

Possibilities and Limits of Education Policy in Oklahoma

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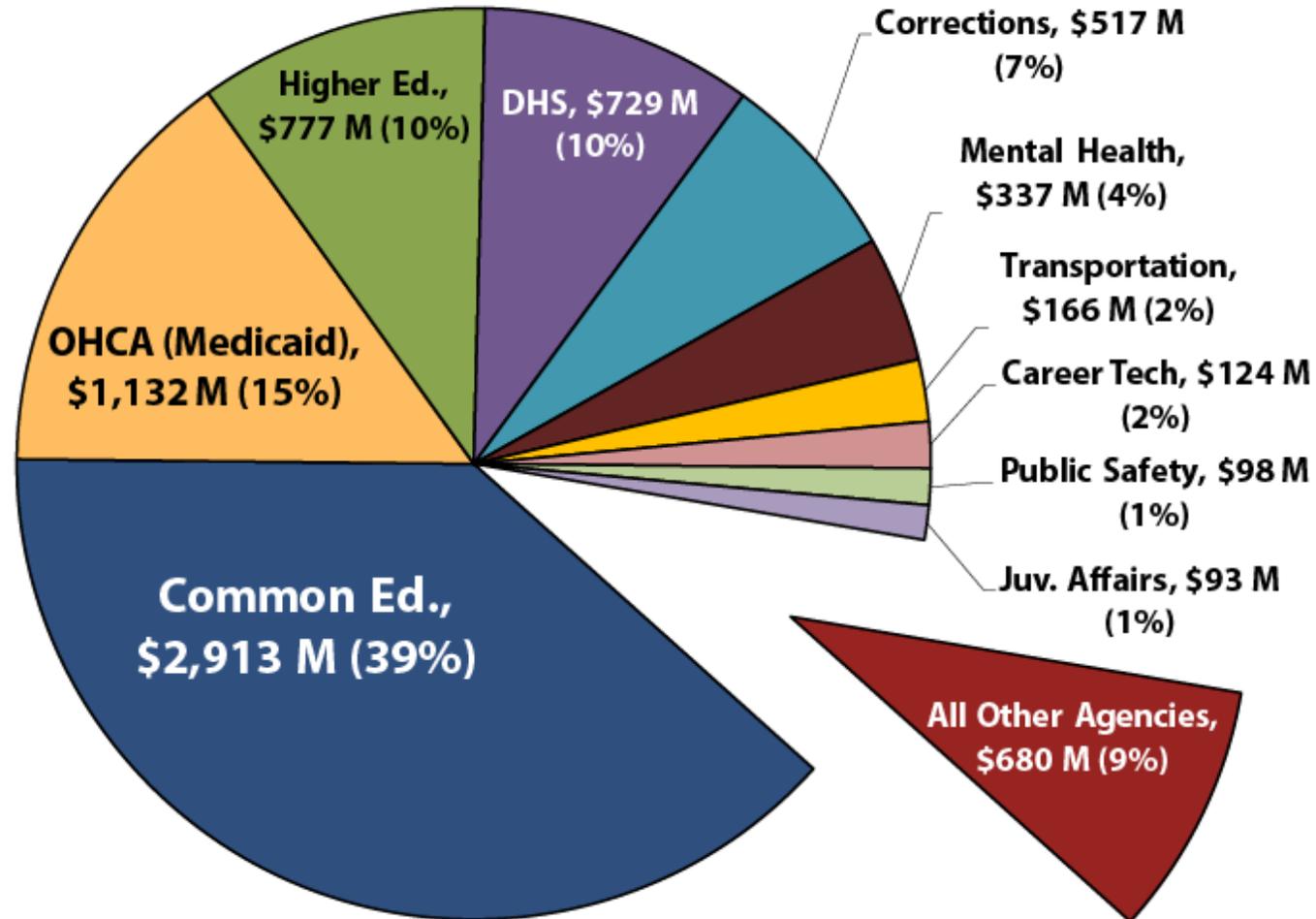
Oklahoma's Biggest Job



Common and higher education were nearly half of the state budget appropriated by lawmakers in FY 2019.

Total Appropriations:
\$7,567 M

Total Ten Largest:
\$6,887 M (91.0%)



We expect schools to do a lot...

Schools can fix society!

Yeah, but...



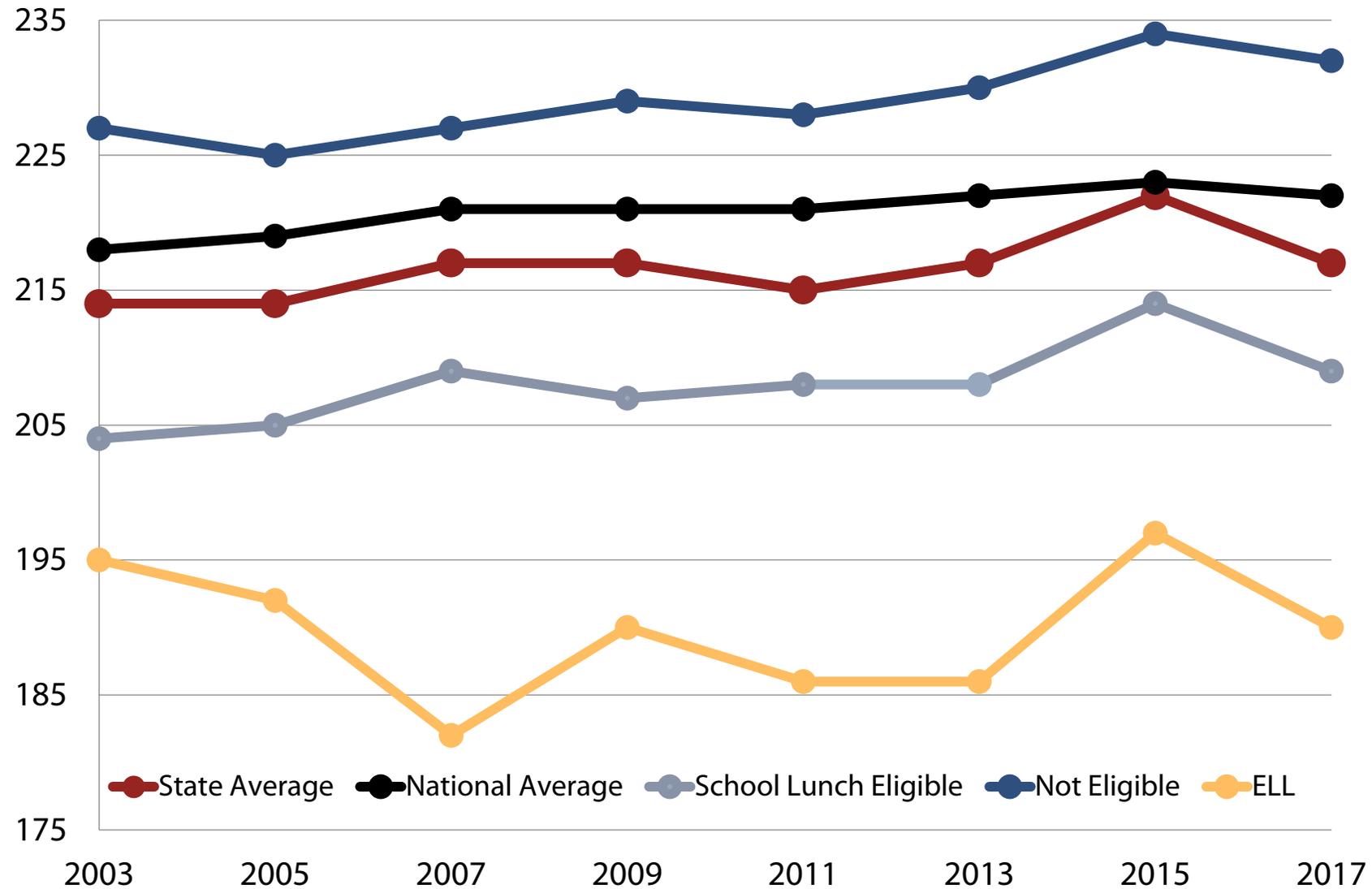
What role can policy play?



Education polices can create or reproduce inequalities.



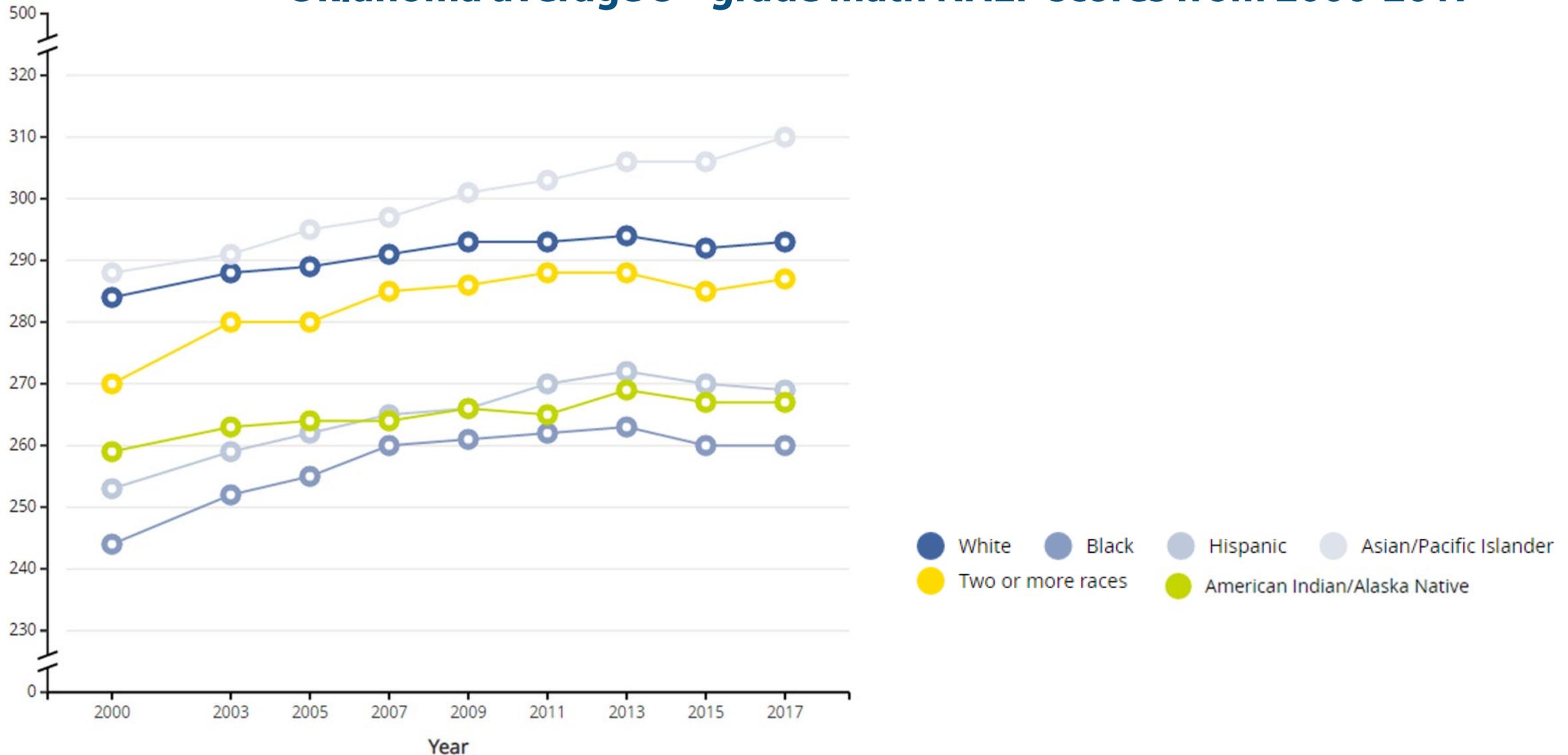
4th grade low-income and ELL students score lower on NAEP reading assessment on average



Data Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress



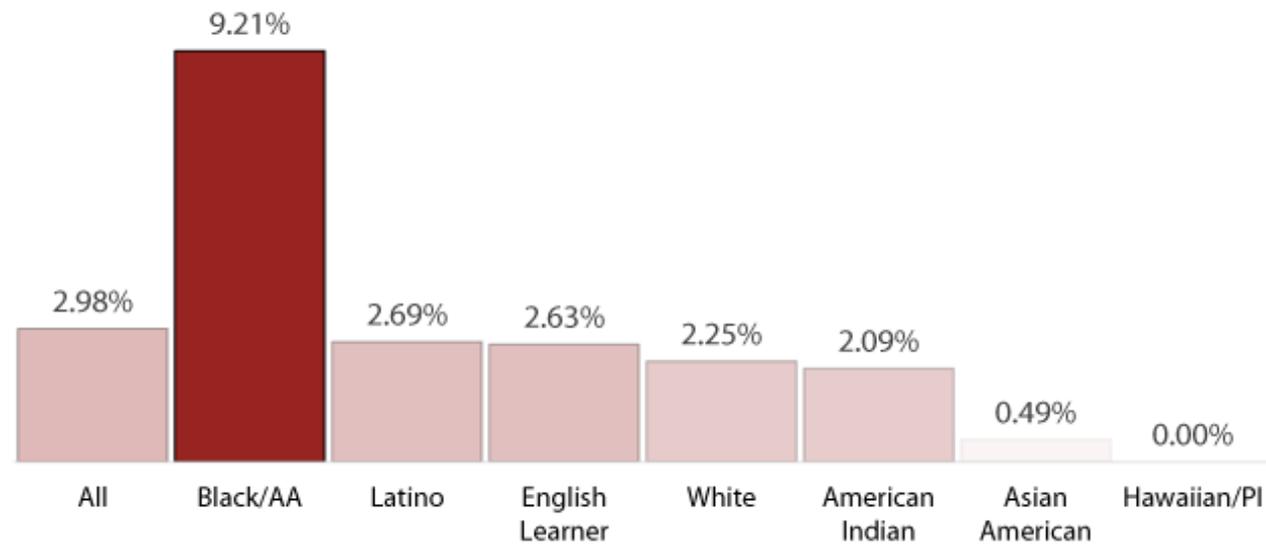
Racial disparities persist in academic outcomes as seen in Oklahoma average 8th grade math NAEP scores from 2000-2017



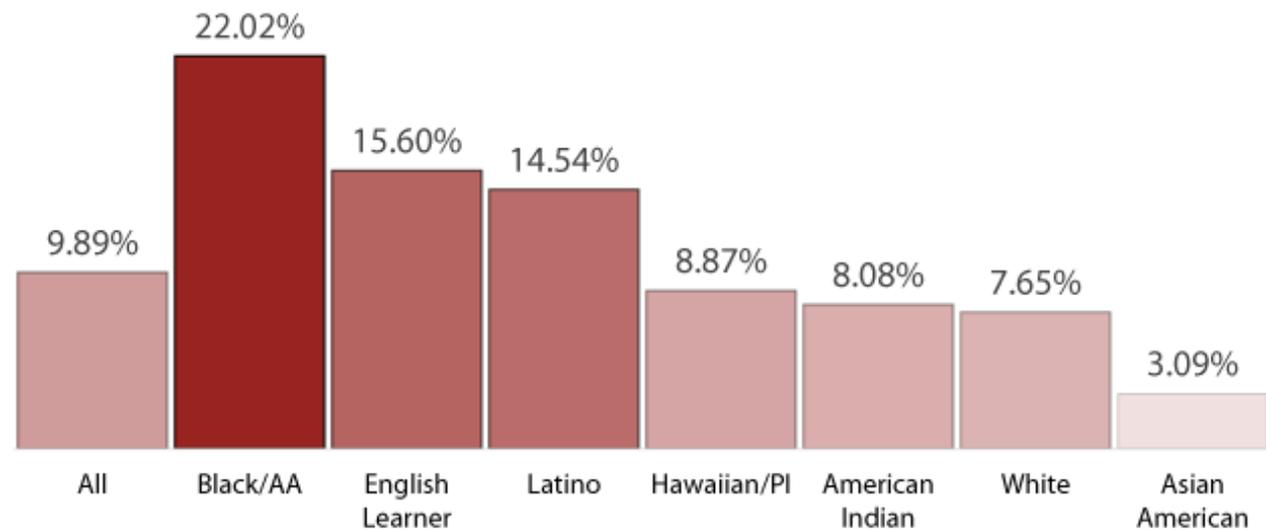
SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2000, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, and 2017 Mathematics Assessments.



Oklahoma Elementary School Suspension Rates, 2011-2012



Oklahoma Secondary School Suspension Rates, 2011-2012



Opportunity Gap

- achievement disparities are a result of an opportunity gap
- Lack of access to opportunities and resources inside and outside of school
 - economic resources
 - the qualifications of their teachers
 - the rigor of the curricula they study
 - their teachers' expectations



What role can policy play?



**Education policies can fix inequalities.
(narrow the opportunity gap)**



Education Policy



- **School funding**
- **School segregation**



Education policy at multiple levels

Federal-level

- Department of Education

State-level

- State Legislature
- State Board of Education and Oklahoma State Department of Education

District-level

- School board
 - superintendent

School-level

- Principal, teachers, staff



School Funding

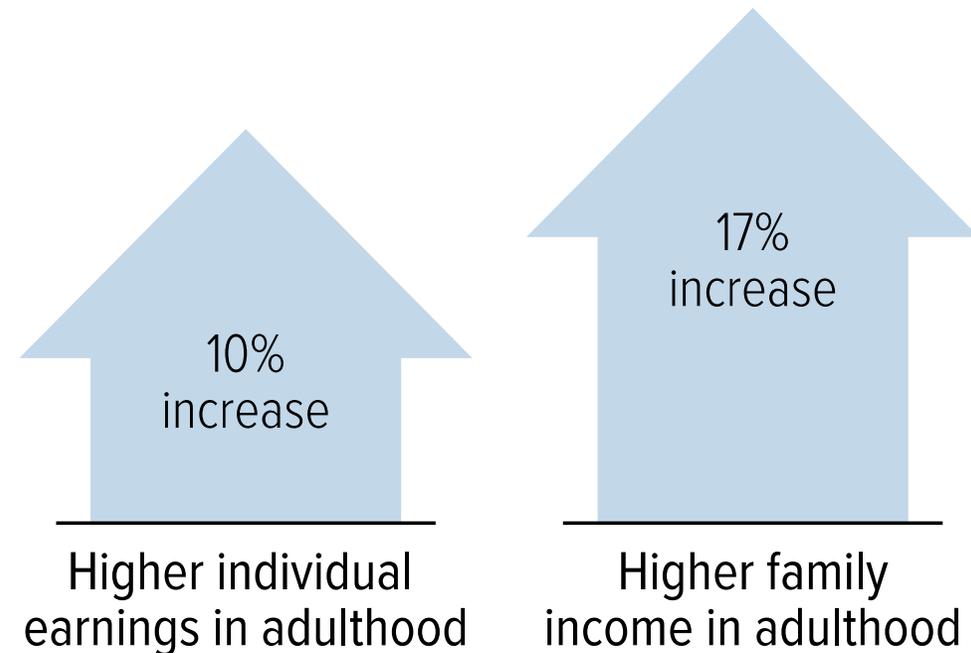


Funding Matters

- More likely to graduate
- Less likely to experience poverty as an adult
- Improved school inputs
 - reduction student to ratio
 - longer school years
 - higher teacher salaries

School Funding Increases Lead to Big Gains for Poor Kids

For low-income students, a 10 percent increase in per-pupil spending (for all 12 school-age years) is associated with:

