Management Report

for

Independent School District No. 16
Spring Lake Park, Minnesota

June 30, 2024

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MMKR
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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To the School Board and Management of
Independent School District No. 16
Spring Lake Park, Minnesota

We have prepared this management report in conjunction with our audit of Independent School District No. 16's (the District) financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024. We have organized this report into the following sections:

- Audit Summary
- Financial Trends in Public Education in Minnesota
- Financial Trends of Your District
- Accounting and Auditing Updates

We would be pleased to further discuss any of the information contained in this report or any other concerns that you would like us to address. We would also like to express our thanks for the courtesy and assistance extended to us during the course of our audit.

The purpose of this report is solely to provide those charged with governance of the District, management, and those who have responsibility for oversight of the District's financial reporting process comments resulting from our audit and information relevant to school district financing in Minnesota. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Malloy, Montague, Karnowski, Radosevich & Co., P.A.

Minneapolis, Minnesota
December 9, 2024

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AUDIT SUMMARY

The following is a summary of our audit work, key conclusions, and other information that we consider important or that is required to be communicated to the School Board, administration, or those charged with governance of the District.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*, AND TITLE 2 U.S. CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS PART 200, *UNIFORM ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS, COST PRINCIPLES, AND AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS* (UNIFORM GUIDANCE)

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information to you verbally and in our audit engagement letter. Professional standards also require that we communicate the following information related to our audit.

PLANNED SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE AUDIT

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing previously discussed and coordinated in order to obtain sufficient audit evidence and complete an effective audit.

AUDIT OPINIONS AND FINDINGS

Based on our audit of the District's basic financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024:

- We have issued unmodified opinions on the District's basic financial statements. Our report included a paragraph emphasizing the District's implementation of new Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) authoritative literature, which changed the requirements for accounting for groups of similar capital assets this year. Our opinion was not modified with respect to this matter.

- We reported no deficiencies in the District's internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. It should be understood that internal controls are never perfected, and those controls, which protect the District's funds from such things as fraud and accounting errors, need to be continually reviewed by management and modified as necessary.

- The results of our testing disclosed no instances of noncompliance required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards.*

- We reported that the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements.

- The results of our tests indicate that the District has complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs.

- We reported no deficiencies in the District's internal controls over compliance that we considered to be material weaknesses with the types of compliance requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs.

- We reported one finding based on our testing of the District's compliance with Minnesota laws and regulations.

    - Due to a rate guarantee accepted in the current year, the District was operating under an agreement for group insurance providing long-term disability insurance that was greater than five years in length. Group insurance contracts may not exceed five years in duration to be compliant with state statutes.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the District are described in Note 1 of the notes to basic financial statements.

No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. However, the District implemented the following GASB guidance change during the year:

As described in Note 1 of the notes to basic financial statements, the District implemented new GASB guidance related to capital assets during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. This new guidance requires governments to capitalize groups of similar assets if significant, even when individually they are below the government's capitalization threshold. This change resulted in a restatement, which increased beginning net position in the government-wide Statement of Activities by $623,059 in the current year.

We noted no transactions entered into by the District during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND MANAGEMENT JUDGMENTS

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

General education revenue and certain other revenues are computed by applying an allowance per student to the number of students served by the District. Student attendance is accumulated in a state-wide database—MARSS. Because of the complexity of student accounting and because of certain enrollment options, student information is input by other school districts and the MARSS data for the current fiscal year is not finalized until after the District has closed its financial records. General education revenue and certain other revenues are computed using preliminary information on the number of students served in the resident district and also utilizing some estimates, particularly in the area of enrollment options.

Special education state aid includes an adjustment related to tuition billings to and from other school districts for special education services, which are computed using formulas derived by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). Because of the timing of the calculations, this adjustment for the current fiscal year is not finalized until after the District has closed its financial records. The impact of this adjustment on the receivable and revenue recorded for state special education aid is calculated using preliminary information available to the District.

The District has recorded a liability in the Statement of Net Position for severance benefits payable for which it is probable employees will be compensated. The "vesting method" used by the District to calculate this liability is based on assumptions involving the probability of employees becoming eligible to receive the benefits (vesting), the potential use of accumulated sick leave prior to termination, and the age at which such employees are likely to retire.

The District has recorded activity for other post-employment benefits (OPEB) and pension benefits. These obligations are calculated using actuarial methodologies primarily described in GASB Statement Nos. 68, 74, and 75. These actuarial calculations include significant assumptions, including projected changes, healthcare insurance costs, investment returns, retirement ages, proportionate share, and employee turnover.

The depreciation of capital assets involves estimates pertaining to useful lives.

The District's self-insured activities require recording a liability for claims incurred, but not yet reported, which are based on estimates.

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used by management to develop the estimates discussed above in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The disclosures included in the notes to basic financial statements related to OPEB and pension benefits are particularly sensitive, due to the materiality of the liabilities, and the large and complex estimates involved in determining the disclosures.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN PERFORMING THE AUDIT

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to each opinion unit's financial statements taken as a whole.

DISAGREEMENTS WITH MANAGEMENT

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated December 9, 2024.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the District's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

OTHER AUDIT FINDINGS OR ISSUES

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards with management each year prior to retention as the District's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

OTHER MATTERS

We applied certain limited procedures to the management's discussion and analysis and the pension and OPEB-related required supplementary information (RSI) that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

We were engaged to report on the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, and the separately issued Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and the Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards Compliance Table, which are not RSI. With respect to this supplementary information, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

We were not engaged to report on the introductory section and statistical section, which accompany the financial statements, but are not RSI. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

FINANCIAL TRENDS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MINNESOTA

This section provides some state-wide funding and financial trends in public education in Minnesota.

