



OFFICE OF THE RECEIVER

**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD Q4 2022-2023**

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. The Fourth Amendment is designed with visionary, strategic, and operational goals and objectives for continuous school improvement and sustainability – academically and financially – now and in the future.

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 Q4-2022-2023 – April 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023** – is provided herein.

2. School District Benefits of Receivership

Receivership of the School District was a result of fiscal instability and poor academic performance, taking into account 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 and expeditious 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 and considered a work in progress 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.

3. Executive Summary

The Receiver, Superintendent, and Business Manager continue to be in regular communication through Zoom meetings, emails, text messages, and weekly in-person meetings. Concerted efforts for continuous school improvement of curriculum, instruction, and assessment are an integral part of the Duquesne City delivery system for educational programs and services based on collaborative and professional working relationships among the administration, faculty, and support 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 Q4-2022-2023 Highlights

- The Health and Safety Re-opening Plan for 2022-2023, submitted to the Department of Education, followed CDC guidelines accordingly. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, expired on May 11, 2023.
- Under the ESSER Stakeholder Engagement / Consultation Reports, the Superintendent of Schools provided regular Advisory Committee meeting updates.
- PDE officially approved the school name change from Duquesne Elementary School to Duquesne K - 8 School, beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.
- 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 2022-2023 Pre-K Counts program is operated and staffed by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and granted 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 2022-2023 Head Start program is operated by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and promotes the 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 June 8, 2023, Duquesne K - 8 student enrollment was 458, including 61 ELL students.
- Current secondary enrollment of Duquesne resident students at West Mifflin and East Allegheny is 237.
- Annual tuition to be paid by Duquesne for students attending schools elsewhere in 2022 - 2023 is projected to be \$8,781,397.
- Current charter school enrollment K - 12 is 206.

- Every fiscal quarter since 2013-2014, including the current Fourth Quarter, 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 Receiver Advisory Committee, as prescribed by Act 141 of 2012 – Section 654-A, was re-established for 2022 - 2023. Quarterly meetings were held on October 11, January 10, April 11 and June 13, 2023. 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 Receiver Business Meeting on June 13, 2023 was recessed for a duly advertised special meeting of the Duquesne City Board of School Directors to set the 2023-2024 tax levy for the Final General Fund Budget. The \$22,256,893 Budget, as approved by the Receiver, reflects a one mil tax increase approved by the elected Board of Directors, 6-1. The new millage rate is 19.48, with a discount of 1.62 mills due to the State Property Tax Reduction Act, with a net effective millage rate of 17.8645.
- The Education Advisory Committee was held on June 8, 2023 with representatives from Duquesne, East Allegheny, and West Mifflin School Districts, PDE, PFM, state legislators, and Allegheny Intermediate Unit. Presentation topics included Duquesne Financials by PFM; Programmatic Updates by Duquesne; West Mifflin 9th Grade Transition Academy; Programmatic Updates by East Allegheny and West Mifflin; and Impacts of Annual Tuition Calculation Rates provided by Duquesne to East Allegheny and West Mifflin.
- The Quarterly Receiver / CRO and Financial Advisors PDE meeting was held virtually on June 27, 2023. Topics included: Right to Know; Federal Programs Update; Supporting Districts for Digital SAT Suite of Assessments; and Changing the Invitation to AP Relevancy. Receivers, CRO's and Financial Recovery Partners offered updates. A copy of the new Financial Recovery Manual was distributed along with respective topic handouts and power point slides.

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.

5. Regular Education – Student Enrollment

Recent historic and current DES enrollments are displayed on the following table.

**Duquesne K - 8 School
Student Enrollment
June 30, 2023**

Grade	Pre-K	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Sept 2020	13	54	61	51	47	55	52	42	-	-	375
Dec 2020	12	51	54	46	43	53	51	39	-	-	349
March 2021	12	51	55	47	43	52	53	40	-	-	353
June 2021	13	51	57	48	44	53	53	41	-	-	360
Sept 2021	15	54	54	58	49	46	51	55	43	-	425
Dec 2021	14	49	51	57	48	43	49	52	45	-	408
Mar 2022	16	51	54	61	48	44	51	55	48	-	428
June 2022	16	55	56	66	50	45	53	57	48	-	445
Sept 2022	AIU	47	52	50	58	45	46	52	58	41	451
Dec 2022	AIU	53	55	50	57	45	45	51	58	43	457
Mar 2023	AIU	56	55	50	56	46	43	47	61	44	458
June 2023	AIU	57	57	48	54	48	43	47	58	46	458

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

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

**Duquesne K - 8 School
Regular Education Sections, Class Size, and ESL Enrollment
June 30, 2023**

Grade	Sections (Classroom Size)	Enrollment	ESL Enrollment
Kindergarten	3 (19.0)	57	6
First Grade	3 (19.0)	57	6
Second Grade	2 (24.0)	48	5
Third Grade	3 (18.0)	54	6
Fourth Grade	2 (24.0)	48	10
Fifth Grade	2 (21.5)	43	6
Sixth Grade	3 (15.6)	47	7
Seventh Grade	3 (19.3)	58	9
Eighth Grade	3 (15.3)	46	6
TOTALS	24	458	61

7. Average Student Attendance

The following chart reflects two years of attendance, including attendance in the virtual instructional model as indicated by * which indicates remote learning due to health-related issues of students and staff.

**Duquesne City School District
Average Student Attendance
2021 - 2022 and 2022 - 2023**

2021-2022 Month	Day Count	Avg. Monthly % Present	Avg. % Absent Count	Avg. Excused Count	Avg. Unexcused Count	Avg. Unlawful Count
Sep	18	92.23%	7.77%	12.94	5.33	0
Oct	20	91.48%	8.52%	10.77	8.5	0
Nov	22	91.33%	8.67%	6.47	13.04	0
Dec	23	92.59%	7.41%	4.21	12.23	0
Jan	*21	86.88%	13.12%	6.63	22.66	0
Feb	23	89.24%	10.76%	6.12	17.55	0
Mar	23	88.02%	11.98%	6.32	19.42	0
Apr	19	84.08%	15.92%	11.81	21.31	0
May	21	85.39%	14.61%	8.16	22.23	0
Jun	11	75.97%	24.03%	8.36	41.63	0
Total	182	87.63%	12.37%	8.96	18.14	0

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%	3.71%	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

8. Significant Changes

Q4-2022-2023 student enrollment was 458, noting no student withdrawals since Q3. There were several students that moved in and/or out of the School District as seen in the student enrollment per grade level. The ESL enrollment for Q4 was 61 students.

Due to the Pre-K Counts program now being administrated by the AIU, Pre-K Counts student data is not included in the School District's student enrollment section of this report.

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 – 6 students enrolled (Grades PK - 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.

The School District continues to engage with Schools in Communities / 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 6th-8th grade students to provide socio-emotional enrichment and other support services.

10. State Monitoring

The Special Education Cyclical Audit was conducted by the PA Department of Education on April 4, 2023. (See 14.C – Special Education)

11. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

A. Curricular Highlights and Professional Development

Duquesne teachers in grades K-3 have built explicit phonics instruction into their reading block in order to effectively teach students how to decode words and read fluently. Students continue to use the program Sounds to Spelling to support early primary students' foundational reading skills. This year, the School District added a Primary Writing program for grades K-3 that scaffolds writing development with explicit instruction at each writing level. Teachers have used both of these programs in conjunction with their core reading program and classroom libraries, ARC. All teachers in K-3 have completed 40 hours of Science of Reading training to assist in their reading instruction. Grades 4-8 are continuing to use iLit in conjunction with District created common assessments and materials from the Standards Aligned System to teach ELA content across the

District. Teachers in grades 4-8 will receive Science of Reading training in the fall of the 2023-2024 school year.

Grades K-8 continue to use READY math for core math instruction. Teachers have provided feedback to the Curriculum Director that will allow for adjusted pacing and the alignment of assessments to ensure continuity of mathematical skills across grade levels.

All grade levels continue to use iReady for remediation and enrichment in the area of reading and math. Students take a benchmark and District created common assessments three times a year (September, January, and May) to monitor academic progress and measure growth.

A group of 10 science teachers from across grade levels have worked with a cohort of educators from various districts under the PA Smart Grant to receive professional development and modeling of science instruction using the new science standards. Professional development opportunities for this cohort continue into the summer of 2023 as well as into the 2023-2024 school year.

The School District has begun a deep dive for teachers with personalized learning as Duquesne moves forward with academic excellence and tailoring instruction to what our students specifically need. Through the generosity of the Moonshot grant through Remake Learning, the Administration has contracted with nine different outside providers who are able to provide instructional enrichment programs at each grade level. While the students are working with providers, teachers are engaged in professional learning with District Administration specifically around personalized learning and using student data to drive students' instructional pathways.

In addition to the focused PD twice a month through the Moonshot grant provided by Remake Learning, teachers continue to engage in weekly Professional Learning Communities (PLC's), meeting vertically across grade levels and across content areas. Data includes benchmark assessments, daily exit tickets, anecdotal notes, as well as proficiency data from online programming. Curriculum sites are being utilized weekly to unpack standards, align pacing, and develop lesson plans. The sites include curriculum maps, pacing guides, common assessments, and data trackers for ELA, Math, and Science for curriculum and instructional purposes. Curriculum sites continue to be refined and adjusted as the School District moves forward with personalized learning.

B. Career Development / World of World

The 2022-2023 “The World of Work” program, in cooperation with the Western PA Learning 2025 Alliance, AASA and the Grable Foundation, Pittsburgh, provides students with connections to real world work experiences. Since the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, “World of Work” involved teachers and students in grades 2-5 at Duquesne City, Elizabeth Forward, Avonworth and South Fayette School Districts. A Career Interest Survey, referred to as RIASEC, categorizes six themes which include Realistic (doers), Investigative (thinkers), Artistic (creators), Social (helpers), Enterprising (persuaders) and Conventional (organizers).

Throughout summer 2023, “World of Work” continues to build capacity in the School District and the Pittsburgh region. After the first pilot year ended, teachers at Duquesne City School District in grades first through fifth have been equipped with the common language and understanding of RIASEC, its impact, and implementation ideas for respective classroom settings. Professional development was offered for teachers in the four participating school districts, noting that sixty (60) teachers attended two-day professional development sessions at Avonworth Area School

District. Understanding RIASEC, building a common language in one's own capacity, providing teachers with resources used for implementation and ensuring curriculum connections for respective grade levels were the main focus areas. Ten (10) Duquesne K-8 staff members participated in the summer institute, including administrators to help support teacher questions and individual needs.

As the second implementation year approaches, the "World of Work" framework will expand to all teachers in grades second through fifth grade at Duquesne City. Teachers will be expected to build on the common language of RIASEC with their students during those first few weeks of school and throughout 2023-2024. The School District places an emphasis on building student-teacher relationships, consistent with the high expectations of RIASEC implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Allowing teachers and students to understand their RIASEC themes and make connections with one another will set the stage for the career exploration throughout the implementation RIASEC processes.

Duquesne's leadership in partnership with the other three school districts was demonstrated at the June (2023) AASA Learning 2025 Conference, Washington, D.C. Educators from across the country learned about the "PGH-World of Work" story along with a deep dive into RIASEC. Summer sessions, of which there will be three, have been initiated by the four school districts with administrators collaborating with other Pittsburgh regional school districts as they begin to think of their own district's RIASEC implementation process.

C. Assessment

Kindergarten through 3rd grade teachers completed Science of Reading training during the second semester. Teachers concentrated on learning and understanding explicit and intensive phonics instruction to aid in the development of our young readers. Duquesne teachers in grades K-3 are continuing to use the 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 and professional development opportunities have allowed DCSD to put an emphasis on early literacy learning building a solid foundation for future learning.

Grades K-8 continue to use READY math for core math instruction. READY allows teachers to be able to assign lessons that support the grade level standards and mirror instructional content taught in class for independent practice and remediation. A large focus during this academic year was closing gaps in student knowledge from the pandemic and inconsistencies in instruction.

Teachers in grades 4-8 participated in a summer professional development institute at Fox Chapel with a focus on the new Science standards and science instruction. Professional development will continue for these teachers in the fall as the School District continues to modify the science curriculum.

PSSA data released in June 2023 shows that the district continues to make steady progress in ELA proficiency while Math scores exhibit a need for substantial improvement and work in our teaching and learning strategies.

ELA	3rd grade	4th grade	5th grade	6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
Advanced	0	2%	0	2%	0	4%
Proficient	21%	16%	16%	21%	16%	13%
Basic	35%	30%	37%	5%	60%	37%
Below Basic	44%	50%	47%	24%	24%	46%

Math	3rd grade	4th grade	5th grade	6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
Advanced	2%	0	0%	0	0	0
Proficient	6%	7%	2%	0	5%	2%
Basic	23%	15%	10%	16%	12%	5%
Below Basic	69%	78%	88%	84%	83%	93%

Science	4th grade	8th grade
Advanced	2%	0
Proficient	22%	29%
Basic	33%	20%
Below Basic	43%	51%

2022-2023 PVAAS data released shows adequate yearly growth in all grade levels in the area of English Language Art. Math and Science data shows that DCSD did not meet adequate growth measure as an average across grade levels. Based on PSSA results that were released in the summer of 2022, DCSD anticipated this PVAAS growth and made substantial changes to instructional programming and teaching assignments to ensure students achievement and growth moving forward.

