

**Commonwealth Charter Schools
Question 2**

**Potential Impact on
Arlington Public Schools**

**Paul Schlichtman
Arlington School Committee**

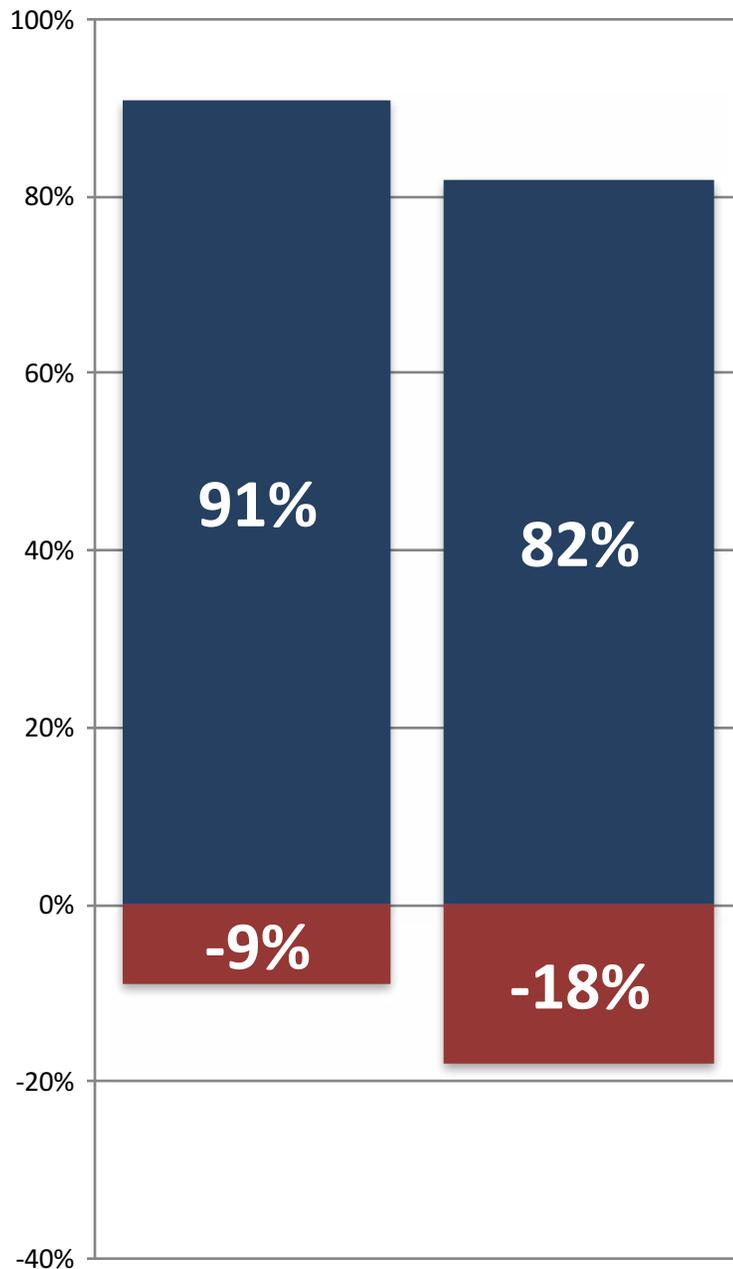
September 24, 2016

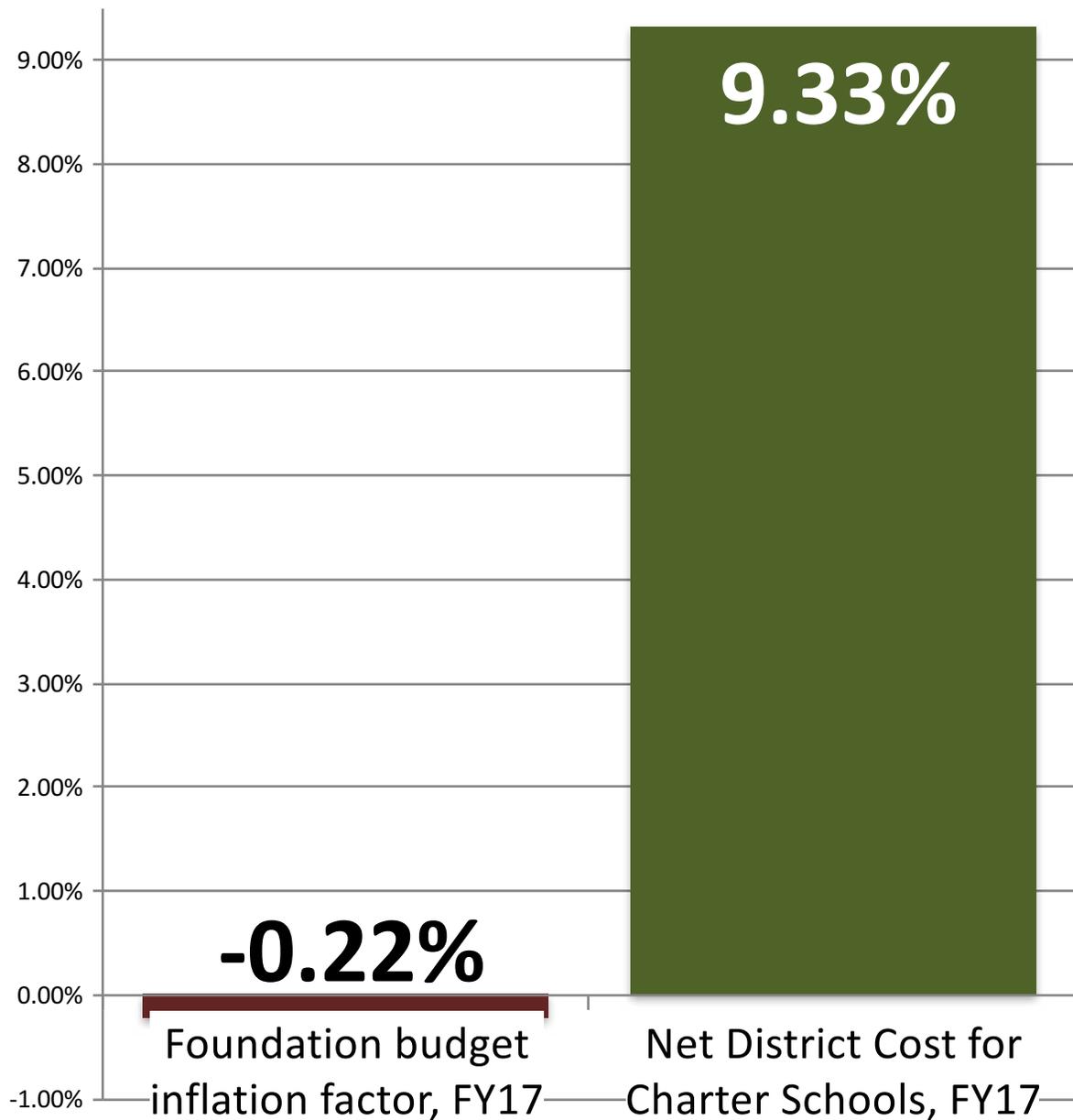
The current charter school cap is really a plug in the fiscal drain.

For most Massachusetts districts, the drain is plugged at 9% of **Net School Spending.**

For the bottom 10% of districts the drain is plugged at 18% of **Net School Spending.**

If the per pupil charter school garnishment from local districts is cut in half, the number of available charter school seats would double.





In FY 2017, Massachusetts DEFLATED the per-pupil foundation budget by -0.22%

In FY 2017, Net District Cost for Charter Schools (district garnishment after all reimbursements) increased from \$412,811,820 to \$451,338,729, a 9.33% increase.

This is happening to school districts under the current charter school cap.

A yes vote on Question 2, and 12 new charter schools every year, will make things much worse for children in our public schools.

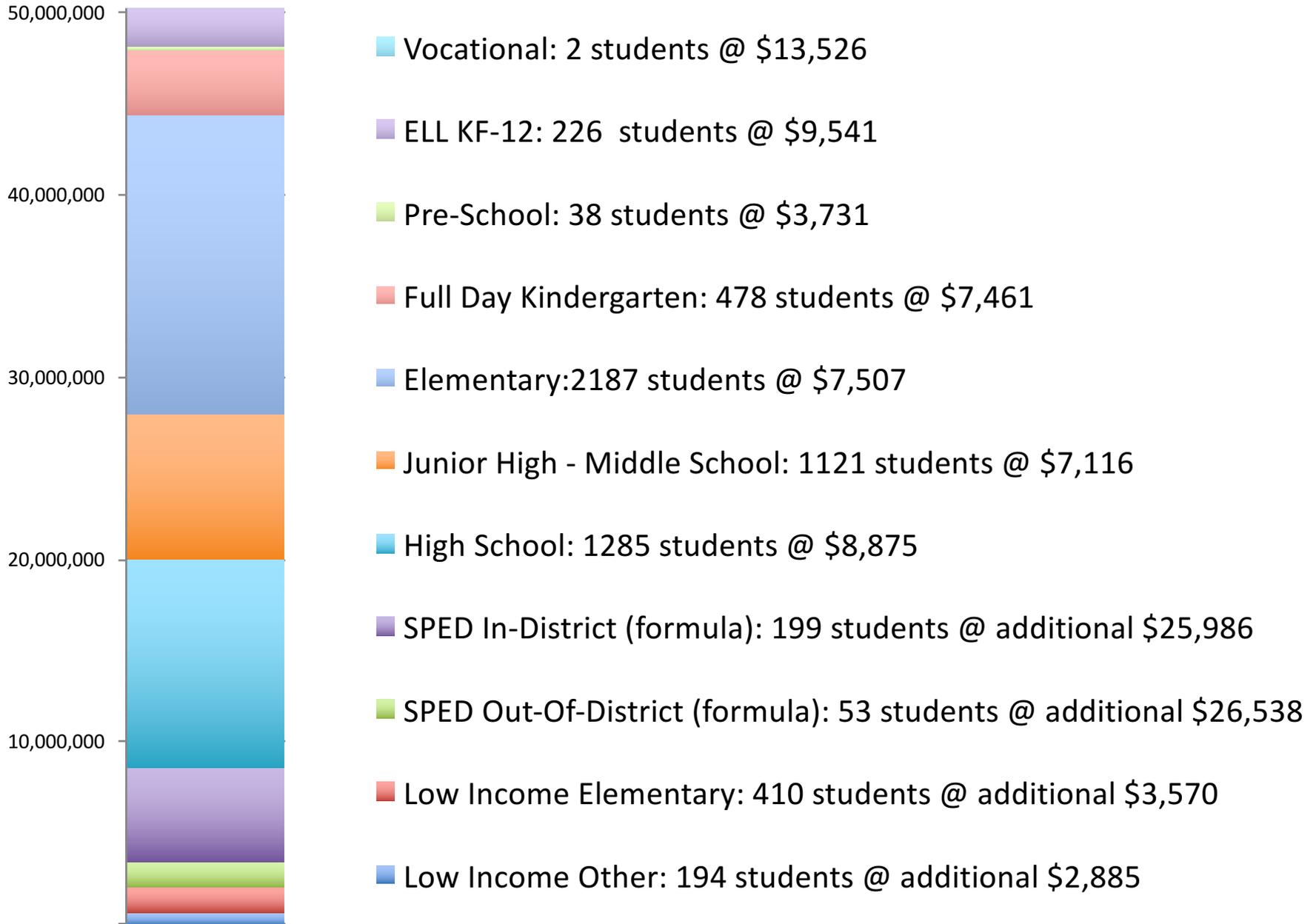
How do we fund public school districts in Massachusetts?



