

Request for Waiver - Cash Balance Penalty

SDCL 13-13-73.5

School District:

Miller 29-4

Penalty Fiscal Year:

2026

Lowest Monthly Cash Balance, General Fund (FY2025)

\$1,674,702

Total General Fund Expenditures (FY2025)

\$5,333,193

Cash Balance %

31.40%

State Aid Fall Enrollment, Fall 2023

470.03

State Aid Fall Enrollment, Fall 2024

483.54

State Aid Fall Enrollment, Fall 2025 - PRELIMINARY

465.03

Allowable Cash Balance Percentage

30.00%

Amount Exceeding Allowable Percentage

\$74,744

Estimated FY2026 General State Aid Allocation (with penalty applied)

\$1,160,986

Total Amount of Waiver Request

\$74,744

Please explain the reason(s) for this request and attach supporting documentation:

Please see attached documents.

The School Finance & Accountability Board may consider a waiver due to special circumstances such as:

- 1) Revenue needed in following year(s) due to a natural disaster; or
- 2) Funding needed to expand educational programs; or
- 3) Impact of reorganization; or
- 4) Any unforeseen or extenuating circumstance explained on this request.

Superintendent Name:

Eric Norden

Date:

10/30/25

Superintendent Signature:

Eric Norden

MILLER SCHOOL DISTRICT #29-4

623 EAST 4TH STREET
PO BOX 257
MILLER, SD 57362
(605) 853-2614



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Superintendent Eric Norden
Business Manager Sara Gates
Secondary Principal Lindsay Haider
Elementary Principal Jennifer Boomsma-Kelsey

Miller School District 29-4
Miller, South Dakota

Date: 10/28/2025

To:

South Dakota School Finance Accountability Board
c/o South Dakota Department of Education
Pierre, SD

Subject: Explanation of Excess Cash Balance – 2024-2025 School Year

Dear Members of the School Finance Accountability Board,

The Miller School District respectfully submits this explanation regarding our excess general fund balance for the 2024–2025 school year. Several unique and overlapping factors contributed to this temporary situation.

Reasons for Excess Cash Balance

1. Staffing Vacancies

The district operated with several key positions unfilled during the prior year, including a Special Education instructor and an Art teacher. These vacancies resulted in lower payroll expenditures than originally budgeted.

2. COVID-19 and Fire-Related Impacts

Both the COVID-19 pandemic and a school facility fire created unpredictable financial conditions. Each event increased the district's general fund resources through insurance payments and federal relief funding. Additionally, these disruptions made it difficult to maintain consistent annual spending patterns.

Over the past several years, the district incurred significant expenditures that inflated historical monthly spending averages. At the same time, we have installed higher-efficiency equipment and systems that have reduced utility and maintenance costs. We are still assessing the full financial impact of these improvements.

3. Budget Calculation Practices

Our prior general fund balance target was set at 30%, which proved to be too narrow of a margin for operational flexibility. That calculation contributed to an overage as we attempted to maintain financial stability while managing changing revenue and cost patterns.

4. Enrollment Fluctuations

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Enrollment has fluctuated significantly in recent years, directly affecting state aid and local funding. After reaching a low of 424 students in 2020, enrollment increased to 486 students in 2024. Since 2022 we have increased by 13 students each year. These variations created unanticipated increases in revenue compared to budgeted levels.

Corrective and Preventative Actions

1. Staffing Adjustments

The district has filled the previously vacant positions, including hiring a full-time Art/Spanish teacher and a half-time Special Education instructor. Additionally, several paraprofessionals are participating in the paraprofessional-to-teacher program and will transition to certified teaching roles in the near future. These staffing increases will help align expenditures with funding levels.

2. Stabilized Funding Environment

All COVID-19 relief funds and insurance-related payments from the fire have now been finalized. With these one-time funds concluded, the district will have a clearer picture of recurring revenues and expenses moving forward.

3. Revised Fund Balance Target

The district has adjusted its general fund balance goal from 30% down to 27.5%, with the intent to move closer to 25% in future years. This will allow for sufficient reserves to manage unforeseen situations without exceeding statutory limits.

