

# Wisconsin Heights School District



## OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM INFORMATION SPRING 2019



EVERY CHILD, EVERY CLASS, EVERY DAY

# 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



- In 2018, 68 operational referendums were passed in the state of Wisconsin and 8 were unsuccessful.
  - 89% pass rate
- 118 operational referendums have been approved in the last two years (2017-18) and 26 were unsuccessful.
  - 82% pass rate

# Area Operational Referendums



- 20 area school districts approved additional operational funds in 2018. One school district was unsuccessful with their operational referendum.
  - 95% pass rate
- Six area districts are seeking approval in April.
- Neighboring districts with approved operational funding increases in 2017 or 2018 include:
  - Edgerton, Evansville, Middleton-Cross Plains, Monona Grove, Monroe, New Glarus, Oregon, and Verona

# Area Operational Referendums



- 15 CESA 2 schools passed non-recurring operational referendums in 2017 or 2018.
  - 1 year = 1 school – they bought land with money
  - 2 years = 1 school – Wisconsin Heights in 2017
  - 3 years = 5 schools
  - 4 years = 4 schools
  - 5 years = 4 schools
- Three of the four schools that went for five years, went for the same dollar amount each year (Evansville, Monroe & Yorkville).

# The Perceived “Tony Evers” Effect



- We presently have divided state government.
  - Executive branch (governor) is led by a Democrat
  - Legislative branch (assembly and senate) are controlled by Republicans
- What are we hearing?
  - Funding similar to last two years of state budget (\$200 per pupil) = approximately \$150,000 total for Heights
  - Governor Evers supports equalization aide vs. per pupil aide
  - At least the next two years will be run through divided government
- Even with increases at the state level, our district will still need additional operational dollars.

