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December 16, 2024

Board of Directors  
Austin Albert Lea Special Education Cooperative  
Austin, Minnesota

This Executive Audit Summary and Management Report presents information which we believe is important to you as members of the board of directors. We encourage you to review the sections of this report, the audited financial statements, and the auditors' reports.

We would be pleased to furnish additional information with respect to these suggestions and discuss this memorandum with you at your convenience. We wish to express our appreciation to the Cooperative for the courtesies, cooperation, and assistance extended to us during the course of our work.

**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Craig Popenhagen, CPA  
Principal

**AUSTIN ALBERT LEA SPECIAL EDUCATION  
COOPERATIVE DISTRICT NO. 6095  
WINONA, MINNESOTA**

**EXECUTIVE AUDIT SUMMARY (EAS)**

**YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**



CPAs | CONSULTANTS | WEALTH ADVISORS

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**AUSTIN ALBERT LEA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE  
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**AUSTIN ALBERT LEA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE  
EXECUTIVE AUDIT SUMMARY (EAS)  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

We prepared this Executive Audit Summary and Management Report in conjunction with our audit of the Cooperative's financial records for the year ended June 30, 2024.

**Audit Opinion**

The financial statements are fairly stated. We issued what is known as a "clean" audit report.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

We reported one finding regarding internal control over financial reporting findings were reported. The finding related to a restatement of the net book value of a leased building asset.

**Compliance and Other Matters (Yellow Book)**

No compliance issues were reported in our review of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants that could have significant financial implications to the Cooperative.

**Minnesota Legal Compliance**

No findings in Minnesota Legal Compliance were reported.



## FORMAL REQUIRED COMMUNICATIONS

Board of Directors  
Austin Albert Lea Special Education Cooperative  
Austin, Minnesota

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and the major fund of Austin Albert Lea Special Education Cooperative (the Cooperative) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated December 16, 2024. We have previously communicated to you information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit in our engagement agreement dated July 18, 2024. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

### **Significant audit findings or issues**

#### ***Qualitative aspects of accounting practices***

##### *Accounting policies*

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Cooperative are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

No new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2024.

We noted no transactions entered into by the Cooperative during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

##### *Accounting estimates*

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected.

The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

- Due from Minnesota Department of Education
- Estimated useful lives of depreciable capital assets

Management's estimate of the due from state through the Minnesota Department of Education is based on amounts anticipated to be received from the special education aid entitlements for fiscal 2023-2024. Special education entitlements are computed by the Minnesota Department of Education based on complex formulas for allocating special education funding based on budgets, actual expenditures and student census information submitted by local education agencies statewide. Because of this complexity, entitlement amounts for fiscal year 2023-2024 are not finalized until well into the next fiscal year. Management expects any differences between estimated and actual data will be insignificant.

Management's estimate of the useful lives for depreciable capital assets is based on guidance recommended by the Minnesota Department of Education and other sources. The useful life of a depreciable capital asset determines the amount of depreciation that will be recorded in any given reporting period as well as the amount of accumulated depreciation that is reported at the end of a reporting period.

We reviewed and tested management's procedures and underlying supporting documentation in the areas discussed above and evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates noted above in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole. We concluded that the accounting estimates and management judgments appeared to consider all significant factors and resulted in appropriate accounting recognition.

#### *Financial statement disclosures*

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. There were no particularly sensitive financial statement disclosures.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

#### ***Difficulties encountered in performing the audit***

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

#### ***Significant unusual transactions***

We identified no significant unusual transactions during our audit.

#### ***Uncorrected misstatements***

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management did not identify and we did not notify them of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements.

#### ***Corrected misstatements***

Management did not identify and we did not notify them of any financial statement misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures.

***Disagreements with management***

For purposes of this communication, a disagreement with management is a disagreement on a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. No such disagreements arose during our audit.

***Management representations***

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated December 16, 2024.

***Management consultations with other independent accountants***

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Cooperative's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

***Significant issues discussed with management prior to engagement***

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to engagement as the Cooperative's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our engagement.

