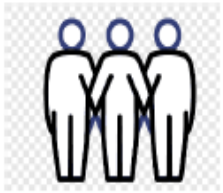
Public Education Policy & Funding 2026-2027

FY 25-26 Commissioners' Strategic Plan



FOCUS AREA 1: COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT

To invest in cultural capital and advancement strategies that promote participative governance that elevates a community to live, work and play – while also positioning Burke County as a community of choice.



FOCUS AREA 2: ECONOMIC GROWTH & SUSTAINMENT

Promotion of Burke County as a business and economic center in the region through recruitment of new industry, creating a healthy business climate for existing businesses.



FOCUS AREA 3: PUBLIC SAFETY& WELL BEING

To ensure the safety of our residents through efficient and effective public safety agencies.



FOCUS AREA 4: FISCAL STEWARDSHIP

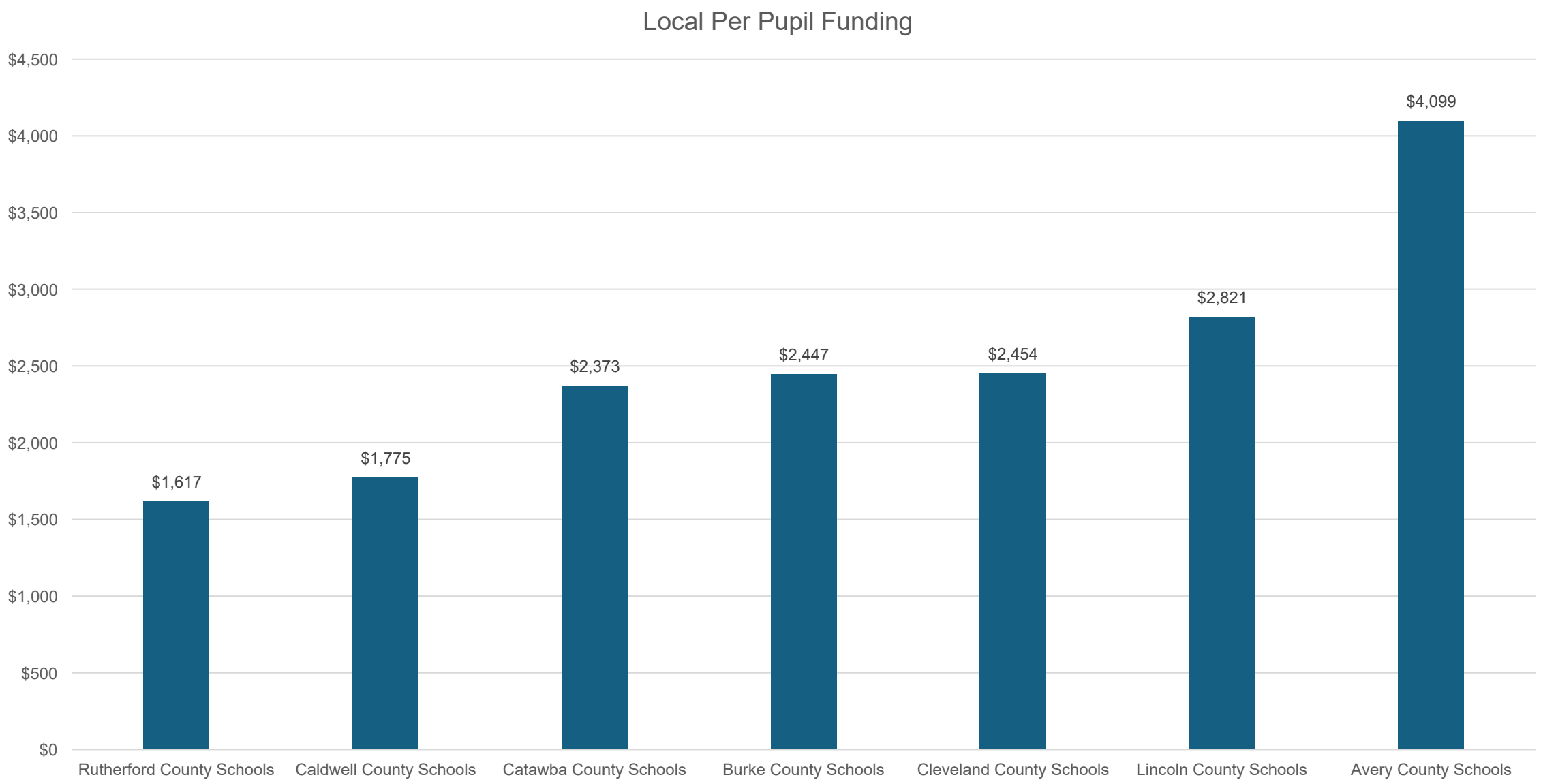
Pursuit of the high-performing organization model that ensures high quality, transparent and efficient use of public resources.



