

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Blue Valley Unified School District No. 229

Board of Education Legislative Workshop

Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 4:00pm

High Plains Conference Room, 15020 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66223, 15020 Metcalf Ave.,
Overland Park, KS 66223

MISSION STATEMENT

Cultivating lifelong learners prepared to navigate their future with purpose.

A. OPENING ITEMS.

Presented by Board President, Jan Kessinger

- 1. Call the Special Board of Education meeting to order.**
- 2. Approve the agenda for the Special Board of Education Meeting.**

B. AGENDA ITEMS.

1. Legislative Priorities.

Review Legislative Priorities, including a budget presentation explaining the history of school finance in Kansas.

C. EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Presented by Board President Jan Kessinger

Executive Sessions are conducted in accordance with Kansas law (K.S.A. 75-4319). No binding action shall be taken during an executive session; however, action may be considered when board members return to the open session.

1. Enter into Executive Session.

The Board will consider entering into executive session pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(2) for consultation with an attorney for the public body on matters that would be deemed privileged in the attorney-client relationship.

D. CLOSING ITEMS.

- 1. Adjournment.**

UNDERSTANDING BLUE VALLEY'S BUDGET

FINANCIAL REALITIES, PRIORITIES AND NEXT STEPS

Fall 2026



Blue Valley district facilities overview

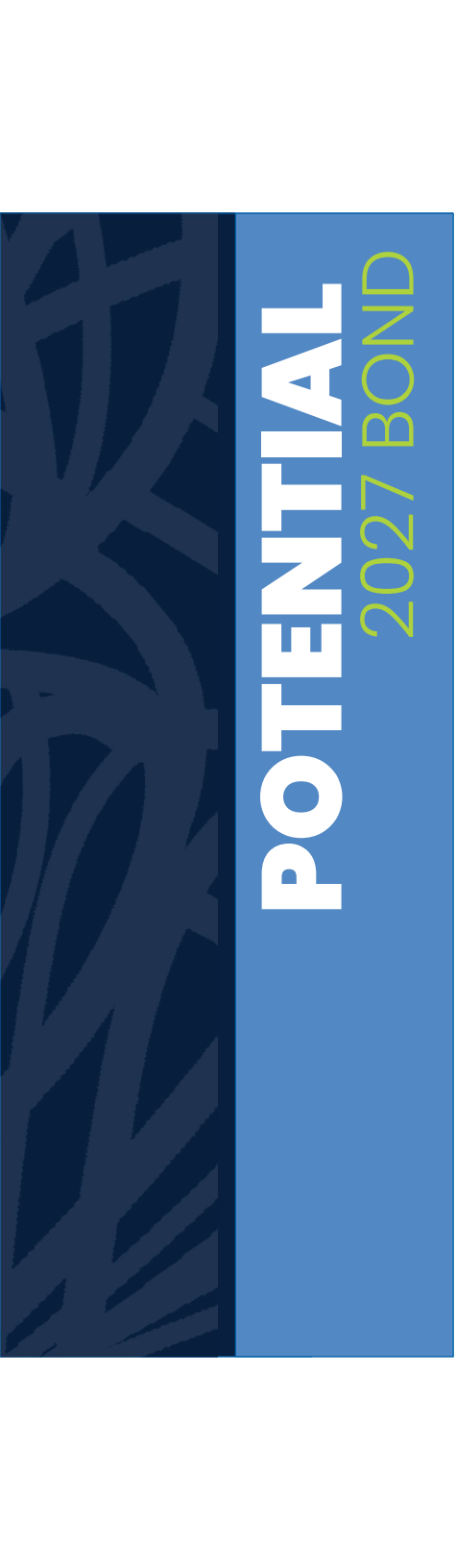
- 1,200 acres
- 91 square miles
- 4.3 million square feet of facilities
- \$1.6 billion of insured capital assets

Blue Valley's long term facilities and operations philosophy is to preserve these assets.

BOND 2023

FACILITIES. SAFETY. TECHNOLOGY.





POTENTIAL

2027 BOND

NEW CONSTRUCTION / BUILDING EXPANSIONS

Career & Technical Education

REMODEL / FACILITY UPGRADES

Special Education, Blue Valley High science classroom

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS – ASSET PRESERVATION

Building infrastructure, pavement, roofing, paint, flooring repair/replacement, athletic field repair/replacement

SAFETY & SECURITY – ASSET PRESERVATION

Security upgrades, emergency communications, door hardware replacement

TECHNOLOGY

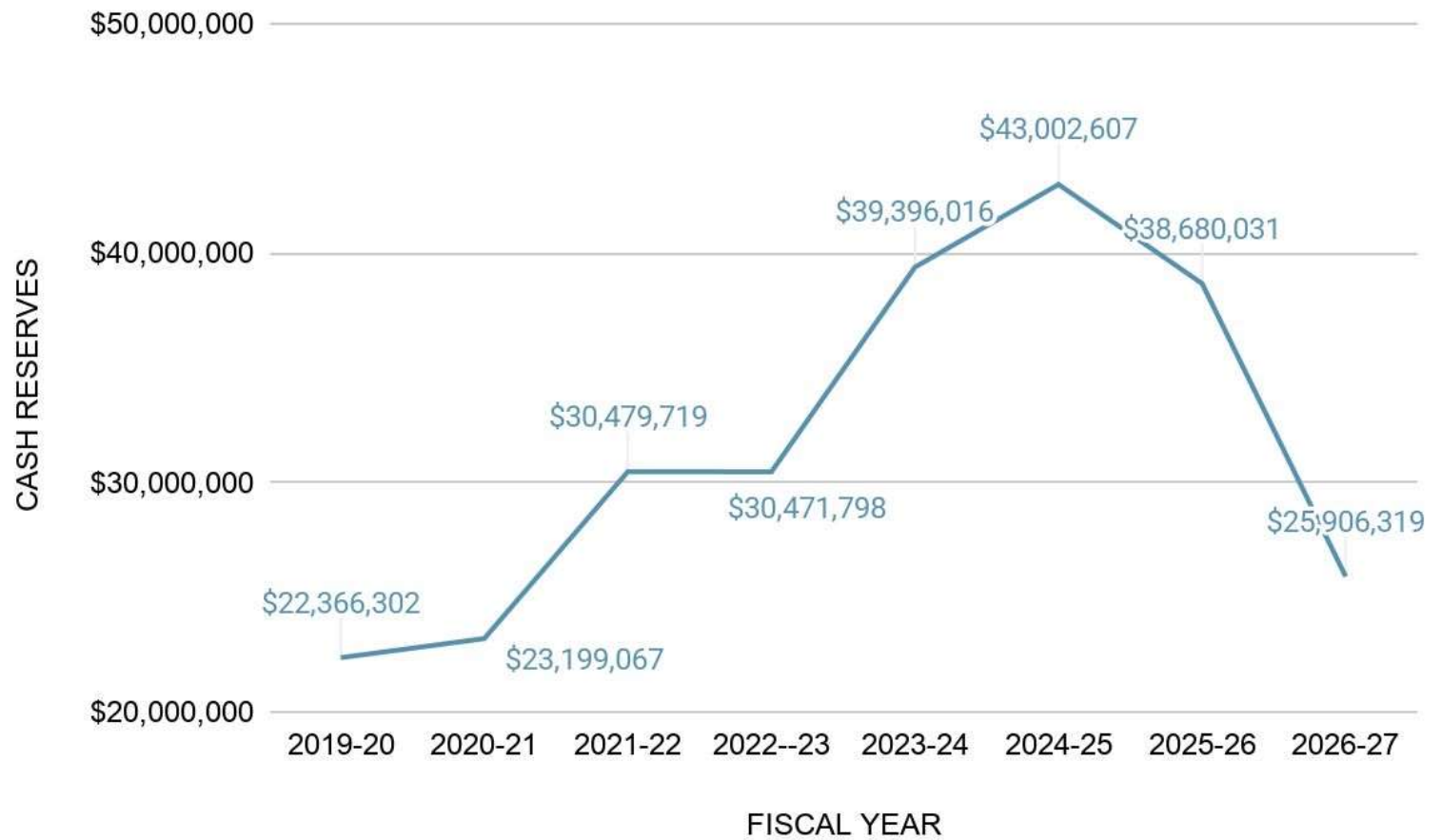
Classroom technology, intercom systems, IT infrastructure, assistive technology

Understanding School Funding

FUNDING SOURCES	STUDENTS	STAFF	FACILITIES & CURRICULUM
STATE AID	Funds transportation	Funds portion of staffing, compensation and special education grants	Supports utilities and other operating costs
FEDERAL AID	Provides meal subsidies	Supports special education grants, services and Title grants	
LOCAL TAXES		Funds staffing and compensation	Provides bond funds to finance and preserve capital assets
FAMILIES	Supports school meals	Provides activity and athletic fees	Supports learning resources

