

## **PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT**

**NEW ISSUE**

**Rating: See “Rating” herein**

*In the opinion of Hodgson Russ LLP, of Buffalo, New York, Bond Counsel, under existing statutes, regulations, rulings, and court decisions, and assuming continuing compliance with certain tax certifications described herein, interest on the Notes is excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes under Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the “Code”), as amended. Bond Counsel is also of the opinion that the interest on the Notes is not treated as an item of tax preference for purposes of the federal alternative minimum tax imposed on individuals. We observe that interest on the Notes will be included in the adjusted financial statement income of certain corporations that are subject to the alternative minimum tax under Section 55 of the code. Furthermore, Bond Counsel is of the opinion that, under existing statutes, interest on the Notes is exempt from personal income taxes imposed by New York State and any political subdivision thereof. See “TAX EXEMPTION” herein.*

*The Notes **will NOT** be designated as “qualified tax-exempt obligations” pursuant to Section 265(b)(3) of the Code.*

### **WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK (the “District”)**

### **\$11,500,000 BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES, 2024 (the “Notes”)**

**Date of Issue: June 28, 2024**

**Maturity Dates: June 27, 2025**

The Notes will be general obligations of the District, and will contain a pledge of the faith and credit of the District for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes and, unless paid from other sources, the Notes are payable from *ad valorem* taxes which may be levied upon all the taxable real property within the District, without limitation as to rate or amount (subject to certain statutory limitations imposed by Chapter 97 of the 2011 Laws of New York [the “Tax Levy Limitation Law”]; see “TAX INFORMATION-Tax Levy Limitation Law,” herein).

The Notes will be issued as registered notes, and at the option of the purchaser, may be registered to the Depository Trust Company (“DTC” or the “Securities Depository”), or may be registered in the name of the purchaser.

To the extent that the Notes are issued through DTC, the Notes will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC in Jersey City, New Jersey, which will act as Securities Depository for the Notes. Individual purchases will be made in book-entry-only form, in the principal amount of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof. Purchasers of the Notes will not receive certificates representing their ownership interest in the Notes. Payments of principal of and interest on the Notes will be made by the District to DTC, which will in turn remit such principal and interest to its Participants, for subsequent distribution to the Beneficial Owners of the Notes.

If the Notes are registered in the name of the purchaser, principal of and interest on the Notes will be payable in Federal Funds at such bank or trust company located and authorized to do business in the State of New York as may be selected by the successful bidder. In such case, the Notes will be issued in registered form in denominations of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof as may be determined by such successful bidder.

The Notes are dated June 28, 2024 and bear interest from that date until June 27, 2025, the maturity date, at the annual rate as specified by the purchaser of the Notes. The Notes are not subject to redemption prior to maturity.

The Notes are offered when, as and if issued and received by the purchaser and subject to the approval of the legality thereof by Hodgson Russ LLP, of Buffalo, New York, Bond Counsel. It is anticipated that the Notes will be available for delivery on or about June 28, 2024 in Jersey City, New Jersey (through the facilities of DTC) or as otherwise may be agreed upon between the District and the purchaser.

THE DISTRICT DEEMS THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT TO BE FINAL FOR PURPOSES OF RULE 15c2-12 UNDER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934, AS AMENDED (THE “RULE”), EXCEPT FOR CERTAIN INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN OMITTED HEREFROM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULE AND THAT WILL BE SUPPLIED WHEN THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT IS UPDATED FOLLOWING THE SALE OF THE NOTES. THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT WILL BE SO UPDATED UPON REQUEST OF THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER, AS MORE FULLY DESCRIBED IN THE NOTICE OF SALE. UNLESS THE NOTES ARE PURCHASED FOR THE BUYER’S OWN ACCOUNT, AS PRINCIPAL FOR INVESTMENT AND NOT FOR RESALE, THE DISTRICT WILL COVENANT IN AN UNDERTAKING TO PROVIDE NOTICE OF CERTAIN DESIGNATED EVENTS, AS REQUIRED BY THE RULE. SEE “DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING,” HEREIN.

Dated: June 3, 2024

**WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK**

**Board of Education**

Elizabeth Gates ..... President  
Molly Dana ..... Vice President  
Edmund Bedient.....Board Member  
Sarah Piwowarczyk .....Board Member  
Laura Sokol-Scott.....Board Member  
Vincent Vanderlip.....Board Member

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Dr. Jeffrey Rabey ..... Interim Superintendent of Schools\*  
William Thiel ..... Business Official  
Nicole C. Latza ..... District Clerk  
Janice Lewandowski ..... District Treasurer

\*Dr. Lisa Krueger has been selected as the new Superintendent and will begin her duties on July 1.

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**BOND COUNSEL**

**HODGSON RUSS LLP  
Buffalo, New York**

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**MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**



**Capital Markets Advisors, LLC  
Hudson Valley \* Long Island \* Southern Tier \* Western New York  
(716) 662-3910**

No dealer, broker, salesman or other person has been authorized by the District or the Municipal Advisor to give any information or to make any representations other than those contained in this Official Statement and, if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by the foregoing. This Official Statement does not constitute an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy, nor shall there be any sale of the Notes by any person in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such offer, solicitation or sale. The information set forth herein has been obtained from the District from sources which are believed to be reliable, but it is not to be guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness. The information and expressions of opinion herein are subject to change without notice, and neither the delivery of this Official Statement nor any sale made hereunder shall, under any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the District since the date hereof.

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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT  
RELATING TO THE ISSUANCE OF  
WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK  
\$11,500,000  
BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES, 2024  
(the "Notes")**

This Official Statement (the "Official Statement"), which includes the cover page and appendices hereto, presents certain information relating to the West Seneca Central School District, Erie County, New York (the "District," "County" and "State" respectively), in connection with the sale of the District's \$11,500,000 Bond Anticipation Notes, 2024 (the "Notes").