***Other audit findings or issues***

The following describes findings or issues arising during the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to your oversight of the financial reporting process:

***Emphasis of Matter – Prior Period Adjustment***

As discussed in Note 7 to the financial statements, the beginning net position of the governmental activities opinion unit was restated due to the correction of an error related to a lease. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

***Required supplementary information***

With respect to the required supplementary information (RSI) accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the RSI, including whether the RSI has been measured and presented in accordance with prescribed guidelines, whether the methods of measurement and preparation have been changed from the prior period and the reasons for any such changes, and whether there were any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the RSI. We compared the RSI for consistency with management's responses to the foregoing inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge obtained during the audit of the basic financial statements. Because these limited procedures do not provide sufficient evidence, we did not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

**Supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole**

With respect to the Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards Compliance Table (the supplementary information) accompanying the financial statements, on which we were engaged to report in relation to the financial statements as a whole, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period or the reasons for such changes, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves. We have issued our report thereon dated December 16, 2024.

**Other information included in annual reports**

Other information (financial or nonfinancial information other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon) is being included in your annual report and is comprised of the introductory section. Our responsibility for other information included in your annual report does not extend beyond the financial information identified in our opinion on the financial statements. We have no responsibility for determining whether such other information is properly stated and do not have an obligation to perform any procedures to corroborate other information contained in your annual report. We are required by professional standards to read the other information included in your annual report and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements because the credibility of the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon may be undermined by material inconsistencies between the audited financial statements and other information. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report. Our auditors' report on the financial statements includes a separate section, "Other Information," which states we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance on the other information included in the annual report. We did not identify any material inconsistencies between the other information and the audited financial statements.

\* \* \*

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors and management of the Cooperative, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.