BASIC GENERAL EDUCATION REVENUE

The largest single funding source for Minnesota school districts is basic general education aid. Each year, the Legislature sets a basic formula allowance. Total basic general education revenue is calculated by multiplying the formula allowance by the number of pupil units for which a district is entitled to aid. Pupil units are calculated using a legislatively determined weighting system applied to average daily membership (ADM). Over the years, various modifications have been made to this calculation, including changes in weighting and special consideration for declining enrollment districts.

The table below presents a summary of the formula allowance for the past decade and as approved for the next fiscal year. The Legislature approved a per pupil increase of $143 for fiscal 2025. The amount of the formula allowance and the percentage change from year-to-year excludes temporary funding changes, the "roll-in" of aids that were previously funded separately, and changes that may vary dependent on actions taken by individual districts.

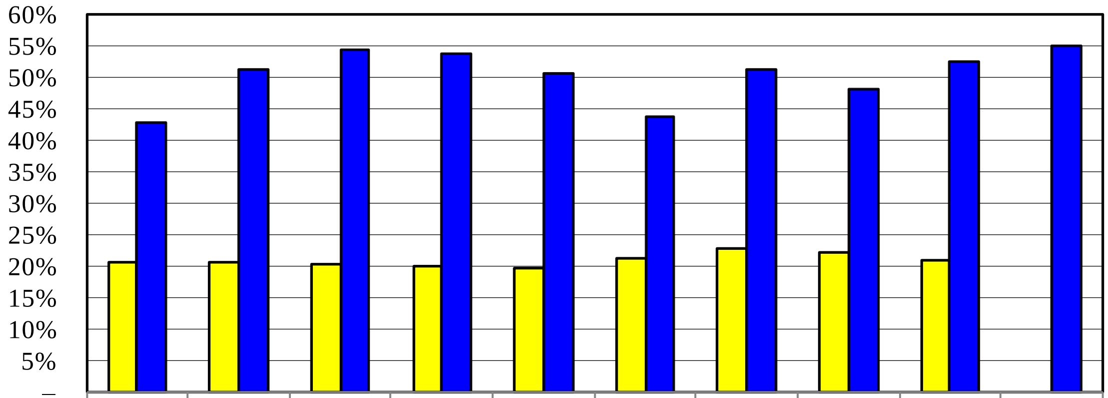
	Formula Allowance	
Fiscal Year Ended June 30,	Amount	Percent Increase
2015	$ 5,831	2.00 %
2016	$ 5,948	2.00 %
2017	$ 6,067	2.00 %
2018	$ 6,188	2.00 %
2019	$ 6,312	2.00 %
2020	$ 6,438	2.00 %
2021	$ 6,567	2.00 %
2022	$ 6,728	2.45 %
2023	$ 6,863	2.00 %
2024	$ 7,138	4.00 %
2025	$ 7,281	2.00 %

For fiscal 2026 and beyond, the actual increase will be equal to the Consumer Price Index-Urban (CPI-U), with a floor of 2.00 percent and a cap of 3.00 percent. CPI-U is determined based upon the prior two fourth-quarter totals. The inclusion of inflationary increases to this formula does not prevent future legislative increases from being approved.

STATE-WIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL HEALTH

One of the most common and comparable statistics used to evaluate school district financial health is the unrestricted operating fund balance as a percentage of operating expenditures.

State-Wide Unrestricted Operating Fund Balance
as a Percentage of Operating Expenditures



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
State-Wide	20.6%	20.7%	20.3%	20.0%	19.9%	21.3%	23.0%	22.2%	21.0%	–
ISD No. 16	43.0%	51.3%	54.5%	54.0%	50.8%	44.0%	51.3%	48.2%	52.8%	55.3%

State-Wide ISD No. 16

Note: State-wide information is not available for fiscal 2024.

The calculation above reflects only the unrestricted fund balance of the General Fund, and the corresponding expenditures, which is the same method the state uses for the calculation of statutory operating debt. We have also included the comparable percentages for your district.

The average unrestricted fund balance as a percentage of operating expenditures maintained by Minnesota school districts has been relatively stable over the last decade, ranging from 20.6 percent at the end of fiscal 2015 to 21.0 percent at the end of fiscal 2023, with a slight uptick during the fiscal years impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The District's unrestricted operating fund balance as a percentage of operating expenditures was 55.3 percent at the end of the current year, as compared to 52.8 percent at June 30, 2023.

Having an appropriate fund balance is an important factor in assessing the District's financial health because a government, like any organization, requires a certain amount of equity to operate. It is important to review fund balance levels on an ongoing basis to ensure a sufficient equity reserve is available to support programs and cash flow of the District.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS REVENUE

The table below shows a comparison of governmental funds revenue per ADM received by Minnesota school districts and your district. Revenues for all governmental funds are included, except for the Capital Projects – Building Construction and Post-Employment Benefits Debt Service Funds. Other financing sources, such as proceeds from sales of capital assets, insurance recoveries, bond sales, loans, and interfund transfers, are also excluded.

