

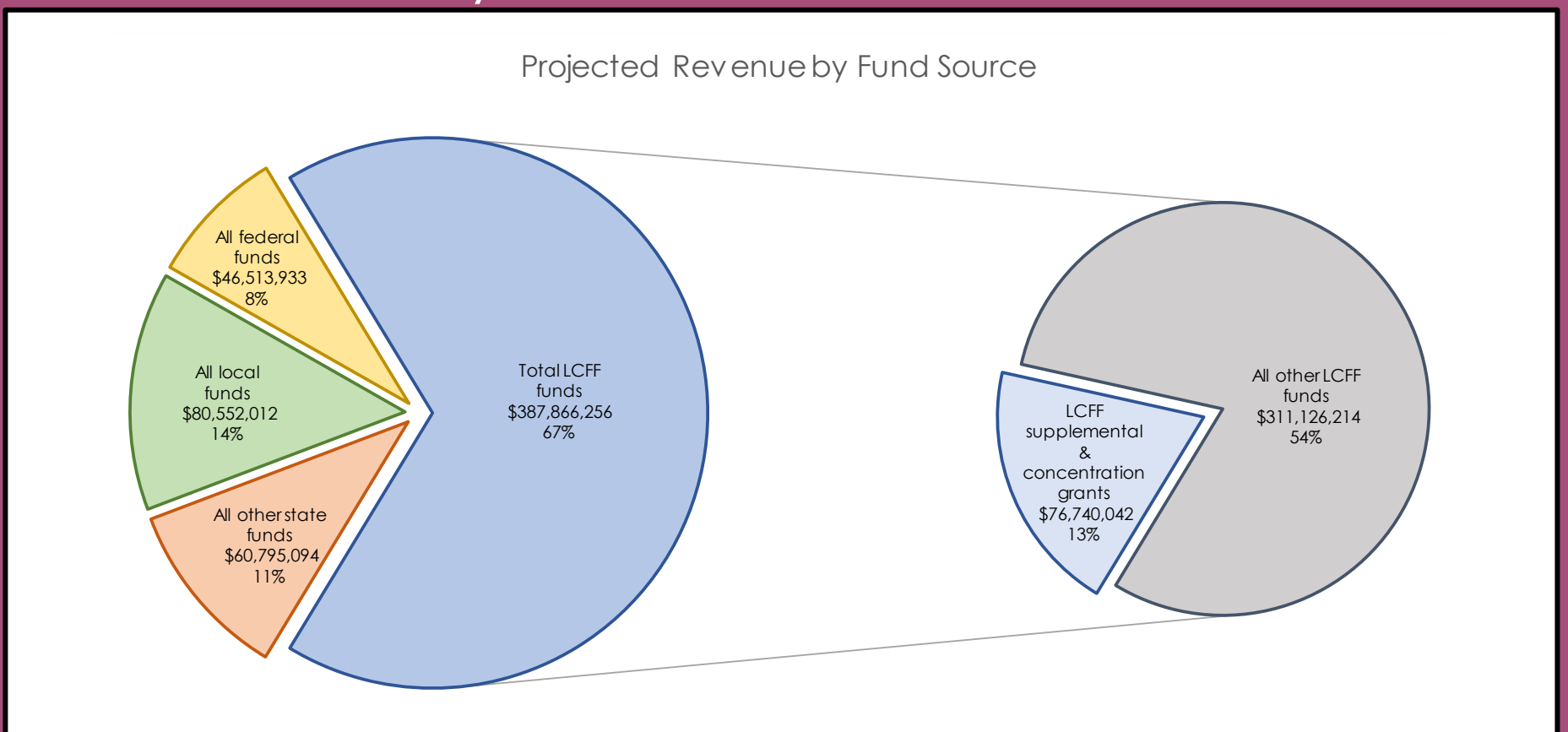
How to Read the LCFF Budget Overview for Parents*

Each year, school districts are **required** to produce a short summary of their budget for the upcoming year as part of their LCAP. This summary must have the following information:

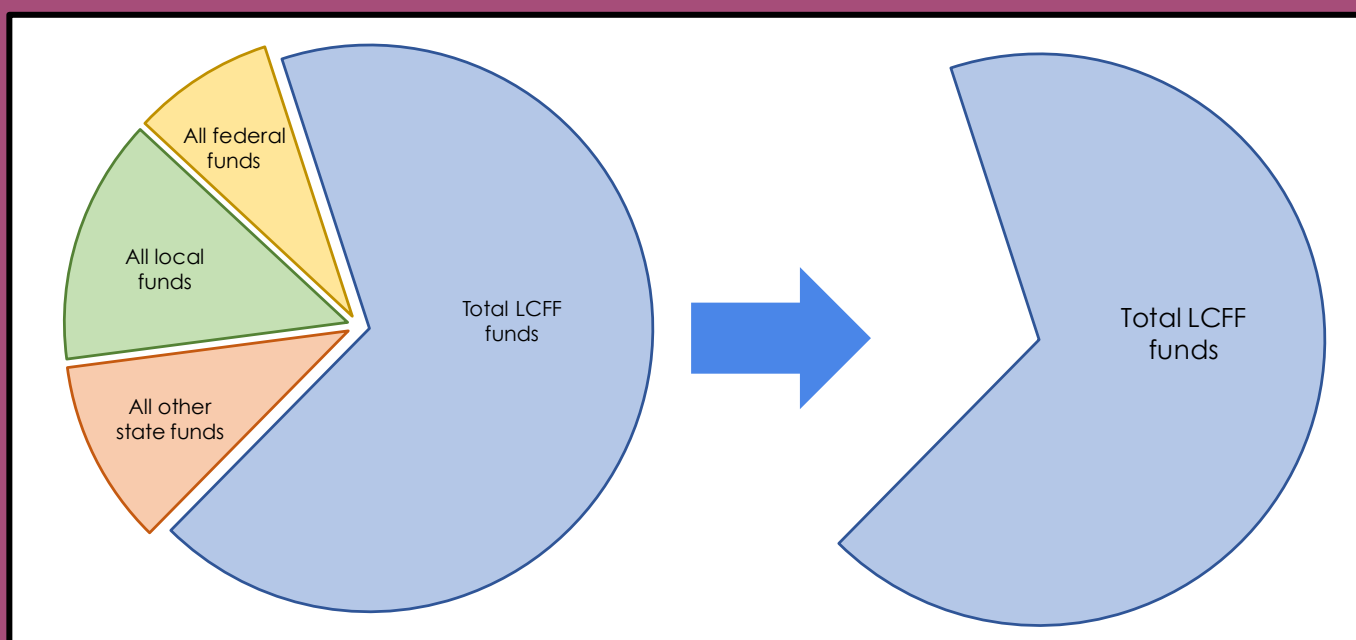
1. How much money will the district have for the school year?
2. How much of the budget plan is explained in the LCAP?
3. How much of the money set aside in the previous year's budget was actually spent on high need students?

*Examples are based on [Oakland Unified School District's 2019-2020 Budget Overview for Parents](#)

1. How Much Money Will the District Have for the School Year?



The "Projected Revenue by Fund Source" pie chart shows how much money a district expects to receive in the school year, along with where each amount comes from.



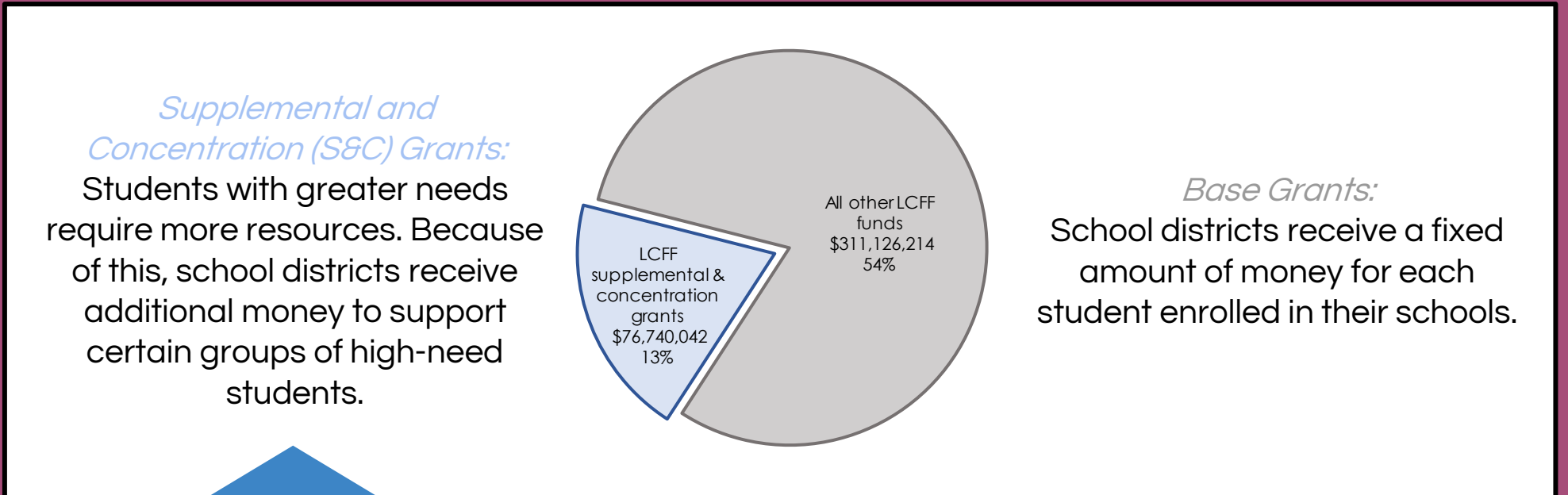
Notice that LCFF funds make up **the largest portion** of a school district's budget. Remember that **the law requires that community members have a say in how LCFF and other funds are used to meet the 10 state priorities.**