4. Reduced Capital Outlay Transfer

During the 2023–2024 fiscal year, the district transferred \$200,000 less from Capital Outlay flexibility to the General Fund, reducing available cash in the general fund moving forward.

5. Staff Compensation Improvements

The district has offered staff salary and benefit increases above the state minimum requirements, which will further help bring our cash balance into compliance while maintaining competitive compensation.

Closing

Miller School District recognizes the importance of maintaining fund balances within statutory limits while ensuring fiscal responsibility and educational quality. We believe the steps outlined above will return our general fund balance to compliance levels in the near term and sustain it moving forward.

We appreciate the Board's understanding and continued support as we work to balance financial

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stewardship with the educational needs of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Norden".

Eric Norden
Superintendent of Schools
Miller School District 29-4

Estimated State Aid Fall Count

Miller 29-4

Fall 2023 State Aid Enrollment	470.03
Fall 2024 State Aid Enrollment	483.54
Fall 2025 State Aid Enrollment	465.03

Estimated Fall 2026 Enrollment: 455

Please return this form to the South Dakota
Department of Education by

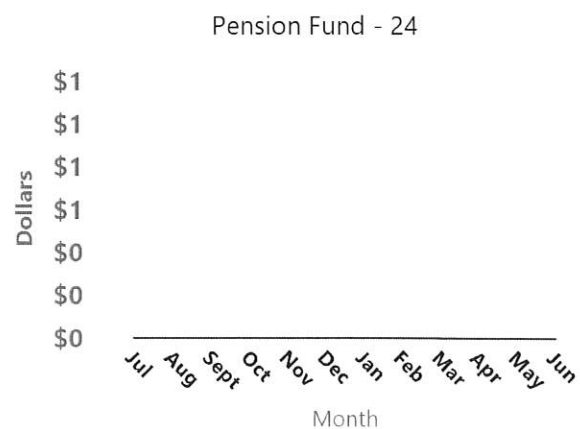
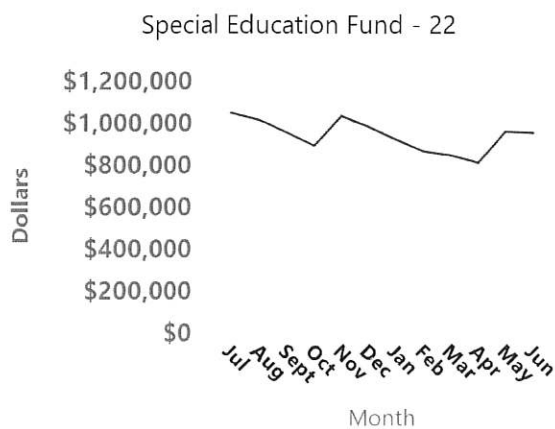
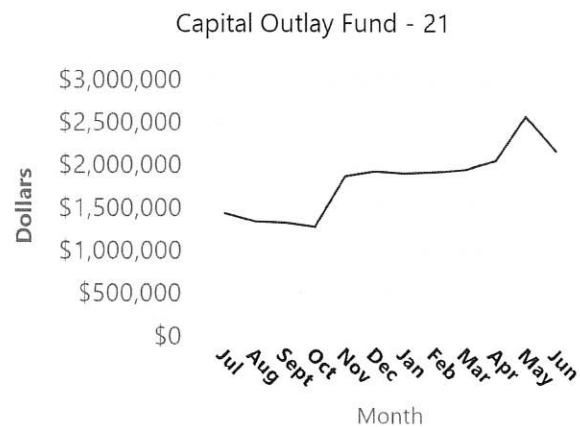
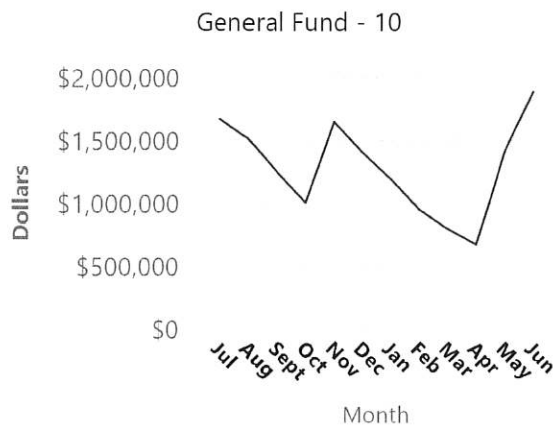
Friday, October 31, 2025