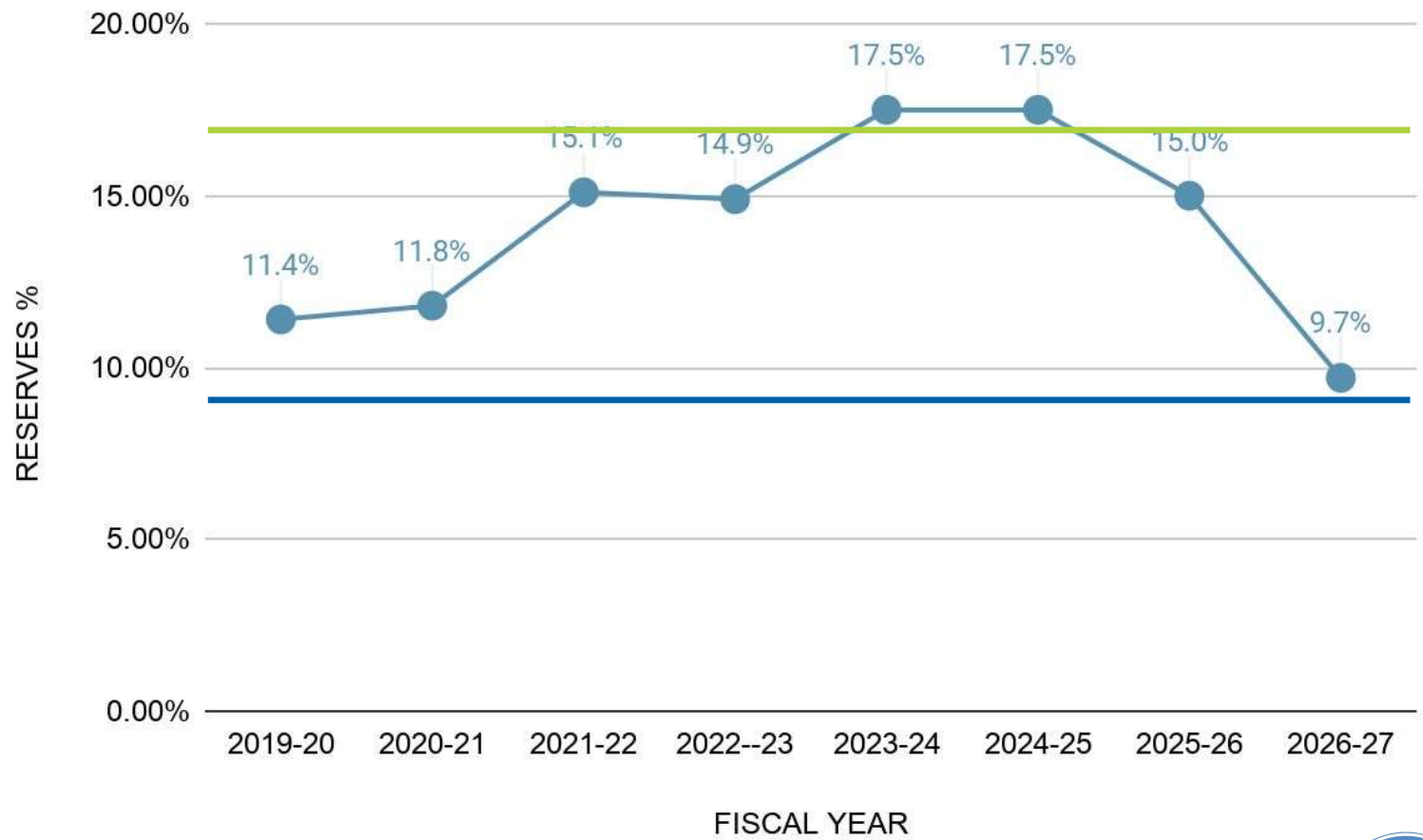
OPERATING RESERVES

8-YEAR TREND

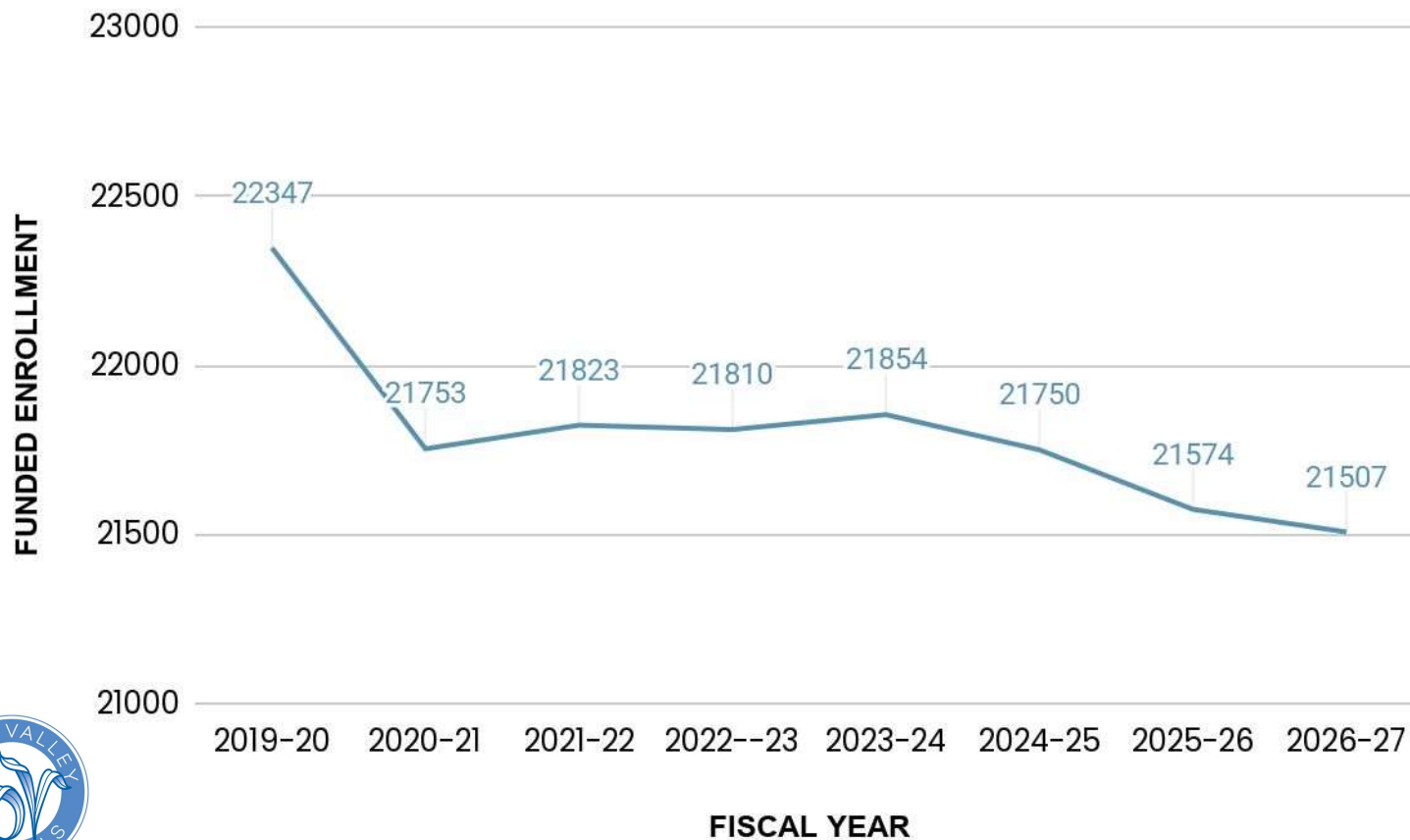


OPERATING RESERVES AS %

8-YEAR TREND



Blue Valley 8-Year Funded Enrollment Trend



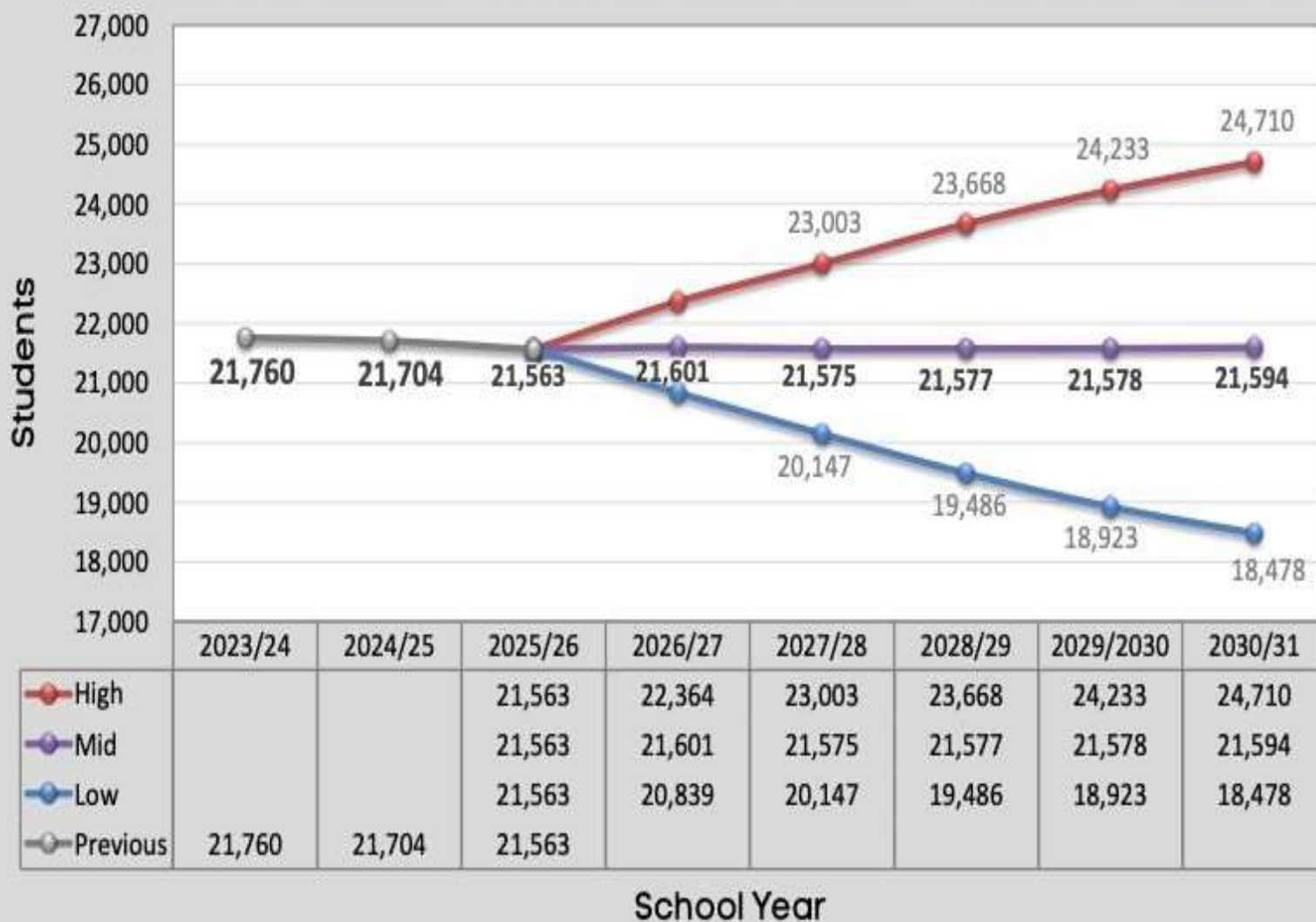
FY	Inc/(Dec)
2020-21	(594)
2021-22	70
2022-23	(13)
2023-24	44
2024-25	(104)
2025-26	(176)
2026-27	(67)* Subject to audit
8-YEAR TOTAL	(840)/ (3.8%)



ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

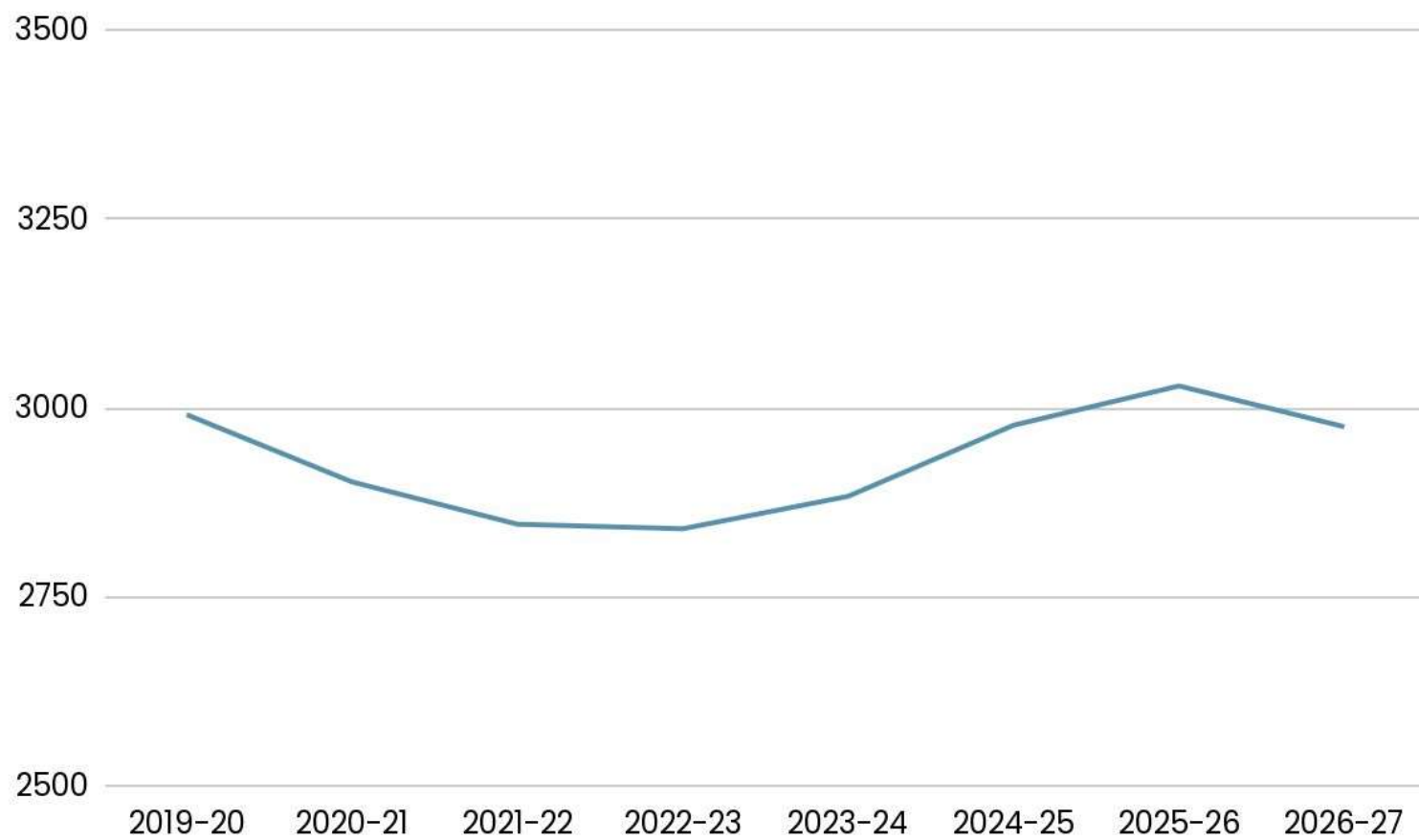
2026 to 2031

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT: 5-YEAR PROJECTED ENROLLMENT