Understanding LCFF

There are two main categories of LCFF funds:

- 1) **base grants** (shown in the chart as "All Other LCFF funds") and
- 2) **supplemental and concentration grants**.

Community members have the right to have input into how this money is spent.



Who Generates S&C Grants?

Although many groups of students could be considered high-need, the law specifically grants additional funding for three groups of students: students who are low-income, English learners, and foster youth.

How Are S&C Grants Calculated?

Supplemental Grants: For each student who falls into one or more of these categories, school districts receive an additional 20% of the base grant. This is known as a "supplemental grant."

Concentration Grants: School districts with 55% or more high-need students also receive "concentration grants." Districts receive an additional 50% of the base grant for each high-need student above the 55% threshold.**

**Concentration grants may increase in upcoming years

Example: District X has 10,000 students. Of these students, 60% are high-need (low-income, English learners, and foster youth). In year YYYY, the base grant amount is \$8,000.

40% of the students are not high-need. These 4,000 students each generate base funding.



Non-high-need student
Base grant only (\$8,000)
= \$8,000/student

60% of the students are high-need. These 6,000 students each generate base funding and supplemental funding. The district has 5% more high-need students than the 55% threshold. These 500 students each generate additional concentration funding.



High-need student up to 55%
Base Grant (\$8,000)
+20% Supplemental Grant (\$1,600)
= \$9,600/student

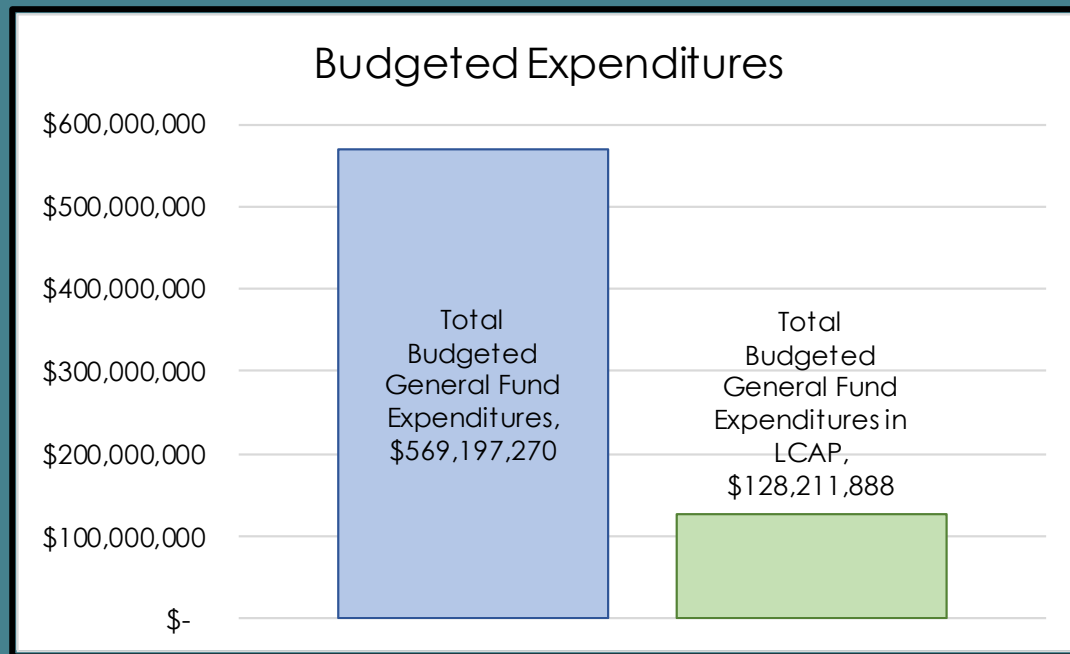


High-need students over 55%
Base Grant (\$8,000)
+20% Supplemental Grant (\$1,600)
+50% Concentration Grant** (\$4,000)
= \$13,600/student

What Can S&C Grants Be Used For?