Monthly Cash Balance Survey - FY 2020

Miller 29-4

Month	General Fund - 10	Capital Outlay Fund - 21	Special Education Fund - 22	Pension Fund - 24
July	\$1,673,197	\$1,426,690	\$1,045,374	\$0
August	\$1,517,450	\$1,333,814	\$1,010,927	\$0
September	\$1,247,852	\$1,316,289	\$951,184	\$0
October	\$1,008,048	\$1,269,467	\$888,721	\$0
November	\$1,649,490	\$1,860,504	\$1,030,052	\$0
December	\$1,409,844	\$1,914,776	\$979,332	\$0
January	\$1,195,396	\$1,891,461	\$917,678	\$0
February	\$953,641	\$1,905,558	\$862,340	\$0
March	\$800,548	\$1,937,906	\$843,544	\$0
April	\$676,550	\$2,048,066	\$808,647	\$0
May	\$1,410,034	\$2,563,040	\$956,352	\$0
June	\$1,890,531	\$2,159,908	\$950,493	\$0

Dollar amounts are rounded to nearest whole dollar (no cents reported).



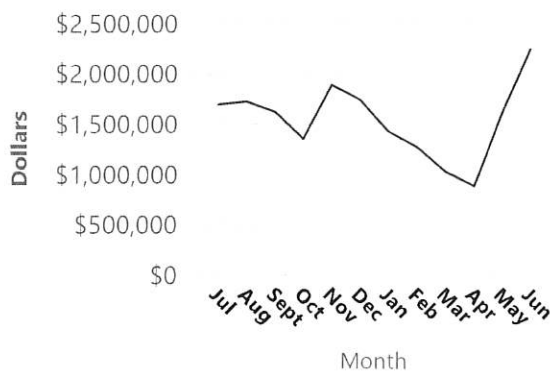
Monthly Cash Balance Survey - FY 2021

Miller 29-4

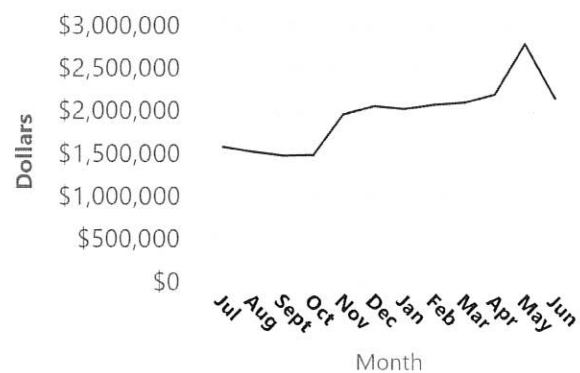
Month	General Fund - 10	Capital Outlay Fund - 21	Special Education Fund - 22	Pension Fund - 24
July	\$1,697,920	\$1,571,768	\$925,061	\$0
August	\$1,726,839	\$1,515,863	\$874,288	\$0
September	\$1,621,619	\$1,471,619	\$807,581	\$0
October	\$1,356,311	\$1,478,539	\$737,762	\$0
November	\$1,891,678	\$1,954,397	\$866,266	\$0
December	\$1,744,765	\$2,052,045	\$822,722	\$0
January	\$1,430,317	\$2,019,735	\$750,452	\$0
February	\$1,275,235	\$2,069,605	\$703,706	\$0
March	\$1,033,765	\$2,097,714	\$696,893	\$0
April	\$886,495	\$2,191,042	\$668,934	\$0
May	\$1,615,239	\$2,787,647	\$831,592	\$0
June	\$2,248,696	\$2,147,599	\$821,474	\$0

Dollar amounts are rounded to nearest whole dollar (no cents reported).