Governmental Funds Revenue per Student (ADM) Served

	State-Wide		Metro Area		ISD No. 16 – Spring Lake Park		
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2024
General Fund							
Property taxes	$ 2,645	$ 2,760	$ 3,506	$ 3,704	$ 2,245	$ 2,213	$ 2,240
Other local sources	571	742	446	595	205	453	668
State	10,504	10,771	10,536	10,792	9,861	10,327	11,904
Federal	1,335	1,344	1,397	1,441	853	723	878
Total General Fund	15,055	15,617	15,885	16,532	13,164	13,716	15,690
Special revenue funds							
Food Service	803	676	770	649	703	623	768
Community Service	731	795	836	919	680	686	716
Debt Service Fund	1,508	1,579	1,537	1,595	1,615	1,669	1,824
Total revenue	$ 18,097	$ 18,667	$ 19,028	$ 19,695	$ 16,162	$ 16,694	$ 18,998
ADM served per MDE School District Profiles Report (current year estimated)					6,060	6,000	6,002

Note: Excludes the Capital Projects – Building Construction and Post-Employment Benefits Debt Service Funds.

Source of state-wide and metro area data: School District Profiles Report published by the MDE

ADM used in the table above and on the following page is based on enrollments consistent with those used in the MDE School District Profiles Report, which include extended time ADM, and may differ from ADM reported in other tables. Changes in enrollment also impact comparisons in the table above and on the next page when revenue and expenditures are based on fixed costs, such as debt levies and principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness.

The mix of local and state revenues vary from year-to-year primarily based on funding formulas and the state's financial condition. The mix of revenue components from district to district varies, due to factors such as the strength of property values, mix of property types, operating and bond referendums, enrollment trends, density of population, types of programs offered, and countless other criteria.

The District earned $114,030,162 in the governmental funds reflected above in fiscal 2024, an increase of $13,861,250 (13.8 percent) from the prior year. Total revenue per ADM served increased by $2,304 (13.8 percent) per student. The increase was spread across each category as seen in the table above. The largest increases were in the General Fund for state sources and other local sources. State sources were up with the increase in the basic formula allowance as discussed earlier and improved funding for state special education. Other local sources in the General Fund increased over the prior year, largely due to more investment earnings. Food service revenues were up with the increase in participation with the state supporting free meals to all students. Debt Service Fund revenues were up in the current year, largely due to an increase in property taxes and investment earnings.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS EXPENDITURES

The following table reflects similar comparative data available from the MDE for all governmental funds expenditures, excluding the Capital Projects – Building Construction and Post-Employment Benefits Debt Service Funds. Other financing uses, such as bond refundings and transfers, are also excluded.

Governmental Funds Expenditures per Student (ADM) Served

	State-Wide		Metro Area		ISD No. 16 – Spring Lake Park		
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2024
General Fund							
Administration and district support	$ 1,249	$ 1,300	$ 1,300	$ 1,320	$ 771	$ 826	$ 783
Elementary and secondary regular instruction	6,494	6,646	6,838	7,019	5,584	5,464	6,264
Vocational education instruction	210	224	191	198	83	85	146
Special education instruction	2,724	2,892	2,883	3,059	2,217	2,339	2,488
Instructional support services	816	861	939	1,030	990	1,128	1,274
Pupil support services	1,429	1,553	1,558	1,712	1,433	1,508	1,582
Sites, buildings, and other	1,113	1,201	1,076	1,171	1,187	1,197	1,274
Total General Fund – noncapital	14,035	14,677	14,785	15,509	12,265	12,547	13,811
General Fund capital expenditures	876	960	897	959	669	485	649
Total General Fund	14,911	15,637	15,682	16,468	12,934	13,032	14,460
Special revenue funds							
Food Service	670	706	659	693	550	592	735
Community Service	689	763	774	865	668	678	737
Debt Service Fund	1,599	1,626	1,561	1,652	1,658	1,675	1,857
Total expenditures	$ 17,869	$ 18,732	$ 18,676	$ 19,678	$ 15,810	$ 15,977	$ 17,789
ADM served per MDE School District Profiles Report (current year estimated)					6,060	6,000	6,002

Note: Excludes the Capital Projects – Building Construction and Post-Employment Benefits Debt Service Funds.

Source of state-wide and metro area data: School District Profiles Report published by the MDE

Expenditure patterns also vary from district to district for various reasons. Factors affecting the comparison include the growth cycle or maturity of the District, average employee experience, availability of funding, population density, and even methods of allocating costs.

The District spent $106,774,491 in the governmental funds reflected above in fiscal 2024, an increase of $10,913,018 (11.4 percent) from the prior year. On a per student basis, this represents an increase of $1,812. General Fund operating expenditures (excluding capital) increased $1,264 per student, mainly in elementary and secondary regular instruction ($800 per student), special education instruction ($149 per student) and instructional support services ($146 per student). General Fund capital expenditures increased $164 per student, with more spending on related building improvements being financed with long-term facilities maintenance and General Fund resources in the current year. Food Service Special Revenue Fund spending was up, with increases in personnel costs, supplies and materials, and more capital outlay in the current year with additional program participation. Debt service spending was up as approved in debt financing plans.