Subject	← Year	← Grade	Growth Color Indicator
PSSA Math - 4-8	2022	4	Well Below
		5	Meets
		6	Well Below
		7	Well Above
		Across Grades	Well Below
PSSA English Language Arts - 4-8	2022	4	Meets
		5	Above
		6	Meets
		7	Meets
		Across Grades	Meets
PSSA Science - 4,8	2022	4	Below

12. Professional Development (YTD)

The School District administration continues to participate in professional development sessions through the University of Virginia (UVA) Partners in Educational Leadership Program (PELP.) Tonya Kales, representing UVA-PELP, provided motivational and interactive activities for Duquesne educators about “Organizational Design” as part of teacher in-service training, August 22-26, 2022. UVA representatives met with the Duquesne Leadership Team on September 20th for additional “Organizational Design” planning and implementation. The Duquesne principal and assistant principal attended UVA professional development sessions on January 9-11, 2023 in Oklahoma City. Plans are being finalized for UVA professional development sessions for 2023-2024, including on-going Instructional Leadership Team Support and Coaching and Accelerate Executive Education and Support.

The Assistant School Principal continues to facilitate an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee comprised of school district staff, consistent with Duquesne’s Educational Equity Board Policies and the new PDE program of Equity, Diversity, and Belonging. Educators participate in staff development training. Michael Jones, Director of DEI, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, is assisting with organization-wide DEI design and implementation.

The Superintendent of Schools continues to participate in professional development opportunities through the Western PA Learning 2025 Alliance sponsored by the AASA in cooperation with the Grable Foundation, Pittsburgh.

13. Technology, Digital Learning, and Innovation

Device collection has been a recent priority. The Director of Technology completed an administrative inventory and data comparison for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. A noticeable improvement in all categories occurred among repair / salvageable and beyond repair / unsalvageable. Strategies that led to this improvement included the implementation and strict adherence to a Technology Help Request policy. All technology requests and device exchanges were facilitated through the Technology Director. A new Mobile Device Management system provides for location tracking of school district issued devices. The system has the capability of locking devices so they are unusable and can track devices to specific locations in / out of the building. Using a new Chromebook vendor, Trafera, proved to be beneficial which has a three year door-to-door warranty. This extended warranty was used to repair thirty-five (35) devices and keep them in rotation. During June and July, updating devices is a priority to ensure the technology devices are ready for the 2023-2024 school year.

In addition to device collection, the creation of a District Technology Committee was announced to the staff and there are currently four (4) interested teachers. The mission of the Technology Committee is to review, modify, create, and support District instructional technology plans and procedures. The goals of the Technology Committee include:

- Examine technology-related procedures on a continual basis to address the needs of instruction.
- Recommend technology-related procedures on a continual basis to address the needs of instruction.
- Meet once a quarter to collaborate on determining the technology needs of the District.

- Provide feedback on recommendations and / or solutions to the Director of Technology concerning the implementation and use of existing and emerging technologies.
- Encourage and support innovative technology use and practices to all school district employees.
- Assess the technology needs and concerns of staff through the development and implementation of feedback surveys, individual staff feedback, student feedback, and parent feedback.
- Explore and recommend the implementation of emerging technologies.
- Supply input for professional development needs of the school district.
- Encourage and support professional development and training for all employees.
- Utilize research-based best practices in all work related to instructional technology.

14. Special Education Services

A. Special Education

Pamela Zackel has been hired as the School District's Special Education Director as of July 1, 2023. She will oversee the district's special education program and work with the administration and special education staff to ensure compliance with regulations and appropriate delivery of services for special education students. At the end of the Fourth Quarter, DCSD had a total of 137 special education students who are being supported: in-district (113), out-of-district (19) and Duquesne Cyber Academy (5). Fifteen (15) 8th grade special education students will transition to West Mifflin or East Allegheny High Schools. The District has seven (7) students identified from Early Intervention that will continue special education services in Kindergarten for 2023-2024.

B. Student Enrichment Programs

The Extended School Year programs are underway. Of the thirty-three (33) students who were eligible for services, the school district is providing ESY to eight (8) students and seven (7) students are receiving services at alternative placements this summer. ESY is not mandatory so other parents opted out of the program. Special Education students were eligible to participate in all enrichment programs that were offered by the School District to regular education students during the Fourth Quarter.

C. State Monitoring

Tyann Neal, BSE, and peer monitors were on site April 4th to conduct a cyclical monitoring audit of special education services. The school district received the results and met with Ms. Neal and representatives from PaTTAN and AIU3 to review the corrective action plan. Improvement Plans are being developed in the areas of Least Restrictive Environment and Participation in PSSA / PASA. Any student file that was out of compliance was updated throughout 2022-2023 and will continue to be reviewed throughout the new school year. The school district will review files requested by PDE to show educational benefits in the First Quarter of the 2023-2024 school year.

Areas Out of Compliance – Follow Up

- **Child Find**
District needs to update Special Education Notices for the 2023-2024 school year on website and handbooks
- **Exclusions: Suspensions and Expulsions**
District has already updated procedures and compliance in this area. Past practices were not in compliance
- **Caseload Age and Requirements**
District increased special education teachers by 1 in April 2023 and all caseloads are now in compliance
- **Parent Training**
Plans are in development to reestablish parent trainings for the 2023-2024 school year
- **Personnel Training**
Training was increased during the 2022-2023 school year and will continue to address all areas annually. The AIU has developed “boot camp” training this summer for special education staff. Trainings and consultations will continue throughout the new school year

D. Gifted Education

Duquesne K - 8 has one identified gifted student and the Administration is currently working on a plan for professional development for the next school year to train teachers for identifying students who may be gifted in their classrooms. A drafted gifted education plan has been developed for the Comprehensive School Plan which is being completed.

E. PASA Testing

PASA testing was completed for all students. Pamela Zackel will be the new PASA Assessment Coordinator for the School District for the 2023-2024 school year.

F. Professional Development

The Special Education Consultant conducted monthly department meetings with special education staff. The Special Education Consultant worked as part of a team for comprehensive support for the school district around services with PaTTAN and AIU consultants. The AIU professional development consultants developed training for special education staff to be implemented this summer and throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

15. Student Services

A. IST / DSAP Q4 Data

IST		DSAP	*
Total Students Referred	3	Total Students Referred	5
Referrals Reopened	0	Referrals Reopened	0

IST		DSAP	*
Cases Closed	29	Cases Closed	31
Cases Active	0	Cases Active	9

*Includes McKinney-Vento Data

B. McKinney-Vento Summary

School district personnel transported all accounted for McKinney-Vento families daily to and from school. 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.

