



Budget Briefing: School Aid

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Briefing Topics

- Funding Sources
- Appropriation Areas
- Major Budget Topics
 - School Aid Fund Revenues
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 - Special Education Funding
 - Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPERS)
 - At-Risk Program
 - Early Childhood
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School Aid

The School Aid Budget pays for the operations of public schools to “maintain and support a system of free public elementary and secondary schools as defined by law” as required by the Michigan Constitution.

- The School Aid budget makes appropriations to 541 local school districts, 300 public school academies, and 56 intermediate school districts (ISDs) for operations and certain categorical programs.
- It also provides funds to the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI), the Talent and Economic Development Department, and other entities to implement certain grants and other programs related to K-12 education.

Key Budget Terms

Fiscal Year: The state's fiscal year (FY) runs from October to September. FY 2016-17 is October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017.

Appropriation: Authority to expend funds. An appropriation is not a mandate to spend. Constitutionally, state funds cannot be expended without an appropriation by the Legislature.

Line Item: Specific appropriation amount in a budget bill which establishes spending authorization for a particular program or function.

Boilerplate: Specific language sections in a budget bill which direct, limit, or restrict line item expenditures, express legislative intent, and/or require reports.

Lapse: Appropriated amounts that are unspent or unobligated at the end of a fiscal year. Appropriations are automatically terminated at the end of a fiscal year unless designated as a multi-year work project under a statutory process. Lapsed funds are available for expenditure in the subsequent fiscal year.

Note: Unless otherwise indicated, historical budget figures in this presentation have not been adjusted for inflation.

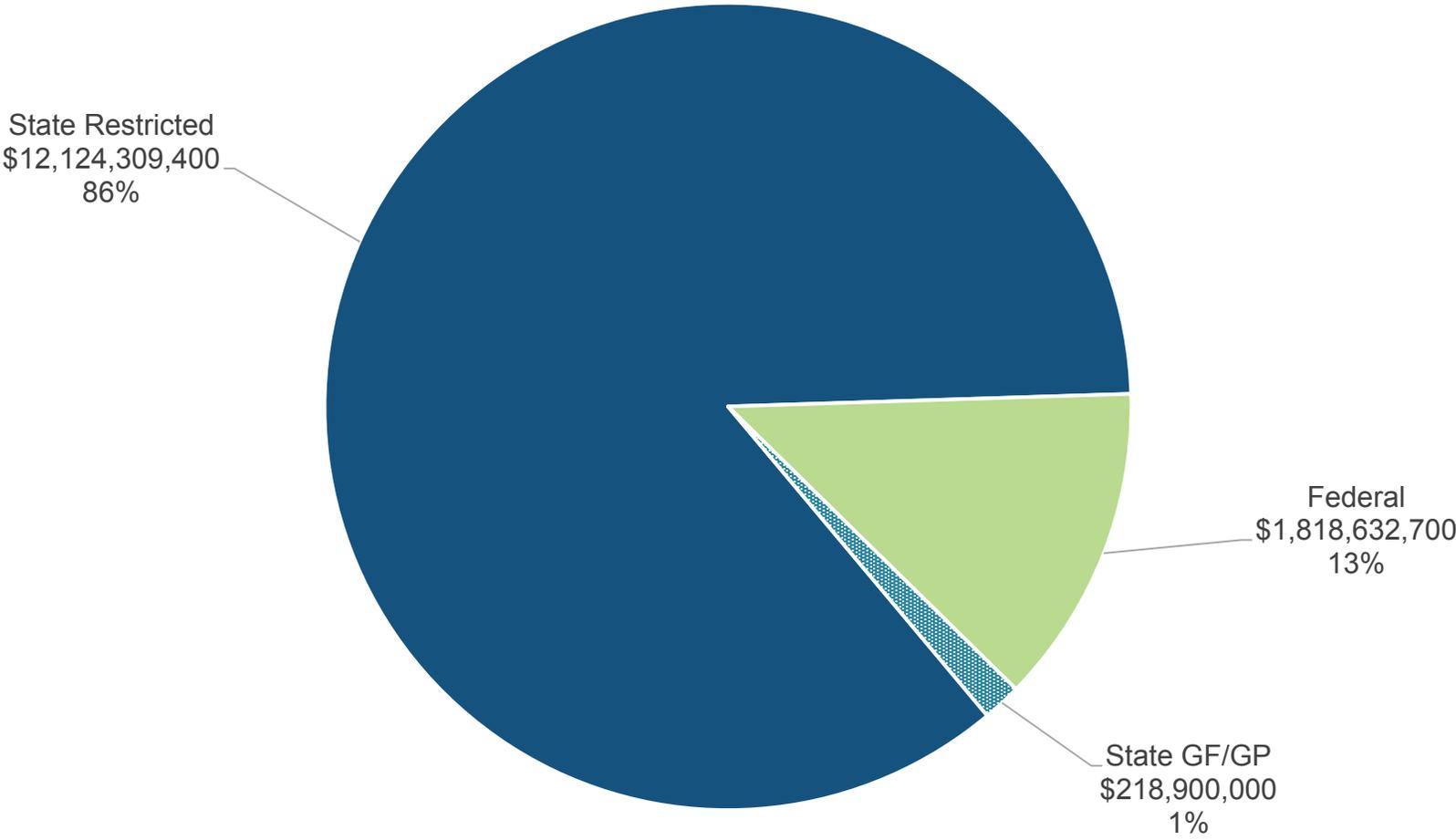
Funding Sources

FY 2016-17 School Aid Budget

Fund Source	Funding	Description
Gross Appropriations	\$14,161,842,100	Total spending authority from all revenue sources
Interdepartmental Grants (IDG) Revenue	0	Funds received by one state department from another state department, usually for services provided
Adjusted Gross Appropriations	\$14,161,842,100	Gross appropriations excluding IDGs; avoids double counting when adding appropriation amounts across budget areas
Federal Revenue	1,818,632,700	Federal grant or matching revenue; generally dedicated to specific programs or purposes
Local Revenue	0	Revenue received from local units of government for state services
Private Revenue	0	Revenue from individuals and private entities, including payments for services, grants, and other contributions
State Restricted Revenue	12,124,309,400	State revenue restricted by the State Constitution, state statute, or outside restriction that is available only for specified purposes; includes most fee revenue
State General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP) Revenue	\$218,900,000	Unrestricted revenue from taxes and other sources available to fund basic state programs and other purposes determined by the Legislature

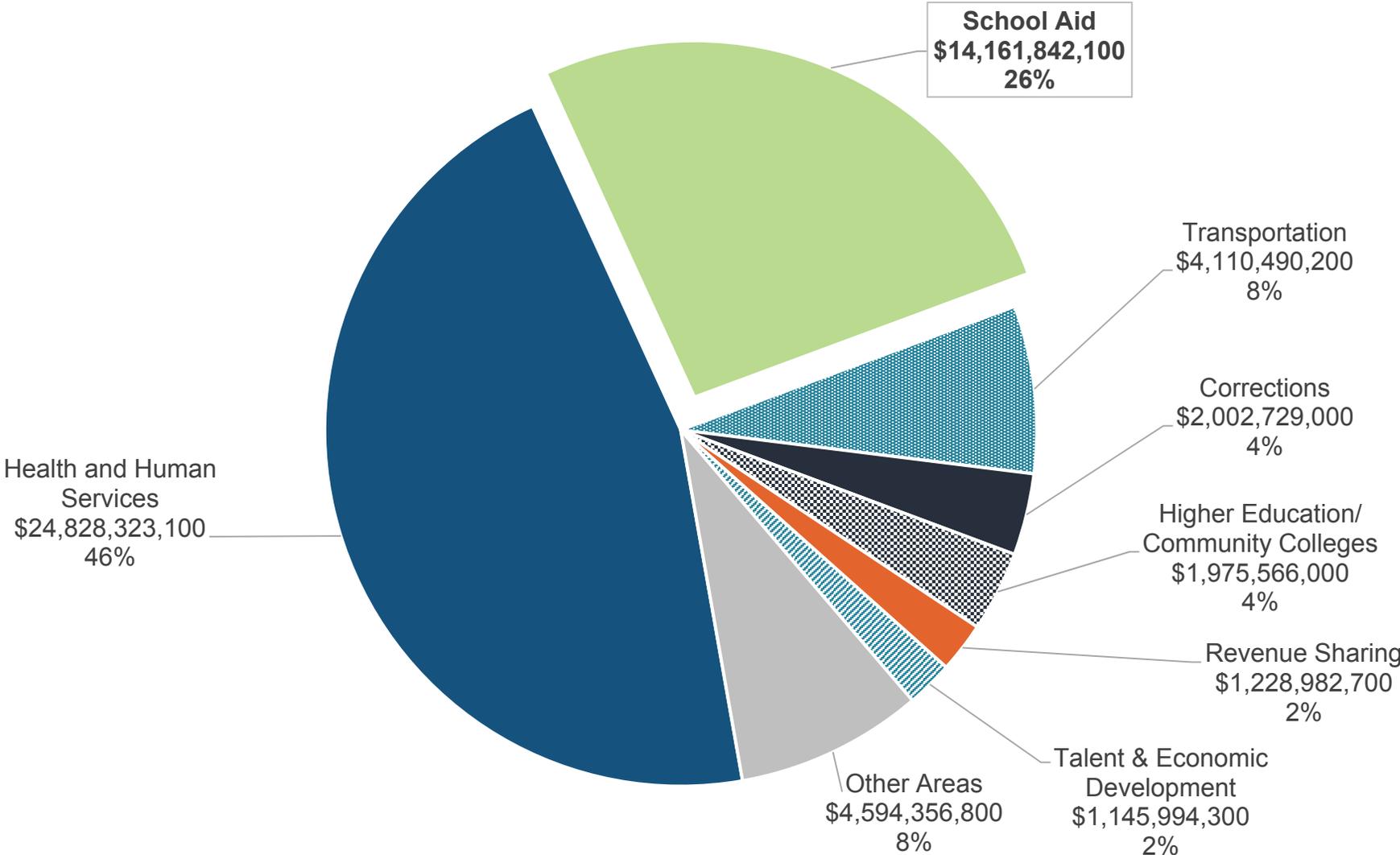
FY 2016-17 Fund Sources

86% of the **\$14.2 billion** School budget is funded by state restricted revenue, almost all of which is School Aid Fund (SAF) revenues.



