



OFFICE OF THE RECEIVER
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD Q4 2023-2024
Dr. William H. Kerr, Receiver

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1. Authority and Purpose

Consistent with the Financial Recovery Act 141 of 2012, the Duquesne City School District Financial Recovery Plan was issued on February 11, 2013, and implemented on April 2, 2013. On November 12, 2020, a Fourth Amendment was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and final approval granted by the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas on November 16, 2020.

Section 672-A (b) (2) of the Public-School Code of Pennsylvania requires a Quarterly Report for the Secretary of Education; therefore, the Quarterly Progress Report for **FY Q4-2023-2024 – April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024**, is provided herein.

2. School District Benefits of Receivership

Receivership of the School District was a result of fiscal instability and poor academic performance, considering all aspects of financially distressed operations. The benefits of Receivership have preserved, protected, and enhanced the value of assets through a variety of assistance including, but not limited to, an advance of state subsidies, a transitional loan, targeted grants, and professional development programs funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Under Receivership, the School District has been able to be more efficient to secure, manage, and stabilize assets from further deterioration. Equally important, liabilities and contested financial matters have been eliminated. District policies and procedures have been implemented and restrictions enacted for proper accounting by effectively managing cash flow, debt service, and timely payment of all financial obligations. Receivership has provided an intense level of intervention for student achievement and growth, professional development, and financial accountability – a triangular relationship for continuous school improvement.

Pursuant to Act 141 of 2012 and the implementation of the Financial Recovery Plan in 2013, the various Court appointed Receivers and the Department of Education assigned Chief Recovery Officers for the Duquesne City School District have been an integral part of the Financial Recovery Plan, as amended. Each has collaborated through interactive dialogue with key stakeholders of the School District, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, and Public Financial Management.

Every fiscal quarter since 2013 – 2014, the Duquesne City School District has been in good financial standing. There have been no unpaid or contested invoices; and, all payroll, benefit expenditures, debt service obligations and tuition payments have been made in a timely manner.

There is no threatened or pending litigation against the Duquesne City School District. Further, the School District is unaware of any other unasserted claims or assessments involving the School District.

3. Executive Summary

Concerted efforts for continuous school improvement of curriculum, instruction, and assessment are an integral part of the Duquesne City School District delivery system for educational programs and services based on collaborative and professional working relationships among the administration, faculty, and support Act staff. Financial sustainability, transparency, and accountability – including updates of projections as part of the Annual Budget planning and approval process – are also an integral part of continuous efforts for school improvement.

Quarterly Progress Report FY Q4-2023-2024 Highlights

- Under the ESSER Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation Reports, the Superintendent of Schools provides Advisory Committee updates during the Receiver Business Meetings.
- The primary goal of the Duquesne K-8 School is to be recognized as a “turnaround school” and a model for rebuilding educational programs, services, and activities in a financially distressed school district.
- The 2023 – 2024 Pre-K Counts program continues to be operated and staffed by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and grant funded by PDE. The quality pre-kindergarten program provides a strong start for children and for those who may also have language barriers (English not as the first language), a disability or developmental delay, or other issues that consider children at risk for failing in school.
- The 2023 – 2024 Head Start program continues to be operated by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and promotes school readiness of infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children from families with low income. The program engages parents or other key family members in positive relationships, with a focus on family well-being for successful learning outcomes and support for children.
- The Business Manager presented the 2024 – 2025 Final General Fund Budget at the June Receiver Business Meeting, which includes a 1.71 mil increase with a balanced Budget of \$21,809,299. The new real estate tax rate will be 21.19 mils and existing rates for Act 511 taxes will continue. From a conservative and accountability perspective, the Superintendent, Receiver, and Business Manager will continue to monitor all revenues and expenditures in the 2024 – 2025 General Fund Budget.
- The Receiver approved a Resolution regarding the Property Tax Allocation Rebate Program to remind tax paying citizens to take advantage of the rent and homeowner property tax rebate program, filing applications by the recent extended deadline of December 31, 2024.
- The School District Administration is in transition due to the resignations of the K-8 Building Principal and Assistant Principal; Director of Technology and Innovation; the World of Work Coordinator; and the furlough of the Coordinator of Mental Health and Behavior Support. The Superintendent has recommended a succession plan for administrative

replacements and changes of assignment for the 2024 – 2025 school year. Furloughed teachers, where possible, will be reinstated to back-fill open positions based on the succession plan and process.