16. Mental Health and Behavior Support Services

The Mental Health and Behavior Support Team continues to work to support the significant needs of the students in the school district, noting many accomplishments for 2022-2023. The Coordinator continues to foster a positive relationship with Youth Empowerment Services (YES), a local organization committed to ending community violence. Several students will attend the Violence Prevention Summit on July 13 where they will participate in a variety of sessions that address issues related to violence in our local communities, including participation in an evening boat ride on the Gateway Clipper. A larger ecosystem of supportive organizations is being established as an outgrowth of the Summit, including a partnership to provide students other interactive opportunities during 2023-2024.

The school district is one of the recipients of the SEEKS grant, funded by the Allegheny Health Network. This grant awarded \$585,000 to support the Social and Emotional needs of students. Partnering with the Pressley Ridge BEST program will help further devise and implement a robust emotional support program for 2023-2024. Building on the successful K-2 Emotional Support pilot classroom, Pressley Ridge will implement a comprehensive K-8 Emotional Support Program. Duquesne will also partner with Auberle to provide direct services to students through their SNAP program. The school district will provide targeted staff professional development opportunities including, but not limited to, classroom management, PBIS, crisis intervention training, trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, a digital hall monitoring system, and Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) training.

The Mobile Chill RV school visitation program was highly successful this past school year and was available for the Duke Showcase for parents / guardians and the community to learn first-hand about the Mobile Chill Project. The PBIS team held the student reward centers for middle school students whereby middle school students “purchased” their choice reward from a basketball game, movie, or designated time for electronic device use. The SNACKS cart continued to be provided for staff and students, giving Life Skills Students an opportunity to practice real-life skills by taking and completing orders.

The PBIS team will participate in four (4) summer workshops to strengthen the PBIS team, create lesson plans, and plan for staff in-service training. The UPMC Community Program Specialist met with the Coordinator to discuss school programs and wellness needs for 2023-2024. Staff will continue mindfulness activities through professional learning activities, use of individual mindfulness kits and other activities for mental health and behavior support for students.

The DSAP / IST team finished the year reviewing the students who received services this year and created a list to ensure that the most high-risk students are supported from the start of the next school year. The 4092s were submitted to the state for the year and no errors were detected. The Watson Music Therapist completed his first year of a two-year grant. The therapist will return next year to continue to provide music therapy to students. An Emotional Support Boot Camp is a two-day training program for emotional support teachers and behavior specialists to learn skills, tools, and techniques necessary for an effective emotional support classroom. This training will provide a strong foundation to build on throughout the school year.

The Mid-Atlantic Education Consortium (MAEC) will work with Duquesne to enhance parent engagement using an equity lens. Staff currently use the Ready4K messaging system with families, noting text messages maintain contact with families and provide information, fun facts, and engagement ideas for parents and their children. The school nurse is working with the Allegheny County Department of Health to ensure that children immunization schedules are followed accordingly for student health needs and to meet mandated compliances. The school nurse partners with the Ronald McDonald Van and Smile Dentistry throughout the summer to ensure that families are offered available health-related student services.

A Resolution **Preventing School Violence and Increasing Social, Emotional and Mental Health Support**, was approved at the January 24, 2023 Receiver Business Meeting. Evidence Based Intervention Strategies in the area of social, emotional and mental health are critical preventive measures to reduce school violence and to create greater psychological safety for all students and staff. The Board of School Directors supports the Superintendent's leadership role and involvement in **the Duquesne City School District and City of Duquesne Joint Safety Task Force** to address the reduction of gun violence and to support mental health services through an action plan for the greater Duquesne community.

17. Other Significant Activities (YTD)

Duquesne City students participated in a regional FIRST Lego League competition. Teams consisted of school districts and outside club teams. FIRST Lego League consists of four (4) components: Core Values, Innovation Project, Robot Design, and Robot Table Game. This season the theme was Super Powered and Duquesne's Robot Table Game involved moving and collecting energy units to "power" machines and factories using coding. Duquesne students, with a team name of Duke Decoders, built a robot out of Lego's to complete missions on the Robot Table Game. This was Duquesne's first time competing as an official FLL team. The Western PA FLL Grand Championship was held in December at the Aliquippa Area School District. The Duke Decoders were awarded 1st Place in Core Values. Core Values are traits students displayed throughout the FLL season. The Core Values are: Discovery, Innovation, Impact, Inclusion, and Teamwork.

The AIU recently celebrated **Computer Science Education Week** by announcing the winners of its first-ever statewide **Hour of Code PA Challenge**, which ran throughout November. The virtual event was a joint initiative of Pennsylvania Code.org Regional Partners and certified course facilitators of Carnegie Mellon University's Computer Science Academy from Allegheny and Montgomery County Intermediate Units. The challenge was designed to encourage educators and students in grades 6-8 and 9-12 to experience computer science and coding, with no prior experience needed. Winning schools received stipends funded by a **PAsmart grant** to support computer science education. Duquesne City School District 6-8 students earned 2nd Place.

The Second Annual Community Resource Fair was held on November 10, 2022 from 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM. This event brought a myriad of resources from the Allegheny County region to Duquesne for awareness of programs and services for parents / guardians, families, and the community. There were 48 resource organizations present. In addition to the Resource Fair, and in conjunction with the Allegheny County Health Department, a Job Fair was an integral part of the day's activities. There were 15 businesses that offered on-the-spot job interviews and information about application processes. The Resource Fair was held during Parent - Teacher Conference Day and in conjunction with the Duquesne K-8 Parent Engagement Team and Kidsburg.

Thanks to another grant from Kidsburgh, the School District hosted a Resource and Job Fair on May 30. The District promoted a "Duke Showcase" where parents, community members and other friends from the Pittsburgh region were invited to witness teaching and learning experiences – aligned to the State Standards – taking place at Duquesne K-8 School.

The Kindergarten Promotion Ceremony was held on June 6, 2023. In front of a packed house of parents / guardians and families, the students sang a selection of songs. Respective Kindergarten teachers presented students with a certificate and were acknowledged by the building principal. Several elected School Board members were in attendance for the festivities.

The 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony was held on June 7, 2023, the first one in eleven years. In front of a packed house of parents / guardians and families, students were presented a certificate from respective 8th grade teachers and personal acknowledgments by the building principal and assistant principal. Christopher Parrish and Jamier Mosset, student leaders, were the hosts of the promotion ceremony. Devonate Butler, a motivational speaker, gave a keynote speech about the importance of loving yourself, your family and staying in school.

The Superintendent held a professional development 2023 Summer Retreat for Duquesne administrators. The first two professional development days focused on creating an instructional model and what to look for while observing classroom instruction. It was a heavy cognitive lift for the administrators, but important in the work towards personalized learning. On the third day, the administrative team was part of a cross-district collaborative professional development with the Franklin Regional School District. This session convened at St. Vincent College, Fred Rogers Center, with Gregg Behr, Executive Director of the Grable Foundation and co-author of "When You Wonder, You're Learning." He facilitated a session on administrative practices using the "Fred Method." Dr. Bart Rocco, Grable Foundation Fellow and Tri-State Study Council Director, led a panel discussion with members of each administrative team around best practices in leadership.