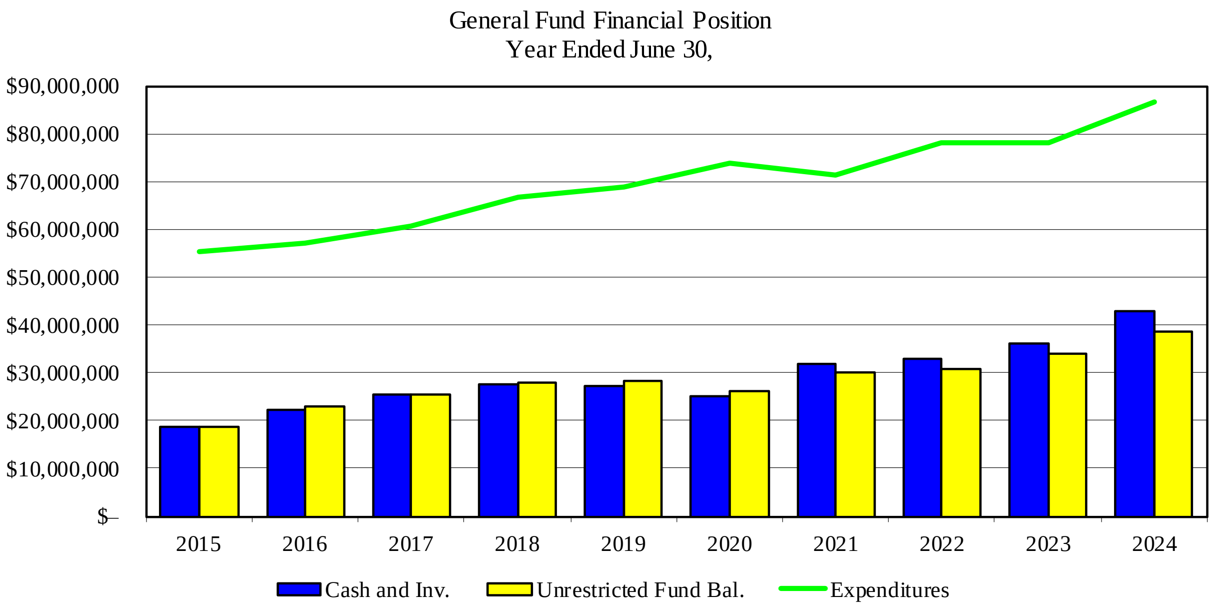
SUMMARY

District school boards and administrators continue to face significant financial challenges as they strive to provide a safe and effective learning environment for their students. Factors such as the sunset of large pandemic-related federal funding programs, state legislative funding changes and mandates, shifting student populations, tight labor markets, heightened safety concerns, increasing transportation costs, and other inflationary pressures continue to make it difficult to allocate limited resources amongst many competing demands.

FINANCIAL TRENDS OF YOUR DISTRICT

GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL POSITION

The following graph displays the District's General Fund trends of financial position and changes in the volume of financial activity. Unrestricted fund balance and cash balance are two indicators of financial health, while annual expenditures are often used to measure the size of the operation.



The District ended fiscal year 2024 with a General Fund cash and investments balance of $43,074,687 (net of borrowing), an increase of $6,740,338 from the previous year. Unrestricted fund balance (consisting of assigned and unassigned fund balances) at year-end totaled $38,757,153, an increase of $4,839,952.

Total fund balance of the General Fund increased by $7,467,468, compared to a fund balance increase of $4,926,763 approved in the final budget.

GENERAL FUND COMPONENTS OF FUND BALANCE

The following table presents the components of the General Fund balance for the past five years:

	June 30,				
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Nonspendable fund balances	$ 215,706	$ 373,925	$ 435,647	$ 319,201	$ 179,815
Restricted fund balances (1)	1,584,601	2,839,254	4,421,595	5,710,021	8,476,923
Unrestricted fund balances					
Assigned	3,676,815	3,890,939	8,320,000	14,328,713	19,838,429
Unassigned	22,350,328	26,189,279	22,561,811	19,588,488	18,918,724
Total fund balance	$ 27,827,450	$ 33,293,397	$ 35,739,053	$ 39,946,423	$ 47,413,891
Unrestricted fund balances as a percentage of expenditures	35.2%	42.0%	39.4%	43.4%	44.7%
Unassigned fund balances as a percentage of expenditures	30.2%	36.6%	28.8%	25.1%	21.8%

(1) Includes deficits in restricted fund balance accounts allowed to accumulate deficits under UFARS, which are part of unassigned fund balance on the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America-based financial statements.

The table above reflects the total General Fund unrestricted fund balance and percentages, which differs from those used in the previous discussion of state-wide fund balances, which are based on a state formula.

The resources represented by this fund balance are critical to a district's ability to maintain adequate cash flow throughout the year, to retain its programs, and to cushion against the impact of unexpected costs or funding shortfalls.

At June 30, 2024, unrestricted fund balance in the General Fund represented 44.7 percent of annual expenditures, or approximately 23 weeks of operations assuming level spending throughout the year.