All quotations from and summaries and explanations of provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the State and acts and proceedings of the District contained herein do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the official compilations thereof, and all references to the Notes and the proceedings of the District relating thereto are qualified in their entirety by reference to the definitive form of the Notes and such proceedings.

Statements in this Official Statement, and the documents included by specific reference, that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements, which are based on the District management's beliefs as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, the District's management and staff. **This Official Statement should be read with the understanding that the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic has continued to create, since its inception in the spring of 2020, prevailing economic conditions (at the global, national, State and local levels) that remain uncertain, have been generally negative, and are subject to the potential for rapid change as new variants emerge and as governments and other organizations respond. These conditions are expected to continue for an indefinite period of time. Significant federal and state relief measures that have been enacted since the onset of the pandemic have served to support the operations and finances of the District, but such measures were temporary in nature and are not likely to be extended or renewed, at least to such a large extent. Accordingly, the District's overall economic situation and outlook (and all of the specific District-related information contained herein) should be carefully reviewed, evaluated and understood in the full light of this unprecedented world-wide and continuing event, the effects of which are extremely difficult to predict and quantify going forward. See "COVID-19," herein.**

**THE NOTES**

***Description of the Notes***

The Notes will be issued as registered notes and, at the option of the purchaser, may be registered to the Depository Trust Company ("DTC" or the "Securities Depository") or may be registered in the name of the purchaser.

To the extent that the Notes are issued through DTC, the Notes will be registered in the name of Cede & Co., as nominee of DTC in New York, New York, which will act as Securities Depository for the Notes. Individual purchases will be made in book-entry-only form, in the principal amount of \$5,000 or integral multiples thereof. Purchasers of the Notes will not receive certificates representing their ownership interest in the Notes. Payments of principal of and interest on the Notes will be made by the District to DTC, which will in turn remit such principal and interest to its Participants, for subsequent distribution to the Beneficial Owners of the Notes.

If the Notes are registered in the name of the purchaser, principal of and interest on the Notes will be payable in Federal Funds at such bank or trust company located and authorized to do business in the State of New York as may be selected by the successful bidder. In such case, the Notes will be issued in registered form in denominations of \$5,000, or integral multiples thereof, may be determined by such successful bidder.

The Notes are dated June 28, 2024 and bear interest from that date until June 27, 2025, the maturity date, at the annual rate as specified by the purchaser of the Notes. The Notes are not subject to redemption prior to maturity.

### ***Authority for and Purpose of the Notes***

The Notes are issued pursuant to the Constitution and Laws of the State, including the Local Finance Law and the Education Law, and pursuant to (1) a bond resolution that was duly adopted by the Board of Education of the District (the “Board”) on January 8, 2019, following a positive vote of the qualified voters of the District on December 4, 2018, authorizing the issuance of obligations of the District in an aggregate maximum principal amount of \$74,630,000 for the financing of a \$75,500,000 District-wide capital improvements project consisting of the reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements, additions and upgrades to, various District buildings and facilities (and the sites thereof); (2) a bond resolution that was duly adopted by the Board of Education of the District (the “Board”) on April 9, 2024 following a positive vote (to the "Essential Scope," or Prop. No. 1, with the non-essential Prop. No. 2 and 3 being defeated) of the qualified voters of the District on December 12, 2023, authorizing the issuance of obligations of the District in an aggregate maximum principal amount of \$21,000,000 for the financing of a District-wide "Essential Scope" Capital Improvements Project, 2023 consisting of the reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements, and upgrades to, various District buildings and facilities (and the sites thereof).

Proceeds of the Notes (in the amount of \$5,500,000) will provide additional new money for the January 8, 2019 bond resolution project. The balance of the proceeds of the Notes (in the amount of \$6,000,000) will provide original funds for the April 9, 2024 bond resolution project.

### ***Nature of Obligation***

The Notes, when duly issued and paid for, will constitute a contract between the District and the holder thereof.

The Notes will be general obligations of the District and will contain a pledge of the faith and credit of the District for the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. For the payment of such principal and interest, the District has the power and statutory authorization to levy *ad valorem* taxes on all taxable real property in the District, without limitation as to rate or amount (subject to certain statutory limitations imposed by the Tax Levy Limitation Law); see "TAX INFORMATION-Tax Levy Limitation Law," herein.

Under the Constitution of the State, the District is required to pledge its faith and credit for the payment of the principal of and interest on the Notes, and the State is specifically precluded from restricting the power of the District to levy taxes on real estate therefor. On June 24, 2011, the Tax Levy Limitation Law was adopted in the State. The Tax Levy Limitation Law established certain limitations on the power of local governments and school districts to increase the property tax levy beyond certain prescribed limits (without following certain prescribed procedures). The Tax Levy Limitation Law had its first application with respect to the District’s budget for fiscal year 2012-2013. The Tax Levy Limitation Law does make certain allowances for the exclusion of tax levy increases associated with capital expenses by school districts. See “TAX INFORMATION-Tax Levy Limitation Law,” herein. Also, certain special protective procedures and remedies available to holders of school district debt remain in place and are not affected by the Tax Levy Limitation Law. See “DISTRICT INDEBTEDNESS—Remedies Upon Default,” herein.

### ***Book-Entry-Only System***

The following applies to the extent that the Notes are issued in book-entry form. DTC, in New York, New York, will act as securities depository for the Notes. The Notes will be issued as fully-registered notes registered in the name of Cede & Co. (DTC’s partnership nominee) or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully-registered note certificate will be issued for each Note which bears the same rate of interest and CUSIP number, in the aggregate principal amount of such issue, and will be deposited with DTC. One fully registered note certificate will be issued and deposited with DTC for each maturity of the Notes in the aggregate principal amount of the issue. DTC, the world’s largest depository, is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a “banking organization” within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a “clearing corporation” within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a “clearing agency” registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of

the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds and provides asset servicing for over 3.5 million issues of U.S. and non-U.S. equity issues, corporate and municipal debt issues, and money market instruments (from over 100 countries) that DTC's participants ("Direct Participants") deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the post-trade settlement among Direct Participants of sales and other securities transactions in deposited securities, through electronic computerized book-entry transfers and pledges between Direct Participants' accounts. This eliminates the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation ("DTCC"). DTCC is the holding company for DTC, National Securities Clearing Corporation and Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, all of which are registered clearing agencies. DTCC is owned by the users of its regulated subsidiaries. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as both U.S. and non-U.S. securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, and clearing corporations that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly ("Indirect Participants"). The DTC Rules applicable to its Participants are on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. More information about DTC can be found at [www.dtcc.com](http://www.dtcc.com) and [www.dtc.org](http://www.dtc.org).

