Cherry Creek School District

Dedicated to Excellence
Cherry Creek Schools

Two adequacy studies show that Colorado students need and deserve $4 billion MORE in funding yet the Governor's budget proposes to invest $150 million LESS in K12 education

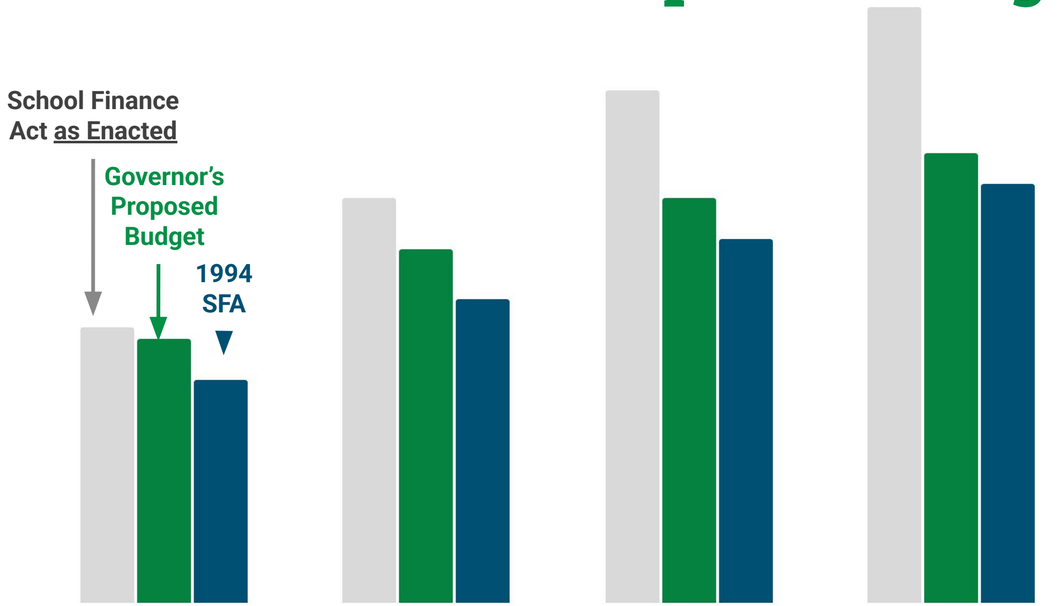
For Cherry Creek School District and our 53,000 students, this means...

$17 MILLION CUT = 170 TEACHERS

In addition:

- Pay freeze or pay cuts
- Larger class sizes
- Increased fees for parents
- Reduced specials and elective offerings
- Older technology
- Decrease in ancillary mental health services
- Reduced transportation offerings and older fleet vehicles
- Increased healthcare costs
- Decrease/eliminate substitute teachers