- The Receiver was notified by PDE of the Department’s intent to renew the Service Agreement for Receiver services for one year beginning July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, with the same terms and conditions. The renewal term is contingent upon approval by the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas for an extension of the Receiver’s term.
- As of June 30, 2024, Duquesne K-8 student enrollment was 491 including 86 ESL and 27 students enrolled in Duquesne’s online academy classes. Compared to June 30, 2023, student enrollment was 455, including 59 ESL students. There are 19 homeless children and 3 foster care students. Please note that due to a clerical error, there were 493 students reported in the June monthly report.
- Current secondary (9-12) enrollment of Duquesne resident students at West Mifflin and East Allegheny is 257.
- Annual tuition to be paid by Duquesne for students attending schools elsewhere in 2023 – 2024 is projected to be \$9,240,303.00.
- Current charter school enrollment K-12 is 220.
- Steel Center Career and Technical Education enrollment is thirty (30); CTE tuition per student is estimated to be \$5,969 for 2023 – 2024.
- Mon Valley Special School student enrollment is six (6) and Sunrise School enrollment is one (1) with an overall estimated tuition cost of \$440,000 for 2023 – 2024.

4. Supplemental Information

The DCSD website, dukecitysd.org, provides the general public a historical summary of the School District's severe financial recovery status, its receivership, and criteria for exiting recovery status. The Financial Recovery Plan, as amended, and Quarterly Progress Reports are posted for accountability, transparency, and fiscal responsibility.

“Rediscover Duquesne!” is an electronic monthly newsletter providing information and updates to parents, families, and community members about the School District. The production is in cooperation with the Duquesne Administration and the Allegheny Intermediate Unit Communications Department.

5. Regular Education – Student Enrollment

Duquesne K-8 student enrollments, for 2022 – 2023 and 2023 – 2024, are displayed on the following table.

**Duquesne K-8 School
Student Enrollment
June 30, 2024**

Grade	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Sept 2022	47	52	50	58	45	46	52	58	41	451
Dec 2022	53	55	50	57	45	45	51	58	43	457
Mar 2023	56	55	50	56	46	43	47	61	44	458
June 2023	57	57	48	54	48	43	47	58	46	458
Sept 2023	55	53	60	45	52	47	41	48	54	455
Dec 2023	61	53	62	48	55	49	44	46	58	476
Mar 2024	62	55	60	48	59	51	46	49	61	491
June 2024	63	58	58	46	59	52	47	48	60	491

6. Regular Education – Sections, Class Size, and ESL Data

The following tabulation reflects current regular education sections and average class size for each grade level.

**Duquesne K - 8 School
Regular Education Sections, Class Size, and ESL Enrollment
June 30, 2024**

Grade	Sections (Classroom Size)	Enrollment	ESL Enrollment
Kindergarten	3 (20.6)	63	11
First Grade	3 (18.3)	58	10
Second Grade	3 (20.0)	58	9
Third Grade	3 (16.0)	46	8
Fourth Grade	3 (19.6)	59	7
Fifth Grade	3 (17.0)	52	12
Sixth Grade	2 (23.0)	47	10
Seventh Grade	3 (16.3)	48	8
Eighth Grade	3 (20.3)	60	11
TOTALS	26	491	86

7. Average Student Attendance

The following chart reflects two years of attendance.

Duquesne City School District Average Student Attendance 2022 - 2023 and 2023 - 2024

2022-2023 Month	Day Count	Avg. Monthly % Present	Avg. % Absent Count	Avg. Excused Count	Avg. Unexcused Count	Avg. Unlawful Count
Aug	8	97.23%	2.77%	1.62	1.62	0
Sept.	22	90.89%	9.11%	5.22	11.63	0
Oct	21	92.81%	7.19%	7.59	9.09	0
Nov	22	92.42%	7.58%	6.15	11.36	0
Dec	22	90.99%	9.01%	2.91	18	0
Jan	22	91.83%	8.17%	4.9	13.81	0
Feb	20	90.68%	9.32%	5.54	15.69	0
Mar	23	91.17%	8.83%	4.23	15.91	0
Apr	20	96.29%	9.71%	4.84	17.0	0
May	23	89.49%	10.51%	4.71	18.82	0
June	11	87.3%	12.7%	3.09	19.9	0
Total	214	91.4%	8.6%	5.97	13.2	0

2023-2024 Month	Day Count	Avg. Monthly % Present	Avg. % Absent Count	Avg. Excused Count	Avg. Unexcused Count	Avg. Unlawful Count
Aug	8	92.5%	7.5%	1.87	11.25	0
Sept	21	92.18%	7.82%	2.71	12.23	0
Oct	22	93.03%	6.97%	3.56	10.59	0
Nov	22	92.9%	7.1%	3.31	9.54	0
Dec	21	89.95%	10.5%	3.73	13.76	0
Jan	19	87.38%	12.62%	12.52	32.68	0
Feb	19	85.37%	14.63%	14.65	39.21	0
Mar	19	85.4%	14.6%	8.36	46.68	0
April	20	83.02%	16.98%	15.69	48.35	0
May	22	83.8%	16.2%	7.22	54.5	0
Total	181	87.15%	12.85%	10.98	33.76	0

*Administration is auditing processes to ensure accurate attendance data

8. Significant Observations

Q4-2023-2024 student enrollment is 491 and the ESL enrollment is 86 students; total enrollment did not change from the previous quarter.

