

# Overview of School District Fund Balance



Frank Hauser  
Superintendent, Juneau School District

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

THE VOICE OF ALASKA'S CAPITAL SINCE 1912  
**JUNEAU**



**EMPIRE**

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 2025

**WEATHER** | Showers of rain & snow. High of 48, low of 34. A8

**DEAR ABBY & CROSSWORD** | B3 & B4

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**JUNEAUEMPIRE.COM**

## **Dunleavy's veto of education funding bill puts pressure on lawmakers during final month of session**



“An errant characterization of Juneau’s budget was made during Dunleavy’s press conference by state Education Commissioner Deena Bishop, who said, ‘At the \$680, the Juneau School District came out with a balanced budget. A few weeks later, their board voted on a \$0 input, and now they do have a deficit as well as others.’”



[Education](#) | [Juneau](#)

# Proposed Juneau School District budget assumes \$400 increase to per-student state funding

February 21, 2025 by Jamie Diep, KTOO

# District Statement on Governor's Press Conference

Posted on Apr 18, 2025

The Juneau School District is aware of comments made at the Governor's press conference on Thursday, April 17, that do not reflect an accurate description of facts regarding the district.

The Juneau School District and Board of Education have undertaken difficult, but necessary, work over the past two years to pass balanced budgets as required by state law. The district's recent independent audit found all funds in a positive balance.

The Board of Education works diligently to create balanced budgets that take into consideration the ever-present inflationary pressures and our students' educational needs, while at the same time dealing with the fiscal uncertainty surrounding education funding in the state.

During Governor Dunleavy's press availability today, the Commissioner of Education stated, "At the \$680, the Juneau School District came out with a balanced budget. A few weeks later their board voted on a \$0 input, and now they do have a deficit as well as others."

The facts, as evidenced by the approved budget documents, are that the board passed a balanced budget, which included an anticipated \$400 BSA increase or equivalent one-time funds.

At no time during the FY26 budget process did the board entertain the idea of developing a deficit budget. Rather, the district maintained operations, avoided layoffs, and followed its policy to maintain a 1.5% ending fund balance.

The Juneau School District thanks the hardworking educators and supporters of public education that have lived with the funding uncertainty that continues to have an undeniable impact on the nearly 130,000 students in the State of Alaska.