Impact on DPS Funding from New School Finance Act and Governor's Proposed Budget



Cumulative Impact Compared to Previous 1994 SFA

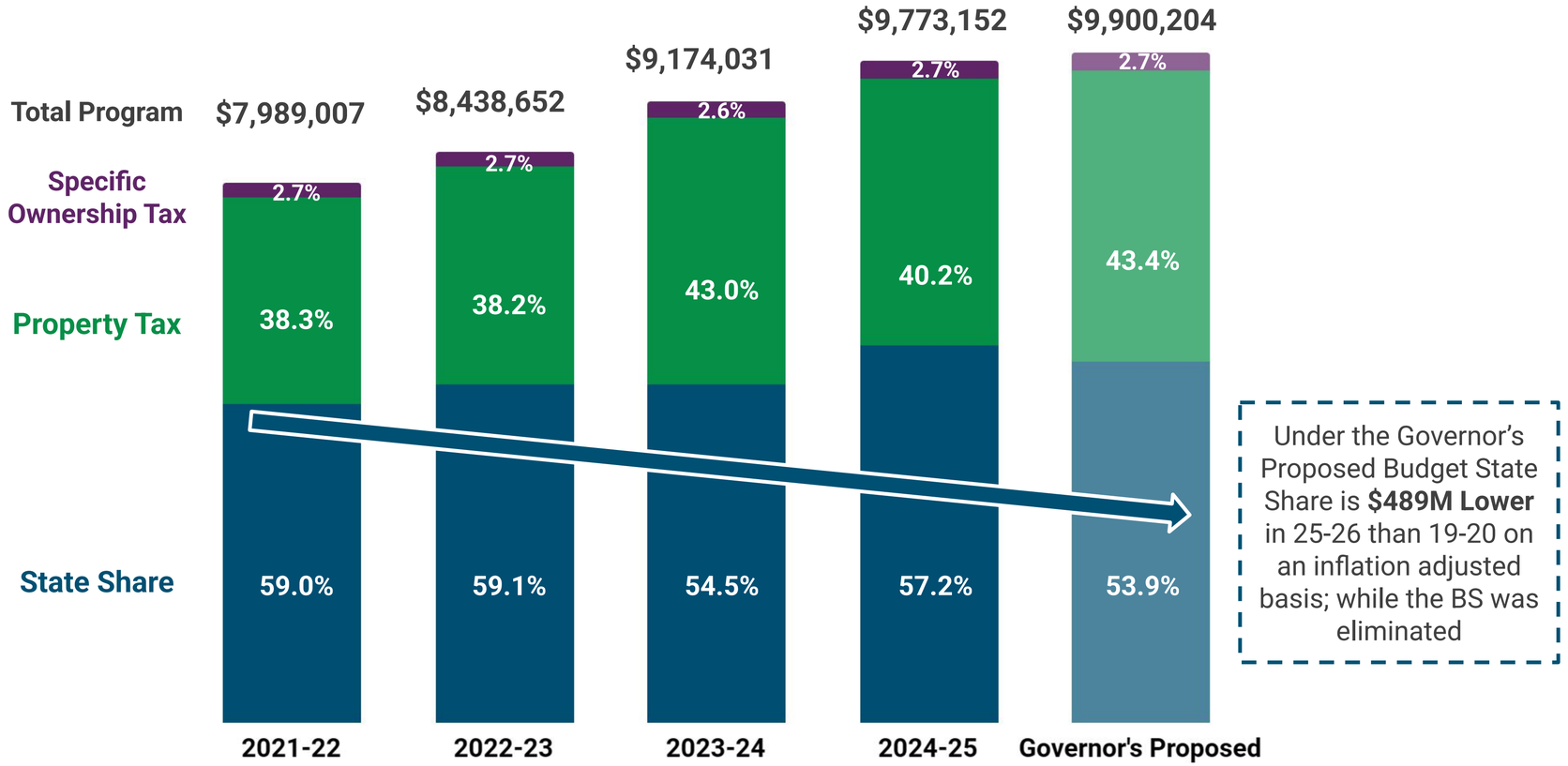
Forecasted Revenue to DPS Compared to 1994 SFA	FY2025-26	FY2026-27	FY2027-28	FY2028-29	Total
2024 SFA as Enacted	+$12.0M	+$22.9M	+$33.9M	+$40.4M	+$109.3M
Governor's Proposed Budget	+$9.2M	+$11.1M	+$9.3M	+$7.0M	+$36.6M
1994 SFA	Baseline	Baseline	Baseline	Baseline	Baseline

The new School Finance Act (SFA) passed by the legislature in spring 2024 will bring additional revenue to DPS. As enacted, DPS forecasts receiving an additional $109.3M total over the next 4 years.

The governor's revised budget still includes increases but significantly reduces the amount of additional funding that DPS would receive due to the elimination of smoothing (~66% less total over 4 years)

Statewide Total Program

2021-22 through 2025-26 by Funding Source including % of Total State Share



- With the elimination of the Budget Stabilization Factor, Final Total Program to schools increased by $1.7B, or 21.38%, from 2021-22 to 2024-25
- From FY21-22 to FY25-26, State share will have grown by $0.6B, or 13%, while Property Tax share grew by $1.2B, or 40%. CPI during this period grew by 20%

