



**OFFICE OF THE RECEIVER**  
**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**  
**FOR THE PERIOD Q3 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 Q3-2023-2024 – January 1, 2024 through March 31, 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 Q3-2023-2024 Highlights***

- Act 35 of 2023 significantly amended Section 1607 of the School Code (24 P.S. 16-1607) in two significant ways. The first changes the calculation of tuition for Duquesne students who attend West Mifflin Area or East Allegheny School Districts. School District officials received correspondence that the Base Act 1 Index will be used to calculate the annual student tuition payments made to the neighboring School Districts. Effective immediately in 2023 – 2024, the updated tuition rate is \$16,465.65 which is \$411.25 less per student.
- The second major change to Section 1607 of the School Code Act specifically requires that any school district that has eliminated its high school program pursuant to Section 1607 and subsequently wants to reopen its High School Program must first obtain the approval of the Secretary of Education. To reopen the high school, Duquesne must submit a specific written plan to the Secretary of Education.
- On January 30, 2024, the Receiver, on behalf of the Superintendent and the Duquesne City School District Comprehensive Planning Team for Research and Development, submitted a document which provided three scenarios for the return of 9-12 students and phase-in by grade levels. The PFM model assumptions included three scenarios and tax increases to the Act 1 Index, including the high school model assumptions. In March, the Superintendent provided additional information to PDE to consider as part of the review and study process.
- On March 27, 2024, the Secretary of Education issued correspondence to the School District regarding the Re-Opening of the Duquesne City High School with a determination that it is not financially feasible for the School District to reopen its high school beginning with the 2024 – 2025 school year.
- 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.
- As of March 31 2024, Duquesne K-8 student enrollment was 491 including 81 ESL students. This includes nineteen (19) students enrolled in Duquesne’s online academy classes.
- 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 \$9,145,394.00.
- Current charter school enrollment K-12 is 213.
- 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 \$485,000 for 2023 – 2024.
- The Receiver Advisory Committee, as prescribed by Act 141 of 2012 – Section 654-A, will meet five times in 2023 – 2024. Virtual meetings were conducted on October 10, December 12 and February 13. April 9 and June 11 remain scheduled. Invited representatives include parents, teachers, administrators, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, a neighboring school district superintendent of schools, community-at-large, and board secretary. One vacancy remains for a charter school representative.
- The School District confirmed dates and times for monthly 2023 – 2024 PDE meetings with the Receiver and designated District Administrators. Quarterly PDE meetings with Receivers, Chief Recovery Officers, and Financial Advisors will continue throughout 2023 – 2024.

#### **4. Supplemental Information**

The DCSD website, [dukecitysd.org](http://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  
March 31, 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

### 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  
March 31, 2024**

Grade	Sections (Classroom Size)	Enrollment	ESL Enrollment
Kindergarten	3 (20.6)	62	10
First Grade	3 (18.3)	55	9
Second Grade	3 (20.0)	60	8
Third Grade	3 (16.0)	48	8
Fourth Grade	3 (19.6)	59	7
Fifth Grade	3 (17.0)	51	11
Sixth Grade	2 (23.0)	46	9
Seventh Grade	3 (16.3)	49	7
Eighth Grade	3 (20.3)	61	12
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>81</b>

## 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>91.4%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>5.97</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>0</b>

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

## 8. Significant Observations

Q3-2023-2024 student enrollment is 491 and the ESL enrollment is eighty (80) students, indicating an increase of nineteen (19) students, including ten (10) ESL more students ending Q2-2023-2024.

Student attendance has increased slightly. Continuous efforts are made between the staff and parents / guardians to improve daily student attendance.

## **9. Student Enrichment and Support Programs**

Boys & Girls Club - 29 students enrolled (Grades K-8)

Uplift Center - 7 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 District personnel are transporting all accounted for McKinney-Vento families daily to and from school. There are fifteen (15) 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.

Q3 discipline behavior incidents reportable to the state are 142 incidents, which is a significant decrease 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. Beginning in January 2024, Auberle began providing grade level support through their Stop Now and Think (SNAP) program to Fifth Grade students.

## **10. State Monitoring**

Refer to Special Education State Monitoring Report, Q3 no updates.

## **11. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment**

### **A. Curriculum and Instruction**

Duquesne has worked to continue to refine and improve math practices building wide. In our work with the AIU, teachers were able to participate in professional development sessions with Dr. Holly Pope. Professional learning for teachers focused on building number sense using dot and number talks. Teachers were able to immediately begin implementing

new practices to close learning gaps and build number sense in their students regardless of grade level.