**Education Reform Act of 1993
Foundation Budget.
Based on the cost of providing an
adequate education in 1993.**

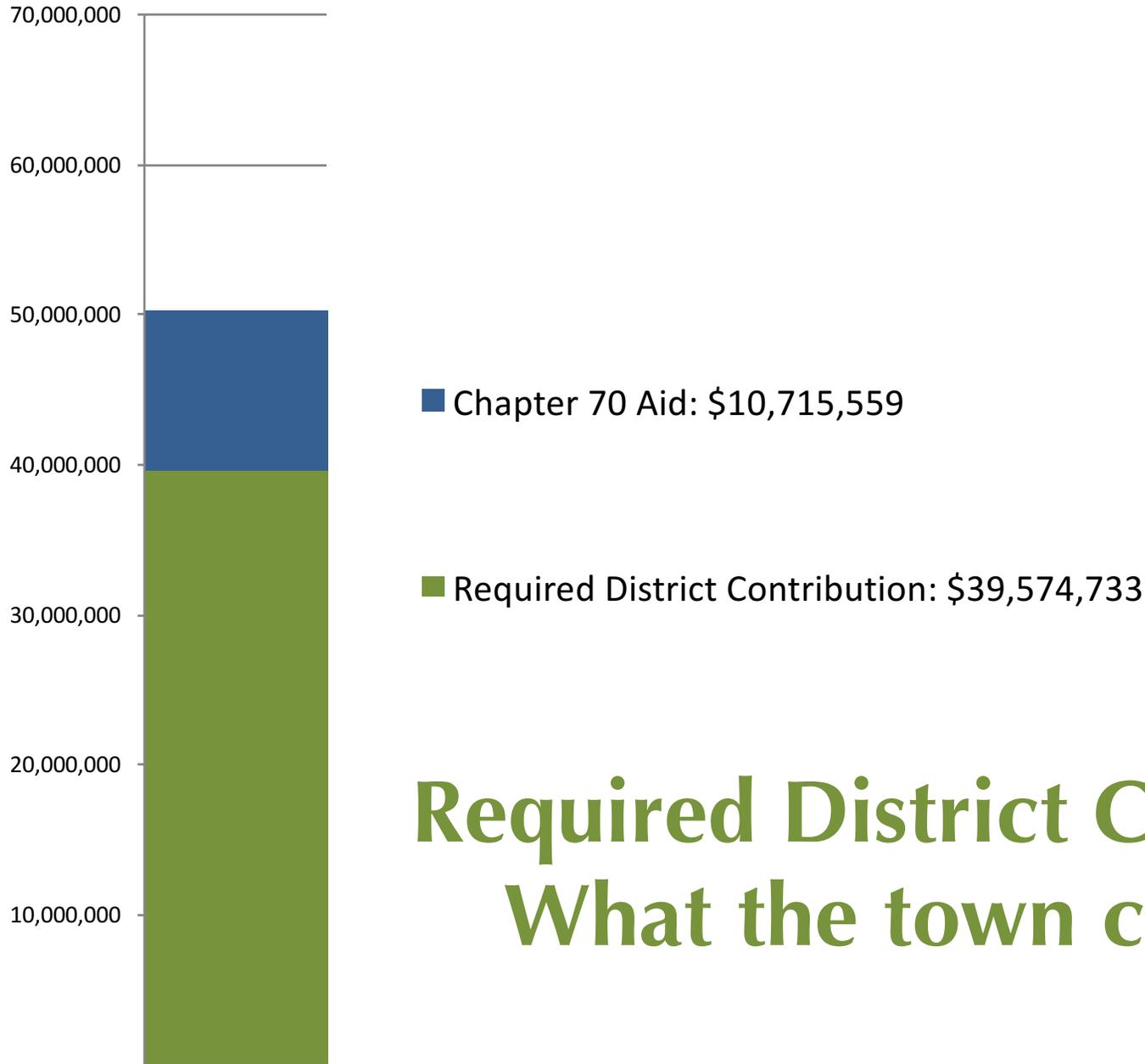
Arlington Foundation Budget: FY16

\$50,290,292



Arlington Foundation Budget: FY16

\$50,290,292

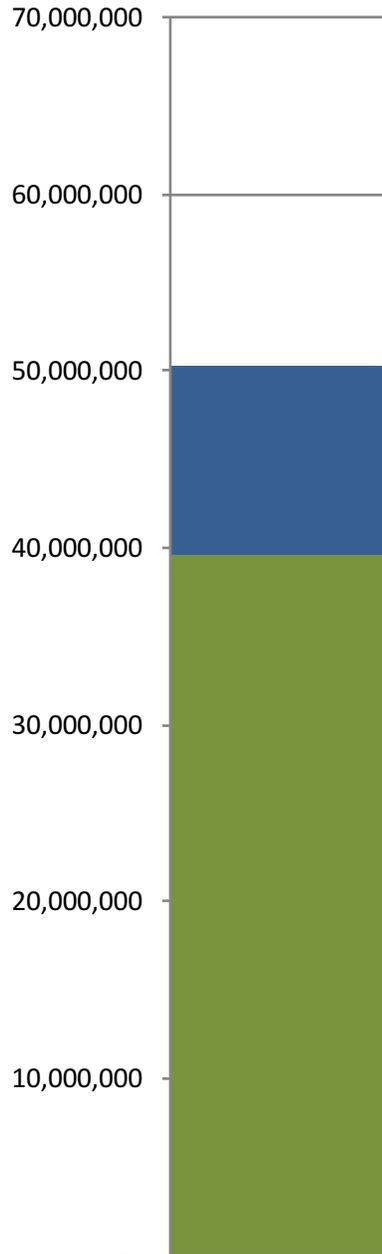


**Required District Contribution:
What the town can afford.**

Arlington Foundation Budget: FY16

\$50,290,292

**Chapter 70 State Aid:
Fills the gap between
Required District Contribution &
Foundation Budget.**



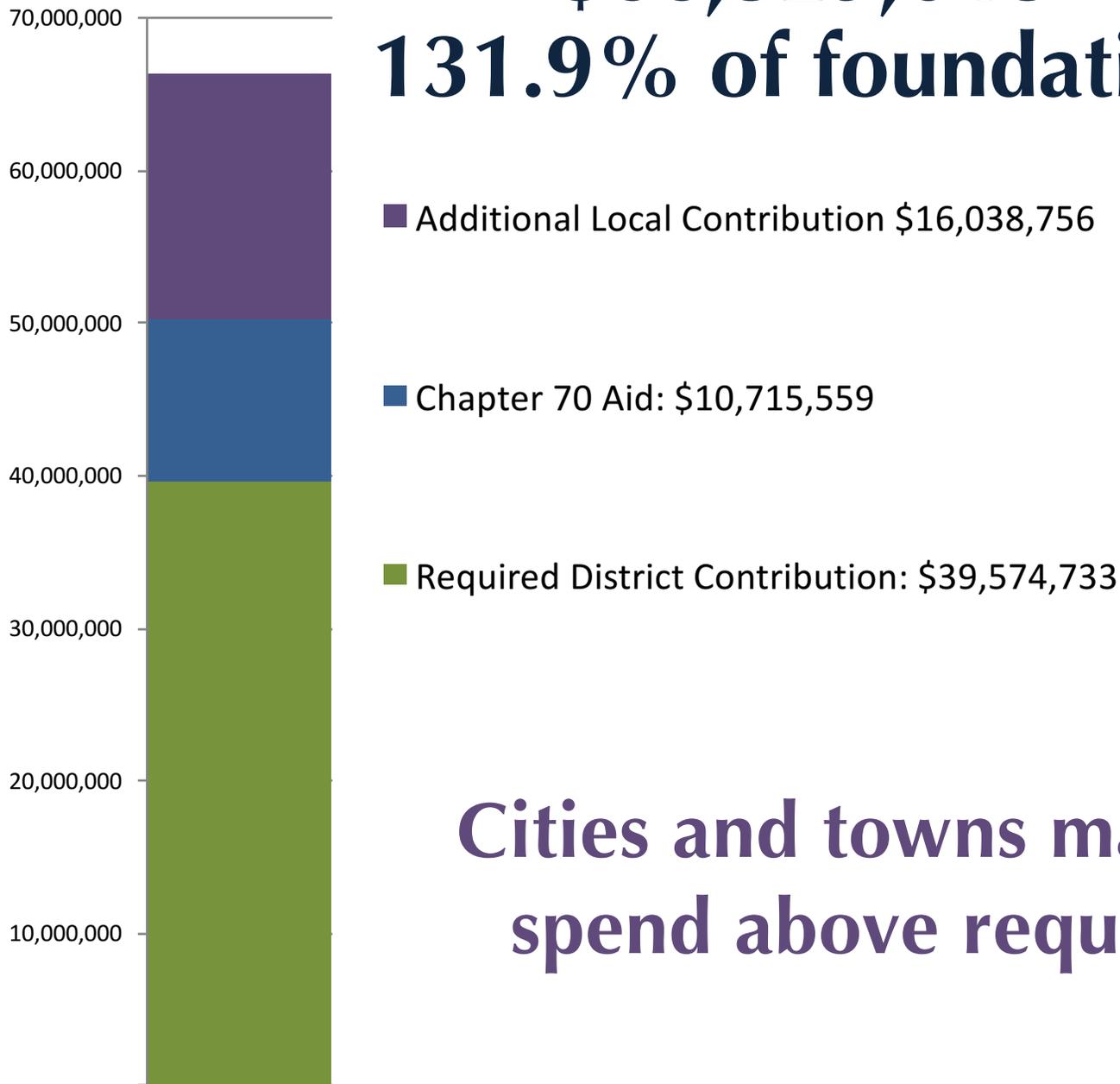
