

How Is the District's Fiscal Health?

Our District has consistently maintained strong fiscal health according to reports from the NYS Comptroller's Office [Fiscal Stress Monitoring System](#) and to the [audits](#) noted to the right. The Comptroller's Office bases its classification of a district's fiscal health or stress on two key measures: Fiscal Stress and Environmental Stress, each of which has specific areas of measurement. The best classification is "No Designation" which indicates a score of 0-24.9 for Fiscal Stress and 0-29.9 for Environmental Stress.

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fiscal Stress	No Designation (6.7)	No Designation (6.7)	No Designation (0)	No Designation (0)
Environmental Stress	No Designation (0)	No Designation (10)	No Designation (10)	No Designation (0)

The District's Key Fiscal "Vital Signs"

Key measures of fiscal health including some that are used in the development of the reports and audits noted above are as follows:

- ◇ **Unassigned Fund Balance:** A [fund balance](#) is a strong measure of a district's financial health. The District's unassigned fund balance for the 2022-23 school year was **4.00%**. NYS law limits this annual total to no more than 4% of the following year's budget.
- ◇ **District Reserve Funds:** The District has established financial reserve funds as allowed by law for specific purposes (e.g., a Capital Reserve fund dedicated to payment of additions, renovations, repair, and maintenance of our facilities through capital projects) with specific dollar amounts that are approved by the Board of Education in line with [Policy 6245](#). (*More information on reserves will be presented in our next document in this series.*)
- ◇ **Cash Position:** According to the NYS Comptroller, a district should have one month's expenses available in cash at any point during the year to ensure that its bills are paid in a timely manner. By carefully managing our cash flow practices, we avoid short-term borrowing and the interest payments that come with it.
- ◇ **Debt Service Fund:** This fund pays for the principal and interest on our voter-approved construction projects. Managing this fund allows us to plan for future projects in a way that minimizes the impact on our taxpayers.
- ◇ **Maximizing State Aid:** A number of areas of expenditure within our budget qualify for state aid such as aid on certain BOCES programs and services, building aid on approved capital projects, tuition aid on certain special education student programs, and aid on textbooks and software. The District carefully manages each of these areas to maximize our aid.

► **NYS Comptroller**

The state Comptroller audits all school districts periodically as required by law. Our District was [audited](#) in December 2023.

► **External Auditor**

Districts are required by law to have an [annual audit](#) by an external (independent) auditing firm to review the financial statements of the District. Our external auditor is PFK O'Connor Davies, LLC.

► **Internal Auditor**

Districts with more than 1,500 students are also required to complete an annual [internal audit](#) to identify risks and ensure that proper controls are in place to address those risks. Our internal auditor is Nugent and Haeussler, CPA.

► **Claims Auditor**

By law, each financial claim must be audited and approved before payment. Our Board of Education appoints an outside contractor, who is a CPA, as [Claims Auditor](#). Our Claims auditor is Denise Connell, CPA.

► **Board of Education**

Each month our Board of Education reviews various financial statements of the District. In addition, the District's [Audit Committee](#) meets twice annually with each of the auditors noted above.