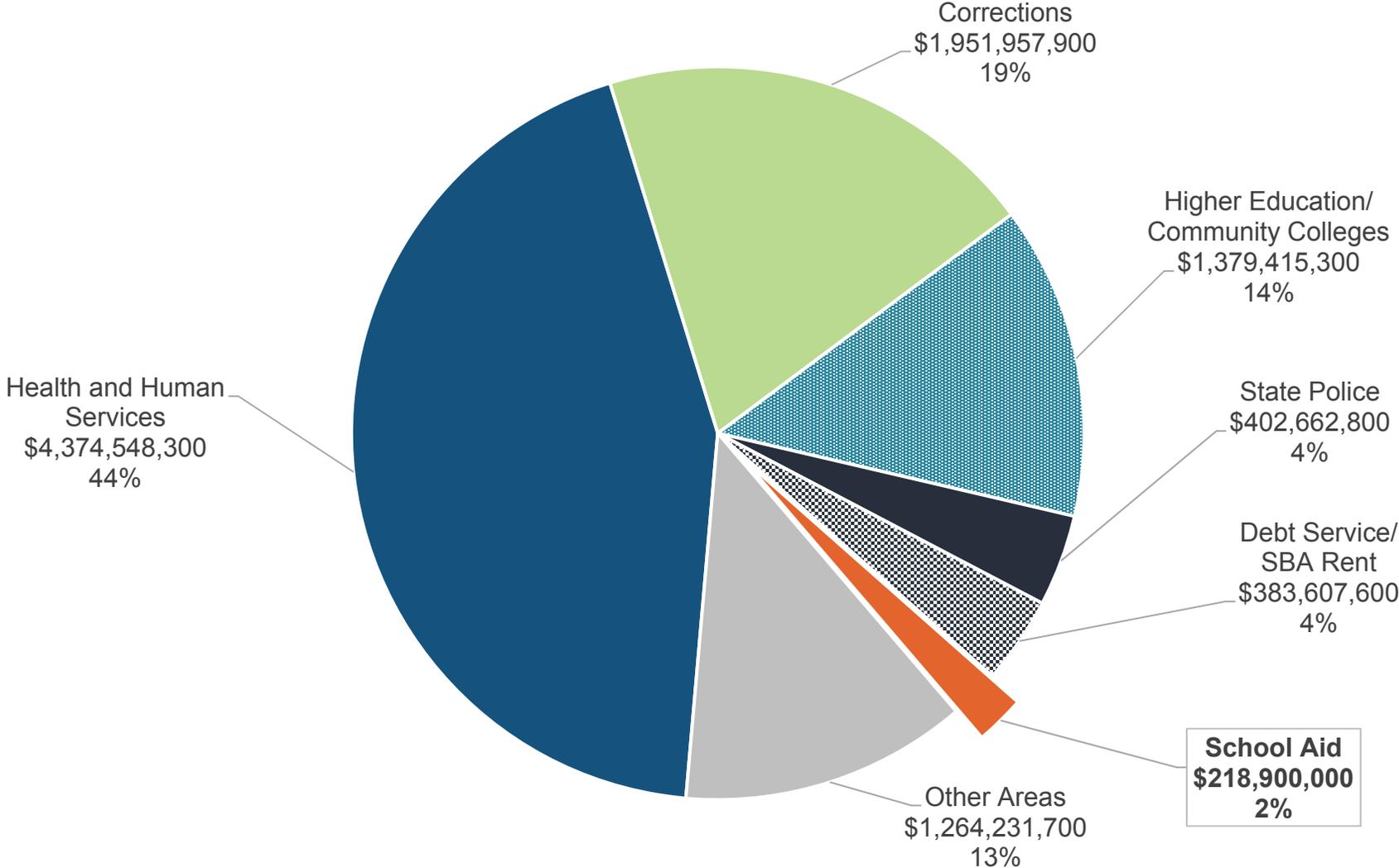
School Aid Share of Total State Budget

The School Aid budget represents over a quarter of the **\$54.0 billion** state budget (adjusted gross) for FY 2016-17.



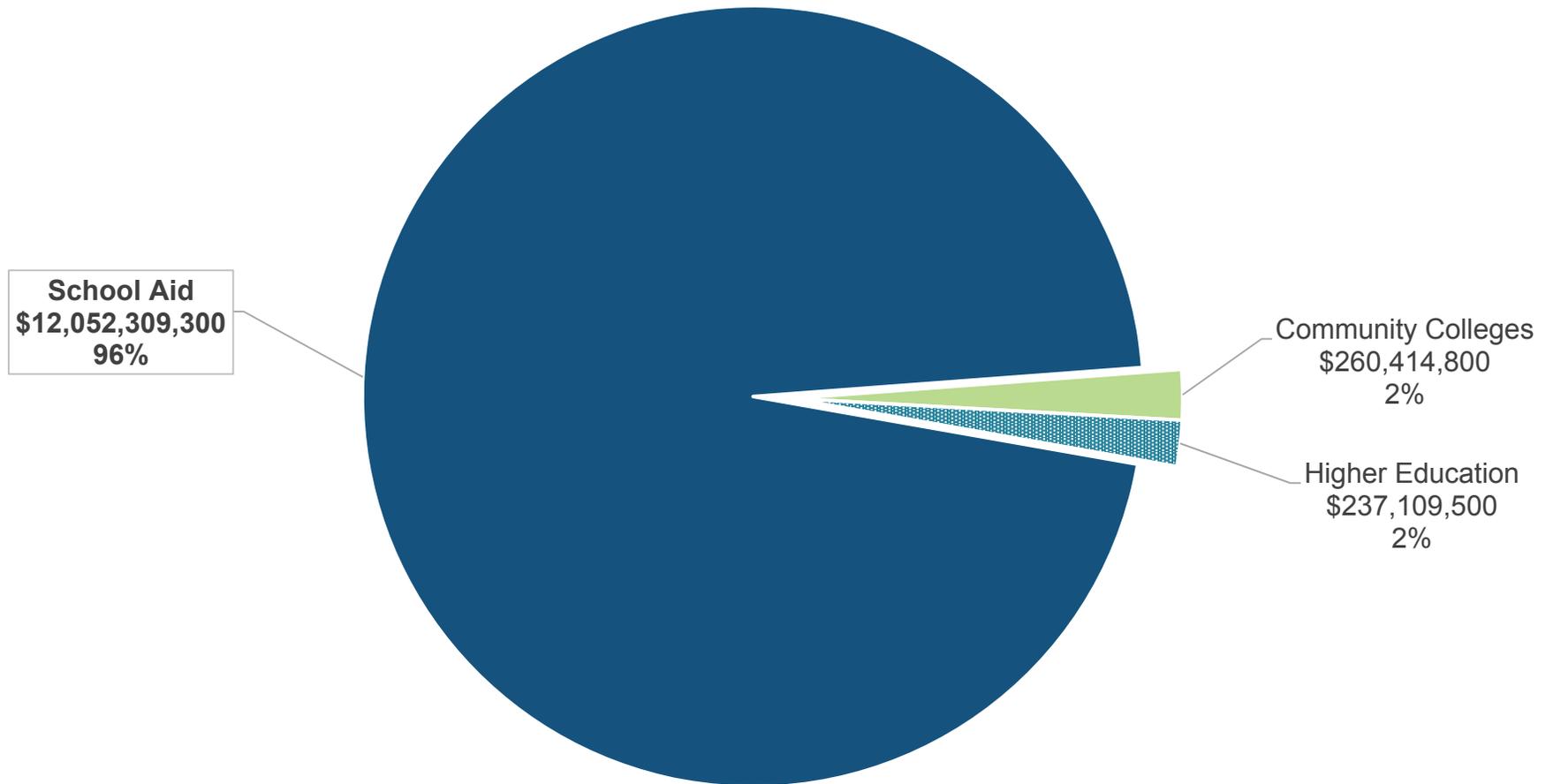
School Aid Share of Total GF/GP Budget

The School Aid budget represents 2% of the state's \$10.0 billion GF/GP budget for FY 2016-17.



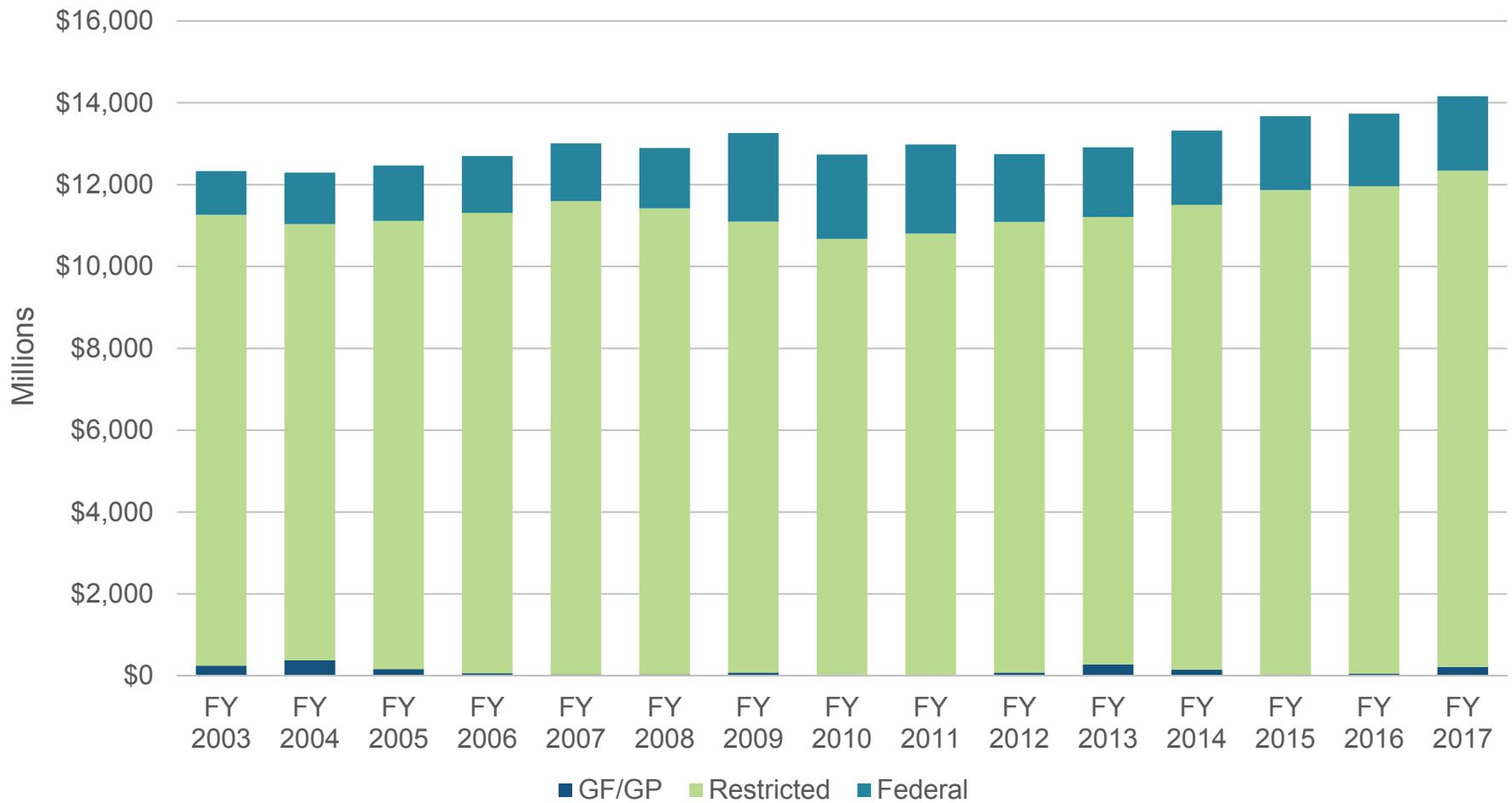
School Aid Budget Share of Total School Aid Fund (SAF) Appropriations

The School Aid budget represents 96% of the state's \$12.5 billion SAF appropriations for FY 2016-17.