Student attendance decreased slightly during the fourth quarter. Continuous efforts are made between the staff and parents / guardians to improve daily student attendance.

9. Student Enrichment and Support Programs

Boys & Girls Club - 33 students enrolled (Grades K-8)

Uplift Center - 6 students enrolled (Grades 3-8)

Oasis Tutoring - 11 Students are receiving services (K-3)

The partnerships continue with Eat n' Park and the United Way to provide food to the families and community members of Duquesne, including backpacks of food for students who qualify on the weekends. The Boys and Girls Club partnership continues with after-school activities for Duquesne City students.

School level personnel coordinated and participated in the District's annual "Dukes Showcase." This event highlighted the innovative projects and classwork our students completed throughout the school year. Students genuinely enjoyed showcasing their efforts to parents and the community.

School District personnel are transporting all accounted for McKinney-Vento families daily to and from school. There are nineteen (19) students that qualify under McKinney-Vento. All primary parents of families experiencing homelessness have been given the opportunity to utilize the Duquesne Family Center, Duquesne City School District, and AIU resources depending on their specific needs.

School District personnel have identified three (3) in-district foster care students.

Q4 discipline behavior incidents reportable to the state are 175 incidents, which is a slight increase from the previous quarter. With the sustained efforts of PBIS programming and MTSS in place, student discipline continues to have support and interventions for positive and successful outcomes. In addition to Restorative Practices through the University of Pittsburgh, the following support services are highlighted:

The School District continues to engage with Communities in Schools / Pittsburgh-Allegheny County (CISPAC) which has been a highly successful collaborative partnership among educators, students, parents / guardians, and families. CISPAC strives to surround students with a community of support so every student can succeed in school and life. The CISPAC Coordinator meets with sixth-eighth grade students to provide socio-emotional enrichment and other support services.

Pressley Ridge, a non-profit social services agency, provides Emotional Support Services for grades K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Auberle, a non-profit social service agency, provides support for students through school-based therapy and SAP screening services. Auberle provides grade level support through their Stop Now and Think (SNAP) program to Fifth Grade students. Due to a decrease in agency grant funding, there will be a restructuring of mental health behavior support services for the 2024 – 2025 school year.

10. State Monitoring

There are no updates for the Fourth Quarter.

11. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

A. Curriculum and Instruction

Grades K – 8 continue to use READY Math for core math instruction. The use of personalized learning paths with READY allows teachers to assign lessons that support grade level standards and mirror instructional content. Students work on skills they need to close learning gaps alongside practicing new grade level content with the READY program. Personalized learning in math, specifically, has allowed DCSD teachers to enhance student engagement by tailoring instruction to individual learning styles and pace. It allows educators to pinpoint and address specific learning gaps early on, promoting increased effective remediation and accelerated learning where needed. By catering to diverse student needs and interests, personalized learning paths and READY has begun to shift students' attitude towards math.

PSSA early release data shows that the District continues to make slow progress in ELA proficiency. Mathematics scores continue to be the weakest area. In efforts to address mathematics scores, conversations have begun regarding where instruction can be enhanced in math classrooms next year.

2023 – 2024 PSSA Results							
ELA Results							
	BB	B	P	A	A & P	Changes from 22-23	Cohort Change from 22-23
Grade 3	33%	56%	11%	0	11%	-10%	N/A
Grade 4	38%	44%	18%	0	18%	2%	-2%
Grade 5	60%	26%	14%	0	14%	-2%	-4%
Grade 6	52%	34%	22%	2%	13%	-10%	-3%
Grade 7	28%	61%	17%	0	17%	1%	-6%
Grade 8	41%	44%	15%	0	15%	1%	-1%
Math Results							
	BB	B	P	A	A & P	Changes from 22-23	Cohort Change from 22-23
Grade 3	70%	15%	13%	0	13%	5%	NA
Grade 4	77%	19%	3%	0	3%	-4%	-5%
Grade 5	79%	17%	4%	0	4%	2%	-3%
Grade 6	84%	11%	4%	0	4%	4%	2%
Grade 7	71%	24%	4%	0	4%	-1%	4%
Grade 8	83%	15%	0	1%	1%	-1%	-4%
Science Results							
	BB	B	P	A	A & P	Changes from 22-23	Cohort Change from 22-23
Grade 4	18%	38%	38%	6%	44%	20%	NA
Grade 8	58%	29%	9%	4%	13%	-16%	NA