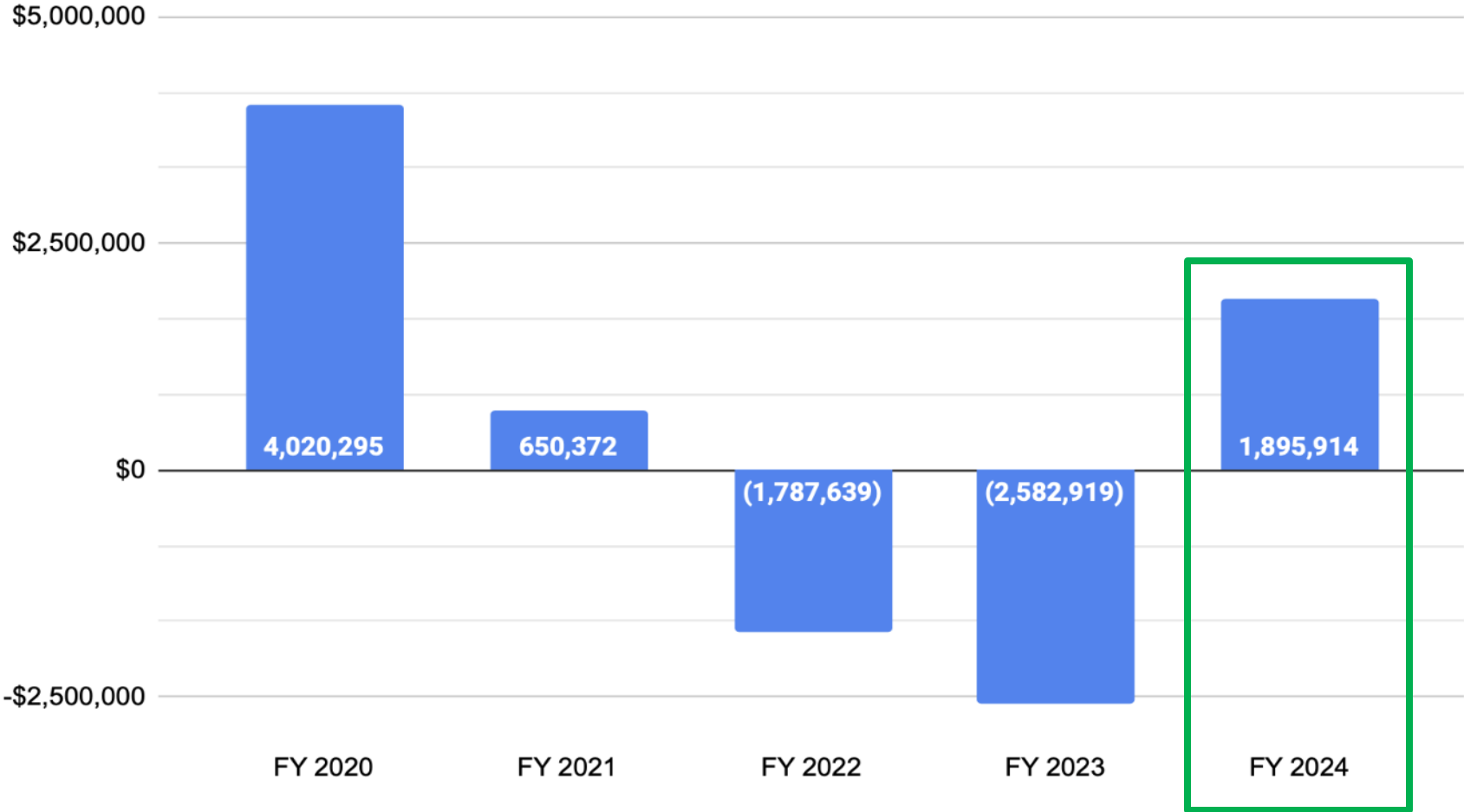




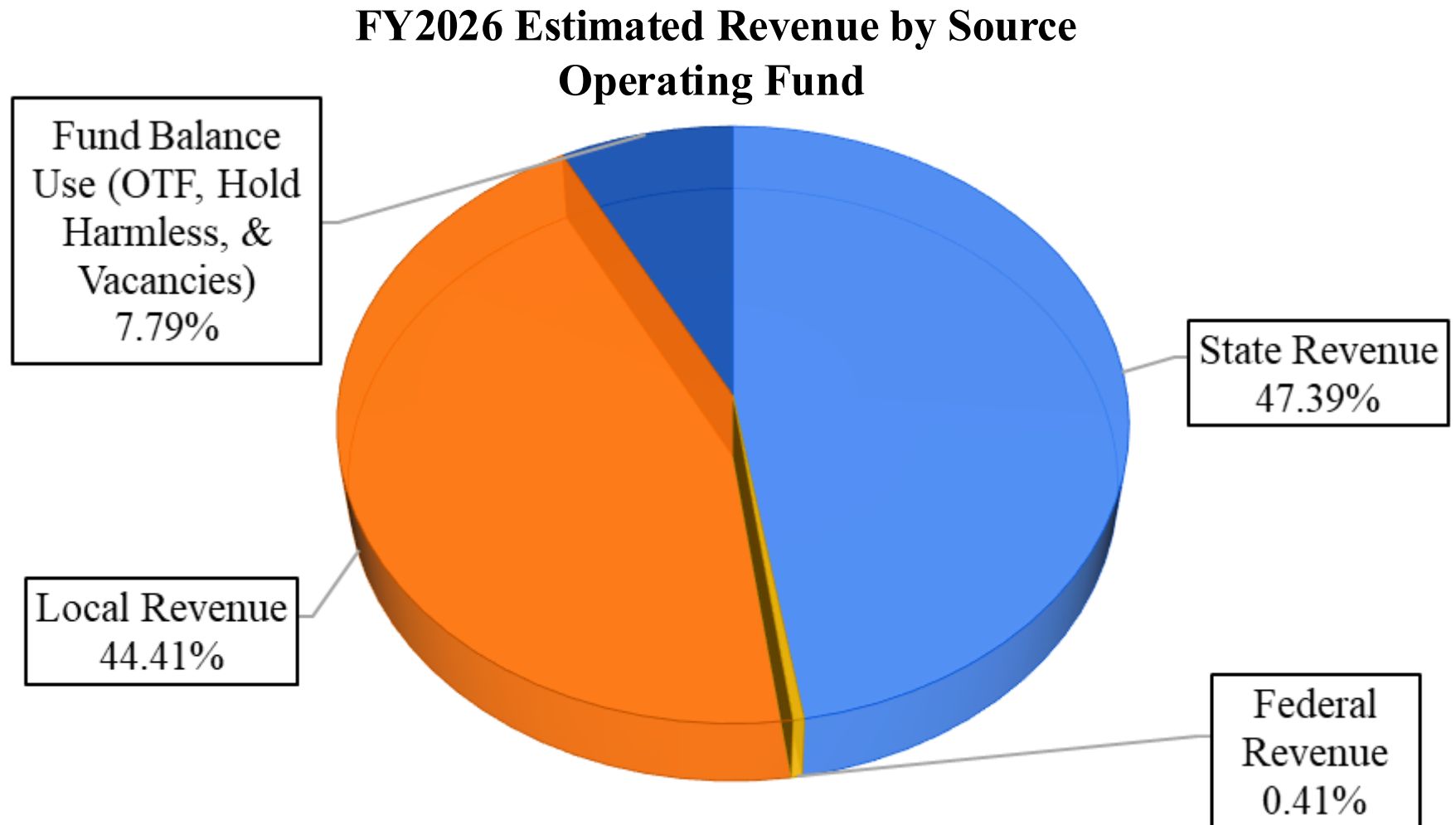
# “Spread the Facts”

