

# Preliminary Response to the County Executive's Budget Announcement

April 15, 2024



**HARFORD COUNTY**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Inspire • Prepare • Achieve

# Deceptive Language

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“Legal Minimum”

“Amount Required”

“Maintenance of Effort”



FLAT  
FUNDING

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FLAT FUNDING = ~~BUDGET~~ *SERVICE CUTS*

# Legal Minimum

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April 2023  
Harford County Budget Press  
Release:

“Funding for education - \$305 million in operating funds, equal to the **amount required by state law.**”

April 15, 2024  
Fox 45 Interview

“We are meeting **maintenance of effort.** We are funding what was there from last year. The school system lived with what they had last year.”

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**FLAT FUNDING = *SERVICE* CUTS**

# Service Cuts Across the State

The minimum legal county contribution does not allow for inflation or cost increases, so current level of service cannot be maintained.

## CECIL



**CECIL COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
WARN 100+  
TEACHER CUTS  
WITHOUT  
FUNDING BOOST**

## HOWARD



**348 JOBS TO BE  
CUT, CLASS  
SIZES BIGGER  
WITH HCPSS  
\$103M FUNDING  
GAP**

## BALTIMORE



**BALTIMORE  
COUNTY  
BUDGET CUTS  
IMPACTING  
CLASSES,  
STAFFING  
AND BEYOND**

# Major Blueprint Initiatives & Services

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## Early Childhood Education

- 1<sup>st</sup> Year start-up costs for Pre-K Expansion
- *Future Consideration:* Charging for Tier 2 Students



## Elevating Educators

- National Board Certification Incentive (Local share FY25 est. \$400,000)
- Starting Salary of \$60,000 by FY26



## North Star

- Dual Enrollment (FY25 est. \$1.1M)
- Career Coaching with Susquehanna Workforce Networks (FY25 est. \$2.3M)
- Staff dedicated to Workforce Investment, Apprenticeships, CCR pathways (FY25 est. \$1.8M)



## Student Supports

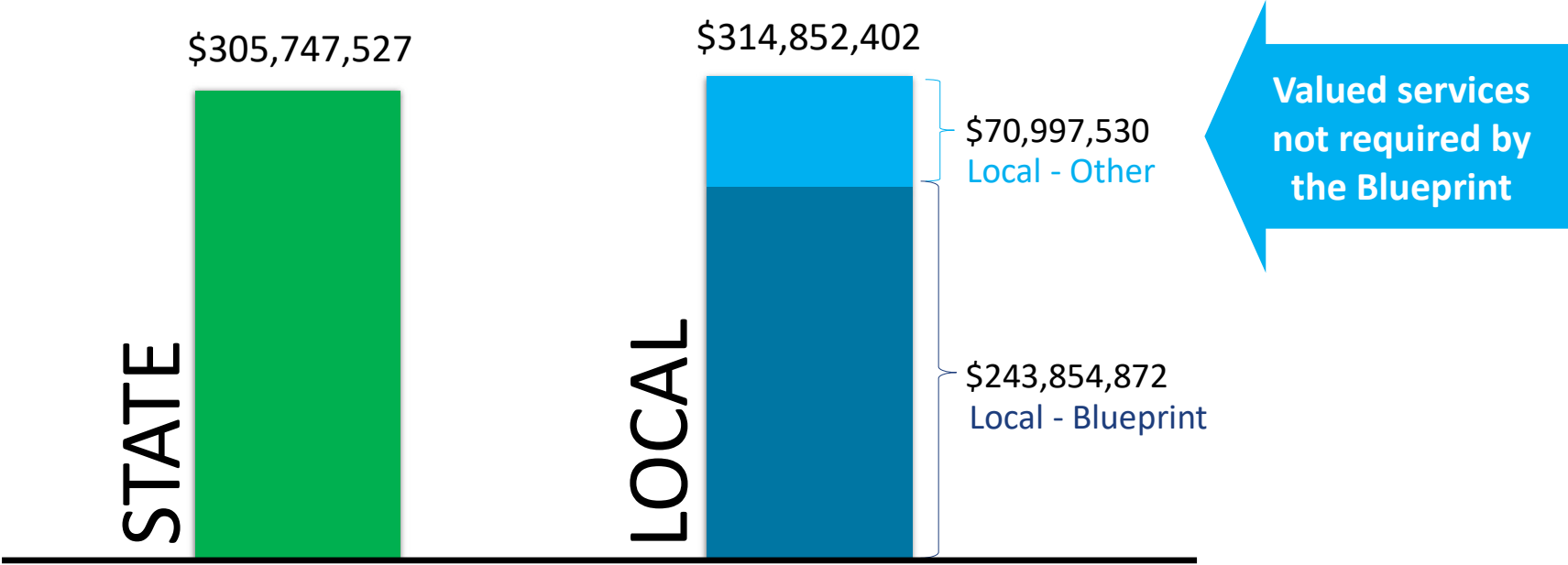
- Special Education (Cost exceeding funding FY25 est. \$62.6M)
- English Learners (Reallocation required to meet Blueprint Requirements)
- *Note:*
  - Community Schools does not impact the operating budget
  - Mental and behavioral health services are provided through HCHD funding and partnership with private providers