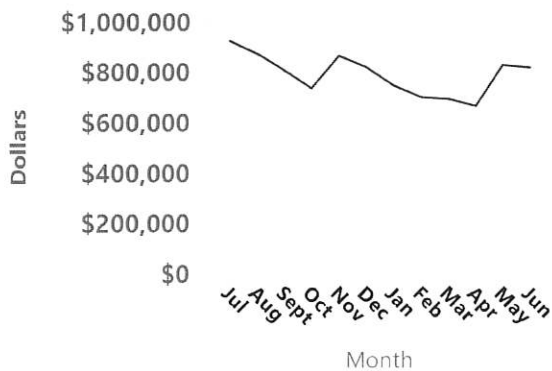
General Fund - 10



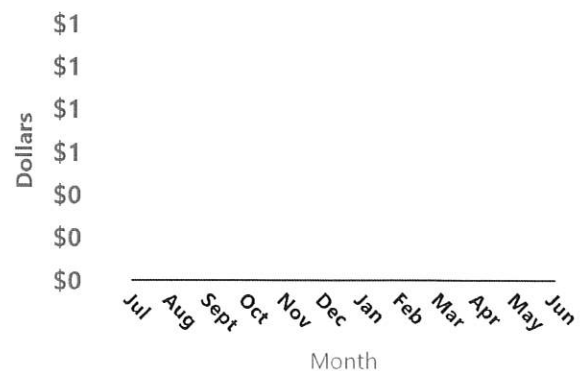
Capital Outlay Fund - 21



Special Education Fund - 22



Pension Fund - 24



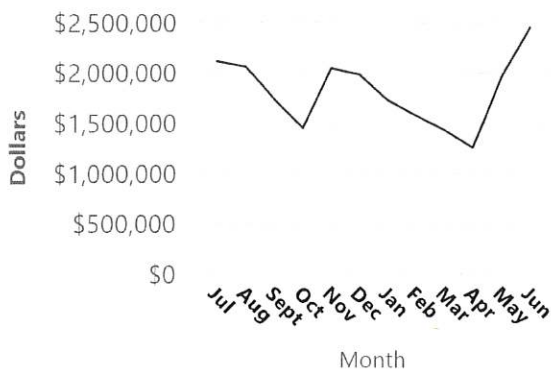
Monthly Cash Balance Survey - FY 2022

Miller 29-4

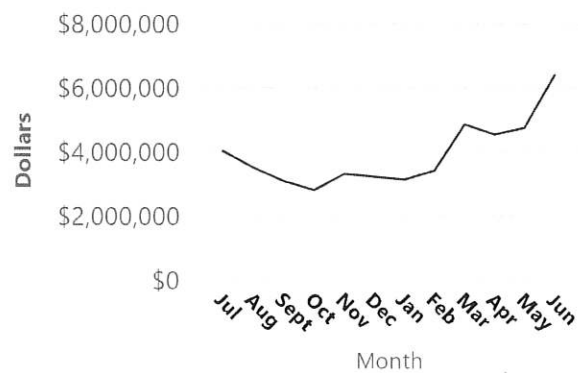
Month	General Fund - 10	Capital Outlay Fund - 21	Special Education Fund - 22	Pension Fund - 24
July	\$2,117,943	\$4,024,934	\$823,983	\$0
August	\$2,062,300	\$3,511,504	\$790,761	\$0
September	\$1,741,517	\$3,092,130	\$741,078	\$0
October	\$1,456,633	\$2,811,304	\$693,057	\$0
November	\$2,048,363	\$3,319,191	\$857,948	\$0
December	\$1,986,270	\$3,232,588	\$841,871	\$0
January	\$1,730,847	\$3,143,364	\$787,446	\$0
February	\$1,580,271	\$3,419,422	\$772,683	\$0
March	\$1,433,485	\$4,866,520	\$751,349	\$0
April	\$1,259,103	\$4,556,821	\$754,949	\$0
May	\$1,962,134	\$4,769,838	\$1,064,086	\$0
June	\$2,453,573	\$6,423,270	\$1,063,573	\$0

Dollar amounts are rounded to nearest whole dollar (no cents reported).

