

# What is a Referendum?



A referendum is an election in which voters can choose whether or not to spend money on school operations or facilities.

# Why Needed?



**THE MANDATED STATE  
REVENUE LIMITS – THE  
COMBINATION OF STATE  
AIDS AND ALLOWABLE  
PROPERTY TAXES – HAS  
NOT KEPT UP WITH  
OPERATIONAL COSTS**

# Statewide Issue



- During the last two years, 116 districts have sought operational referendums.
- 93 Districts have passed operational referendums in the last two years. 185 operational referendums have been approved since 2012.

# Area Operational Referendums



- 21 area school districts have approved additional operational funds. 4 area districts are seeking approval in April.
- Neighboring districts with approved funding include:  
Albany, Cambridge, Deerfield, Lodi, Madison, Marshall, McFarland, Monona Grove, Oregon, Stoughton, Sun Prairie, Verona, Waunakee

# Referendums Statewide are Temporary “Fixes”



- This is an ongoing statewide issue resulting from declining or inadequate state and federal school funding.
- Until state laws are changed regarding revenue limits and the ability to tax, or the state significantly increases funding, going to referendum is the only significant option available to schools to raise sufficient revenues to meet shortfalls.

# Contributing Factors for All Districts



Inflationary increases or costs for:

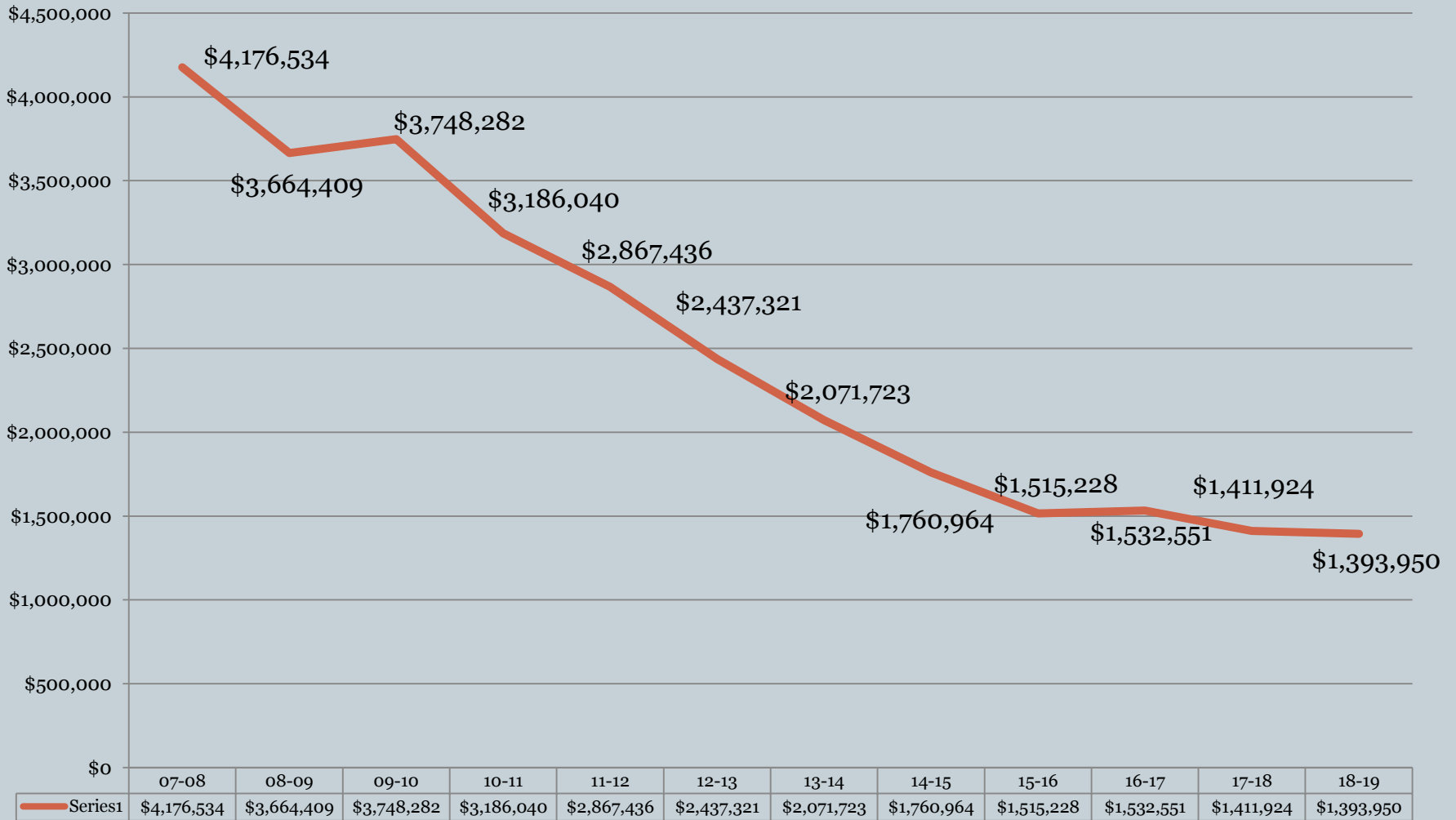
- Emerging Student Programming and Expectations
- Unfunded State and Federal mandates
- Maintenance and renovation needs
- Expanding Technology
- School Security and Safety
- Transportation, Utilities, and Supplies
- Personnel Benefits and Salaries

