget is our roadmap to financial stability, and your support makes that possible.

Strong Schools Strengthen Communities

Investing in our schools is investing in our community

+20%

avg. higher home value

homes near top-rated schools

+2.5%

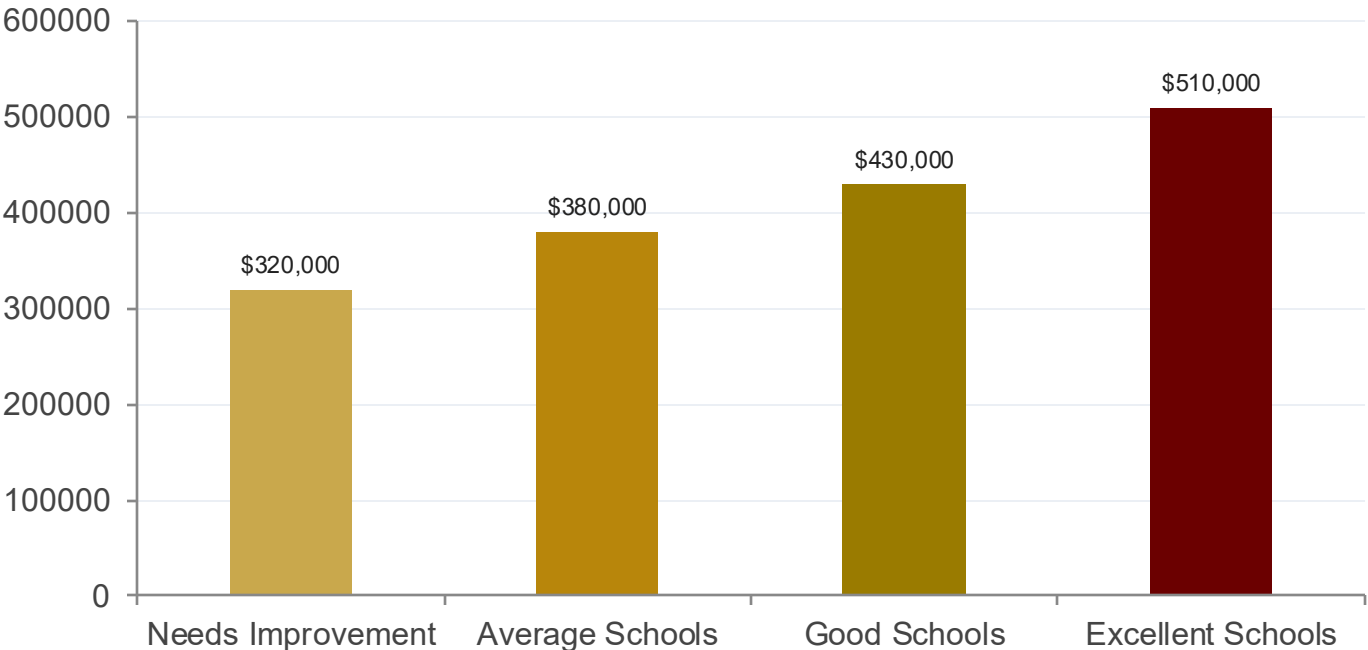
boost in nearby home prices

per school quality rating increase

91%

cite schools as top factor

of buyers in home purchase decisions



The cycle a strong budget creates

Budget Vote

Community invests

Better schools

Programs & staff funded

Higher home values

Community attracts buyers

More tax revenue

Stronger Mt. Vernon

What's at stake?

- Programs – Library, Extracurricular, athletics, field trips & enrichment, arts, music, and electives
- Staffing – 5% cuts to staffing across the board
- Facilities – Maintenance projects, upgrades, grounds
- Technology – Device refreshes
- Support Services – After-school/community programs, non-mandated counseling or wellness services
- Professional Learning and Development
- New Contracts for Mount Vernon Administrators & Civil Service



“The Best is Yet to Come!”

- **Academic Growth**
- **Student Opportunities**
- **Fiscal Recovery**
- **Strategic Planning**
- **Stronger Schools**
- **Stronger Community**



A Vote for This Budget is a Vote for:

- **Stability**
- **Opportunity**
- **Progress**
- **The Children of Mount Vernon**



MOUNT VERNON

VOTE!

Your Voice. Your Community. Your Vote.

