

The background of the slide is a collage. The top left shows a line of yellow school buses, with the number '32' visible on the front of one. The bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, decorated with colorful balloons and framed pictures. There are several small white tables and chairs arranged in the room.

Superintendents Advisory Council

August 26, 2025



2024-2029 Strategic Plan United We Learn Update

Karen Dodd, Chief Performance Officer

Susan Strange, Strategic Plan Program Manager



Vision + Mission + Core Values

Our Vision:



Our Mission:

Create broad partnerships to provide leadership and support to ensure success for every student.

Our Core Values:

- Equity
- Student Success
- Collaboration
- Integrity
- Innovation

Three Big Ideas



Vibrant Learning
Experiences for every
student.



Encouraging
Innovation, especially
around assessment.



Creating a **Bold New
Future** for Kentucky's
schools through
collaboration with our
communities

Objectives

Customer/Stakeholder:

1. Reimagine Assessment and Accountability
2. Reduce Chronic Absenteeism
3. Improve Early Literacy
4. Improve Early Numeracy
5. Expand the Recruitment of Qualified Educators

Operational:

6. Improve Customer Satisfaction
7. Improve Organizational Process Awareness
8. Build Leadership Capacity

Reimagining Assessment and Accountability

Goal #1: Establish an accountability model that includes vibrant learning making it meaningful and useful for all learners.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Increase percentage of districts at each stage of Local Accountability System implementation - Starting, Spreading or Sustaining
- Increase percentage of districts at each stage of Portrait of a Learner creation - Starting, Spreading or Sustaining
- Increase percentage of districts at each stage of Vibrant Learning Experiences development - Starting, Spreading or Sustaining

Strategies:

- Co-create an accountability system through an inclusive, feedback-driven process.
- Elevate Vibrant Learning Experiences
- Support districts in developing their Local Accountability System through collaboration with their communities.

Reduce Chronic Absenteeism

Goal #2: Decrease statewide chronic absenteeism rate from 28% in 2024 to 15% by 2029.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Decrease the percentage of schools in Kentucky who are experiencing high or extremely high chronic absenteeism rates

Strategies:

- Expand Opportunities for Vibrant Learning Experiences
- Empower Educators to Support At-Risk Students
- Engage in Proactive Communication with Family and Community

Improve Early Literacy

Goal #3: Increase 3rd-grade Kentucky Summative Assessment Reading proficiency from 47% in 2024 to 60% by 2029.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Decrease 3rd-grade novice in reading
- Increase the number of educators participating in the Kentucky Reading Academies
- Reduction in the need for reading improvement plans as students make accelerated progress toward reading proficiency
- Increase in the implementation of Early Literacy Screening Assessment
- Increase in the implementation of the Literacy Diagnostics

Strategies:

- Align Vibrant Learning Experiences to the Kentucky Academic Standards for Reading and Writing
- Support High-Quality Literacy Instruction and Professional Learning
- Support Evidence-Based Literacy Curriculum and Instructional Resources
- Provide Targeted Literacy Support and Intervention

Improve Early Numeracy

Goal #4: Increase 3rd grade Kentucky State Assessment Mathematics proficiency from 43% in 2024 to 55% by 2029.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Decrease 3rd grade novice in mathematics
- Increase the number of educators participating in the KY Numeracy Academies
- Increase in the implementation of Early Numeracy Screening Assessment
- Increase in the implementation of the Numeracy Diagnostics

Strategies:

- Align Vibrant Learning Experiences to the Kentucky Academic Standards for Mathematics
- Support High-Quality Mathematics Instruction and Professional Learning
- Support Evidence-Based Mathematics Curriculum and Instructional Resources
- Provide Targeted Mathematic Support and Intervention

Expand the Recruitment of Qualified Educators

Goal #5: Increase the completion rate of eligible high school students in a Teaching and Learning Pathway from 6% in 2024 to 14% by 2029.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Increase enrollment in the Teaching and Learning Pathway Courses
- Increase in Registered Apprenticeships
- Increase enrollment in Educator Preparation Programs

Strategies:

- Encourage Early Entry
- Elevate the Teaching Profession

Information and/or Next Steps on the Strategic Plan

- Strategic Plan Webpage
 - education.ky.gov/CommOfEd/StrategicPlan
- Monitoring Plan
- Strategic Dashboard

How is United We Learn Impacting These Goals?