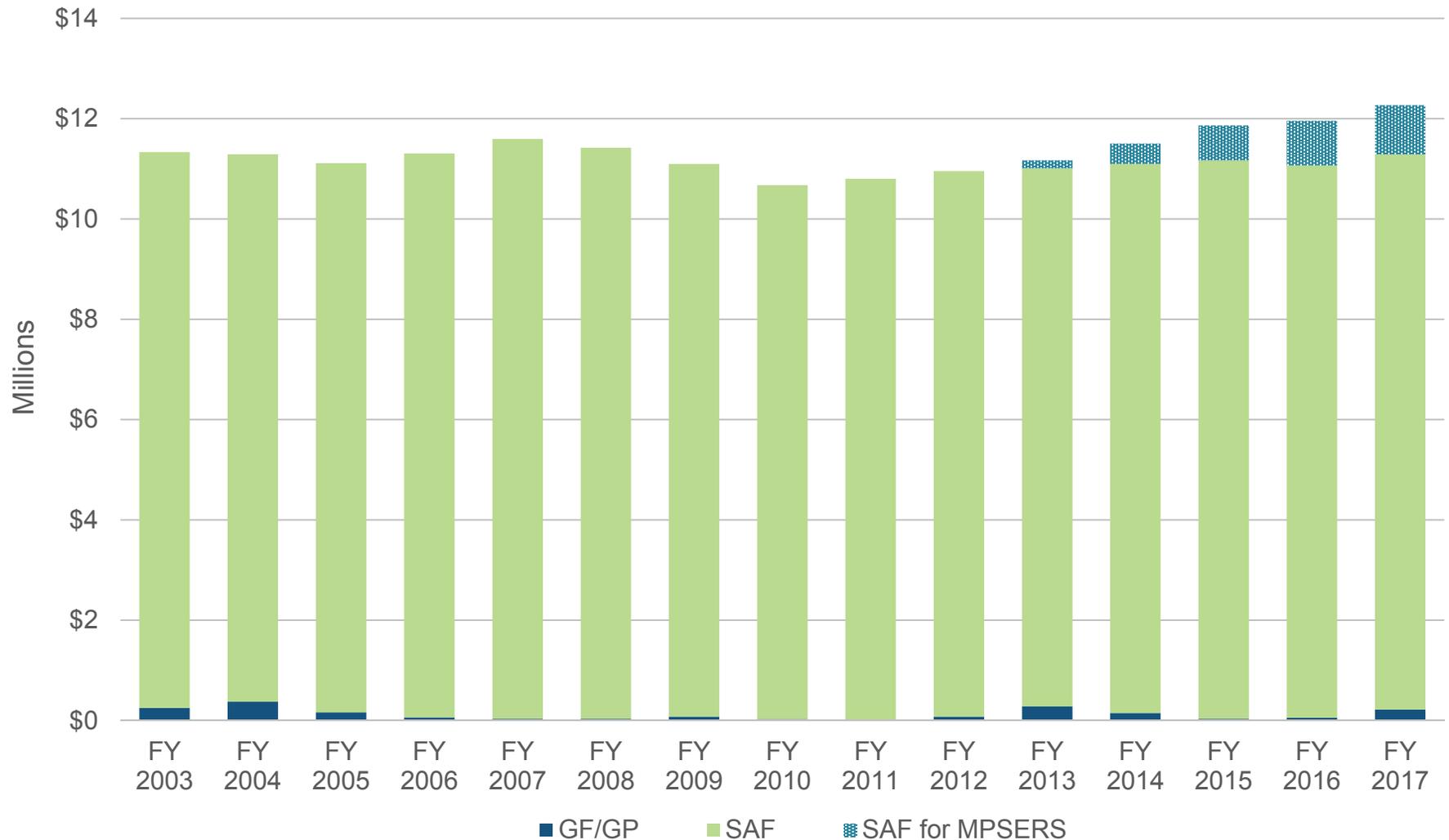
School Aid Funding History

Funding for School Aid has grown by 15% since FY 2002-03, driven mainly by increases in state funding for public school retirement and federal funding for school food programs, special education, and No Child Left Behind programs.



School Aid Funding History – State Funds

\$982.8 million has been added to hold districts harmless from increasing retirement liability costs. Total funding for foundation allowances and other operational costs is still below previous peaks.



Appropriation Areas

School Aid Appropriation Areas

Foundation Allowances: Provides per pupil payment for general school operations

Special Education: Both state and federal funds reimburse districts for a portion of their special education costs

Federal Programs (Non-Special Ed): Primarily school food programs and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) program funding, formerly No Child Left Behind.

Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPERS): Contributes a portion of annual retirement costs for unfunded liabilities

At-Risk Programs: Additional state funds to help students at risk of academic failure

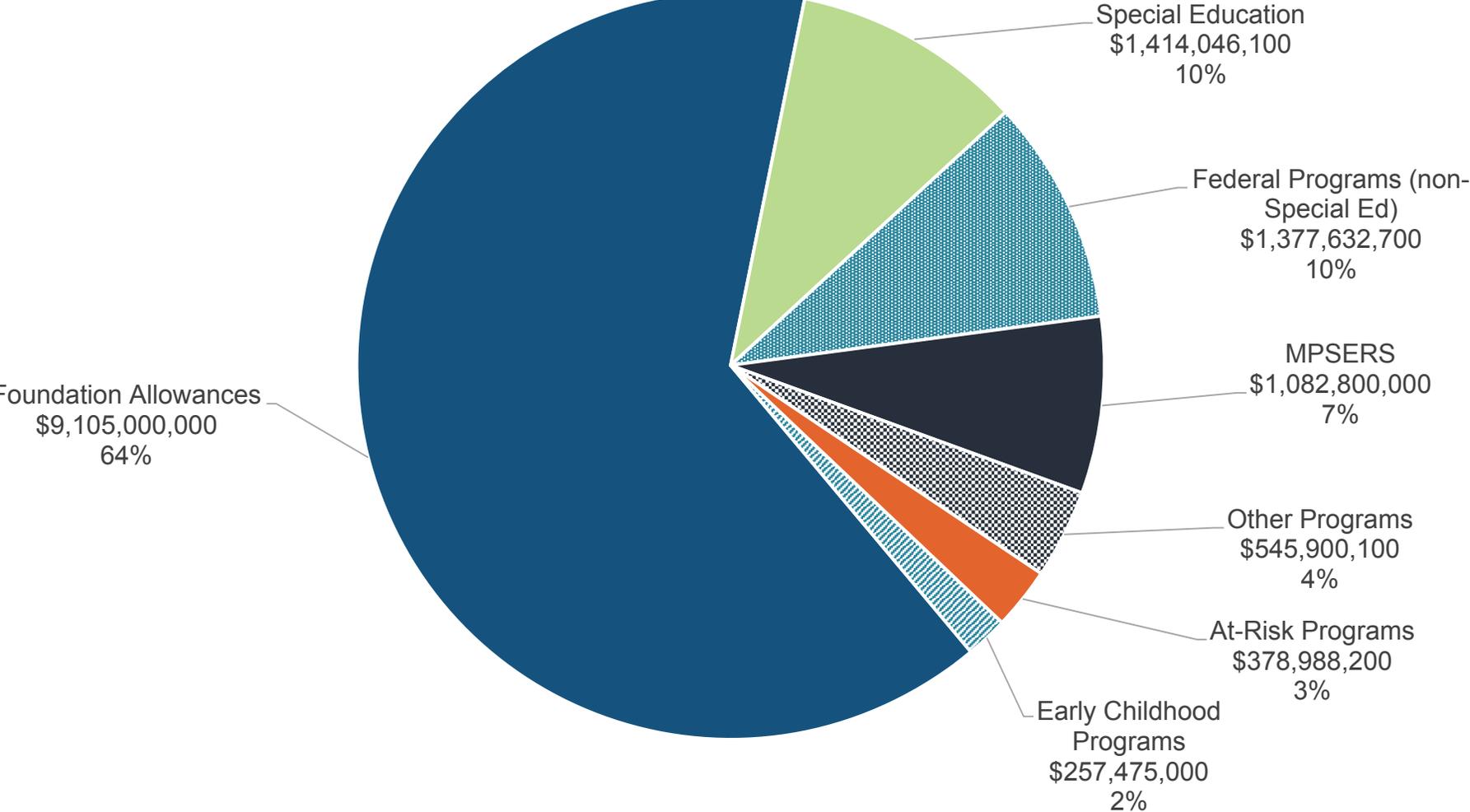
Early Childhood Programs: Provides preschool programs for 4-yr-olds and parenting programs for parents of children ages 0-5

Intermediate School District (ISD) General Operations: Provides funding to ISDs based on previous allocations

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs: Provides reimbursements to districts and ISDs for CTE programs and funds CTE early/middle college programs and CTE equipment purchases

FY 2016-17 Gross Appropriations

About two-thirds of the \$14.2 billion School Aid budget supports per pupil foundation allowances used for school district general operations.



Major Budget Topics

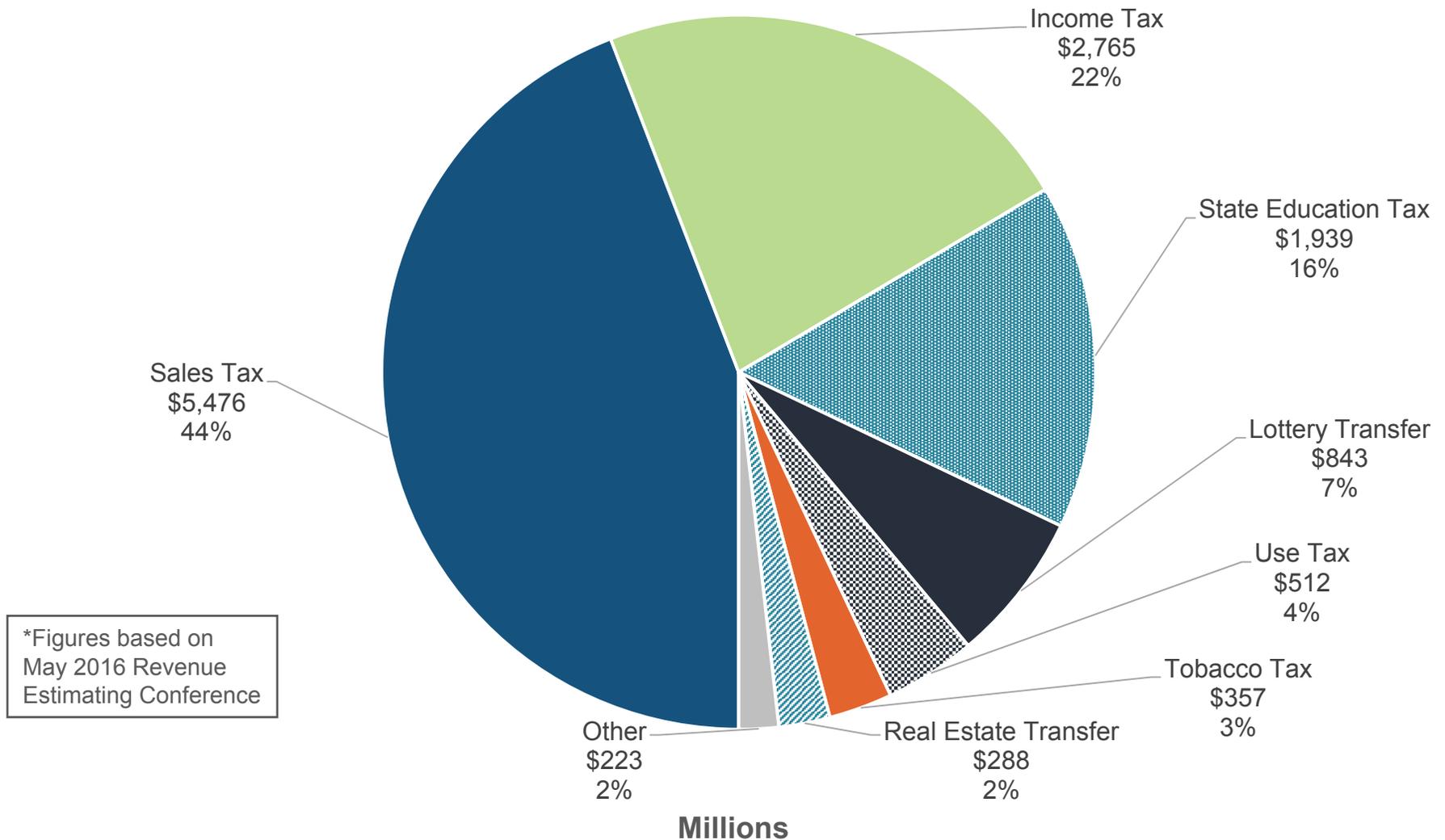
School Aid Fund Revenues

School Aid Fund (SAF) Revenue

- SAF provides the majority of state funding for schools.
- Certain taxes are earmarked, or reserved, for deposit into the SAF to pay for school operations.
- State Constitution requires SAF to be used exclusively for schools, higher education, and school employee retirement benefits.
- SAF will receive approximately \$12.4 billion in revenue (estimated) for FY 2016-17.
- Primary sources of SAF revenue are shown on next slide.