# What is Our Problem?



- State Equalization Aids continue to decrease
- State Revenue Limits, drastically reduced in 2011-12, have not been restored to previous levels. In addition, there has been little adjustment to reflect inflationary costs and expanded expectations over the last five years.
- Alternative state per pupil categorical aids have not been sufficient to offset reductions in general aids
- Special Education aids have consistently declined despite increasing needs for services

# State Aids

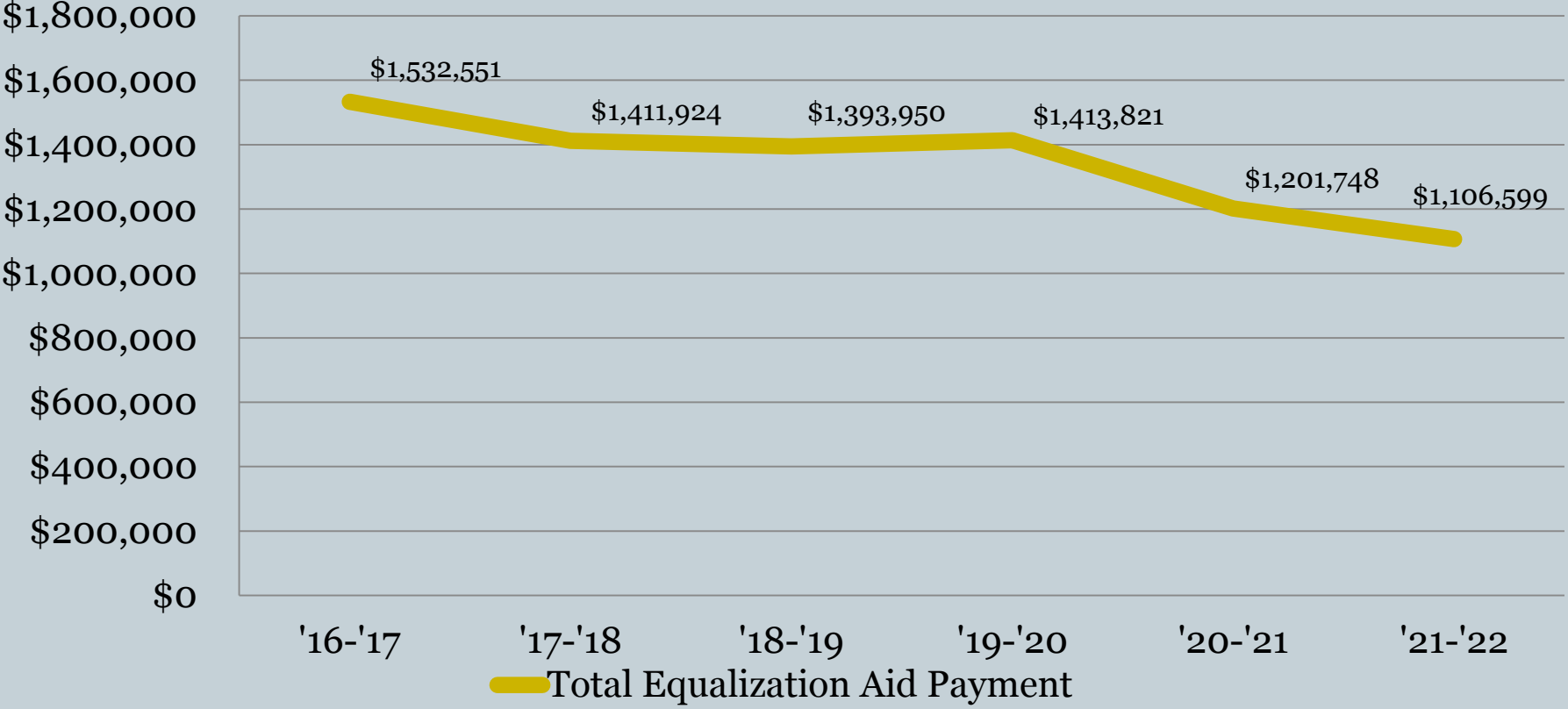




# State Equalization Aids



## Total State Equalization Aid Payments



# Special Education Reimbursement Levels



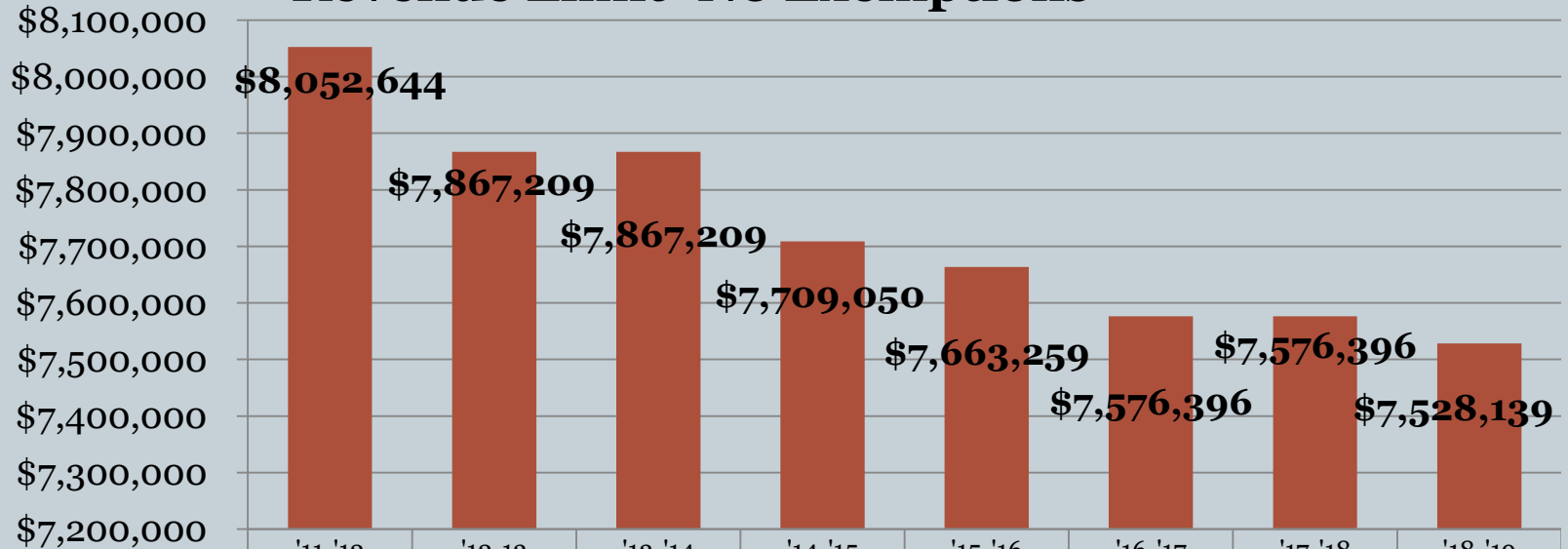
# Revenue Limit Adjustments



# Wisconsin Heights



## Revenue Limit- No Exemptions

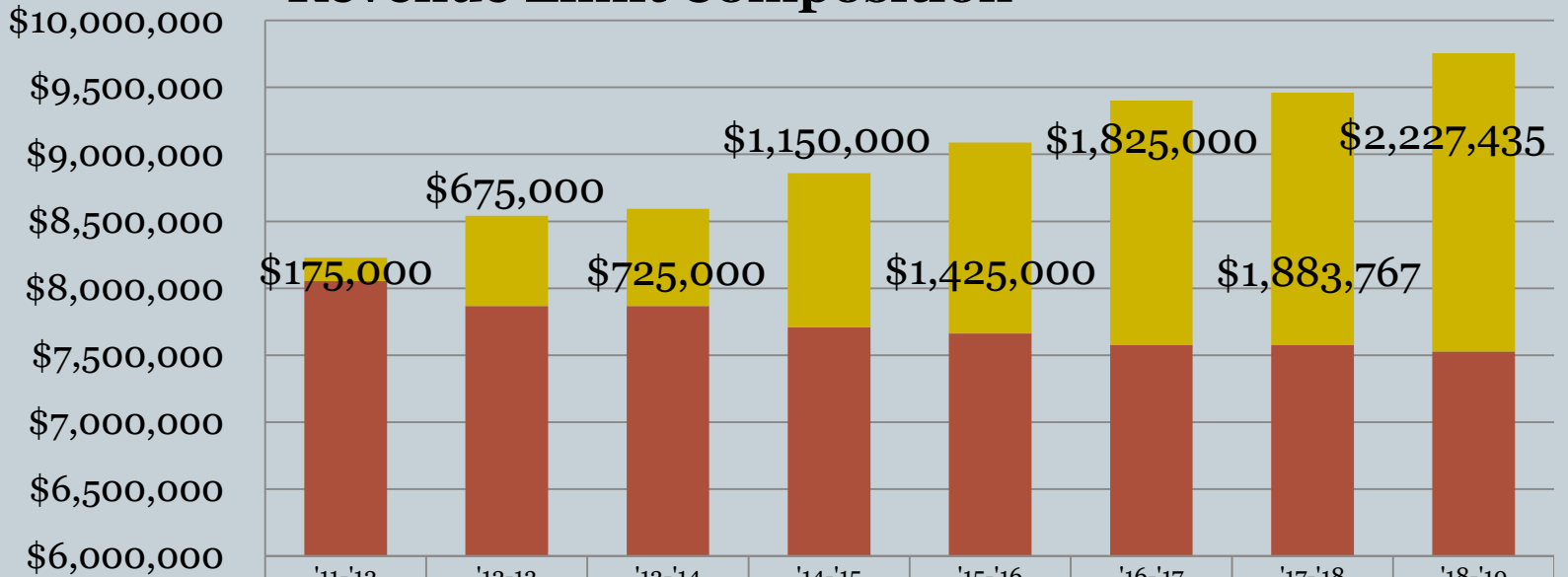


■ Revenue Limit- No Exemptions	\$8,052,644	\$7,867,209	\$7,867,209	\$7,709,050	\$7,663,259	\$7,576,396	\$7,576,396	\$7,528,139