Purchases of the Notes under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the Notes on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of each Note ("Beneficial Owner") is in turn to be recorded on the Direct and Indirect Participants' records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase. Beneficial Owners are, however, expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction. Transfers of ownership interests in the Notes are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct and Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the Notes, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the Notes is discontinued.

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all the Notes deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co., or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of the Notes with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other DTC nominee do not affect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the Notes; DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such Notes are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct and Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Redemption notices shall be sent to DTC. If less than all of the securities within an issue are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each Direct Participant in such issue to be redeemed.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor any other DTC nominee) will consent or vote with respect to the Notes unless authorized by a Direct Participant in accordance with DTC's MMI Procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an Omnibus Proxy to the District as soon as possible after the record date. The Omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts the Notes are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

Principal and interest payments on the Notes will be made to Cede & Co., or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the District, on payable date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of such Participant and not of DTC or the District, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Payment of principal and interest payments to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the District, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of Direct and Indirect Participants.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as depository with respect to the Notes at any time by giving reasonable notice to the District. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor depository is not obtained, note certificates are required to be printed and delivered.

The District may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry-only transfers through DTC (or a successor securities depository). In that event, note certificates will be printed and delivered to DTC.

The information in this section concerning DTC and DTC's book-entry system has been obtained from sources that the District believes to be reliable, but the District takes no responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

THE DISTRICT CANNOT AND DOES NOT GIVE ANY ASSURANCE THAT DTC DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC WILL DISTRIBUTE TO THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS OF THE NOTES: (1) PAYMENTS OF PRINCIPAL OF OR INTEREST OR REDEMPTION PREMIUM ON THE NOTES; (2) CONFIRMATIONS OF THEIR OWNERSHIP INTERESTS IN THE NOTES; OR (3) OTHER NOTICES SENT TO DTC OR CEDE & CO., ITS PARTNERSHIP NOMINEE, AS THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THE NOTES, OR THAT THEY WILL DO SO ON A TIMELY BASIS, OR THAT DTC, DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS WILL SERVE AND ACT IN THE MANNER DESCRIBED IN THIS OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

THE DISTRICT WILL NOT HAVE ANY RESPONSIBILITY OR OBLIGATION TO DTC, THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, THE INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC OR THE BENEFICIAL OWNERS WITH RESPECT TO: (1) THE ACCURACY OF ANY RECORDS MAINTAINED BY DTC OR ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC; (2) THE PAYMENT BY DTC OR ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC OF ANY AMOUNT DUE TO ANY BENEFICIAL OWNER IN RESPECT OF THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF OR INTEREST OR REDEMPTION PREMIUM ON THE NOTES; (3) THE DELIVERY BY DTC OR ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECT PARTICIPANTS OF DTC OF ANY NOTICE TO ANY BENEFICIAL OWNER THAT IS REQUIRED OR PERMITTED TO BE GIVEN TO OWNERS; OR (4) ANY CONSENT GIVEN OR OTHER ACTION TAKEN BY DTC AS THE REGISTERED HOLDER OF THE NOTES.

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN CONCERNING DTC AND ITS BOOK-ENTRY SYSTEM HAS BEEN OBTAINED FROM DTC AND THE DISTRICT MAKES NO REPRESENTATION AS TO THE COMPLETENESS OR THE ACCURACY OF SUCH INFORMATION OR AS TO THE ABSENCE OF MATERIAL ADVERSE CHANGES IN SUCH INFORMATION SUBSEQUENT TO THE DATE HEREOF.

*Source: The Depository Trust Company*

## **COVID-19**

The outbreak of COVID-19, a serious respiratory disease caused by a novel strain of coronavirus, was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020.

### **Economic Impacts**

The outbreak of COVID-19 has drastically affected travel, commerce and financial markets globally. While several vaccines have been developed and are now being deployed world-wide, the full and continuing impact of the pandemic is difficult to predict due to uncertainties regarding its ultimate duration and severity.

Uncertainty regarding the short, medium and long-term effects of the COVID-19 pandemic initially caused extreme volatility across all financial markets, including the primary and secondary markets for municipal bonds. In the United States, Congress and the Federal Reserve took immediate significant steps to backstop those markets and to provide much-needed liquidity, and the markets then generally stabilized. Still, given these conditions, it is possible that the process of trading the Notes in the secondary market could be affected in ways that are difficult to predict.

## **Federal Response**

The federal government has passed several pieces of legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic including the \$2.3 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (“CARES”) Act of 2020 and the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (“ARP” or the “ARP Act”) of 2021, both of which provide funding for pandemic-related expenses and attempt to address financial stability and liquidity issues through a variety of stimulus measures.

Stimulus Efforts for State and Local Governments: The CARES Act included a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund, which provided funds to states, tribal governments and local governments with populations exceeding 500,000 (local governments with smaller populations could receive monies from the amount allocated to their state). This money was intended for programs that were necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency resulting from the pandemic. This money was not intended to be used to directly account for revenue shortfalls due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it could indirectly assist with revenue shortfalls in cases where the expenses that were covered by this fund would otherwise create a further budget shortfall.

The CARES Act also included an Education Stabilization Fund, which provided \$30.75 billion for K-12 and higher education systems. There were three main forms of relief: \$13.2 billion for K-12 schools that was administered on a state-by-state basis, \$14 billion for public and private colleges and universities, and \$3 billion in emergency relief that governors could distribute to schools, colleges and universities that were particularly affected by COVID-19 and the ensuing crisis.