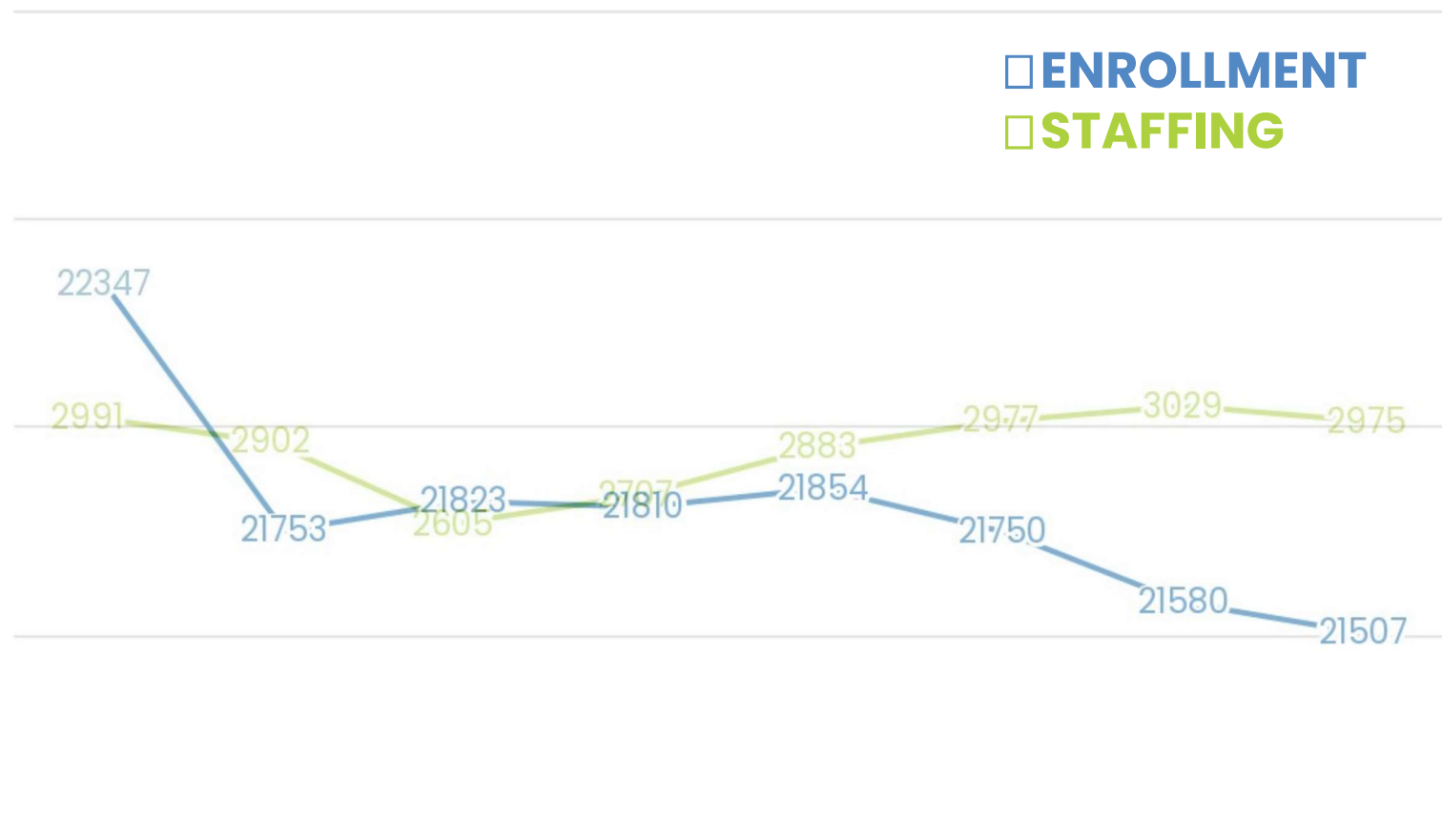


STAFFING

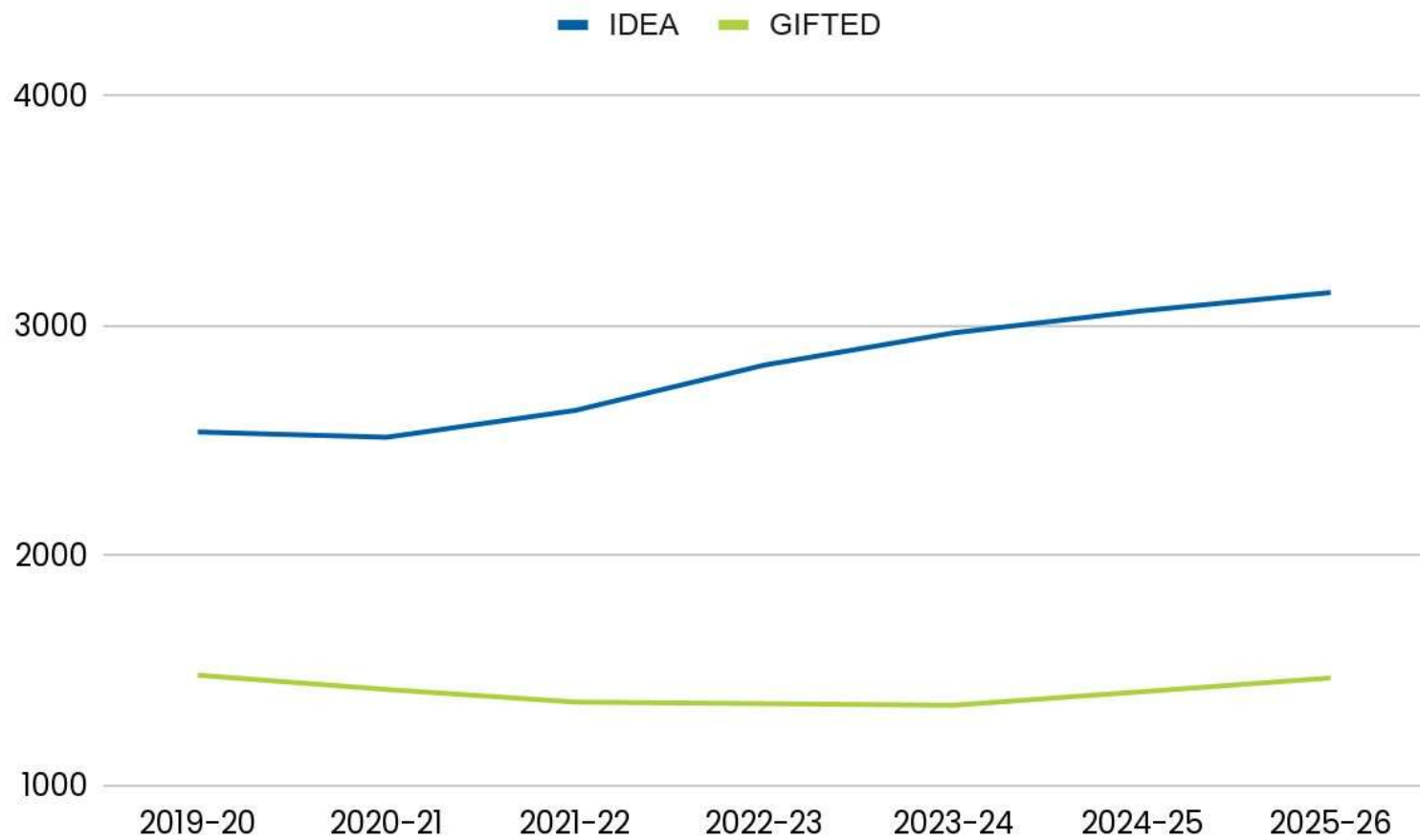
8-YEAR TREND



STAFFING & ENROLLMENT 8-YEAR TREND

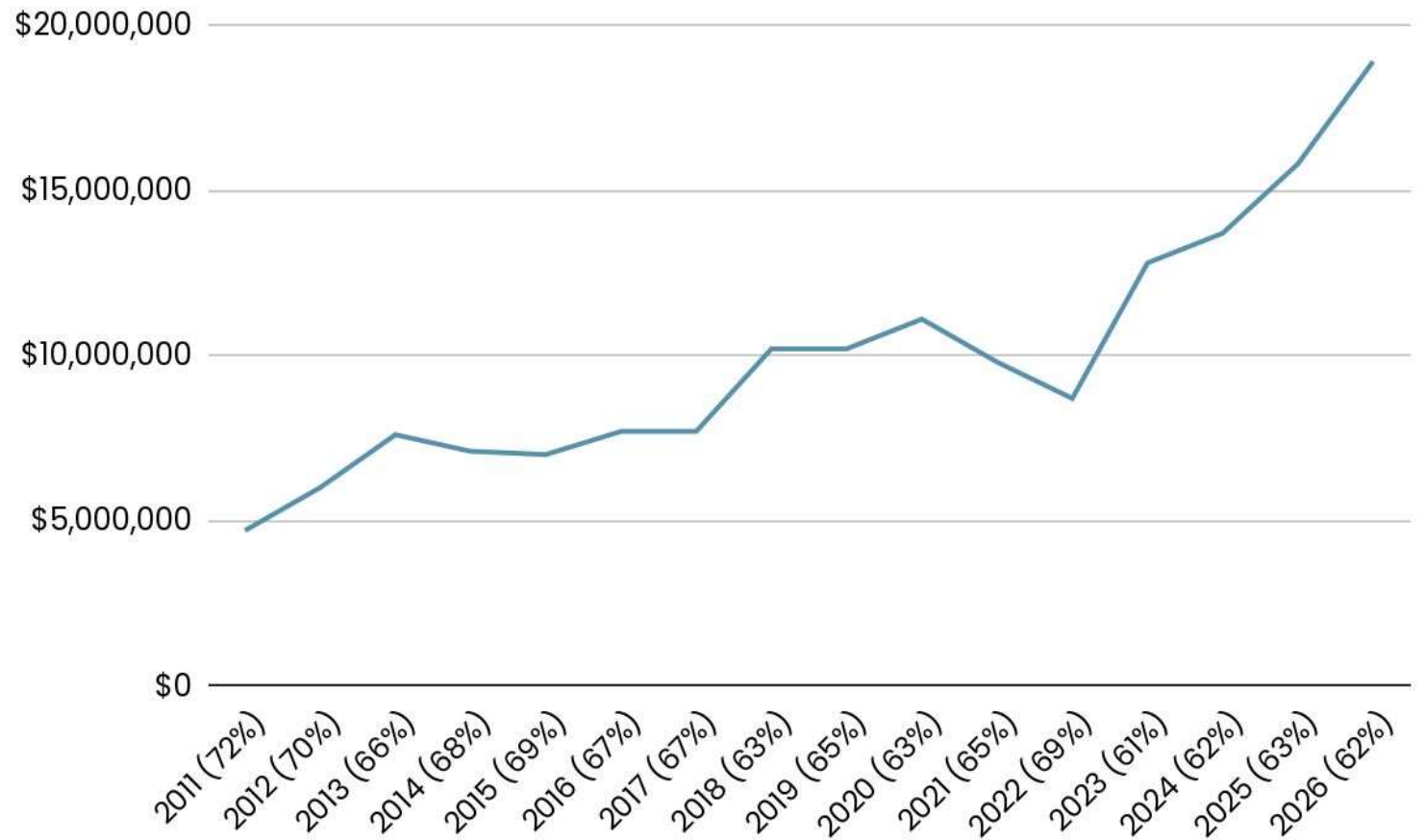


SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT 7-YEAR TREND



SPECIAL EDUCATION

EXCESS COSTS TRANSFER HISTORY



2023–24

- Concerted effort begins to focus on compensation as it related to Strategic Plan goal of recruitment and retention.

2023–26

- Average base compensation increase of 17.5%
 - 6.0% average in 2023–24 & \$8,660 benefit subsidy
 - 7.4% average in 2024–25 & \$9,439 benefit subsidy
 - 4.0% average in 2025–26 & \$10,320 benefit subsidy

2026–27

- Average compensation increase of 1.0%
- Benefit subsidy \$10,836
- No compensation increase for administrators