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 the 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 a 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 2022-2023, 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**” was unveiled as the new marketing brand to promote a flexible, online cyber education option for parents and families.

19. Financial Recovery Plan (YTD)

The Financial Recovery Act 141 of 2012, Fourth Amendment, was approved for the Duquesne City School District by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and final approval granted by the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas on November 16, 2020. The Fourth Amendment is designed with visionary, strategic, and operational goals and objectives for sustainability and for continuous school improvement – academically and financially – now and in the future.

A 2022-2023 Board Resolution by the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, titled **Advocating a Change in the Established State Tuition, Act 141, 24 P.S. Education § 16-1607 (b) (4) Formula**, remains a priority goal. Duquesne continues to face a structural deficit for a variety of reasons. One factor impacting growth is the consistently high annual rise in the statutory tuition rate paid for secondary-level students attending East Allegheny and West Mifflin Area School Districts. As outlined in section 1607 of the School Code, secondary tuition rates increase annually by the greater of the increase in budgeted revenues or the District’s Adjusted Act 1 Index, noting the seriousness of the long-term financial effects. The Resolution was distributed to state legislators representing Duquesne City, East Allegheny, and West Mifflin Area School Districts. Duquesne officials plan to meet with the local state legislators to address the ever-increasing student tuition costs.

A 2022-2023 Board Resolution by the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, titled **A Resolution for Sound Fiscal Management and Accountability** was approved at the October 25, 2022 Receiver Business Meeting. The purpose of the Resolution is to reinforce the School District’s plan for a new 5-year financial projection of revenues, expenditures, and debt service; and further, to study the impactful nature of ESSER funding to ensure valuable financial projections, analysis, and discussions among Duquesne City School District stakeholders. The intent is to provide a clear message for financial sustainability, transparency, shared responsibility, and accountability, including updates of projections as part of the Annual Budget planning and approval process.

In addition to previously awarded CARES Act grants of \$496,700 (ESSER, net of nonpublic share) and \$151,690 (PCCD), the District will receive approximately \$2,381,000 in additional funds through “ESSER II” as a result of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act) passed in December of 2020 and approximately \$4,822,000 via “ESSER III” authorized under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP Act) of 2021. These funds will be implemented conservatively over a multi-year period through 2024 to maintain existing educational service levels, provide resources to ensure the health and safety of staff, and to address learning loss as a result of the pandemic. The budgeting and planning process for the use of these funds is complete, and both ESSER II and ESSER III grant applications have been approved by the Division of Federal Funds.

20. Budget and Finance (YTD)

The 2022-2023 Final General Fund Budget was implemented, effective July 1, 2022. The Budget includes Revenues of \$20,859,449 and Expenditures of \$20,643,092. The Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006) provides an additional \$96,000 (26% increase year-over-year), resulting in \$463,000 of total property tax relief for Duquesne City taxpayers. A millage increase to the Act 1 Index (18.48 mills) is offset by a millage reduction provided by the Property Tax Reduction Subsidy. The proposed net effect is a 1.1% real estate tax increase compared to 2021. The median assessed homestead property will pay \$3.33 more for the year.

As of the June 30, 2022 Annual Financial Report, there is no threatened or pending litigation against Duquesne City School District. Further, the School District is unaware of any other unasserted claims or assessments involving the School District.

The Audited Fund Balance ending June 30, 2022 was \$452,285 which included the 2021-2022 loss of \$564,796. The loss is due to overages in student transportation, reconciled real estate tax collection fees invoiced by the City of Duquesne, and Non-public and Cyber / Charter tuition costs. The school district continued to closely monitor the 2022-2023 fiscal results monthly to mitigate any future potential losses to the fund balance; and further, the Administration was actively engaged to keep future losses to a minimum.

A “Clean Audit” presentation at the February 28th Receiver Business Meeting to the Board of School Directors covered Audit Results, Fund Balance History, Financial Highlights, Revenue Highlights (Local Real Estate Taxes vs. State and Federal Contribution to Expenditures), and Expense Highlights (Salaries and Benefits; ESSER Funds; and East Allegheny, West Mifflin, and Charter School Tuition; and Debt Service).

The 2021-2022 Audit provided an unqualified opinion indicating the financial statements are presented fairly. There are no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, regarding internal controls over financial reporting. Further, there are no findings related to internal controls over federal awards.

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 Governor’s 2022-2023 Budget approved by the Legislature provided substantial support for public education, resulting in an overall 7.79% increase for the Duquesne City School District, as follows:

Basic Subsidy Funding	\$13,157,521
Level Up Funding	\$520,071.61
Special Education Subsidy	\$893,183
Additional Target Grants	(Two-year phase-in)
Safety and Security Funding	\$113,492
Mental Health Services	\$113,493

Due to exit criterion in the Financial Recovery Plan (Fourth Amendment), Duquesne did not participate in the 20-year bond financing of the Steel Center CTE building renovation project based on its pro-rated share of 0.92%. The school district decided to make a one-time cash payment

of \$269,305. Bond issue documents were signed by District officials and the one-time cash payment wired transfer was made on November 17th.

Public Financial Management has researched and developed a Secondary Tuition Rate Analysis of the state tuition formula used for Duquesne students who attend neighboring East Allegheny and West Mifflin secondary schools. Based on the present formula, the tuition rate increases each year by the District’s Adjusted Act 1 Index or the increase in the District’s budgeted revenues. Given the projected shortfalls in the District’s multi-year financial projections, these increases will not be sustainable in the long run when considering the District’s limited ability to raise revenues, which are largely driven by state subsidies and a low tax base. PFM’s financial projections show that alternative tuition rates will help stabilize Duquesne’s long-term financial position. The school district believes that a formula based on actual instructional costs is a better method than using the Act 1 Index formula. However, the change will require legislative approval and an action plan is under review.

The Receiver, Superintendent, and Business Manager met on December 9, 2022 with PFM to discuss an updated 5-year Baseline Financial Projections and Assumptions for the School District. On December 23rd, PFM distributed a preliminary draft of Model Assumptions and an accompanying summary of the data. During January and February, while the local auditing firm was finalizing the 2021-2022 Audit, additional financial information was shared with PFM for review and study.

The following illustrates the Governor’s proposed Education Budget presented on **March 7, 2023** as it applies to the Duquesne City School District.