The ARP Act included an additional \$350 billion for states, tribal governments and local governments. Notably, in addition to the uses allowed under the CARES Act, ARP funds can be used to replace revenues lost due to COVID-19 and to make necessary investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure. These broader categories allow such governments much more flexibility in utilizing the funds.

The ARP Act also included a total of \$170.3 billion in funding for education, including more than \$122.8 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (“ESSER”). The largest portion of such ESSER funds was to be distributed to school districts based on their relative share of Title I funding, but additional moneys were also allocated to help schools address learning time lost by students, after-school and summer enrichment programs, and administration costs.

Municipal Liquidity Facility: The Federal Reserve established a “Municipal Liquidity Facility” (“MLF”) in 2020 that offered up to \$500 billion in direct federal lending to certain larger issuers, which were in turn able to use their own loan proceeds to make loans to included smaller governmental units that would not otherwise qualify for this program. The MLF expired on December 31, 2020. Most municipal issuers did not have to resort to the MLF because rates have been conducive to issuing debt through the conventional municipal bond market; however, it is notable that the MLF existed as a market backstop if needed.

## **State Response**

Executive Orders: Pursuant to emergency powers granted by the State Legislature, former Governor Cuomo and current Governor Hochul have released a number of executive orders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pursuant to State Executive Order 202.4, every school in the State was directed to close no later than March 18, 2020. While schools were originally ordered closed until April 1, the time period was later extended to May 15, and then through the end of the school year. School districts must normally maintain 180-day in-class attendance for State aid; however, this requirement was waived to the extent attributable to COVID-19 related closures during the 2019-20 school year. Additionally, pursuant to State Executive Orders Nos. 202.13 and 202.26, the school district elections and budget votes that normally would have been held in-person on May 19, 2020 were postponed and conducted by absentee ballot, with such ballots being counted on June 16, 2020.

While initially “non-essential” employees were mandated to work from home, starting on May 15, 2020, regions of the State that met certain criteria were allowed to begin reopening.



As COVID-19 cases began to rise again in the fall of 2020, the State shifted to a strategy based on identifying areas with higher positivity rates and implementing successively higher restrictions in such areas. When COVID-19 cases dropped again, affected areas could be removed from the list. As of March 22, 2021, all remaining location-based restrictions were lifted.

Due to the spread of Delta and Omicron variants in the fall and winter of 2021, the State implemented a mask mandate; however, as of February 9, 2022 such State-wide mandate has been lifted.

Since increased supplies of COVID-19 vaccine have become available, the State has encouraged residents to get vaccinated and, currently, all New Yorkers five years of age or older are eligible to receive a vaccine.

Up-to-date information on the State's COVID-19 response can be found at <https://forward.ny.gov>. Reference to website implies no warranty of accuracy of information therein.

State Budget: The City of New York was an early epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, and as a result the State suffered significant revenue shortfalls and unanticipated expenses beginning at the end of the State's 2019-2020 fiscal year, and continuing during the State's 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 fiscal years.

In response, the enacted State budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year allowed the State to reduce expenditures (including aid to local school districts and municipalities) if tax receipts were lower than anticipated. Accordingly, in June, 2020 the State Division of the Budget ("DOB") began withholding 20 percent of most local aid payments, although such aid has generally since been restored.

Many of the State's 2020-2021 budget decisions were based on the uncertainty of future federal aid. In the period of time since such decisions were made, the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law (on March 11, 2021), which legislation includes almost \$24 billion in funding for various levels of government in the State, including approximately \$12.5 billion for the State, \$6 billion for New York City, and \$4 billion to be divided among counties in the State; another \$12 billion is intended to be used toward the safe reopening of K-12 schools as well as colleges and universities.

The State's 2023-24 Enacted Budget provides \$34.5 billion in State funding to school districts for the 2023-24 school year, the highest level of State aid ever. This represents an increase of \$3.1 billion or 10.0 percent compared to the 2022-23 school year, and includes a \$2.7 billion or 12.8 percent Foundation Aid increase. In addition, the State's 2023-24 Enacted Budget increases federal funds by \$125 million to expand access to full-day prekindergarten programs for four-year-old children in school districts statewide in the 2023-24 school year.

Although both the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 State budgets contained additional aid for school districts and municipalities, it is uncertain whether the State will have future budget shortfalls necessitating cuts to State aid. Reductions in the payment of State aid could adversely affect the financial condition of school districts in the State, including the District.

Legislation Allowing Financial Flexibility for Municipalities and School Districts: On August 24, 2020, former Governor Cuomo signed legislation allowing municipalities and school districts additional financial flexibility in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Whereas municipalities and school districts in the State typically may only pursue short-term financing for five years, under certain circumstances the new legislation allows note financing for up to an additional two years prior to converting to long-term bonds.

The new legislation also allows municipalities and school districts additional flexibility related to the use of reserve funds or inter-fund transfers for costs associated with COVID-19. The typical mandatory or permissive referendum requirements for the expenditure of funds from a capital reserve fund have been waived for capital costs attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic. Moneys from a capital reserve fund can also be temporarily advanced for operating costs or other costs attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic, so long as such moneys are repaid within five fiscal years, with interest. Additionally, while inter-fund transfers must typically be repaid by the end of the fiscal year in which the transfer is made, inter-fund advances for costs attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic do not need to be repaid until the close of the following fiscal year.

## **Local Impacts**

During the course of the pandemic, the District has seen increased expenditures for personal protective equipment, partitions for all classrooms, cleaning staff and additional technology for students and teachers; much of this spending has been covered by the federal dollars that have made their way to the District under the relief legislation discussed above.

While the continuing and future impacts of COVID-19 on the global, federal, State and local economies cannot be predicted with any certainty, the ongoing pandemic could have a significant adverse effect on the District's finances.