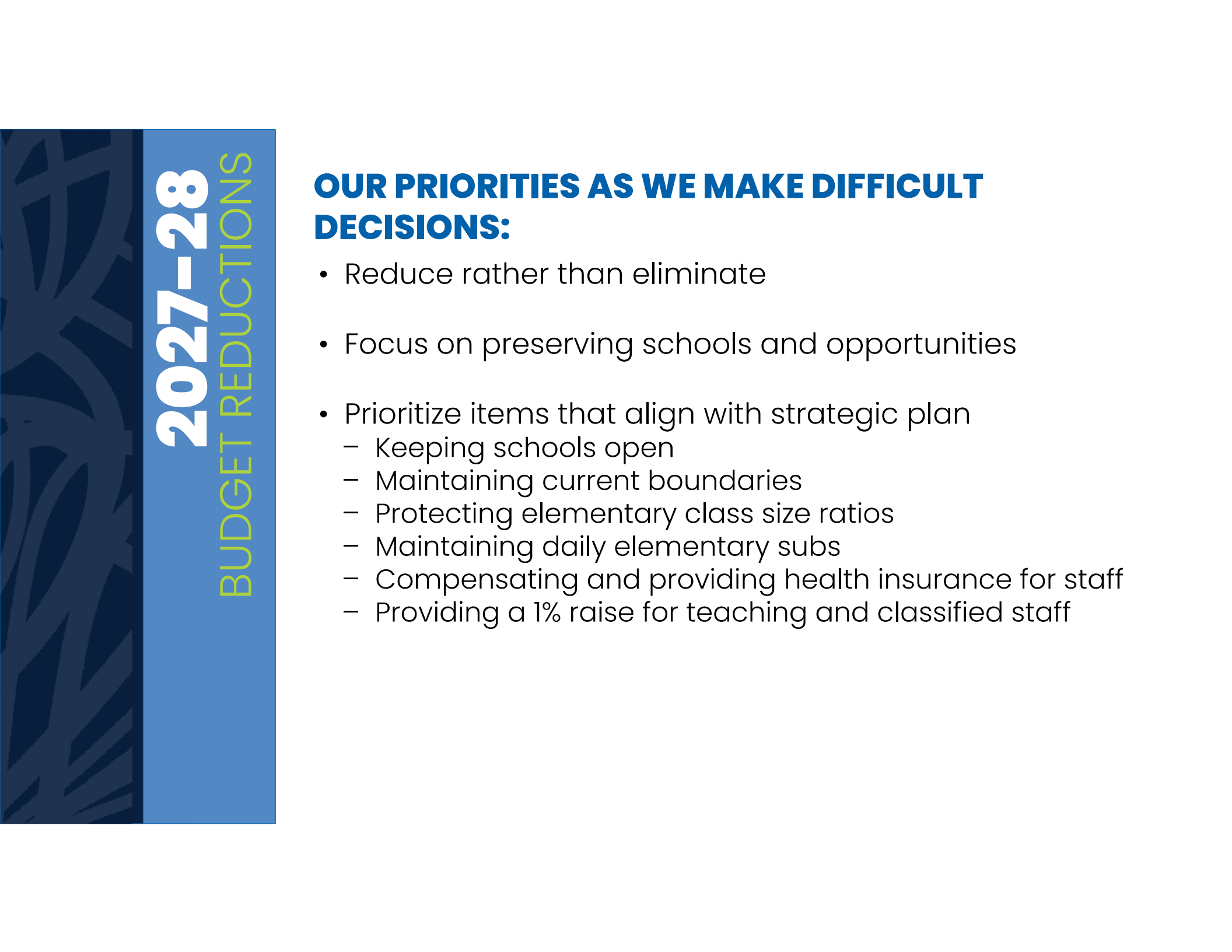
PREVIOUS

BUDGET TRIMMING MEASURES

Total
reductions
\$6.5M

THESE ACTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN IMPLEMENTED:

Organizational Restructuring and Staffing	Budget and Contract Efficiencies	Instructional Programs and Student Services	Scheduling and Operational Efficiencies	Deferred and Reduced Purchases
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• District office staff reductions (9.5 FTE)• District leadership reorganization• Support position reductions• Attrition and unfilled positions• Reduced instructional support paras• Fewer daily building substitutes• MHIT reductions through attrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Salary reallocations to bond and capital outlay• Discontinued contracts• Reduced departmental and building budgets• Essential travel only• Reduced extended days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chinese immersion staffing changes• Adjustments to elementary strings• Changes to summer leadership, onboarding, and Rally in the Valley	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Middle school schedule changes designed to create efficiencies• Adjustments to staffing and service delivery models	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delayed athletic uniform purchases• Other spending reductions intended to manage current costs



2027-28

BUDGET REDUCTIONS

OUR PRIORITIES AS WE MAKE DIFFICULT DECISIONS:

- Reduce rather than eliminate
- Focus on preserving schools and opportunities
- Prioritize items that align with strategic plan
 - Keeping schools open
 - Maintaining current boundaries
 - Protecting elementary class size ratios
 - Maintaining daily elementary subs
 - Compensating and providing health insurance for staff
 - Providing a 1% raise for teaching and classified staff

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



**Advancing Academic
Excellence & Exceptional
Student Experiences**



**Fostering Supportive &
Healthy School
Communities**



**Empowering
Exemplary
Educators & Staff**

ADDITIONAL 2026-27 BUDGET MEASURES

OTHER ACTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED:

- Benefit reductions for <30 hour employees
- Secondary buildings open 11 months beginning summer 2027
- Energy guidelines adjusted by 1 degree
- CAPS programming adjustments
- Programming adjustments at the high school level
- Increases to athletic gate
- KPERS Working After Retirement penalty reassigned
- District lobbyist contract reduced
- Filling only essential positions
- Early Childhood para calendar changes
- Move Blended Learning salaries to capital outlay
- Reduced expenditures for instructional material adoptions
- Additional reductions to district departmental budgets

Total
estimated
reductions
\$10.5M

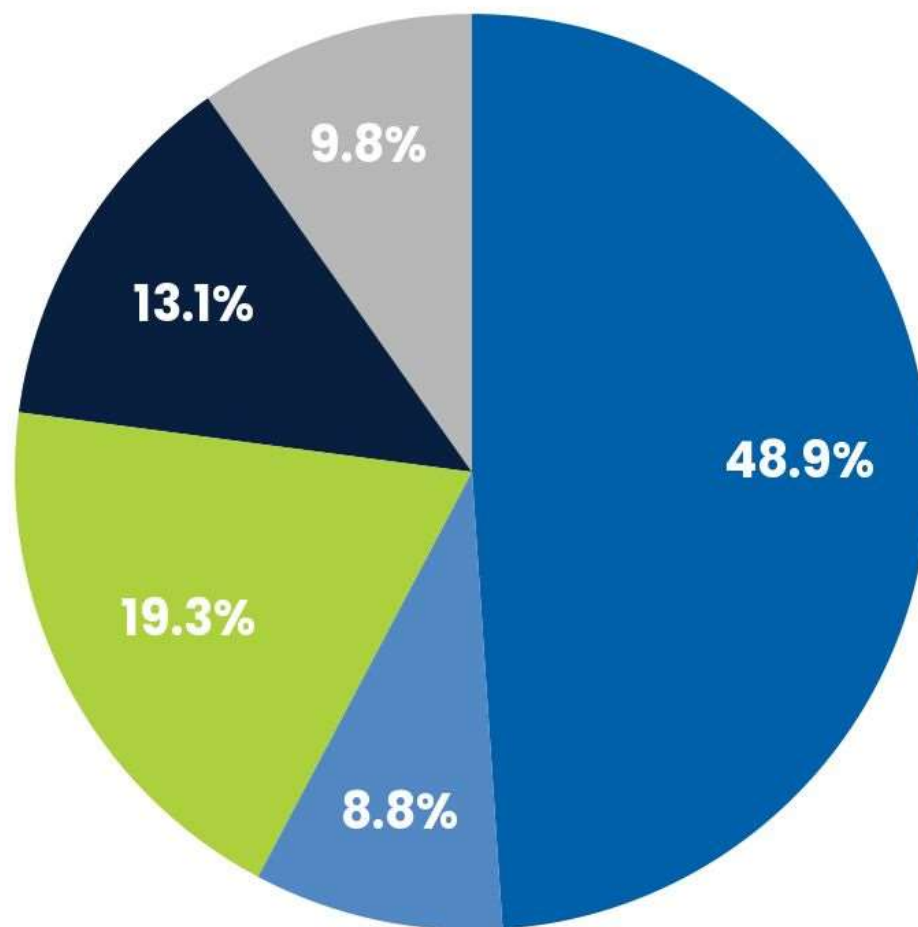
2027-28

BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Total
estimated
reductions
\$10.5M

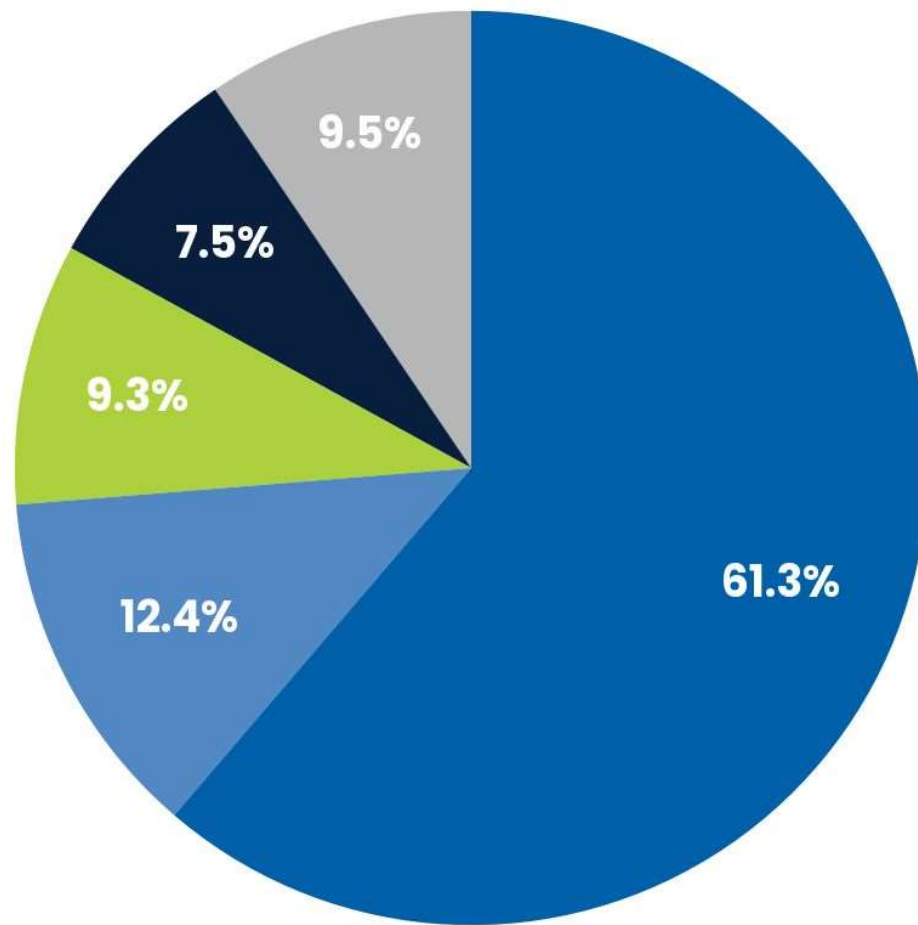
- **Administration:** Reductions in administrative positions.
- **Activities and athletics:** Reductions in high school coaching positions and performing arts support. Reductions in out-of-area travel. In middle school, suspend all seventh- and eighth-grade wrestling, cross country and drill/dance team programs.
- **Programs:** Reductions in district support for Parents as Teachers, adjustments to world language programming that impact Chinese Immersion, continued review of secondary courses to ensure they meet minimum enrollment expectations.
- **Personnel and student support:** Staffing adjustments in high school gifted education and library media, along with transitions to high school attendance area feeder-based instructional support and social work models.
- **Work calendars and benefits:** Reductions in some work calendars and contract days, along with changes to benefit eligibility for classified employees and administrators working fewer than 30 hours per week.