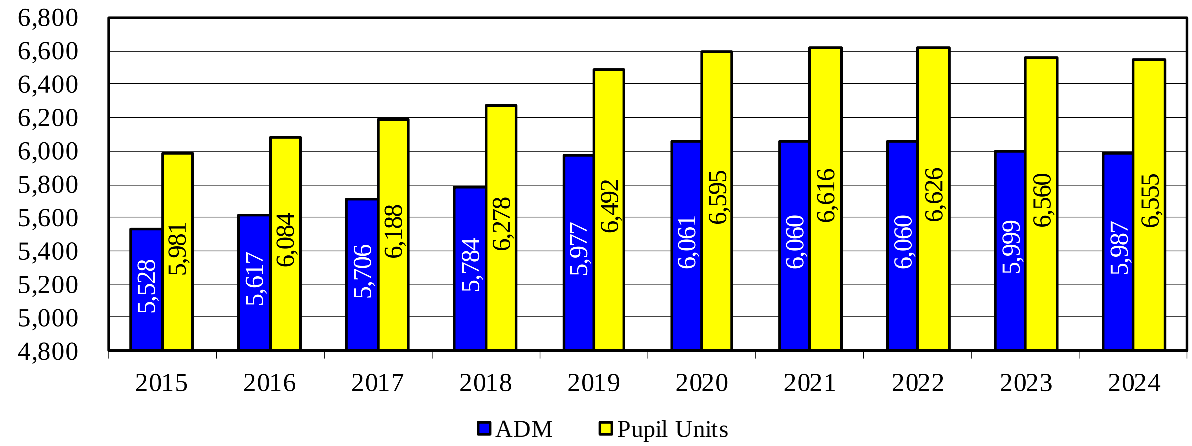
Minimum Fund Balance Policy

The District's fund balance policy is to strive to maintain a minimum unassigned General Fund balance of no less than two months of General Fund operating expenditures. At June 30, 2024, the District has continued to meet this goal as defined by the fund balance policy.

AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP (ADM) AND PUPIL UNITS

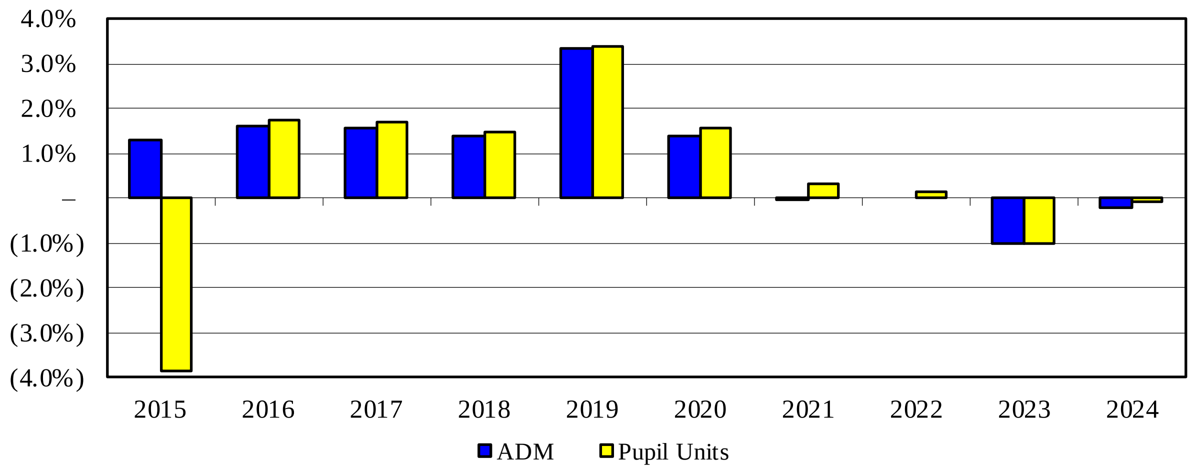
The following graph presents the District's adjusted ADM and pupil units served for the past 10 years:

Adjusted ADM and Pupil Units Served



The following graph shows the rate of change in ADM served by the District from year-to-year, along with the change in the resulting pupil units:

Change in Adjusted ADM and Pupil Units Served



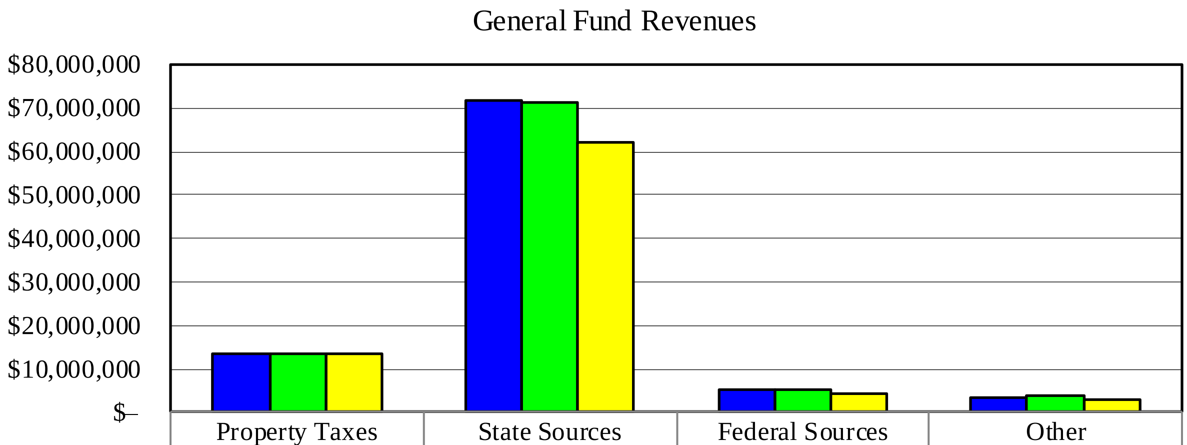
Note: The change in pupil units for 2015 includes the effect of legislative reductions to pupil units.

ADM is a measure of students attending class, which is then converted to pupil units (the base for determining revenue) using a statutory formula. Not only is the original budget based on ADM estimates, the final audited financial statements are based on updated, but still estimated, ADM since the counts are not finalized until around January of the following year. When viewing revenue budget variances, one needs to consider these ADM changes, the impact of the prior year final adjustments, which affect this year's revenue, and also the final adjustments caused by open enrollment gains and losses.