Although the District has not yet experienced any lasting adverse financial effects, it is continuing to monitor this situation and, in the absence of any future relief legislation, will attempt to mitigate any such adverse effects through program cuts or staffing reductions, as may be needed.

## **MARKET FACTORS**

The financial condition of the District as well as the market for the Notes could be affected by a variety of factors, some of which are beyond the District's control. There can be no assurance that adverse events in the State, including, for example, the seeking by a municipality of remedies pursuant to the Federal Bankruptcy Act or otherwise, will not occur which might affect the market price of and the market for the Notes. If a significant default or other financial crisis should occur in the affairs of the State or at any of its agencies or political subdivisions thereby further impairing the acceptability of obligations issued by borrowers within the State, both the ability of the District to arrange for additional borrowings and the market for and market value of outstanding debt obligations, including the Notes, could be adversely affected.

Disease outbreaks or similar public health threats could have an adverse impact on the District's financial condition and operating results. The outbreak of COVID-19, a respiratory disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus, was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020. See "COVID-19" herein for a further discussion of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Inflation Reduction Act of 2022**

On August 16, 2022, President Biden signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (H.R. 5376). For tax years beginning after 2022, the legislation will impose a minimum tax of 15 percent on the "adjusted financial statement income" of certain large corporations, generally consisting of corporations (other than S corporations, regulated investment companies and real estate investment trusts) with at least \$1 billion in average annual earnings, and certain foreign-parented multinational corporations with at least \$100 million in average annual earnings, determined over a three-year period. For this purpose, adjusted financial statement income tax is not reduced for interest earned on tax-exempt obligations. Prospective holders of the Notes that could be subject to this minimum tax should consult with their own tax advisors regarding the potential consequences of owning the Notes.

The District is dependent to a substantial degree on financial assistance from the State in the form of State aid. No delay in payment of State aid for the remainder of the District's current fiscal year is presently anticipated although no assurance can be given that there will not be a delay in payment thereof. If the State should experience difficulty in borrowing funds in anticipation of the receipt of State taxes in order to pay State aid to municipalities and school districts in the State, including the District, in this year or future years, the District may be affected by such a delay, until sufficient State taxes have been received by the State to make State aid payments to the District.

## **TAX EXEMPTION**

Hodgson Russ LLP, of Buffalo, New York, Bond Counsel, will deliver an opinion that, under existing law, the interest on the Notes is excluded from gross income of the holders thereof for federal income tax purposes and is not an item of tax preference for purposes of the individual alternative minimum tax imposed by the Code. However, such opinion will note that the District, by failing to comply with certain restrictions contained in the Code, may cause interest on the Notes to become subject to federal income taxation from the date of issuance of the Notes. We observe that interest on the Notes will be included in the adjusted financial statement income of certain corporations

that are subject to the alternative minimum tax under Section 55 of the code. Such opinion will state that interest on the Notes is exempt from personal income taxes imposed by the State or any political subdivision thereof (including the City of New York).

In rendering the foregoing opinion, Hodgson Russ LLP will note that the exclusion of the interest on the Notes from gross income for federal income tax purposes is subject to, among other things, continuing compliance by the District with the applicable requirements of Code Sections 141, 148, and 149, and the regulations promulgated thereunder (collectively, the "Tax Requirements"). In the opinion of Hodgson Russ LLP, the tax certificate and the nonarbitrage certificate that will be executed and delivered by the District in connection with the issuance of the Notes (collectively, the "Certificates") establish requirements and procedures, compliance with which will satisfy the Tax Requirements.

The Tax Requirements referred to above, which must be complied with in order that interest on the Notes remains excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes, include, but are not limited to:

The requirement that the proceeds of the Notes be used in a manner so that the Notes are not obligations which meet the definition of a "private activity bond" within the meaning of Code Section 141;

The requirements contained in Code Section 148 relating to arbitrage bonds; and

The requirements that payment of principal or interest on the Notes not be directly or indirectly guaranteed (in whole or in part) by the United States (or any agency or instrumentality thereof) as provided in Code Section 149(b).

In the Certificates, the District will covenant to comply with the Tax Requirements, and to refrain from taking any action which would cause the interest on the Notes to be includable in gross income for federal income tax purposes. Any violation of the Tax Requirements may cause the interest on the Notes to be included in gross income for federal income tax purposes from the date of issuance of the Notes. Hodgson Russ LLP expresses no opinion regarding other federal tax consequences arising with respect to the Notes.

Prospective purchasers of the Notes should be aware that ownership of, accrual or receipt of interest on, or disposition of, the Notes may have collateral federal income tax consequences for certain taxpayers, including financial institutions, property and casualty insurance companies, S corporations, certain foreign corporations, individual recipients of Social Security or Railroad Retirement benefits, and taxpayers who may be deemed to have incurred or continued indebtedness to purchase or carry the Notes. Prospective purchasers should consult their tax advisors as to any possible collateral consequences from their ownership of, or receipt of interest on, or disposition of, the Notes. Bond Counsel expresses no opinion regarding any such collateral federal income tax consequences.

In general, information reporting requirements will apply to non-corporate holders with respect to payments of principal, payments of interest, and the proceeds of the sale of a bond or note before maturity within the United States. Backup withholding may apply to a holder of the Notes under Code Section 3406, if such holder fails to provide the information required on Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") Form W-9, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification, or the IRS has specifically identified the holder as being subject to backup withholding because of prior underreporting. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a beneficial owner, and which constitutes over-withholding, would be allowed as a refund or a credit against such beneficial owner's United States federal income tax provided the required information is furnished to the IRS. Neither the information reporting requirement nor the backup withholding requirement affects the excludability of interest on the Notes from gross income for federal income tax purposes.