Professional Learning Communities (PLC's) for grade level and content area meetings take place weekly. Teachers have focused on ensuring that instructional pacing and instruction is on pace for the state assessments at the end of April. During content area meetings, teachers have focused on sharing content specific questions and practices that can deepen student learning across grade levels. PLC's have been a great support for new teachers as they become more confident in their own teaching practices.

DCSD is finishing its current round of Moonshot sessions with teachers. Moonshot time allows for dedicated Professional Development relating to Personalized Learning and curriculum practices with District and School administrators. Students in grades K-8 are engaged in creative arts learning with outside providers while teachers engage in professional development.

## **B. Professional Development**

Several Duquesne teachers completed work with the Learner Centered. A cohort of 11 teachers engaged in various learning modules focused on Personalized Learning. In this cohort and collaboration with LCC and South Allegheny School District, District teachers were able to network, collaborate, and learn alongside fellow educators as they implemented new practices and shared successes and challenges. A final celebration of learning took place with this cohort in March where each teacher shared learning portfolios of their work.

Professional development for teachers and professional staff during this quarter continues in the following critical areas:

- World of Work and RIASEC
- Restorative Practices
- Professional Ethics
- Culturally Responsive Instruction
- Personalized Learning
- PBIS / MTSS
- Trauma Informed Practices

## **12. Career Development / World of World**

Students in First through Fifth grade have continued their exposure to careers aligned to each of the six RIASEC themes. In each grade, students have the opportunity to explore careers that are grade level appropriate while also simulating into scenarios where they could see themselves in that particular career field. Students have a firm understanding of their unique strengths and interests, and teachers have become more comfortable naturally integrating career exposure into their content classes.

Moving into the third year of the World of Work framework, teachers and students in Kindergarten, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth grade will be inducted within the current framework and given the opportunity to identify where World of Work will fit into their own instruction delivery.



Partnering districts in the Pittsburgh region have developed each of the above grade level frameworks. As the District shifts into the 2024 – 2025 school year, all students in Kindergarten through Eighth grade will be integrated within the World of Work framework at the Duquesne K – 8 School.

During the upcoming summer, professional development will be offered for those grade level teachers to work and collaborate with instructional staff from partnering school districts. The goal of the World of Work framework is to encourage students to explore their interests and talents, as well as, know they matter while having a place in the world.

#### **14. Technology, Digital Learning, and Innovation**

Onboarding for the Verizon Innovative Learning Schools Grant, Cohort11, has begun. The Director of Technology, Digital Learning, and Innovation completed a two-day Leadership initiation session to be introduced to the program and implementation steps. To satisfy grant requirements, device configuration training has also begun.

To continue support for the District’s WiFi infrastructure upgrades, the bidding process to secure eRate funding has been completed.

The District purchased a new APC Smart UPS to upgrade our current, aging, backup power supply. Installation of the equipment will begin once it has been received.

#### **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 Third Quarter, DCSD had a total of (127) students with IEPs who are being supported: in-district (102), specialized educational placements (18), and Duquesne Cyber Academy (7). Below is a breakdown of students with IEPs enrollment and primary disability category.

<b>Disability Category</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>
Other Health Impairment	37
Specific Learning Disability	41
Emotional Disturbance	17
Intellectual Disability	4
Autism	11
Blind / Visually Impaired	1
Hearing Impaired	1
Speech and Language	15

## B. Early Intervention Transition to Kindergarten

The Duquesne City School District held their annual EI to Kindergarten event on February 22, 2024. This event was open to the families of the (19) children currently receiving Early Intervention Services that are eligible for Kindergarten during the 2024 – 2025 school year. The families of 5 children attended the event. As of March 27<sup>th</sup>, the District has received (15) Intent to Registers. Below is a breakdown of the disability categories for incoming Kindergarten students that currently receive Early Intervention services.

Disability Category	No. of Children
Autism	7
Developmental Delay	7
Speech and Language	5

## C. Extended School Year Programming

The Duquesne City School District has a total of (22) students who are eligible for the 2024 Extended School Year Programming.

ESY Program Location	No. of Eligible Students
Duquesne K – 8 School	17
Mon Valley School	5
The Day School, Children’s Institute	1
Western PA School for the Deaf	1

## D. 8th to 9th Grade Transition of Students with IEPs

The Duquesne City School District has sixteen (16) Eighth grade students that will transition to Ninth grade with either an IEP, GIEP or 504 Service Agreement. The District’s Special Education Department has been collaborating with East Allegheny SD and West Mifflin Area SD to ensure a smooth transition.