# 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

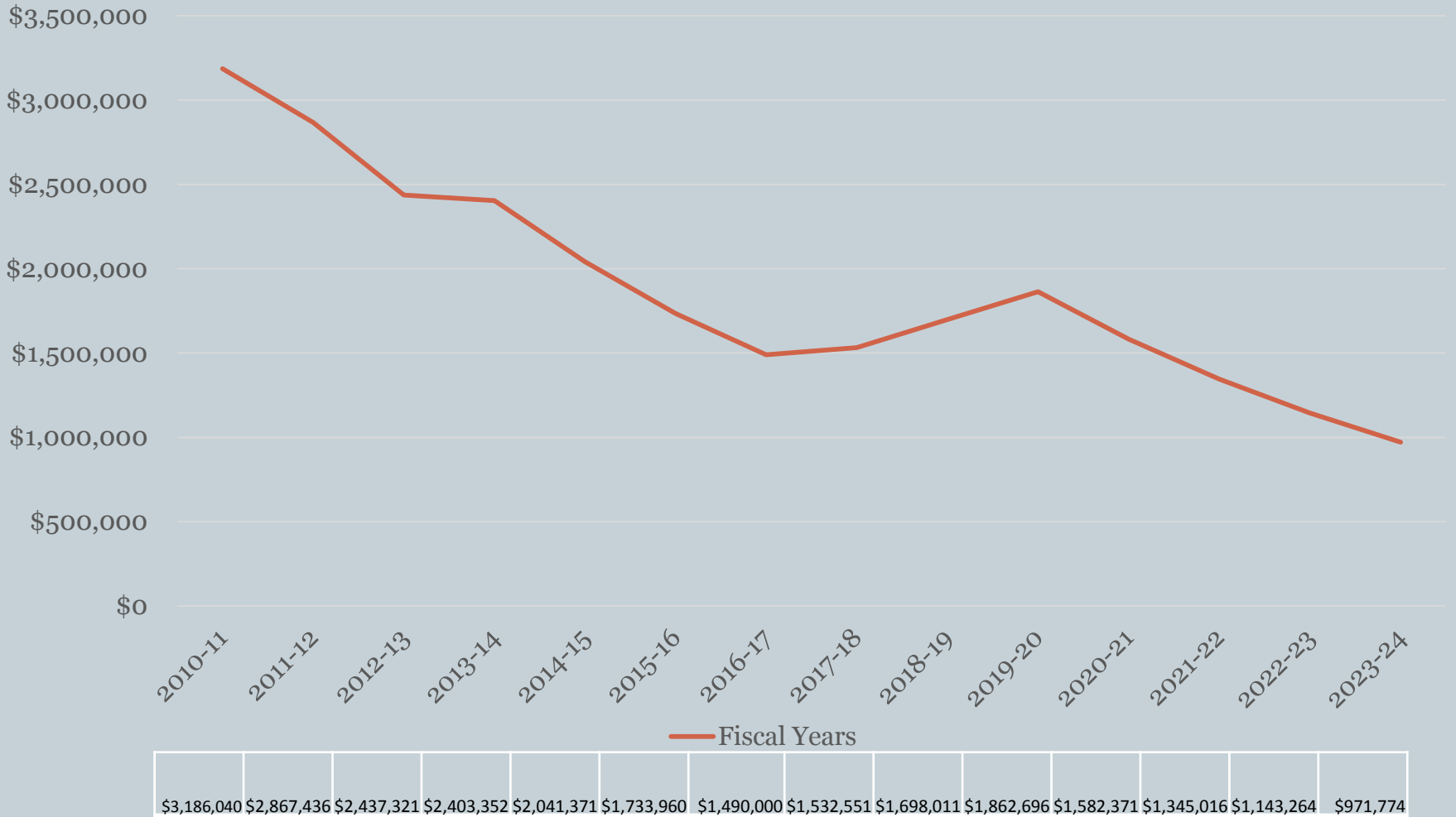


# Local Concerns

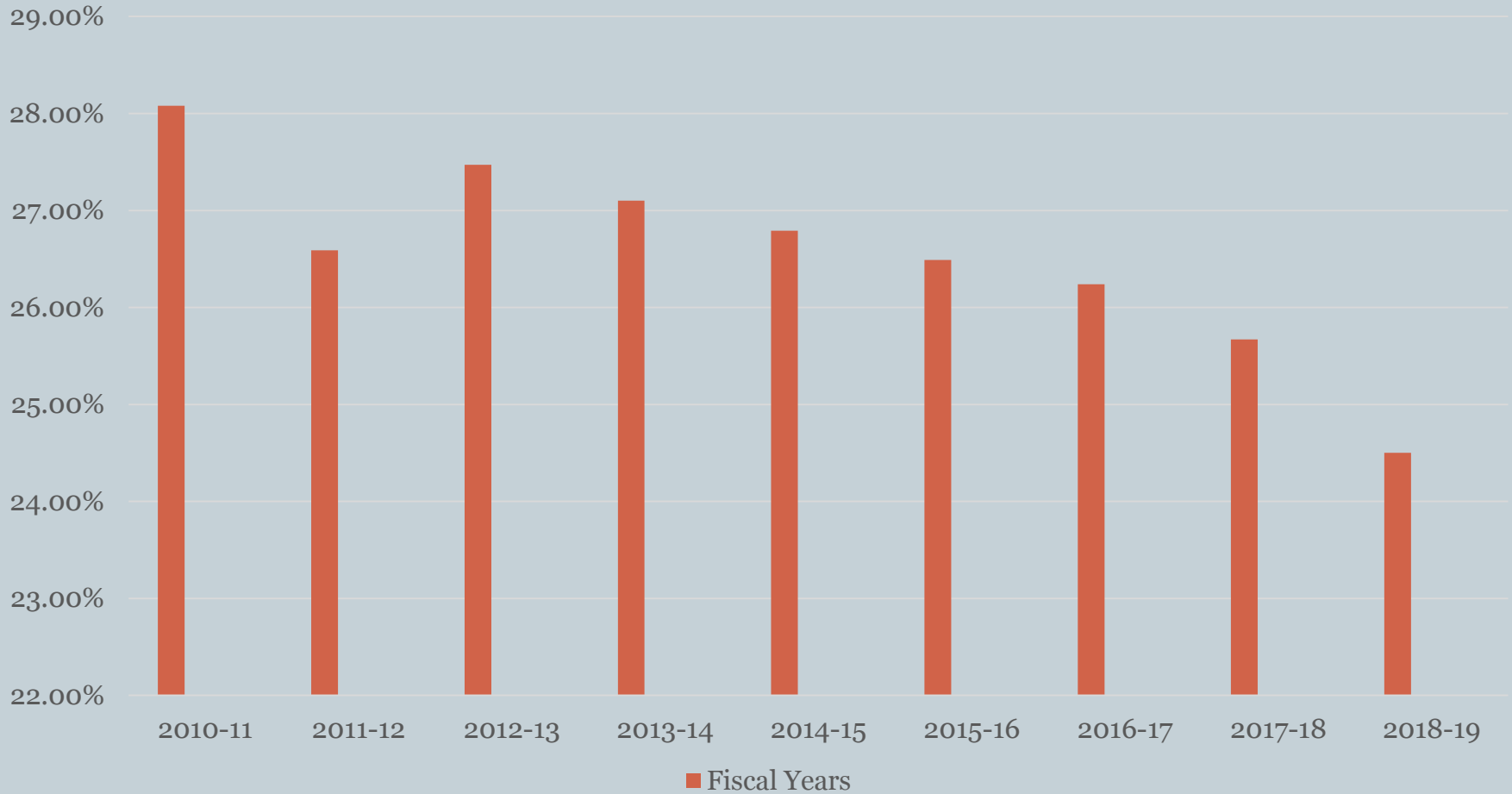


- State Equalization Aids continue to decrease.
- State Revenue Limits, drastically reduced in 2011-12, have not been restored to previous levels. In addition, there has been little adjustment to reflect inflationary costs and expanded expectations over the last five years.
- Alternative state per pupil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