Money from supplemental and concentration grants *must* be used to increase or improve services for high-need students. These services must be designed to meet a particular need that low-income students, English learners, and/or foster youth have. For example, the money could be spent hiring specialized foster youth counselors to improve student engagement, or creating restorative justice programs to reduce discipline gaps for high-need students.

2. How Much of the Budget Plan is Explained in the LCAP?



The "Budgeted Expenditures" graph shows how much of the district's total budget is explained in the LCAP. The LCAP is one of the primary tools for community members to understand **how a district is spending its money to serve students**. When money is included in the LCAP, school districts must explain how much money is being used, what it is being used for, and whether that usage has been effective in meeting student needs. When money is not included in the LCAP, there is **no guarantee that districts will be transparent** about how the money is being used.

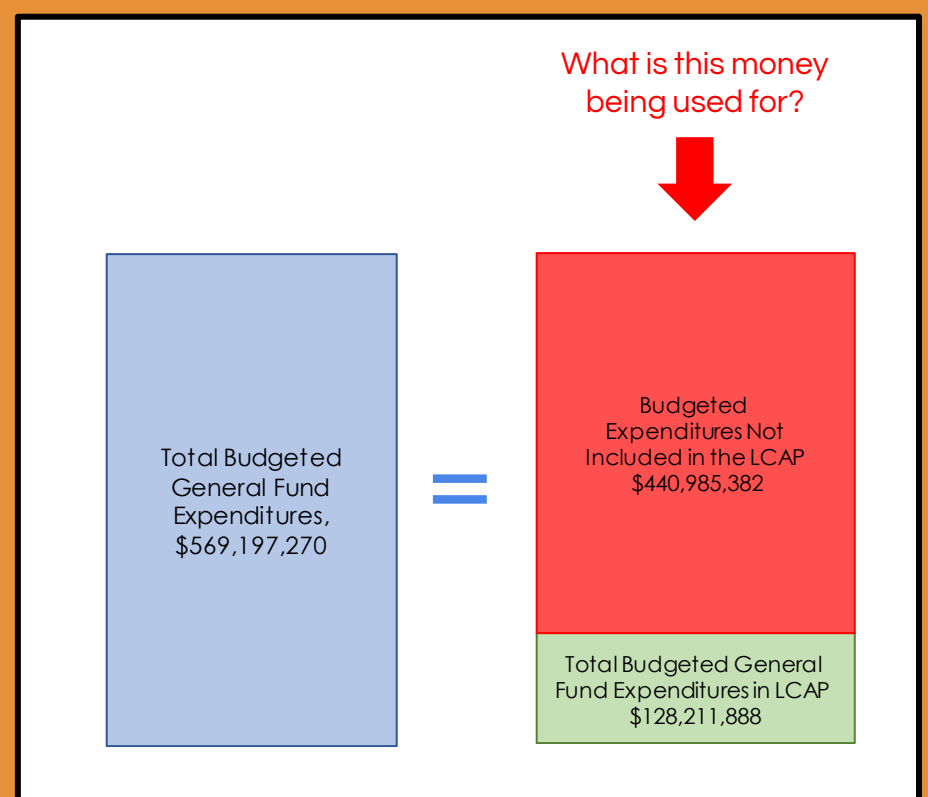
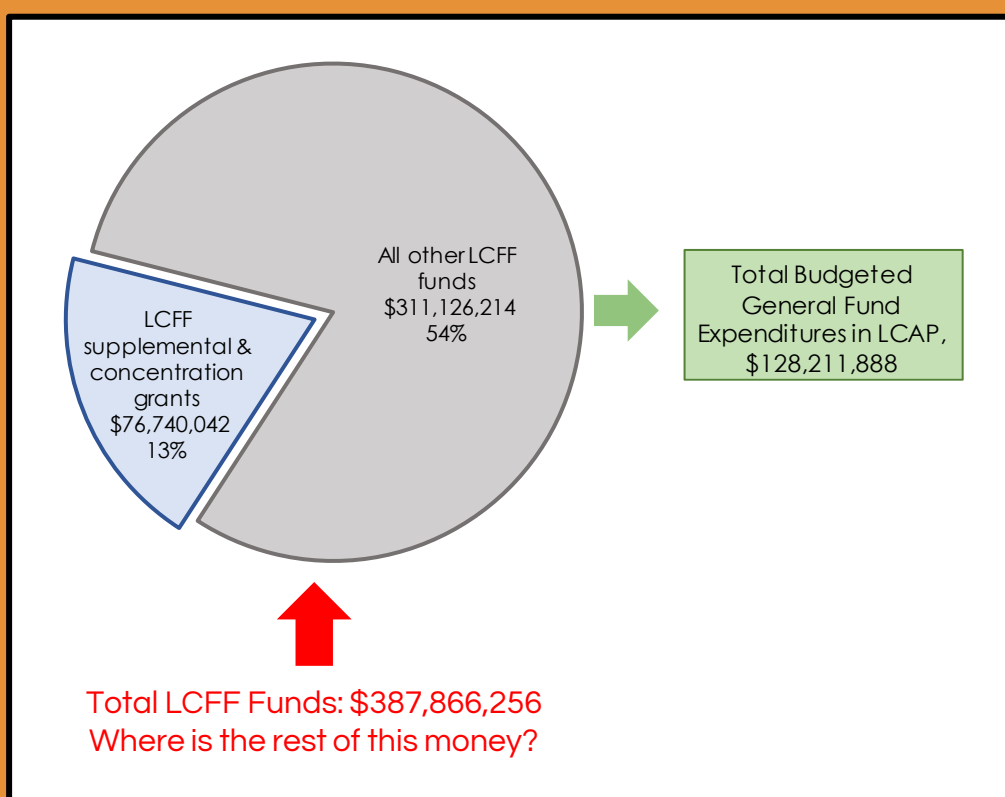
Questions to consider when reviewing this section:

1. Are all the funds included?

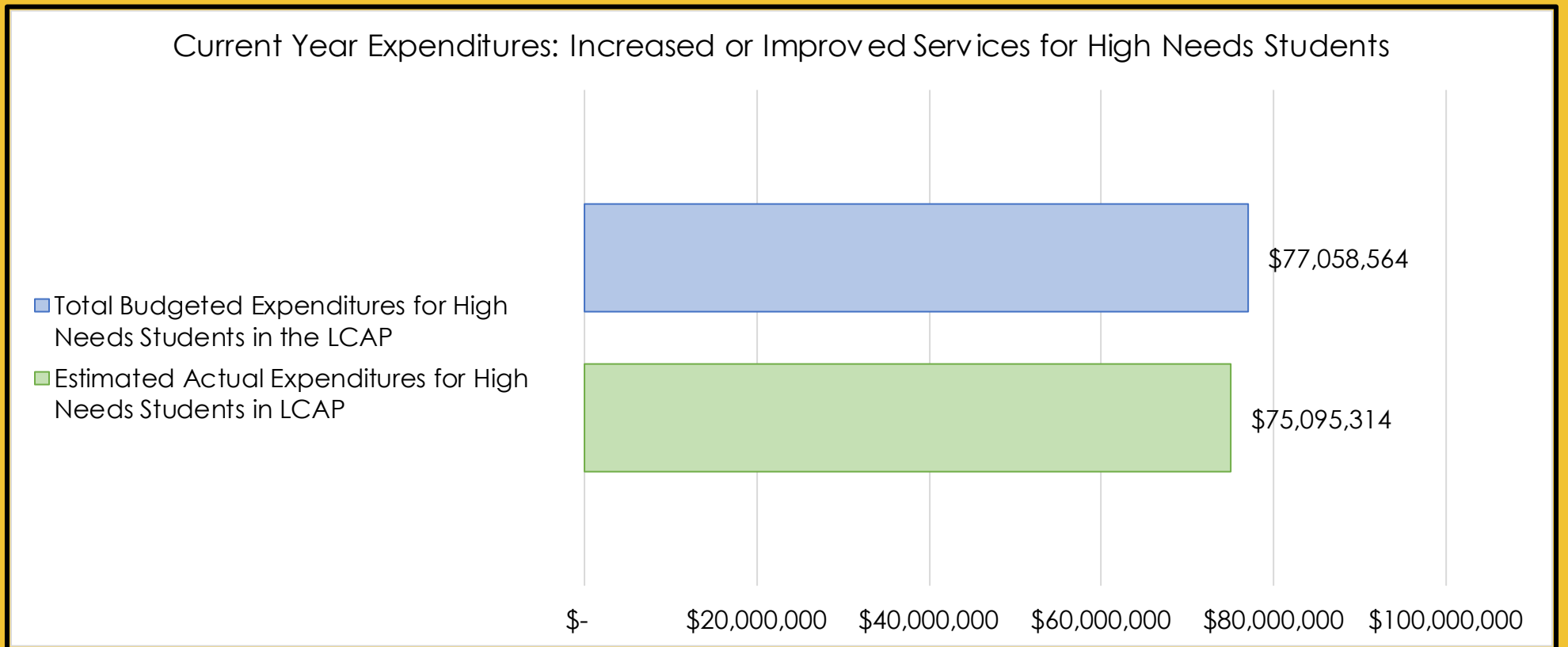
The LCAP is the main tool for accountability around the district's budget and its plan for making progress on 10 state priority areas, including school climate and student and parent engagement. If a portion of the district's revenue is not included in the LCAP, it will be difficult for parents, students, and community members to understand and provide feedback on how that money will be used. **It is particularly important for districts to include their COVID relief funds in the LCAP to show how these funds are part of the district's overall equity plan.**