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# Wisconsin Heights



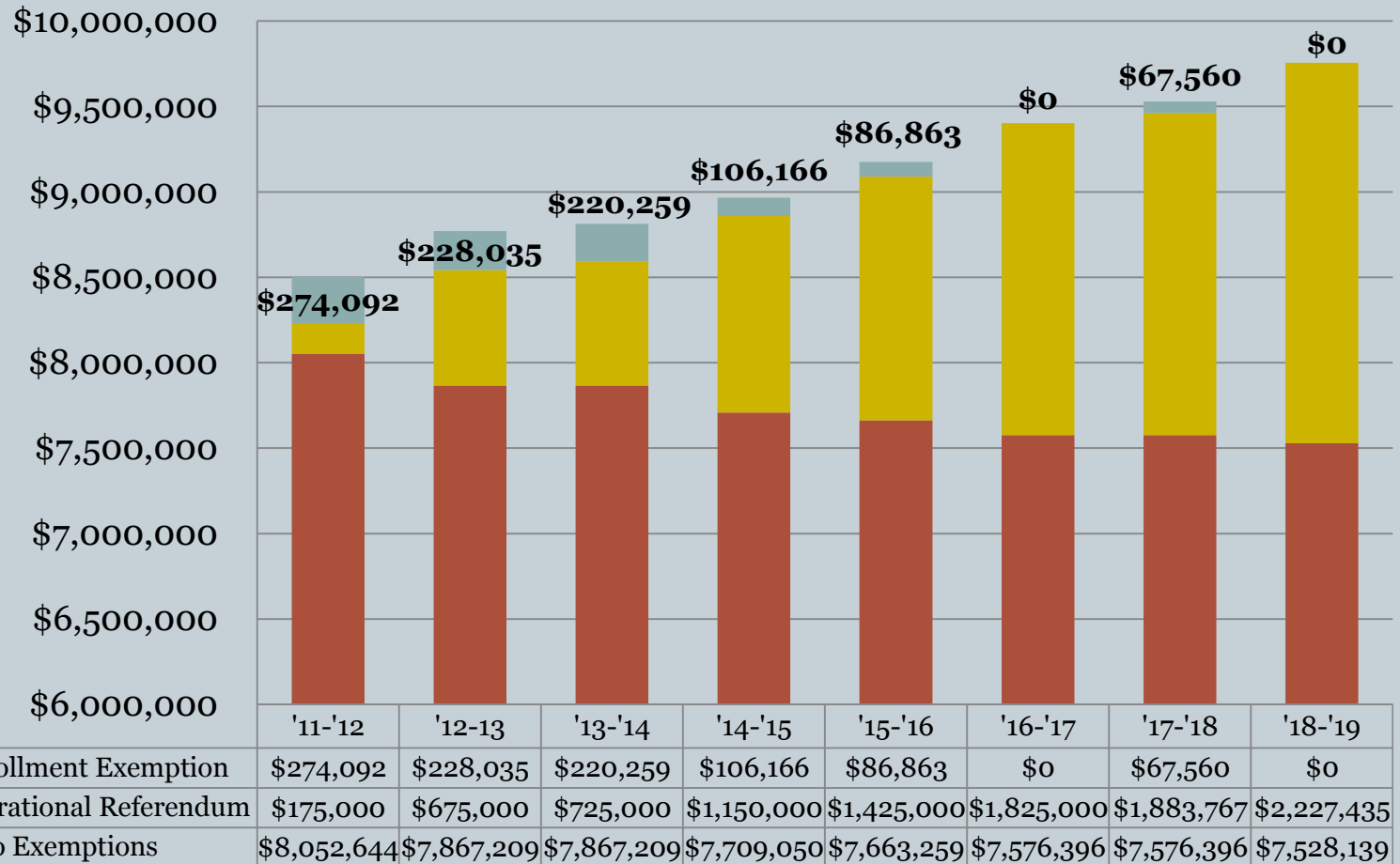
## Revenue Limit Composition



■ NR-Non-Rec. Operational Referendum  
■ Revenue Limit- No Exemptions

'11-'12	\$175,000	\$675,000	\$725,000	\$1,150,000	\$1,425,000	\$1,825,000	\$1,883,767	\$2,227,435
	\$8,052,644	\$7,867,209	\$7,867,209	\$7,709,050	\$7,663,259	\$7,576,396	\$7,576,396	\$7,528,139

