

HIGHLINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2025

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Highline Public Schools serves more than 17,500 students grades K-12 in the communities of Burien, Des Moines, Normandy Park, SeaTac and White Center in Washington State.

The district has 34 schools, employs more than 2,000 staff members, and offers a wide variety of educational opportunities from early childhood to college preparation.

We are committed to equity in education, high expectations for all and partnering with families and the community to ensure that all children achieve their potential.

OUR PROMISE

Every student in Highline Public Schools is known by name, strength and need, and graduates prepared for the future they choose.



PRIORITY 1

Fully Fund the Cost of Special Education Services.

Highline Public Schools proudly serves all students within our boundaries, regardless of the costs for those services. Highline is a recognized leader in the nation for our work on inclusion, with a goal of fully including all students in our general education program. However, state funding does not keep up with these required expenditures, forcing the district to use local resources—including local levy funds—to fund these services. It is important to remember that these services are dictated by each student's individual needs. The state must provide the actual costs of service delivery, increase the multiplier, and eliminate the funding cap.



PRIORITY 2

Comprehensively Fix the Pupil Transportation Formula to Ensure it is More Transparent, Predictable, and Adequately Funded.

The current transportation funding model (STARS) must be fixed to fund districts' actual transportation costs, including the costs for students who qualify for extended transportation due to their McKinney Vento (homeless) status. The current system is underfunded, operates off of a timeline that is not aligned with district budgeting timelines, and penalizes efficient districts through the use of an efficiency rating.



PRIORITY 3

Address the Significant Underfunding of Allocations for Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC).

The Legislature provides an allocation to cover non-staff costs by providing for Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC) at a specific rate per student; however, this funding has not kept pace with actual school district costs.

Insurance increased 20% over the 2023-24 school year, despite Highline being in the lowest risk tier of school districts. Other costs, such as food and fuel, have also increased dramatically. Current per pupil rates for Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs simply do not come close to covering the ever-increasing costs of running a school district, requiring districts to use local resources—mainly local levies—to fill this gap.





PRIORITY 4

Support Capital Facilities.

We strongly urge the Legislature to pursue a constitutional amendment that reduces the bond validation requirement to a simple majority of votes cast. This change will ensure that critical infrastructure projects can move forward more efficiently, reflecting the will of the community more directly. Additionally, we advocate for an enhancement to the funding formulas for the K-12 Student Space Allocation and Construction Cost Allowance. These updates are essential to ensure that education spaces are designed in alignment with modern, research-based teaching methodologies, and that funding reflects actual construction costs. This alignment will provide students with learning environments that foster innovation and growth, while also addressing the financial realities of today's construction market. Together, these reforms will support the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of our education infrastructure.



PRIORITY 5

Fully Fund All Mastery-Based Learning Programs in the State.

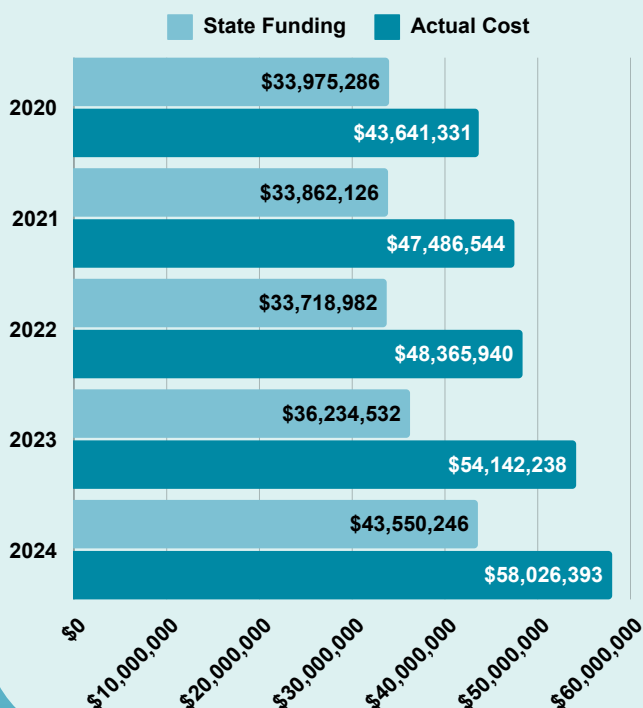
Ensure the expansion of high-quality mastery learning programs by recognizing the success of the Innovative Learning Pilot Program (approved during the 2020 legislative session) and either create a new funding formula that grows the number of mastery based options for students while providing full funding via the prototypical funding formula or direct the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to recognize the increasing number of mastery based programs and to develop a new funding formula under the prototypical model in time for the 2025-2026 school year.

GAPS IN STATE FUNDING



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Underfunded by **\$70.32 million** since 2020



Since 2020, funding gaps have cost Highline Public Schools

\$109.46 Million.

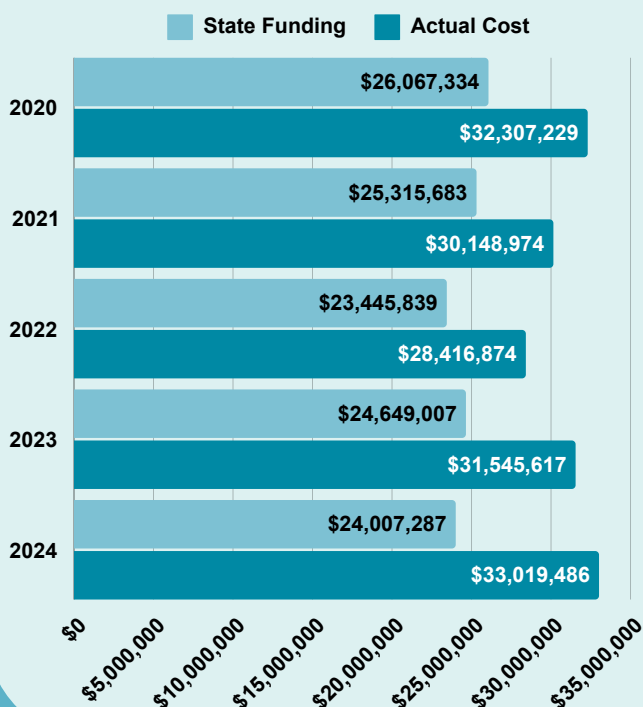


HIGHLINE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



MSOC

Underfunded by **\$31.95 million** since 2020



TRANSPORTATION

Underfunded by **\$7.19 million** since 2020