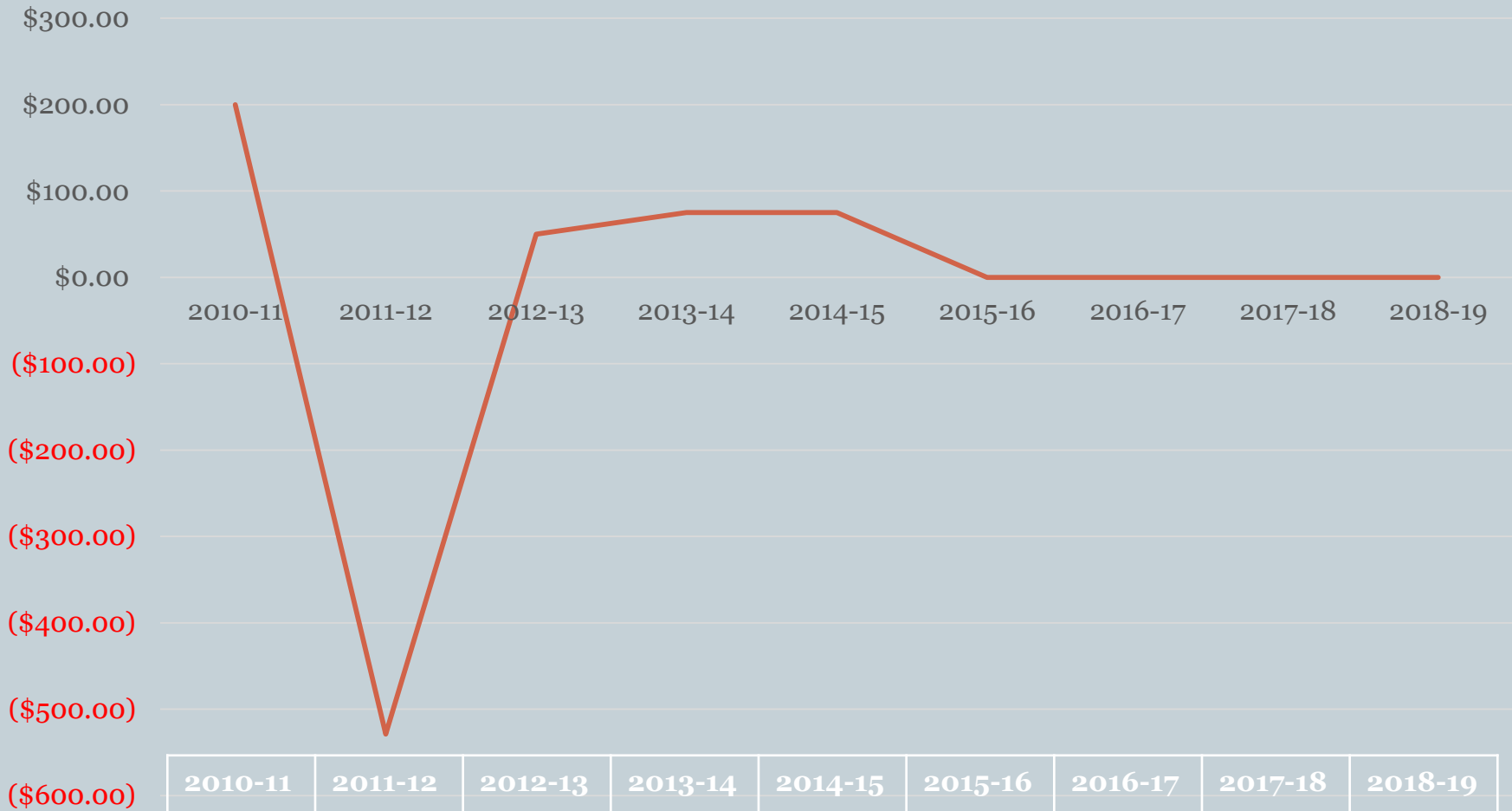
# State Aids



# Special Education Reimbursement Levels

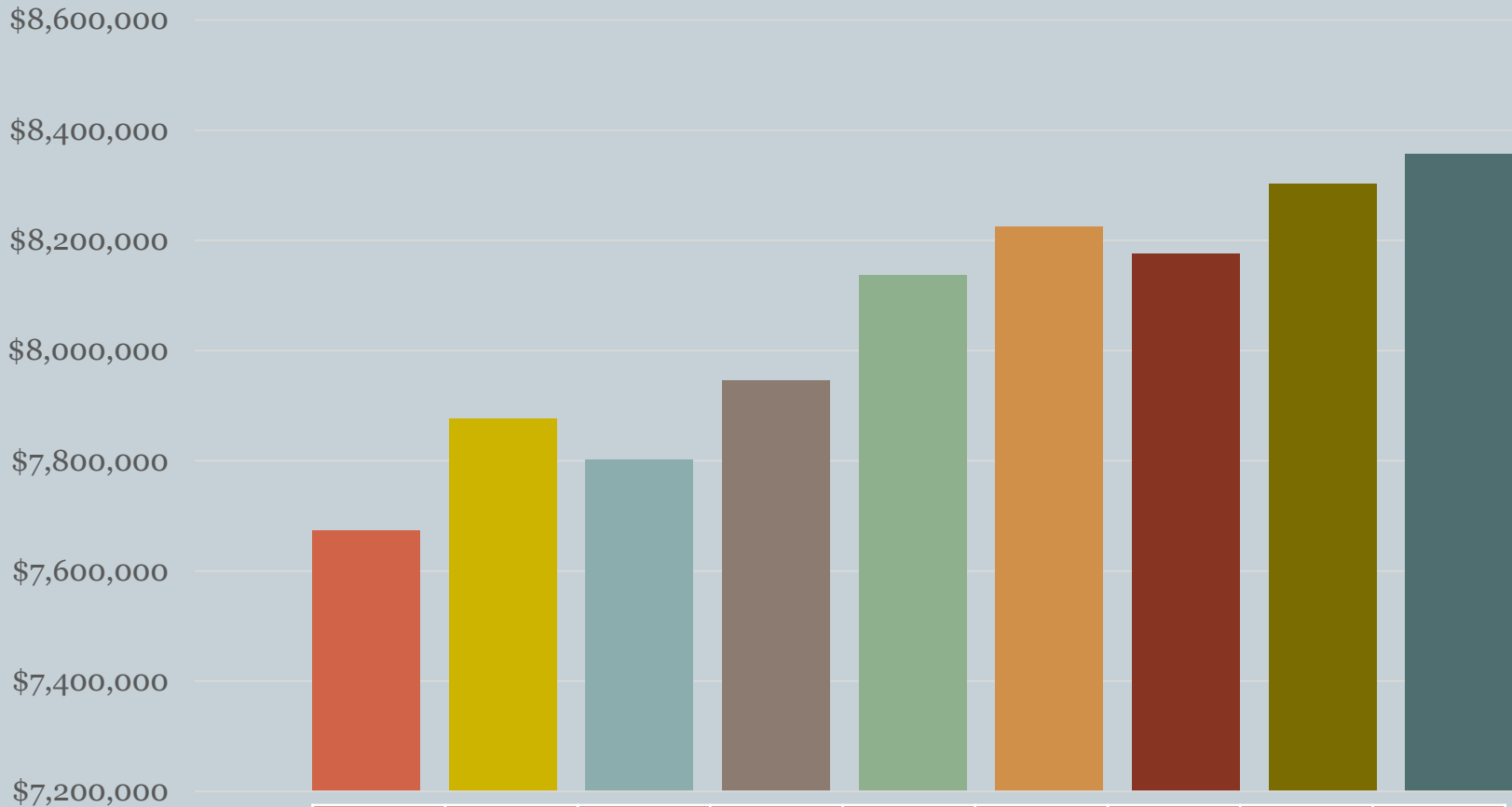


# Revenue Limit Adjustments