2. What about the money that isn't included in the LCAP?

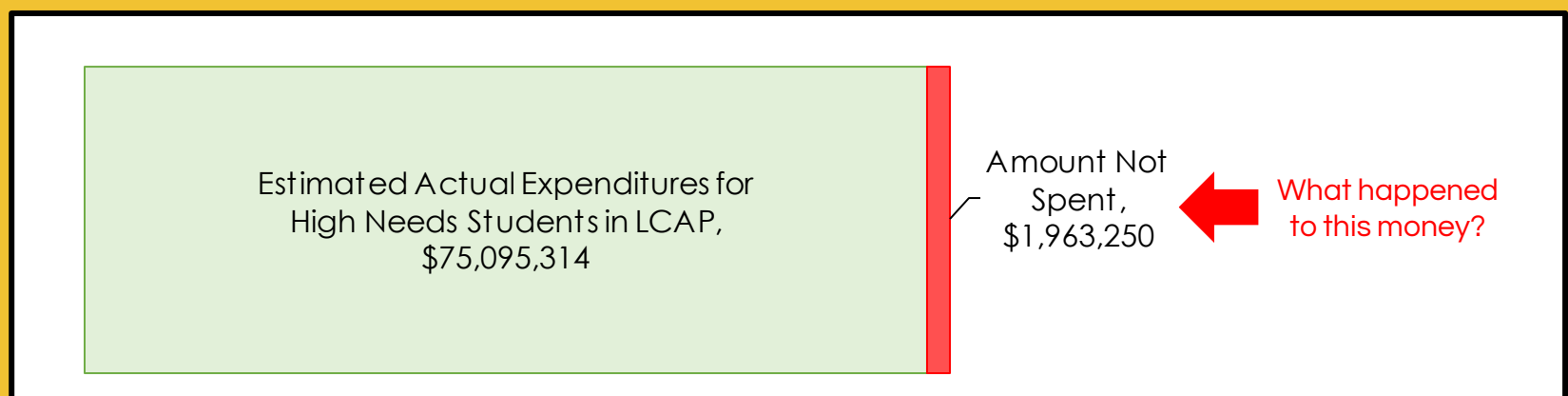
This section of the "Budget Overview for Parents" includes a very brief summary of the expenses that aren't included in the LCAP. The description is very general--when money is not included in the LCAP, the district will rarely provide as much detail about how they plan to spend it. **It is important to ask your district what these other funds are used for and why they are not part of the LCAP.** It is also important to ask your district how it is tracking and evaluating spending outside of the LCAP.



3. How Much of the Money Set Aside in The Previous Year's Budget Was Actually Spent on High Need Students?



The "Current Year Expenditures" chart shows how much of the money set aside for high-need students in the previous year was actually used. This section should also include an explanation for any differences between the budgeted amount and actual expenditures, as well as how that difference affected services for high-need students.



If the district did not spend all or most of the set-aside funds, figure out what happened. If it did not meet its equity obligation to increase and improve services for high-need students in other ways, ask the district to commit to investing these "carryover" funds in actions that increase or improve services for high-need students in the LCAP for the upcoming school year.