■ Chapter 70 Aid: \$10,715,559

■ Required District Contribution: \$39,574,733

Arlington Net School Spending: FY16

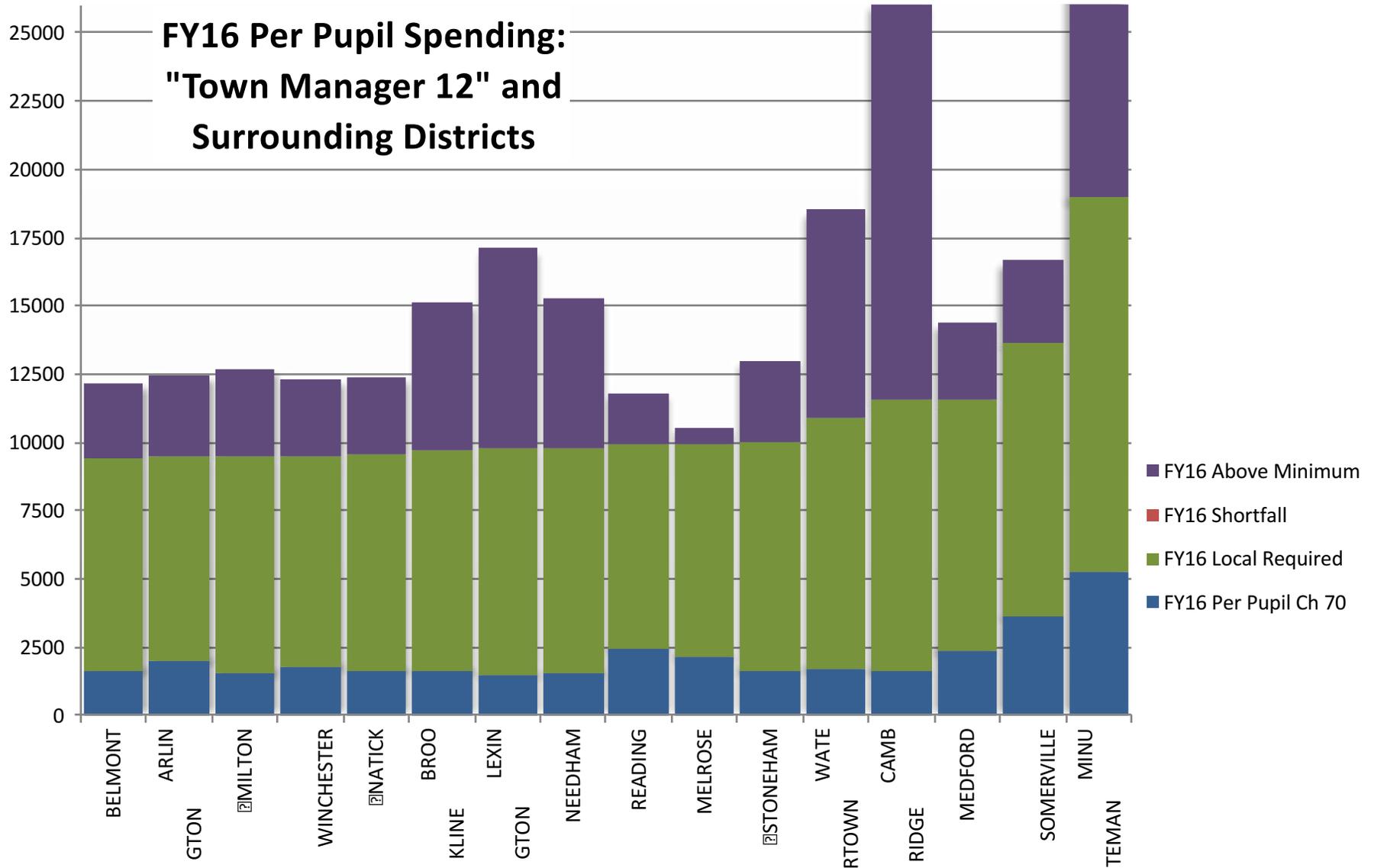
\$66,329,048

131.9% of foundation

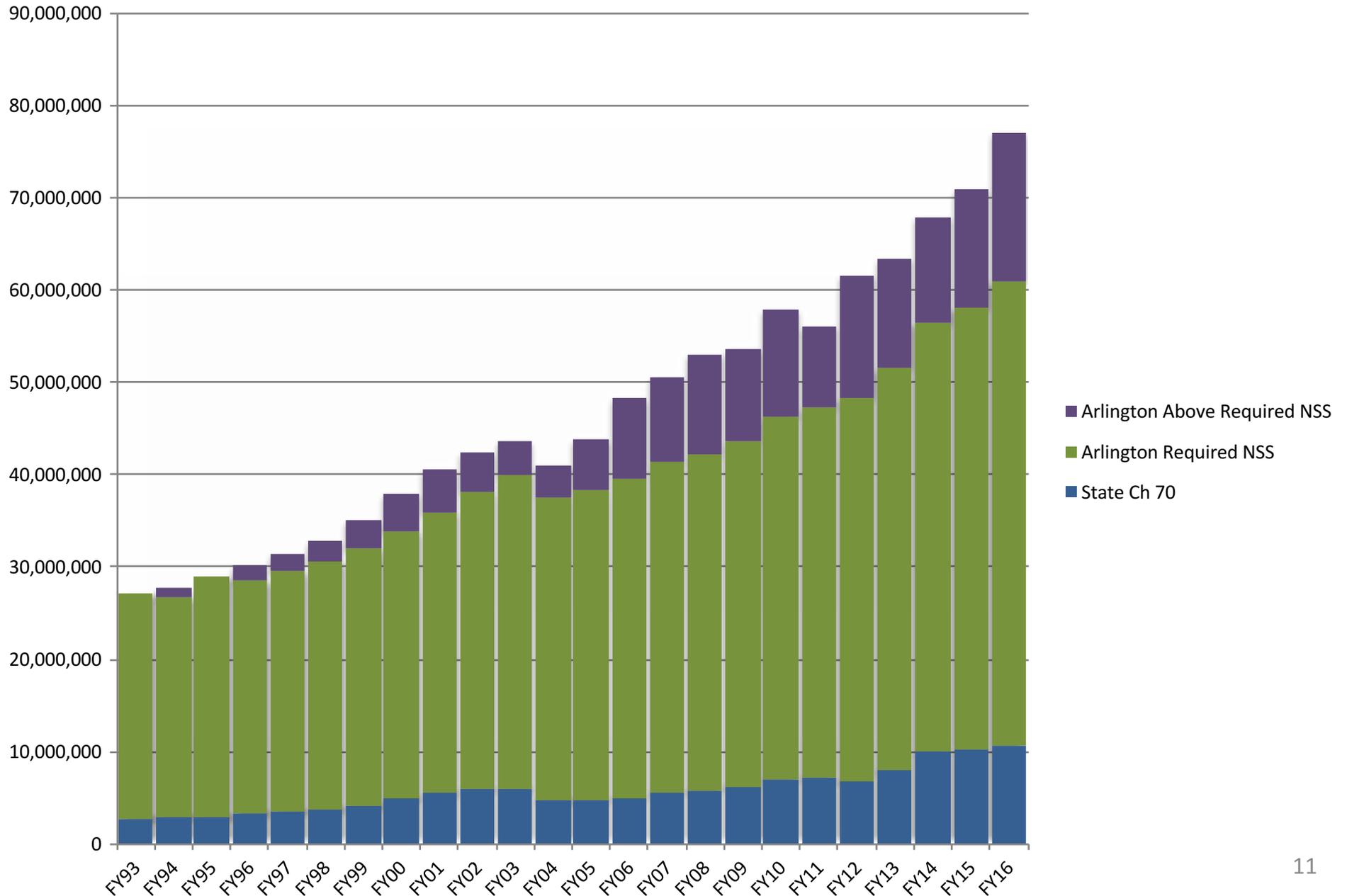


Cities and towns may choose to spend above required levels.

Most cities and towns spend in excess of state requirements.

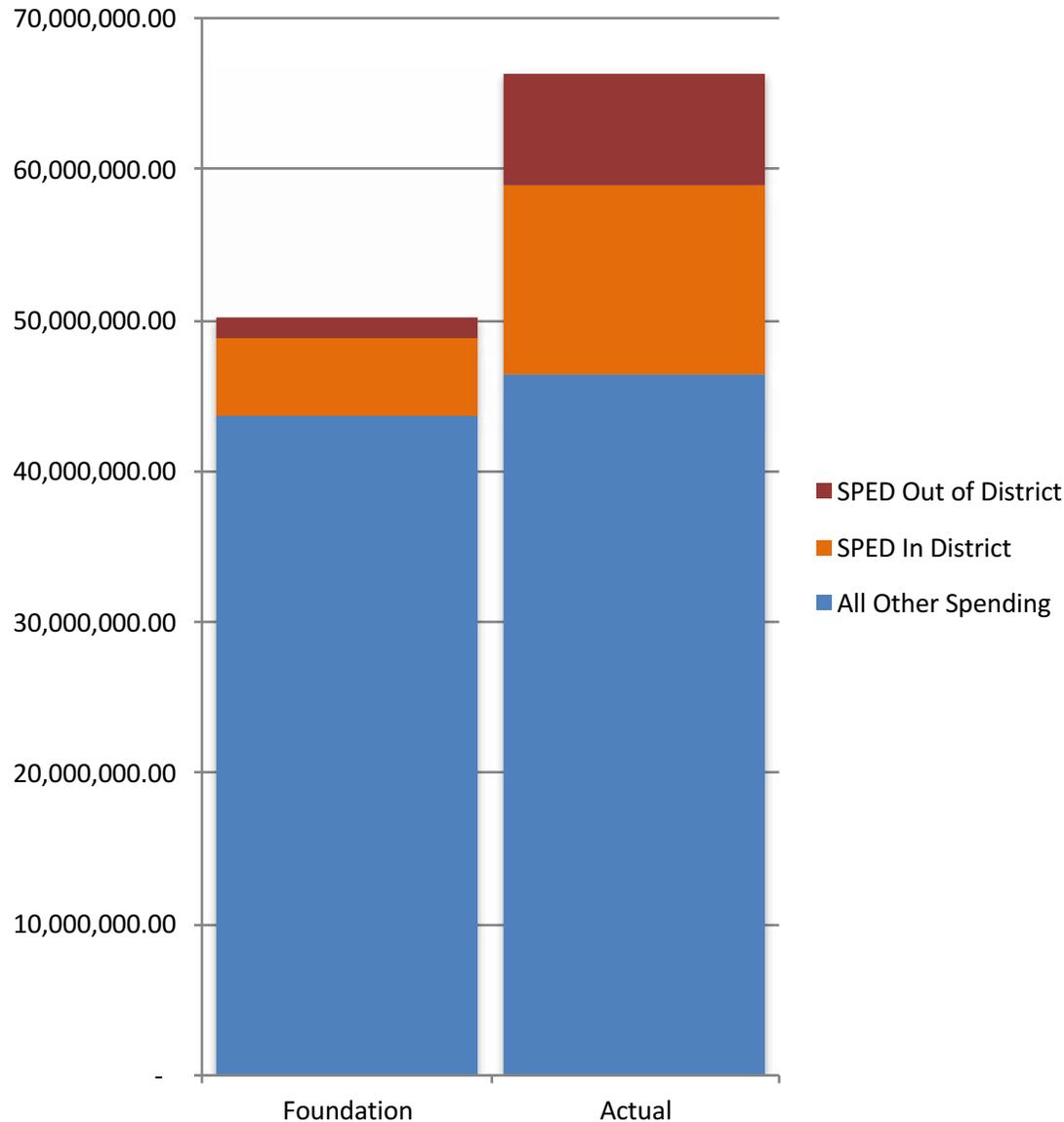


Arlington public school funding under Education Reform: FY93-FY16



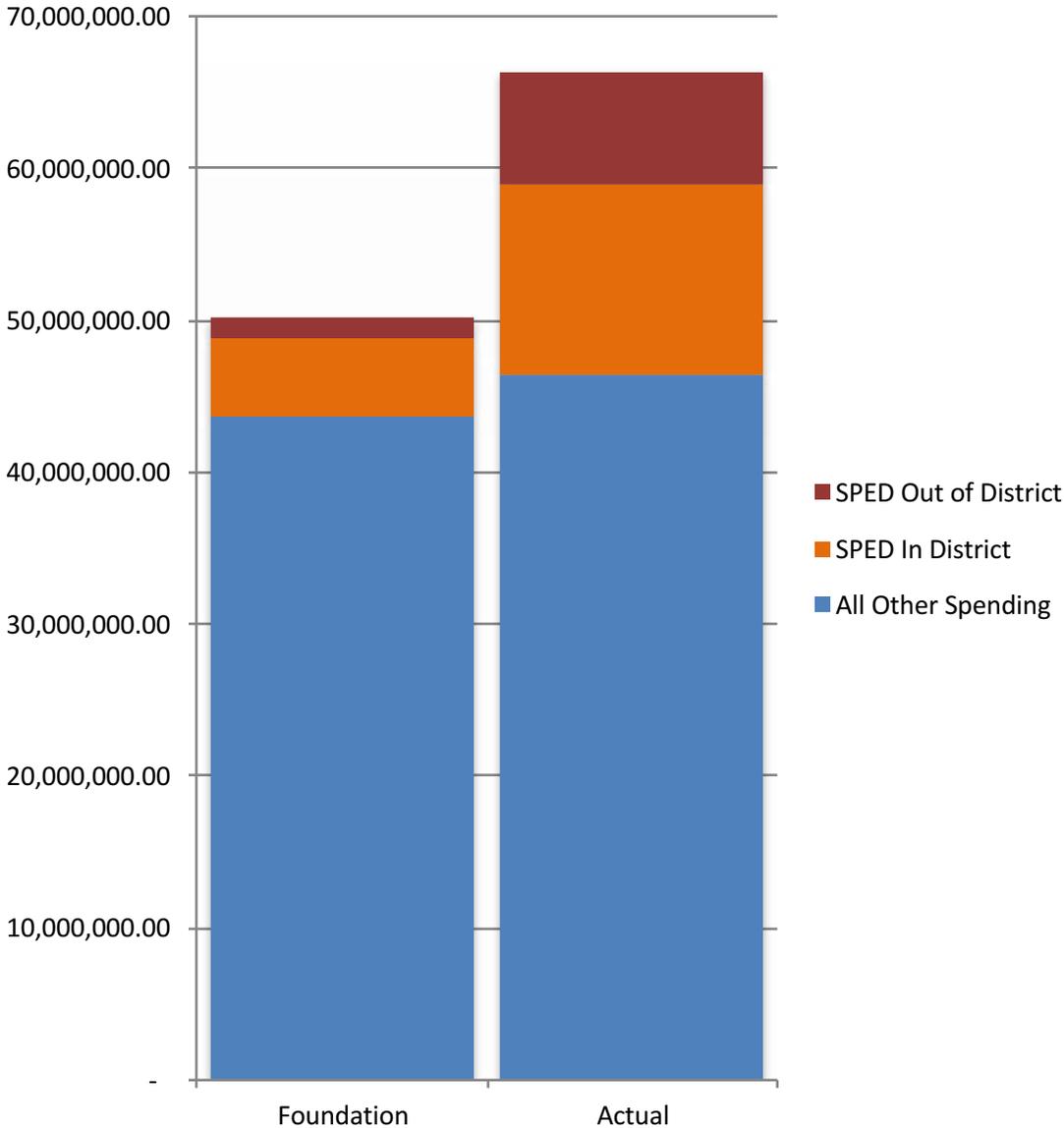
**FY16:
Arlington
spends at
131.9% of
foundation.**