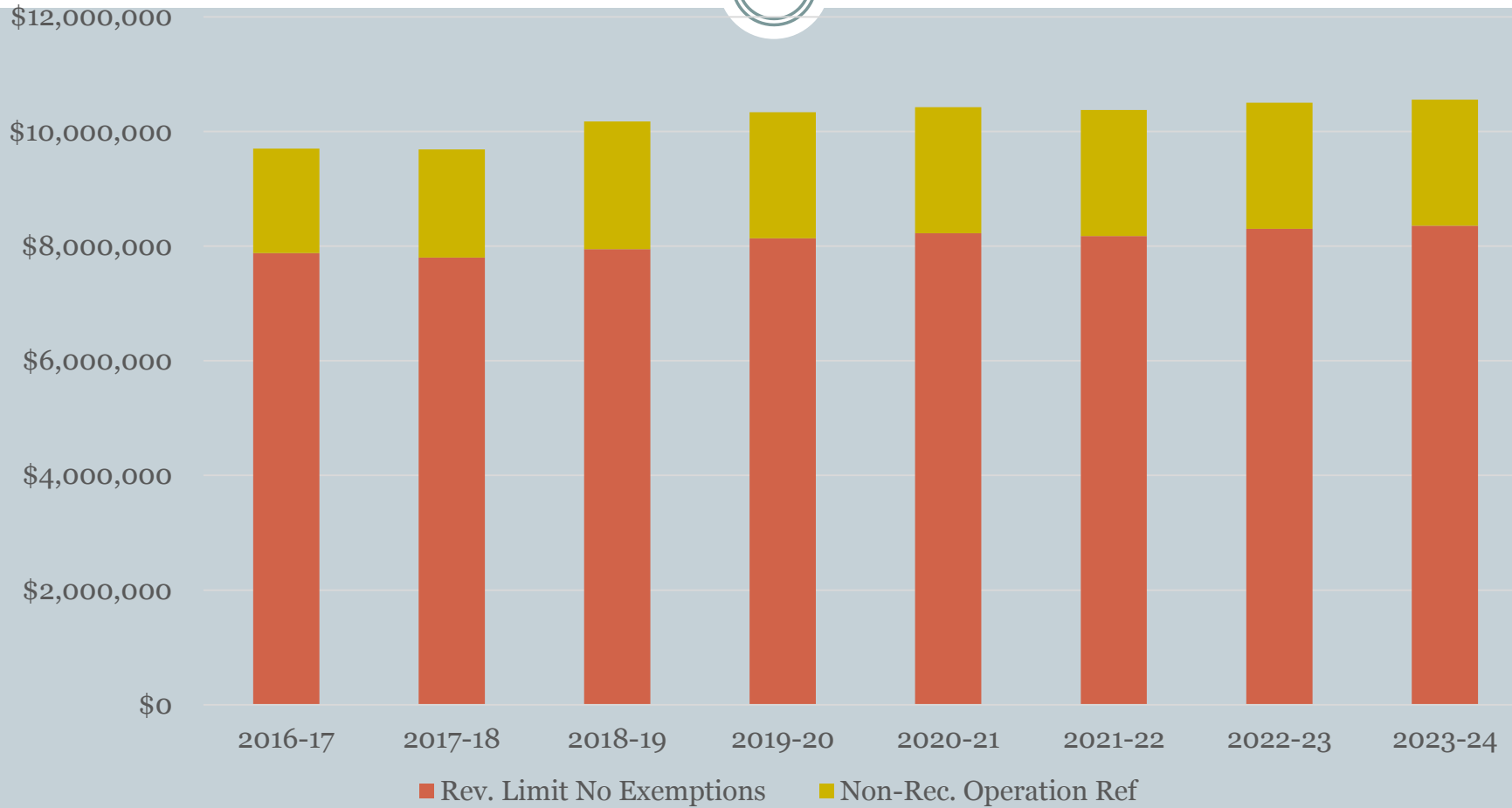
2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
\$200	-\$528.81	\$50	\$75	\$75	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