- New Assessment and Accountability System
 - Model Framework
 - Collaboration with Communities
 - Encouraging Innovation
- Vibrant Learning Experiences is a common thread
 - Elevate
 - Expand
 - Align

The Future of Assessment and Accountability Model Framework - Educators

Why This Matters:

You'll have more autonomy and support. This system is focused on the student experience and your leadership is central to making that happen. These changes will help students build skills that local business leaders are already asking for.

What to Expect:

- Increased investment in professional learning
- Opportunities to lead and shape local assessment models
- Greater clarity, specificity and transparency as implementation unfolds

How You Can Be Part of This:

- Engage in professional learning on assessment and vibrant learning
- Share examples of student work and real learning outcomes
- Collaborate with families, community members and business leaders
- Stay involved in shaping your district's approach—your voice matters

We need your help!

Championing and Advocating for this new model

- [The Future of Assessment and Accountability webpage.](#)
- [Model Framework Information Sheets](#)

Taking Applications for New Members

- [Kentucky United We Learn Council Application](#)
 - Closes Sept. 26, 2025

High School Transformation

- [National Association of State Boards of Education \(NASBE\) High School Transformation Information](#)

Questions

College Admissions Exam Junior State Administration

Jennifer Stafford, Ed.D.
Associate Commissioner
Office of Assessment and Accountability

Christen Roseberry
Program Consultant
Office of Assessment and Accountability

College Admissions Exam – New Vendor

- Beginning with the 2025–2026 school year, College Board was awarded the contract to provide the SAT for the state administration of the college admissions exam as required by [KRS 158.6453](#).
- Rising seniors (Class of 2026) took the ACT. Rising juniors (Class of 2027) will be impacted by this contract.
- Many districts are already familiar with College Board through the Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams. This existing relationship is expected to ease the transition and support a smooth implementation across Kentucky high schools.
- This transition will provide students with a high-quality assessment that continues to support Postsecondary Readiness. The [SAT benchmark scores](#) that determine academic readiness are established by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education.

College Admissions Exam – SAT Assessment

- The SAT Junior State Administration is an adaptive exam. It is a two hour and 14-minute exam that assesses students' reading, writing, math and science skills. The test has two sections, Reading & Writing and Math, generating a score for each section on a 200-800 scale. Through its unique design, the SAT also delivers an Analysis in Science score generated by students' performance on relevant questions within the Reading & Writing and Math sections.

College Admissions Exam – Key Takeaways

- The Finance and Administration Cabinet granted KDE's request to proceed with the College Board pending a determination regarding the protest.
- KDE has resumed planning for the spring 2026 administration of the SAT.
- Once the protest is resolved, the Office of Assessment and Accountability will be able to share trainings, resources, and testing dates with districts.

Questions

A collage of two images: the top left shows a line of yellow school buses, with the number '32' visible on the front of the closest one; the bottom left shows a classroom with blue walls, decorated with balloons and framed pictures, and several small desks and chairs.