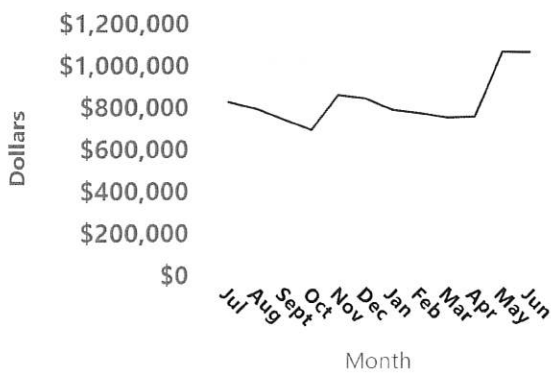
General Fund - 10



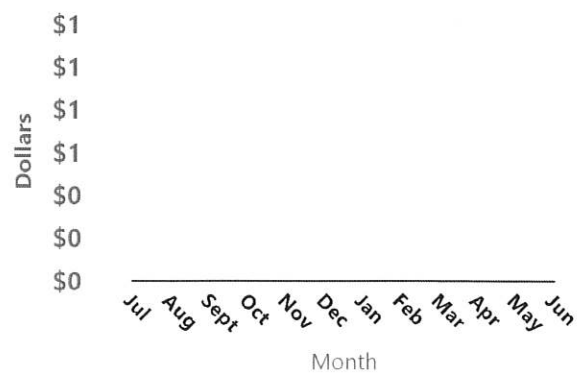
Capital Outlay Fund - 21



Special Education Fund - 22



Pension Fund - 24



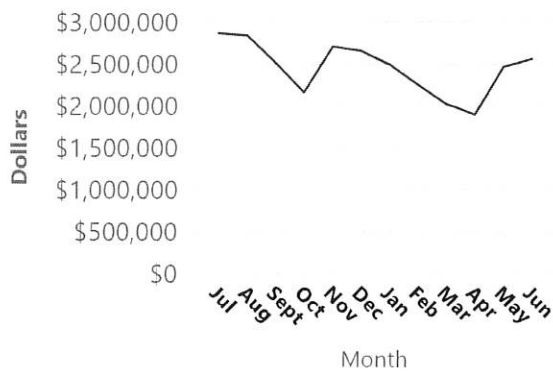
Monthly Cash Balance Survey - FY 2023

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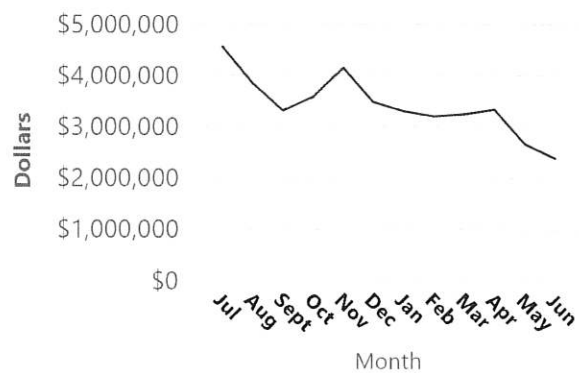
Month	General Fund - 10	Capital Outlay Fund - 21	Special Education Fund - 22	Pension Fund - 24
July	\$2,866,743	\$4,559,655	\$1,052,108	\$0
August	\$2,842,401	\$3,833,882	\$1,010,737	\$0
September	\$2,514,780	\$3,313,967	\$936,432	\$0
October	\$2,164,563	\$3,584,055	\$882,931	\$0
November	\$2,711,567	\$4,145,451	\$1,149,411	\$0
December	\$2,661,269	\$3,483,855	\$1,144,188	\$0
January	\$2,496,481	\$3,303,087	\$1,091,989	\$0
February	\$2,256,388	\$3,201,661	\$1,024,094	\$0
March	\$2,025,418	\$3,248,981	\$1,009,394	\$0
April	\$1,898,439	\$3,339,825	\$1,027,420	\$0
May	\$2,466,614	\$2,672,002	\$1,315,529	\$0
June	\$2,565,471	\$2,393,952	\$1,304,326	\$0

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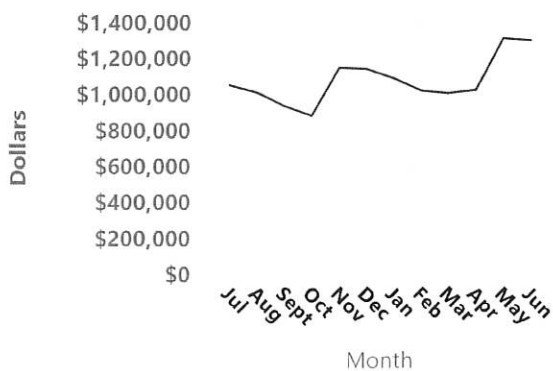
General Fund - 10