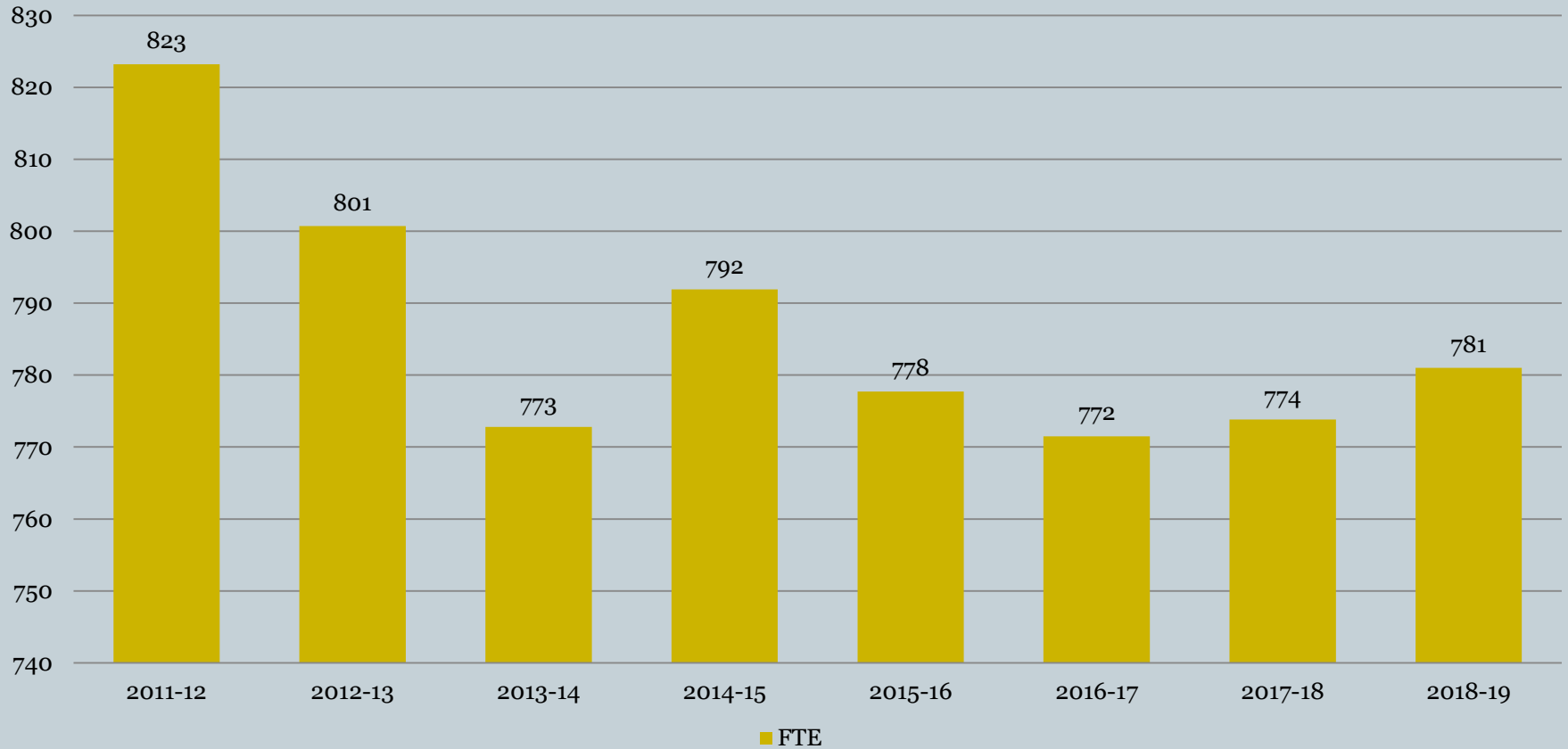
# Revenue Limit Composition



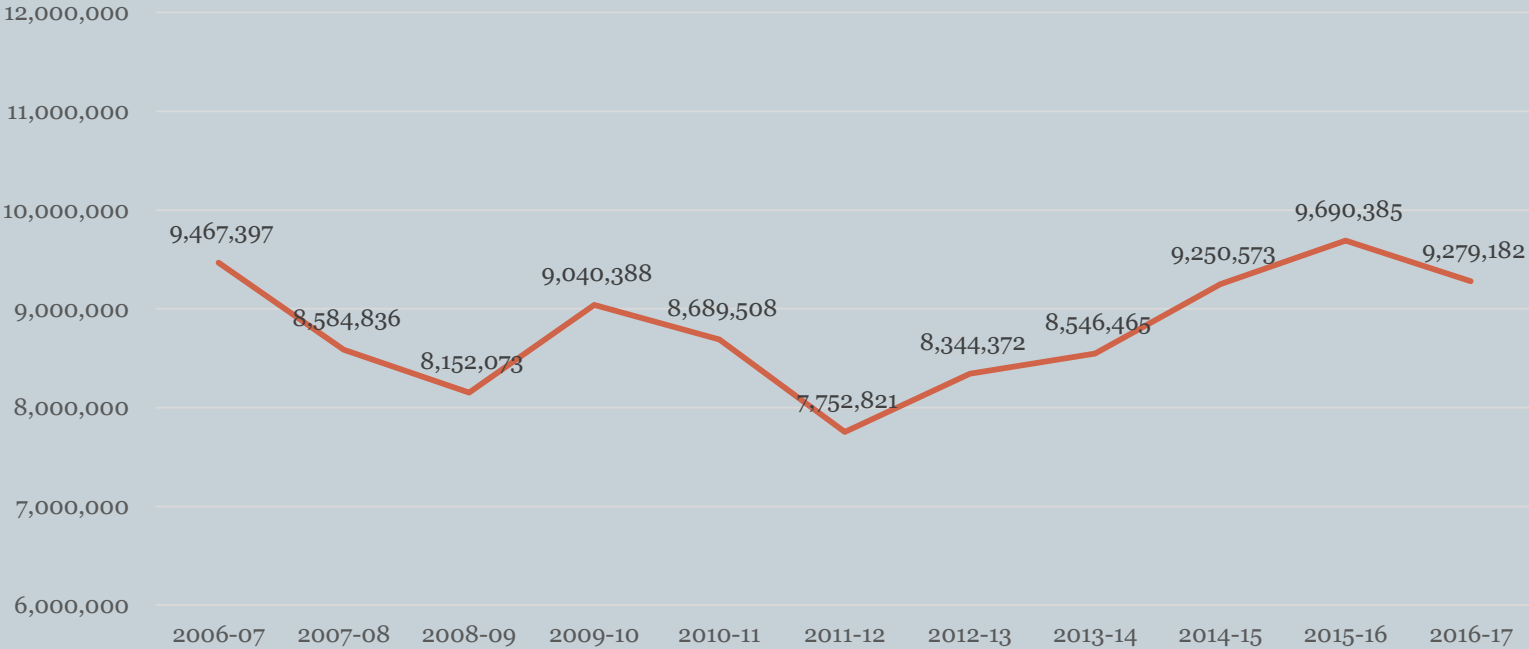
# Student Enrollment Trends



## Student Enrollment – Wisconsin Heights

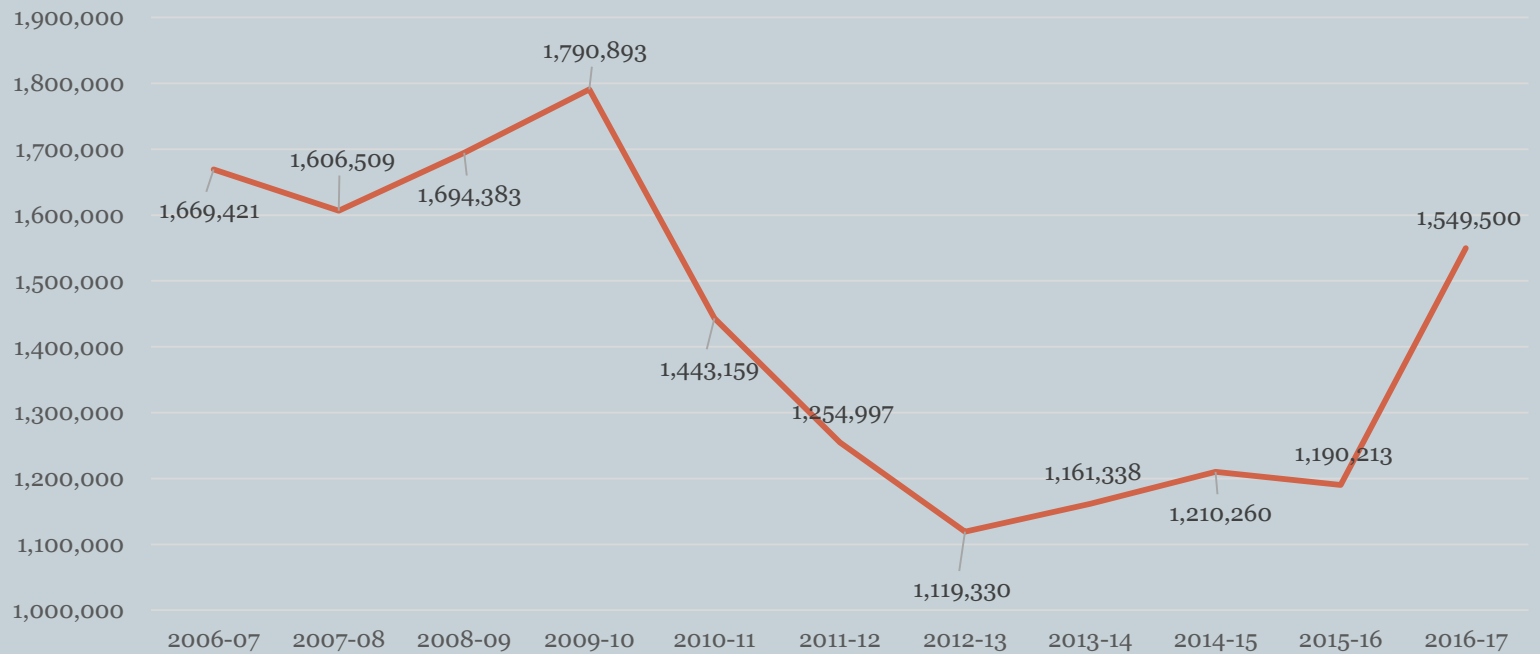


# GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES





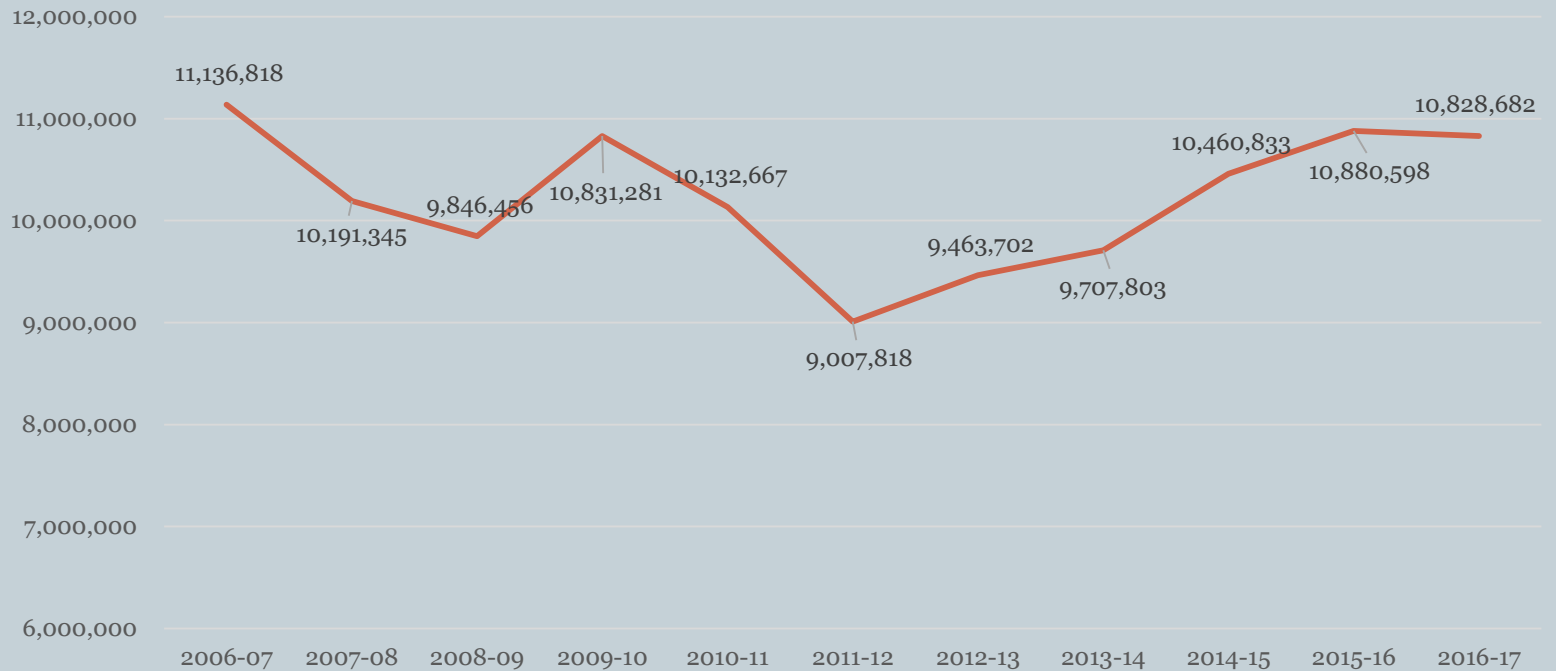
# SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND EXPENDITURES



# GENERAL & SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND EXPENDITURES



General & Special Education Fund Expenditures



# Referendum Funds are Needed to...



- Avoid or reduce the negative consequences or restrictions in educational services and programs
- Adequately fund technology needs and maintenance of school buildings
- Provide the financial foundation and stability to appropriately offset inadequate state and federal variance federal funding