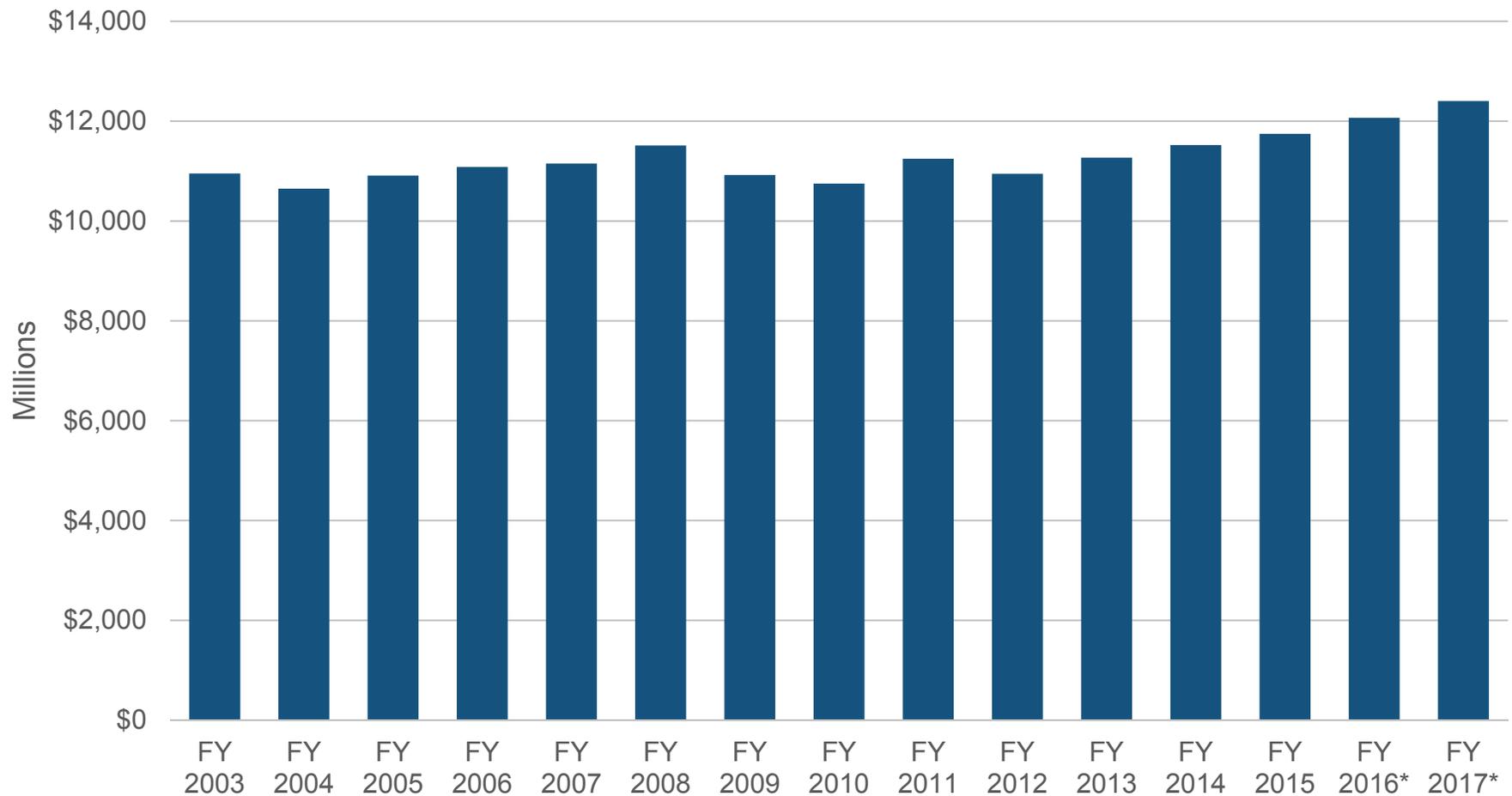
SAF Revenue Sources

Sales Tax is the largest revenue source, contributing nearly half of the **\$12.4 billion** in total estimated SAF revenue for FY 2016-17.



SAF Revenue History

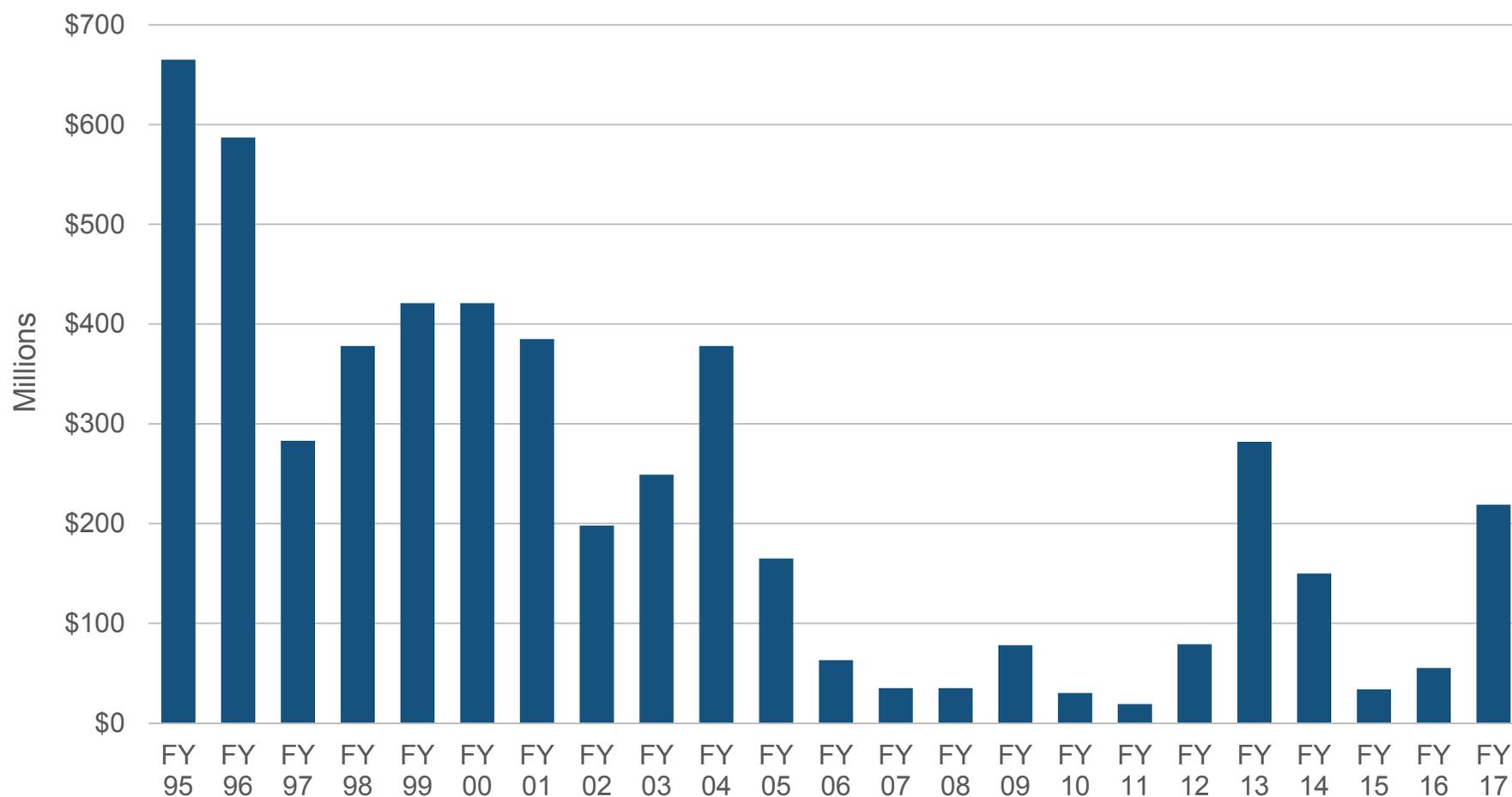
Annual SAF revenues are estimated to grow by **2.8%** to a total of **\$12.4 billion** in FY 2016-17.



* FYs 2016 and 2017 figures from May 2016 Revenue Estimating Conference

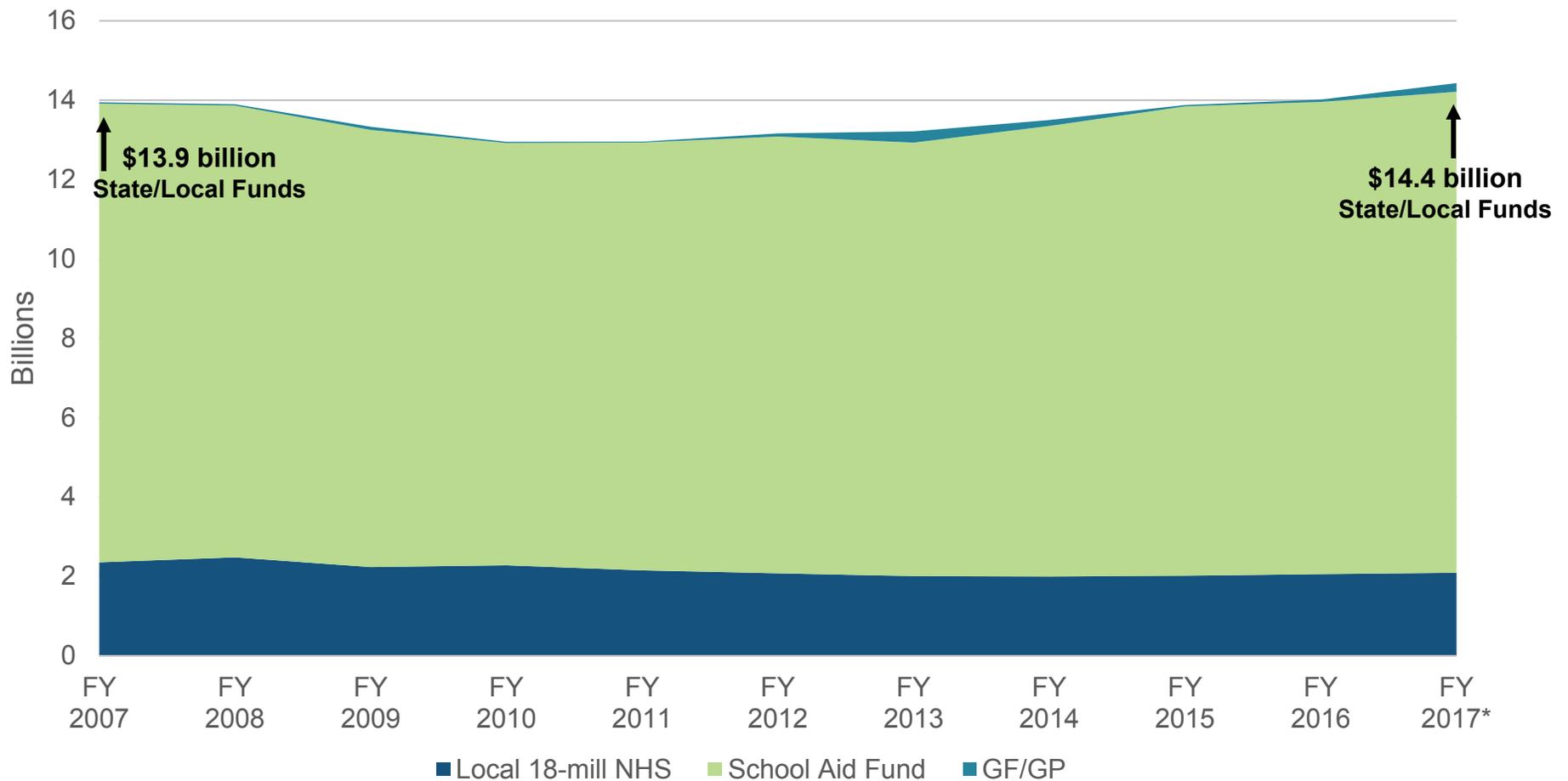
GF/GP as a Fund Source in the School Aid Budget