## 16. Student Services

### A. IST / DSAP Q1 Data

IST		DSAP	*
Total Students Referred	49	Total Students Referred	45
Referrals Reopened	0	Referrals Reopened	0
Cases Closed	14	Cases Closed	7
Cases Active	35	Cases Active	38

\*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 fifteen (15) 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 provides ongoing support for students in their classrooms. There has been a marked improvement in students having whole-child needs met, a testament to the supports in place. This is evidenced by increased attendance, improved academic reports, decreased security calls, and decreased discipline reports for students on teacher caseloads. The program closely monitors student needs to ensure resources are available and provided when needed.

The Mental Health and Behavior Support team will review all students receiving services through the Student Assistance Program (SAP) and ensure there are 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 has been sharing 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 will present 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, as amended for 2023 – 2024, is 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 2023 – 2024 Final General Fund Budget was implemented, effective July 1, 2023. The Budget includes Revenues of \$22,256,893 and Expenditures of \$22,046,254. The budget also includes a millage increase of one mil (19.48 mils) but is offset by a millage reduction provided by the Property Tax Reduction Subsidy. The proposed net effect is a 6.63% real estate tax increase compared to 2022. The median assessed homestead property will pay \$23.78 more for the year or \$1.98 more per month.

The Business Manager completed and filed the required January 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. The AFR was filed November 28, 2023. The 2022 – 2023 Local Audit Report was presented at the March 26, 2024, Receiver Business Meeting.

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 December 31, 2023	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	\$1,496,700.12
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**

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

## 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  
March 31, 2024**

<b>Fiscal Year Ending June 30</b>	<b>Bonds Payable</b>	<b>Notes Payable</b>	<b>Total Bonds and Notes Payable</b>	<b>Total Annual Debt Service</b>
2014*	9,272,501	\$1,000,000	10,272,501	-
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 March 31, 2024

Receiving Schools	Grades	Students Dec 31	Students Mar 31	Projected 2023-2024 Tuition
West Mifflin Area School District	9 – 12	238	238	\$3,918,824.00
East Allegheny School District	9 – 12	17	19	312,847.00
Charter schools, regular education	K – 6	101	102	1,382,940.00
Charter schools, special education	K – 6	28	35	1,290,947.00
Charter schools, regular education	7 – 12	54	57	772,819.00
Charter schools, special education	7 – 12	18	19	700,799.00
Special Education schools	K – 12	16	16	766,218.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>472</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>\$9,145,394.00</b>

Changes in individual tuition enrollments in the categories of receiving schools can be seen by comparing enrollments from December 31, 2023 to March 31, 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 March 31, 2024. Parentheses indicate changes from the December 31, 2023, summary.

**Duquesne City School District  
2023-2024 Staffing Summary  
March 31, 2024**

<b>DCSD Staffing Summary</b>			
Professional staff (+1)	49	Administrators	7.5
Instructional support staff (-4.5)	13.5	Coordinators and supervisors	4
Other support staff	14.5	Confidential exempt staff (+1)	3

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

Following the resignation of one teacher, one non-classroom teacher and one teacher were reassigned.

Following the resignation of one Paraprofessional and the retirement of two Paraprofessionals, one part-time Cafeteria / Recess Monitor was hired for the remainder of the 2023 – 2024 school year. There are no vacancies due to the current needs of the District.

Following the resignation of one Personal Care Assistant, no current vacancies exist due to the current needs of the District.

Under Verizon Grant Funds, one new Technology Instructional Coach / Coordinator position is being created for the 2024 – 2025; 2025 – 2026 school years.

In conclusion, the District is fully staffed as of the final date of the third quarter.

## **26. Board Policies and Administrative Regulations**

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

### **Board Policy**

200 Enrollment of Students  
202 Eligibility of Nonresident Students  
217 Graduation  
222 Tobacco and Vaping Use  
254 Educational Opportunity for Military Children (new)  
304.1 Advanced Step Placement for Professional Employees (new)  
323 Tobacco and Vaping Use  
601.1 Debt Policy (new)  
610 Purchases Subject to Bid / quotation  
810 Transportation  
815 Acceptable Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources  
819 Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response  
829 Whistleblower (new)