**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

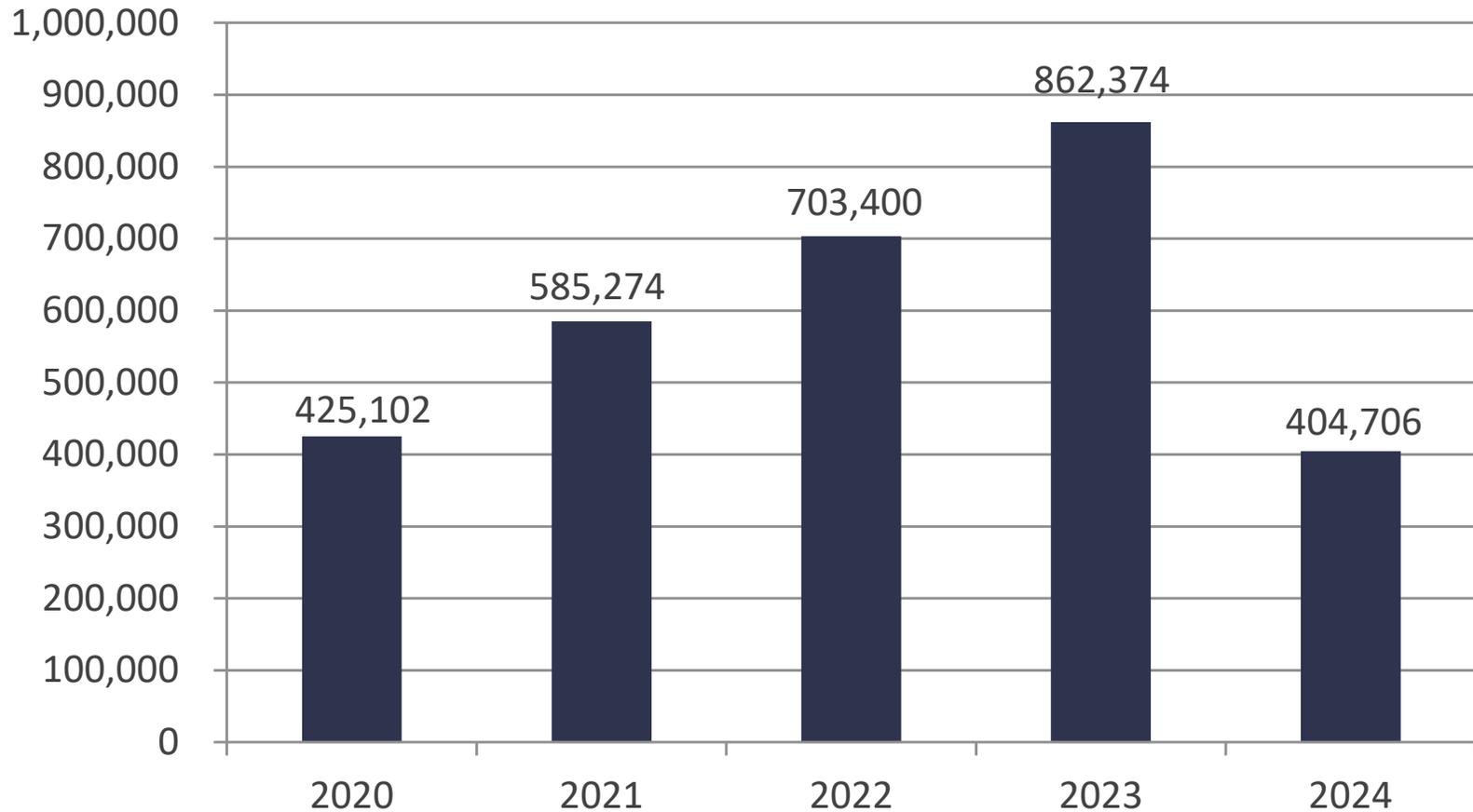
Austin, Minnesota  
December 16, 2024

**APPENDIX A  
AUSTIN ALBERT LEA SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE  
FINANCIAL TRENDS OF YOUR COOPERATIVE  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