- FY2024 JSD audit identified \$1.89M available fund balance.
- FY2025 JSD realized savings with consolidation plus vacancies and one-time funds. Fund balance is balancing the FY2026 budget.
- FY2026 JSD Board of Education adopted a balanced budget, based on an anticipated increase to state funding in the amount of \$400 through the Base Student Allocation (BSA) or one-time equivalent.
- FY2026 projected available fund balance is \$1,411,858, just over Board-policy required minimum 1.5%.

# FY2024 JSD Audit Identified \$1.89M Available Fund Balance



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**FY2026 projected available fund balance is \$1,411,858, just over Board policy-required minimum 1.5%.**

## **BP 3470 FUND BALANCE**

### **Fund Balance Range – Operating Fund**

The District should maintain a minimum unassigned fund balance in its Operating Fund of 1.5% of the subsequent year's budgeted expenditures and outgoing transfers. Official Board approval by majority vote is required to go below 1.5%.

# GFOA Recommendation and State Limits:

- The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recommends that general-purpose governments, regardless of size, maintain an unrestricted budgetary fund balance in their general fund of no less than two months of regular general fund operating revenues or expenditures.
- Based on our FY2025 revised budget of \$70,176,780, the state limits districts to holding a maximum of 10% of that amount in the unreserved fund balance, which would be \$7,017,678 for JSD.
- If districts follow the GFOA's recommendation of maintaining two months of operating expenses, this would amount to approximately **\$11,696,130** (calculated by dividing the total budget by 12 months, then multiplying by two months).
- This means that the state's 10% limit is roughly **\$4.7 million less than the amount recommended** by GFOA to maintain fiscal stability.
- The district is effectively limited from holding the recommended amount to ensure long-term stability and flexibility.