### **Administrative Regulation**

200-AR-0 Enrollment of Students (new)  
202-AR-0 Nonresident Students (new)  
217-AR-0 Graduation / Commencement (new)  
236-AR-0 Student Assistance Program  
304.1-AR-0 Advanced Step Placement for Professional Employees (new)  
626-AR-2 Procurement: Federal Programs  
626-AR-5 Time and Effort Procedures (new)  
626-AR-7 Handbook for Non-Public Programs (new)  
815-AR-0 User Agreement  
815-AR-2 Request to Adjust Internet Blocking / Filtering (new)  
815-AR-3 Request to Temporarily Adjust Internet Blocking / Filtering – Staff (new)  
815-AR-4 Request to Temporarily Adjust Internet Blocking / Filtering for Non-Prohibited Materials – Staff (new)  
815-AR-5 Use of Internet, Computers and Network Resources (new)  
829-AR-0 Employee Policy Acknowledgement Form (new)

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

### **A. Maintenance**

The bleacher inspection of the Duquesne K – 8 School gymnasium failed due to not having Aisle Access egress. Additional concerns were brought to the District’s attention and



suggestions of repairs to extend the useful life of the bleachers were made as well as suggestions for replacement.

Data lines were installed within three classrooms to complement existing phone lines which were not operating properly.

The Fire Panel, Pull Station and a smoke head malfunctions were addressed and corrected by Certa Safe.

The McClure Group performed semi-annual HVAC and boiler services.

Kroff Chemical tested and treated water to ensure corrosion would not occur in our boiler and hot water heaters.

To strengthen the integrity of a third floor wall, wood wainscoting was installed in a section prone to needing repairs.

Annual State inspection of the District's truck was performed.

Wall mats donated from Jefferson Hills School District were received and are being installed in the former faculty lounge.

The District's kitchen had multiple minor issues addressed. A second garbage disposal was replaced by Legend Plumbing. A hot water valve was replaced on a sink and the dumbwaiter is currently undergoing repairs.

Kinner Electric installed a marquee donated by the City of Duquesne. The installation was inspected to ensure the proper setup and functionality of the unit. The marquee is in perfect condition.

The District received quotes to remove clean fill from the stadium properly as well as quotes to have the property re-fenced.

The District is currently obtaining quotes for elevator service agreements.

The Belle Voci choir requested and were granted use of the K – 8 School auditorium. They performed a free concert which was open to the Duquesne community.

The District granted a request from Steel Center to borrow a walkthrough metal detector for the remainder of the school year or until they are able to obtain their own.

## **B. School Safety & Security**

Grades K-2 participated in the Rocket Rules safety program in early February. The program consisted of an interactive presentation virtually conducted for each grade and included a local enforcement officer as the guest speaker.

New processes have been applied to student arrival to include full content bag checks, improvements to student phone check-in and distribution of Yondr pouches after a metal detector gateway check.

In accordance with new guidance released by the PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) plan for critical emergency response incidents is in place. A partnership with the "I Love You Man Foundation " has provided the guidance to incorporate this new SRP across all school districts in the Commonwealth. In this way, school districts are able to share a common language.

PCCD amended Act 18 of 2019 to include a requirement for a threat assessment team for all school entities in Pennsylvania. The threat assessment team has been assembled and the initial training was completed during the month of March and was provided by the AIU Director of Security. Threat Assessment training will continue for the team as well as for the rest of the staff on an annual basis as required.

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

Safety and Security meetings have been held on a monthly basis. Participation has been over 80%.

New security stations have been installed on level three and level seven entrance locations. The locations provide better private security as well as lockable storage for the security team. Both locations have increased security awareness with staff, students, and visitors. The security stations will also house emergency response equipment for rapid deployment in case of a building evacuation.

Security has implemented student lunchtime passes for restroom use. A two-student at a time rule has been applied to all of Cafeteria B students. The rule has assisted in reducing large restroom gatherings of students during those periods. Cafeteria A still benefits from directly connected restrooms for the students.

Security is creating reports for communicating safety, security, and student discipline information to both "SAP" and the "Threat Assessment Team" to assist in the long-term maintenance and connectivity of information within student records.

## **28. Governance and Administration**

Dr. Sue A. Mariani, Chief School Administrator, is supervised by Dr. William H. Kerr, who was reappointed 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 three Receiver Business Meetings during the Third Quarter: January 23, February 27, and March 26.

School Board members in attendance at Receiver Business Meetings: January (9); February (9); and March (7).

## **29. Next Report**

The next Quarterly Progress Report will cover the Fourth Quarter of Fiscal Year 2023 – 2024, April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024. That report is expected to be filed in July 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 Director
- Brandon Irdi, Act 44 Safety and Security Coordinator
- Crystal Irdi, AAS, Human Resources Assistant / Board Secretary / Open Records Office