B. Professional Development

Kindergarten through Third Grade teachers completed the first year of using a redesigned ELA block. Teachers had 120 minutes of uninterrupted instruction and concentrated on explicit and intensive phonics instruction to aid in the closing of learning gaps for our

earliest readers. Duquesne teachers used explicit phonics instructional program – Sounds to Spelling – to support early primary students’ foundational reading skills as well as a Primary Writing program for grades K-3 that scaffolds writing development with explicit instruction at each writing level. These programs have allowed DCSD to put an emphasis on early literacy learning, which in turn builds a solid foundation for future learning. This is the District’s third year utilizing the Sounds to Spelling program; teachers are beginning to see prior learning in their students across grade levels.

12. Career Development / World of World

At the conclusion of the 2023 – 2024 school year, World of Work building capacity amongst grade levels, teachers, and students had occurred. Teachers in all classrooms in Second Grade through Fifth Grade have successfully implemented six career units and built the common language of RIASEC in their classrooms. More professionals (Meet a Pro) in each career field have supported WOW efforts at Duquesne, offering their time and expertise to share their professional journeys with students.

During the month of June, teachers have attended professional development in Kindergarten, First, Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grades. As the career initiative continues in the 2024 – 2025 school year, all teachers will implement the World of Work framework into their classroom settings. Every child in the Duquesne City School District will have the opportunity to learn about their individual strengths, interests and workplace preferences by aligning their unique talents to career pathways. Duquesne will also be responsible for holding four training sessions in the upcoming school year that will allow for other administrators and educators to see best practices around the framework that has been created and implemented.

14. Technology, Digital Learning, and Innovation

Onboarding for the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools Grant, Cohort 11 continues. Designated District staff completed the Leader Summit in Kansas City, MO. Devise provisions for teacher and student iPads have been completed. Additionally, students have been selected to be a part of the Student Tech Team and teacher synchronous onboarding has been completed.

To allow for a better user experience when accessing network devices, including phones, printers, and WiFi access point connectivity, the network was upgraded from 1 gigabyte to 10 gigabyte modules on all switches.

RWAN cutover from DQE to Crown Castle has been completed. This is the transition from the District’s former consortium contract with DQE for internet access to Crown Castle.

Teacher devices were collected at the conclusion of the 2023 – 2024 school year for routine software and security upgrades. Devices will be redistributed during the summer break.

15. Special Education Services

A. Special Education Enrollment

The Special Education Department continues to be fully staffed with a total of ten special education teachers, one speech and language pathologist, and one cyber academy teacher. At the end of the 2023 – 2024 school year, DCSD had a total of (129) students with IEPs

who are being supported: in-district (105), specialized educational placements (14), and Duquesne Cyber Academy (8). Below is a breakdown of students with IEPs enrollment and primary disability category.

Disability Category	Number of Students
Other Health Impairment	37
Specific Learning Disability	43
Emotional Disturbance	17
Intellectual Disability	4
Autism	11
Blind / Visually Impaired	1
Hearing Impaired	1
Speech and Language	15

B. Extended School Year Programming

The Duquesne City School District has a total of (27) students who are eligible for the 2024 Extended School Year Programming. DCSD will hold the in-district ESY program July 8 – 26, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

ESY Program Location	No. of Eligible Students
Duquesne K – 8 School	19 (4 opted out)
Mon Valley School	5 (2 opted out)
The Day School, Children’s Institute	1 (1 opted out)
Western PA School for the Deaf	1
New Story School	1

C. 8th to 9th Grade Transition of Students with IEPs

The Duquesne City School District and West Mifflin Area School District held meetings on May 23rd and 29th of this school year, with all 15 families of Eighth Grade students that have either an IEP, 504 Service Agreement, or GIEP. The purpose of this meeting was to review supports currently in place and revise if needed. The team also provided assistance with completing the registration process to ensure an effective transition to West Mifflin Area High School (WMAHS) for the 2024 – 2025 school year. As of May 30th, (13) out of the (15) students have begun the enrollment process for the upcoming school year and (8) of the (13) students are fully registered. Students that have completed the enrollment process were able to schedule classes with the WMAHS guidance counselor.

