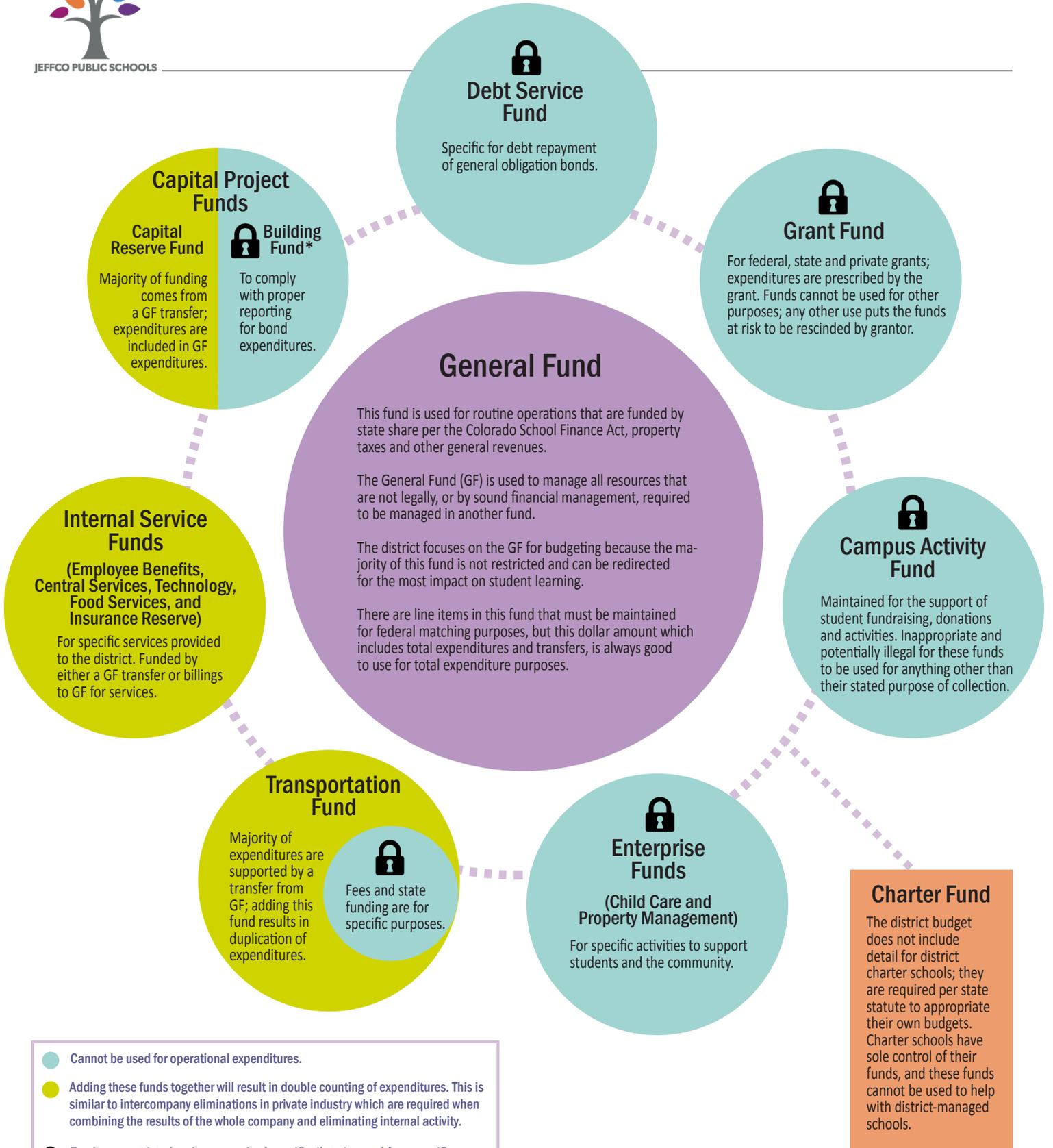


The key to understanding total appropriations and why schools focus on the General Fund for budgeting begins with understanding the purpose and use of funds.

- Governmental entities use fund accounting to track revenues and expenditures, mostly due to the fact that some funds have very specific restrictions on how dollars can be spent, e.g. Food Services and Grants.
- Separate funds are created to track revenue that is received for a specific purpose and to assist with meeting special reporting requirements — similar to separate checking accounts.
- Having separate funds ensures that dollars are tracked and used for intended purposes and allows for better transparency.
- Jeffco has thirteen (13) funds, not including the Charter Fund.
 - ▶ The district does not budget for charter schools. Charter schools have sole control of their funds and expenditures and, per state statute, are required to appropriate their own budgets. These funds cannot be used to help with district-managed schools.
- The **General Fund is our main operating fund**. It accounts for the majority of district expenditures and offers the best opportunity to impact student learning.
- Per Colorado statute the district is required to appropriate a budget for each fund. However, adding appropriations for all of the funds together **does not equal** the total district expenditures. Why?
 - ▶ Some funds receive transfers from the general fund; thus, adding these funds together would result in double counting because the expenditures occur in both funds.
 - ▶ And, some funds represent revenue received for a specific purpose (activity/program). Thus, it would be wrong to assume that those dollars could be transferred to the general fund for general operating purposes because suspension of the specific purpose/activity/program would eliminate the revenue.

Focusing on the General Fund for budgeting is the most effective way to evaluate the allocation of resources.

- The total budgeted expenditures (appropriations) for all funds are disclosed in the *Adopted Budget* and *Dollars & Sense* publications which are available on the district's website at www.jeffcopublicschools.org/finance



*Note that the district does not have an active Building Fund for 2018-2019; projects funded through the 2012 bond were completed at the end of 2016-2017..