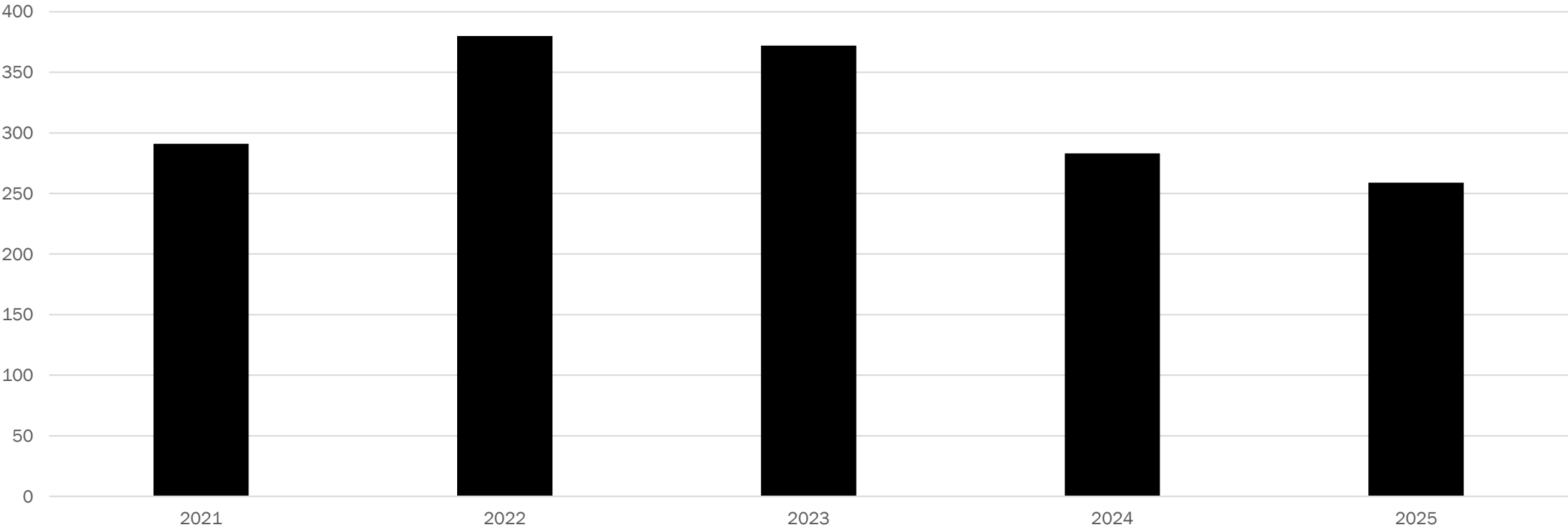
Facilities Projects, Expenditures, and Funding