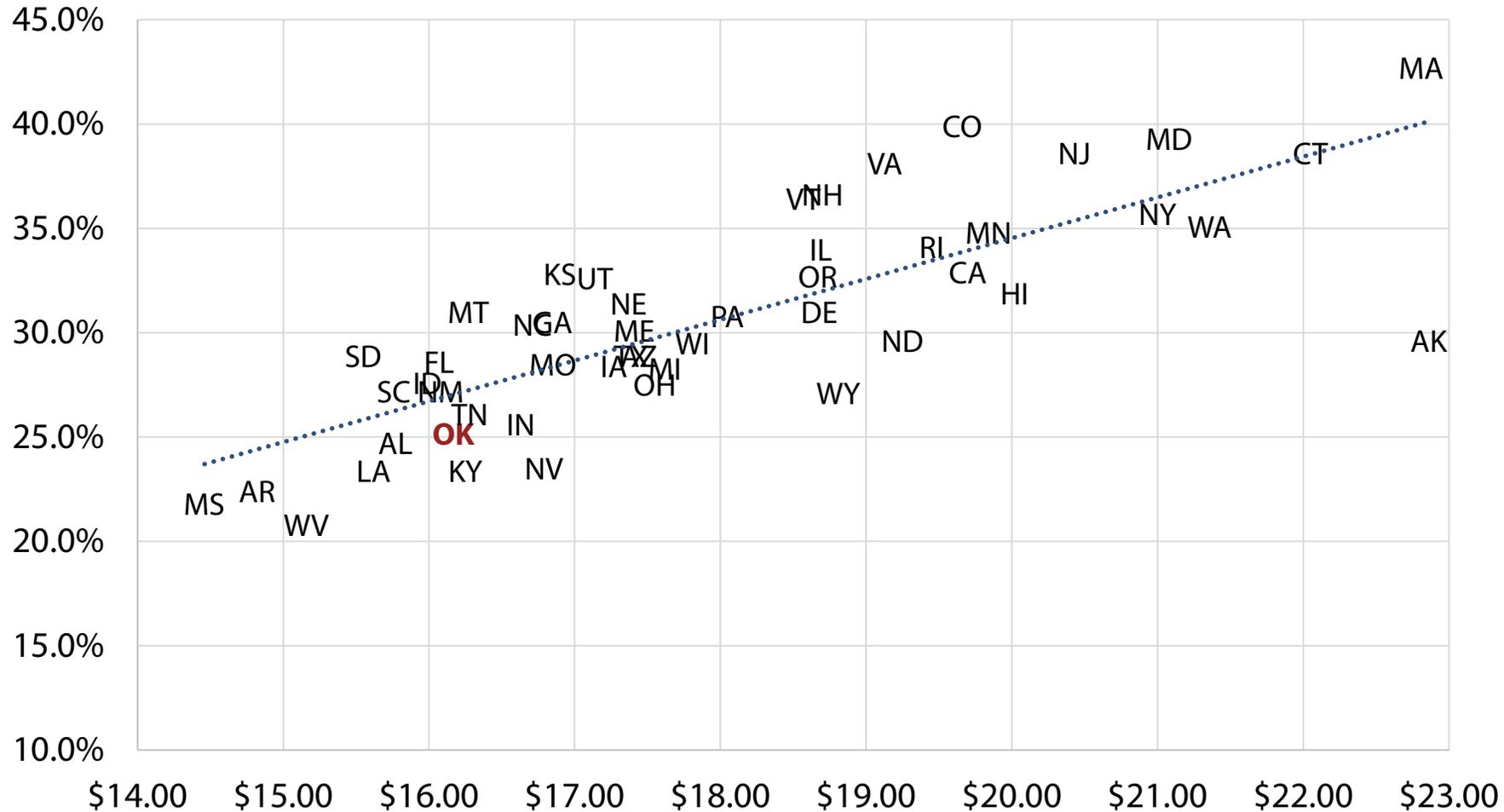


Source: C. Kirabo Jackson, Rucker C. Johnson, and Claudia Persico, "The Effects of School Spending on Educational and Economic Outcomes: Evidence from School Finance Reforms." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. October 1, 2015



Median wages are substantially higher in states with better-educated workers

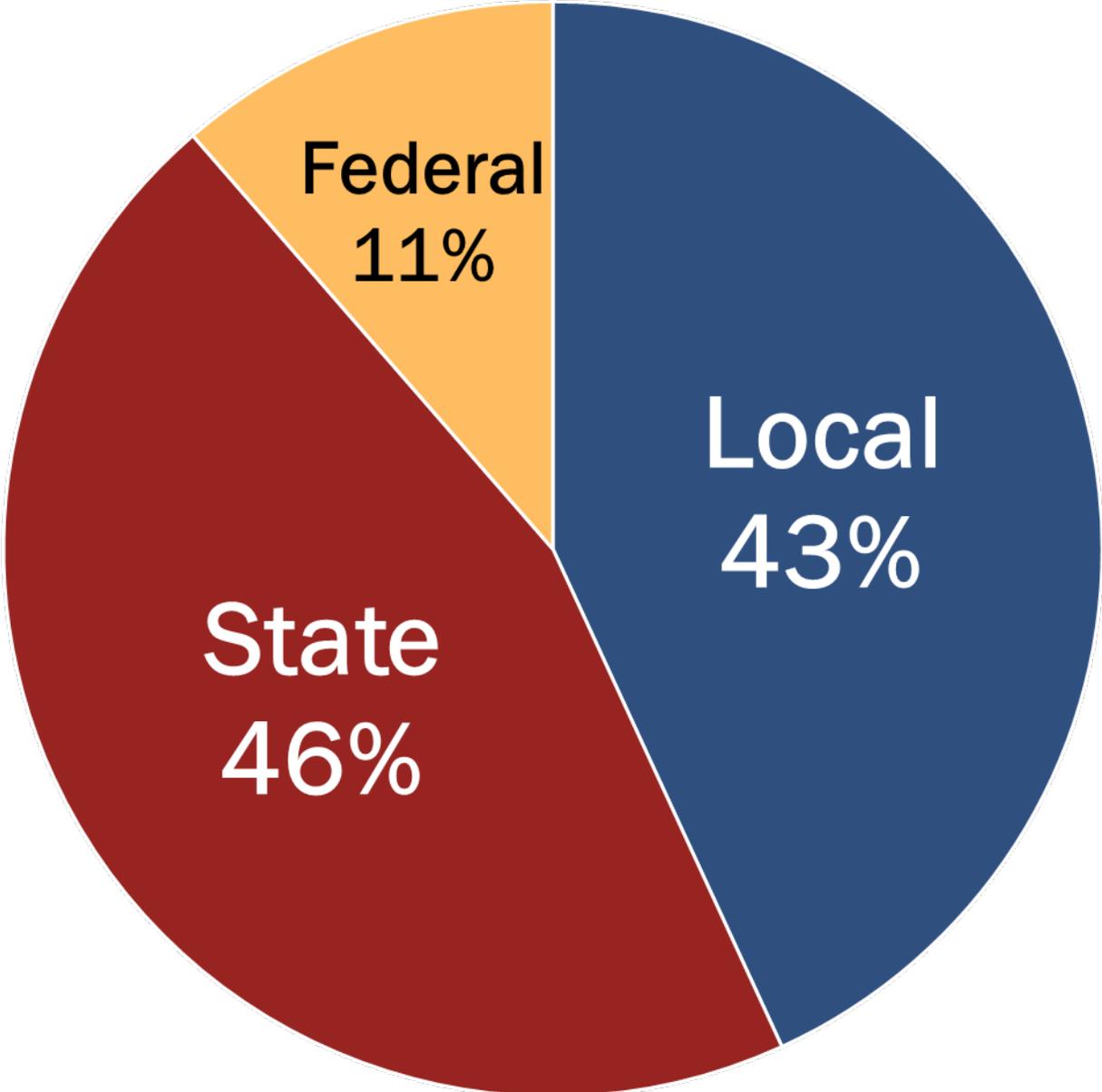
State median hourly wage and share of population 25 & older with bachelor's degree or more



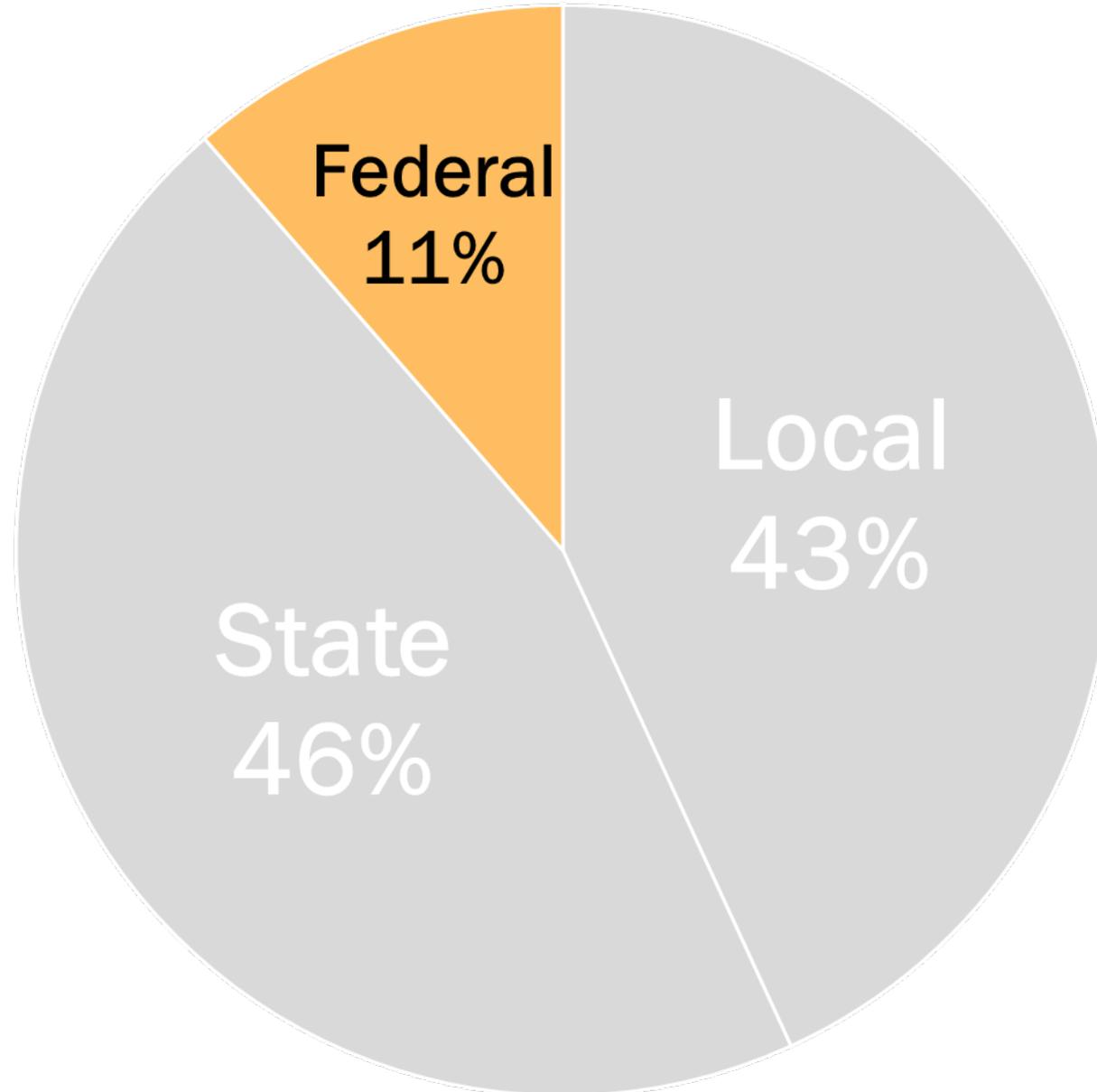
What are the sources of school funding in Oklahoma?