16. Student Services

A. IST / DSAP Q4 Data

IST		DSAP	*
Total Students Referred	53	Total Students Referred	46
Referrals Reopened	0	Referrals Reopened	0
Cases Closed	53	Cases Closed	46
Cases Active	0	Cases Active	0

*McKinney-Vento Data included

B. McKinney-Vento Summary

School District personnel transported all accounted for McKinney-Vento families daily to and from school. There are currently nineteen (19) students identified. All primary parents of families experiencing homelessness have been given the opportunity to utilize available resources depending on specific needs from the Duquesne Family Center, Duquesne City School District, and Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

17. Mental Health and Behavior Support Services

The Behavioral and Emotional Support Team (BEST) Pressley Ridge partnership provided ongoing support for students in their classrooms. There was a marked improvement in students having whole-child needs met, a testament to the supports in place. This was evidenced by increased attendance, improved academic reports, decreased security calls, and decreased discipline reports for students on teacher caseloads. The program closely monitored student needs to ensure resources were available and provided when needed.

The Mental Health and Behavior Support team reviewed all students receiving services through the Student Assistance Program (SAP) and ensured there were supports in place for students, if needed, during the summer months. The District will explore additional partnerships with outside agencies to include a second organization to provide School-Based Therapy to meet the increasing needs of our students. The Instructional Support Team continued to share intervention strategies with teachers to provide targeted support for students.

There was an End-of-Year Meeting to discuss the results and data from the grant with The Watson Institute to provide therapeutic services and supports to the District. The Watson Institute has the documentation they need and presented a final report after the close of the school year. This marks the end of the two-year grant with the Institute.

18. District Cyber Academy and Marketing / Recruiting Plan

The District Cyber Academy, in partnership with Allegheny Intermediate Unit / Waterfront Learning, provides asynchronous online learning through the platform, Accelerate. Parents inquiring about cyber education are encouraged to take advantage of the District Cyber Academy. School District teachers provide online instruction and are available for student and parent consultations. The District Cyber program is research-based and embraces best practices for online learning, offering Duquesne children flexible and high-quality curriculum and instruction. A District cyber student has all the benefits of a Duquesne student, including participation in all programs, activities, sports, and clubs.

The Marketing / Recruiting Plan for 2024 – 2025 will be a continuous effort to increase the overall student enrollment at the Duquesne K-8 School and to reduce the amount of charter / cyber and brick and mortar charter school tuition paid by the School District. The plan includes the use of current resources, social media, and personnel to engage the community in legacy-building and to share the traditions, pride, and history of Duquesne City School District. **“REDISCOVER DUQUESNE”** is the marketing brand to promote a flexible, online cyber education option for parents and families.

19. Financial Recovery Plan (YTD)

The School District continues to operate under the Fourth Amendment of the Financial Recovery Plan including strategic and operational goals for continuous school improvement and financial sustainability.

20. Budget and Finance (YTD)

The Business Manager presented the 2024 – 2025 Final General Fund Budget at the June Receiver Business Meeting, which includes a 1.71 mil increase with a balanced Budget of \$21,809,299. The new real estate tax rate will be 21.19 mils and existing rates for Act 511 taxes will continue. The median assessed homestead property will pay \$22.59 more for the year. Year over year, expenses decreased 1% (\$236K) due to renegotiated transportation contract and creative staffing solutions.

The District Administration provided the 2024 – 2025 Final General Fund Budget information to Public Financial Management consultants. The School District officials requested that PFM update the model assumptions and financial projections to include the State Legislators and Governor's subsidy allocations for 2024 – 2025, subject to final Commonwealth approval.

The School District's property tax reduction allocation for 2024 – 2025 is \$539,953.38.

The Business Manager will complete and file the required May and June 2023 – 2024 Cash Flow Report for the Department of Education. It is intended to be a monthly report, with some flexibility, which shares financial data by the School District accounting for local revenue and expenditures and PDE accounting for state and federal funds and deductions.

Every fiscal quarter since 2013 – 2014, the Duquesne City School District has been in good financial standing. There have been no unpaid or contested invoices; and, all payroll, benefit expenditures, debt service obligations and tuition payments have been made in a timely manner.

A significant financial challenge facing the School District continues to be the rising costs of charter school tuition. Actual charter school rates, as calculated on the PDE-363 for FY 2023 – 2024 reflect federal ESSER funding revenue. The tuition rate for each non-special education charter school student for 2023 – 2024 was \$13,558.24 (\$1,636 lower than the previous year) based on actual, calculated rates. For each special education student who attended a charter school, the student rate was \$36,884.20 (\$2,052 lower than the previous year) based on actual, calculated rates. The District continues to face an unprecedented special education calculation due to the nature of the formula assuming a 16% special education population. Because the District's special education population is appreciably higher at 26.36%, the formula incorrectly divides total special education expenditures by a smaller number of students than are enrolled at Duquesne.