Chay Ritter

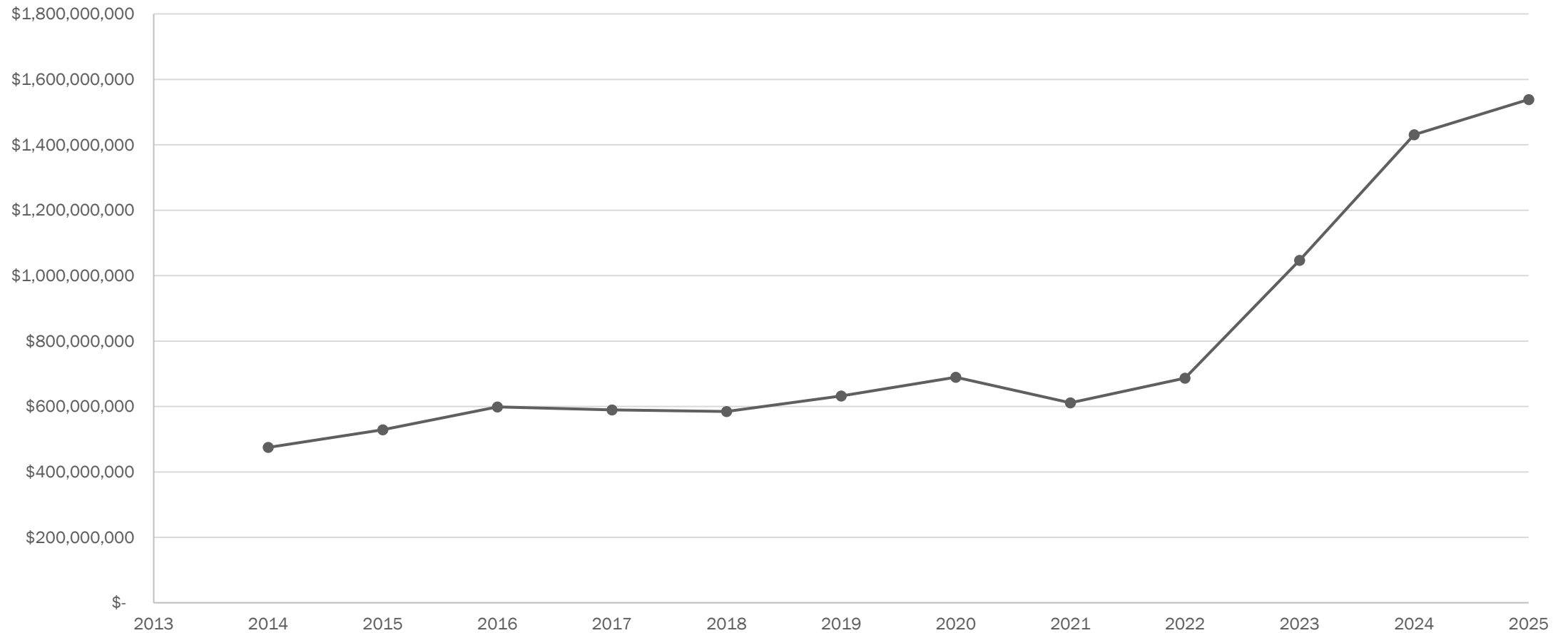
Division Director

Division of District Support

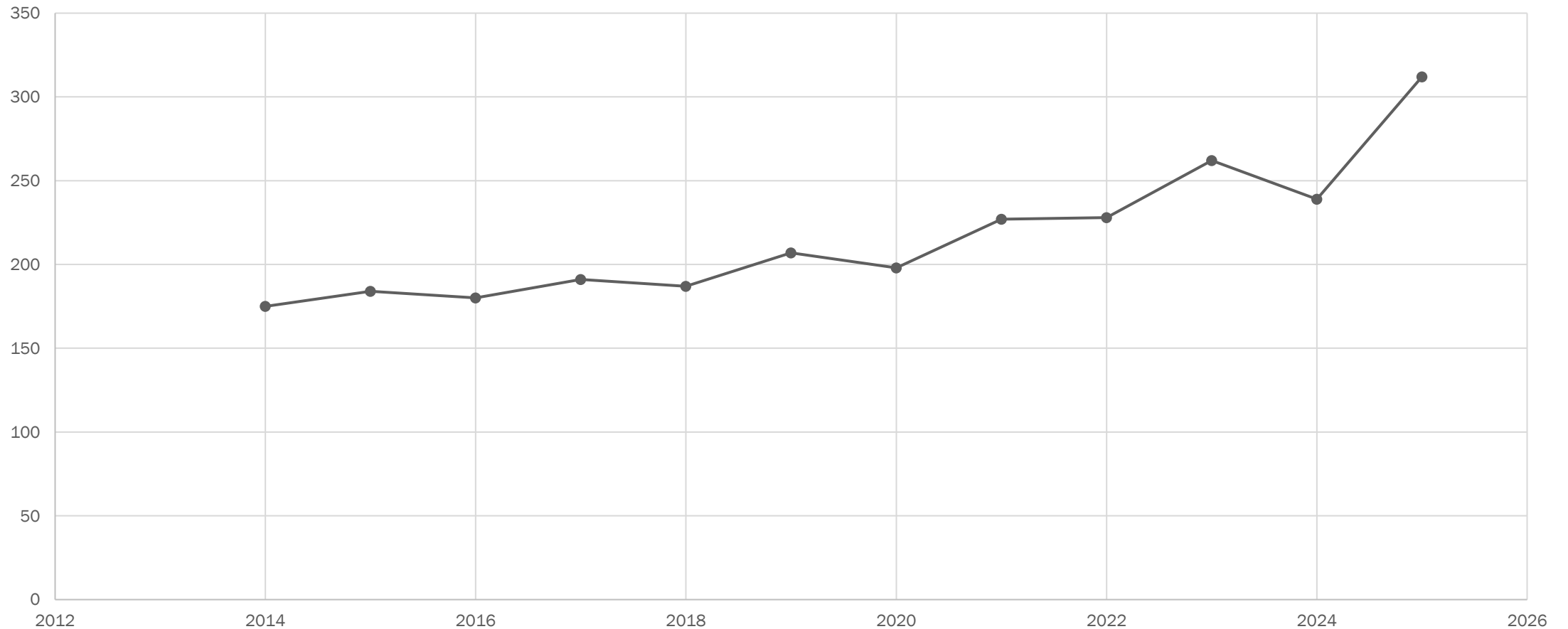
Initial BG-1s (New Construction & Renovations)