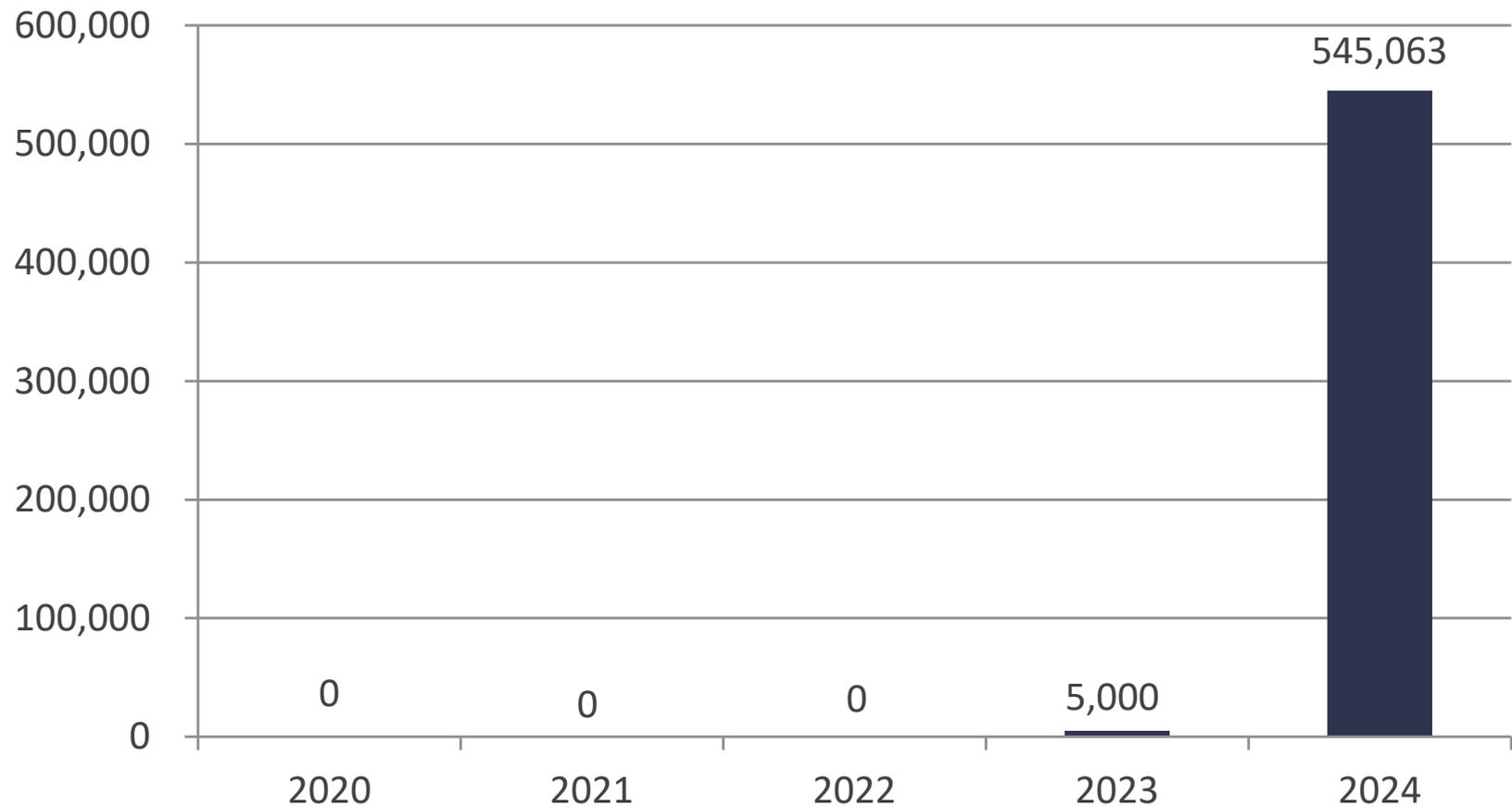
The following graphs reflect financial trends of District No. 6095 Austin Albert Lea Special Education Cooperative. Information related to fund balances were obtained from prior and current year audit reports.