# Total School Based Tax Levy



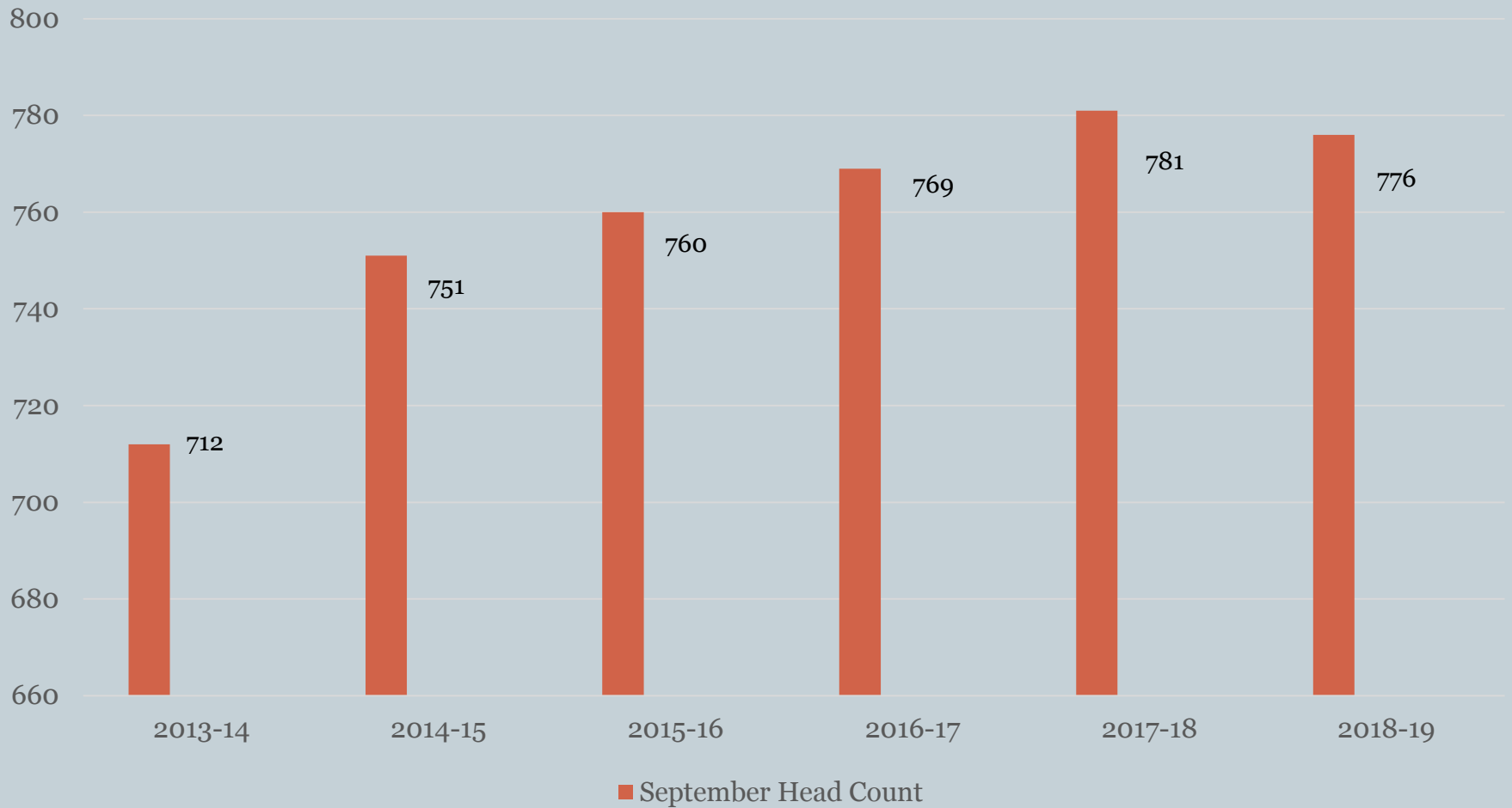
2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
7,674,282	7,876,671	7,801,075	7,946,520	8,136,886	8,224,768	8,176,178	8,302,944	8,356,247