The following chart provides a visual with specific data to Duquesne's Average Daily Membership for 2021 – 2022; Special Education Population with 16% assumption required by PDE; Actual Special Education Population of the District at 26.36%; and Additional Cost to the District using the required 16% assumption.

Categories and Descriptions	Average Daily Memberships	Special Education Tuition Rate for 2023-2024	Number of Special Education Students at Charter Schools as of June 30, 2024	Charter School Tuition Cost for Special Education Students
DCSD Average Daily Membership for 2021-2022	928.348	-	-	-
Special Education Population with 16% assumption required by PDE	148.536	\$36,884.20	54	\$1,991,746.80
Actual Special Education Population of District is 26.36%	244.713	\$297,716.67	54	\$1,991,746.00
Additional Cost to District using required 16% assumption	-	\$9,167.53	-	\$495,046.68

21. General Fund Balance Analysis

Duquesne City School District General Fund Balance Analysis June 30, 2023

GF Balance Analysis June 30, 2023		
Non-spendable		
Pre-paid	\$135,385	-
Other	-	-
Total non-spendable	-	\$135,385
Restricted	-	-
Committed	-	-
Unassigned	-	\$1,231,740
Assigned		250,000
Total fund balance as of June 30, 2022 (audited)	-	\$452,285
Surplus (deficit) for FY 2022-2023	-	1,164,840
Total fund balance as of June 30, 2023 (audited)	-	\$1,617,125

22. Bonds and Notes Payable

The Department of Education approved a Transitional Loan Agreement Amendment in 2022 for remaining amortized payments: June 30, 2024 - \$221,667; and June 30, 2025 - \$221,666.

A summary of bonds and notes payable is shown in the following table.

Bonds and Notes Payable June 30, 2024

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Bonds Payable	Notes Payable	Total Bonds and Notes Payable	Total Annual Debt Service
2014*	9,272,501	\$1,000,000	10,272,501	-

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Bonds Payable	Notes Payable	Total Bonds and Notes Payable	Total Annual Debt Service
2015*	6,616,667	2,335,000	8,951,667	2,926,206
2016*	6,110,883	1,500,000	7,610,833	1,553,989
2017*	5,590,000	1,000,000	6,590,000	1,224,589
2018*	5,054,167	1,000,000	6,054,167	729,888
2019*	4,503,333	850,000	5,353,333	883,639
2020*	3,122,500	790,000	3,912,500	1,610,764
2021*	11,661,667	730,000	12,391,667	3,105,492
2022*	10,980,834	665,000	11,645,834	1,075,424
2023*	10,935,000	443,334	11,378,333	584,191
2024**	10,319,167	221,666	10,540,833	1,153,990
2025**	9,803,334	-	9,803,334	1,042,391
2026**	9,337,500	-	9,337,500	758,374
2027**	8,856,667	-	8,856.667	756,174

*Audited financial statements

**Projected

23. Receiving Schools, Tuition Enrollments, and Projected Costs

After personnel costs for the Duquesne City School District’s staff, the next largest categories of spending are tuition costs for secondary schools and charter schools. These two costs contribute to the School District’s long-term financial challenges.

Current student tuition enrollments are tabulated below. The chart also compares the list of enrollments to the prior Quarter’s totals to give some perspective on student enrollment trends.

Duquesne City School District Tuition Enrollment June 30, 2024

Receiving Schools	Grades	Students Mar 31	Students June 30	Projected 2023-2024 Tuition
West Mifflin Area School District	9 – 12	238	238	\$3,918,824.00
East Allegheny School District	9 – 12	19	19	312,847.00
Charter schools, regular education	K – 6	102	105	1,423,615.00
Charter schools, special education	K – 6	35	35	1,290,947.00
Charter schools, regular education	7 – 12	57	61	827,053.00
Charter schools, special education	7 – 12	19	19	700,799.00
Special Education schools	K – 12	16	16	766,218.00
Totals		486	493	\$9,240,303.00

Changes in individual tuition enrollments in the categories of receiving schools can be seen by comparing enrollments from March 31, 2024 to June 30, 2024 in the table above. Enrollment figures for East Allegheny and West Mifflin will be reconciled at the end of FY 2023 – 2024. The table above includes Allegheny Intermediate Unit special education classroom tuition, whereas the tuition schedule on the Annual Financial Report does not include these costs.

There are currently 257 secondary students in grades 9-12 in the East Allegheny and West Mifflin Area School Districts. Tuition costs for these students continue to increase each year; and, raising taxes to the Act I Index still fails to cover one-half of the annual increase.

