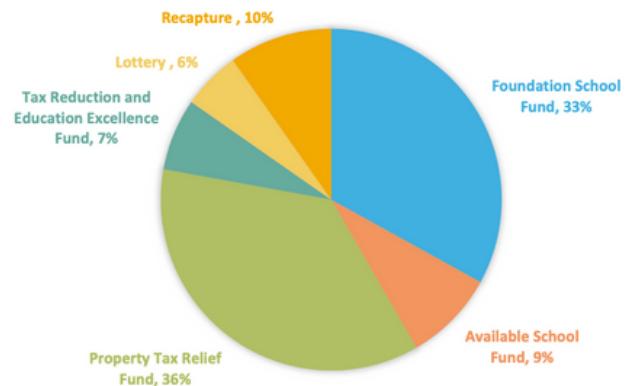


RECAPTURE IS AN EQUITY TOOL

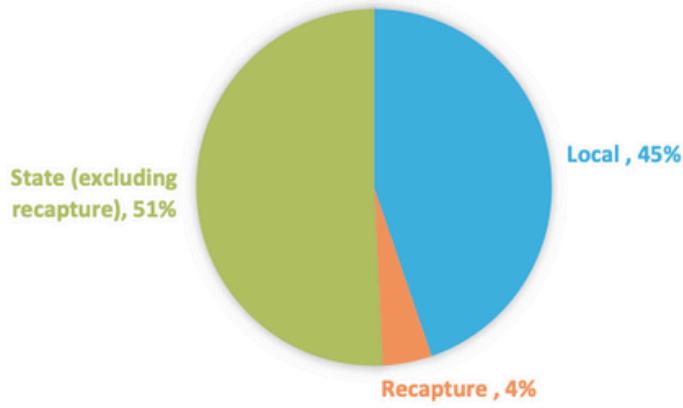
Recapture, also known as Robin Hood, is an equity tool that levels funding between districts, ensuring that some districts do not have drastically more resources than other districts after taking into consideration student demographics. Because the school finance system is formula driven, recapture dollars do not increase the amount of funding available for schools, instead these dollars become a part of state aid to schools.

Source of State Aid for Schools



Source: Legislative Budget Board. Conference Committee Report SB 1 2026 - 2027 (General Appropriations Act).

Recapture is a Small Part of Overall School Funding



Source: Legislative Budget Board. Fiscal Size-Up 2024 – 2025.

IN 2025, THE STATE IS ESTIMATED TO COLLECT \$2.5 BILLION IN RECAPTURE FUNDS. THIS REPRESENTS ONLY 4% OF TOTAL LOCAL AND STATE NON-RECAPTURE REVENUE FOR SCHOOLS.

While recapture dollars are statutorily dedicated to education, they are not dedicated exclusively to property-poor districts. Charter schools, which are 100% state funded, also receive recapture dollars as a part of their state aid. Recapture levels the playing field between districts. This means if a property-wealthy district, one that pays into recapture, is experiencing budget constraints all districts are in the same situation. Resentments property-wealthy districts often express at having to pay recapture would be better directed at the Legislature for not adequately funding public education. In essence, the Legislature is using recapture to bring the top down rather than making investments that would bring the bottom up.

The best ways to reduce recapture include:

- Increasing base level funding;
- Funding schools based on enrollment rather than attendance;
- Increasing the funding amounts for our special populations, such as economically disadvantaged, emergent bilingual, and special education students.