# Operational Referendums – Wisconsin Heights



The District has relied on referendum funds to maintain programs for the past 8 years

Four two-year operational referendums have been supported by Wisconsin Heights residents:

- 2009-2011: \$ 850,000 (\$575,000 & \$275,000)
- 2011-2013: \$ 850,000 (\$175,000 & \$675,000)
- 2013-2015: \$1,875,000 (\$725,000 & \$1,150,000)
- 2015-2017: \$3,250,000 (\$1,425,000 & \$1,825,000)

# April 2017 Referendum Request



Our referendum requests that the school district can exceed the state mandated revenue limits by:

\$ 1,883,767 in 2017-18

\$2,227,435 in 2018-19

\$4,111,202

# Tax Impact



- Projected impact in 2017-18 is 36 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value - about \$72 on a \$200,000 home
- Projected increase in 2018-19 is projected to cost an additional 6 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value - about \$78 on a \$200,000 home

# Governor's Proposal

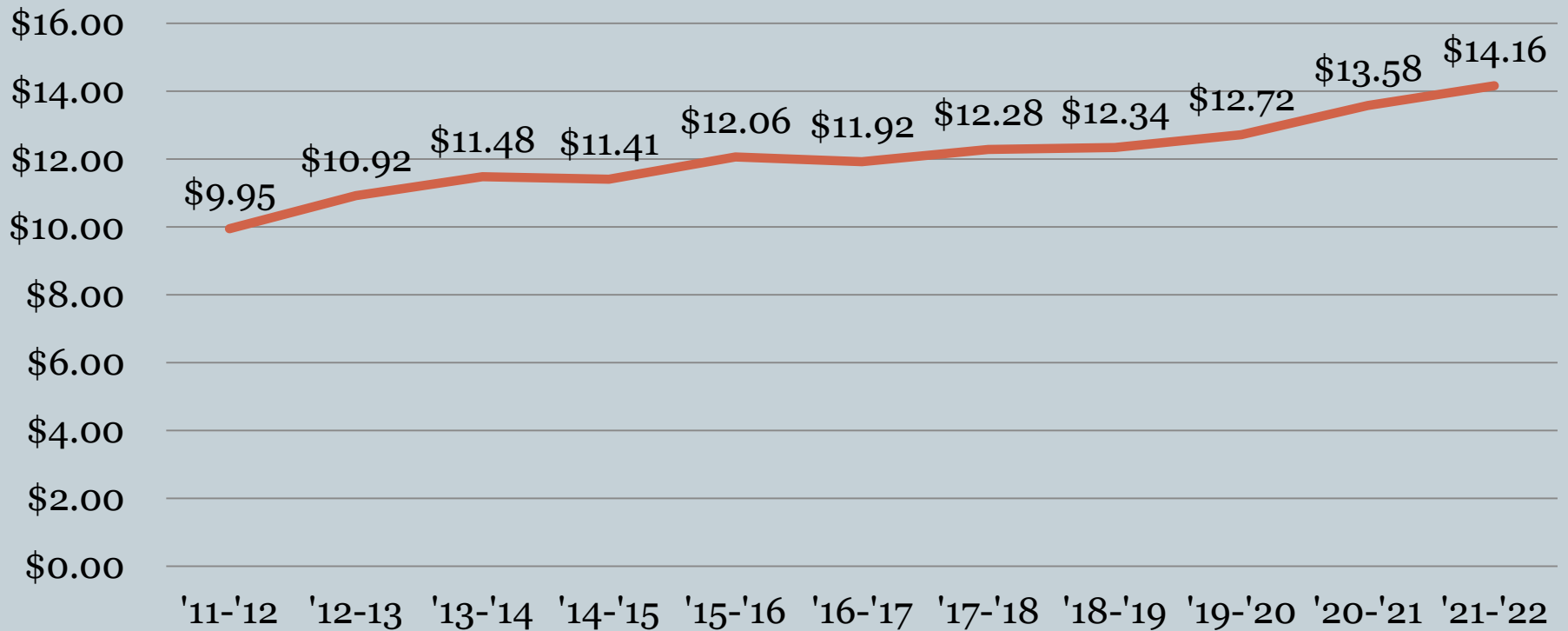


- Increase of \$200 (2017-18) and \$204 (2018-19) per pupil aid
- Projected increase in per pupil and sparsity aid could provide additional \$300,000 (2017-18) and \$450,000 (2018-19)
- Good News: This is new money to help out the district
- Bad News: This is a very small portion of what is needed to stay status quo
- This new money will only provide us with less than 20% of the money needed

# Tax Rate Projections



## Tax Rate (Per \$1,000 of Value)





# Without Referendum Funds...



The School Board would have to discuss any or all of the following:

- Larger Class sizes
- Fewer Course Offerings Programs and Opportunities
- Reduced Technology
- Postponed Maintenance
- Staff Reductions
- Significant increase in Student Fees

• **QUESTIONS?**