Proposed 2023-2024 Education Budget	Increase by Amounts	Increase by Percentage
Basic Education	\$861,904	6.30%
Special Education	\$106,075	11.9%
Ready to Learn	\$202,807	-0-
Mental Health	\$109,726	-0-

The Duquesne team met with PFM on March 15 to review and discuss the updated 5-year Model Assumptions using the 2021-2022 Audit and the 2023-2024 proposed Governor’s Education Budget for Basic Education and Special Education. Revenue projections included local, state, and federal sources and Expenditures included personnel costs, Charter School tuition payments, West Mifflin / East Allegheny SD tuition payments, and operating expenditures. Adjustments were made to reflect the Pre-K Counts program transfer to the Allegheny Intermediate Unit and updates to the real estate collection percentages. Discussions continued in May with PFM regarding the Duquesne Model Assumptions which included a one-mil increase in preparation of 2023-2024 Proposed Final General Fund Budget which was presented by the District Business Manager at the May 9 Receiver Business Meeting.

During the June 13, 2023 Receiver Business Meeting, the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, approved the 2023-2024 Final General Fund Budget and the Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution. The Receiver Business Meeting was recessed for a duly advertised special meeting of the Duquesne City Board of School Directors to set the 2023-2024 tax levy for the Final General Fund Budget. The \$22,256,893 Budget reflects a one mil tax increase approved by the elected Board of Directors, 6-1. The new millage rate is 19.48, with a discount of 1.62 mils

due to the state Property Tax Reduction Act, with net effective millage rate of 17.8645. The median assessed homestead property will pay \$23.78 more for 2023-2023 or \$1.98 per month. The projected ending Fund Balance as of June 30, 2024 is \$1,926,045.

Steve Latanishen, PDE Office of Government Relations, and Sean Brandon, House of Representatives Appropriations Committee (D), facilitated a June 13, 2023 meeting to discuss the Duquesne City School District secondary tuition rates paid to East Allegheny and West Mifflin School Districts. PDE officials, legislative staff, and representatives of all three school districts attended. Discussion focused on possible changing calculation methods from the Adjusted Act 1 Index to Act 1 Index, including some draft language, and alternatives to consider with possible options. In addition to Duquesne's secondary tuition expenditures shared at the June 8 Education Advisory Committee meeting, East Allegheny and West Mifflin provided respective cost analyses of educating Duquesne secondary students.

The school district continues to negotiate with PA Sun Coach Lines, LLC, to consider a two-year contract for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 for pupil transportation services, rather than a 5-Year Agreement. Based on the uncertainty of budget considerations due to ESSER/ARP funds ending, District officials are attempting to take a conservative approach with a two-year pupil transportation service contract.

Following standard operating procedures, the Superintendent, Business Manager, and Receiver meet weekly to discuss budget and financial matters, including but not limited to: personnel and staffing; healthcare cost projections, General Fund Treasurer's Report (monthly beginning and ending cash flow, monthly / YTD revenues and expenditures); salary and benefit savings due to resignations or retirements during the 2022-2023 school year; grant accountability and compliances; Act 1 Index percentage increases; the tentative PFM 5-Year Financial Assumptions Model; and the Governor's proposed 2023-2024 Education Budget. As of now, the School District will tentatively receive an overall 8% increase for 2023-2024 in state funding as proposed by the Governor.

The School District requested that the Pennsylvania Department of Education consider options regarding the final Transitional Loan payment of \$665,000 scheduled for June, 2023. PDE offered a Loan Agreement Amendment for three amortized payments: June 30, 2023 / \$221,667; June 30, 2024 / \$221,667; and June 30, 2025 / \$221,666. The school district approved the Agreement Amendment at the September 2022 Receiver Business Meeting and on January 23, 2023 the District received the approved document with secured signatures from the Department of Education and other state agency officials. The June 2023 payment of \$221,667 was paid per the Agreement, as amended.

The School District signed a new three-year agreement, effective July 1, 2022, with Hosack, Specht, Muetzel, & Wood LLP for auditing services. The firm completed its field work for the 2021-2022 Audit in late November. Since the firm delayed its on-site field work, the School District requested an extension from PDE to file the ACFR no later than December 31, 2022, of which an extension was granted by PDE. The Business Manager, on behalf of the School District, filed the ACFR on December 12, 2022. The local Auditing Firm issued the 2021-2022 Audited Financial Statements and Auditor Opinion Letter to the school district. The Business Manager submitted the Audited Financial Statements to Digital Assurance Certification (DAC) Bond to meet compliances of SEC Rule 15c2-12.

Negotiations with the Duquesne Education Support Professionals Association concluded with a four-year Agreement (2021-2025) with retroactivity to July 1, 2021. The Agreement was ratified

by DESPA, approved by the Receiver, and appropriate signatures secured. The Agreement was approved retroactively at the Receiver Business Meeting on January 24, 2023. The Agreement increases wages by 3.66% during the term and employees will pay an additional \$15 - \$20/month co-pay for healthcare contributions.

Negotiations with the Duquesne Education Association concluded with a four-year Agreement (2022-2026) with retroactivity to July 1, 2022. The Agreement increases wages by 3.83% during the term and employees will pay an additional co-pay for healthcare contributions of \$30/month for individual coverage and \$70/month for all other coverages. The ratification vote by the DEA occurred on February 28, 2023 and afterwards, the school district ratified the Agreement that same evening at the Receiver Business Meeting.

Ms. Lori Graham, Deputy Secretary for Administration, extended an invitation to the school district to collaborate with PDE and the contracted services of Deloitte who is assisting with the creation of a monitoring tool and monitoring of sub-recipients that received ESSER I, ESSER II and ARP ESSER funds. The collaborative on-site monitoring included a review of ESSER grant programs, related processes / procedures, and to ensure compliance with 2 CFR 200 and Federal grant program rules and regulations. The monitoring team met August 1-3. From all indications, the Deloitte team was very satisfied with the cooperation and involvement of school district Administrators, noting there were no major identified monitoring concerns expressed during the exit interview.

The school district received a PDE ESSER Letter of Results notification from Deloitte on November 8th that included eight (8) Guidance Observations. The Receiver, Superintendent, Business Manager, and Business Consultant met internally and subsequently had a virtual meeting with the Deloitte management team for clarification of certain aspects regarding the report. The Administration had mixed feelings on the Results Letter. District officials appreciated Deloitte's guidance to mitigate issues, noting a few of the observations offered good points. However, officials collectively felt that most observations would not have been in the Results Letter had the Monitoring Team communicated with the Administration on open items and unresolved issues. The school district submitted the Sub-recipient responses on November 23rd.

The Superintendent signed official documents with the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission for the conveyance of a partial land acquisition of school district property on Commonwealth Avenue related to a state highway improvement project. Official retroactive action was approved at the December 6th Receiver Business meeting, noting that the school district was compensated \$6,750 for the partial property acquisition by the Turnpike Commission.