The School Aid budget has **\$218.9 million** GF/GP appropriated in FY 2016-17. Of that total \$42.0 million is reimbursement to the School Aid Fund for the 2014 personal property tax (PPT) reform.



School Aid Funding: State and Local

Combined, FY 2016-17 state appropriations and estimated local general operations property tax funding for schools are 3.5% higher than the previous FY 2006-07 peak (not adjusted for inflation). Recent increases have included significant funding for retirement costs.



* FY 2017 figures from May 2016 consensus estimates

FY 2016-17 School Aid Fund Balance Sheet

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17
BEGINNING BALANCE	\$190.2	\$104.2
REVENUE		
School Aid Fund (SAF) Revenue	\$12,067.4	\$12,402.4
Managed Care Organization (MCO) Use Tax	\$210.5	\$52.9
General Fund/General Purpose (GF/GP)	\$55.1	\$218.9
Community District Education Trust Fund (DPS)	\$0.0	\$72.0
Other Revenue	\$3.5	(\$9.5)
<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>\$1,775.8</u>	<u>\$1,818.6</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$14,112.3	\$14,555.3
EXPENDITURES		
School Aid Appropriations	\$13,736.4	\$14,161.8
<u>Higher Ed/Community Colleges Appropriations</u>	<u>\$461.9</u>	<u>\$497.5</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$14,198.3	\$14,659.3
CURRENT YEAR: REVENUES - EXPENDITURES	(\$86.0)	(\$104.0)
TOTAL ENDING BALANCE	\$104.2	\$0.2

Foundation Allowance

Foundation Allowance

- A per-pupil funding amount that pays the bulk of school operations was created as part of the Proposal A school finance reforms in 1994-95.
- Districts receive a foundation allowance (per pupil funding amount) initially determined in 1994-95, based on what the district collected from both state and local funds on a per-pupil basis in the prior year.
- Initial 1994-95 levels:
 - Minimum level of funding established: \$4,200
 - Basic level determined: \$5,000
 - State Guaranteed Maximum (Hold-Harmless) level set: \$6,500
- In FY 2016-17, the foundation allowance varies for K-12 districts from a low of \$7,511 per pupil to a high of \$12,064.

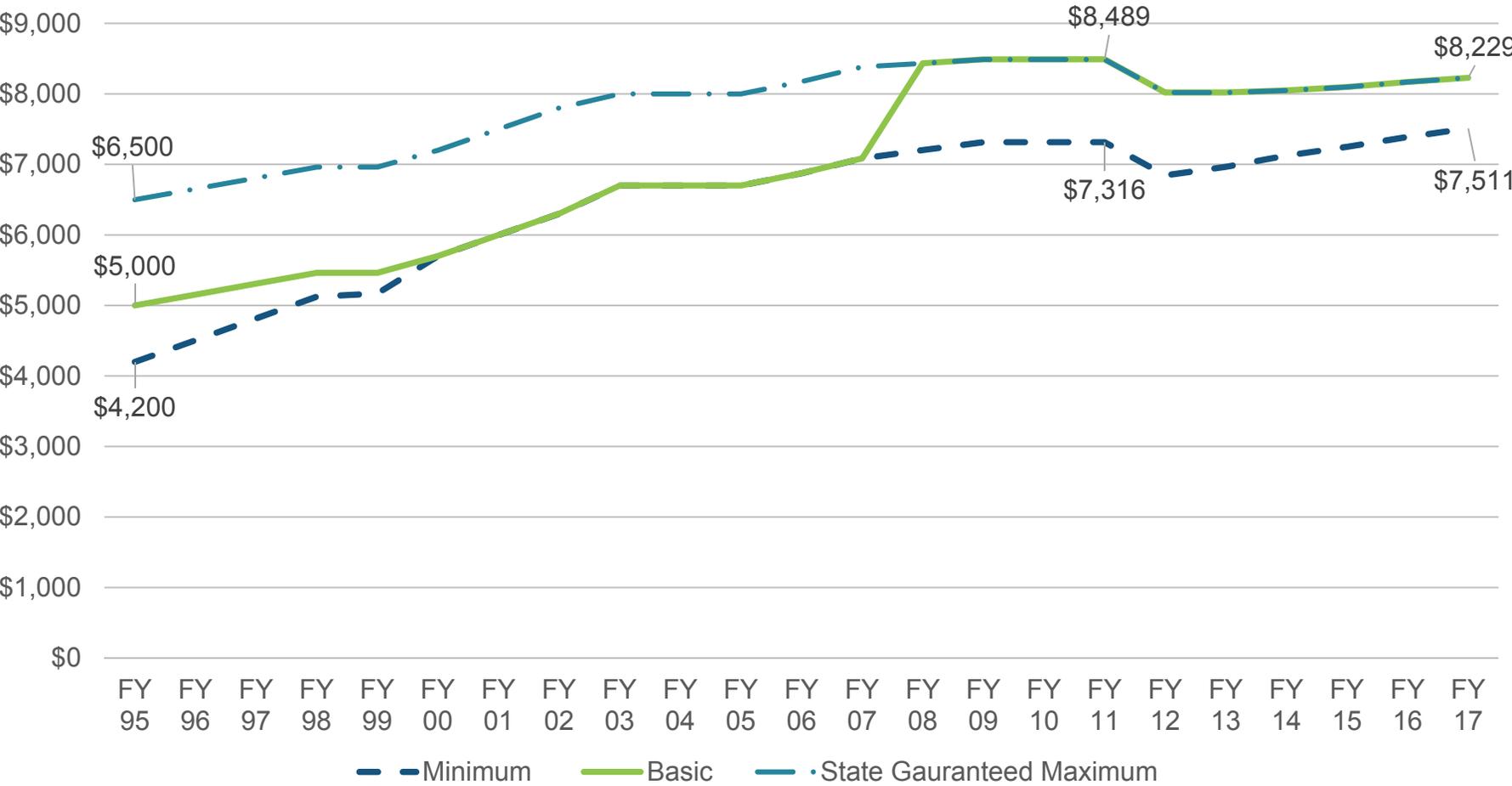
“Basic” Foundation Allowance

- The “Basic” foundation allowance was a minimum goal established in 1994 as part of the Proposal A reforms, and it is set by the Legislature each year as a target per-pupil funding level.
- In FY 1999-2000, all school districts in Michigan reached the Basic foundation allowance, after which point all districts received the same annual increases except for two years in which additional “equity” payments were made to those at the Minimum to decrease the funding gap between those at the top and bottom.
- In FY 2007-08, the legislature re-set the Basic foundation allowance to equal the State Guaranteed Maximum foundation and reinstated the 2x formula under which districts at the bottom receive twice the increase as those at the Basic or above. All other districts receive an increase somewhere in between on a sliding scale determined by formula.
- In FY 2016-17, the legislature used the 2x formula increasing the Basic foundation by \$60 and increasing the minimum foundation by \$120.

Foundation Allowance History

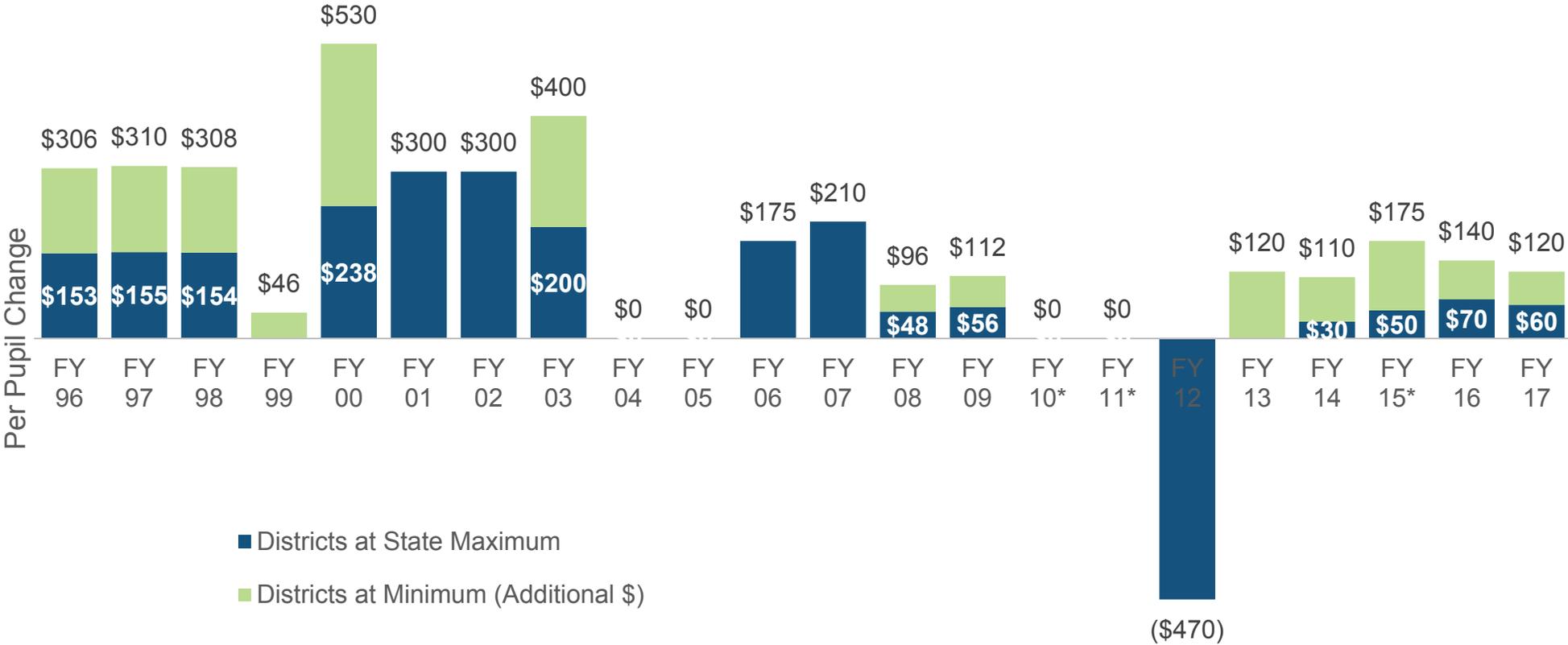
Growth Since Proposal A

The FY 2016-17 foundation allowance for schools at the Minimum level is \$195 above the previous FY 2010-11 peak. For schools at the State Maximum level, it remains \$260 below the FY 2010-11 peak. The “equity gap” between the two is down to \$718 per pupil.