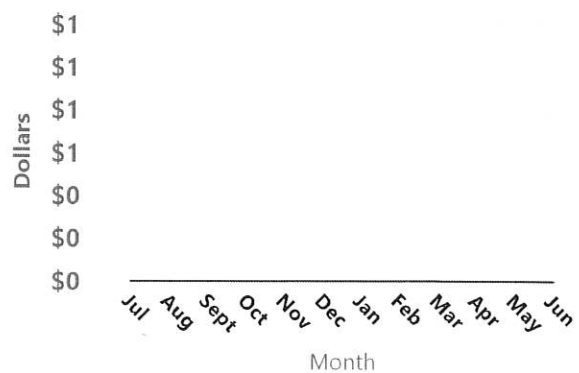
Capital Outlay Fund - 21



Special Education Fund - 22



Pension Fund - 24



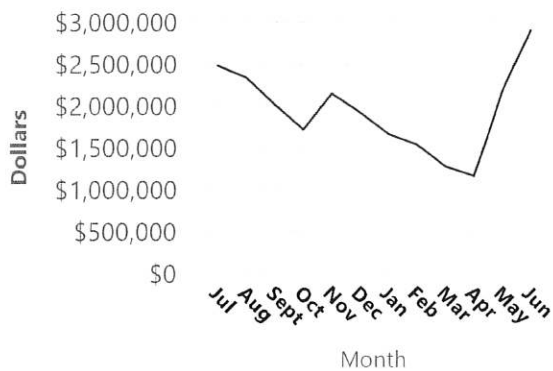
Monthly Cash Balance Survey - FY 2024

Miller 29-4

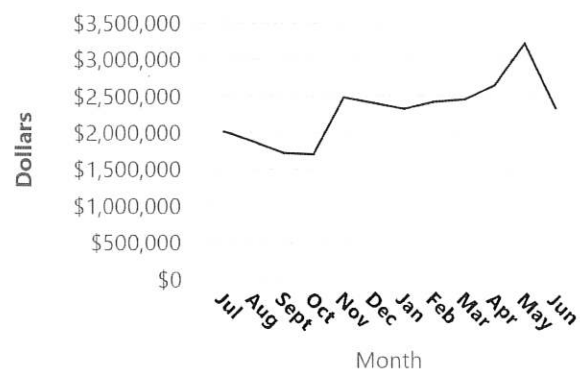
Month	General Fund - 10	Capital Outlay Fund - 21	Special Education Fund - 22	Pension Fund - 24
July	\$2,484,382	\$2,021,215	\$1,283,990	\$0
August	\$2,341,288	\$1,880,864	\$1,296,216	\$0
September	\$2,015,602	\$1,726,118	\$1,232,379	\$0
October	\$1,722,308	\$1,710,870	\$1,188,415	\$0
November	\$2,149,495	\$2,486,761	\$1,436,104	\$0
December	\$1,927,867	\$2,411,102	\$1,420,254	\$0
January	\$1,668,246	\$2,331,371	\$1,361,190	\$0
February	\$1,545,052	\$2,428,962	\$1,344,714	\$0
March	\$1,282,400	\$2,464,458	\$1,270,065	\$0
April	\$1,169,582	\$2,660,978	\$1,261,666	\$0
May	\$2,172,610	\$3,236,274	\$1,543,561	\$0
June	\$2,906,596	\$2,353,640	\$1,517,015	\$0

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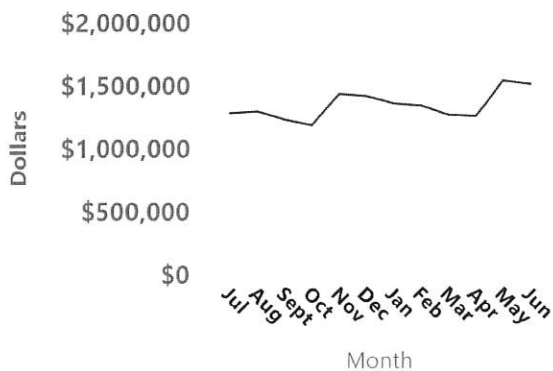
General Fund - 10