The graphs below show expenditures compared to the four most recent years and revenues by source for fiscal year 2023-2024. Expenditures and revenues were obtained from the current and prior years' audited financial statements.

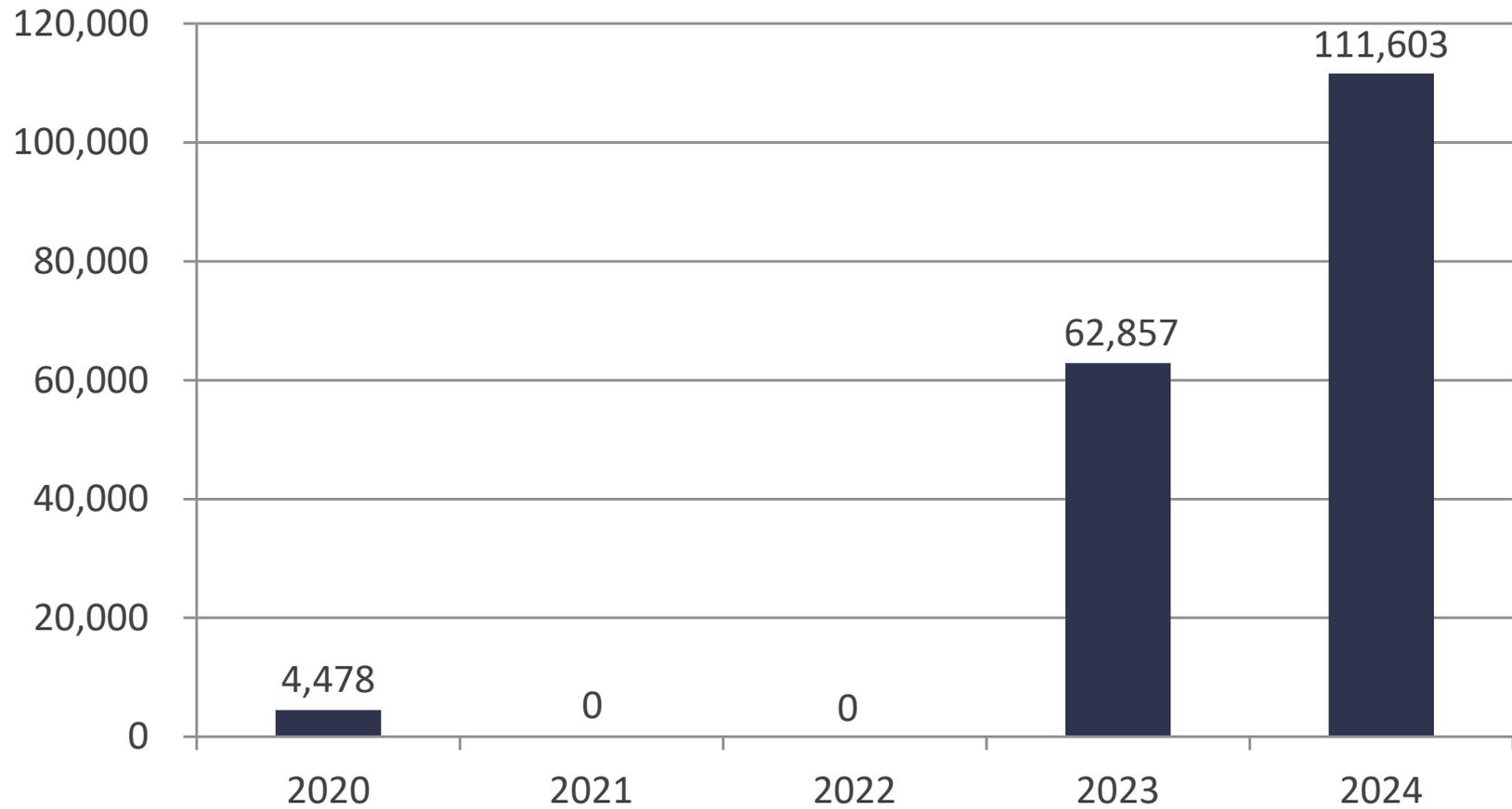
# General Fund- Unassigned Balance



# General Fund- Assigned/Nonspendable Balance

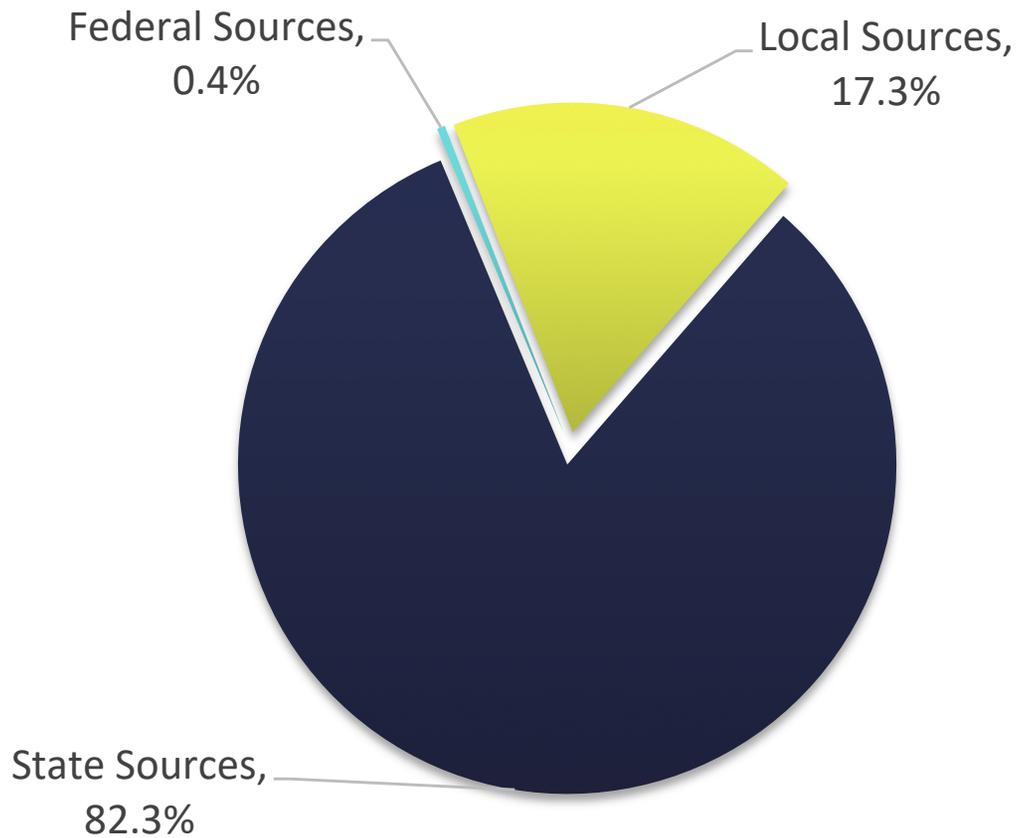


# General Fund- Other Restricted Fund Balances



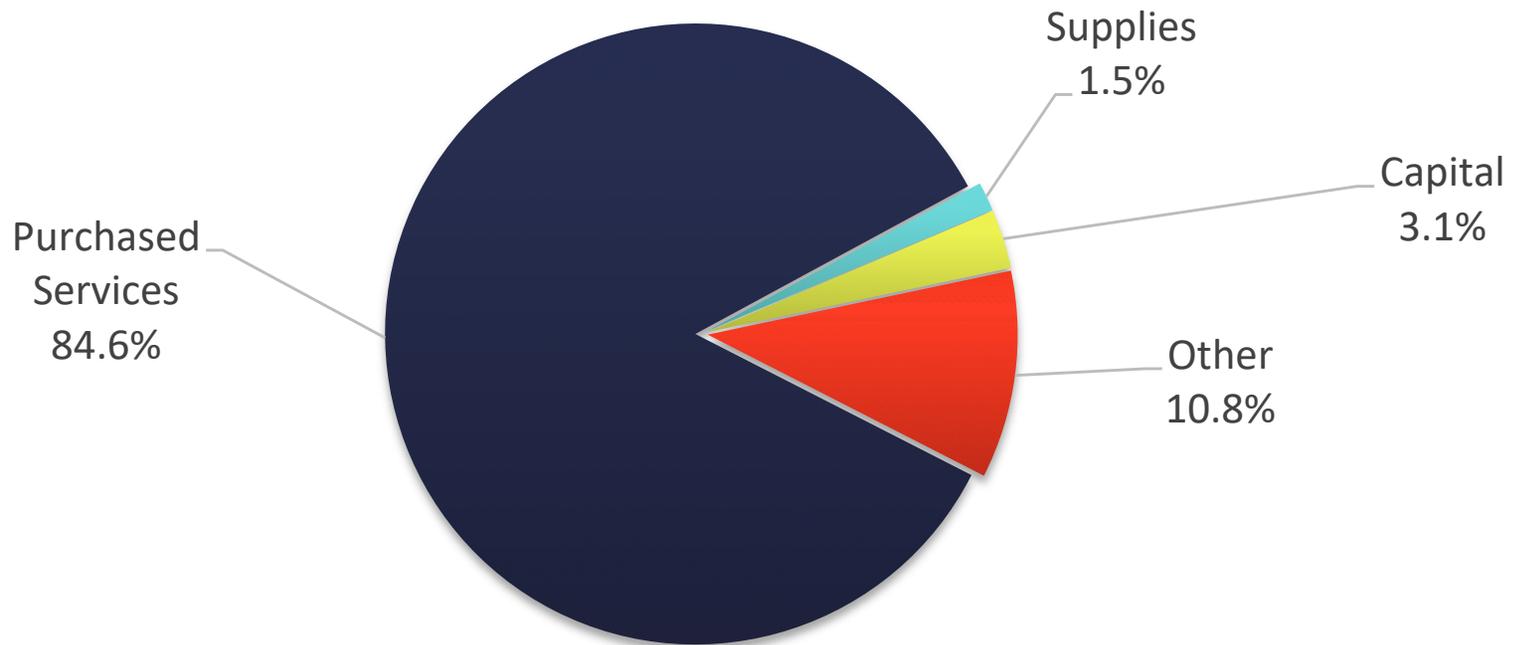