Per Pupil Foundation Allowances Increases/Decreases

The 2x formula has been used in about one-third of the years since Proposal A. In other years, either all districts received the same increase (or decrease), or equity payments were used to bring the districts at the Minimum up even more quickly than the 2x formula would have.



Foundation Allowance

State/Local Funding Mix

- Each district levies 18 mills on non-homestead property.
- State calculates local revenue from the 18 mills on a per-pupil basis.
- State deducts per-pupil local revenue from the lesser of the district's foundation allowance or state guaranteed maximum per pupil amount.
- Districts above the state guaranteed maximum (hold harmless districts) are allowed by law to levy additional mills with voter approval to achieve their statutory foundation allowance.

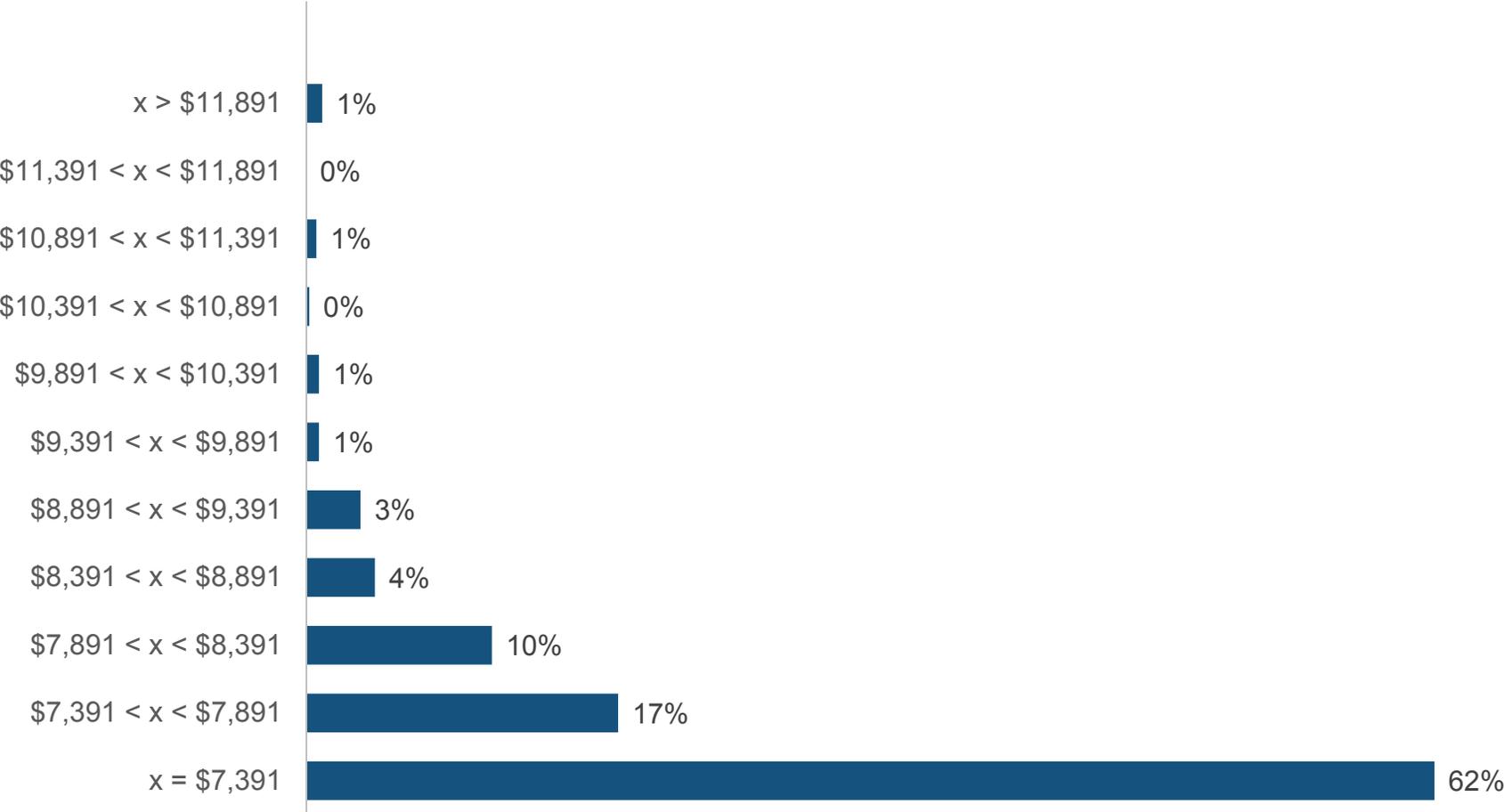
Equity Among Districts

- Before Proposal A, the per pupil spending difference between the highest- and lowest-funded K12 district was almost \$6,900 or 3:1.
- In FY 2016-17, the difference between the highest and lowest K-12 district is \$4,553, is approximately 3:2.
- In FY 2016-17, excluding the 37 hold harmless districts whose revenue per pupil exceeds the Basic foundation allowance, the difference between the top and the bottom has been reduced to \$718, down from a gap of \$2,300 when Proposal A was first implemented.

Equity Among Districts

FY 2015-16 Pupil Distribution

In FY 2015-16, 62% of pupils were concentrated in districts with a foundation allowance at the minimum foundation \$7,391. As the minimum increases relative to the Basic, that share continues to grow, thereby increasing the cost of future equity payments.



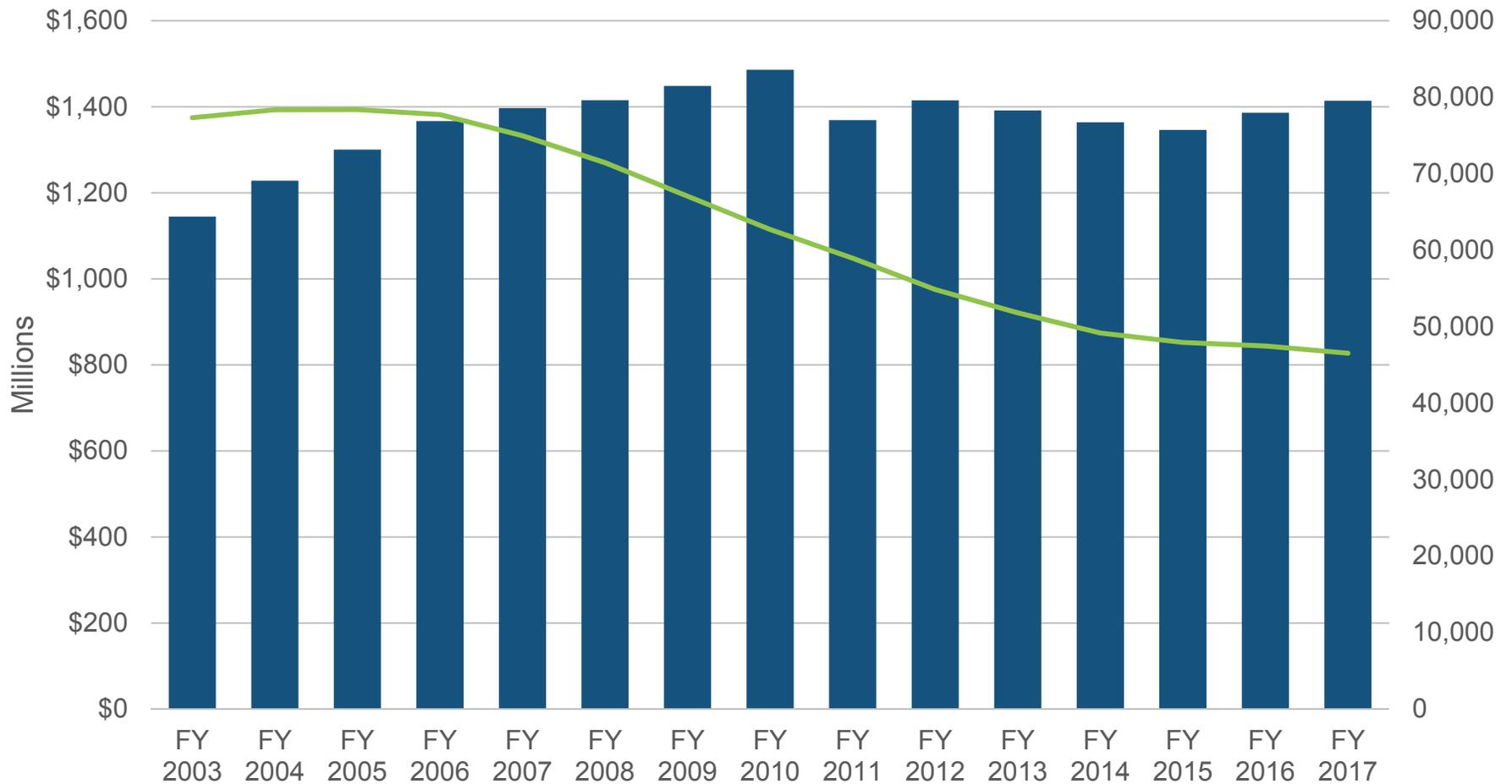
Special Education Funding

Special Education Funding

- Second largest School Aid appropriation in FY 2016-17
 - \$973.0 million state dollars
 - \$441.0 million federal dollars
- Reimburses school districts for the costs of educating special education students.
- Required reimbursement rates determined by the Michigan Supreme Court in *Durant v. State of Michigan* in 1997:
 - 28.6138% of Total Special Education Costs
 - 70.4165% of Total Special Education Transportation Costs
- Local special education millages, levied by each ISD, generated an estimated additional \$958.5 million in FY 2015-16.

Special Education Appropriations

Special Education costs are expected to increase again to \$1.4 billion in FY 2016-17 after decreasing for several of the last few years, despite a continued decrease in the number of special education pupils.



MPERS – Retirement Costs

Michigan Public School Employees' Retirement System (MPERS) Appropriations

- Section 147a - Provides **\$100.0 million** to districts to offset a share of their MPERS costs. Distribution is based on a district's proportionate share of MPERS covered payroll.
- Section 147c - Appropriates **\$982.8 million** to pay for the state share of unfunded accrued liability (UAL) costs per PA 300 of 2012, which required the state to pay the UAL costs that exceed the capped employer contribution rate of 20.96% of MPERS covered payroll.