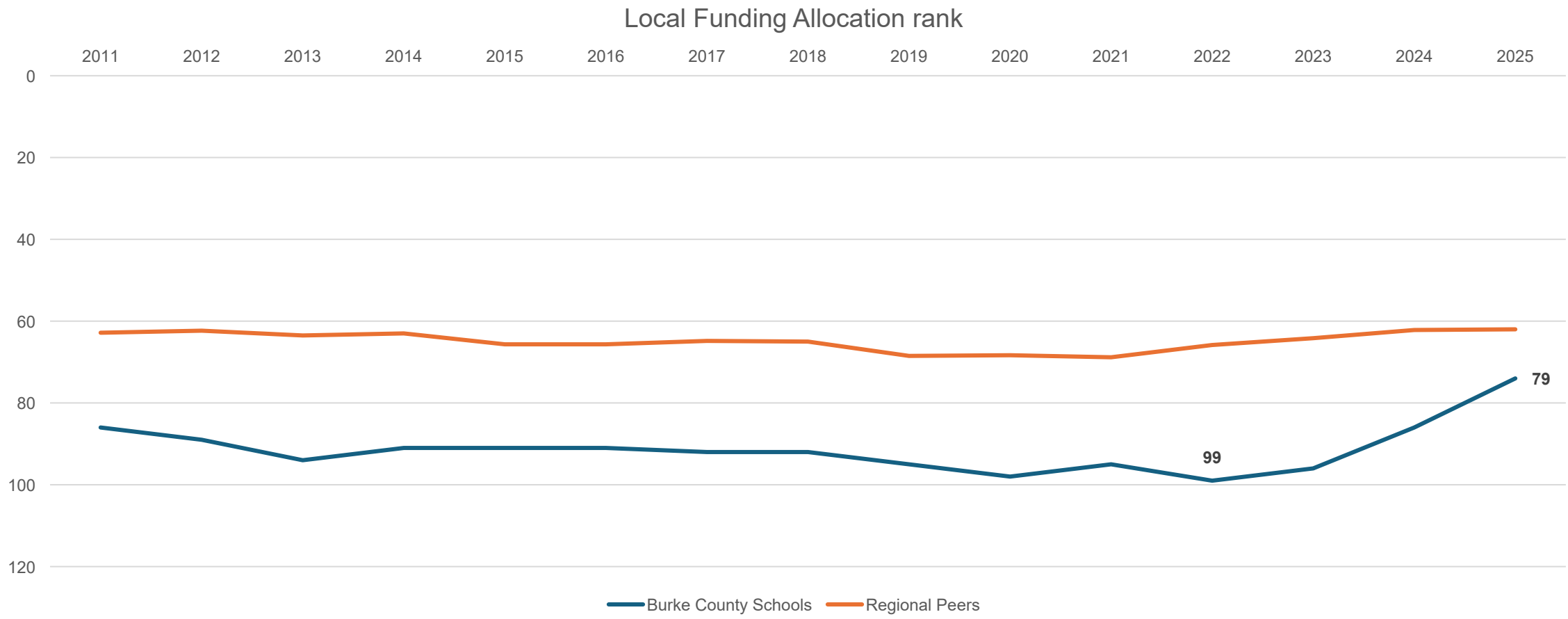
FOCUS AREA 5: EMPLOYER OF CHOICE

To promote a professional value-based employee centric workplace that promotes innovation, performance, and integrity, and differentiation.

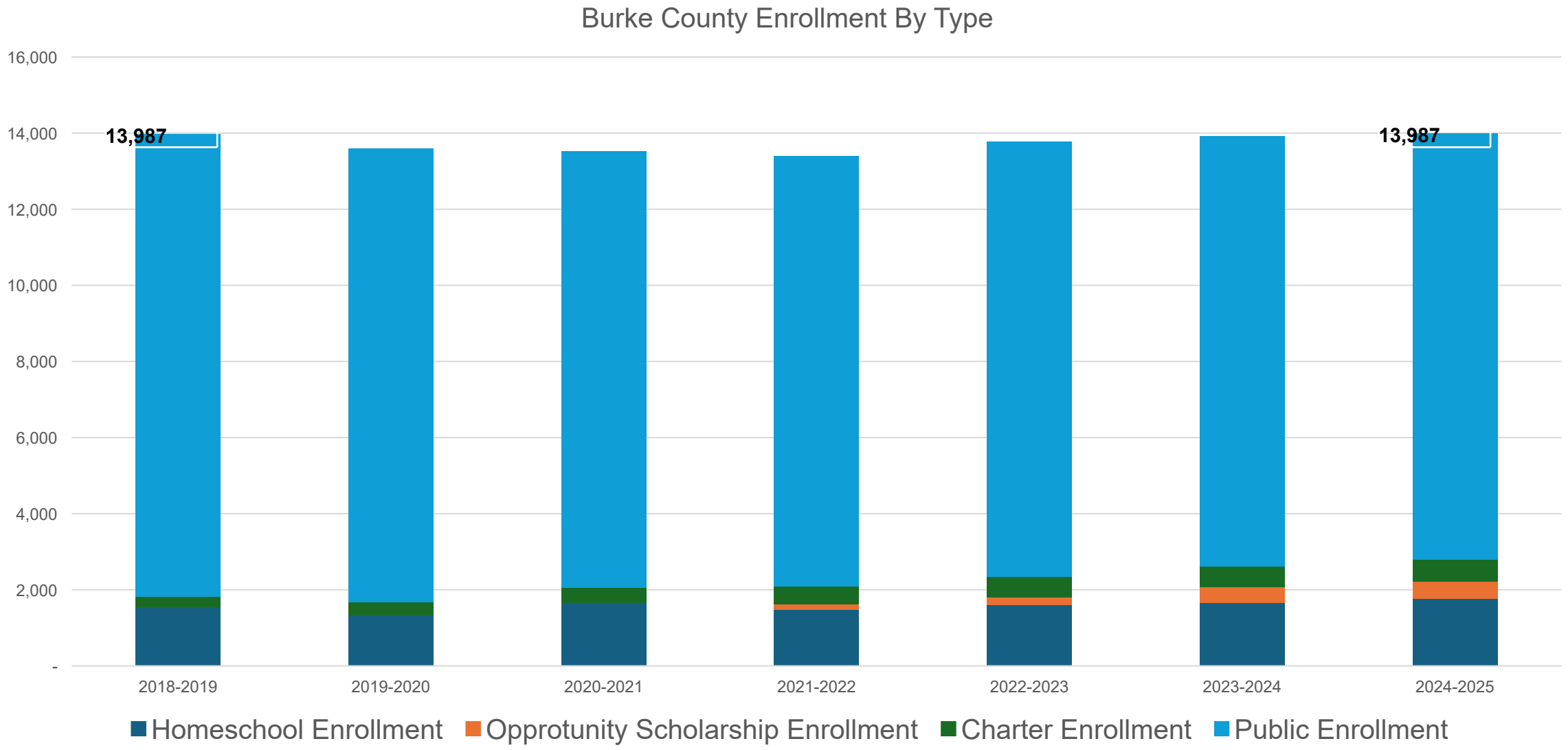
BURKECOUNTY
ALL ABOUT ADVANCING


Local Per Pupil Funding
$4,500
$4,000
$3,500
$3,000
$2,500
$2,000
$1,500
$1,000
$500
$0
$1,617
$1,775
$2,373
$2,447
$2,454
$2,821
$4,099
Rutherford County Schools
Caldwell County Schools
Catawba County Schools
Burke County Schools
Cleveland County Schools
Lincoln County Schools
Avery County Schools

