The background of the slide features a large, multi-story brick building with numerous windows. To the left, a snow-capped mountain rises against a clear blue sky. An American flag is visible on the left side of the frame. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white rectangular area.

# Pupil Transportation Overview

Joint Task Force on Education Funding  
March 16, 2026  
Legislative Finance Division

# Basics of Pupil Transportation Formula

- Amounts for the Pupil Transportation Formula are appropriated to the Public Education Fund (PEF)
- Funding flows to districts from the PEF according to the statutory formula without further appropriation
- Funding is typically appropriated as a language item for the amount necessary to fund the formula rather than a fixed dollar amount
- Formula funding is subject to appropriation

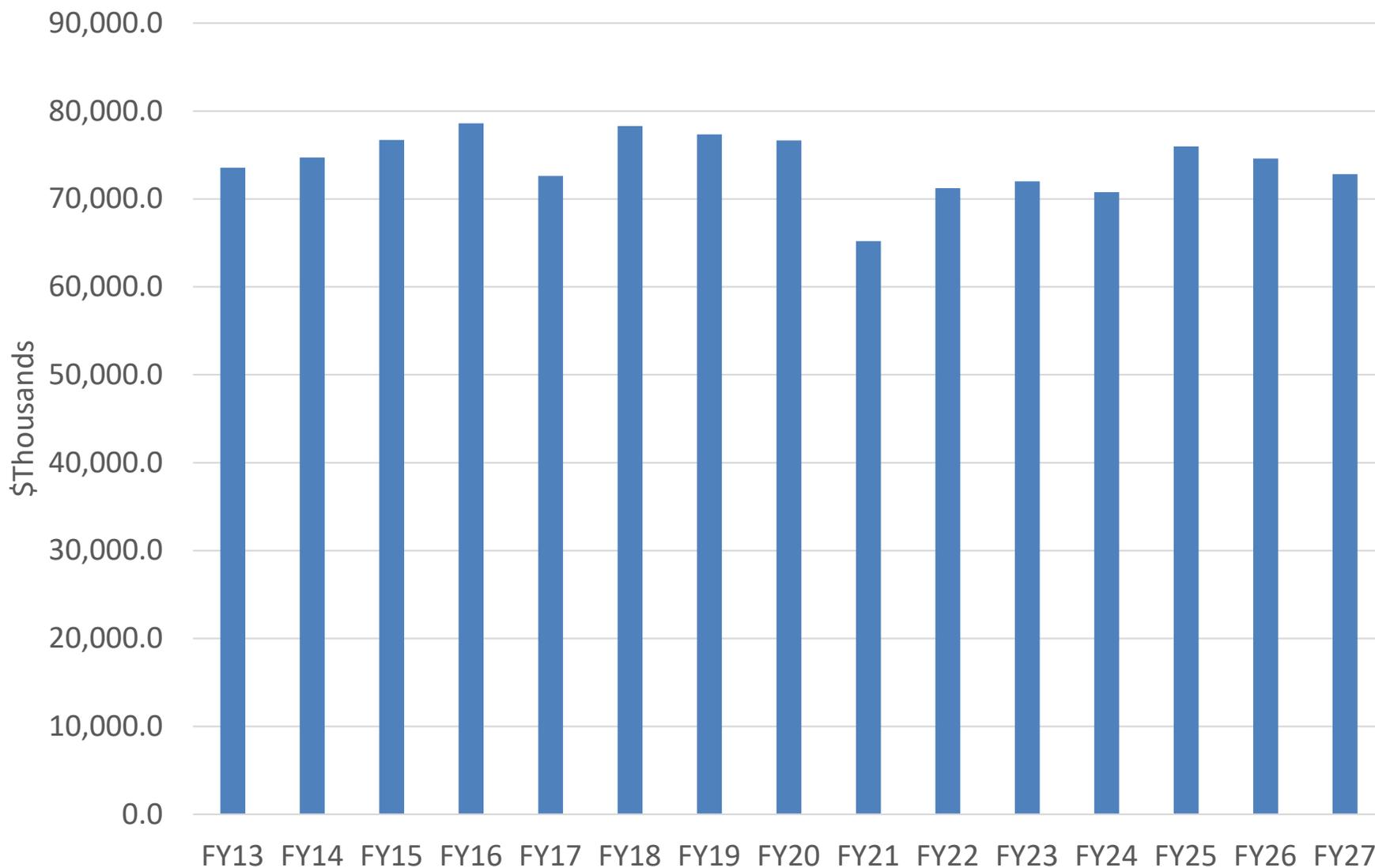
# Basics of Pupil Transportation Formula (Continued)

- Statute provides funding amounts by district for each non-correspondence Average Daily Membership (ADM).
  - Districts with no transportation program receive zero funding. Bristol Bay receives the highest funding rate, at \$3,247 per-ADM.
- Early education students receiving  $\frac{1}{2}$  ADM K-12 Foundation Formula funding are eligible for pupil transportation reimbursement as one ADM.
- While districts must operate a transportation program to receive funding under this program, pupil transportation funds can be used for other purposes.