Bond Counsel has not undertaken to advise in the future whether any events occurring after the date of issuance of the Notes may affect the tax status of interest on the Notes. The Code has been continuously subject to legislative modifications, amendments, and revisions, and proposals for further changes are regularly submitted by leaders of the legislative and executive branches of the federal government. No representation is made as to the likelihood of such proposals being enacted in their current or similar form, or if enacted, the effective date of any such legislation, and no assurances can be given that such proposals or amendments will not materially and adversely affect the

economic value of the Notes or the tax consequences of ownership of the Notes. Prospective purchasers are encouraged to consult with their own legal and tax advisors with respect to these matters.

## **DOCUMENTS ACCOMPANYING DELIVERY OF THE NOTES**

### ***Absence of Litigation***

Upon delivery of the Notes, the District will furnish certificates, dated the date of delivery of the Notes, to the effect that there is no controversy or litigation of any nature pending or threatened to restrain or enjoin the issuance, sale, execution or delivery of the Notes, or in any way contesting or affecting the validity of the Notes or any of the proceedings taken with respect to the issuance and sale thereof or the application of moneys to the payment of the Notes. Additional certificates will state that there is no controversy or litigation of any nature now pending or threatened by or against the District wherein an adverse judgment or ruling could have a material adverse impact on the financial condition of the District or adversely affect the power of the District to levy, collect, and enforce the collection of taxes or other revenues for the payment of its Notes, which has not been disclosed in this Official Statement.

### ***Legal Matters***

Legal matters incident to the authorization, issuance and sale of the Notes will be subject to the final approving opinion of Hodgson Russ LLP, Bond Counsel. Such opinion will be available at the time of delivery of the Notes and will be to the effect that the Notes are valid and legally binding general obligations of the District for which the District has validly pledged its faith and credit, and all the taxable real property within the District is subject to the levy of ad valorem real property taxes to pay the Notes and interest thereon, without limitation as to rate or amount (subject to certain statutory limitations imposed by Chapter 97 of the 2011 Laws of the State). Such opinion shall also contain further statements to the effect that (a) the enforceability of rights or remedies with respect to the Notes may be limited by bankruptcy, insolvency, or other laws affecting creditors' rights or remedies heretofore or hereafter enacted, and (b) such law firm has not been requested to examine or review and has not examined or reviewed the accuracy or sufficiency of the Official Statement, or any additional proceedings, reports, correspondence, financial statements or other documents, containing financial or other information relative to the District which has been or may have been furnished or disclosed to purchasers of the Notes, and expresses no opinion with respect to such financial or other information, or the accuracy or sufficiency thereof.

### ***Closing Certificates***

Upon the delivery of the Notes, the purchaser will be furnished with the following items: (i) a certificate of the President of the Board to the effect that as of the date of this Official Statement and at all times subsequent thereto, up to and including the time of the delivery of the Notes, this Official Statement did not and does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements herein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, and further stating that there has been no adverse material change in the financial condition of the District since the date of this Official Statement to the date of issuance of the Notes; and having attached thereto a copy of this Official Statement; (ii) a certificate signed by an officer of the District evidencing payment for the Notes; (iii) a closing certificate evidencing the due execution of the Notes, including statements that (a) no litigation of any nature is pending or, to the knowledge of the signers, threatened, restraining or enjoining the issuance and delivery of the Notes or the levy and collection of taxes to pay the principal of and interest thereon, nor in any manner questioning the proceedings and authority under which the Notes were authorized or affecting the validity of the Notes thereunder, (b) neither the corporate existence or boundaries of the District nor the title of the signers to their respective offices is being contested, (c) no authority or proceedings for the issuance of the Notes have been repealed, revoked or rescinded; and (iv) a non-arbitrage certificate and tax certificate executed by the President of the Board, as described under "TAX EXEMPTION" herein.

## **DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING**

In accordance with the requirements of Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Rule"), unless the Notes are purchased for the purchaser's own account, as principal for investment and not for resale, the District will enter into a Disclosure

Undertaking at closing, the form of which is attached hereto as "APPENDIX D." A purchaser buying for its own account shall deliver a municipal securities disclosure certificate that documents its intent to purchase the Notes as principal for investment and not for resale (in a form satisfactory to Bond Counsel) establishing that an exemption from the Rule applies.

### ***Prior Disclosure History***

The District is in compliance in all material respects with all previous undertakings made pursuant to Rule 15c2-12 for the past five years.

## **CONTINUING DISCLOSURE COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES**

The District has established procedures designed to ensure that future filings of continuing disclosure information will be in compliance with existing continuing disclosure obligations, including transmitting such filings to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board established pursuant to Section 15B(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 through EMMA.

## **RATINGS**

The Notes are not rated.

Moody's has assigned an underlying rating of "Aa3" to the uninsured outstanding bonded indebtedness of the District.

With respect to the ratings, such ratings reflect only the view of such organization, and an explanation of the significance of such rating may be obtained only from such rating agency. There can be no assurance that such rating will continue for any specified period of time or that such rating will not be revised or withdrawn, if in the judgment of Moody's, circumstances so warrant. Any such change or withdrawal of such rating may have an adverse effect on the market price of the Notes or the availability of a secondary market for the Notes.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

So far as any statements made in this Official Statement involve matters of opinions or estimates, whether or not so expressly stated, they are set forth as such and not as representations of fact, and no representation is made that any of the opinions or estimates will be realized. Neither this Official Statement nor any statement which may have been made orally or in writing is to be construed as a contract with the holders of the Notes.

Statements in this Official Statement, and the documents included by specific reference, that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements, which are based on the District management's beliefs as well as assumptions made by, and information currently available to, the District's management and staff. Because the statements are based on expectations about future events and economic performance and are not statements of fact, actual results may differ materially from those projected. Important factors that could cause future results to differ include legislative and regulatory changes, changes in the economy, and other factors discussed in this and other documents that the District files with the repositories. When used in District documents or oral presentation, the words "anticipate," "estimate," "expect," "objective," "projection," "forecast," "goal," or similar words are intended to identify forward-looking statements.

Hodgson Russ LLP, of Buffalo, New York, Bond Counsel to the District, expresses no opinion as to the accuracy or completeness of information in any documents prepared by or on behalf of the District for use in connection with the offer and sale of the Notes, including but not limited to, the financial or statistical information in this Official Statement.