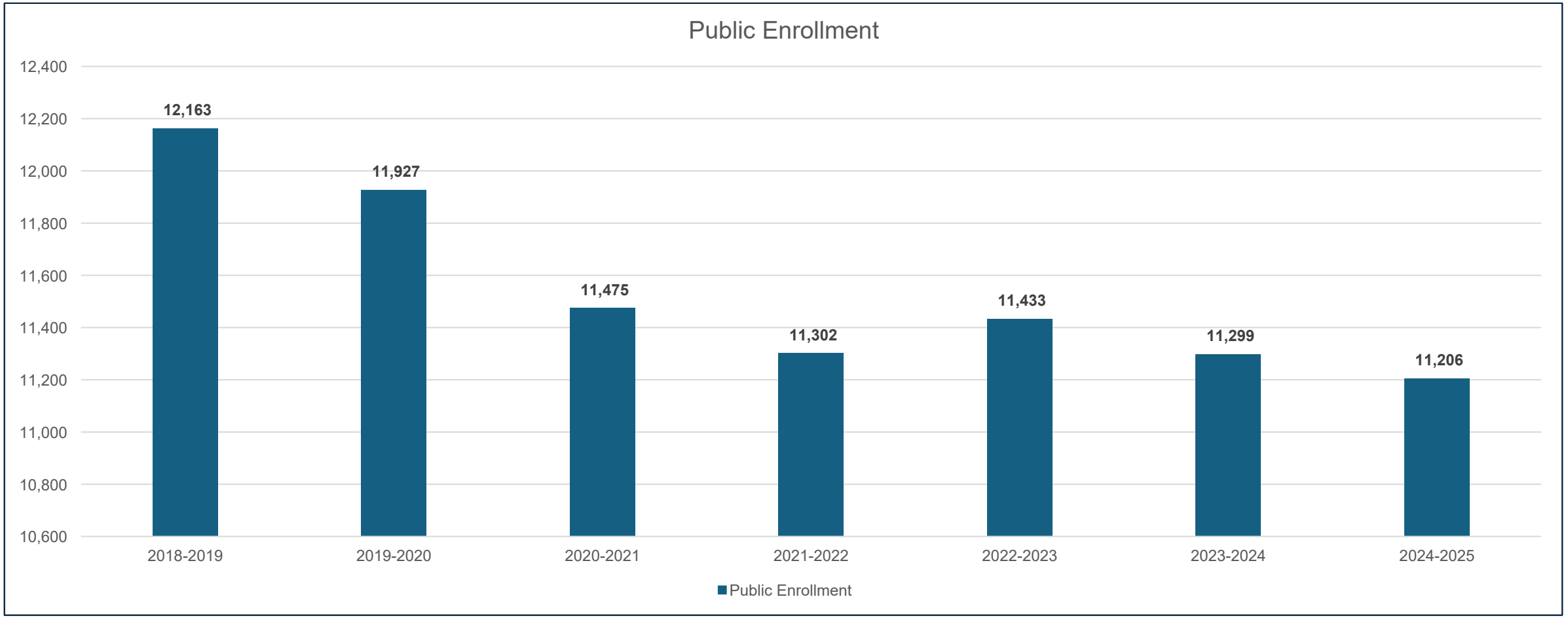
Local Funding Progress



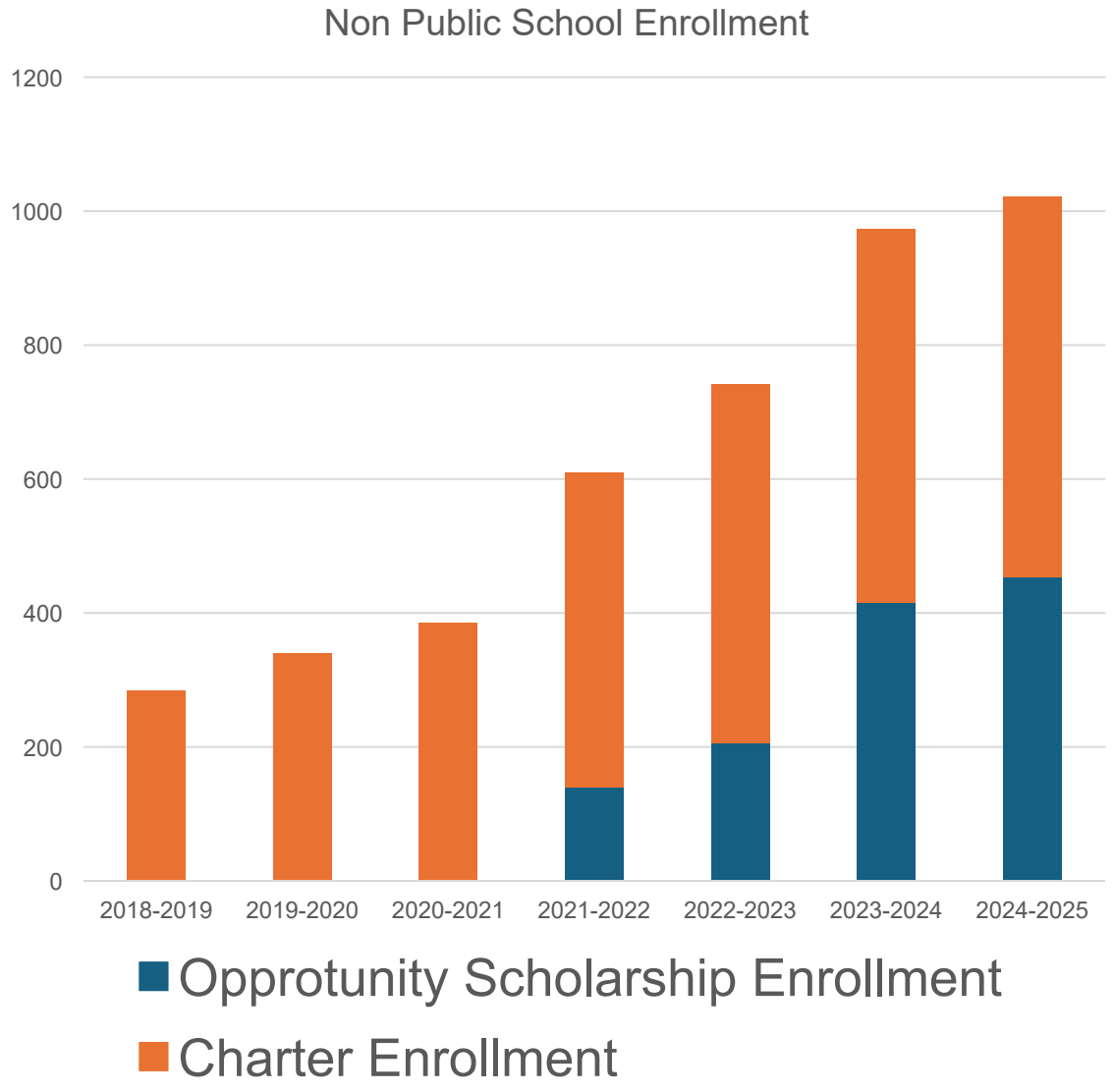
All Educational Enrollment



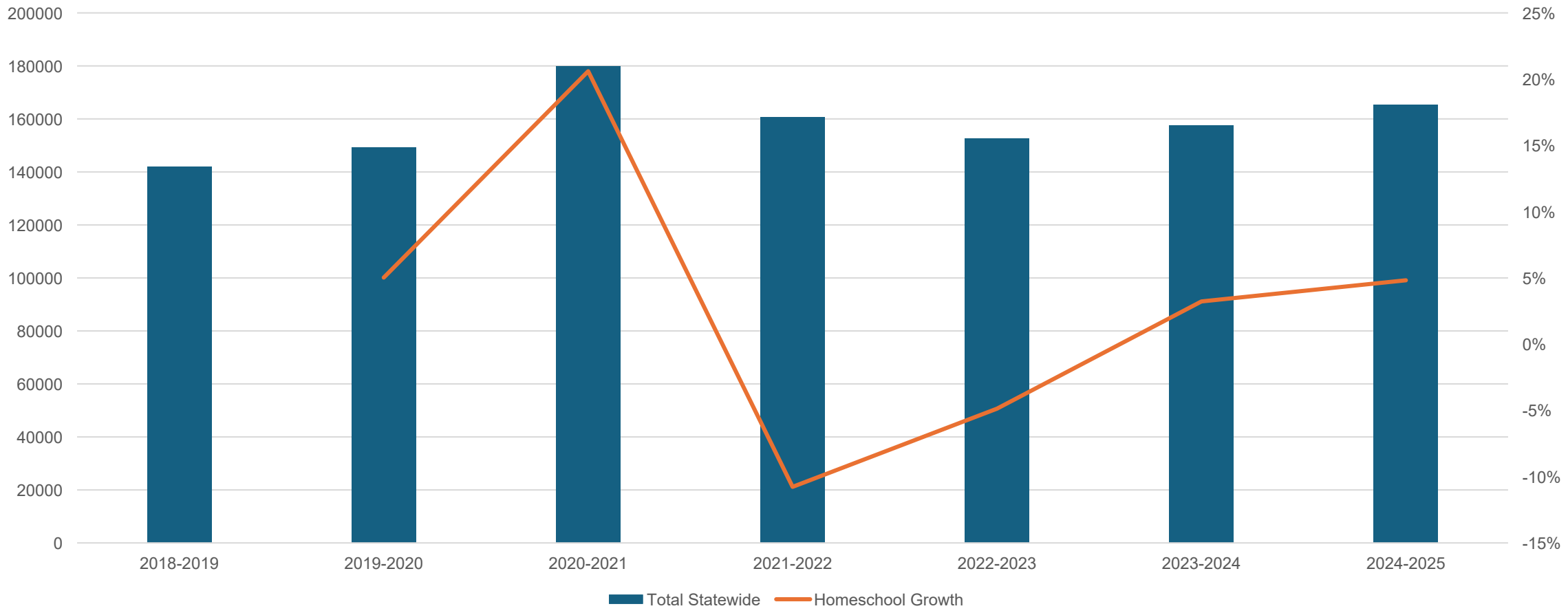