## **January 2024, from the desk of Superintendent Hauser**

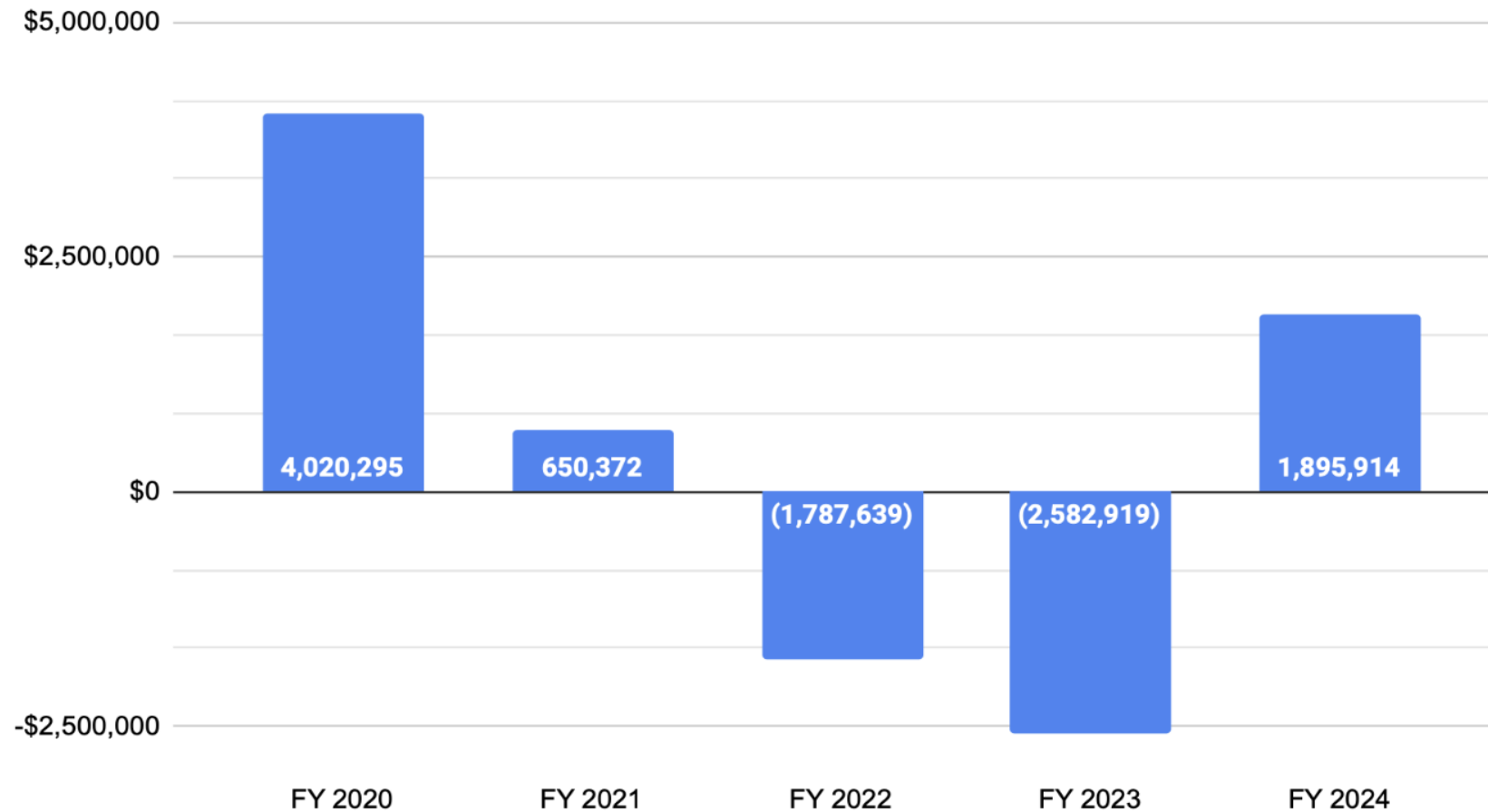
*I am in the unenviable position of being new to Juneau, uncovering a difficult situation that may challenge assumptions, and delivering unwelcome news.*

*But my job is not to tell you what you want to hear. It's to tell you the truth.*

*The truth is that this district must make both immediate and long-term financial changes.*

*All of our jobs, together, will be to look at that truth, without blinking, and with the courage and resolution to address it.*

# Historic Trend of Audited Fund Balance in the Juneau School District













# Education bill veto leaves Alaska school leaders disappointed, frustrated and confused

Alaska Public Media | By **Eric Stone**

Published April 19, 2025 at 6:56 PM AKDT



# DEED Proposed Regulation Change to Local Contribution

4 AAC 09.990(b) is amended to read:

(b) In the definition of "local contribution" in AS 14.17.990,

(1) "appropriations" means money appropriated to a district [DISTRICT'S SCHOOL OPERATING FUND] by the city or borough, **but does not include money appropriated for community services, capital outlay, or debt service;**

(2) "value of in-kind services" means the documented fair market value of insurance, utilities, energy, audits, and maintenance of facilities provided at no charge to a district by the city or borough, **but does not include value of in-kind services for community services or teacher housing** [AS REPORTED IN THE DISTRICT'S SCHOOL OPERATING FUND].

***Gunalchéesh!***  
***Thank you!***