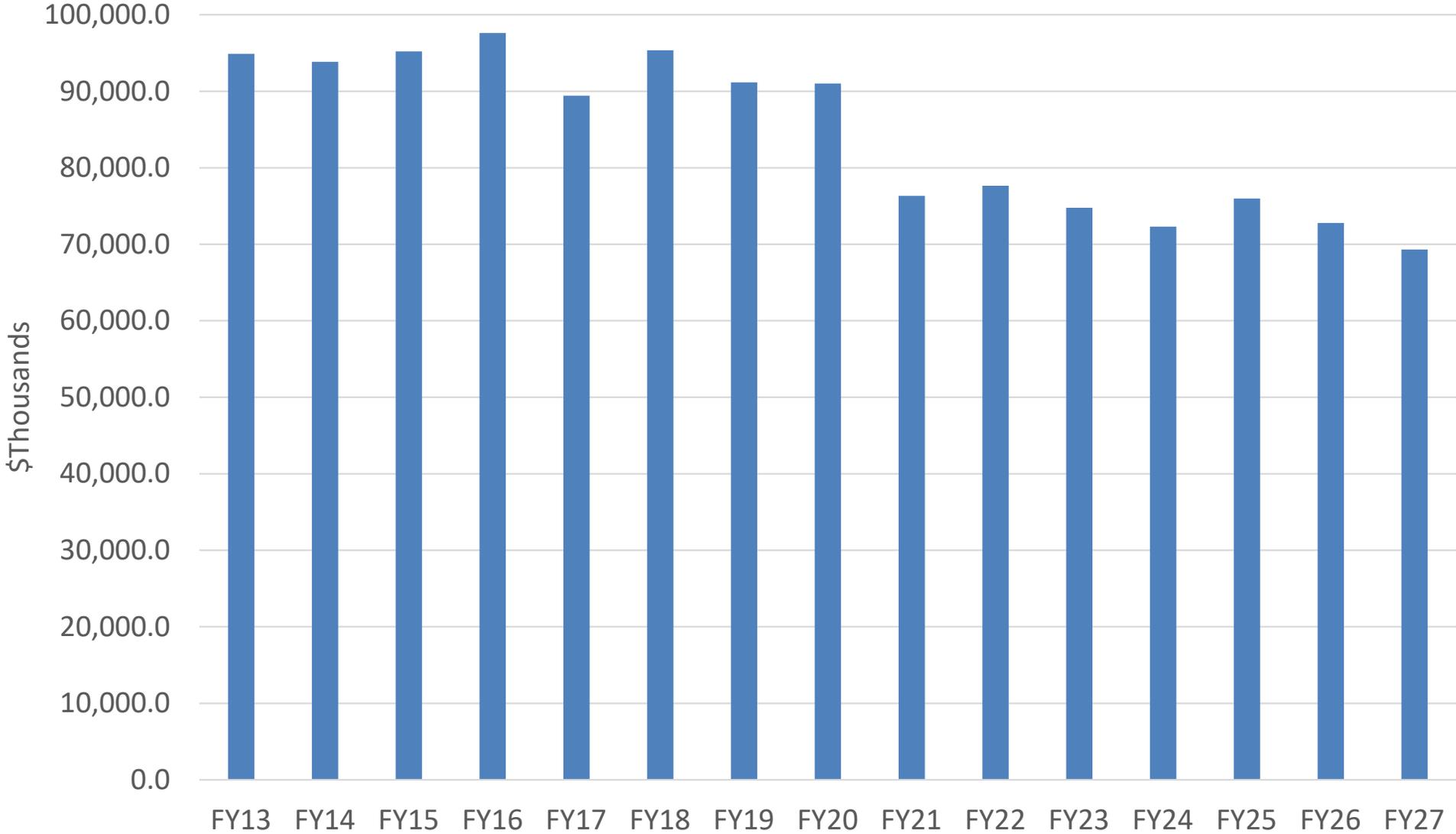
# Pupil Transportation History

- Prior to FY04, districts were reimbursed for all pupil transportation expenses.
- Beginning in FY04, pupil transportation funding became a fixed amount per-ADM, based on FY03 actual expenditures.
- District per-ADM funding amounts were rebalanced in FY12-FY13.
- Statutory per-ADM funding received inflation adjustments in FY14-16.
- \$6.4 million of statutory funding was vetoed in FY17.
- Legislature added \$7.4 million of one-time additional funding in FY25.
- Statutory per-pupil funding increased by 10% in FY26.