# General Fund Revenue by Source

\$3,163,735



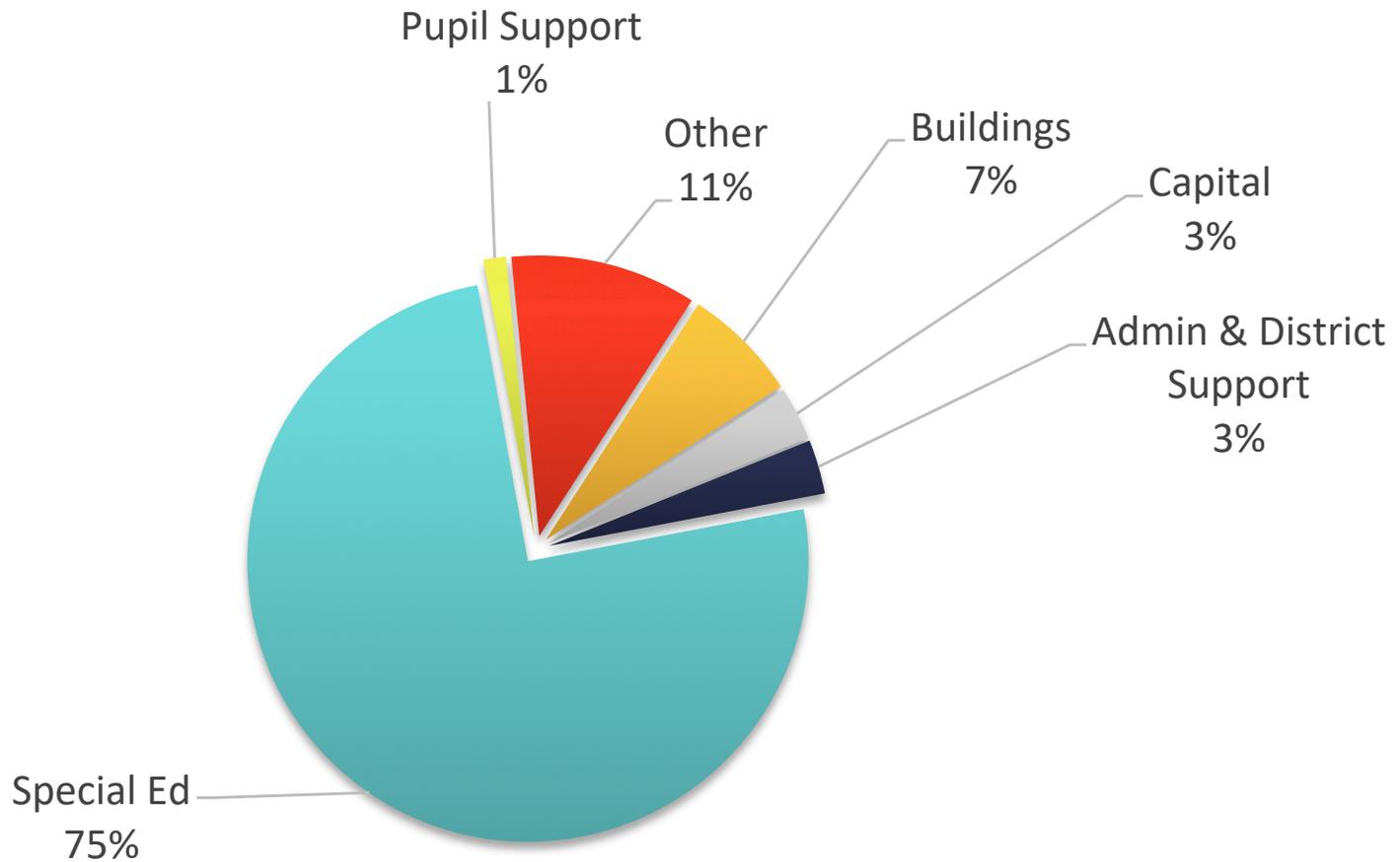
# General Fund Expenditures by Object

\$3,032,594



# General Fund Expenditures by Program

\$3,032,594





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