References herein to the Constitution of the State and various State and federal laws are only brief outlines of certain provisions thereof and do not purport to summarize or describe all of such provisions.

Concurrently with the delivery of the notes, the District will furnish a certificate to the effect that as of the date of

the Official Statement, the Official Statement did not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements herein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, subject to a limitation as to information in the Official Statement obtained from sources other than the District.

The Official Statement is submitted only in connection with the sale of the Notes by the District and may not be reproduced or used in whole or in part for any other purpose.

### **MUNICIPAL ADVISOR**

Capital Markets Advisors, LLC has acted as registered Municipal Advisor to the District in connection with the offer and sale of the Notes. In preparing the Official Statement, the Municipal Advisor has relied upon governmental officials, and other sources, who have access to relevant data to provide accurate information for the Official Statement, and the Municipal Advisor has not been engaged, nor has it undertaken, to independently verify the accuracy of such information. The Municipal Advisor is not a public accounting firm and has not been engaged by the District to compile, review, examine or audit any information in the Official Statement in accordance with accounting standards. The Municipal Advisor is an independent advisory firm and is not engaged in the business of underwriting, trading or distributing municipal securities or other public securities and therefore will not participate in the underwriting of the Notes.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information may be obtained from William Thiel, the District's Business Official, 900 Mill Road, West Seneca, New York 14224, phone: (716) 677-3121, email: wthiel@wscschools.org or from the District's Municipal Advisor, Capital Markets Advisors, LLC (716) 662-3910.

Any statements in this Official Statement involving matters of opinion or estimates, whether or not expressly so stated, are intended as such and not as representations of fact. No representation is made that any of such statements will be realized. This Official Statement is not to be construed as a contract or agreement between the District and the original purchasers or holders of any of the Notes.

Capital Markets Advisors, LLC may place a copy of this Official Statement on its website at [www.capmark.org](http://www.capmark.org). Unless this Official Statement specifically indicates otherwise, no statement on such website is included by specific reference or constitutes a part of this Official Statement. Capital Markets Advisors, LLC has prepared such website information for convenience, but no decisions should be made in reliance upon that information. Typographical or other errors may have occurred in converting original source documents to digital format, and neither the District nor Capital Markets Advisors, LLC assumes any liability or responsibility for errors or omissions on such website. Further, Capital Markets Advisors, LLC and the District disclaim any duty or obligation either to update or to maintain that information or any responsibility or liability for any damages caused by viruses in the electronic files on the website. Capital Markets Advisors, LLC and the District also assume no liability or responsibility for any errors or omissions or for any updates to dated website information.

**West Seneca Central School District  
Erie County, New York**

By: Elizabeth Gates  
Elizabeth Gates  
President of the Board of Education

DATED: June 3, 2024

**APPENDIX A**

## THE DISTRICT

### *General Information*

The District, with an area of approximately 30 square miles and an estimated population of 46,500, is located immediately southeast of the City of Buffalo and east of the City of Lackawanna. Most of the Town of West Seneca and portions of the towns of Cheektowaga, Hamburg, and Orchard Park are contained within the District (collectively, the “Towns”). The District is suburban-residential in nature, with some light manufacturing and commercial development; residents find employment within the District as well as in the City of Buffalo and in the surrounding area. Air transportation is available at the Buffalo Niagara International Airport. Rail transportation is provided by Conrail and Amtrak. Highways traversing the District include the New York State Thruway, the Aurora Expressway (Route 400) and U.S. Route 20.

### *District Organization*

Subject to the provisions of the State Constitution, the District operates pursuant to the Education Law, the Local Finance Law, other laws generally applicable to the District, and any special laws applicable to the District. Under such laws, there is no authority for the District to have a charter or adopt local laws.

The legislative power of the District is vested in the Board of Education (the “Board”), which consists of seven members including the President and Vice President. Board members are elected for overlapping terms of three years. The administrative officers of the District, whose duty it is to implement the policies of the Board and who are appointed by such Board, include the Superintendent of Schools, District Clerk, and District Treasurer.

### *Financial Organization*

Pursuant to the Local Finance Law, the President of the Board is the chief fiscal officer of the District. However, certain of the financial functions of the District are the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools and the District Treasurer.

### *District Facilities*

The District currently operates the following facilities:

**TABLE 1**  
**School Statistics**

<b><u>Name of School</u></b>	<b><u>Grades</u></b>	<b><u>Year of Construction</u></b>	<b><u>Year of Last Addition</u></b>	<b><u>State Rated Capacity</u></b>
Allendale Elementary	K-5	1954	2005	624
Clinton Elementary	K-4	1967	2005	675
Northwood Elementary	K-4	1970		500
Winchester-Potters <sup>(1)</sup>	K-5	1967	2005	693
Winchester Elementary		1939	2005	416
East Middle	5-8	1964	2005	1,356
West Elementary	K-5	1973	1997	858
West Middle	6-8	1958	2005	878
East Senior High	9-12	1970	2010	1,106
West Senior High	9-12	1950	2010	1,546
Ebenezer Building <sup>(2)</sup>		1921	1997	40

<sup>(1)</sup> Effective September, 2021, Winchester-Potters returned to K-5 educational operations. Winchester Elementary no longer houses District students and is leased to Erie 1 BOCES.

<sup>(2)</sup> The Ebenezer Building currently is occupied by District support service departments.

Source: District Officials



**Employees**

There are approximately 1,221 persons employed by the District. The collective bargaining agents and the dates of expirations of the various bargaining agreements are as follows:

**TABLE 2**  
**Employees**

<u>Approximate No. of Employees</u>	<u>Union</u>	<u>Contract Expiration Date</u>
628	West Seneca Teachers Association	06/30/26
429	CSEA Full time	06/30/25
126	CSEA Part time	06/30/25
22	West Seneca Administrators Association	06/30/28
9	West Seneca Managers and Assistants	06/30/28
7	West Seneca Supervisors and Directors	06/30/29

Source: District Officials

**Employee Pension Benefits**

All non-teaching and non-certified administrative employees of the District eligible for pension or retirement benefits under the Retirement and Social Security Law of the State of New York are members of the New York and Local Employees' Retirement System ("ERS").