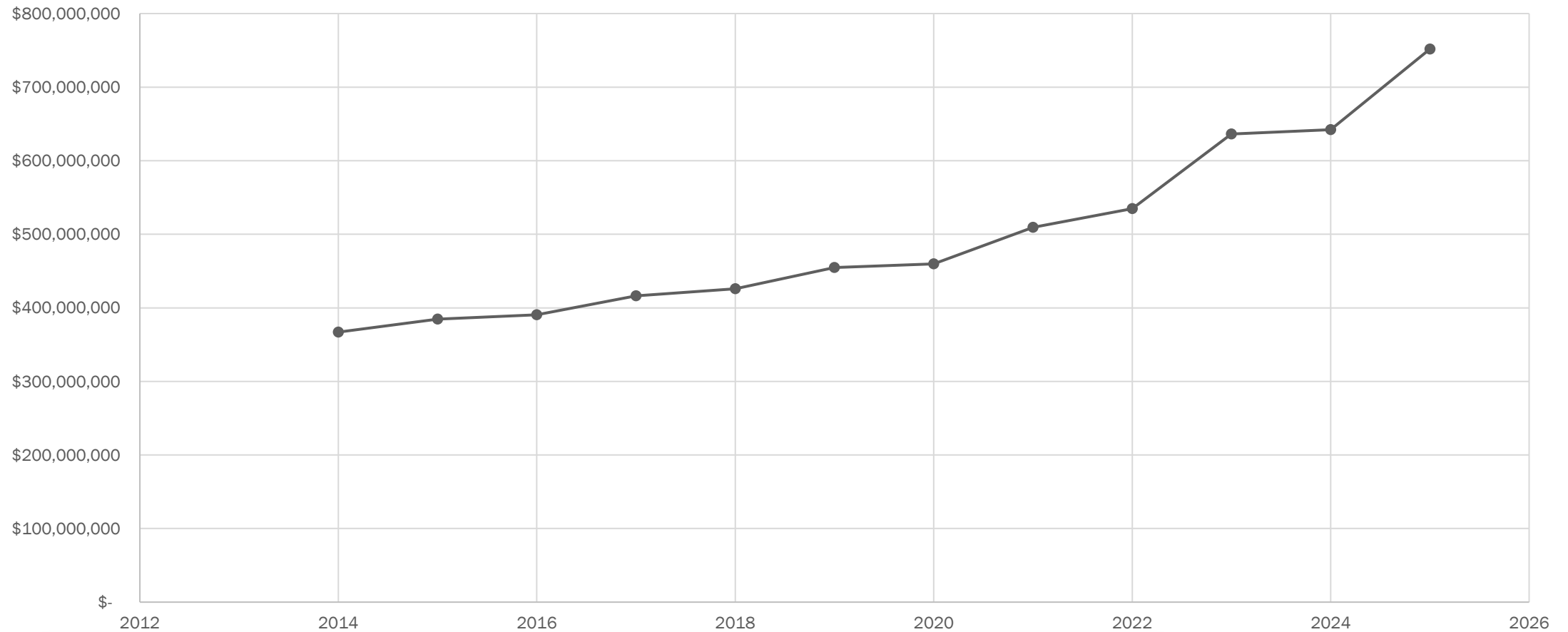
Construction Expenditures (Fund 360)