Oklahoma K-12 School Revenues, FY 2017

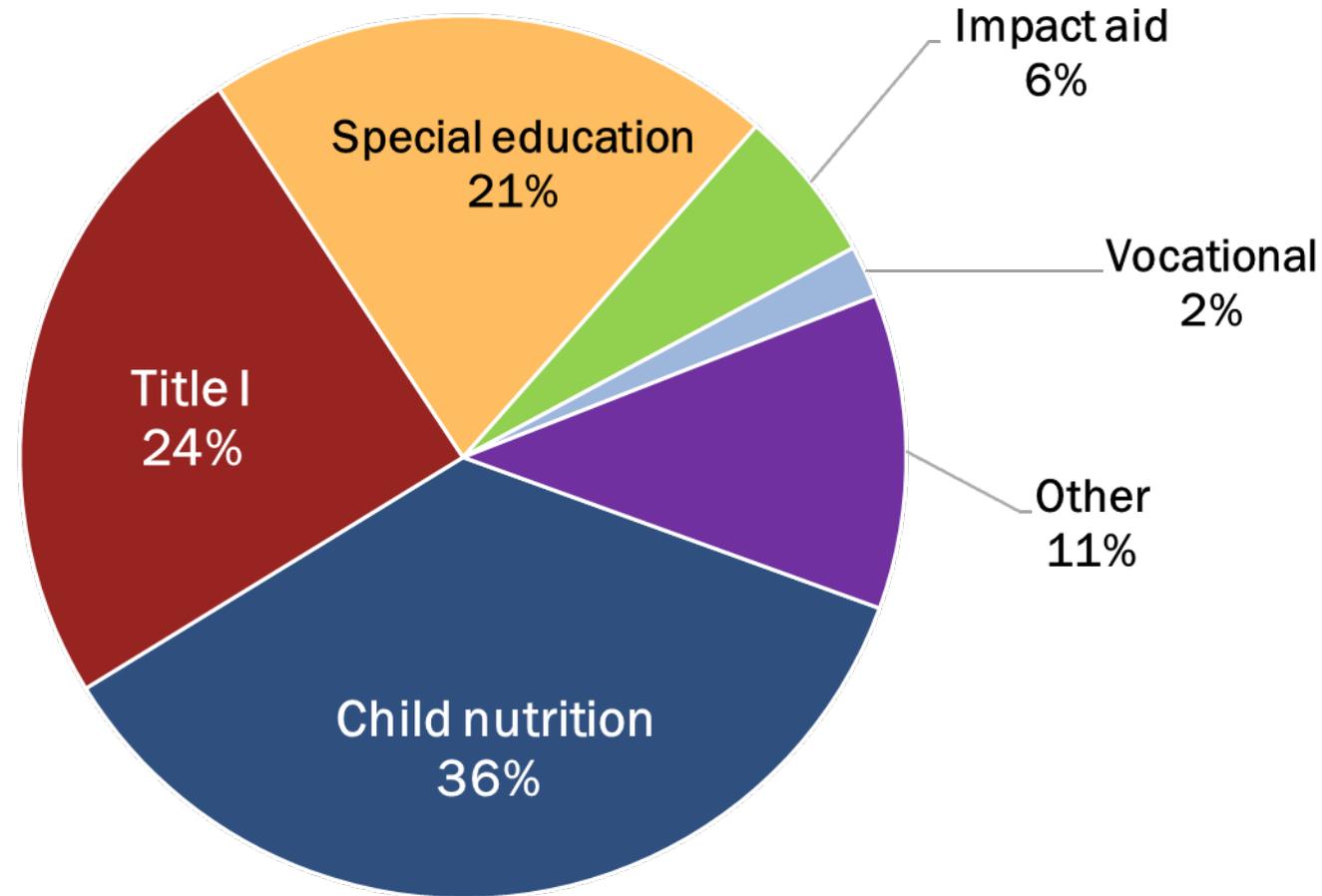


Oklahoma K-12 School Revenues, FY 2017

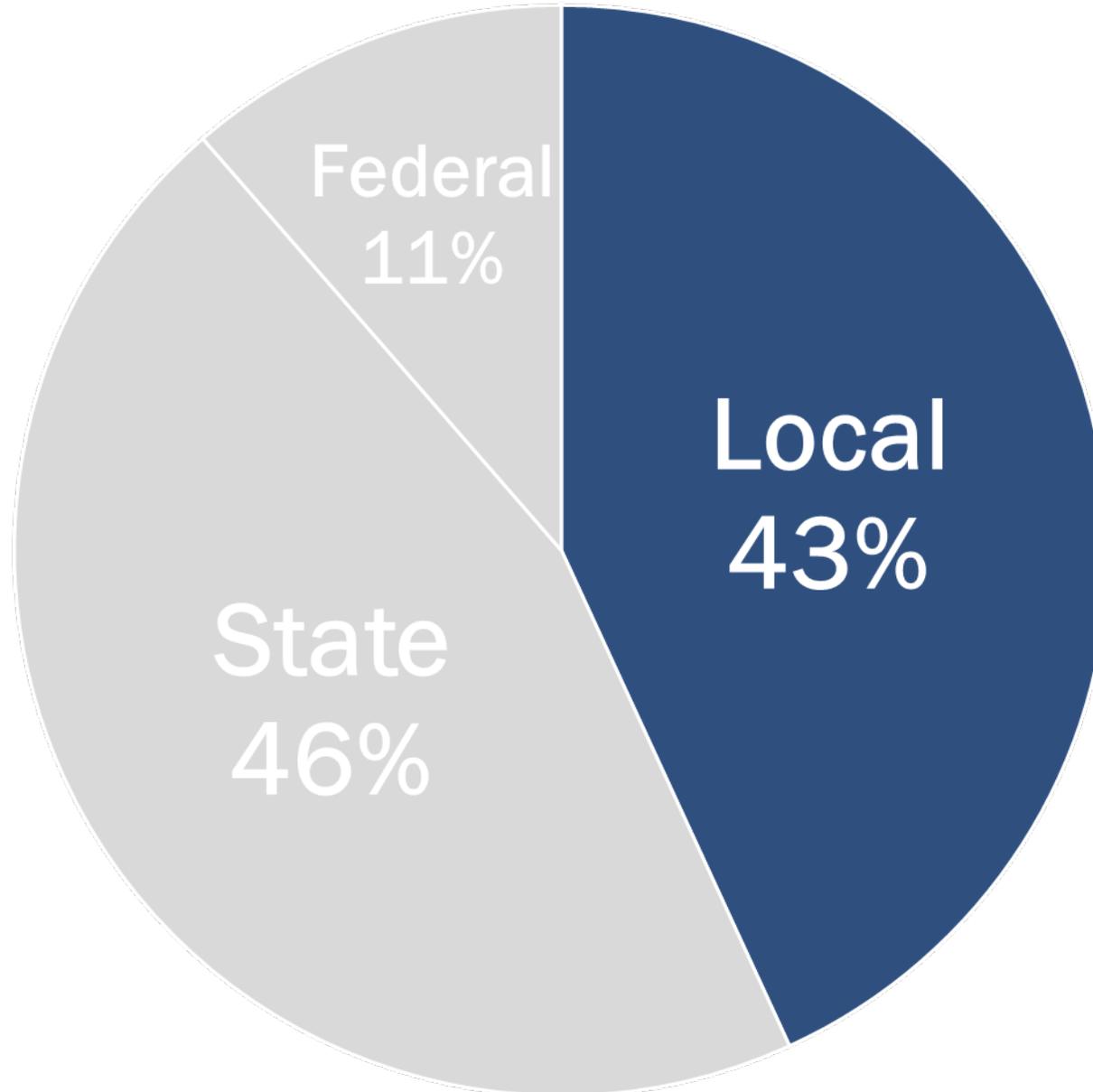


Federal funding of OK schools goes to a few specific purposes

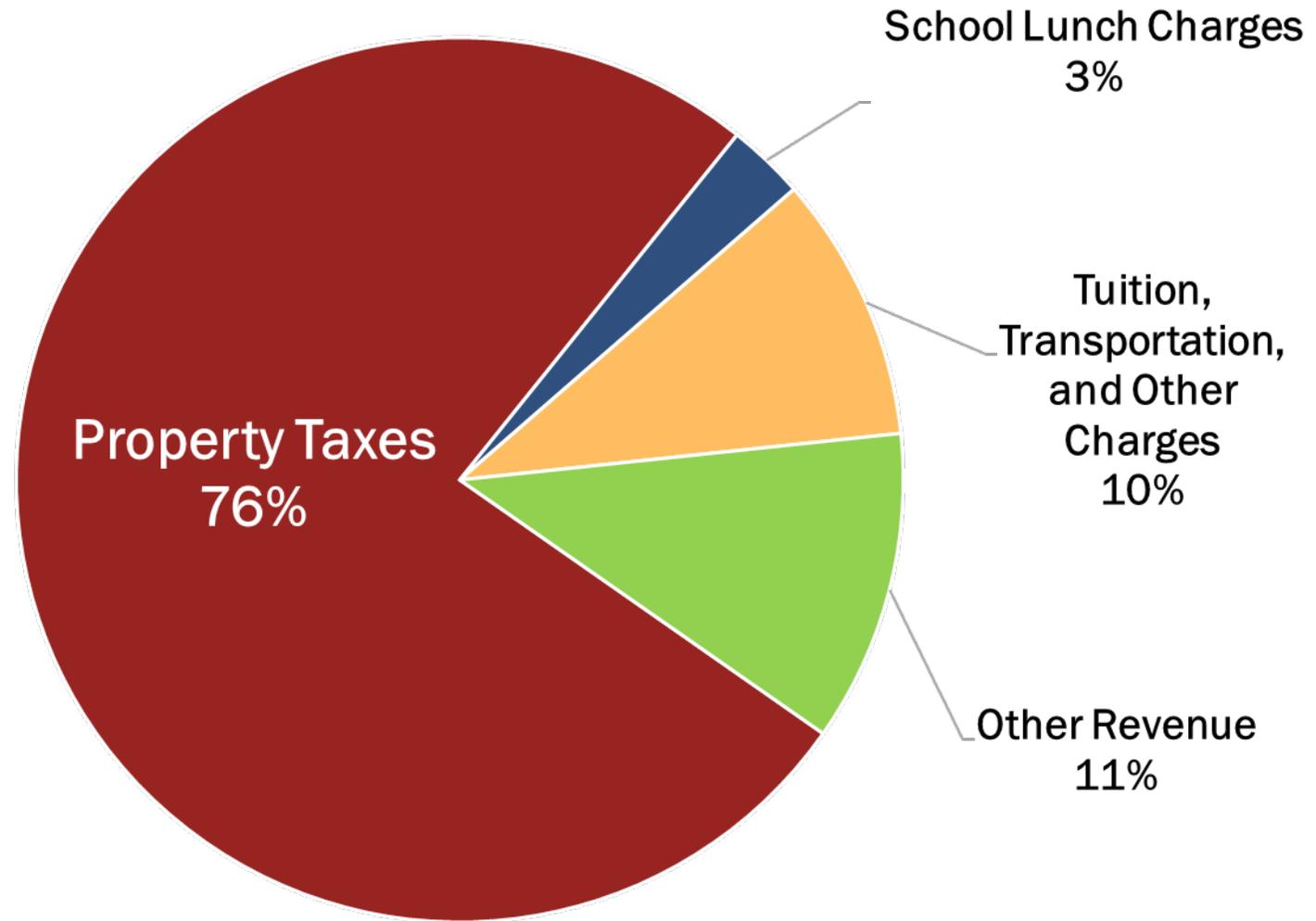
Oklahoma School Funding from Federal Sources, FY 2016