# Revenue Limit Composition

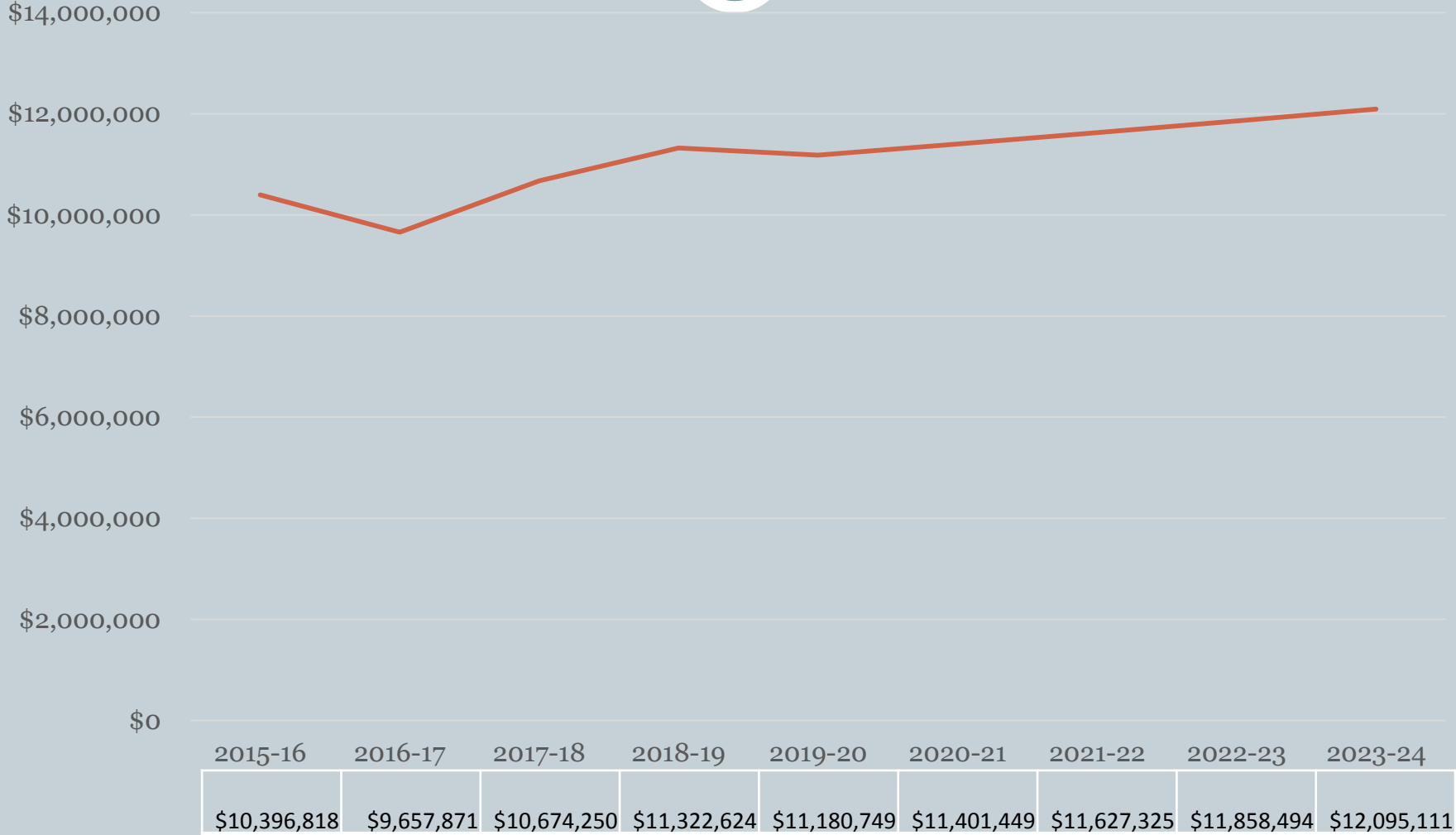


\$7,876,671	\$7,801,075	\$7,946,520	\$8,136,886	\$8,224,768	\$8,176,178	\$8,302,944	\$8,356,247
\$1,825,000	\$1,883,767	\$2,227,435	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000	\$2,200,000