The School District received correspondence from the Pennsylvania Department Education regarding the calculated student tuition rate of \$16,465.65 that Duquesne will pay East Allegheny and West Mifflin School Districts in 2023 – 2024, based on Act 35 of 2023, Section 1607(b)(4) of the Pennsylvania School Code.

The Commonwealth’s Independent Fiscal Office indicates that the District’s Projected Base Act 1 Index is expected to decrease slowly as shown in the chart below; however, the District’s tuition rate is expected to be \$20,472 by the 2029 – 2030 school year.

Duquesne City School District, Act 1 Index, 2023-2024 to 2029-2030

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
	Actual	Actual	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected
Projected Base Index	4.1%	5.3%	4.0%	3.6%	3.2%	3.1%	3.0%
Projected Act 1 Index	6.7%	8.8%	6.6%	5.9%	5.3%	5.1%	5.0%

24. Duquesne City Education Foundation

The Duquesne City Education Foundation articles of incorporation and by-laws as a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit, charitable organization was established. The Foundation supports Duquesne City School District by encouraging innovation, recognizing excellence, creating vital partnerships, and developing community philanthropy. It is expected that Foundation revenues will help support academic programs, athletics, and other school community activities.

25. Human Resources – Personnel / Staffing Assignments

Settlements and other Personnel Actions

There were no personnel settlements and releases during this Quarter.

Personnel / Staffing Assignments

The following chart presents a summary of staffing at the DCSD as of June 30, 2024. While there was some movement, the overall number of personnel being employed by the District at the conclusion of the 2023 – 2024 school year did not change.

**Duquesne City School District
2023-2024 Staffing Summary
June 30, 2024**

DCSD Staffing Summary			
Professional staff	49	Administrators	7.5
Instructional support staff	13.5	Coordinators and supervisors	4
Other support staff	14.5	Confidential exempt staff	3

Staffing Changes reflect resignations, replacements, and new hires to meet the changing needs of the School District:

Under a Verizon Wireless Grant, one two-year Verizon Instruction Learning Technology Coach / Cyber Teacher, Grades 5-8 position was created for the 2024 – 2026 school years.

Following the resignation of the Finance Manager, one Accountant was hired.

Following the resignation of the World of Work Coordinator, a grant funded position, no vacancy exists due to the current needs of the District.

Following the resignation of the Interim High School Principal, no current vacancy exists due to the current needs of the District.

Following the resignation of the Director of Technology, Innovation and Digital Learning, one properly credentialed Middle School Classroom Teacher was reassigned as the Director of Technology / Cyber School Principal.

Following the resignation of the Acting K – 8 Building Principal and the Assistant Principal, one properly credentialed Elementary Classroom Teacher was interviewed and reassigned as the K – 8 Building Principal.

Following the resignation of two Special Education Classroom Teachers, two vacancies exist.

Following the elimination of the ESSER Grant funded Mental Health and Behavioral Support Coordinator position as scheduled for the end of the 2023 – 2024 school year, the former Coordinator has been furloughed.

Following the elimination of the ESSER Grant funded Behavior Support and Intervention Specialist position as scheduled for the end of the 2023 – 2024 school year, the Specialist has been furloughed.

Following the elimination of three paraprofessional positions scheduled for the end of the 2023 – 2024 school year, one paraprofessional has since been reinstated; no paraprofessional vacancies exist.

Following the elimination of three elementary level classroom teaching positions scheduled for the end of the 2023 – 2024 school year, two elementary level classroom teaching positions have since been reinstated.

Following the elimination of the Dean of Students position scheduled for the end of the 2023 – 2024 school year, the Dean of Students position has since been reinstated; one vacancy exists.

The Reading Specialist position was eliminated at the conclusion of the 2023 – 2024 school year.

26. Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

The following Board Policies and Administrative Regulations are new or revised and approved during this Quarter:

Board Policy

- 209.2 Diabetes Management (new)
- 300 Employee Code of Ethics (new)
- 309.1 Telework (new)
- 801 Public Records
- 815.1 Use of Generative AI in Education (new)
- 823 Naloxone (new)
- 916 Volunteers (new)

Administrative Regulation

- 209.2-AR-0 Diabetes Management (new)
- 209.2-AR-1 Diabetes Management Program Handbook (new)
- 300-AR-0 Employee Code of Ethics (new)

27. Facilities and Property Services – Maintenance, and School Safety & Security

A. Maintenance

The Boiler passed annual inspection and continues to be in good operational condition. Annual preventive maintenance of the HVAC system, starting with filter changes on all roof top units, has been completed. A leak was identified on Unit 5’s evaporator; the McClure Company is addressing the issue per our maintenance agreement.