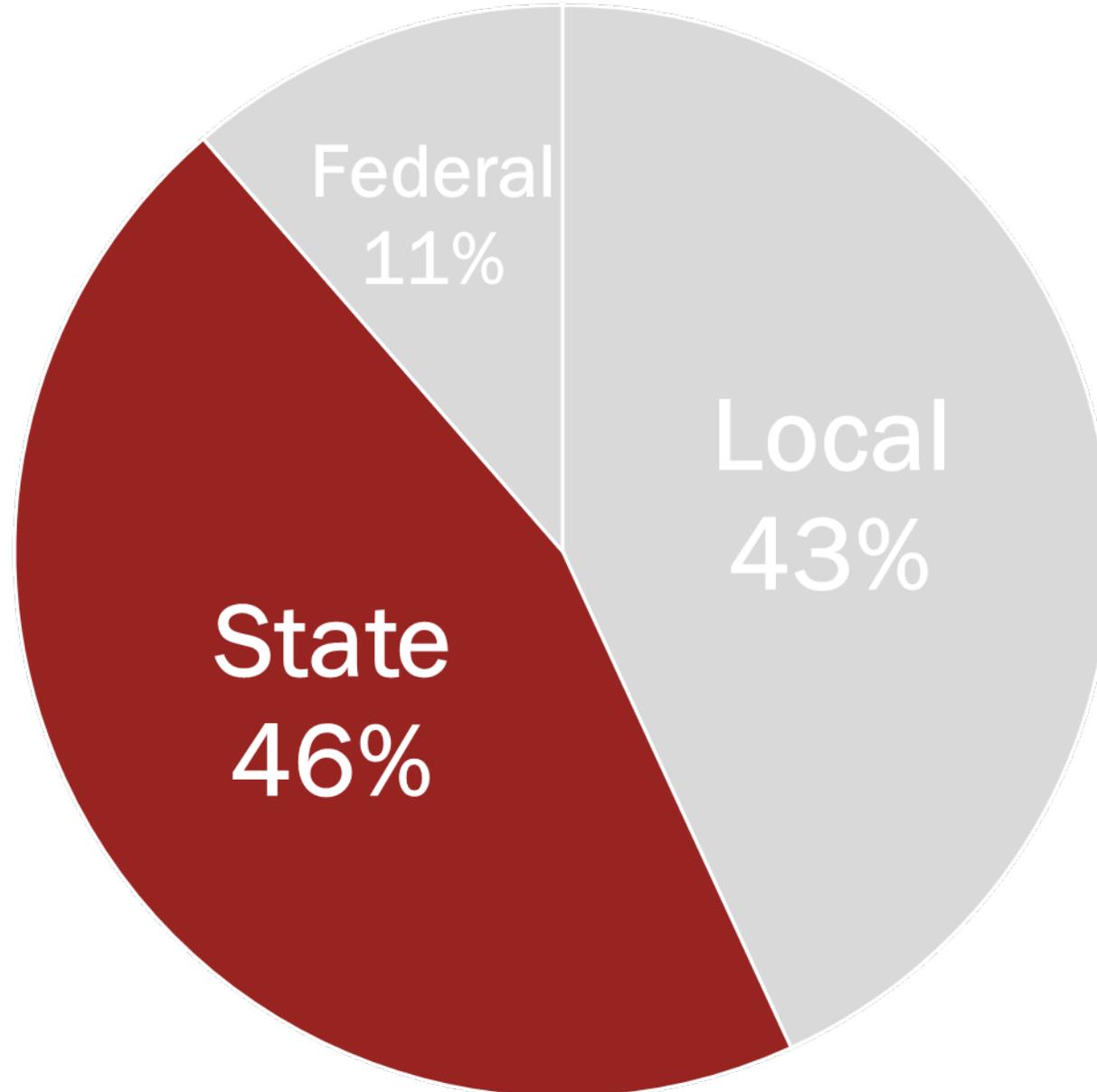
Oklahoma K-12 School Revenues, FY 2017



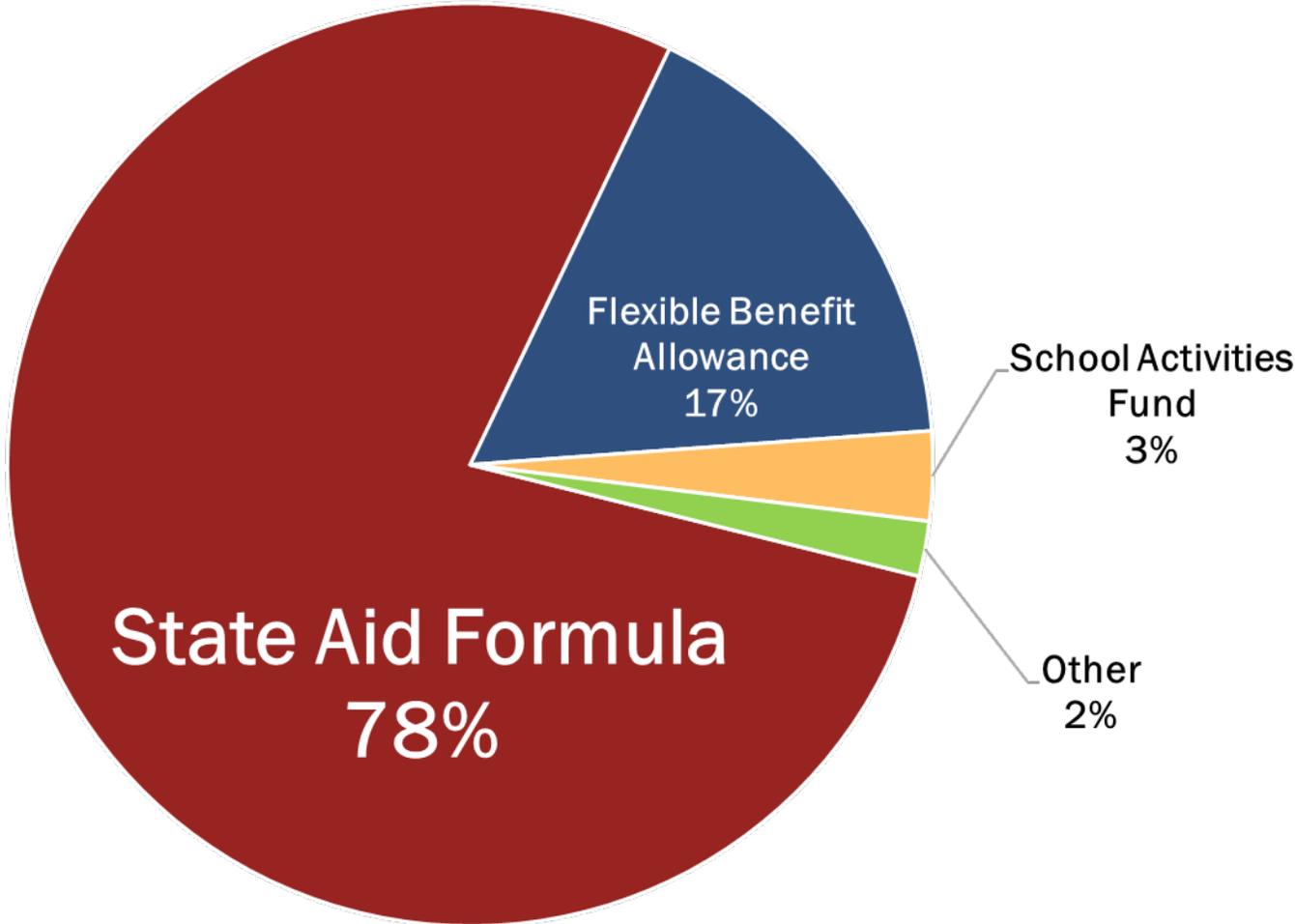
Oklahoma School Funding from Local Sources, FY 2016



Oklahoma K-12 School Revenues, FY 2017



State Appropriated Funds to OK Board of Education, FY 2019



How are schools funded in Oklahoma?