Public School Enrollment



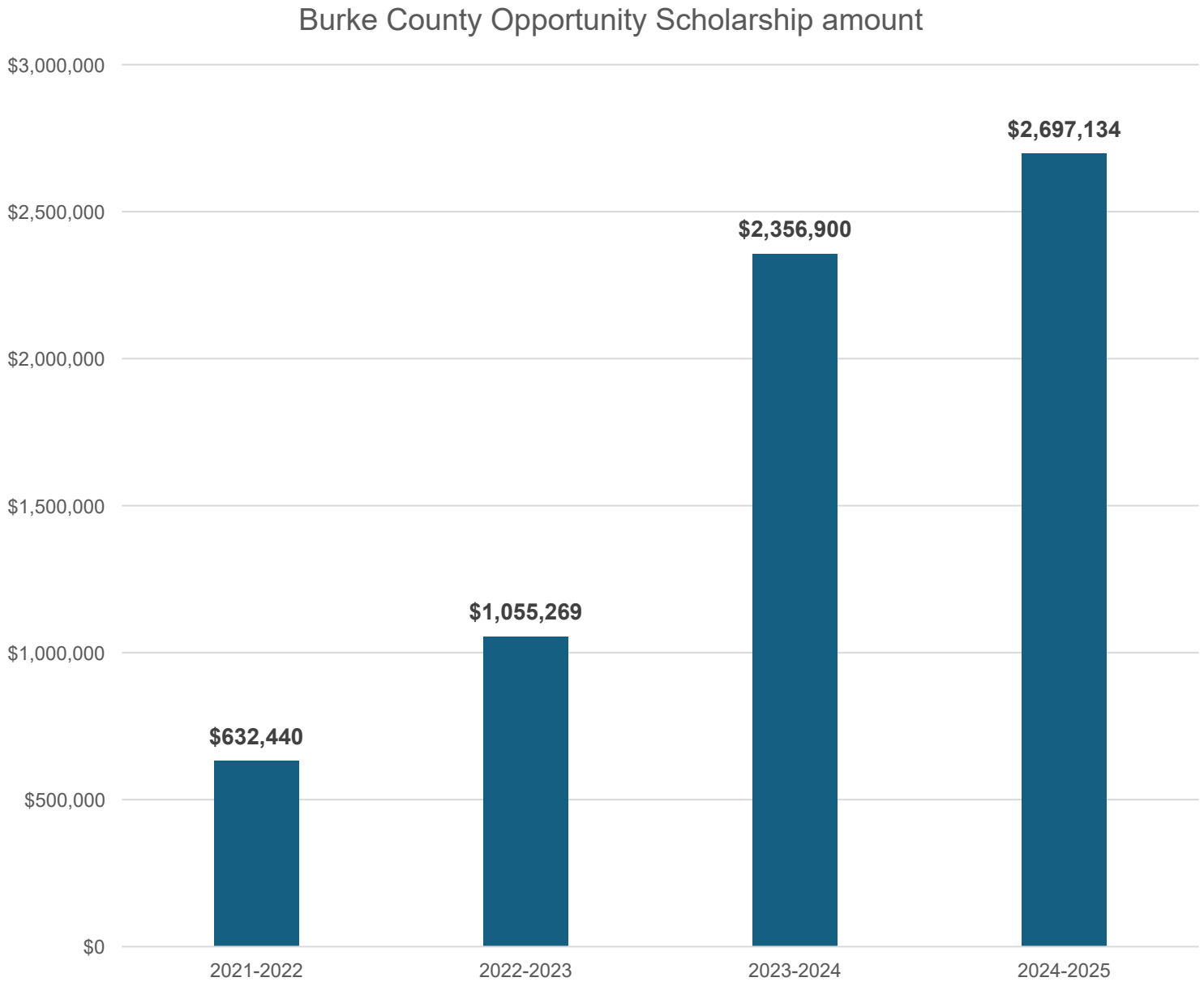
Non-Public Enrollment



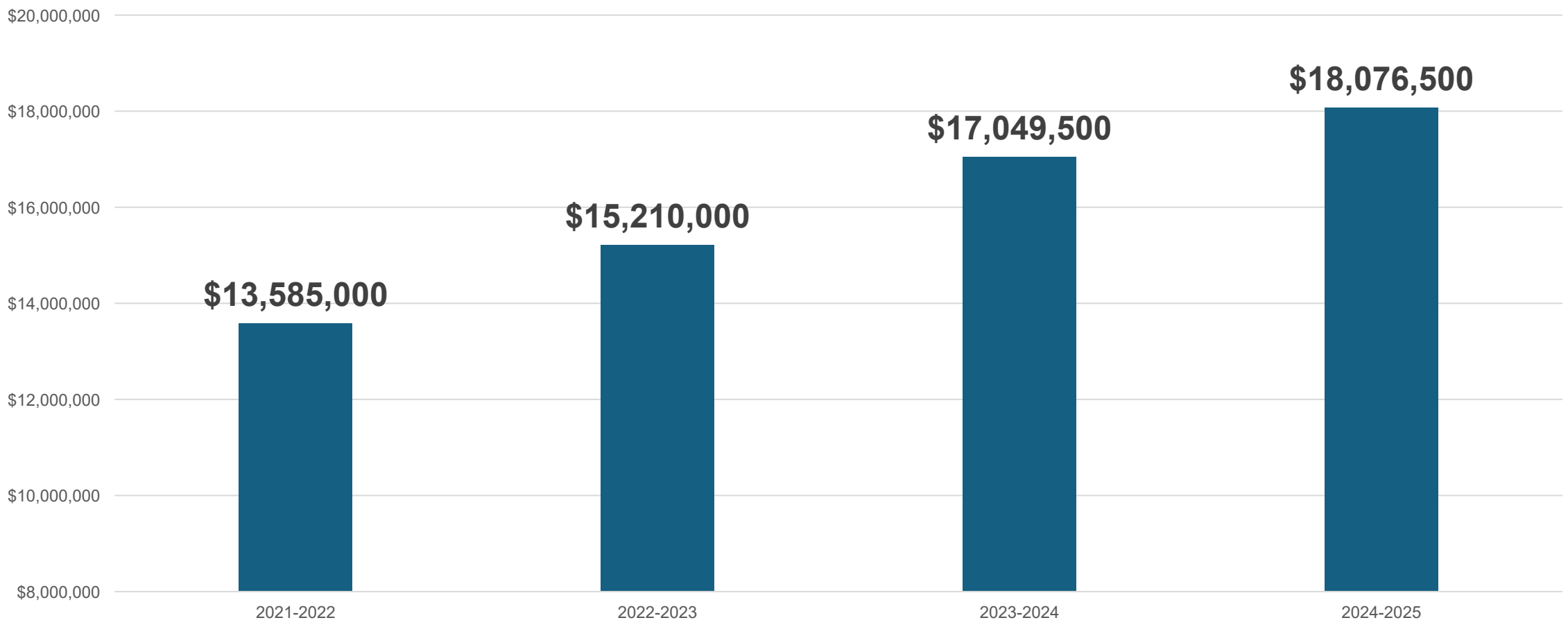
Statewide Homeschool Trends