CM Regent performed a semi-annual inspection of the building elevator. No known issues were discovered. The kitchen dumbwaiter was fixed by Lin Elevator.

After plumbing repairs were made to a pressure relief valve, backflow testing was successful.

The annual inspection of the school’s stage within the auditorium has been completed. Documentation is pending.

The District's lawn equipment required maintenance before being utilized for the summer session. A push-mower required the replacement of all four tires, a tractor required one tire replacement, and a new cutting deck has been ordered for a riding mower.

A new Combi oven was purchased for the school kitchen to add to existing equipment. Installation is pending.

Fencing was repaired on District property which borders with the City's Memorial Park.

Debris has been removed from the stadium property located on Overland Avenue.

A beekeeper was contacted to relocate a swarm of honeybees off of District property.

An issue with the parking lot lights was addressed and they are now functioning properly.

Custodial and maintenance staff assembled tents and provided campus clean-up support during the annual Duke Spring Showcase. The tents were disassembled following the event and placed in storage.

Petitioned City Council to install public parking limitations signs along a small portion of Grant Avenue to assist with student dismissal.

B. School Safety & Security

The Threat Assessment Team Training regarding core requirements has been completed. Training support was provided by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Director of Safety and Security. Additional, virtual asynchronous training was completed in April for all core team members.

Required monthly fire drills were held. Common area and classroom placement of new SRP protocols assisted in more efficient building evacuations. The average time for full building evacuations has decreased to under three minutes.

Safety and Security meetings were held monthly, with a participation rate of 80%.

Due to bus parking availability issues on Grant Avenue during afternoon departure, a request to post signage and to amend current parking ordinances was made to the local municipality and the Mayor's office. The request was approved and new signs with listed parking restrictions will be posted prior to the start of the 2024 – 2025 school year.

New procedures for bag checks to prevent contraband being brought in by students has proven to be successful during student ingress. Processes were put in place with administration, security staff, and the school nurse concerning student health and safety during contraband detection or use on school property.

The 2023 – 2024 School Safety and Security Coordinator report was presented to the Board of School Directors during a June 11, 2024 Executive Session, which was held prior to the public Receiver Business Meeting. The report was submitted to Pennsylvania's School Safety and Security Commission on June 24, 2024 and the School Safety and Security Coordinator Survey has been completed.

28. Governance and Administration

Dr. Sue A. Mariani, Chief School Administrator, is supervised by Dr. William H. Kerr, who was reappointed as the Court-appointed Receiver, effective March 31, 2022, through April 1, 2025. Dr. Kerr reports to the Duquesne City Board of School Directors, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), and the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. Dr. Kerr reports to Judge Alan D. Hertzberg and to Dr. Khalid N. Mumin, Secretary of Education, via Dr. Gina Colarossi, Special Advisor to the Secretary.

The Duquesne City Board of School Directors, with whom the administration meets in Executive Session prior to every Receiver Business Meeting, consists of the following members:

1. Board President Sonya Gooden
2. Board Vice President Rosia Reid
3. School Director Jocelyn Brown
4. School Director Candice Butler-Davis
5. School Director Burton Comensky
6. School Director Laura Elmore
7. School Director Calvin Harris
8. School Director Connie Lucas-Kemp
9. School Director Cedric Robertson

Members of the Duquesne City Board of School Directors participated in two Receiver Business Meetings during the Fourth Quarter: May 7 and June 11. A Special Meeting of the Board of Directors was convened on June 11 to address the tax levy Resolution, including a public vote on the same. School Board members in attendance at the Receiver Business Meetings: May (8) and June (8).

29. Next Report

The next Quarterly Progress Report will cover the first Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024 – 2025, July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024. That report is expected to be filed in October 2024.

30. Acknowledgements

The following individuals contributed to this report:

- William H. Kerr, Ed.D., Court-appointed Receiver
- Sue A. Mariani, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
- Jennifer Tressler, B.S., CPA, Business Manager
- Jamie Schmidt, Ed.D., Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- Celeste Rudge, M. Ed., Director of Literacy and Innovation
- Alison DeMarco, M. Ed., Director of Technology, Digital Learning and Innovation
- Pam Zackel, M. Ed., Director of Special Education

- Eric Harper, M. Ed., High School Principal-designate
- George Little, MSW, Acting K-8 Principal
- Janice Nuzzo, Ed.D., Acting K-8 Assistant Principal
- Brian Stowell, MBA, Director of Facilities, Transportation, and Safety and Security
- Brandon Irdi, Act 44 Safety and Security Coordinator
- Crystal Irdi, AAS, Human Resources Assistant / Board Secretary / Open Records Officer