**Arlington Public Schools:
Foundation versus Net School Spending, FY16**



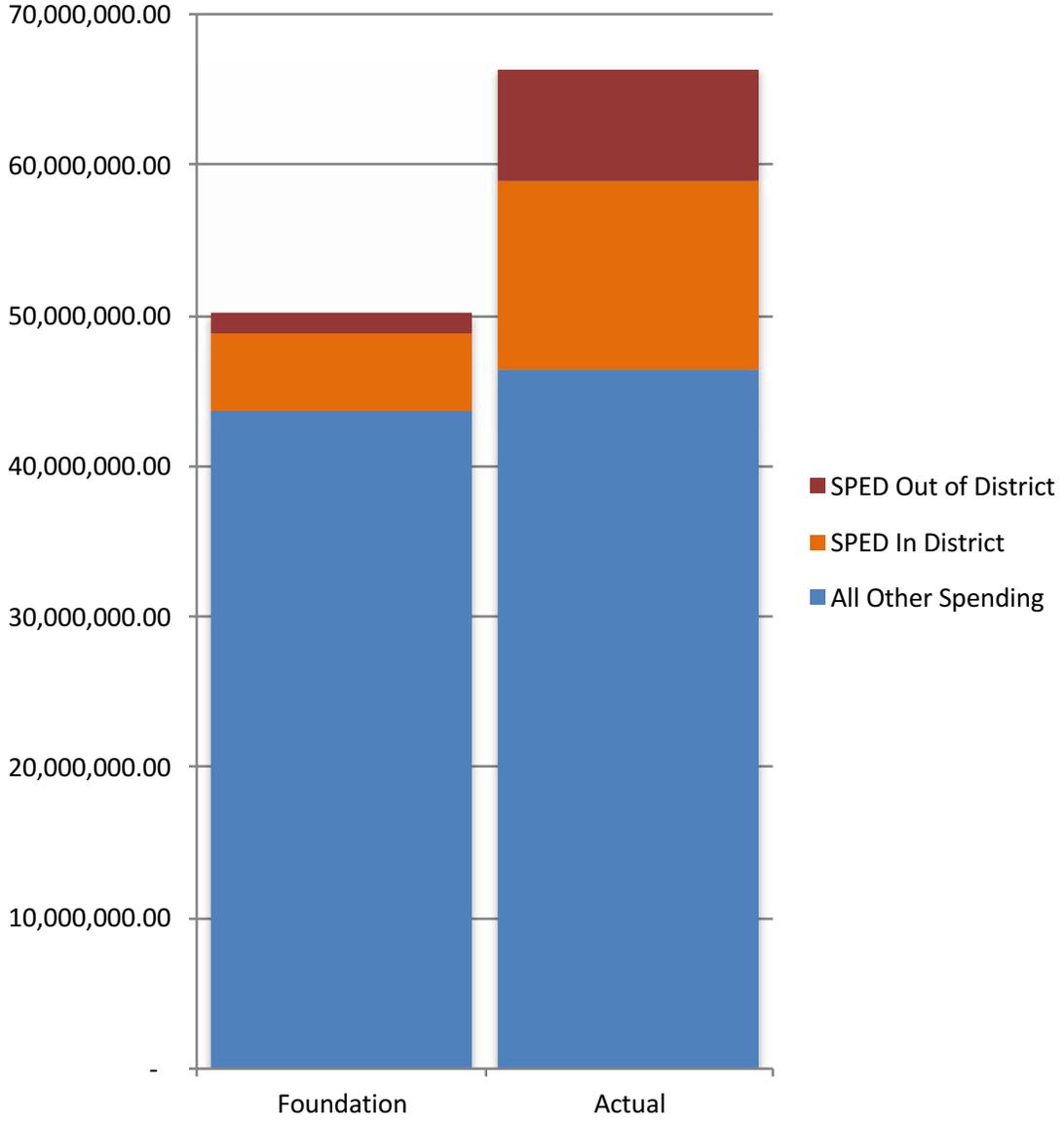
**FY16:
Arlington
spends at
526.8% of
foundation
on out-of-
district
SPED.**

**Arlington Public Schools:
Foundation versus Net School Spending, FY16**

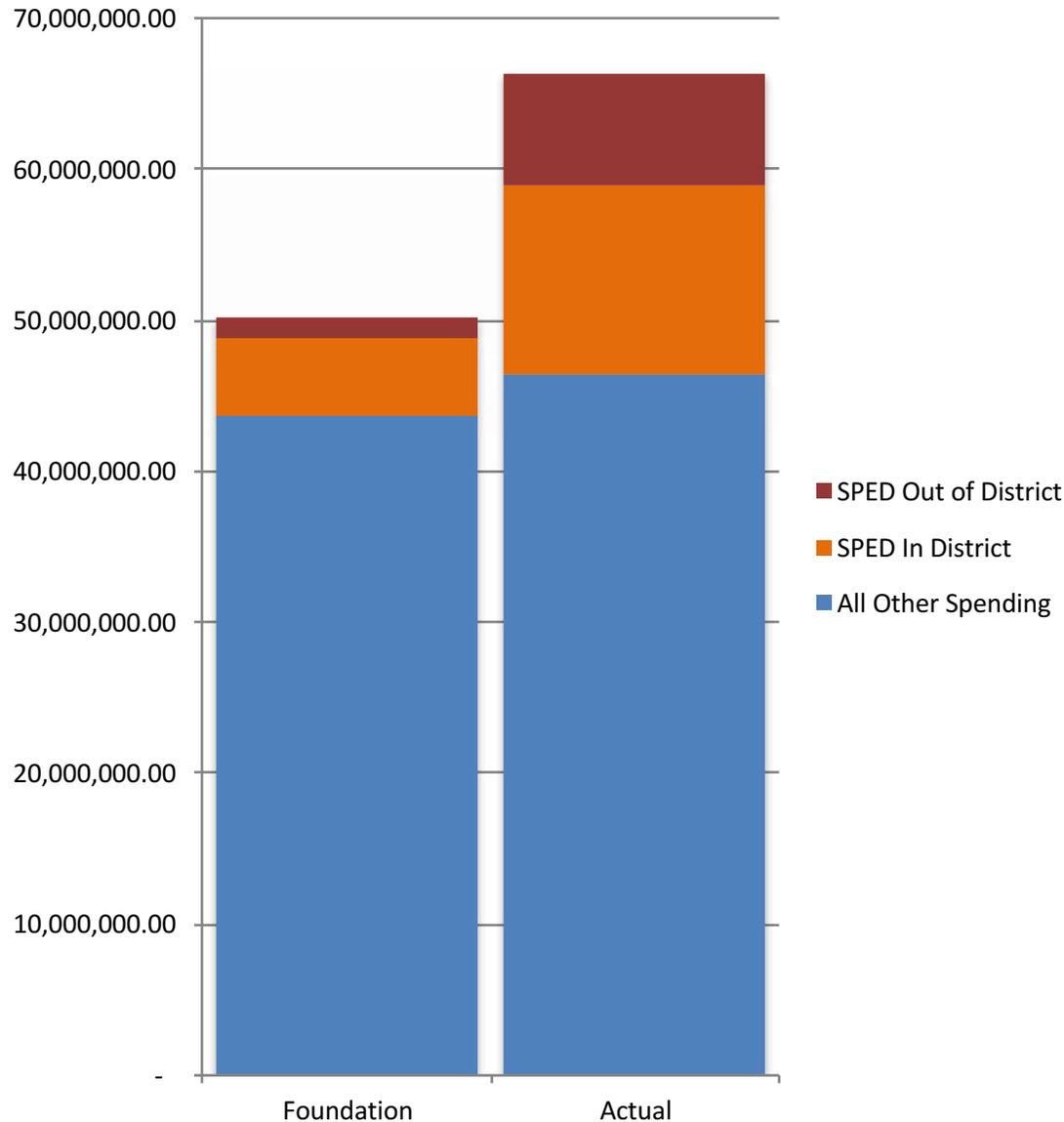


**FY16:
Arlington
spends at
240.0% of
foundation
on
in-district
SPED.**

**Arlington Public Schools:
Foundation versus Net School Spending, FY16**

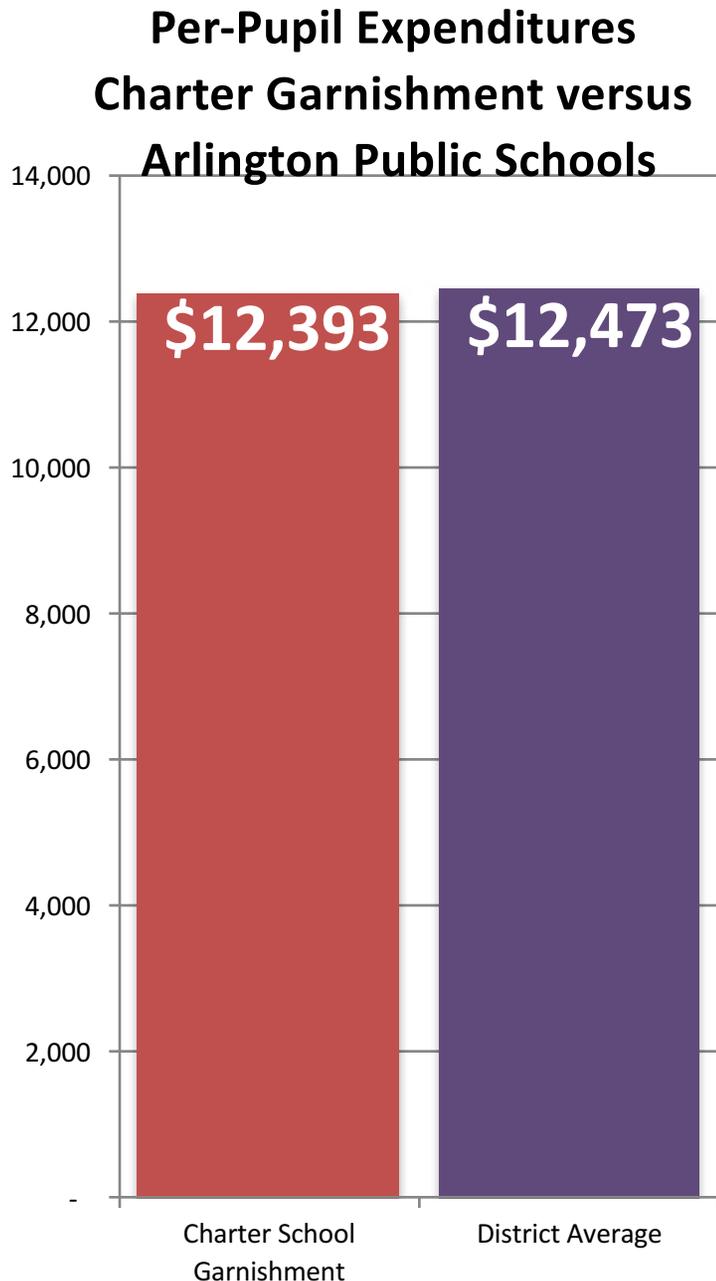


**Arlington Public Schools:
Foundation versus Net School Spending, FY16**



**FY16:
Arlington
spends at
106.4% of
foundation
on all non-
SPED line
items.**

Charter school funding:



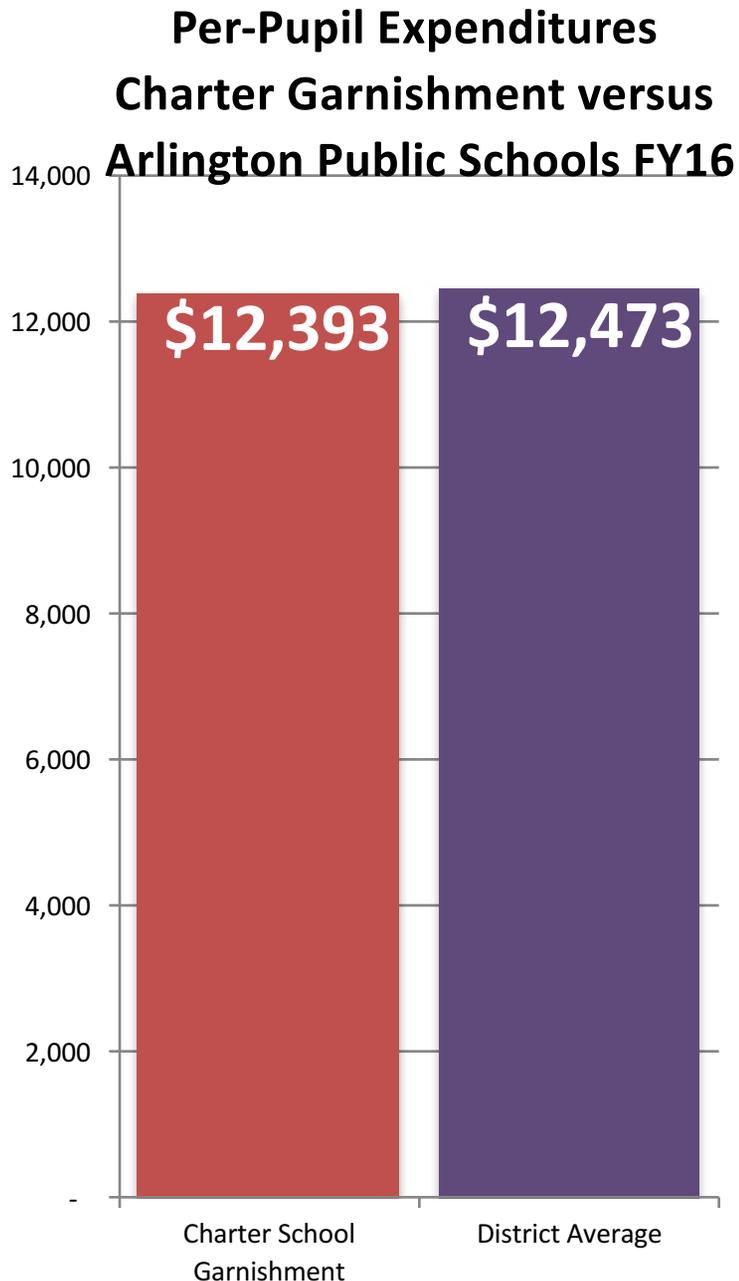
- Entitlement, not subject to appropriation

- Garnished from sending town's Chapter 70 appropriation

- Based on average per-pupil spending.

(FY 17 projected charter per-pupil, \$13,777)

Charter school funding:

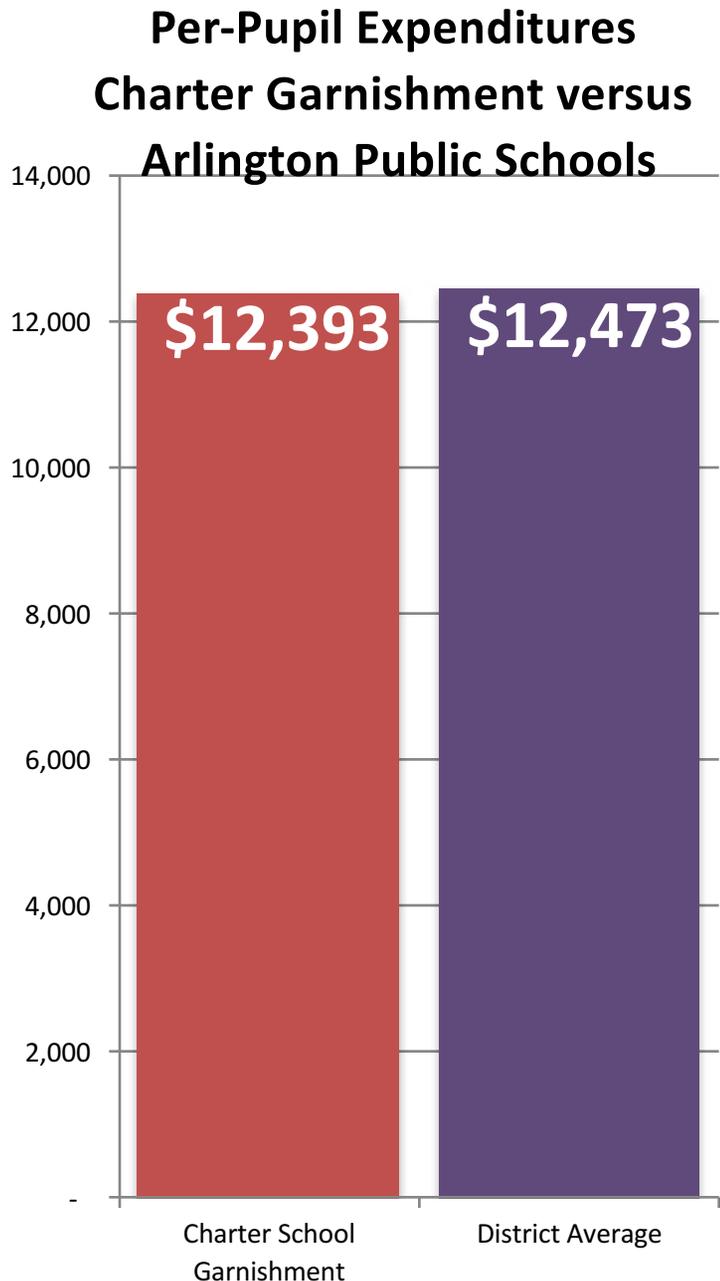


Entitlement, not subject to appropriation:

Not “subject to appropriation” by the legislature.

No vote permitted by Town Meeting or City Council of sending towns.

Charter school funding:



Law provides for reimbursement to districts for increases in charter tuition.

Year 1: 100%

Years 2-6: 25%

Year 7 and beyond: 0%

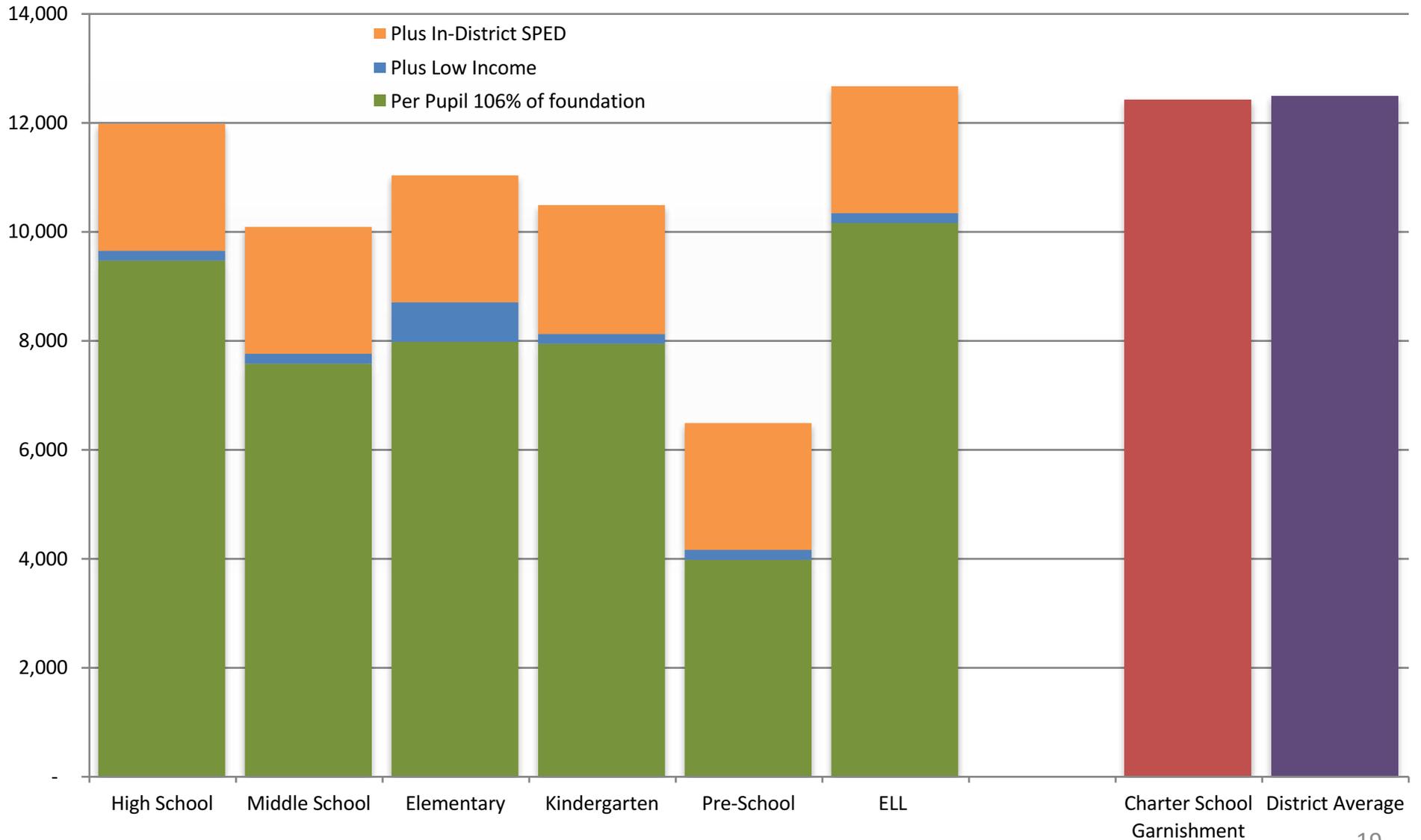
Charter industry claims districts are reimbursed at 225% of cost.

“Subject to appropriation” by the legislature. The (FY17) budget allocates \$85,500,000 in charter aid. This appropriation will cover 50% of the actual requirement.”*

*Final FY16 reimbursement was at 63% of the actual requirement.