# Student Enrollment Trends

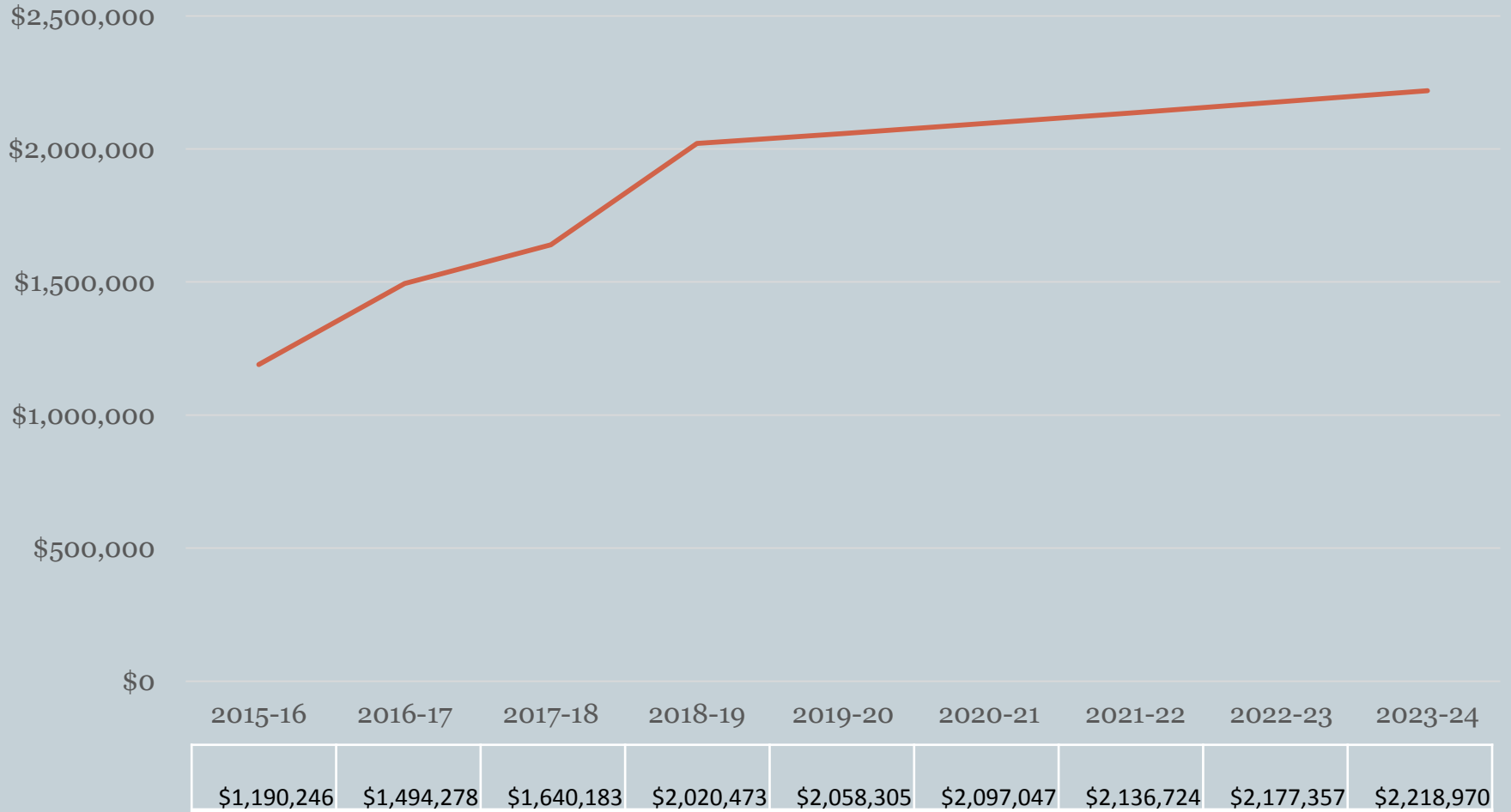


# GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

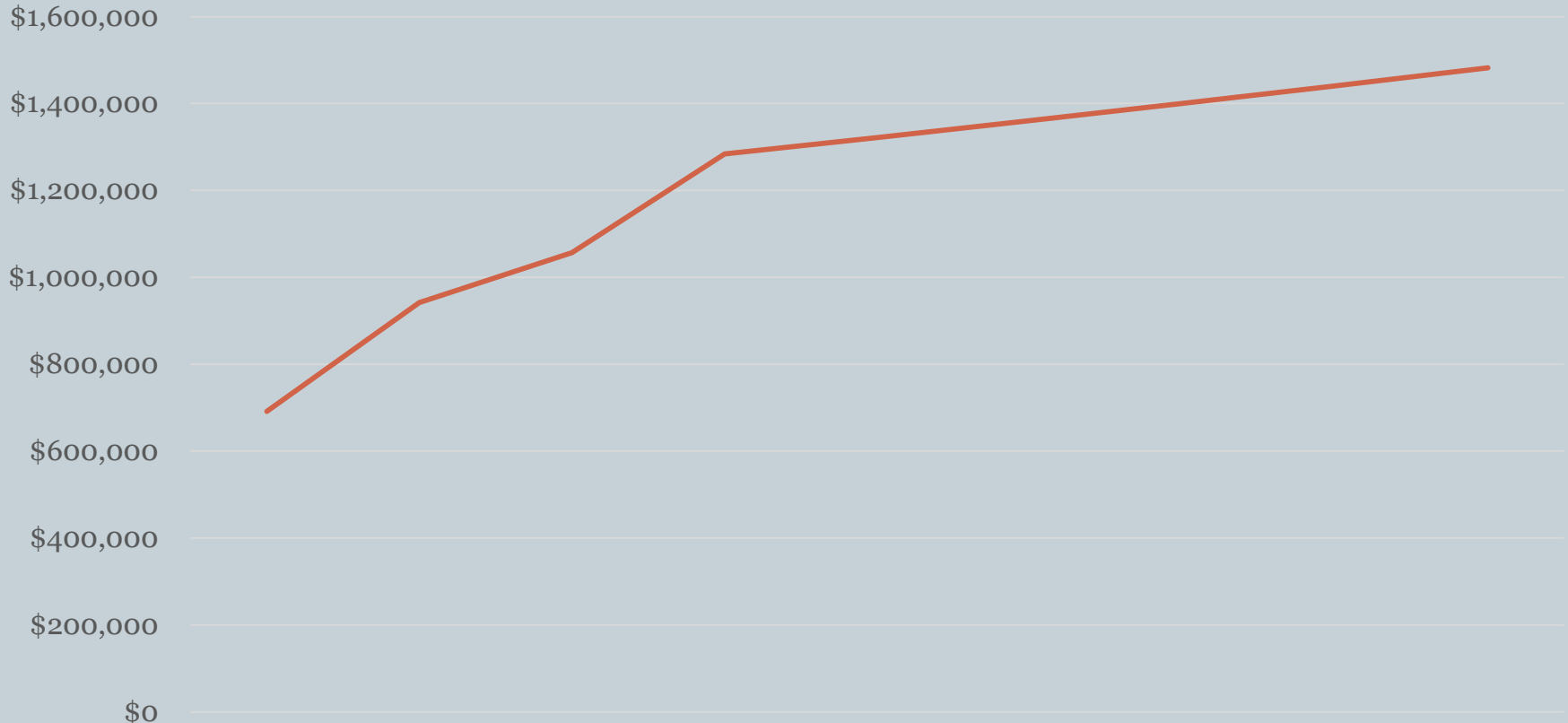




# SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENDITURES



# SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSFER AMOUNT



2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
\$691,637	\$942,107	\$1,056,533	\$1,283,820	\$1,321,652	\$1,360,395	\$1,400,017	\$1,440,704	\$1,482,317

# Referendum Funds are Needed to...



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

# Referendum Funds are Needed to...



- Recruit and retain quality staff members in an increasingly competitive job market.
- Provide high level academic and career plan programs for our students.
- Ensure our facilities and operations support best practices in school safety.