The District served an estimated adjusted ADM of 5,987 in 2024, which is a decrease of 12 from the previous year. The number of resulting pupil units served by the District for fiscal 2024 was 6,555, a decrease of 5 (0.1 percent) from the prior year.

GENERAL FUND REVENUES

The following graph presents the District’s General Fund revenues for 2024:



	Property Taxes	State Sources	Federal Sources	Other
Budget	$13,245,607	$71,626,848	$5,312,565	$3,367,400
Actual	$13,445,951	$71,450,594	$5,271,749	$4,009,901
Prior Year	$13,280,339	$61,964,872	$4,336,918	$2,718,216

Total General Fund revenues were $94,178,195 for the year ended June 30, 2024, which was $625,775 (0.7 percent) over the final budget and $11,877,850 (14.4 percent) more than the prior year.

As presented in the graph above, revenues were close to amounts projected in the final budget. The variance to budget was largely due to conservative budgeting for property taxes and other sources.

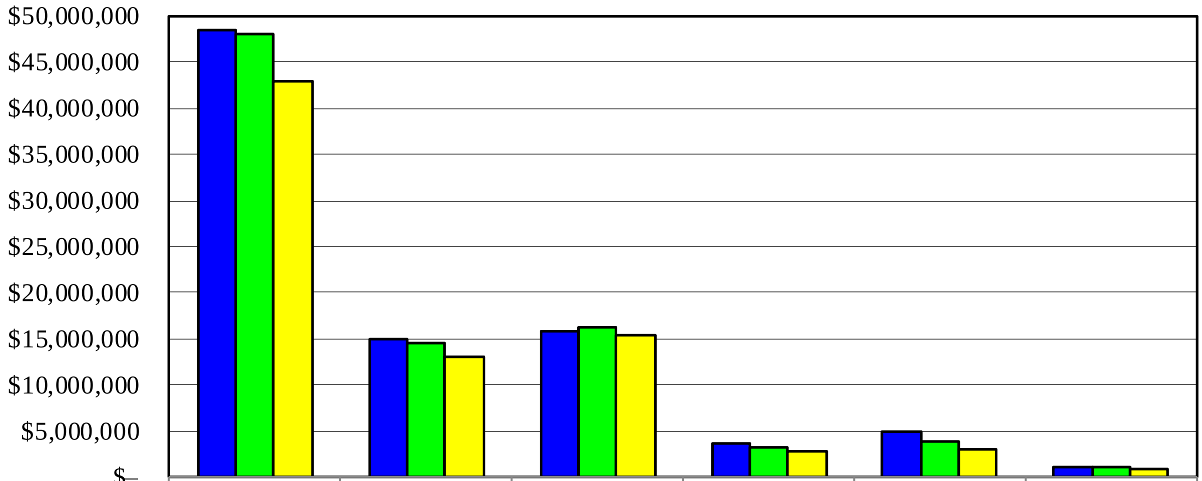
Revenues increased over the prior year, as seen in each category presented in the above table. The largest increase was in state sources. The growth was due to improved funding for special education, basic skills, and the approved increase in the basic formula allowance.

The graph above reflects the concentration of state sources (75.9 percent), followed by property taxes (14.3 percent) recognized to finance General Fund operations.

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

The following graph presents the District's General Fund expenditures for 2024:

General Fund Expenditures



	Salaries	Employee Benefits	Purchased Services	Supplies	Capital	Other
Budget	$48,547,508	$14,887,158	$15,729,861	$3,536,488	$4,923,908	$1,060,734
Actual	$48,052,678	$14,498,800	$16,171,116	$3,178,965	$3,894,167	$1,002,007
Prior Year	$43,011,515	$13,087,641	$15,462,714	$2,771,324	$2,910,766	$944,463

Total General Fund expenditures were $86,797,733 for the year ended June 30, 2024, which was $1,887,924 (2.1 percent) under the final budget and $8,609,310 (11.0 percent) more than the prior year.

Salary and benefit-related charges, which account for 72.1 percent of General Fund expenditures, increased by $6,452,322 (11.5 percent) and were $883,188 (1.4 percent) under amounts planned in the budget. Conservative budgeting, attrition, and difficulty filling open positions contributed to salaries and benefits ending the year less than projected. The increase over the prior year was anticipated with contractual improvements and with more open positions last year.

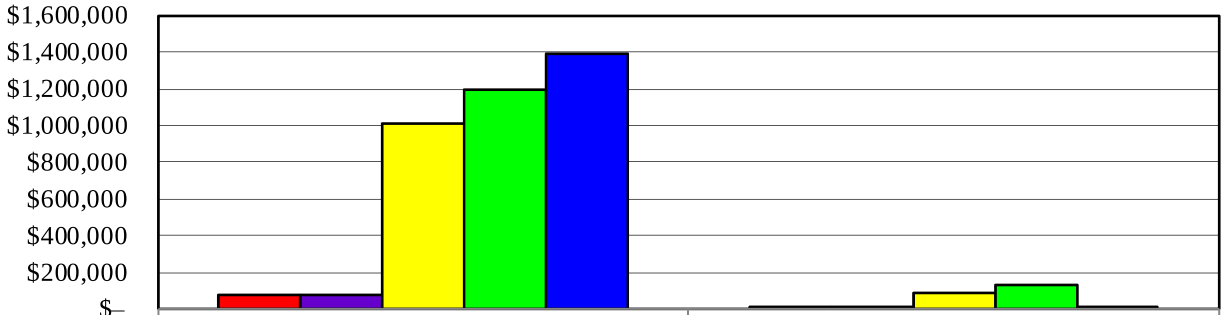
Spending in purchased services exceeded budget by $441,255 and was $708,402 more than the amount spent in the prior year. The variance to budget and increase over the prior year was largely in the program areas of elementary and secondary regular instruction, pupil support services, and sites and buildings.

