

BUDGET UPDATE

AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT MARCH 22, 2022

UPCOMING DATES

- April 12 Budget Work Study
- April 19 First Reading
- By April 25 Budget advertisement in newspaper
- May 10 Public hearing
- May 24 Second/Final Reading

STATE'S BUDGET PROCESS

- House W&M and Full House deliberations complete
- Highlights/Key Legislation to this point related to budget:
 - Governor's Funding Plan
 - Bus Driver pay increase – 5% + 3%
 - Unencumbered time – elementary level (7/1/2023)
 - \$300 teacher supply checks
 - 18.1% employer health increase
 - \$30 million MOX settlement to Aiken
- Senate Finance/Full Senate deliberations & debate in April
- Session ends May 12

GOVERNOR'S FUNDING PLAN

- Funding would be based on:
 - A student-teacher ratio (currently 11.2)
 - A per teacher funding amount (currently \$69,153)
 - Revised weightings
- Gets away from the concept of base student cost
- \$4,000 increase in the State-wide minimum teacher scale
 - Inconsistent message; additional clarification needed
 - *Do districts above the new State minimum have discretion (???)*
- \$227 million in additional funding
 - \$127.3 (State General Fund), \$103.3 (EIA)
 - Current version shows Aiken's allocation at \$7.2 million

GOVERNOR'S FUNDING PLAN

- Includes a “roll up” of various State funds into one
 - General Fund - EFA/State Aid to Classrooms (3300)
 - General Fund - Teacher Salary Supplement (3186)
 - General Fund – Employer Contributions Fringe (3180)
 - EIA Students At-Risk funding (3538)*
 - EIA Teacher Salary Increase (3550)
 - EIA Teacher Salary Fringe (3555)
 - EIA Aid to Districts (3597)

*CIL and XSEL funded from this allocation.

STATE TEACHER SCALE INCREASE

EXAMPLE – BACHELORS/STEP 0



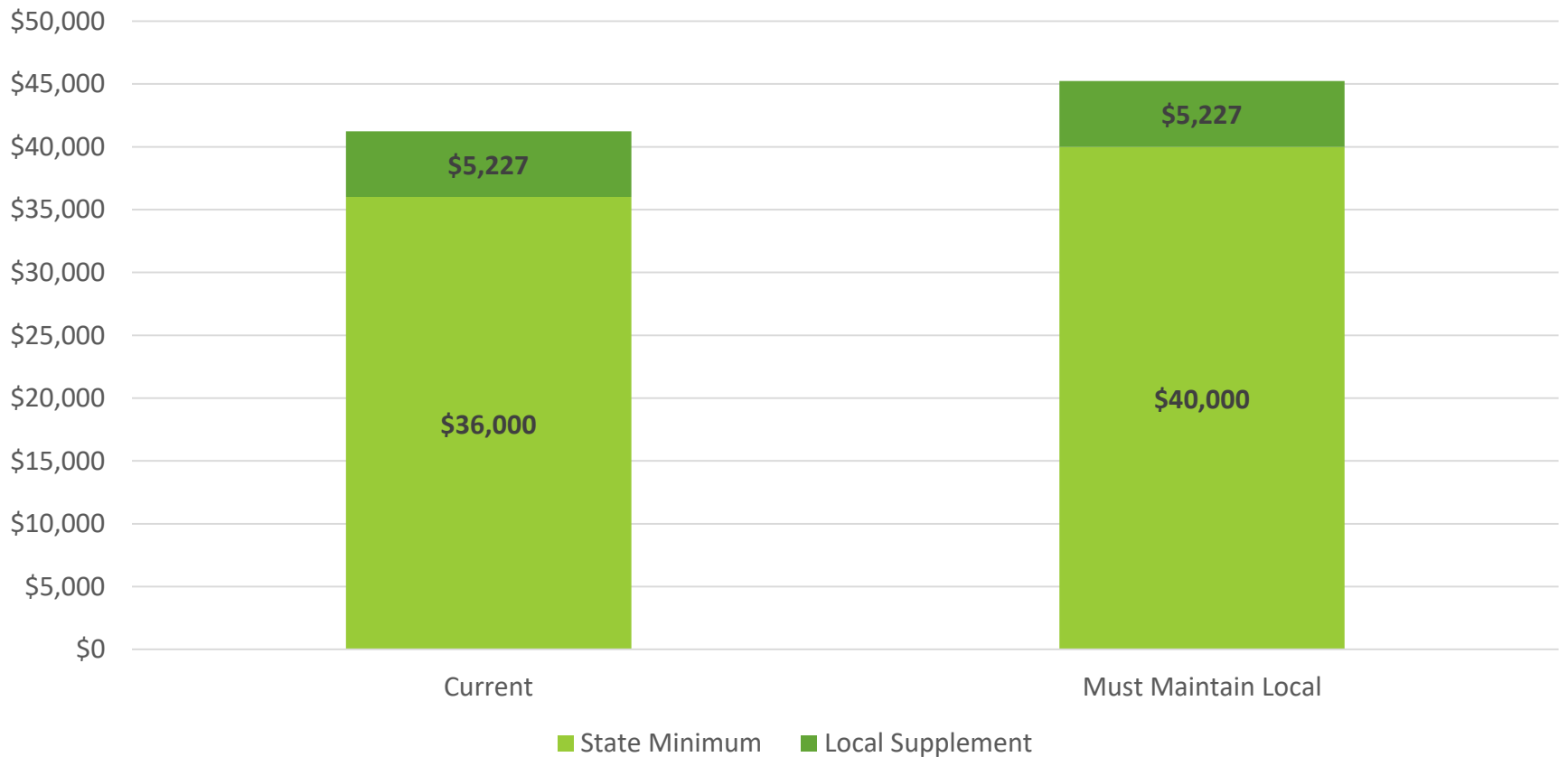
GOVERNOR'S FUNDING PLAN

- Excerpted language from House proviso 1.79 appears to remove discretion regarding the teacher salary local supplement:

1.79. (SDE: Teacher Salaries/SE Average) ...Additionally, for the current fiscal year, a local school district board of trustees must increase the salary compensation for all eligible certified teachers employed by the district by no less than one year of experience credit using at a minimum the district salary schedule utilized the prior fiscal year as the basis for providing the step. Application of this provision must be applied uniformly for all eligible certified teachers. ***For Fiscal Year ~~2021-22~~ 2022-23, the requirement that school districts must maintain local salary supplements per teacher no less than their prior fiscal year level is suspended if additional State funds fill the gap...***

STATE TEACHER SCALE INCREASE

EXAMPLE – BACHELORS/STEP 0



DISTRICT'S BUDGET PROCESS

- School staffing allocation meetings have been held.
 - This is a key part of the budget as salary/fringe comprise 90% of the General Fund budget.
- Continuing to work on budget updates, addressing the “must” items first:
 - Teacher step + \$4,000
 - Bus pay
 - Retirement
 - Health Insurance
- Determining where things stand/options in preparation of the April 12 work study and April 19 First Reading

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS