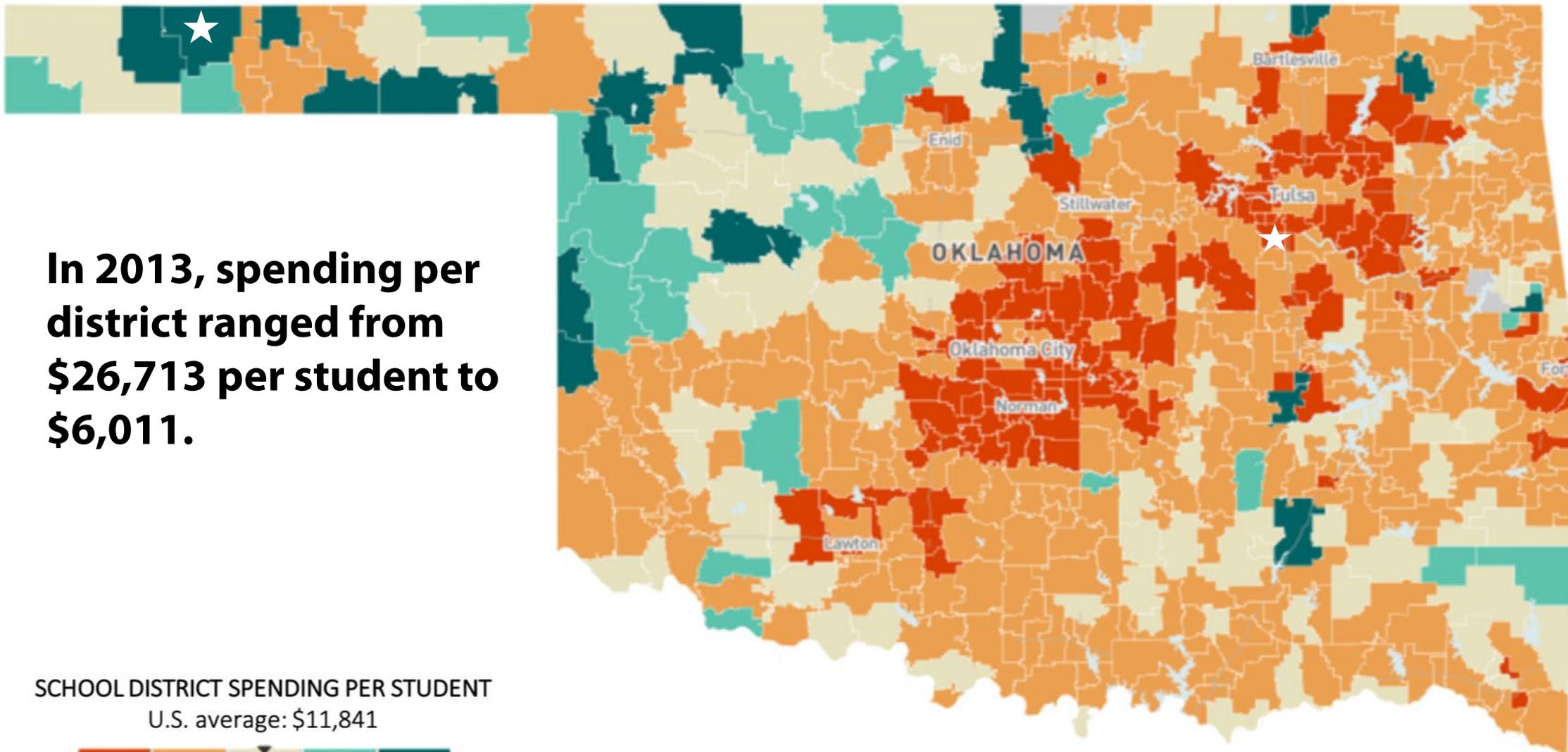


State Aid Funding Formula

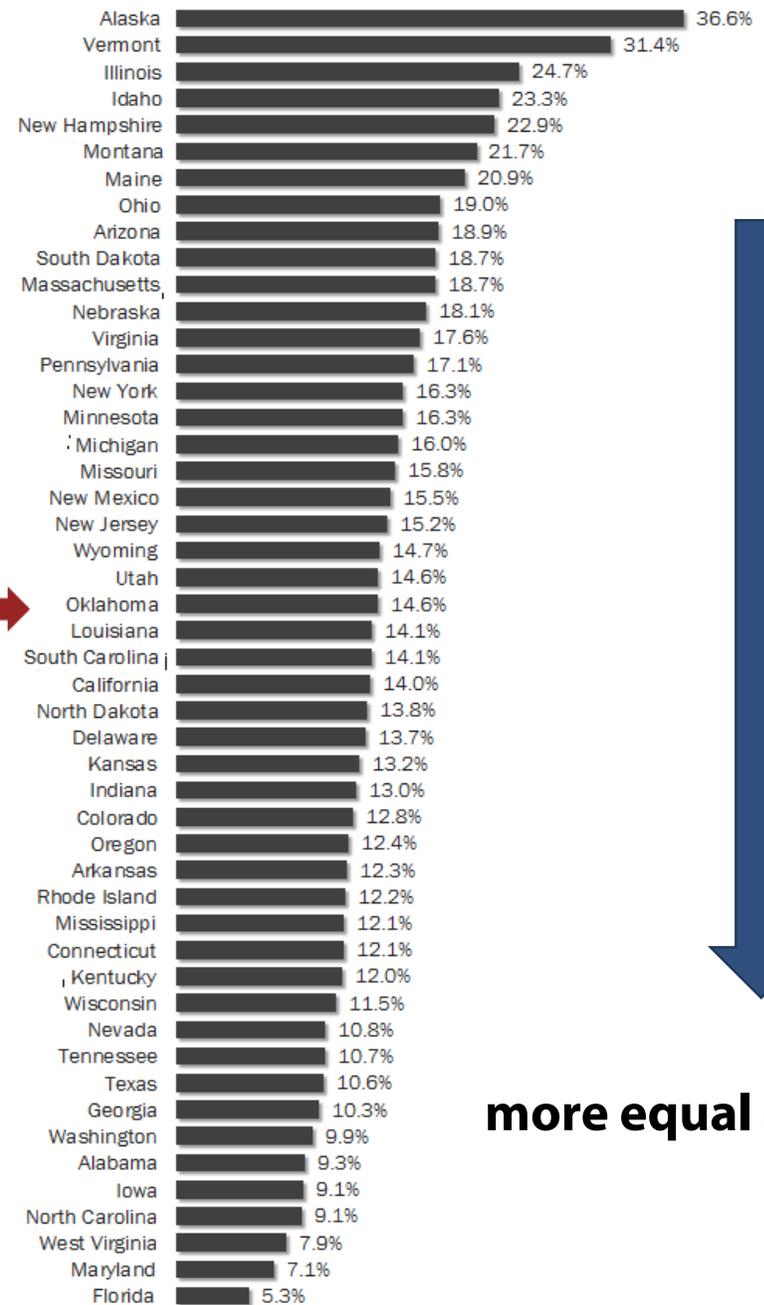
- Covers the gap between local revenue and the amount needed to run high-quality schools
- Recognizes that cost of educating a child varies with students and district
- Attempt to equalize revenue among districts
- Perfect equalization would produce same revenue per weighted student in every district



Total district spending per pupil varies across Oklahoma (FY2013)



In 2016, Oklahoma ranked 23rd in measure of spending differences across districts.



more equal distribution



Nonwhite districts in Oklahoma receive \$3,618 less per student than white districts.



Difference in Funding Between White and Nonwhite Districts

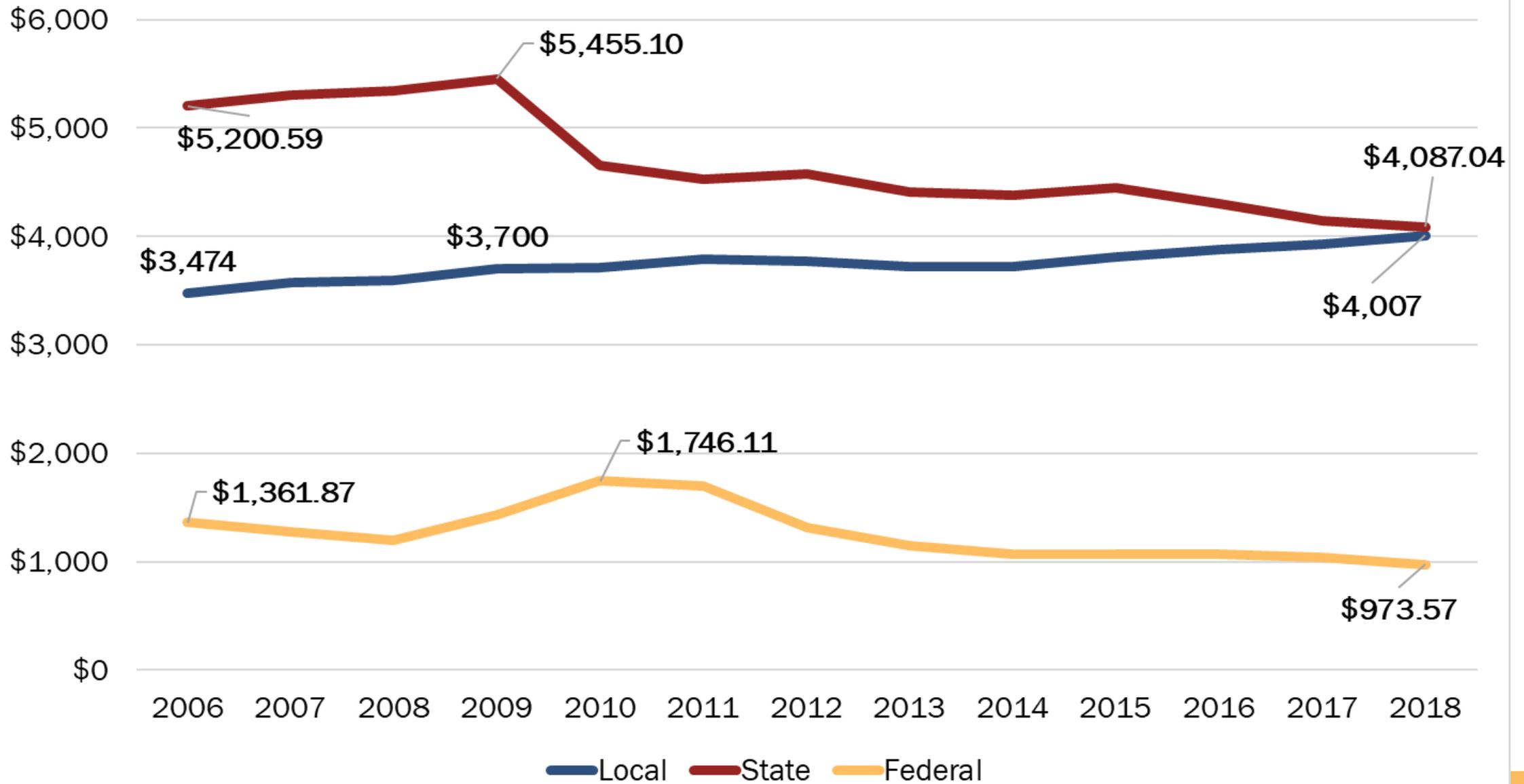
Nonwhite districts receive less than white districts in 21 states