## Foundation

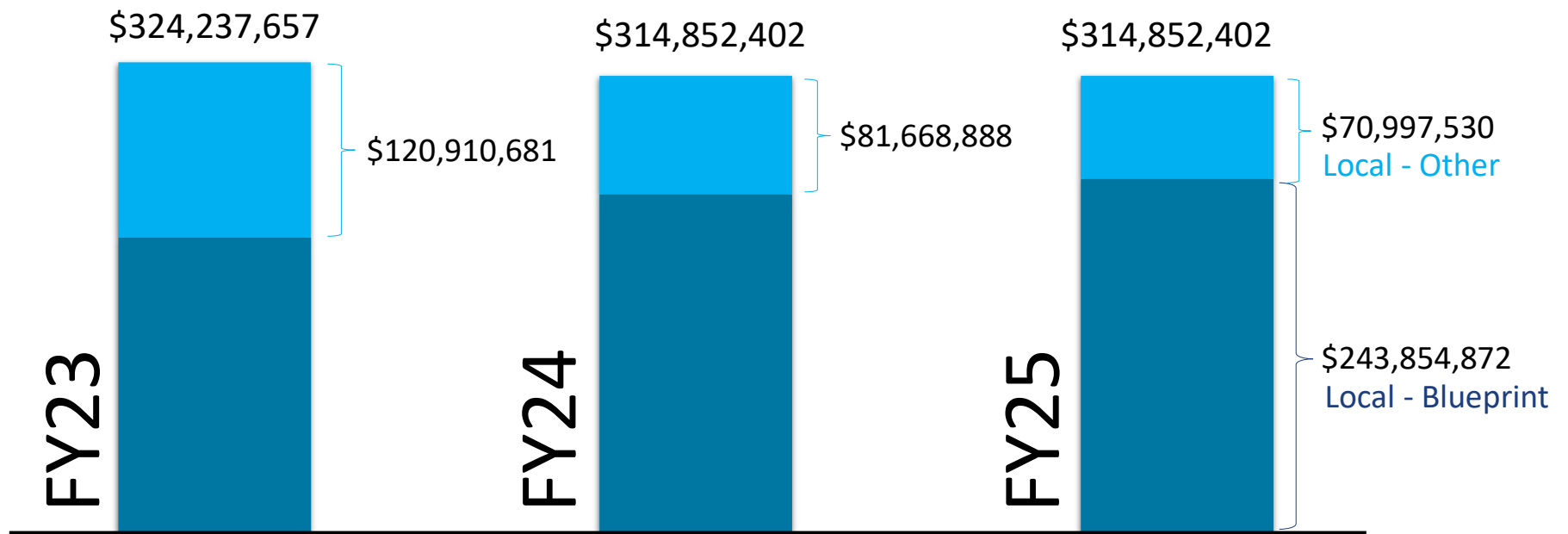
- Implementation of Minimum Adequate Funding at 75% per pupil