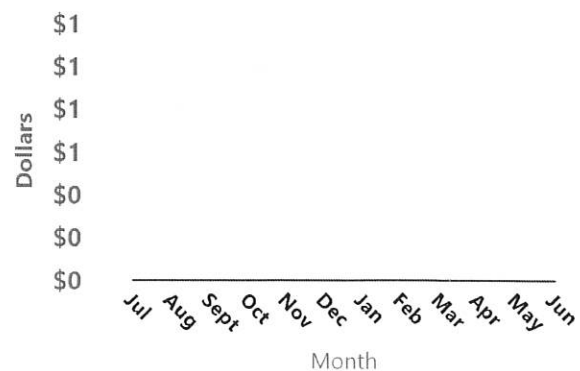
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Pension Fund - 24



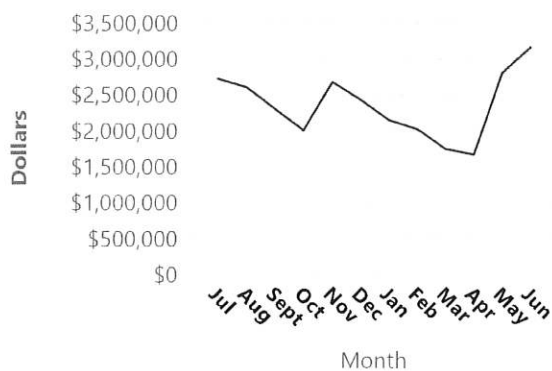
Monthly Cash Balance Survey - FY 2025

Miller 29-4

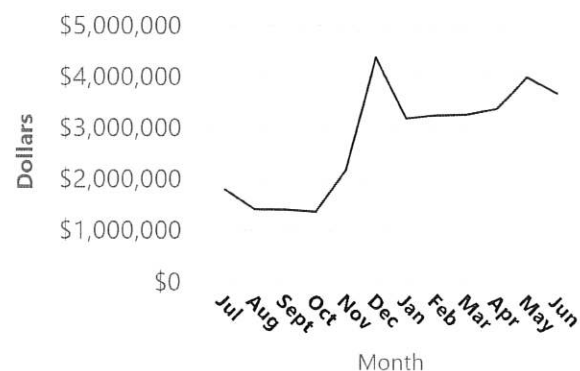
Month	General Fund - 10	Capital Outlay Fund - 21	Special Education Fund - 22	Pension Fund - 24
July	\$2,729,767	\$1,792,354	\$1,478,205	\$0
August	\$2,608,829	\$1,406,893	\$1,470,921	\$0
September	\$2,305,196	\$1,400,904	\$1,406,820	\$0
October	\$2,012,715	\$1,362,729	\$1,344,597	\$0
November	\$2,682,125	\$2,174,112	\$1,549,184	\$0
December	\$2,434,925	\$4,372,737	\$1,513,440	\$0
January	\$2,153,582	\$3,182,181	\$1,450,097	\$0
February	\$2,026,449	\$3,244,145	\$1,386,626	\$0
March	\$1,753,098	\$3,266,496	\$1,324,776	\$0
April	\$1,674,702	\$3,381,387	\$1,337,441	\$0
May	\$2,810,502	\$3,999,995	\$1,422,451	\$0
June	\$3,172,286	\$3,690,781	\$1,407,875	\$0

Dollar amounts are rounded to nearest whole dollar (no cents reported).

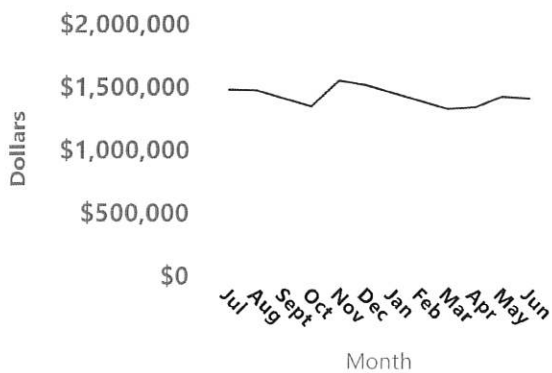
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