Opportunity Scholarship Impact



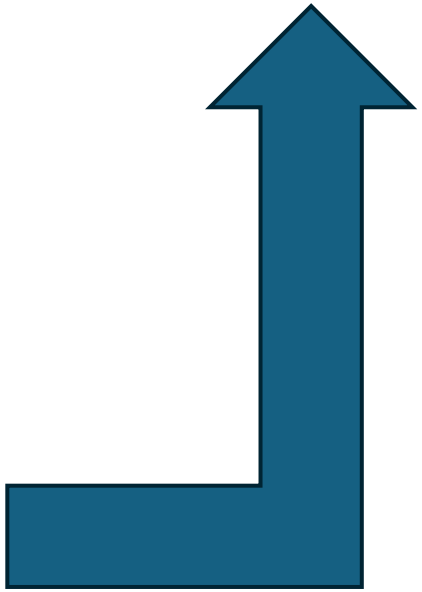
Total Revenue Diversion



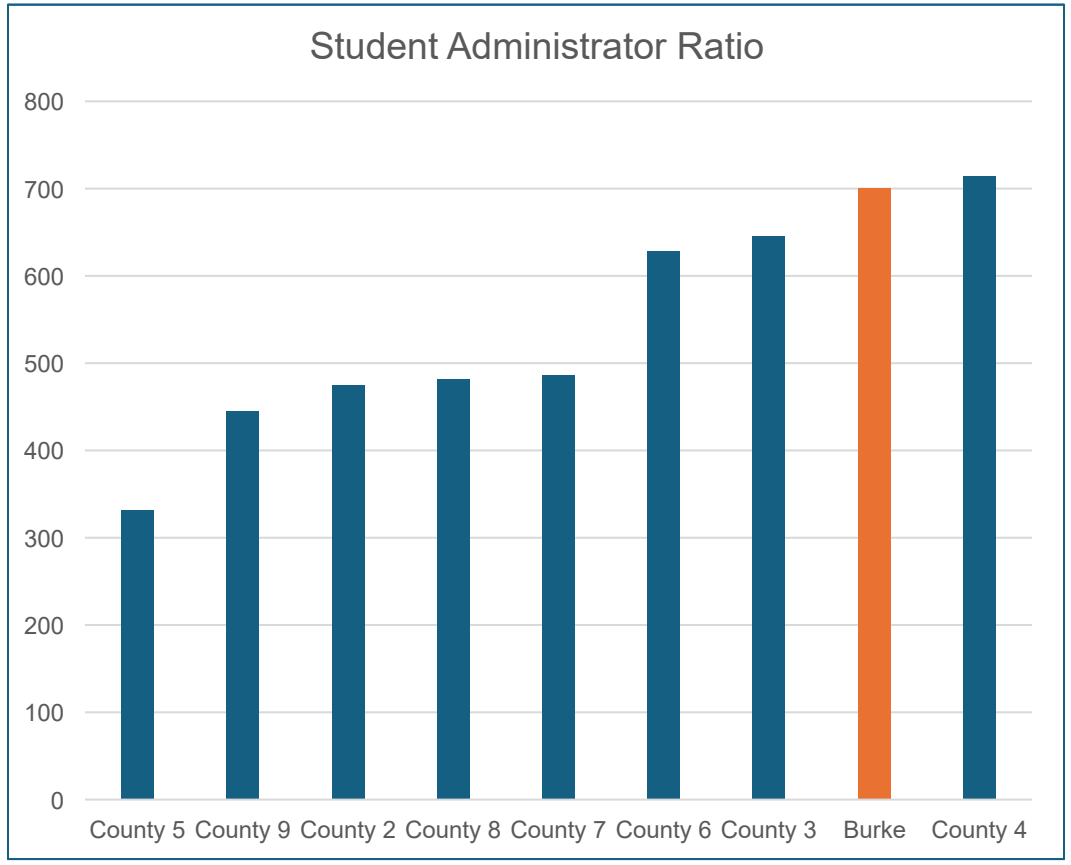
Alternative Schooling Funding Impact