A significant financial challenge facing the District continues to be the rising costs of charter school tuition. Legislative remedies are needed that address accountability to control the quality and cost of these programs. Actual charter school rates, as calculated on the PDE-363 for FY 2021-2022 reflect federal ESSER funding revenue. The tuition rate for each non-special education charter school student for 2021-22 was \$15,194.67 (\$575 lower than the previous year) based on actual, calculated rates. For each special education student who attends a charter school, the student rate was \$38,936.38 (approximately \$300 more 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 24%, the formula incorrectly divides total special education expenditures by a smaller number of students than are actually enrolled at Duquesne.

The Division of Subsidy Administration corresponded with the school district on January 31st regarding Section 311 (d) of Special Session Act 1 of 2006. Section 311 (d) (4) requires a letter of notification that the rate for all proposed tax rates is less than or equal to the school district's index. The January 2023 approved Board Resolution stipulates that the school district may not increase any tax rate by more than the index when preparing the final budget required by Section 687 of the School Code. Additionally, the school district may neither submit referendum exceptions for 2023-2024 nor ask voters in May 2023 to increase tax rates in excess of the school district's index.

21. General Fund Balance Analysis

**Duquesne City School District
General Fund
Balance Analysis
June 30, 2022**

GF Balance Analysis June 30, 2022		
Non-spendable		
Pre-paid	\$137,121	-
Other	-	-
Total non-spendable	-	\$137,121
Restricted	-	-
Committed	-	-
Unassigned	-	\$315,164
Total fund balance as of June 30, 2021 (audited)	-	\$1,017,081
Surplus (deficit) for FY 2021-2022	-	(\$564,796)
Total fund balance as of June 30, 2022 (audited)	-	\$452,285

22. Bonds and Notes Payable

The Receiver, Superintendent, and Business Manager discussed the final Transitional Loan payment of \$665,000 due to the Department of Education in June, 2023. As cited under Section 20, Budget and Finance of this Report, the Department presented and approved a Transitional Loan Agreement Amendment for three amortized payments: June 30, 2023 - \$221,667; June 30, 2024 - \$221,667; and June 30, 2025 - \$221,666. The June 2023 payment of \$221,667 was paid per the Agreement, as amended.

A summary of bonds and notes payable is shown on the following table. Due to the restructuring of existing debt and the issuance of new debt, this table has been updated.

**Bonds and Notes
Payable
June 30, 2023**

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Bonds Payable	Notes Payable	Total Bonds and Notes Payable	Total Annual Debt Service
2012*	\$14,124,167	0	\$14,124,167	-
2013*	13,173,333	0	13,173,333	-
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	0	\$9,803,334	1,042,391

*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 District's long-term financial challenges for a variety of reasons.

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, 2023**

Receiving Schools	Grades	Students March 31	Students June 30	Projected 2022-2023 Tuition
West Mifflin Area School District	9 - 12	241	220	\$3,477,339
East Allegheny School District	9 - 12	17	17	268,892
Charter schools, regular education	K - 6	125	111	1,686,608
Charter schools, special education	K - 6	17	27	1,051,282

Receiving Schools	Grades	Students March 31	Students June 30	Projected 2022-2023 Tuition
Charter schools, regular education	7 - 12	57	49	744,539
Charter schools, special education	7 - 12	17	19	739,791
Special Education schools	K - 12	18	18	812,846
Other schools	K - 12	0	0	0
Totals		485	461	\$8,781,297

Changes in individual tuition enrollments in the categories of receiving schools during the Fourth Quarter can be seen by comparing enrollments from **March 31, 2023 to June 30, 2023** in the table above. Enrollment figures for East Allegheny and West Mifflin will be reconciled at the end of FY 2022 – 2023.

It should also be noted that 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.

In the case of secondary students, the tuition rate is determined by the greater of the annual increase in the District’s revenue budget or the District’s Adjusted Act 1 Index. Based on current estimates from the Commonwealth’s Independent Fiscal Office, the District’s Act 1 Index is expected to increase significantly over the next several years as shown in the table below.

Duquesne City School District, Act 1 Index, 2022-2023 — 2026-2027

2022-2023 Actual	2023-2024 Actual	2024-2025 Projected	2025-2026 Projected	2026-2027 Projected
5.6%	6.7%	8.2%	7.1%	6.6%

The annual tuition rate for DCSD students who attend school at West Mifflin Area and East Allegheny is \$15,817.15 for the 2022-2023 school year. Tuition was calculated by PDE and communicated to the District, with the District given an opportunity for comment. The tuition rate formula will continue to be an ever-growing financial burden for the District because it will never remain flat or decrease. As noted above, it will continue to grow by at least the District’s Adjusted Act 1 Index or the annual growth in the District’s revenue budget. When the Act 1 Index projected figures are taken from the Independent Fiscal Office, the District’s tuition rate is expected to be \$21,833 by the end of the 5-year period.

Secondary-level enrollment in East Allegheny and West Mifflin decreased in 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 due to the addition of 7th and 8th grade in the District. Noting that there are approximately 258 secondary students in grades 9-12 at East Allegheny and West Mifflin. Tuition costs for these students continue to increase each year. Raising taxes to the Act I Index still fails to cover one-half of the annual increase.

The school district is developing a strategy to address the annual percentage increases of tuition with East Allegheny and West Mifflin Area school officials. The intent is to seek a more reasonable secondary student tuition formula near a 2% to 3% annual increase for such services.

A significant financial challenge facing the District continues to be the rising costs of charter school tuition. Legislative remedies are needed that address accountability to control the quality and cost of these programs. It is noted that the Receiver, acting as the Board of School Directors, adopted a Board Resolution on March 29, 2022 with regards to charter school funding reforms.

Actual charter school rates, as calculated on the PDE-363 for FY 2021-2022 reflect federal ESSER funding revenue. The tuition rate for each non-special education charter school student for 2021-22 was \$15,194.67 (\$575 lower than the previous year) based on actual, calculated rates. For each special education student who attends a charter school, the student rate was \$38,936.38 (approximately \$300 more 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 24%, the formula incorrectly divides total special education expenditures by a small number of students than are actually enrolled at Duquesne.

The following chart provides a visual with specific data to DCSD Average Daily Membership for 2021-2022; Special Education Population with 16% assumption required by PDE; Actual Special Education Population of the District at 23.5%; and Additional Cost to the District using the required 16% assumption.

Categories and Descriptions	Average Daily Memberships	Special Education Tuition Rate for 2022-23	Number of Special Education Students at Charter Schools as of June 30, 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	\$38,936.38	46	\$1,791,073.48
Actual Special Education Population of District is 23.5%	218.162	\$30,906.23	46	\$1,421,686.60
Additional Cost to District using required 16% assumption	-	\$8,030.15	-	\$369,386.88

Enrollments of DCSD students in charter schools at key months during the past several years are illustrated below. Total charter school enrollments have decreased by (3) three students, compared to March 2023.