# State & Local Revenue



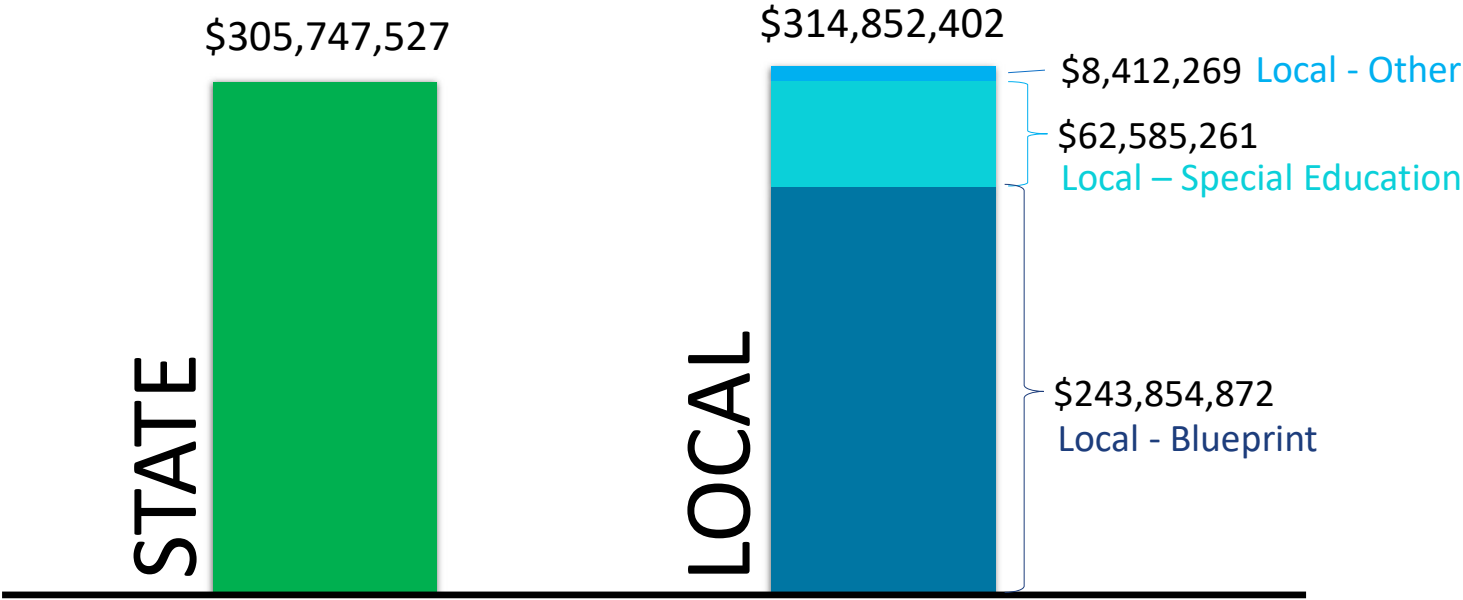
Based on FY 2025 Proposed Budget with Flat Local Funding

# Local Revenue



Based on FY 2025 Proposed Budget with Flat Local Funding

# State & Local Revenue



Based on FY 2025 Proposed Budget with Flat Local Funding



# HCPS Valued Services

Class size

Safety & security

Arts and music programs

World Language

Athletics, extra-curricular activities, and clubs

Field trips, including Harford Glen

Historically Small schools

Transportation

1:1 Tech

Employee benefits

These valued services and programs are not required in the Blueprint.

# Proposed FY25 Service Reductions

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- Fewer teachers (class size)
- Smaller employee raises
- Fewer safety liaisons
- Fewer nurses
- Fewer non-school-based positions
- Operational efficiencies
- Eliminate athletic trainers
- Eliminate middle school sports
- Cancel elementary and middle summer school