State	Difference in funding	Students in nonwhite districts
Arizona	-\$7,613	291,158
Nebraska	-\$3,961	9,116
Oklahoma	-\$3,618	57,863
New Jersey	-\$3,446	432,377
Connecticut	-\$2,931	107,790
Montana	-\$2,711	6,273
Washington	-\$2,590	93,872
Rhode Island	-\$2,450	26,524
California	-\$2,390	3,860,192
National	-\$2,226	—
New York	-\$2,222	1,249,988
Colorado	-\$2,218	154,058
Massachusetts	-\$1,644	140,698
South Dakota	-\$1,580	2,950
Wisconsin	-\$1,473	75,749
Kansas	-\$1,462	42,140
Texas	-\$830	2,441,928
Florida	-\$423	702,388
Missouri	-\$238	103,411
Michigan	-\$181	126,309
Indiana	-\$43	75,432
Tennessee	-\$39	125,934
Total		10,126,150

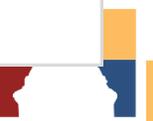
How has funding changed over the past decade?



K-12 Revenues Per Student, 2018 Dollars



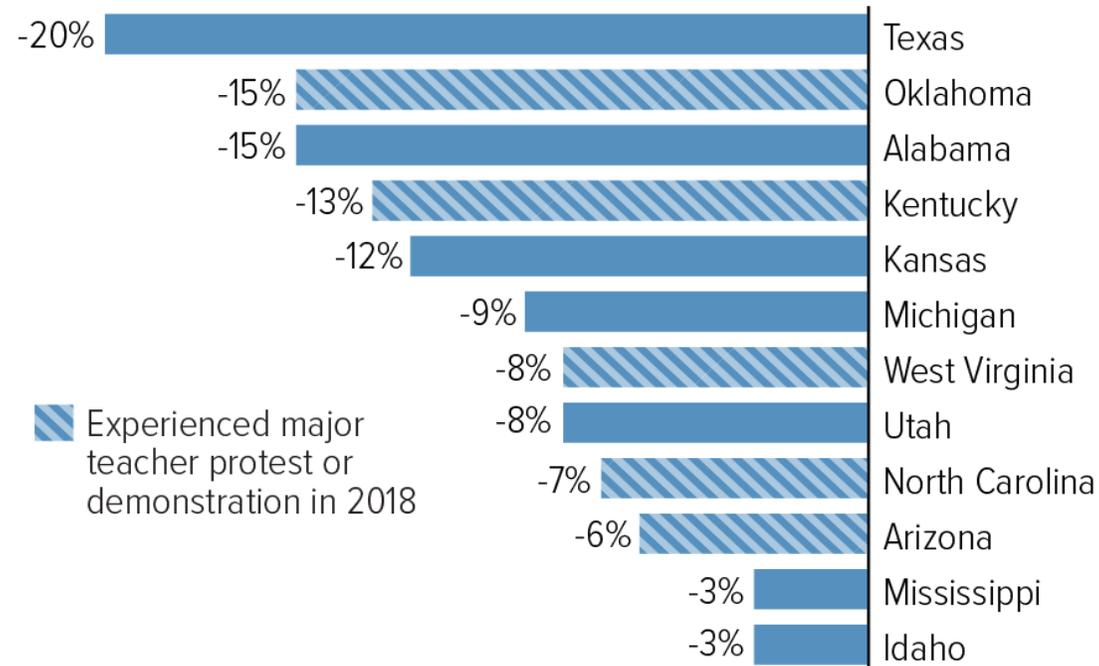
Data Source: OK Policy calculations using Oklahoma State Department of Education data



In 2018 state aid funding per student was 15% below 2008 levels adjusted for inflation

Despite 2018 Funding Boosts, Some States Remain Far Below Pre-Recession Funding Levels

Percent change in state formula funding* per student, inflation adjusted, fiscal years 2008-2019



*General or formula funding is the primary form of state K-12 funding. States also typically provide revenue for other, more specific purposes, such as bus transportation and contributions to school employee pension plans.

Source: CBPP budget and enrollment analysis



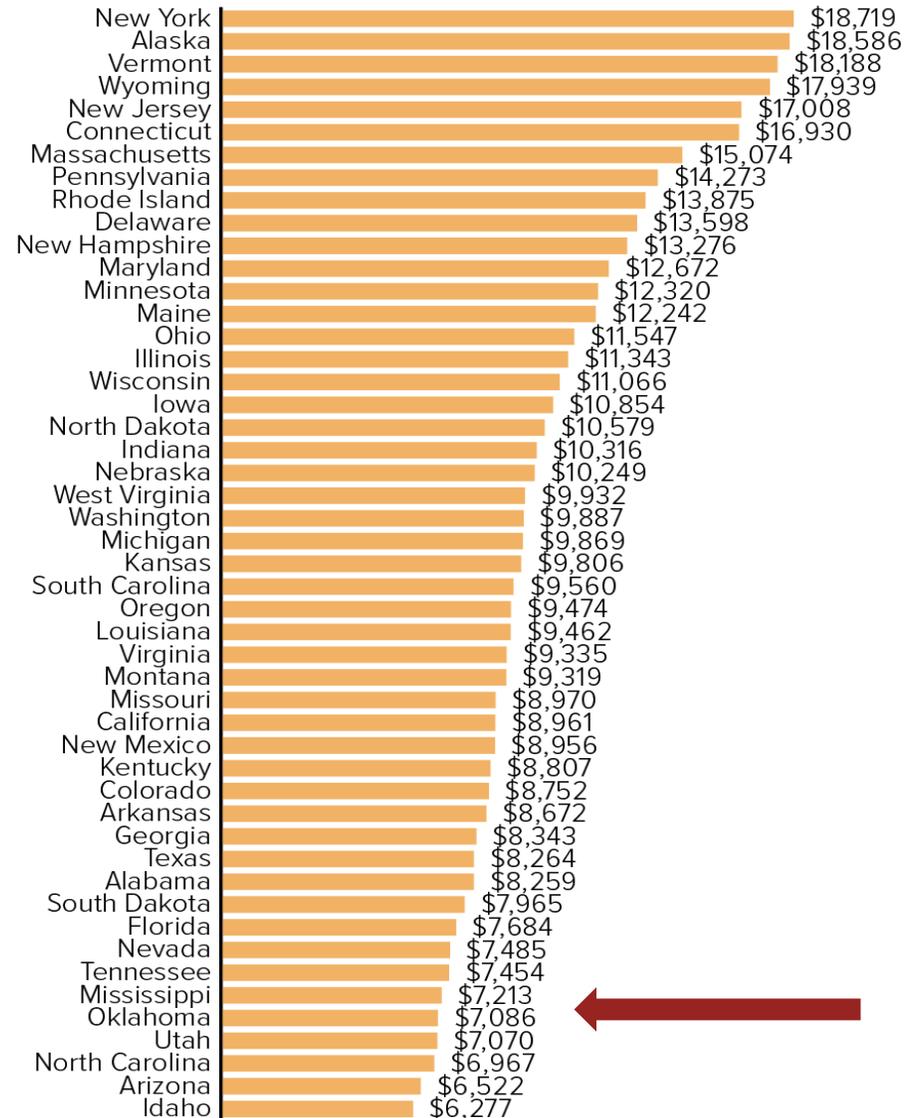
Where are we now?

- Increase of \$480M in 2018
- Increase of \$158M in 2019
- **Still \$103M below 2008 state aid funding with an additional 54,000 students**



Wide Public School Funding Disparities Exist Across States

Estimated per student state and local funding, after adjusting for cost of living, poverty, and other factors



Note: To allow for an apples-to-apples comparison, estimates are for districts with a 20 percent poverty rate.

Source: Baker, et al., "Is School Funding Fair?"