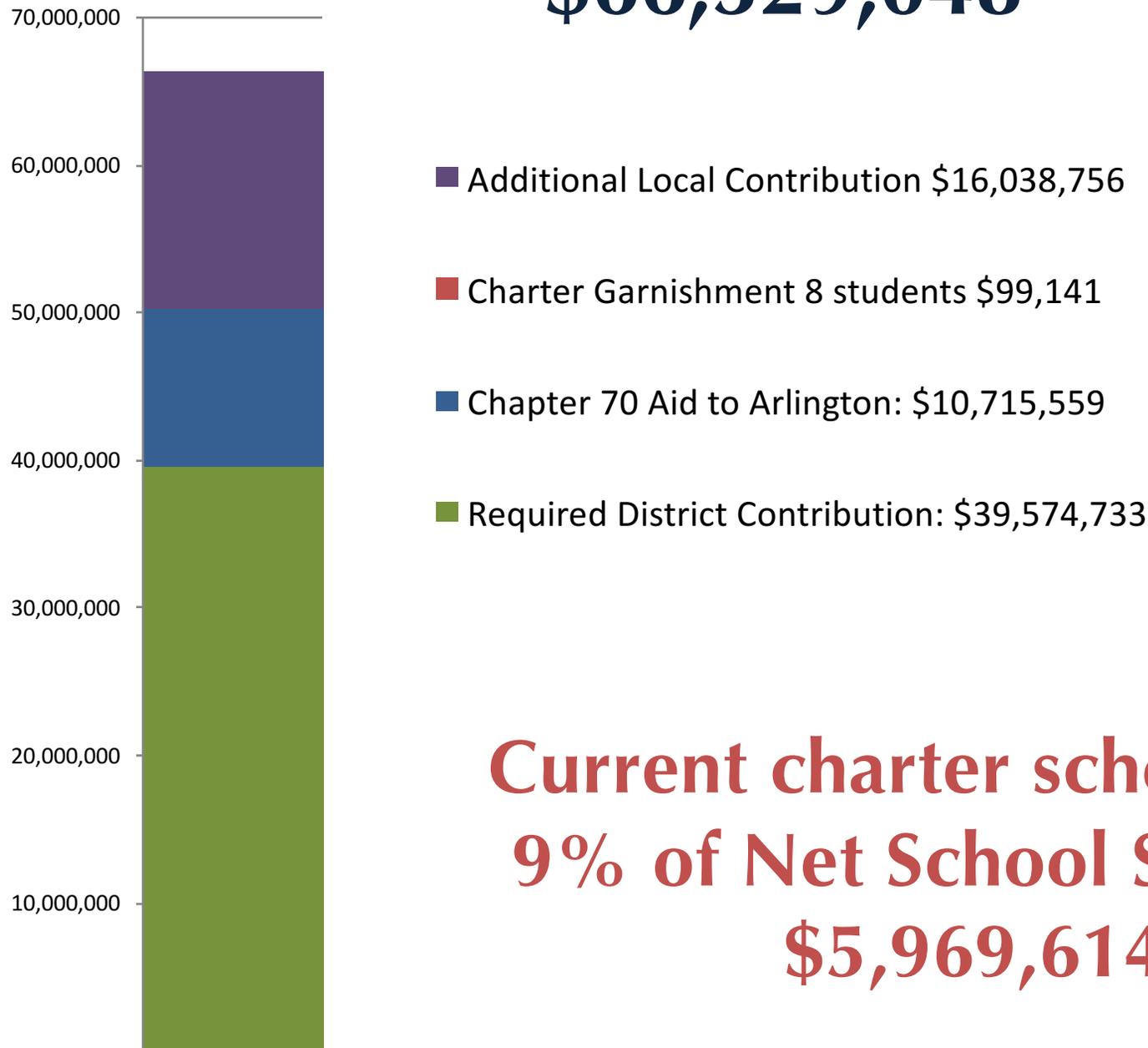
How charter garnishments compare to in-district per-pupil spending

Modeling per-pupil expenditures - non-SPED set at 106% of foundation



Arlington Net School Spending: FY16

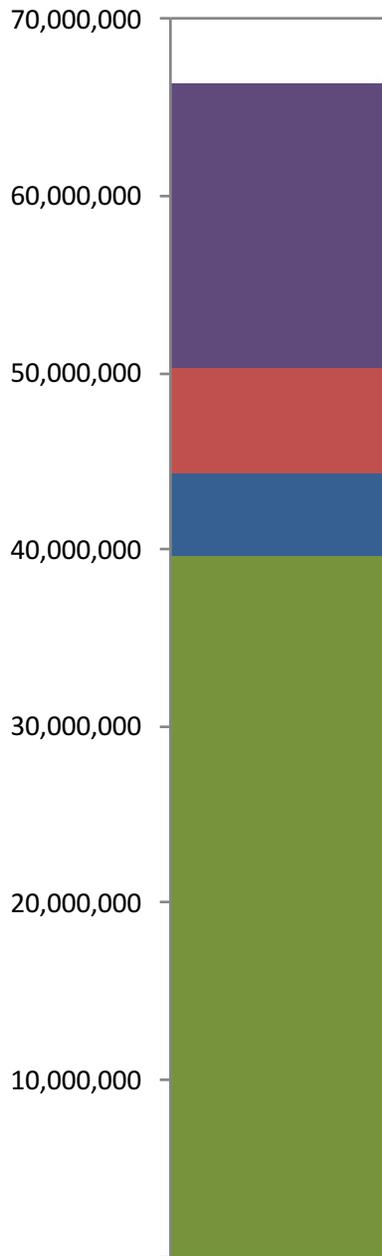
\$66,329,048



**Current charter school cap is
9% of Net School Spending
\$5,969,614**

Arlington Net School Spending: FY16

\$66,329,048



■ Additional Local Contribution \$16,038,756

■ Charter Garnishment at 9% cap, 482 students, \$5,969,614

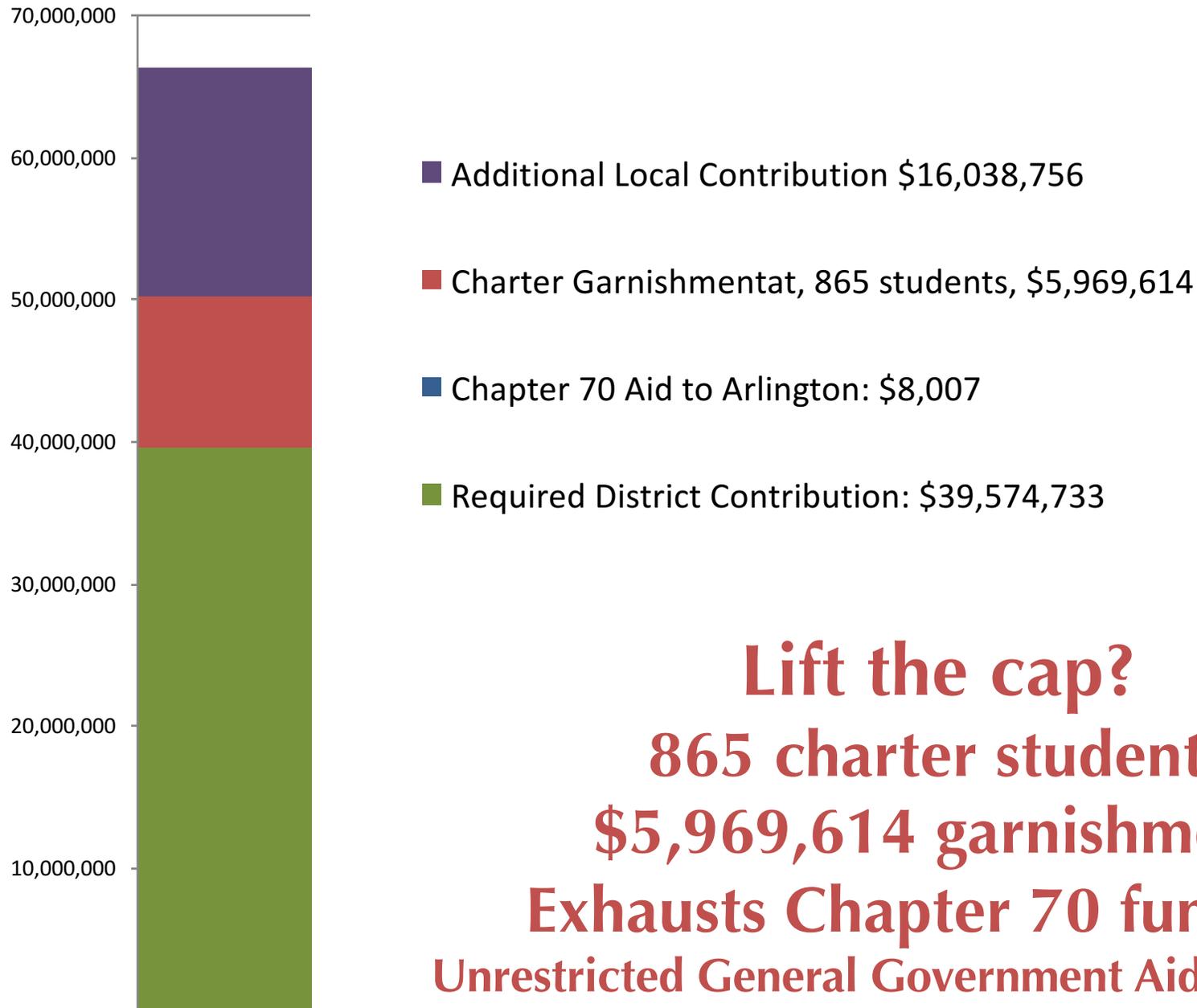
■ Chapter 70 Aid to Arlington: \$4,745,944

■ Required District Contribution: \$39,574,733

**Current charter school cap is
9% of Net School Spending
\$5,969,614 = 482 students**

Arlington Net School Spending: FY16

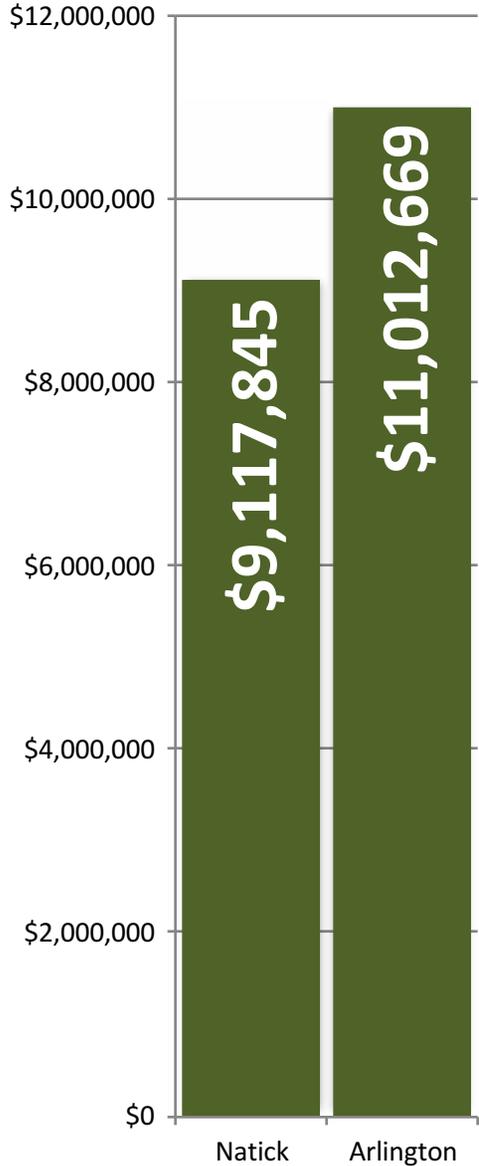
\$66,329,048



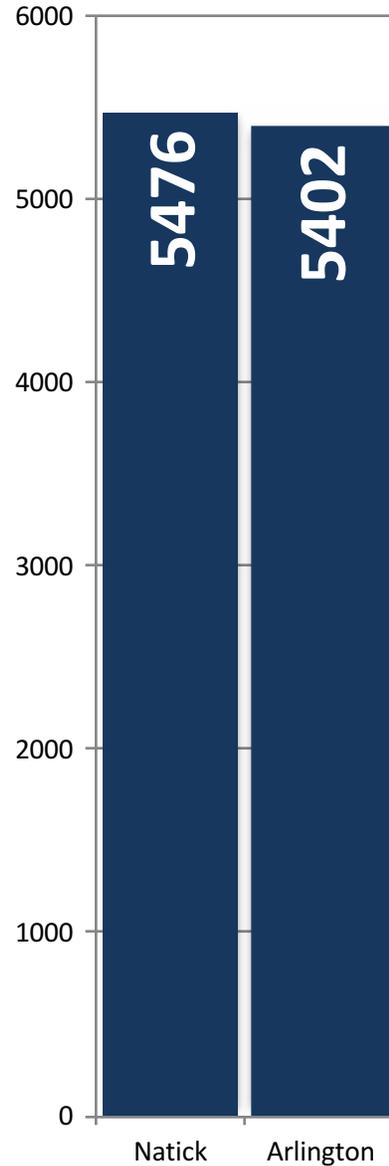
Lift the cap?
865 charter students
\$5,969,614 garnishment
Exhausts Chapter 70 funding,
Unrestricted General Government Aid next target