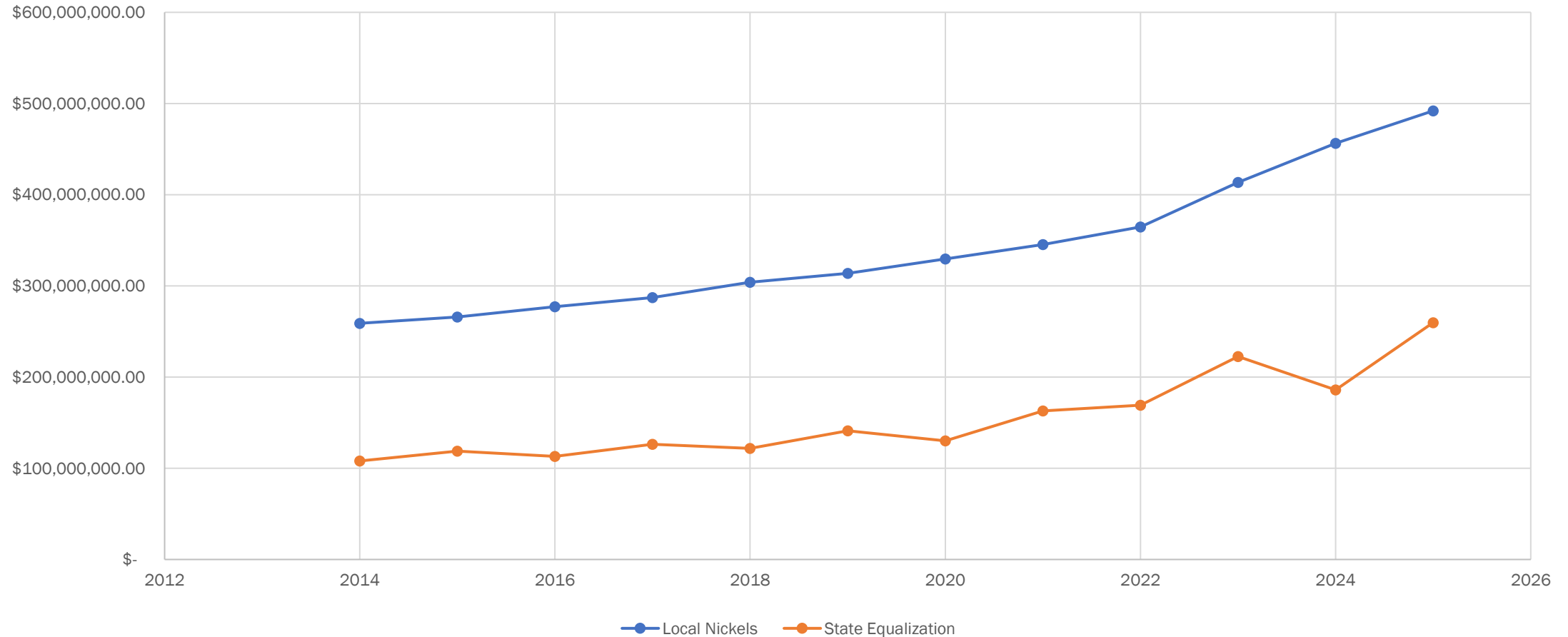
FSPK Equalization per AADA



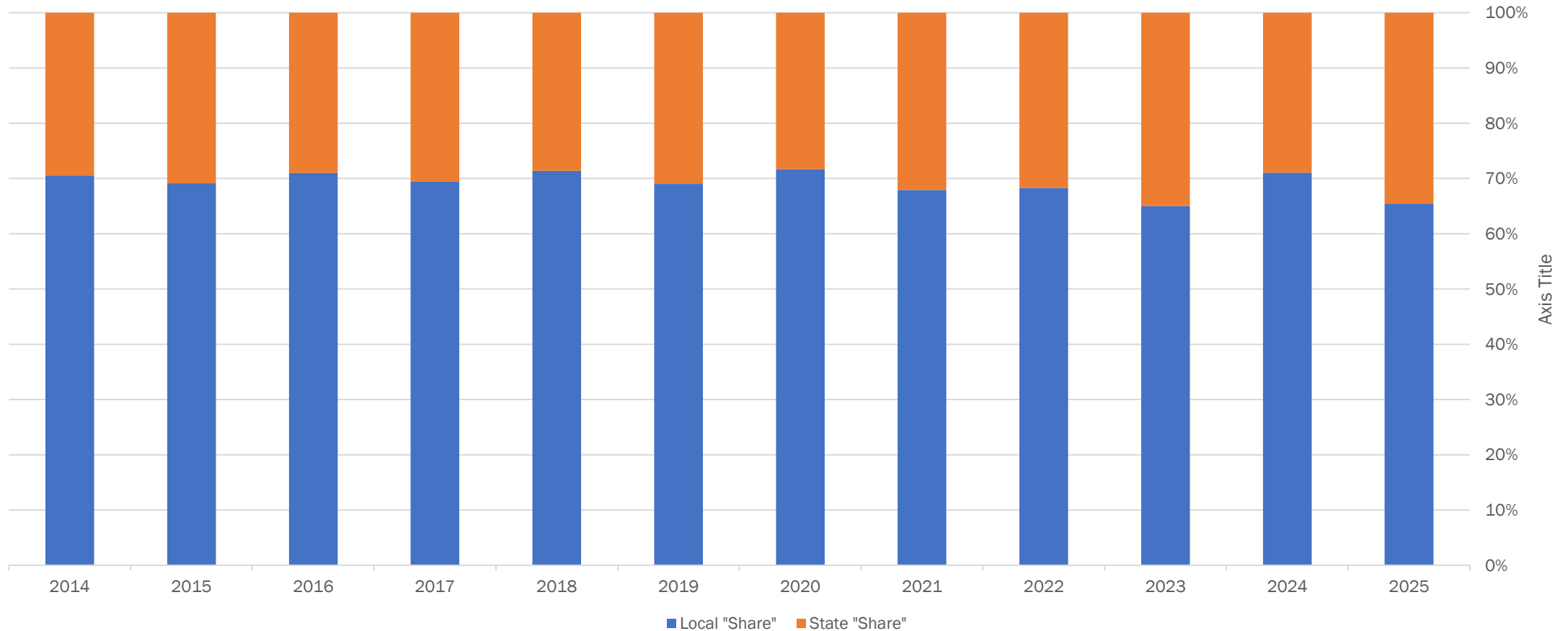
Nickel Funding (State & Local)