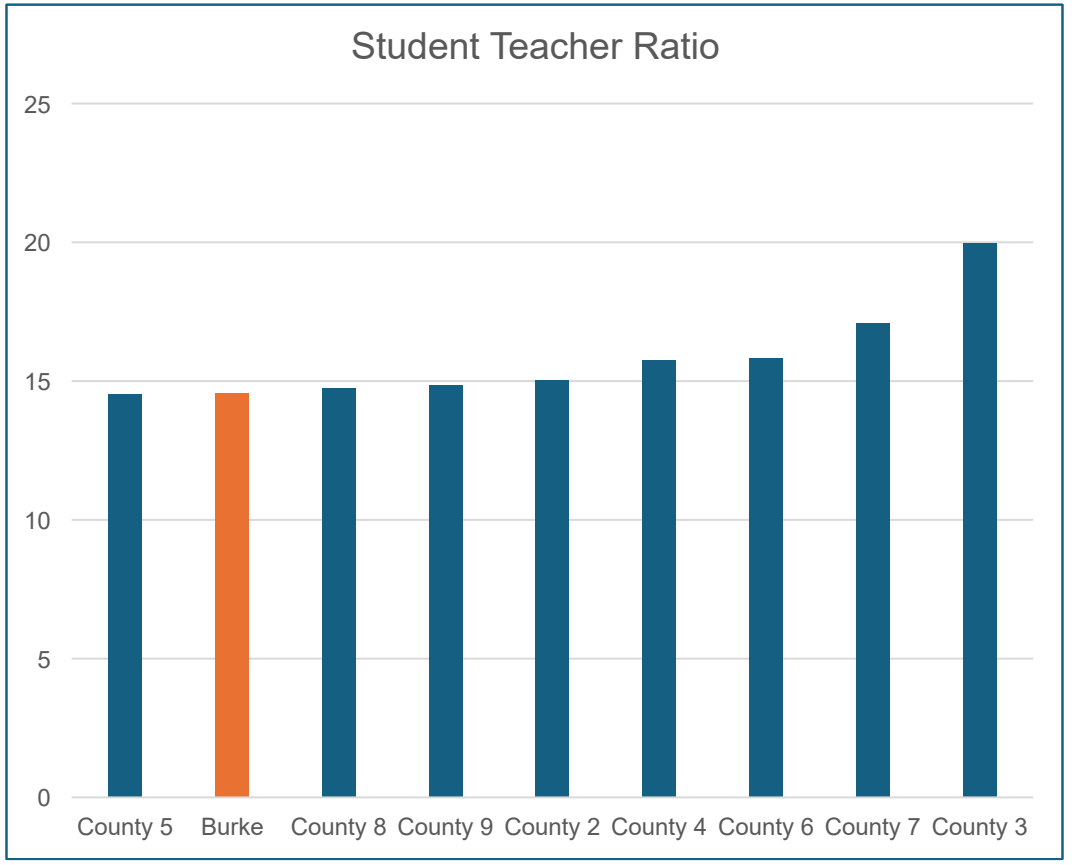
	2018	2025	Change	Budget Impact	5 year impact	Teacher Funding Equivalent
Burke Public Schools ADM	12,163	11,206	(957)	($12,441,000)	($62,205,000)	(888)