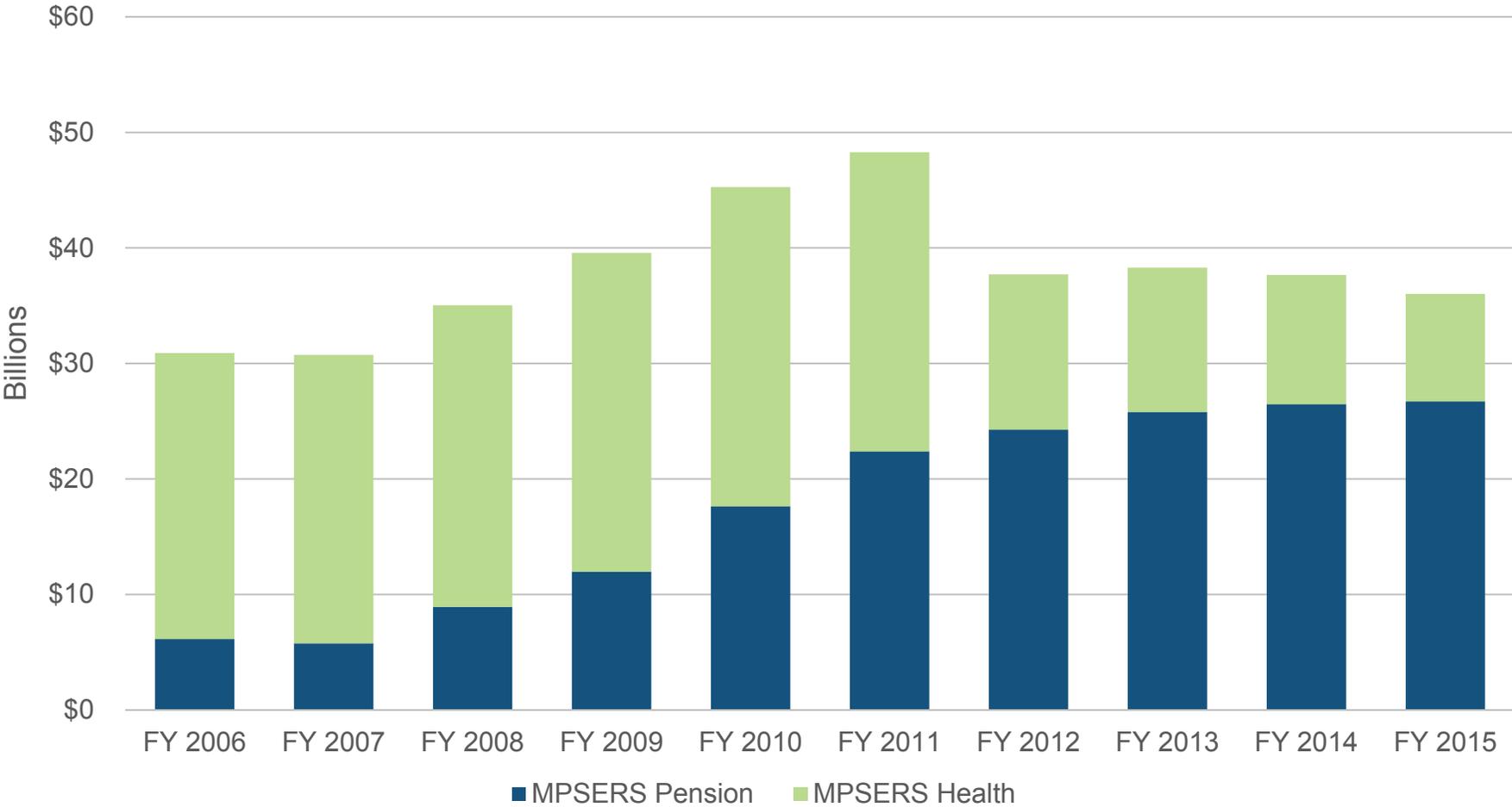
MPERS Employer Contribution Rates History and Future Projections

The state portion of the MPERS contribution rate is \$894 million in FY 2015-16 and is increasing to \$984 million in FY 2016-17. The employer contribution rate is capped at 20.96% for the unfunded liability plus the normal costs for retirement benefits newly earned each year.



Retirement Liabilities

Total unfunded liabilities for the public school employee retirement system (MPSERS) have declined by \$12 billion since FY 2010-11, due primarily to the decision to begin prefunding retiree health benefits.



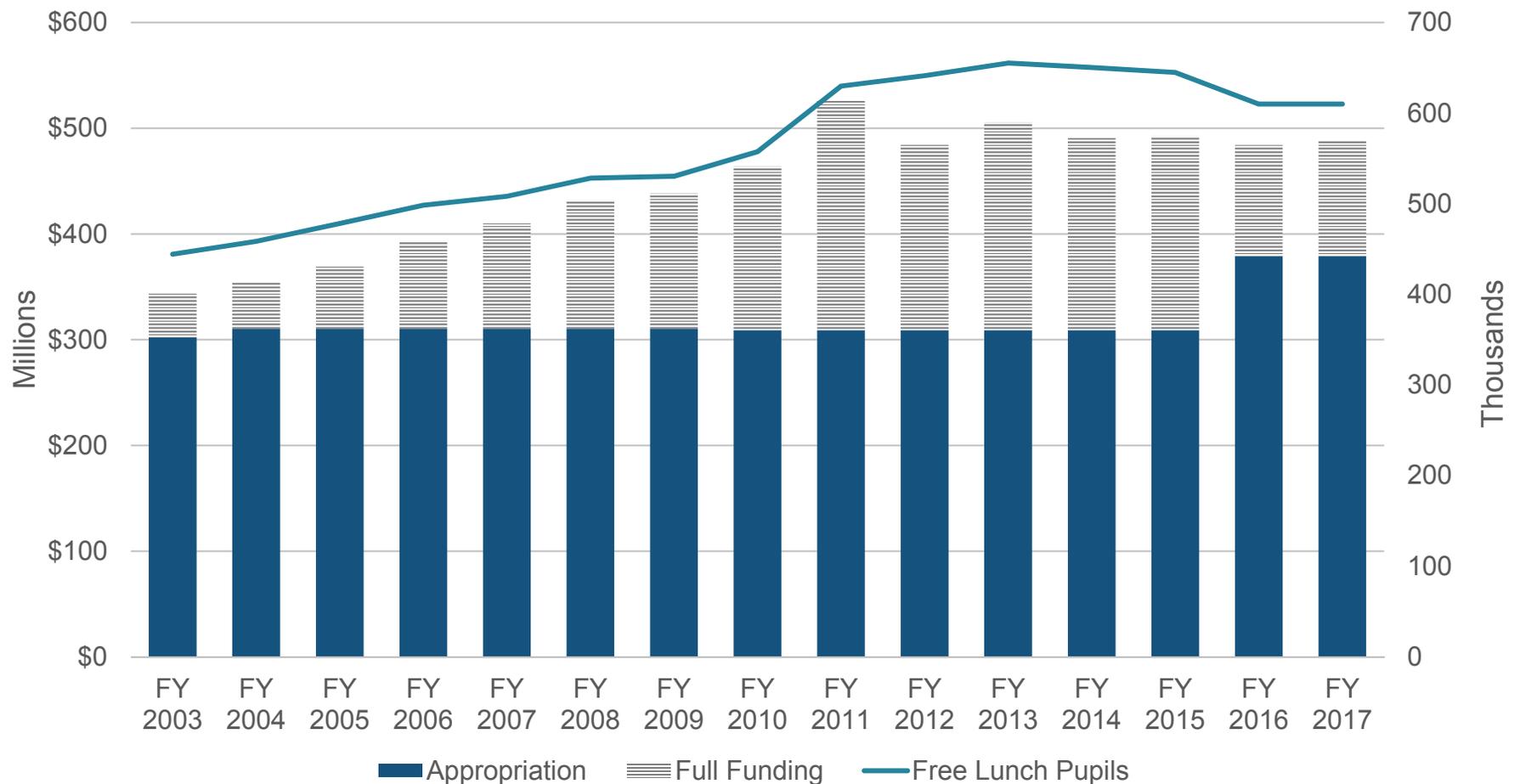
At-Risk Program

At-Risk Funding

- FY 2016-17 appropriation totals \$379.0 million
- Supports added services for at-risk pupils.
- The At-Risk formula allocation is equal to 11.5% of a district's foundation allowance for each student eligible for free lunch in the prior year.
- At-Risk appropriations are not fully funded so allocations are prorated on an equal per pupil basis (reduced by \$186 per pupil in FY 2015-16). Full funding would cost an estimated additional \$110.0 million.
- Both Hold Harmless and Out-of-Formula districts (those whose combined state and local revenue per pupil exceeds the Basic foundation allowance of \$8,229) are ineligible for at-risk funding. The cost of making them eligible would be approximately \$43.5 million.

At-Risk Appropriations

The program is not fully funded due to the growth in the number of eligible pupils and foundation allowances over time without corresponding funding increases. After a decade of being flat, funding for the At-Risk Program grew by \$70 million, or 23%, in FY 2015-16. Full funding would cost another \$110 million.



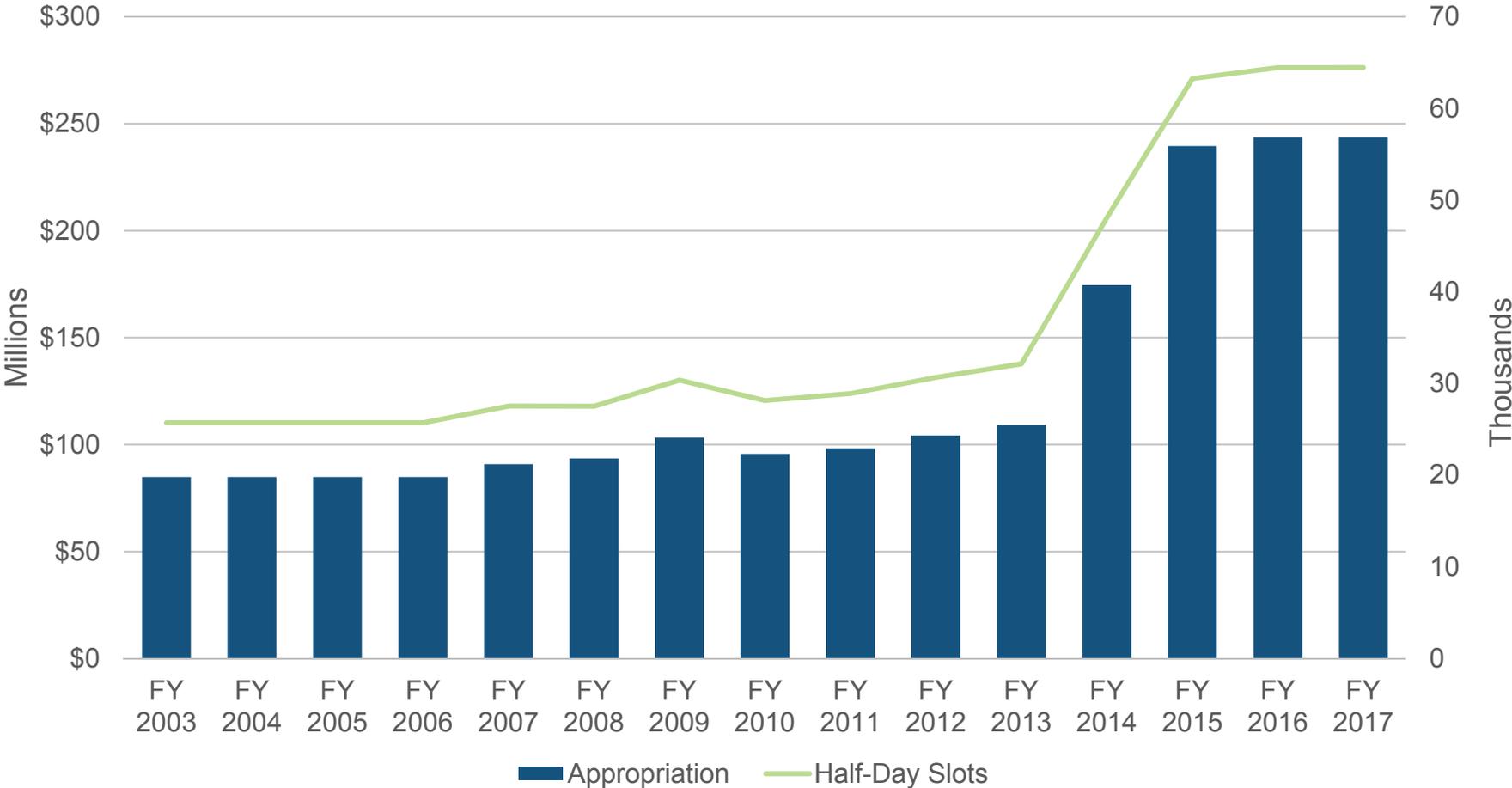
Early Childhood

Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)

- Funding for the GSRP preschool program for 4-year-olds has more than doubled from \$109.6 million in FY 2012-13 to **\$243.9 million** in FY 2016-17.
- The per diem allocation for each half-day preschool slot is \$3,625.
- A district may use two half-day slots to serve a single child for a full school day, and 75% of the slots are used this way.
- The number of available half-day slots has increased from 32,140 in FY 2012-13 to 64,440 in FY 2016-17.
- In FY 2016-17, there is \$10.0 million appropriated for allocations of up to \$150 per slot for preschool transportation.