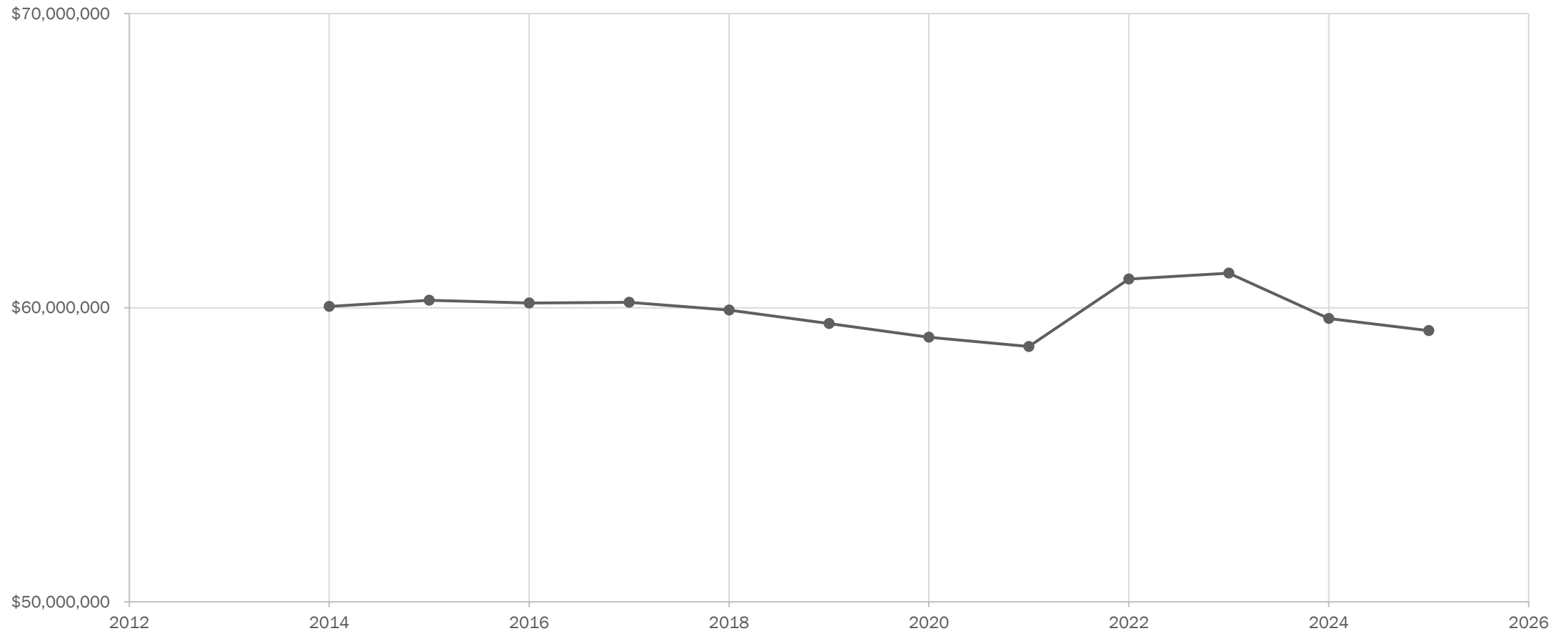
Local Nickels and State Equalization



Local "Share" and State "Share" (Nickels Only)



Capital Outlay (\$100 per AADA)



Finally.....

- Debt Service sits around 7% of district expenses which is relatively low
- We now have 96 districts that have levied the recallable nickel with several more “in the process”
- More districts are levying multiple recallable nickels in order to pay for upcoming projects
- The equalization for the “Category 5” nickel (2010) expires in 5 years (or when the bonds are retired)

Questions?



Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

Next Meeting

Nov. 5, 2025