Non-Traditional School Change 2018-2025	
Private School Growth	453
Homeschool growth	220
Charter Growth	284
Total	957

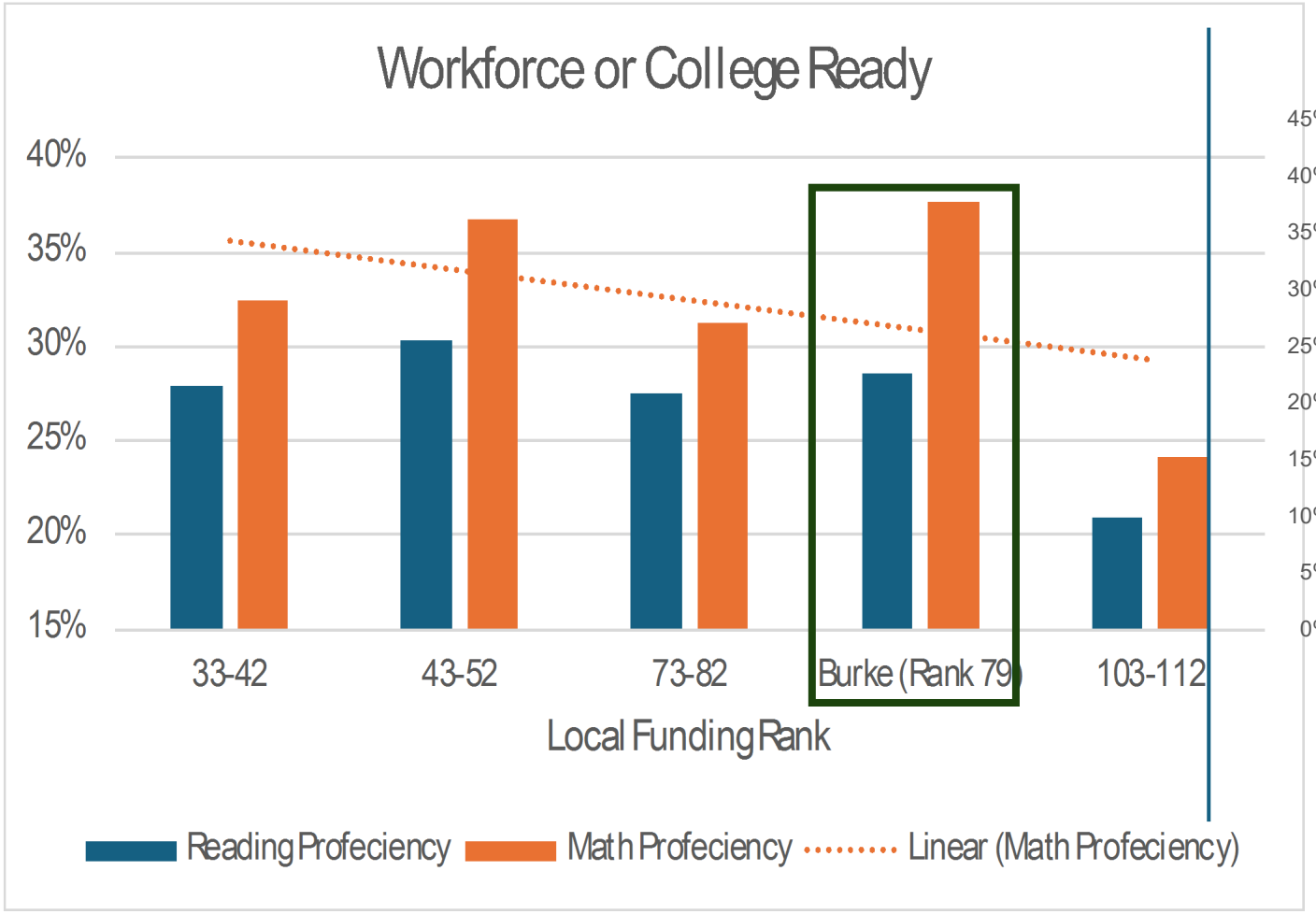


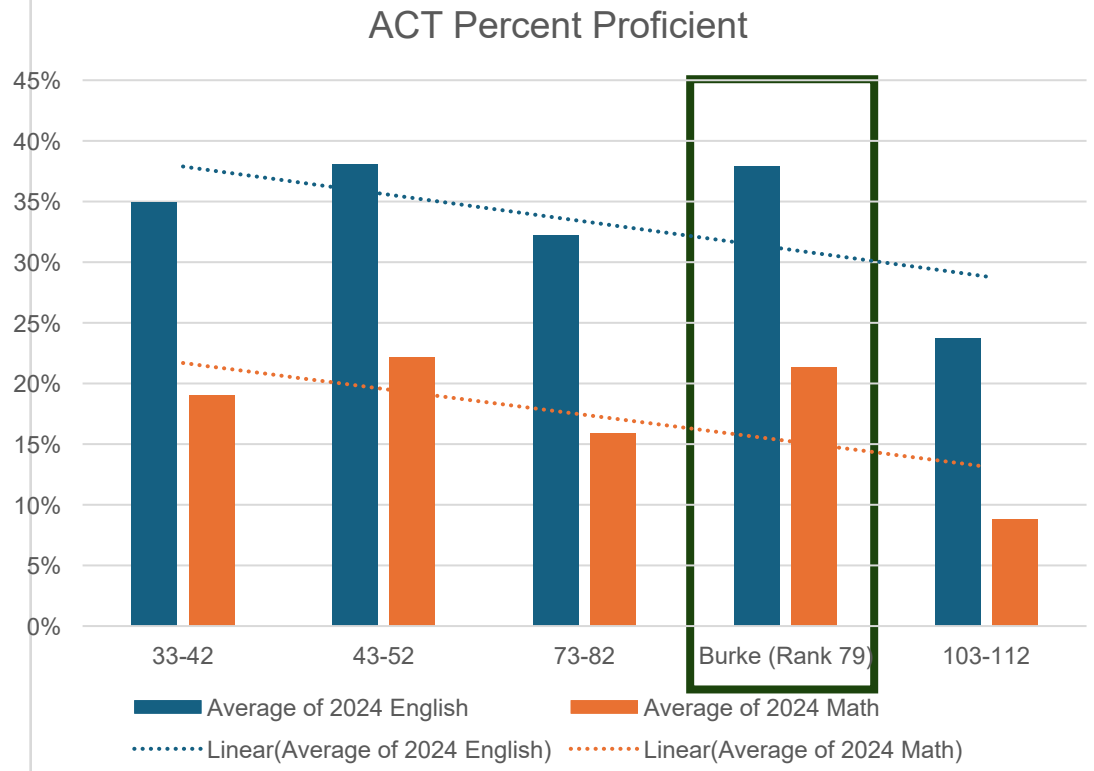
Funding Teachers First





Focus on Results





FY 26-27 Deficit Summary

Here is the language sent to DPI on Monday (June 30) by the U.S. Department of Education on the federal funding that is being withheld: “Given the change in Administrations, the Department is reviewing the FY 2025 funding for the [Title I-C, II-A, III-A, IV-A, IV-B] grant program(s), and decisions have not yet been made concerning submissions and awards for this upcoming academic year. Accordingly, the Department will not be issuing Grant Award Notifications obligating funds for these programs on July 1 prior to completing that review. The Department remains committed to ensuring taxpayer resources are spent in accordance

Deficit Summary	
Average Daily Membership Decline	$1,612,090
State Revenue Decline of 2.5%	$2,755,656
SNP Indirect Cost	$201,000
Title 2 Funding	$409,306
Title 3 Funding	$162,786
Title 4 Funding	$415,520
Total Funding Loss	**$5,556,358**
Expected Cost Increases	
2% COLA	$130,640
5% Health Insurance	$142,219
Inflation 2.7%	$213,278
Total Cost Increases	**$486,137**