Natick & Arlington: Similar Size Districts

Chapter 70 Aid, FY17



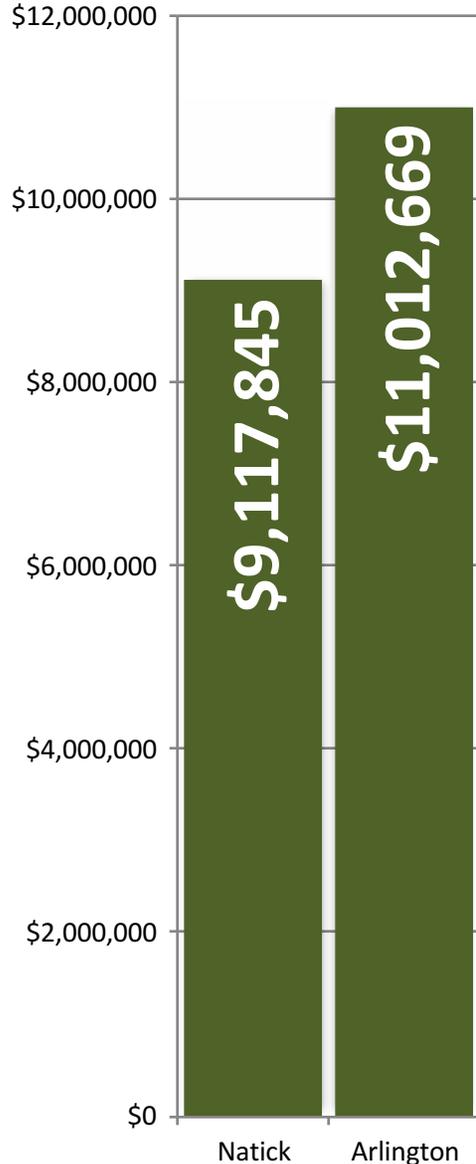
FY17 Enrollment



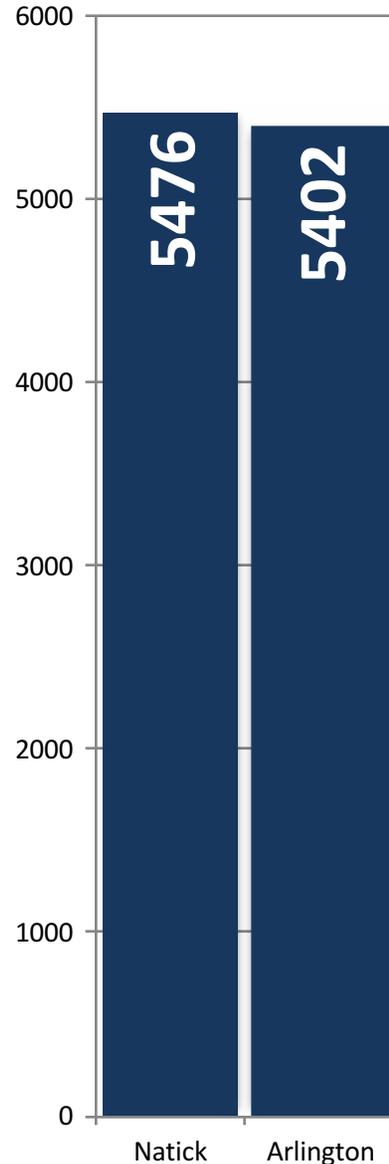
Natick Public Schools:
5 Elementary (K-4)
2 Middle Schools (5-8)
1 High School

Natick & Arlington: Similar Size Districts

Chapter 70 Aid, FY17



FY17 Enrollment



Natick Public Schools:

5 Elementary (K-4)

2 Middle Schools (5-8)

1 High School

39 Natick Students in

Charter Schools:

\$435,421 Ch. 70 Garnishment

\$0 State Reimbursement

\$11,165 per pupil cost

DESE Preliminary Charter Tuition, FY17

“The state has sent approximately one billion dollars back to school districts to help ease the transition when students go to charter schools, to help them readjust. What we’re seeing is that some districts are not making the adjustments that they need to make due to their enrollment.”

Martha M. “Marty” Walz

Former State Representative and Senior Advisor to Democrats for Education Reform

WBUR charter school debate, September 13, 2016



39 Natick Students in
Charter Schools:
\$435,421 Ch. 70 Garnishment
\$0 State Reimbursement
\$11,165 per pupil cost

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WBUR charter school debate, September 13, 2016



How do you adjust for a **\$435,421** loss of revenue, when **39 students** leave a system of **8 schools**, with **13 grade levels**?

“And charter schools were created in 1993 specifically to give families a choice because they needed to get out of their failing district schools. And so the idea here is to get away from locally controlled schools, in some instances for charters, because local control has led to far too many children not being well educated by district schools. ”

Martha M. “Marty” Walz

Former State Representative and Senior Advisor to Democrats for Education Reform

WBUR charter school debate, September 13, 2016



Boston Globe, Sep. 14, 1993:

Under the education reform law cosponsored by Roosevelt and signed by Weld on June 18, the state committed itself to a **\$1.3 billion increase in state spending on schools by the year 2000**, mostly in low-income cities with poor-performing school systems, in order to ensure that every school in the state could spend at least \$5,550 per student annually by then.

“And charter schools were created in 1993 specifically to give families a choice because they needed to get out of their failing district schools. And so the idea here is to get away from locally controlled schools, in some instances for charters, because local control has led to far too many children not being well educated by district schools. ”

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Former State Representative and Senior Advisor to Democrats for Education Reform

WBUR charter school debate, September 13, 2016



Boston Globe, Sep. 14, 1993:

The law also requires students to meet strict **new standards** to graduate from high school, mandates a battery of new **student assessment tests** to evaluate how well individual schools are doing, **replaces teacher tenure** with a simpler way of getting rid of poor teachers, provides more money for **teachers' continuing education**, and **transfers the power to hire and fire teachers** from school boards to principals.

“And charter schools were created in 1993 specifically to give families a choice because they needed to get out of their failing district schools. And so the idea here is to get away from locally controlled schools, in some instances for charters, because local control has led to far too many children not being well educated by district schools. ”

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Former State Representative and Senior Advisor to Democrats for Education Reform

WBUR charter school debate, September 13, 2016



Boston Globe, June 7, 1993:

"Charter schools," innovative schools given public money but run by groups of teachers, parents, universities or museums, have **been limited to 25, with no more than five in Boston**, and they may not open before September 1995 and **may not enroll more than about 6,500 students.**

Question 2:

This proposed law would allow the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to **approve up to 12 new charter schools** or enrollment expansions in existing charter schools each year. Approvals under this law **could expand statewide charter school enrollment by up to 1% of the total statewide public school enrollment (9,534) each year**. New charters and enrollment expansions approved under this law would be **exempt from existing limits on the number of charter schools, the number of students enrolled in them, and the amount of local school districts' spending allocated to them**.

If the Board received more than 12 applications in a single year from qualified applicants, then the proposed law would require it to give priority to proposed charter schools or enrollment expansions in districts where student performance on statewide assessments is in the bottom 25% of all districts in the previous two years and where demonstrated parent demand for additional public school options is greatest.

New charter schools and enrollment expansions approved under this proposed law would be subject to the same approval standards as other charter schools, and to recruitment, retention, and multilingual outreach requirements that currently apply to some charter schools. Schools authorized under this law would be subject to annual performance reviews according to standards established by the Board.

Question 2:

This proposed law would allow the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to **approve up to 12 new charter schools** or enrollment expansions in existing charter schools each year.

Approvals under this law **could expand statewide charter school enrollment by up to 1% of the total statewide public school enrollment (9,534) each year.**

1% of current statewide enrollment: **9,534** students

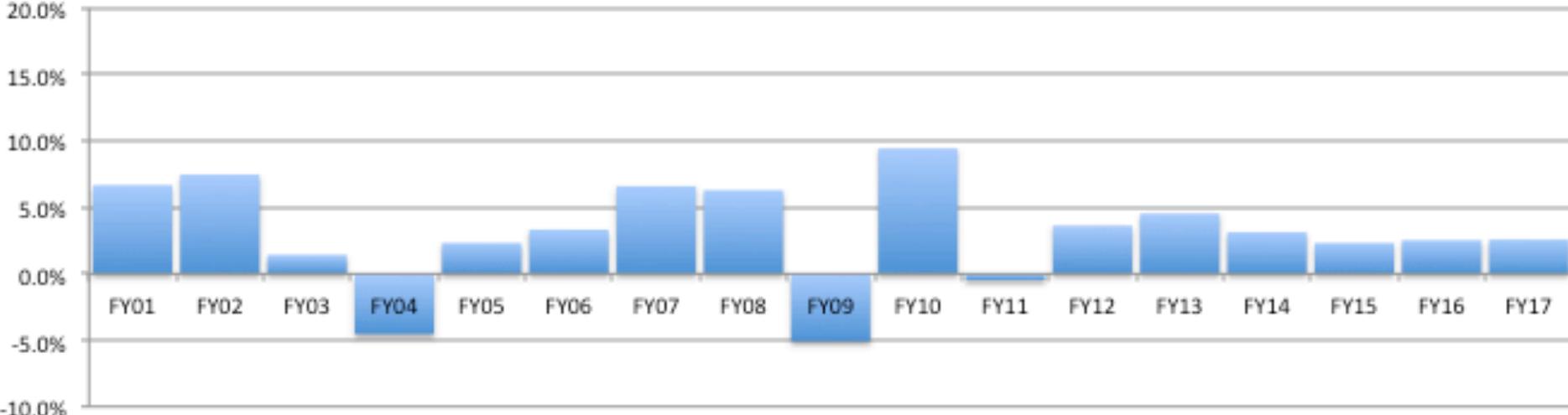
Statewide average charter tuition (FY17): **\$12,675.75**

Potential annual impact of 12 new charters (FY17):

