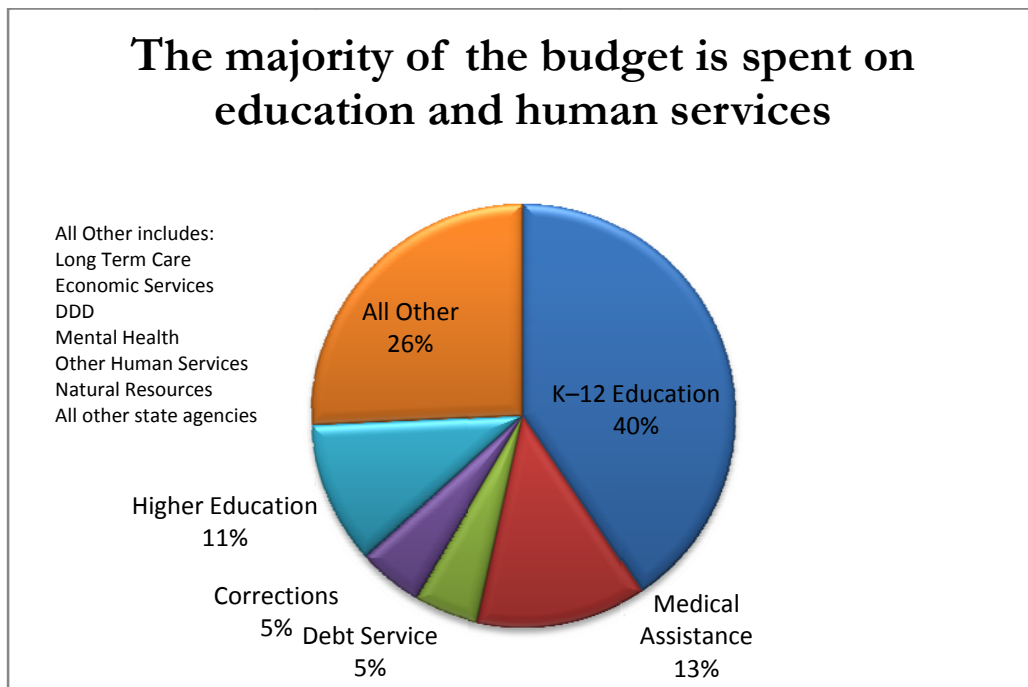


The Washington State Budget: *What would you cut to fill a \$9 billion deficit?*

Our state's **two-year budget** for ongoing operations is **\$36.9 billion**.

Washington's current shortfall in revenue is the largest in modern state history, both in terms of total dollars — **\$9 billion** — and in percentage of the overall budget (**24 percent**).



This chart represents an overview of the Near General Fund. Percentages may vary due to rounding.

Much of the budget **can't or shouldn't be cut because of safety to society**:

- **Basic K-12 education** funding is protected by the state constitution.
- **Medical Assistance** – i.e., Medicaid – is protected by the federal government.
- **Debt service and Corrections** are expenditures that the state either cannot default on or has to make for the safety of the population.

That means we must cut from **All Other** and **Higher Education**.

In other words, to fill the budget deficit, we need to **cut \$9 billion** not from \$36.9 billion but from **\$13.7 billion**.