GSRP Preschool Appropriations

GSRP funding more than doubled over two years between FY 2012-13 and FY 2014-15, also doubling the number of allocated half-day preschool slots.



Types of School Districts

Traditional, Locally Governed School Districts

- Traditional local school districts have defined boundaries and locally elected school boards, and are authorized to levy local taxes.
- In FY 2015-16 there were 540 traditional local districts with 1,344,360 pupils or 89.9% of the statewide public pupil membership.

Public School Academies

- Public School Academies (PSAs), or charter schools, are independent public schools formed by individuals or groups to provide students and parents a public alternate to traditional school districts.
- PSAs are authorized to operate by public universities, community colleges, intermediate school districts, local school districts and the Education Achievement Authority.
- PA 277 of 2011 increased the limit on university-authorized PSAs from 150 (reached in 1999) to 300 in 2012 and 500 in 2014, after which the cap was eliminated.
- In FY 2015-16 there were 300 Public School Academies with 145,800 pupils in PSAs or 9.7% of statewide pupil membership.
- Average size of a PSA is about 485 pupils per school.
- The statutory PSA foundation allowance is capped at the PSA maximum, which is \$7,511 per pupil for FY 2016-17, equal to the statewide Minimum foundation.

Cyber Schools

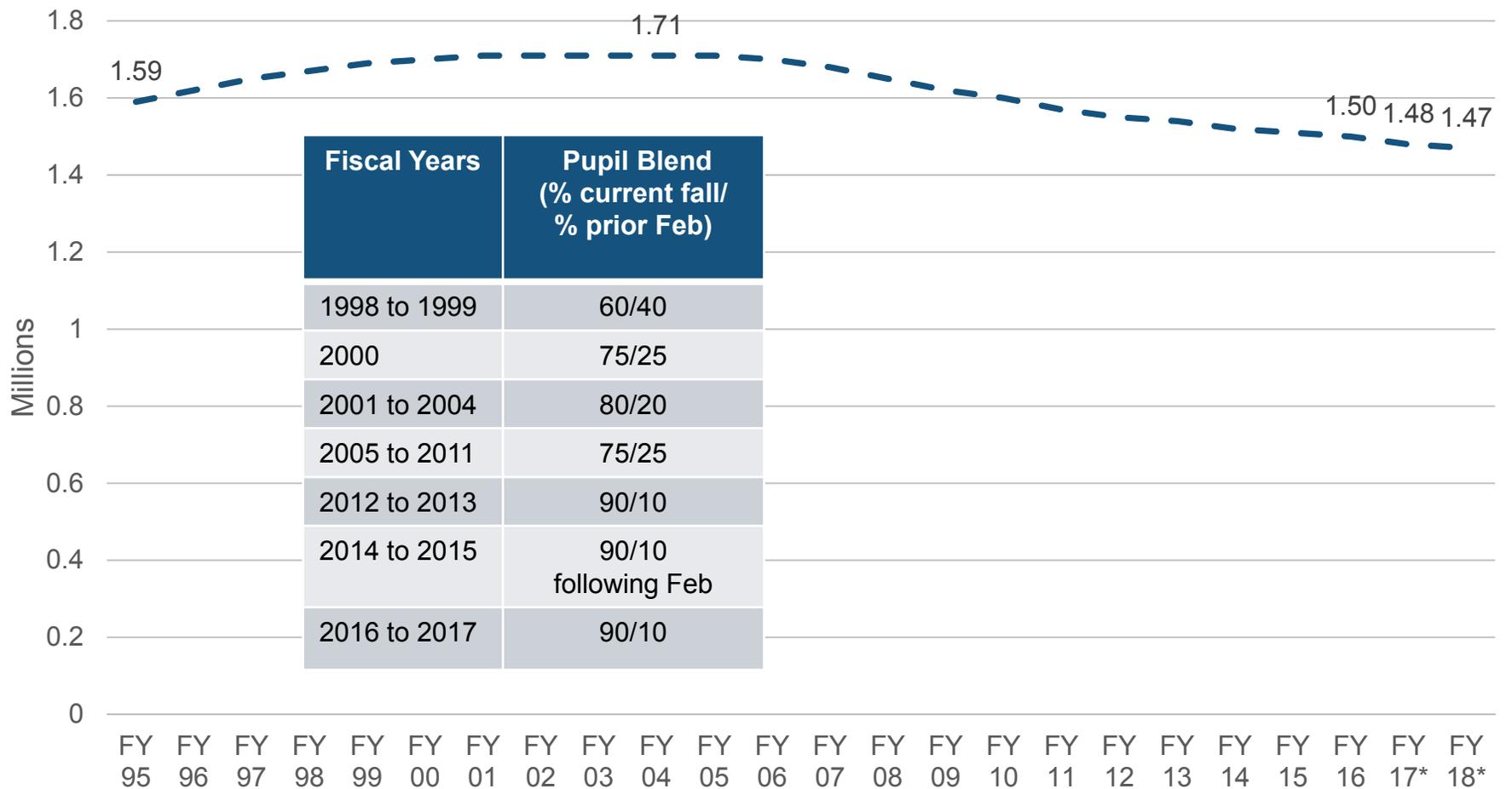
- Cyber schools are a type of public school academy.
- FY 2010-11 was first year of operation.
- PA 129 of 2012 increased limits on cyber schools:
 - Limit on schools authorized by statewide entities increased to 5 in 2013, 10 in 2014, and 15 starting January 2015.
 - Enrollment limited to 2,500 in first year, 5,000 in second year, and 10,000 in third year.
- In FY 2015-16, 10 existing cyber schools had an enrollment totaling 8,807.
- No new cyber schools opened in FY 2015-16.

Declining Enrollment

Declining Enrollment

Total Pupil Membership Counts

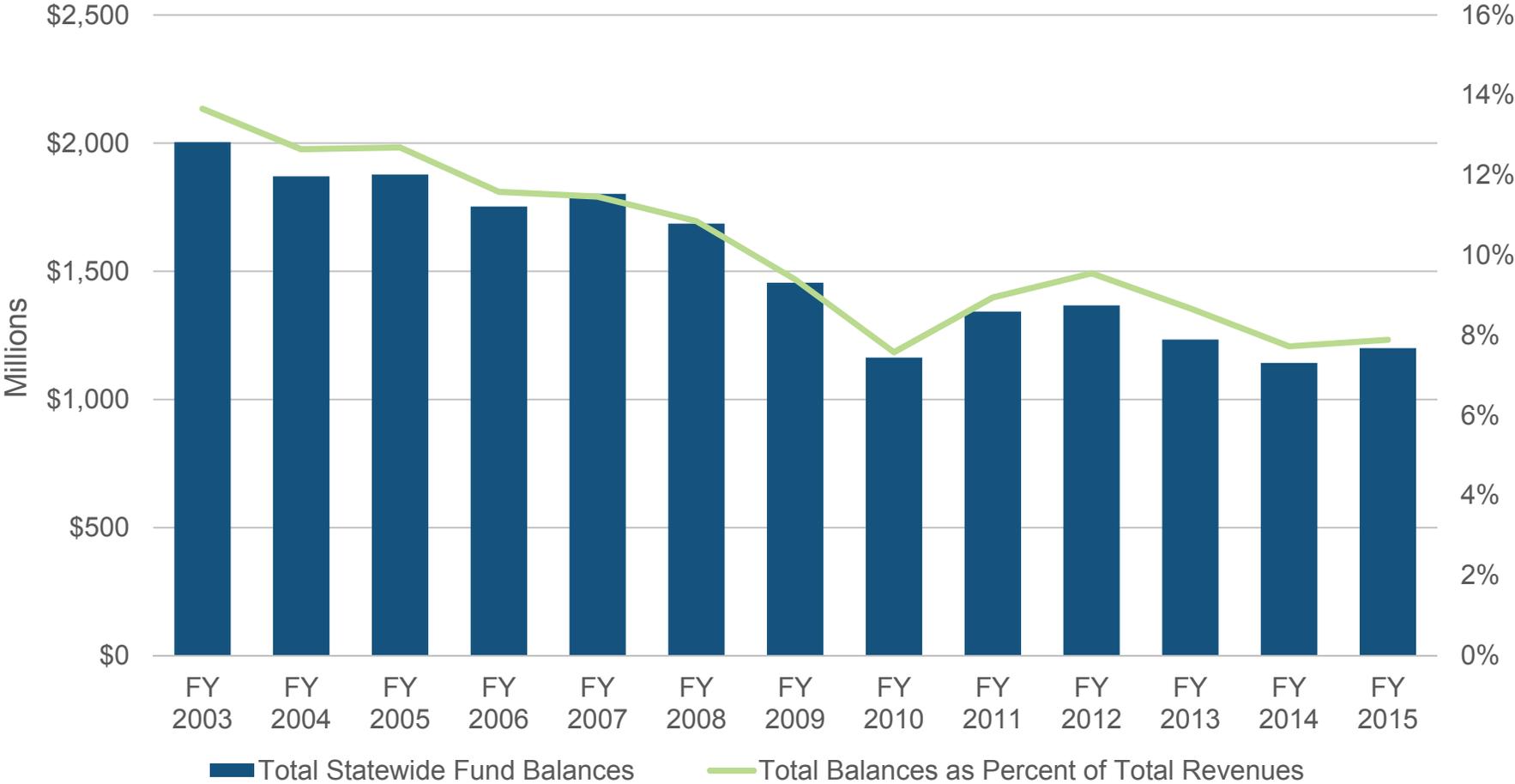
Fewer pupils means a loss of revenue to schools. Statewide, pupil memberships are 13% lower than their peak in FY 2002-03 and dropping. Nearly 2/3 of traditional districts experienced declining enrollment from FY 2014-15 to FY 2015-16.



* FY 17 and 18 figures are from May 2016 consensus estimates

District Fund Balances

As the number of pupils decline, districts use their fund balances to replace lost foundation allowance revenue. Total fund balances decreased from a high of \$2.0 billion in FY 2002-03 to \$1.2 billion in FY 2014-15. The average statewide total fund balance as a percent of revenues declined from nearly 14% to 8%.



For more information about the School Aid budget:

HFA Resources

<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa/SchoolAid.asp>

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