TOTAL BUDGET REDUCTIONS BY KSDE JOB FUNCTION

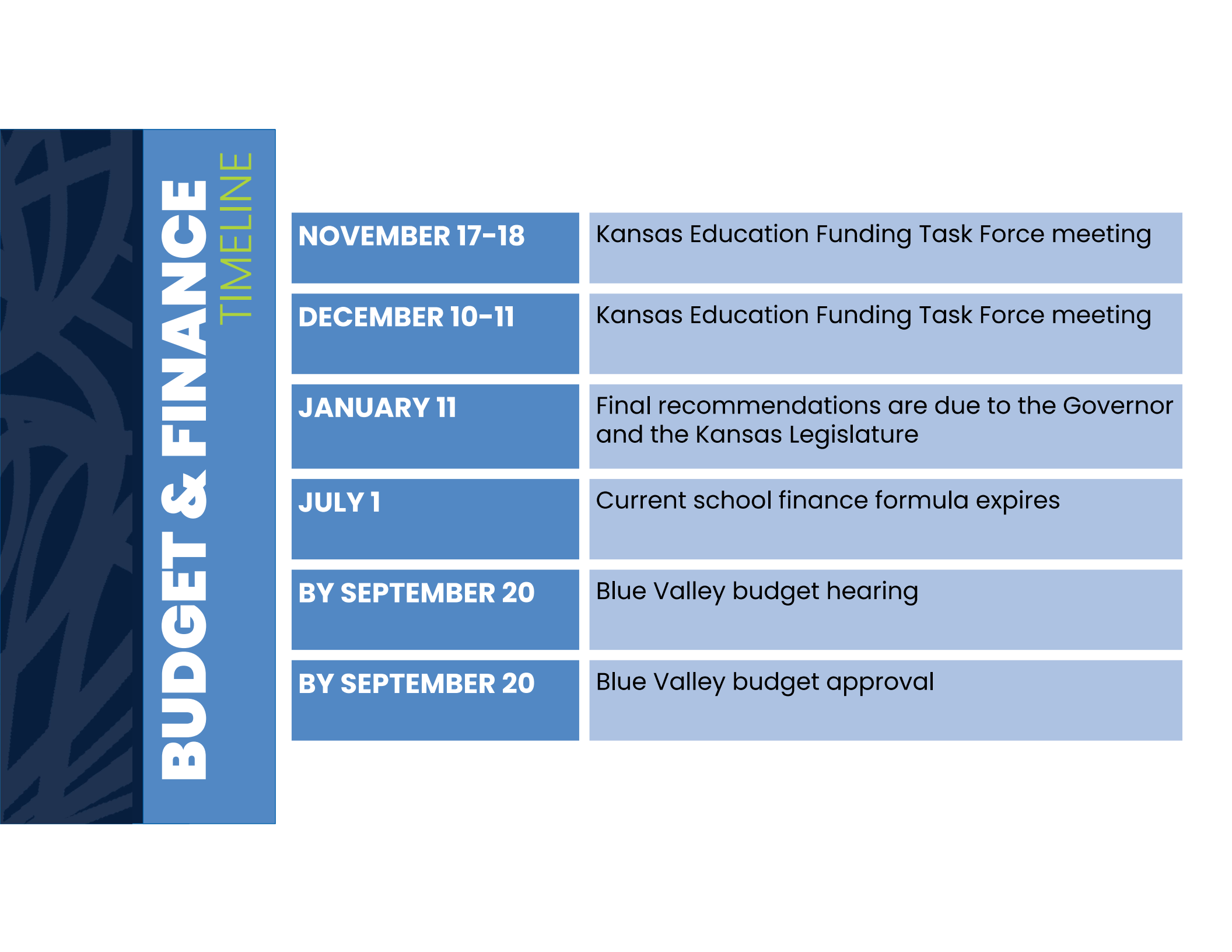


- Instruction (48.9%)
- Student Support (8.8%)
- Instructional Support (19.3%)
- Admin Support (13.1%)
- Operations, Maintenance, Fund Transfers (9.8%)

TOTAL BUDGET REDUCTIONS BY EXPENSE TYPE



- Base Salaries (61.3%)
- Supplemental Salaries (12.4%)
- Benefits (9.3%)
- Contractors (7.5%)
- Supplies/Non-Payroll/Fund Transfers (9.5%)



BUDGET & FINANCE

TIMELINE

NOVEMBER 17-18

Kansas Education Funding Task Force meeting

DECEMBER 10-11

Kansas Education Funding Task Force meeting

JANUARY 11

Final recommendations are due to the Governor and the Kansas Legislature

JULY 1

Current school finance formula expires

BY SEPTEMBER 20

Blue Valley budget hearing

BY SEPTEMBER 20

Blue Valley budget approval

WHERE TO LEARN MORE

BUDGET AND LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**Blue Valley Budget
Information**



**Legislative
Information**



**Kansas Public
Schools Funding
Coalition**



WHAT'S AT STAKE?

THE REAL IMPACT



ELECTION DOCUMENTS

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 229, JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS (BLUE VALLEY)

MARCH 2, 2027 ELECTION

1. Excerpt of Minutes
2. Resolution
 - a. Exhibit A – Notice of Bond Election
3. Ballot Certificate
4. Certification of Canvass of Votes
5. Affidavits of Website Publication

**EXCERPT OF MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 229,
JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS (BLUE VALLEY)
HELD ON NOVEMBER 9, 2026**

The Board of Education (the "Board") met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. The President presided and the following members of the Board were present:

_____.

The following members of the Board were absent: _____.

The President declared that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order.

* * * * *

(Other Proceedings)

Thereupon, and among other business, a Resolution was presented entitled:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE CALLING OF A BOND ELECTION IN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 229, JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS (BLUE VALLEY) FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT THE QUESTION OF ISSUING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE DISTRICT; AND PROVIDING FOR THE GIVING OF NOTICE OF SAID BOND ELECTION.

Member _____ moved that the Resolution be adopted. The motion was seconded by Member _____. The Resolution was read and considered, and upon being put to a vote, the motion for the adoption of the Resolution was carried by the vote of the Board as follows:

Aye: _____.

Nay: _____.

Thereupon, a majority of the members of the Board having voted in favor of the Resolution, it was declared duly adopted and the Resolution was directed to be signed by the President and attested by the Clerk. The Clerk was further directed to take all action necessary to proceed with calling said bond election in the manner prescribed by law.

[BALANCE OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Excerpt of Minutes is a true and correct excerpt of the proceedings of the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 229, Johnson County, Kansas (Blue Valley) held on the date stated therein, and that the official minutes of such proceedings are on file in my office.

(SEAL)

Clerk

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND PROVIDING FOR THE CALLING OF A BOND ELECTION IN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 229, JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS (BLUE VALLEY) FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT THE QUESTION OF ISSUING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE DISTRICT; AND PROVIDING FOR THE GIVING OF NOTICE OF SAID BOND ELECTION.

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 72-5457 authorizes the board of education of any unified school district to determine it necessary to purchase or improve a site or sites, or to acquire, construct, equip, furnish, repair, remodel or make additions to any building or buildings used for school district purposes and to issue general obligation bonds of the district to pay the costs thereof provided that the question of issuing such general obligation bonds is submitted to the electors of the district and a majority of the electors voting on such proposition authorizes the issuance of the general obligation bonds; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education (the “Board”) of Unified School District No. 229, Johnson County, Kansas (Blue Valley) (the “District”), deems it advisable to authorize and provide for the calling of a bond election in the District for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the District the question of issuing general obligation bonds of the District to pay the costs of certain school building improvements; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed advisable to hold such election in accordance with the mail ballot election law (K.S.A. 25-431 *et seq.*); and

WHEREAS, in order to authorize such general obligation bonds, it is deemed advisable to call a bond election in the District to be held on March 2, 2027.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 229, JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS (BLUE VALLEY):

Section 1. It is hereby deemed necessary and advisable to purchase and improve sites and acquire, construct, equip, furnish, repair, remodel and make additions to buildings used for school district purposes, including acquisition of safety and security improvements and new and upgraded computer and communications technology, and all necessary improvements related thereto in the District (the “Project”) and to pay related fees and expenses, at an estimated cost of \$198,500,000.

