

**Duquesne City School District
Resolution Advocating Local State Legislators for Tuition Rate
Reductions for Secondary Students by the Court-Appointed
Receiver Acting as the Board of School Directors**

WHEREAS, a Settlement Agreement executed in September 2017 by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), Duquesne City School District (Duquesne), West Mifflin Area School District (West Mifflin), and Phil Shar related to the payment of tuition for Duquesne resident students; and,

WHEREAS, Duquesne resident students who attend West Mifflin obligates PDE to, prior to publishing the per-student tuition rate to be paid by Duquesne in the Pennsylvania Bulletin, share the proposed tuition rate with Duquesne, West Mifflin, and East Allegheny School Districts, for the purposes of supporting the costs of enrollment and attendance by Duquesne resident students at designated high schools; and,

WHEREAS, specifically, for the 2024-25 school year, the proposed tuition rate that applies to Duquesne City School District pursuant to Section 1607(b)(5) of the Pennsylvania School Code is \$17,338.33 per student for students attending the West Mifflin and East Allegheny School Districts. The proposed rates and relevant information used to calculate the proposed rates are included in the attached document; and,

WHEREAS, the Duquesne City School District, Allegheny County, has consulted with its financial advisors and indicate from model assumptions and financial projections that in the 2025-2026 school year the tuition rate will be \$18,031.87, as calculated by applying the estimated Base Act 1 Index from the Commonwealth's Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) published in November 2023 to the 2024-2025 certified tuition rates; and,

WHEREAS, there are currently 257 Duquesne resident secondary students in grades 9-12 in the West Mifflin and East Allegheny School Districts, noting that 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. Slowly, based on the projections and assumptions from the Duquesne City School District's financial advisors, the tuition rate is estimated to be \$21,509.22 by the 2031-2032 school year which is financially unsustainable for the Duquesne City School District; and,

WHEREAS, in future years, tuition rates grow by the projected Base Index of 4% for 2025-2026 to 2.4% by 2031-2032; however, more immediate steps need action by the State Legislature to reach a more reasonable and acceptable annual 2% increase in tuition rates to ensure financial stability and sustainability for the Duquesne City School District.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED requests that its local State Senator and State Representative provide the necessary leadership to introduce legislative steps that will reduce the annual tuition rate formula for a more realistic increase of tuition payments at a 2% level made to the West Mifflin and East Allegheny School Districts, with an effective date of July 1, 2025.

HEREBY adopted this 24th day of **September, 2024**.

ATTEST:

DUQUESNE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Signature on File
Board Secretary

Signature on File
Court-Appointed Receiver, acting as the
Board of School Directors

Section 1607(b)(4) and (b)(5) Tuition Rates

	<u>East Allegheny</u>	<u>West Mifflin</u>	<u>Duquesne City</u>		
	Section 1607 Secondary <u>Tuition Rate</u>	Section 1607 Secondary <u>Tuition Rate</u>	Total Budgeted <u>Revenue</u>	Percent <u>Increase</u>	Act 1 <u>Index</u>
2017-18	\$12,718.23	\$12,718.23	\$18,154,290		
2018-19	\$13,214.24	\$13,214.24	\$18,281,947	0.7%	3.9%
2019-20	\$13,703.17	\$13,703.17	\$18,914,129	3.5%	3.7%
2020-21	\$14,278.70	\$14,278.70	\$18,830,570	-0.4%	4.2%
2021-22	\$14,978.36	\$14,978.36	\$19,753,267	4.9%	4.9%
2022-23	\$15,817.15	\$15,817.15	\$20,859,449	5.6%	5.6%
2023-24 *	\$16,876.90	\$16,876.90	\$22,256,893	6.7%	6.7% SD adj index for 2023-24
2023-24 **	\$16,465.65	\$16,465.65	n/a	n/a	4.1% base index for 2023-24
2024-25	\$17,338.33	\$17,338.33	n/a	n/a	5.3% base index for 2024-25

* original

** updated, based on 2023-24 School Code (SB843)

SB 843 update to section 1607:

(5) For the 2023-2024 school year and each school year thereafter, the per pupil tuition rate that a school district designated under paragraph (1) shall receive for each reassigned student in a regular or special education program shall be the sum of:

(i) the tuition rate established for the prior school year;

and

(ii) the product of:

(A) the tuition rate established for the prior school year;

and

(B) the average of the most recent percentage increase in the Statewide average weekly wage and the employment cost index as defined in the "Taxpayer Relief Act."