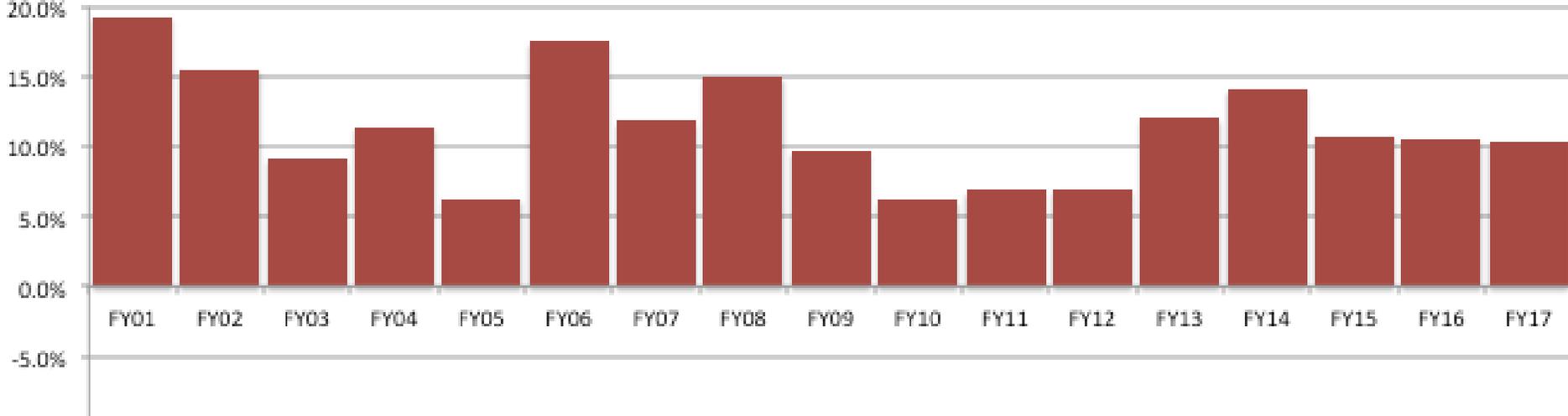
\$120,850,600

Charter school tuition increases at a much greater rate than Chapter 70 aid

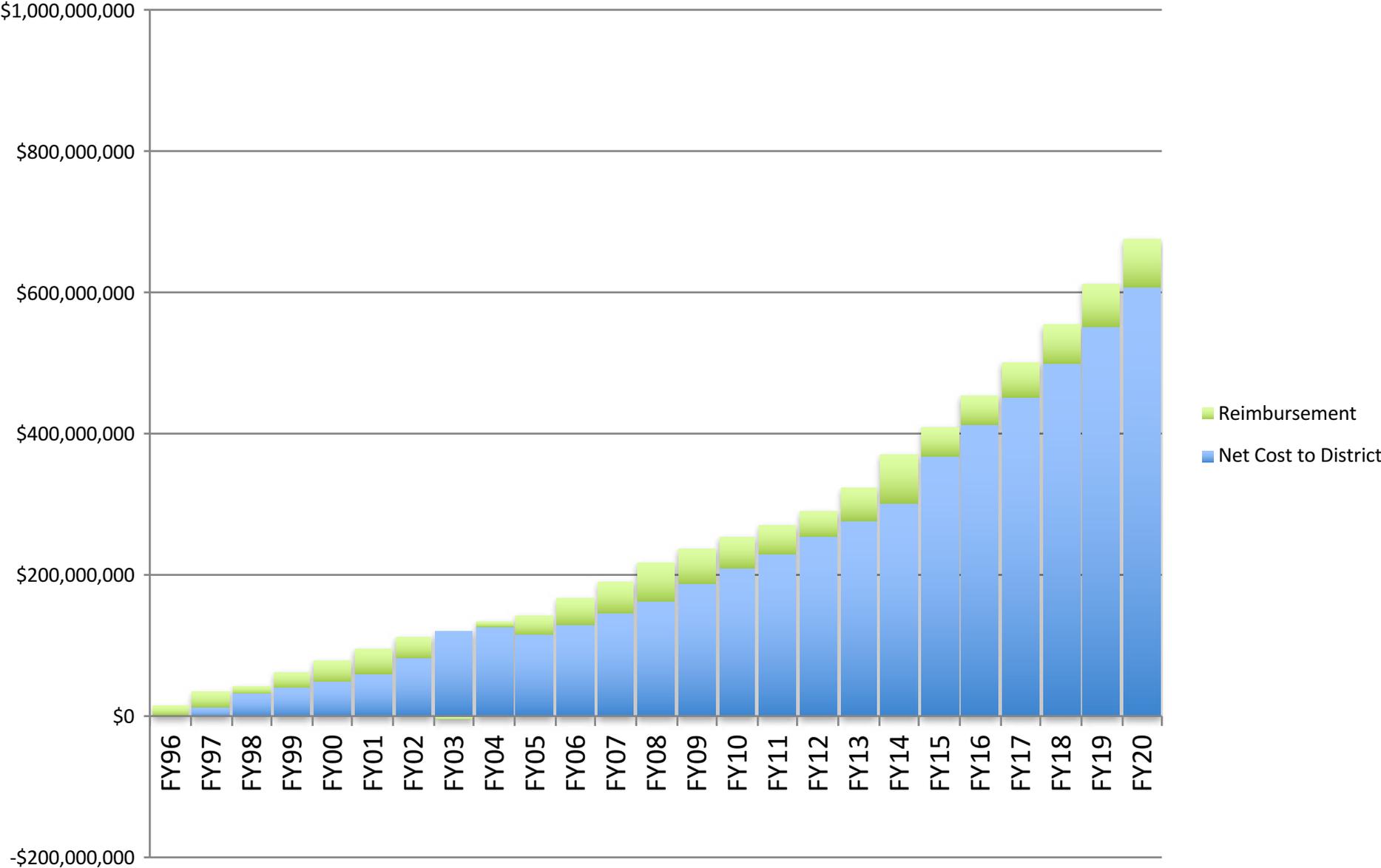
Annual change in Chapter 70 aid, statewide



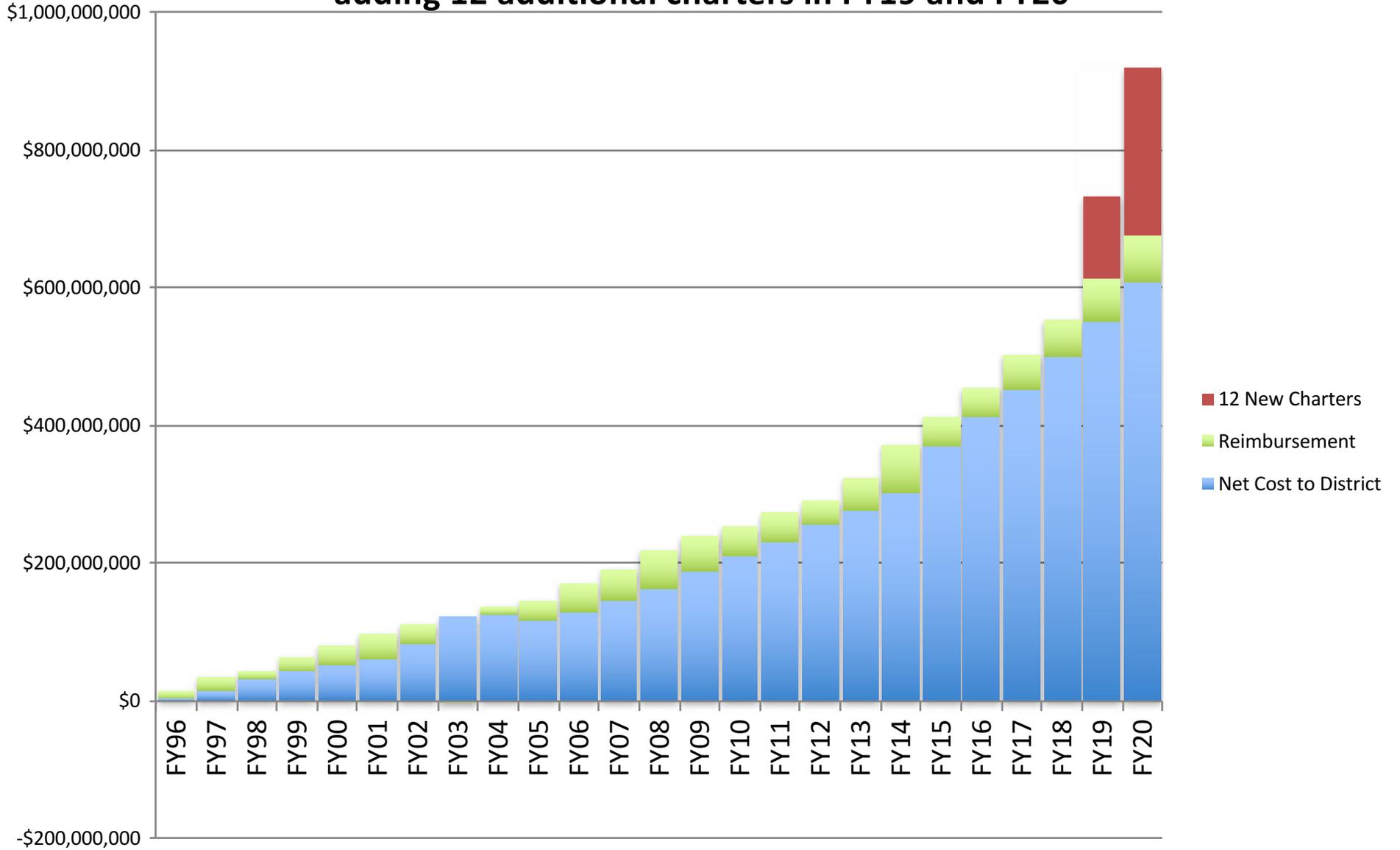
Annual change in charter tuition, statewide



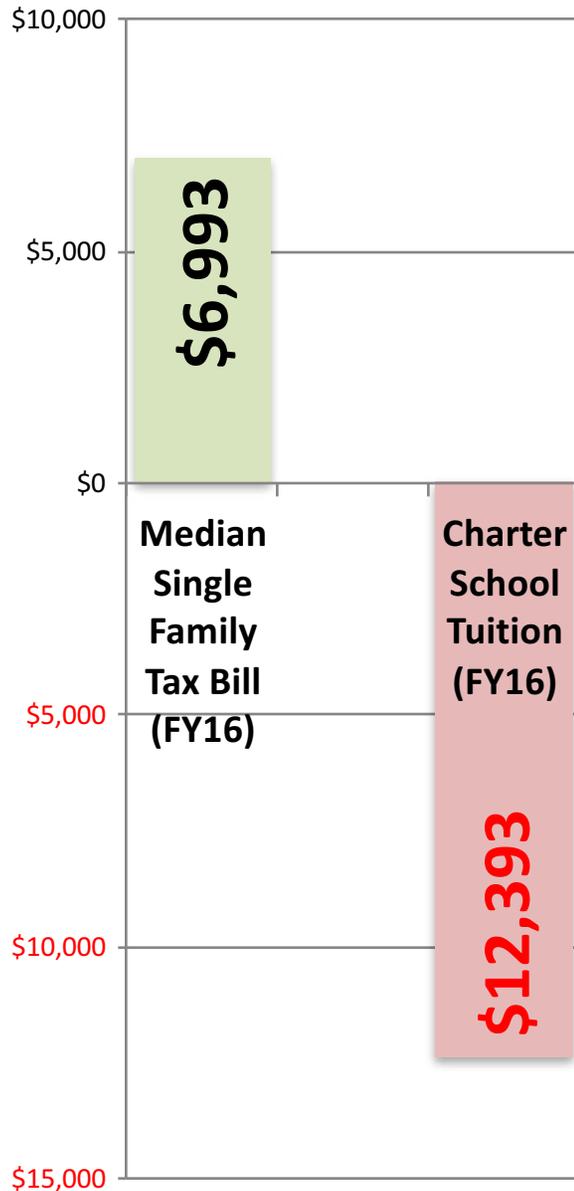
Charter Tuition Trends and Projections without Question 2



Charter Tuition Trends and Projections with Question 2 adding 12 additional charters in FY19 and FY20



Comparing Arlington's Average Property Tax Bill to Charter Tuition, FY16



Thus, according to common usage in the late Eighteenth Century, a duty to cherish was an obligation to support or nurture. Hence, the "duty . . . to cherish the interests of literature and the sciences, and all seminaries of them; especially . . . public schools and grammar schools in the towns" is an obligation to support or nurture these interests and institutions.

JAMI MCDUFFY & others vs. SECRETARY OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF EDUCATION & others (and a companion case). 415 Mass. 545

Arlington Town Meeting - 2015

ARTICLE 29 APPROPRIATION/COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

VOTED: (UNANIMOUS)

That the sum of **\$25,695** be and hereby is appropriated to be expended by the following commissions, committees, and boards in the amounts indicated:

A. Arlington Historical Commission – **\$2,160**

B. Historic District Commissions – **\$5,100**

(Avon Place Historic District Commission, Broadway Historic District Commission, Central Street Historic District commission, Jason/Gray Historic District Commission, Russell Historic District Commission, Pleasant Street Historic District Commission and Mount Gilboa/Crescent Hill Historic District Commission)

C. Capital Planning Committee – **\$0**

D. Commission on Disability – **\$3,000**

E. Recycling Committee – **\$3,000**

F. Human Rights Commission – **\$4,500**

G. Arlington Tourism and Economic Development Committee - **\$1,775**

H. Vision 2020 - **\$3,000**

I. Transportation Advisory Committee - **\$0**

J. Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture - **\$3,160**

Said sums to be raised by general tax and expended under the direction of the various commissions, committees and boards.

A true copy of the vote under Article 29 of the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Arlington at the session held May 11, 2015.

ATTEST: Town Clerk

**Massachusetts:
Strong tradition of setting a high
standard for accountable local
governance.**

A large crowd of people is seated in a school gymnasium, likely attending a public meeting or school board session. The gymnasium has a high ceiling with large windows and wooden paneling. The audience is diverse in age and appearance, and many are looking towards the front of the room. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, dark blue font.

**Massachusetts:
Strong tradition of setting a high
standard for accountable local
governance.**

**Commonwealth charter schools
don't meet our standards.**