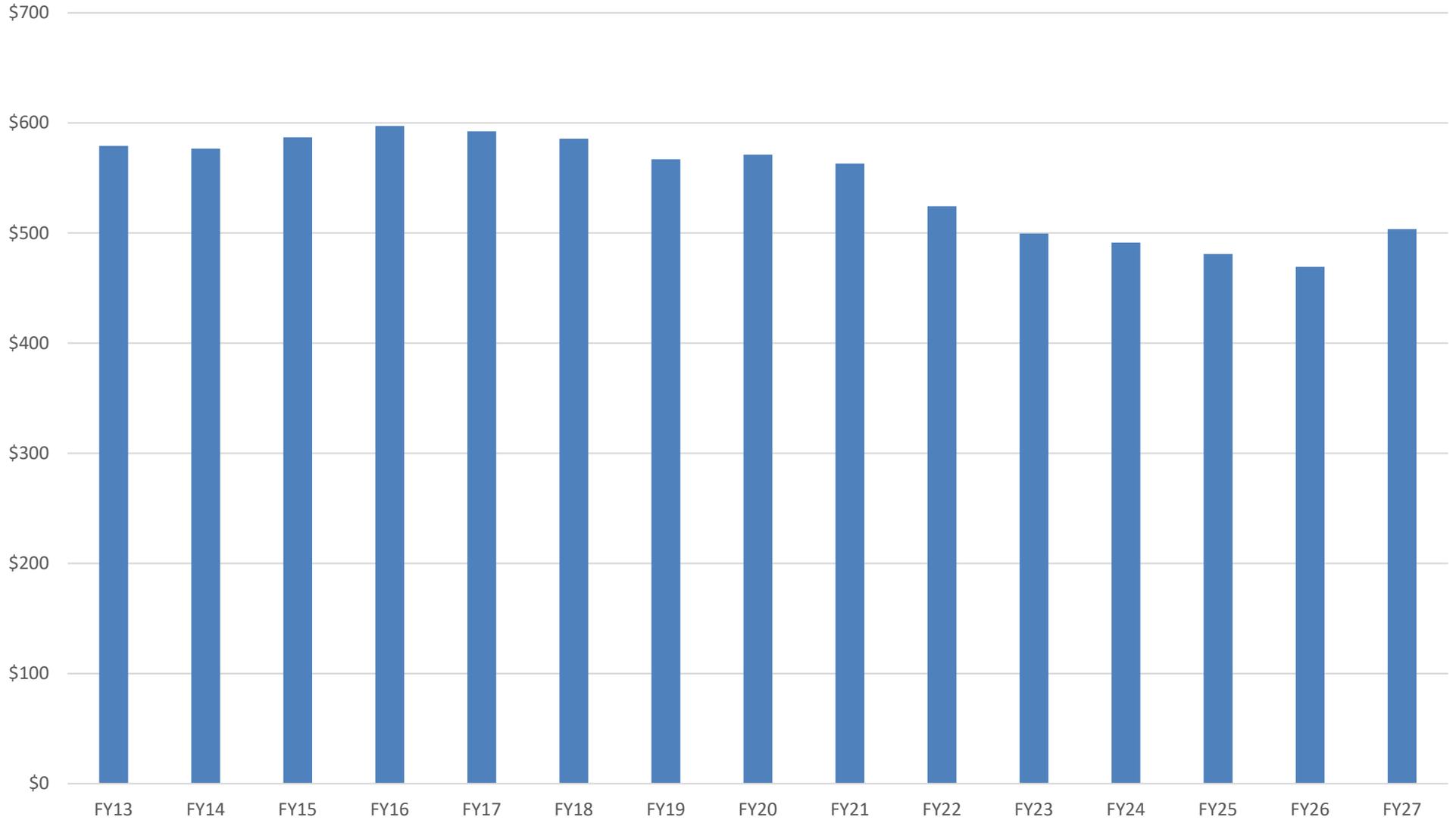
# Nominal Pupil Transportation Funding History



# Inflation-Adjusted Pupil Transportation Funding History (FY25 Dollars)



# Inflation-Adjusted Anchorage School District Statutory Per-ADM Funding (FY25 Dollars)



# Actual District Costs

- In FY24, districts spent \$91.7 million on pupil transportation, \$15.4 million more than state pupil transportation funding.
  - 15 districts' expenditures were lower than state funding, and 30 districts expenditures were higher.
  - 17 districts had expenditures at least 20% above state funding.
- District expenditures can vary widely year-to-year
  - For example, Unalaska per-ADM expenditures increased by 89% (\$634) from FY23-FY24, while Nenana decreased by 40% (\$277).

# Questions?

## Contact Information

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