Section 2. In order to pay the costs of the Project, it is necessary to issue general obligation bonds (the “Bonds”) of the District in an amount not to exceed \$198,500,000. The Bonds shall be issued if a majority of the qualified electors of the District voting on the proposition shall vote in favor thereof at a bond election to be held in the District for that purpose. The District expects to make expenditures on and after the date of this Resolution in connection with the Project and intends to reimburse itself with the proceeds of the Bonds.

Section 3. It is hereby authorized, ordered and directed that a bond election shall be and is hereby called to be held in the District on March 2, 2027 (the “Election”), at which time there shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District the following proposition:

Shall the following be adopted?

Shall Unified School District No. 229, Johnson County, Kansas (Blue Valley), issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$198,500,000, to purchase and improve sites and acquire, construct, equip, furnish, repair, remodel and make additions to buildings used

for school district purposes, including acquisition of safety and security improvements and new and upgraded computer and communications technology, and all necessary improvements related thereto in the District, and to pay related fees and expenses; all pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 10-101 *et seq.*; K.S.A. 25-431 *et seq.*; K.S.A. 25-2018(f); and K.S.A. 72-5457?

Section 4. The vote at the Election shall be by mail ballot, and the proposition stated above shall be printed on the ballot, together with voting instructions as provided by law. The Bonds authorized by the Election may be issued to reimburse expenditures made on or after the date which is sixty (60) days before the date of this Resolution, pursuant to Treasury Regulation §1.150-2.

Section 5. The Johnson County Election Commissioner shall give notice of the Election as provided by law by publishing a Notice of Bond Election in substantially the form attached hereto as ***Exhibit A*** with such changes as approved by the Superintendent (a) once each week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the District, with the first publication to be not less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the Election, and (b) on the website of the county election office of any county where the Election is to be conducted not less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of the Election, and the Notice of Bond Election shall remain on the website until the day after the Election.

Section 6. The Board hereby elects to omit the mandatory contract provisions prescribed by the Kansas Department of Administration in form DA-146a, as amended, from any contract relating to services rendered in connection with the authorization and issuance of the Bonds, from any contract for the sale of any of the Bonds, and from any contracts for or related to the investment of the proceeds of the Bonds, provided, however that this election does not authorize the omission from any such contract the provisions of K.S.A. 72-1146 or 72-1147, as amended.

Section 7. This Resolution shall take effect and be in full force from and after its adoption by the Board.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 229,
Johnson County, Kansas (Blue Valley), on November 9, 2026.

(Seal)

President

ATTEST:

Clerk

EXHIBIT A

(Published in the *Johnson County Post* on _____, 2027 and _____, 2027 and on the website of the county election office of any county where the Election is to be conducted not less than 21 days prior to the Election and remaining on the website until the day after the Election)

**NOTICE OF BOND ELECTION
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 229,
JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS (BLUE VALLEY)**

Notice is hereby given to the qualified electors of Unified School District No. 229, Johnson County, Kansas (Blue Valley) (the “District”), that a bond election has been called and will be held on March 2, 2027, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the District the following proposition:

Shall the following be adopted?

Shall Unified School District No. 229, Johnson County, Kansas (Blue Valley), issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$198,500,000, to purchase and improve sites and acquire, construct, equip, furnish, repair, remodel and make additions to buildings used for school district purposes, including acquisition of safety and security improvements and new and upgraded computer and communications technology, and all necessary improvements related thereto in the District, and to pay related fees and expenses; all pursuant to the provisions of K.S.A. 10-101 *et seq.*; K.S.A. 25-431 *et seq.*; K.S.A. 25-2018(f); and K.S.A. 72-5457?

This election will be conducted in accordance with K.S.A. 25-431 *et seq.* (the “Mail Ballot Election Act”). The Johnson County Election Commissioner shall conduct the election by mailing an official ballot to each qualified elector in the District who is registered at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of election. The official ballot will be mailed not sooner than the 20th day before the date of the election and not later than the 10th day before the election. The Johnson County Election Commissioner anticipates mailing ballots for this bond election to all qualified voters on or about _____, 2027. Instructions on how to mark the ballot to vote either for or against the proposition submitted thereon will accompany the ballots, together with a stamped, addressed return identification envelope in which the marked ballot must be placed.

IT IS IMPORTANT FOR EACH QUALIFIED VOTER TO NOTE THAT YOUR BALLOT CANNOT BE COUNTED UNLESS YOU TAKE THE APPROPRIATE STEPS:

- (1) You must personally sign and place your correct address on the return identification envelope;
- (2) If you choose to mail your ballot, you must put it in the identification envelope and place it in the United States mail early enough so that it will be received by the Johnson County Election Commissioner not later than March 2, 2027; and
- (3) If you elect not to mail your ballot, (a) voters residing in Johnson County must PERSONALLY deliver it in the return identification envelope to the office of the Johnson County Election Commissioner, 2101 East Kansas City Road, Olathe, Kansas 66061, at any time during regular business hours from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday, but before 12:00 Noon on March 2, 2027, and (b) voters residing in Miami County must PERSONALLY deliver it in the return identification envelope to the office of the Miami County Clerk in the Miami County Administration Building, 201 South Pearl, Suite 202, Paola, Kansas 66071, at any

time during regular business hours from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday, but before 12:00 Noon on March 2, 2027.

If the ballot of a qualified elector is destroyed, spoiled, lost or not received in the mail by the qualified elector, or if an elector registers within thirty (30) days of the election, a ballot or replacement ballot may be obtained from the Johnson County Election Commissioner or the Miami County Clerk. Persons qualified to receive a replacement ballot may do so by signing an application prepared by the Johnson County Election Commissioner or the Miami County Clerk and submitting the application by mail or in person at the office of the Johnson County Election Commissioner or the Miami County Clerk at the above addresses.

The authority to conduct this bond election called by the District under the provisions of the Mail Ballot Election Act, does not authorize the use of voting machines or written ballots located at the usual polling places for the District. Consequently, all qualified electors of the District are hereby notified that no polling places will be open during the bond election, and all ballots must be cast in the manner specified herein and in accordance with the voting instructions which will be sent to all qualified electors with the official mail ballot.

Telephone inquiries from qualified electors having additional questions about the procedure to follow in order to vote in this election may be made by calling the Johnson County Election Commissioner at (913) 715-6800 or the Miami County Clerk at (913) 294-3976, as applicable.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The following additional information is provided by the District with respect to compliance with the provisions of K.S.A. 10-120a and K.S.A. 12-6,122. This information has been obtained from sources deemed reliable by the District. Certain portions of this information are based upon projections. No assurances can be given that these projections will be accurate as of the date of issuance of the Bonds due to changing market conditions, any changes in assessed valuation of the District, changes in the amount of state financial aid received by the District and other matters unknown or unavailable at this time. The projected rates of property taxation to be used to pay the principal of and interest on the Bonds are based upon the current assessed valuation of the District, the assumed principal repayment schedule and the average interest rates from recent bond issues for similar types of financings, all as shown below.

Projected Summary of Project Costs

<i>Sources of Funds</i>		<i>Uses of Funds</i>	
Bonds to be Issued	\$198,500,000	Project Costs	\$187,128,900
Interest Earnings	\$5,879,500	Project Contingency and Debt Service Paid during Construction	\$5,879,500
		Issuance Expenses and Professional Fees (including architect, engineering, attorney fees, printing costs, rating agency fees, financial advisor fees, underwriting fees and other miscellaneous expenses)	\$11,371,100
Total	\$204,379,500	Total	\$204,379,500

Projected Summary of Bond Issue Repayments

Principal payments over 20 years ⁽¹⁾		Average Interest Rate	5.00%
Total Interest Cost to Maturity	\$121,983,333	Assessed Valuation (2026) (includes motor vehicles)	\$5,239,357,935
Average Annual Principal and Interest Payments			\$16,024,167
Average Annual Property Tax Mill Levy Rate for Principal and Interest Payments			9.133 Mills ⁽²⁾

⁽¹⁾ It is anticipated that the bonds will be issued in two separate series, each of which will be amortized over 20 years. Current plans anticipate the final series of bonds will be issued in 2029 with a final payment in 2049.

⁽²⁾ Represents the estimated future maximum annual property tax mill levy for the District's Bond and Interest Fund to provide for the payment of principal and interest on (i) previously authorized general obligation bonds, and (ii) bonds authorized by the above proposition. The mill levy for the District's Bond and Interest Fund to pay principal and interest on previously authorized general obligation bonds was certified to be 8.158 mills for fiscal year 2026/2027, which mill levy will decrease as the previously authorized general obligation bonds are paid. The District anticipates offsetting the mill levy increase (0.975 mills) through reductions in levies for other funds such as Extraordinary Growth Facilities, Local Option Budget and/or Capital Outlay. The District currently receives no State financial aid for the payment of principal and interest on bonds.

The election officer conducting the election will be the Election Commissioner of Johnson County, Kansas, whose address is 2101 East Kansas City Road, Olathe, Kansas 66061.

DATED: January __, 2027.

Connie Schmidt, Election Commissioner
Johnson County, Kansas

BALLOT CERTIFICATE

STATE OF KANSAS)
) ss:
COUNTY OF JOHNSON)

I, Connie Schmidt, Election Commissioner of Johnson County, Kansas, do hereby certify to the following:

- (a) Attached hereto is a true and correct copy of the ballot label used at the bond election held on March 2, 2027, in Unified School District No. 229, Johnson County, Kansas (Blue Valley) on the proposition set forth in the ballot; and
- (b) To the best of my knowledge, after reasonable review of activities undertaken by the Johnson County Election Office and any necessary certifications provided by third parties, the Johnson County Election Office administered the election according to all applicable statutes.