Source Data Compiled Here

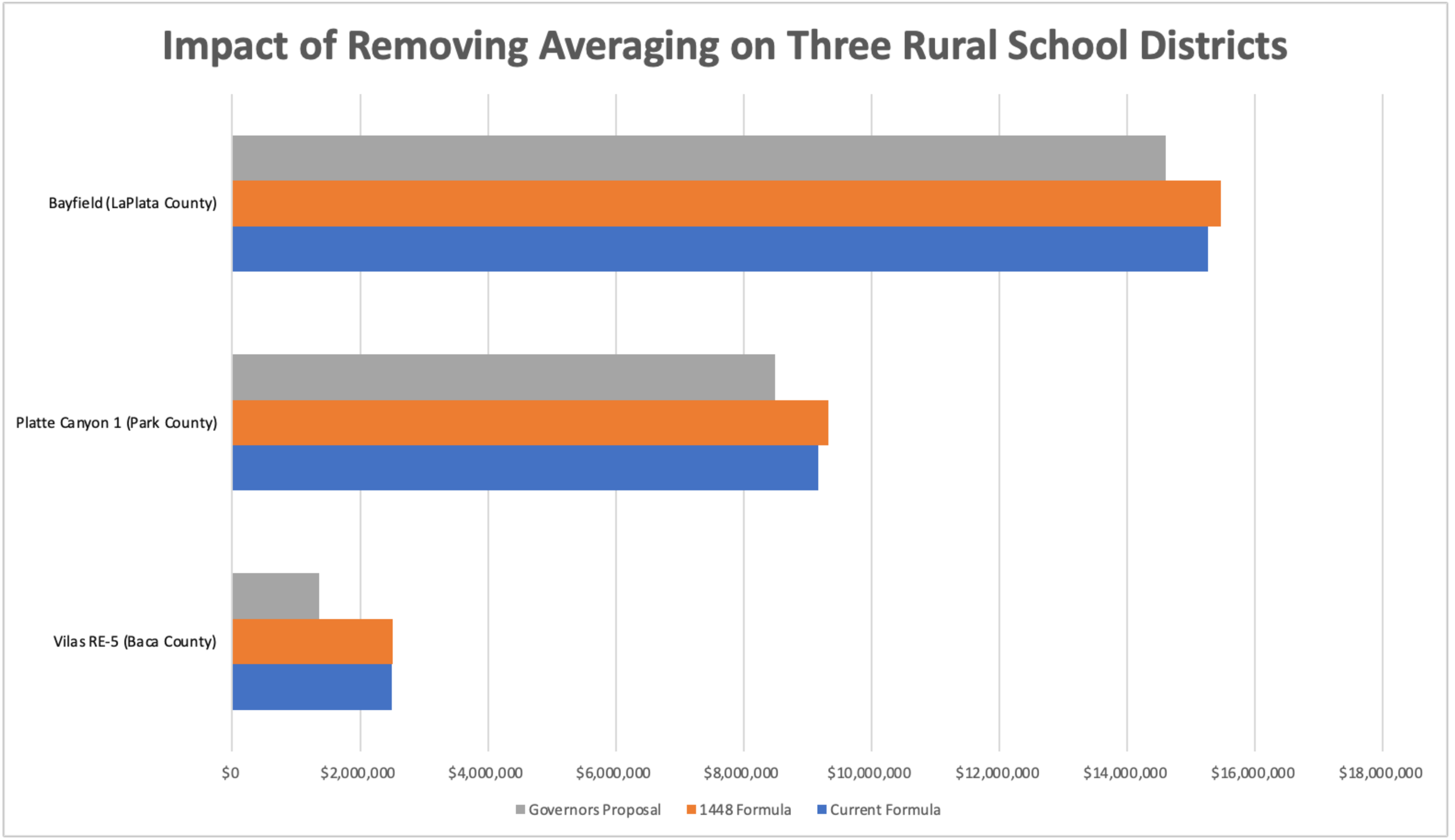
Students Thrive with Stability, Continuity and Voice

Jeffco spent three years analyzing enrollment, developing fair criteria, holding community conversations and supporting staff to find new positions, to **close 16 elementary schools** impacting **5,000 students** and reducing spending by **$20 M**

- Our timeline of promises include:
  - Confirming planned PreK sites and center program sites in September
  - Giving students & families accurate data for school choice in November
  - Allocating school budgets in January
  - Hiring teachers in February
  - Committing to operational plans and staff in March and April
- All so we can open doors the following August with **adequate staffing and resources to meet students' needs**

- $20M in spending covers these types of things for Jeffco students
  - 145 teachers, 16 secretaries/aides, and 16 principals/Aps leading 8 elementary schools
  - Staff, supplies and materials at two comprehensive high schools serving 4,000 students
  - 3 years' worth of computer purchases for students
  - 60% of the annual transportation budget
  - 2/3 of the athletics and activities budget for the entire district

Impact of Removing Averaging on Three Rural School Districts



Funding cuts will harm school districts across the state

- No matter what we call it, the elimination of averaging funding is a cut to public schools.
- About 80% of districts would be impacted, and students are the ones who will suffer.
- Realities of declining enrollment
  - Not even across schools or grade levels
  - Won't result in closures of schools with low enrollment—will mean larger class sizes, laying off teachers, and less support for students who need it the most.
- Rural communities would face unique challenges
  - Lack the economies of scale that larger districts do
  - Takes away year-to-year stability for students