# Operational Referendums – Wisconsin Heights



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

Five 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)
- 2017-2019: \$4,111,202 (\$1,883,767 & \$2,227,435)

# April 2019 Referendum Request



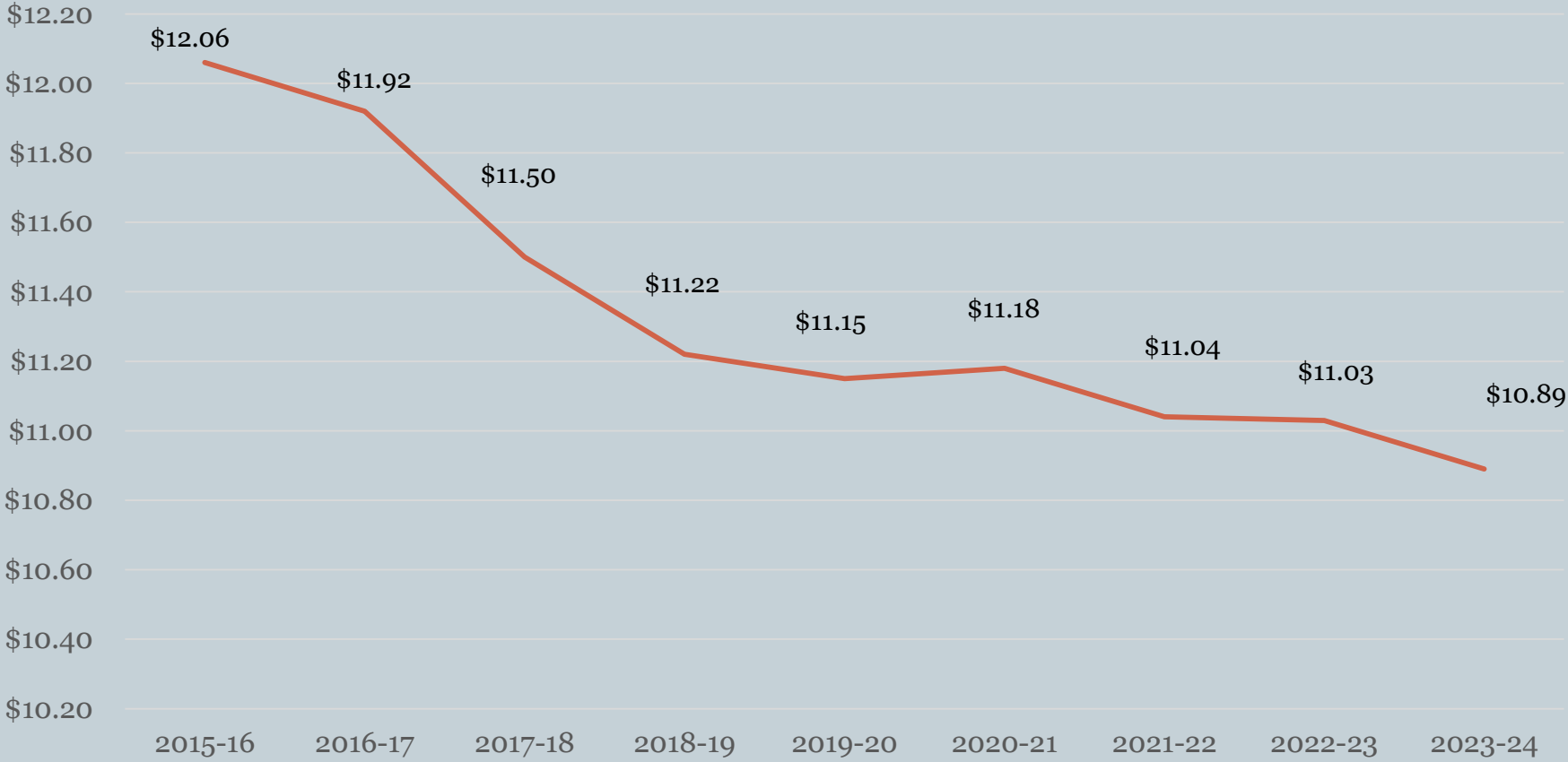
Our referendum requests that the school district can exceed the state mandated revenue limits by:

- 2019-20    \$2,200,000
- 2020-21    \$2,200,000
- 2021-22    \$2,200,000
- 2022-23    \$2,200,000
- 2023-24    \$2,200,000
- TOTAL    \$11,000,000

# MILL RATE



Per \$1000 of property



# Why Five Years?



- Save on administrative and election related costs associated with running a referendum.
- Provides needed time to study facility operations and planning.
- Provides stability for the school district and community as we budget for the next five years.
- Projected tax impacts are lower for community than they have been since 2012-13 school year.



# Why Five Years?



- Our next operational referendum question (for the 24-25 school year) would not be at the end of the state budget cycle. This allows for better estimates on state funding.
- Future Search consensus was . . .
- School Perceptions Feedback from community was . .

# 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

- **Vote on April 2, 2019**

- **QUESTIONS?**