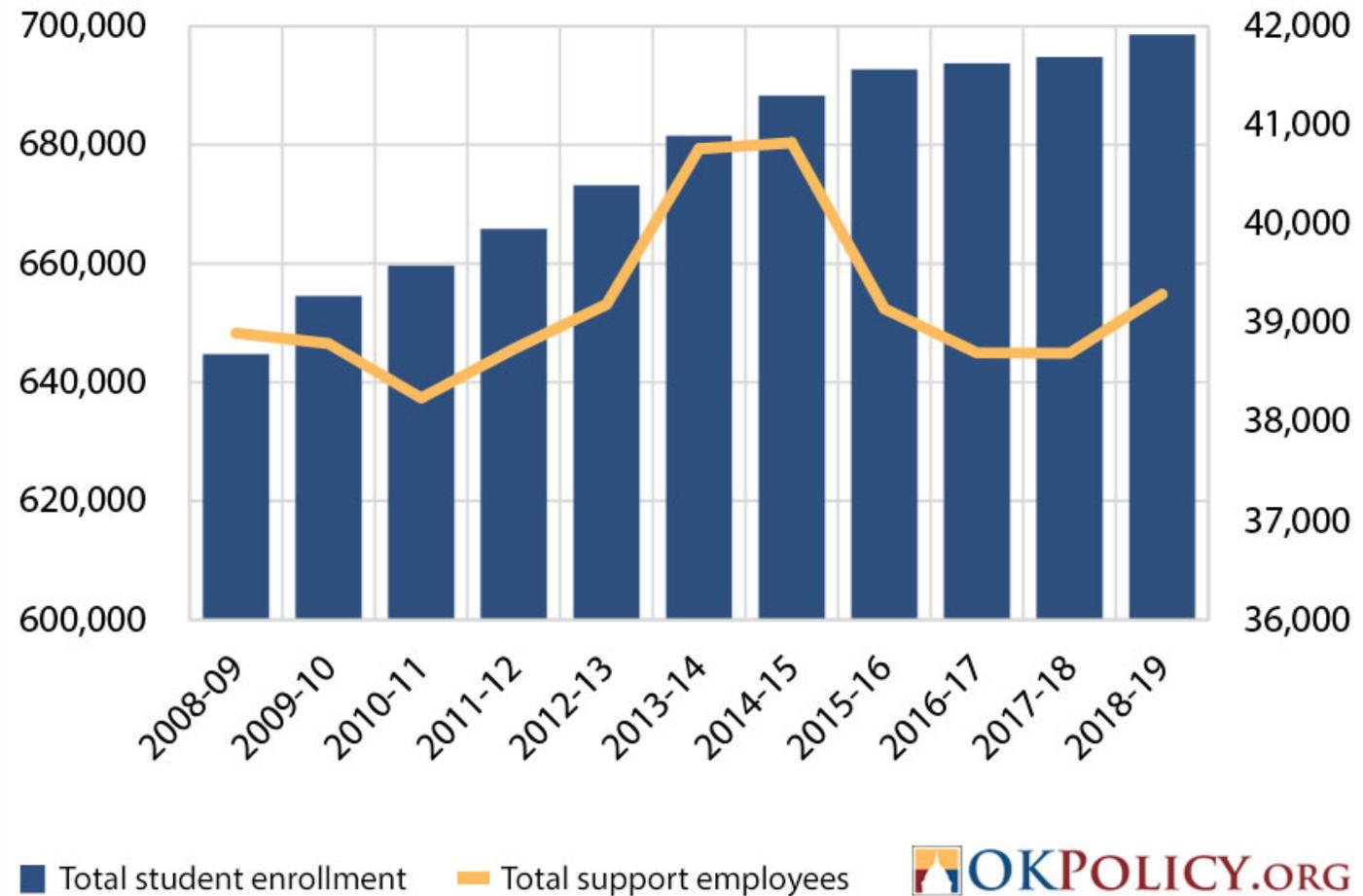
How have budget cuts impacted schools?



391 fewer support staff but 54,000 more students

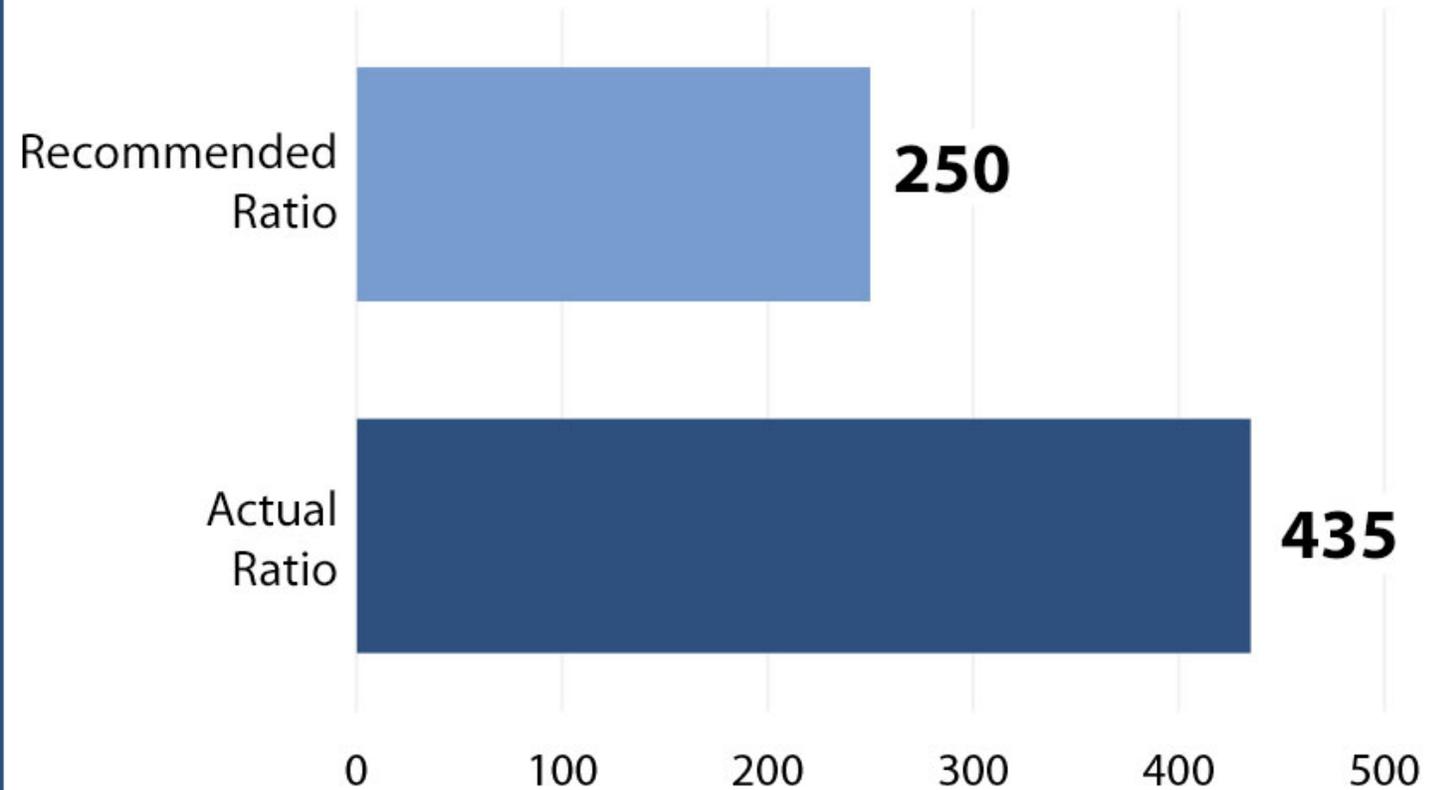
Oklahoma school support staffing has not kept pace with student enrollment

[Source: Oklahoma Department of Education]



Oklahoma has 435 students for every counselor, nearly double the recommended ratio of 250 students per counselor.

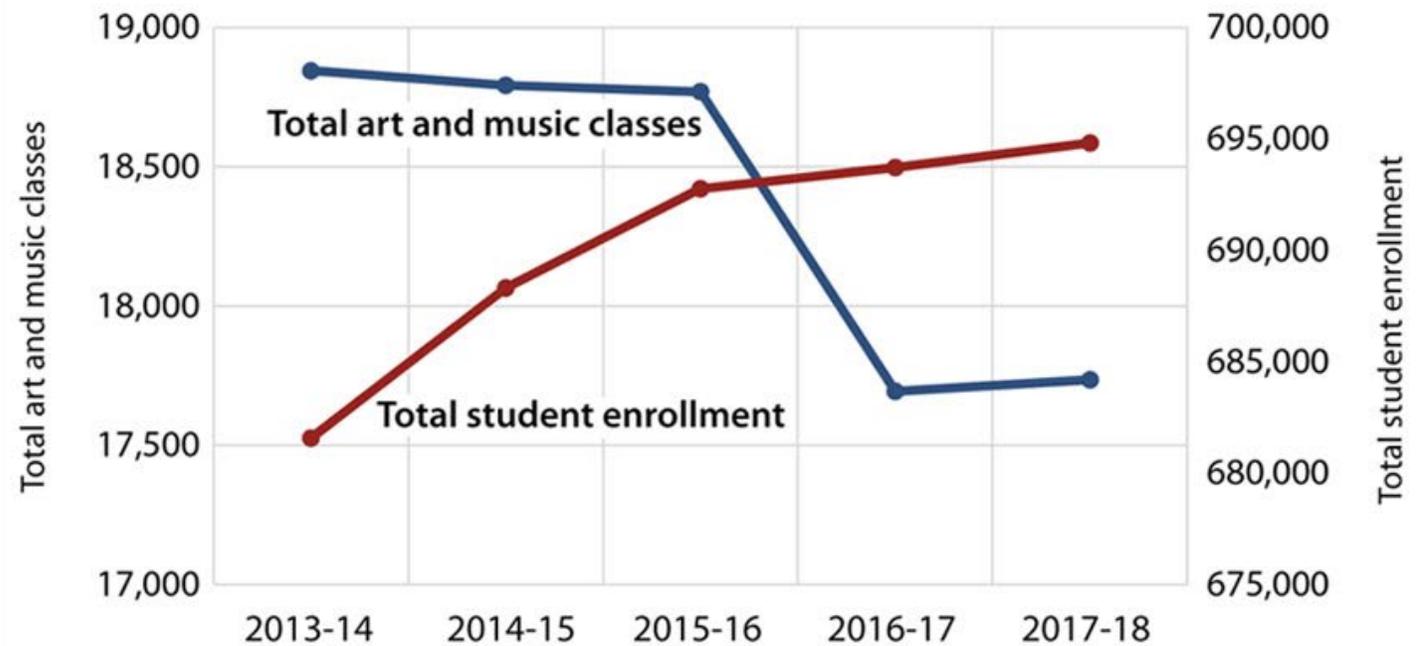
[Source: Oklahoma Department of Education]



1,110 fewer art and music classes with 13,238 more students

The number of art and music classes offered in Oklahoma has fallen even as enrollment climbed.

Source: Oklahoma State Department of Education



School Segregation



Many Oklahoma schools remain highly segregated



Many Oklahoma schools remain highly segregated

72.2% of all white students attend majority white schools



Many Oklahoma schools remain highly segregated

72.2% of all white students attend majority white schools

74.6% of black students attend majority non-white schools



Separate and not equal

“Persistent disparities in school quality and educational outcomes sustain racial disparities in employment, earnings, wealth, health, and quality of life.”

(Urban Institute Catalyst Brief May 2019)



How can we address school segregation?

Funding reforms

“Funding parity is insufficient to narrow achievement gaps because educating disadvantaged students comes at a higher cost—requiring eight times as much funding, according to one study.” (Dynarski and Kainz 2015)



How have we address school segregation?

Desegregation policies

...school desegregation reduced the test-score gap— cutting it in half for some black age groups without harming white students.”

(Urban Institute Catalyst Brief May 2019)



So can schools change society?



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Thank you!



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