WITNESS my hand and official seal on March 2, 2027.

(Seal)

Connie Schmidt, Election Commissioner
Johnson County, Kansas

CERTIFICATION OF CANVASS OF VOTES

STATE OF KANSAS)
) ss:
COUNTY OF JOHNSON)

[To be provided by County]

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF KANSAS)
) ss:
COUNTY OF JOHNSON)

The undersigned, Election Commissioner of Johnson County, Kansas (the “County”) pursuant to the laws of the State of Kansas, being of lawful age, first being duly sworn, on oath states:

Pursuant to K.S.A. 10-120, the attached Notice of Election was published on the website of the Election Office not less than 21 days prior to the election described in such Notice and remained on the website until the day after such election.

WITNESS my hand and official seal on March _____, 2027.

(Seal)

Connie Schmidt, Election Commissioner
Johnson County, Kansas

The foregoing instrument was subscribed and sworn to or affirmed before me on this _____ day of March, 2027, by Connie Schmidt, Election Commissioner, Johnson County, Kansas.

(Seal)

Notary Public

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF KANSAS)
) ss:
COUNTY OF MIAMI)

The undersigned, acting as election officer for Miami County, Kansas (the “County”) pursuant to the laws of the State of Kansas, being of lawful age, first being duly sworn, on oath states:

Pursuant to K.S.A. 10-120, the attached Notice of Election was published on the website of the County election office not less than 21 days prior to the election described in such Notice and remained on the website until the day after such election.

WITNESS my hand and official seal on March _____, 2027.

(Seal)

Laura Epp, Clerk/Election Officer
Miami County, Kansas

The foregoing instrument was subscribed and sworn to or affirmed before me on this _____ day of March, 2027, by Laura Epp, Clerk/Election Officer, Miami County, Kansas.

(Seal)

Notary Public



BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

2027 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

These legislative priorities guide the district's advocacy for students, educators, and the community.

ESTABLISH A FAIR AND EQUITABLE SCHOOL FINANCE FORMULA

After nearly two decades of litigation over its constitutionality, the crux of the Supreme Court-approved formula should remain intact. We support re-authorizing the current formula with minor revisions:

- **Restructure At-Risk Funding** to a reimbursement model to reflect actual costs of interventions, which should include integrated and evidence-based MTSS-related activities and services.
- **Improve Identification of At-Risk Children** by looking beyond the free-and-reduced lunch qualifier to prioritize evidence-based factors that ensure children who need help get it. This includes children who: • have been affected by abuse or trauma • reside in foster homes • are raised in homes where English is not the primary language • suffer from non-IEP qualifying disabilities • face family or housing instability • lack adequate transportation • experience transiency • live at or below __% of the federal poverty line.
- **Maintain COLA adjustments** for equitable resource distribution.
- **Provide enhancements to combat threats to students' safety and well-being**, including for building security; thwarting external and internal threats of violence and harassment; and for suicide prevention.
- **Simplify Special Education funding** by fully incorporating SPED funding into the formula. We propose eliminating the piecemeal approach of preliminary calculations in favor of a more efficient universal **92% reimbursement** of excess costs.

KEY TERMS

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) — A coherent continuum of evidence-based, system-wide practices designed to support a rapid response to academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs, with frequent data-based monitoring for instructional decision-making to empower each student to achieve high standards.

Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) — An adjustment in the formula to promote fairness in areas with higher costs of living.

FUND SPECIAL EDUCATION AS STATUTORILY REQUIRED

School districts must offer a **Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)** to all school-aged children in their districts. To achieve that, some children require Special Education services, as set forth in the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP), created jointly with the parents, the student, teachers, administrators, and specialists, using data-informed metrics under dictates of federal law. Although Congress did not provide mandatory funding, **Kansas guarantees districts will be reimbursed for 92% of these excess costs.**

In 2026, however, Blue Valley was **forced to transfer \$18.9 million** from the general fund to cover the state's unfulfilled portion of Special Education expenses. Next year, the amount is projected to **increase to over \$20 million**. And since 2011, Blue Valley has transferred general operating funds **exceeding \$124 million to cover the state's shortfall**. Thus, the district's ability to provide a constitutionally compliant education for all students has now been compromised.

Meeting the 92% statutory threshold will help **avoid devastating cuts, prevent increases in current class-size standards, sidestep reductions in force**; allow districts the opportunity to **lower local property tax rates**; and move the state toward providing all students with **a constitutionally adequate public education**.

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

SUPPORT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF

By establishing a fair and equitable school finance formula and funding Special Education as statutorily required, the state will be helping to attract and retain talented educators. The state should also take steps to improve working conditions and districts' ability to offer competitive pay, benefits, and retirement options:

- **Revise and improve KPERS** (Kansas Public Employees Retirement System), specifically **KPERS 3**, to be competitive with surrounding states.
- Work cooperatively with districts to **strongly advocate for federal funding**.
- Provide **funding for extraordinary Professional Learning needs** (e.g., Artificial Intelligence education).
- Address the **biggest financial issues** facing our employees by reforming our state's **healthcare system** and loosening the **working-after-retirement provisions** for Kansas-licensed employees.

SUPPORT SAFETY AND WELL-BEING IN SCHOOLS

Over time, cities, counties, and the state have shifted more and more of their responsibility for many community services to school districts — with no corresponding increase in school funding. Examples include on-campus public safety, community-service coordination for families, and mental-health supports (suicide is the second leading cause of death of young people in Kansas and the United States).. This has depleted available funds for lowering class sizes, offering competitive salaries, and meeting the current educational needs of students, such as for career and technical education.

Districts need funding for the following priorities, outside and separate from the education budget:

- **Safety and security infrastructure** (e.g., impact-resistant glass, security cameras, appropriate door locks, secure entries, emergency communication systems) and **personnel** (e.g., SROs, social workers).
- **Student mental-health and well-being** supports, including access to social workers, mental-health interventionists, and community resources, all of which are vital to adequately ensure safe and healthy learning environments and prevent crises and threats to students' well-being.

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS' LONG-STANDING PRIORITIES

The district's long-standing priorities reflect the principles that have consistently guided Blue Valley Schools' approach to serving students and the community.



Support **Local Control** of Education Systems



Enhance Student **Well-being and Mental Health**



Support **Academic Rigor** and **Local Curriculum Decisions**



Support **Early Education**



Oppose Unfunded State Mandates



Broaden **Classroom Resources**



Oppose Tax Credits, Vouchers, and Other Public Funding for Private Schools

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BLUE VALLEY'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:



- Visit bluevalleyk12.org/legislative or scan the QR code.
- Contact the Board of Education at boe@bluevalleyk12.org.
- Contact Superintendent Dr. Gillian Chapman, at gkchapman@bluevalleyk12.org.

Approved by the Blue Valley Board of Education.

Johnson County School Districts Legislative Priorities 2027

The Johnson County school districts are united in advocating for policies that provide Kansas students with the resources, opportunities and support necessary to succeed. We believe strong public schools are essential to strong communities, a strong workforce and the continued economic success of Kansas.

Fully Fund Special Education

We support the State of Kansas meeting its statutory obligation to fund **92% of excess special education costs** and increased federal funding for special education.

When special education is not funded at the required level, school districts must transfer significant resources from their general operating budgets to provide legally required services. This impacts **all students** by reducing resources available for classrooms, staff, programs and other student needs.

Maintain an Adequate, Equitable and Predictable School Finance System

We support a **constitutional, adequate, equitable and predictable school finance system** that recognizes the actual costs of educating students and provides districts the stability necessary to responsibly plan staffing, programs and facilities.

We oppose arbitrary limitations on school district budgets or local revenue that prevent districts from responding to increasing costs, changing enrollment and the needs of students and communities.

Support and Retain a High-Quality Education Workforce

High-quality educators and support professionals are essential to student success. We support providing school districts the resources and flexibility necessary to **recruit and retain high-quality employees, provide competitive compensation and a livable wage for all staff**, and address workforce shortages.

We also support policies that strengthen retirement benefits and create additional pathways into the education profession.

Protect Local Control and Community-Driven Decision-Making

We support the authority of **locally elected boards of education** to make decisions that best meet the needs and expectations of their students, staff, families and communities.

We oppose unfunded mandates and unnecessary administrative requirements that divert staff time and resources away from students. State policy should establish appropriate

expectations and accountability while preserving the ability of local communities to determine how those expectations are best achieved.

Support Student and Staff Physical, Mental and Behavioral Health

We support continued investment in programs and partnerships that increase access to **physical, mental and behavioral health services** for students and staff.

Schools play an important role in identifying needs and connecting students and families with appropriate support. Continued state investment helps districts provide safe, healthy learning environments where students are prepared to learn and staff are prepared to serve them.

Prepare Students for College, Careers and the Kansas Workforce

We support continued investment in **career and technical education, work-based learning, apprenticeships, industry-recognized credentials, dual and concurrent credit, and partnerships with businesses and postsecondary institutions.**

Kansas public schools play a critical role in developing the state's future workforce. Policies should expand opportunities for students to graduate prepared for college, careers and meaningful participation in the Kansas economy.

Protect Public Education Funding

We support using **public dollars to support public schools** that serve all students and are accountable to taxpayers.

We oppose programs that divert public resources to private educational institutions that are not required to meet the same standards for student access, transparency, accountability and services as Kansas public schools.