24. Charter School Enrollments

**Duquesne City School District
Charter School Enrollments
June 30, 2023**

Month	Year	Elementary	Secondary	Total Enrollment
September	2020	137	87	224
December	2020	141	83	224
March	2021	141	84	225
June	2021	135	79	214
September	2021	141	75	216
December	2021	147	76	223
March	2022	144	85	229
June	2022	139	83	222
September	2022	114	91	205
December	2022	143	69	212
March	2023	142	67	209
June	2023	138	68	206

25. Duquesne City Education Foundation and Other Grants

Approved by the Internal Revenue Service, the Duquesne City Education Foundation articles of incorporation and by-laws as a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit, charitable organization are established. The Foundation will support and strengthen Duquesne City School District by encouraging innovation, recognizing excellence, creating vital partnerships, and developing community philanthropy. The Foundation is establishing contacts with regional philanthropic organizations and individuals for targeted funding which will help support academic programs, athletic fund investments, ongoing facilities maintenance, or other school community activities. Monthly Foundation meetings were held throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

The School District accepted the following grants: A Western Pennsylvania Learning Alliance Participation grant of \$22,280 awarded by the Grable Foundation; a Family Engagement grant of \$5,000 awarded by Parents as Allies to support the Annual Community Resource Fair; and a \$150,000 Pandemic Response – Job Training and Education / Workforce Development grant through the office of Senator James Brewster, Allegheny County.

Duquesne City School District officials were notified that the \$215,000 New Schools Venture Fund grant was approved for Innovative High School comprehensive planning and that a \$100,000 Grable Foundation grant was approved naming a high school principal as project manager for the planning process. These one-time grants will be pass-through funds and not part of the PFM Model Assumptions being constructed, noting that the financial accountability aspects have been discussed with PFM.

26. 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, 2023. Parentheses indicate changes from the March 31, 2023 summary.

**Duquesne City School District
2022-2023 Staffing Summary
June 30, 2023**

DCSD Staffing Summary			
Professional staff	45 (+1)	Administrators	6
Instructional support staff	18	Coordinators and supervisors	4
Other support staff	13 (-0.5)	Confidential exempt staff	2

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

Following two teacher resignations and two vacancies from the previous quarter, there are currently four teaching vacancies.

- Following the resignation of the K-8 Office Secretary and the Attendance and Transportation Secretary, the positions will be consolidated into one.
- There is currently one vacant Secretary position.
- Following the retirement of one Paraprofessional and a vacancy from the previous quarter, there are currently two Paraprofessional vacancies.
- Following the termination of one Personal Care Assistant and one vacancy from the previous quarter, there are currently two Personal Care Assistant vacancies.
- Following the assignment of a new custodian, there are no vacancies.

27. Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

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

Board Policies

- 237.2 Unauthorized Use of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices (new)
- 139 Arts Education (new)
- 620 Fund Balance (new)
- 800 Data Governance – Storage / Security
- 830 Security of Computerized Personal Information / Breach Notification

Board Operation Guidelines

- 620-BOG-0 Fund Balance Guidelines (new)

620-BOG-1 Fund Balance Range Determination assessment (new)

Administrative Regulations

237.2-AR-0 Unauthorized Use of Cell Phones and Electronic Devices Procedures (new)

304-AR-2 Extracurricular and Additional Assignments for Staff Procedures (new)

800.3AR-0 Data Storage and Security

830-AR-0 Security of Computerized Personal Information / Breach Notification (new)

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

A. Field and Stadium Project

The Superintendent continues to network with non-profit entities and business associates to seek outside funding for a proposed new Stadium Complex. The Superintendent developed “A Case for Support” document to promote an ambitious community-wide / regional fundraising campaign, which includes a three-year phase-in plan with estimated costs. The stadium is deemed unsafe and has non-compliant ADA stadium bleachers and locker rooms; therefore, school district officials continue to explore in-kind service options from a local company to raze the structure.

B. Maintenance

Amp meters have been installed on all HVAC units to read the power usage to ensure proper functionality. The patio refurbishing / drainage project has been substantially completed as of mid-July, 2023. Summer cleaning has begun with all hallways and classrooms being stripped, waxed, sanitized, and painted where needed. The fire suppression system has been updated and inspected in the cafeteria kitchen. School district vehicle inspections have been completed. All school district usable equipment and materials have been removed from the stadium to prepare for demolition. The City of Duquesne public works department cooperated with the school officials to paint a “drop off zone” for students on 4th Street, providing a safety zone area for students arriving to school.

C. School Security & Safety

The Health and Safety Re-opening Plan for 2022-2023 was submitted to the Department of Education and followed CDC guidelines throughout the school year. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19, declared under Section 319 of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act, expired on May 11, 2023.

The Coordinator of School Security and Safety worked with Regent Insurance to re-establish the District Workplace Safety Committee.

Twenty (20) new cameras were installed to address any blind spots in and around the school facility. Speakers are being installed outside of the building to provide messaging based on recommendations from the Pennsylvania State Police. For visual safety concerns and an assessment by the PSP, bushes have been removed from the Kennedy Avenue fenced-lined area. The PCCD grant has been approved and all school security and safety items have been ordered.

29. 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, Acting Secretary of Education, via Dr. Debora Carrera, 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 Rosia Reid
2. Board Vice President Calvin Harris
3. School Director Denise Brownfield
4. School Director Candice Butler-Davis
5. School Director Burton Comensky
6. School Director Laura Elmore
7. School Director Sonya Gooden
8. School Director Cedric Robertson
9. School Director DeWayne Tucker

Elected members of the Duquesne City Board of School Directors participated in two Receiver Business Meetings during the Fourth Quarter: May 9 and June 13, 2023. Respective meetings included elected Board members in attendance as follows: May (6) and June (7).

30. Next Report

The next Quarterly Progress Report will cover the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2023-2024, July 1 through September 30, 2023. That report is expected to be filed in October 2023.

31. Acknowledgements

The following individuals contributed to this report:

- William H. Kerr, Ed.D., Receiver
- Sue A. Mariani, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools
- Jennifer Tressler, Business Manager, B.S., CPA
- Jamie Schmidt, Ed.D., Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- Celeste Rudge, B.S.Ed., Director of Literacy and Innovation
- Alison DeMarco, M. Ed., Director of Technology, Digital Learning & Innovation
- Lucy McDonough, Special Education Consultant (Allegheny Intermediate Unit)
- Eric Harper, M. Ed., Principal
- George Little, MSW, Assistant Principal
- Brian Stowell, MBA, Act 44 Safety and Security Coordinator, Transportation Coordinator, and Facilities Director
- Crystal Irdi, AAS, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent / Board Secretary / RTK Officer