Federal Funding Overview: Titles II, III & IV (NC Schools)

- **Title II – Supporting Effective Instruction**
- **Purpose:** Strengthen teachers and school leaders
  Used For:
  - Professional development
  - Instructional coaching
  - Class size reduction
  - Principal leadership support

Federal Funding Overview: Titles II, III & IV (NC Schools)

- **Title III – English Learner Support**
- **Purpose:** Support students learning English
  Used For:
  - ESL teachers & tutoring
  - Language development materials
  - Translation & family engagement services

Federal Funding Overview: Titles II, III & IV (NC Schools)

- **Title IV – Student Support & Enrichment**
- **Purpose:** Support the “whole child”
  Used For:
  - Arts, STEM, civics programs
  - School safety & mental health
  - Educational technology

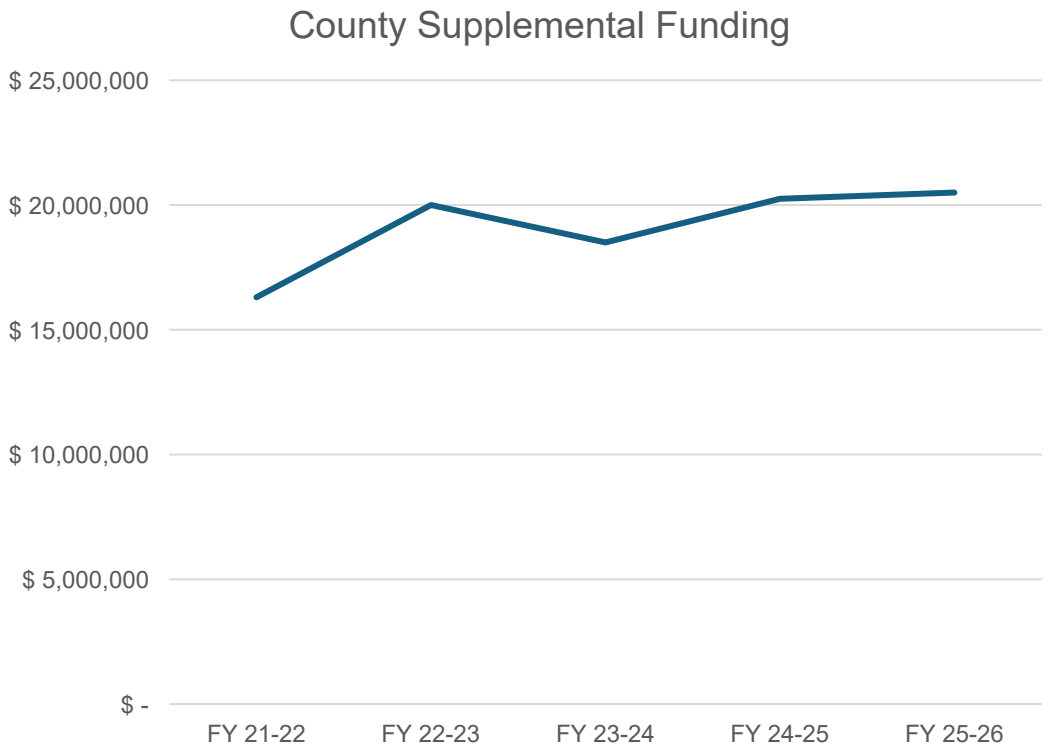
Funding Shortfall Consideration

Item	Amount
Projected Budget Shortfall	$4,600,000
Strategic Administrative reduction	$3,100,000
School Fund Balance Appropriation*	$750,000
County Funding Request	$750,000

*Current School Fund Balance is $2,500,000
*FY-26-27 could reinstate low wealth funding

Consideration Strategies

- School Health Nursing……TBD
- Increased Operational allotment.….TBD



Commissioner Direction and Questions