Capital spending was under budget, largely due to timing delays for certain capital projects in the current year. Spending was up compared to the prior year, with more investments for capital, accounting for the change in this category.

OTHER FUNDS OF THE DISTRICT

The following graph shows what is referred to as the other operating funds. The remaining nonoperating funds are only included in narrative form below, since their level of fund balance can fluctuate significantly, due to such things as issuing and spending the proceeds of refunding or building bonds and, therefore, the trend of fund balance levels is not necessarily a key indicator of financial health. It does not mean that these funds cannot experience financial trouble or that their fund balances are unimportant.

Other Operating Funds
Total Fund Balances



	Food Service	Community Service
2020	$79,786	$8,813
2021	$79,786	$8,813
2022	$1,006,344	$86,563
2023	$1,193,400	$130,414
2024	$1,388,657	$8,791

Food Service Special Revenue Fund

The District's Food Service Special Revenue Fund reported a fund balance increase of $195,257 over the prior year, compared to a balanced budget. Food Service Special Revenue Fund revenue sources were $57,119 over budget, while expenditures were under budget by $138,138. The Food Service Special Revenue Fund had a year-end fund balance of $1,388,657, representing 31.5 percent of annual expenditures. Revenues were over budget with more program participation than anticipated. Expenditures were under budget with less spending on salaries and supplies and materials than planned in the budget.

Community Service Special Revenue Fund

The District's Community Service Special Revenue Fund reported a decrease in fund balance of $121,623 from the prior year, compared to a balanced budget. Revenues were $299,277 over budget and expenditures were over budget by $420,900. The Community Service Special Revenue Fund had a year-end fund balance of $8,791, representing 0.2 percent of annual expenditures. Conservative budgeting for program participation levels contributed to the difference, compared to projected revenue amounts; however, spending more than budget for salaries and benefits more than offset the favorable variance in total revenues.

It is critical that Food Service and Community Service Special Revenue Funds be self-sustaining, so as not to place additional burden on General Fund operations. As the graph above indicates, the District has improved the fiscal health of these two funds in the past two years, which have also assisted in funding several capital improvements to the respective programs in recent years. The District should review upcoming capital needs of the child nutrition and community service operations and incorporate that information in establishing an optimal level of fund balance that is also within state and federal fund balance limits.

Debt Service Fund

The funding of debt service is controlled in accordance with each outstanding debt issue's financing plan. It is important to remember that resources of the Debt Service Fund are dedicated to payment of outstanding debt obligations of the District. At year-end, the District had $2,524,061 restricted for future debt service payments.

Total fund balance in the Debt Service Fund increased by $50,521 in the current year, compared to the $77,215 increase anticipated in the budget. The District approved issuance of $16,215,000 of refunding bonds that were used to pay the General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2014A in advance of their originally scheduled due date, to reduce future debt levies.

Proprietary Funds – Internal Service Funds

The District uses internal service funds to account for health and dental insurance offered by the District to its employees as self-insured plans. The following table presents the combined activity reported for the past three fiscal years for the internal service funds:

	June 30,		
	2022	2023	2024
Operating revenue			
Charges for services	$ 6,410,605	$ 6,324,692	$ 6,692,325
Operating expenses			
Health benefit claims	5,772,963	5,909,967	6,712,666
Dental benefit claims	522,255	525,795	546,667
Total operating expenses	6,295,218	6,435,762	7,259,333
Operating income (loss)	115,387	(111,070)	(567,008)
Nonoperating revenue			
Investment earnings (charges)	(23,557)	172,864	321,808
Change in net position	91,830	61,794	(245,200)
Net position			
Beginning of year	6,033,549	6,125,379	6,187,173
End of year	$ 6,125,379	$ 6,187,173	$ 5,941,973

Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund

The District has established a Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund to account for an irrevocable trust account established to finance the District's liability for post-employment healthcare benefits. At year-end, trust net position of $6,249,702 is available to pay these benefits.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The District's financial statements include fund-based information that focuses on budgetary compliance, and the sufficiency of the District's current assets to finance its current liabilities. The governmental reporting model also requires the inclusion of two government-wide financial statements designed to present a clear picture of the District as a single, unified entity. These government-wide financial statements provide information on the total cost of delivering educational services, including capital assets and long-term liabilities.

Theoretically, net position represents district resources available for providing services after its debts are settled. However, those resources are not always in expendable form, or there may be restrictions on how some of those resources can be used. Therefore, this statement divides net position into three components: net investment in capital assets, restricted, and unrestricted. The following table presents a summarized reconciliation of the District's governmental fund balances to net position, and the separate components of net position for the last two years:

	June 30,		
	2024	2023	Change
Net position – governmental activities			
Total fund balances – governmental funds	$ 51,335,400	$ 43,743,777	$ 7,591,623
Total capital assets, net of depreciation	132,159,351	135,896,498	(3,737,147)
Long-term liabilities, excluding pensions and OPEB	(90,285,689)	(100,781,931)	10,496,242
Pension adjustments	(43,523,292)	(46,143,218)	2,619,926
OPEB adjustments	(928,128)	(455,660)	(472,468)
Other adjustments	3,560,409	5,047,646	(1,487,237)
Total net position – governmental activities	$ 52,318,051	$ 37,307,112	$ 15,010,939
Net position			
Net investment in capital assets	$ 40,965,930	$ 36,419,038	$ 4,546,892
Restricted	11,559,942	8,244,113	3,315,829
Unrestricted	(207,821)	(7,356,039)	7,148,218
Total net position	$ 52,318,051	$ 37,307,112	$ 15,010,939

Some of the District's fund balances translate into restricted net position by virtue of external restrictions (statutory restrictions) or by the nature of the fund they are in (e.g., Food Service Special Revenue Fund balance can only be spent for food service program costs). The unrestricted net position category consists mainly of the General Fund unrestricted fund balances, offset against noncapital long-term obligations, such as severance payable, net pension, and net OPEB obligations.

Total net position increased by $15,010,939 during fiscal 2024. The District's net investment in capital assets increased $4,546,892 this year. The change in this category of net position typically depends on the relationship of the rate at which the District is adding additional capital assets, the rate capital assets are being depreciated, and how that relates to the rate at which the District is repaying the debt issued to purchase or construct those assets. The increases the District has seen in recent years have also been impacted by District improvement projects completed without utilizing debt financing.

The change in restricted net position was due to an increase in amounts restricted for capital asset acquisition, debt service, food service, and other state funding restricted purposes. The change in unrestricted net position is due to changes in the District's proportionate share of the Public Employees Retirement Association and the Teachers Retirement Association pension plan liabilities and related deferments. The financial activity of the General Fund and combined internal service funds, as previously discussed, also contributed to the change in unrestricted net position.

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITING UPDATES

The following is a summary of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards expected to be implemented in the next few years.

GASB STATEMENT NO. 101, *COMPENSATED ABSENCES*

The objective of this statement is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. That objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures.

This statement requires that liabilities for compensated absences be recognized for (1) leave that has not been used and (2) leave that has been used, but not yet paid in cash or settled through noncash means. A liability should be recognized for leave that has not been used if (a) the leave is attributable to services already rendered, (b) the leave accumulates, and (c) the leave is more likely than not to be used for time off or otherwise paid in cash or settled through noncash means. Leave is attributable to services already rendered when an employee has performed the services required to earn the leave. Leave that accumulates is carried forward from the reporting period in which it is earned to a future reporting period during which it may be used for time off or otherwise paid or settled.

This statement requires that a liability for certain types of compensated absences—including parental leave, military leave, and jury duty leave—not be recognized until the leave commences. This statement also requires that a liability for specific types of compensated absences not be recognized until the leave is used. This statement also establishes guidance for measuring a liability for leave that has not been used, generally using an employee's pay rate as of the date of the financial statements. A liability for leave that has been used, but not yet paid or settled should be measured at the amount of the cash payment or noncash settlement to be made. Certain salary-related payments that are directly and incrementally associated with payments for leave also should be included in the measurement of the liabilities.

With respect to financial statements prepared using the current financial resources measurement focus, this statement requires that expenditures be recognized for the amount that normally would be liquidated with expendable available financial resources.

The requirements of this statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged.

GASB STATEMENT NO. 102, *CERTAIN RISK DISCLOSURES*

State and local governments face a variety of risks that could negatively affect the level of service they provide or their ability to meet obligations as they come due. The objective of this statement is to provide users of government financial statements with essential information about risks related to a government's vulnerabilities due to certain concentrations or constraints.

This new guidance defines a concentration as a lack of diversity related to an aspect of a significant inflow of resources or outflow of resources. A constraint is a limitation imposed on a government by an external party or by formal action of the government's highest level of decision-making authority. Concentrations and constraints may limit a government's ability to acquire resources or control spending. This statement requires a government to assess whether a concentration or constraint makes the primary government reporting unit or other reporting units that report a liability for revenue debt vulnerable to the risk of a substantial impact. Additionally, this statement requires a government to assess whether an event or events associated with a concentration or constraint that could cause the substantial impact have occurred, have begun to occur, or are more likely than not to begin to occur within 12 months of the date the financial statements are issued.

If a government determines that those criteria for disclosure have been met for a concentration or constraint, it should disclose information in notes to financial statements in sufficient detail to enable users of financial statements to understand the nature of the circumstances disclosed and the government's vulnerability to the risk of a substantial impact. The disclosures should include actions by the government to mitigate the risk. The requirements of this statement will improve financial reporting by providing users of financial statements with essential information that currently is not often provided.

The requirements of this statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2024, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged.

GASB STATEMENT NO. 103, *FINANCIAL REPORTING MODEL IMPROVEMENTS*

This statement establishes new accounting and financial reporting requirements—or modifies existing requirements—related to the following:

- Management's discussion and analysis
- Unusual or infrequent items
- Presentation of the proprietary fund statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in fund net position
- Information about major component units in basic financial statements
- Budgetary comparison information
- Financial trends information in the statistical section

The objective of this statement is to improve key components of the financial reporting model to enhance its quality and effectiveness in providing information that is essential for decision making and assessing a government's accountability. This statement also addresses certain application issues.

The requirements of this statement are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2025, and all reporting periods thereafter. Earlier application is encouraged.