Teachers and certified administrators are members of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System ("TRS"). Payments to the Retirement System are deducted from the District's State aid payments.

Both the ERS and the TRS are non-contributing with respect to members hired prior to July 1, 1976. The Retirement Systems are non-contributory with respect to members working ten or more years. Other than as discussed below, all members of the respective systems hired on or after July 1, 1976 with less than 10 year's full-time service contribute 3% of their gross annual salary toward the cost of retirement programs.

The following table details the District's contractually required contributions to the ERS for the preceding four audited fiscal years, and the budgeted amounts for the fiscal years ending March 31, 2024 and March 31, 2025 (for ERS, the Comptroller annually certifies the actuarially determined rates expressly used in computing the employers' contributions based on salaries paid during the Systems' fiscal year ending March 31):

<u>Fiscal Year End 3/31</u>	<u>ERS</u>
2025 (Proposed Budget)	\$3,283,113
2024 (Budgeted)	3,404,262
2023	2,807,784
2022	2,602,688
2021	2,634,835

Source: Audited Financial Statements and District Officials

The following table details the District's actual required contributions to the TRS for the preceding four audited fiscal years and the budgeted amount of the fiscal years ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025:

<u>Fiscal Year End 6/30</u>	<u>TRS</u>
2025 (Proposed Budget)	\$5,757,299
2024 (Budgeted)	5,247,168
2023	6,139,006
2022	5,433,814
2021	5,009,250

Source: Audited Financial Statements and District Officials

On December 10, 2009, former Governor Patterson signed into law pension reform legislation that will provide (according to a Division of the Budget analysis) more than \$35 billion in long-term savings to State taxpayers over the next thirty years. The legislation creates a new Tier V pension level, then most significant reform of the State's pension system in more than a quarter-century. Key components of Tier V include:

- Raising the minimum age of which most civilians can retire without penalty from 55 to 62 and imposing a penalty of up to 38 percent for any civilian who retires prior to age 62.
- Requiring employees to continue contributing three percent of their salaries toward pension costs so long as they accumulate additional pension credits.
- Increasing the minimum years of service required to draw a pension from five years to 10 years.
- Capping the amount of overtime that can be considered in the calculation of pension benefits for civilians at \$15,000 per year, and for police and firefighters at 15 percent of non-overtime wages.

Members of the NYS Teachers' Retirement System will have a separate Tier V benefit structure that will achieve equivalent savings as other civilian public employees. It includes:

- Raising the minimum age an individual can retire without penalty from 55 to 57 years.
- Contributing 3.5 percent of their annual wages to pension costs rather than 3.0 percent and continuing this increased contribution so long as they accumulate additional pension credits.
- Increasing the two percent multiplier threshold for final pension calculations from 20 to 25 years.

On March 16, 2012, the Governor signed into law the new Tier VI pension program, effective for new ERS and TRS employees hired after April 1, 2012. The Tier VI legislation provides, among other things, for increased employee contribution rates of between 3% and 6%, an increase in the retirement age from 62 to 63 years, a readjustment of the pension multiplier, and a change in the time period for final average salary calculation from three years to five years. Tier VI employees will vest in the system after ten years of employment and will continue to make employee contributions throughout employment.

In accordance with constitutional requirements, these new pension reforms would apply only to public employees hired in the future.

Pension reform legislation enacted in 2003 and 2004 changed the cycle of ERS billing to match budget cycles of the District. Under the previous method, the District was unsure of how much it paid to the system until after its budget was implemented. Under the current method the contribution for a given fiscal year will be based on the value of the pension fund on the prior April 1 instead of the following April 1 so that the District will be able to more accurately include the cost of the contribution into its budget. The reform legislation also (i) required the District to make a minimum contribution of 4.5% of payroll every year, including years in which the investment performance of the fund would make a lower contribution possible and (ii) moved the annual payment date for contributions from December 15th to February 1st, effective December 15, 2004.

The New York State ERS rate for 2022-23 was 11.6%. The 2023-24 ERS increased to 13.1%. The 2023-24 TRS rate is 9.8%. The 2024-25 ERS is estimated to be 15.2%. The 2024-25 TRS is estimated to be 10.0%.

Due to poor performance of the investment portfolio of the State Retirement System, New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli has announced that the employer contribution rates for required pension contributions to the SRS will continue to increase. To help mitigate the impact of their ERS increases, legislation has been enacted that permits local governments and school districts to amortize a portion of such contributions. Under such legislation, local governments and school districts that choose to amortize a portion of their ERS contributions will be required to set aside and reserve funds with the SRS for certain future rate increases.

In Spring 2013, the State and TRS approved a Stable Contribution Option ("SCO") that gives school districts the ability to better manage the spikes in Actuarially Required Contribution rates ("ARCs"). ERS followed suit and modified its existing SCO, which was adopted in 2010. Each plan allows school districts to pay the SCO amount in lieu of the ARC amount, which is higher, and defer the difference in payment amounts as described below. The plan, which was approved in former Governor Cuomo's 2016-17 budget would let districts contribute 14.13% of employee costs toward pensions. The District has not opted into the pension smoothing plan.

The TRS SCO deferral plan is available to school districts for seven years after enactment. Under the TRS SCO plan, payment of the deferred amount will commence in year six of the program (2019-20) and continue for five years. School districts can elect to no longer participate in the plan at any time, resume paying the ARC and begin repayment of deferred amounts over five years. Under the ERS SCO, payment of deferred amounts begins the year immediately following the deferral and the repayment period is 12 years. Once made, the election to participate in

the ERS SCO is permanent. However, the school districts can choose not to defer payment in any given year. In both plans, interest on the deferred amounts is based on the yield of 10-year U.S. Treasury securities plus 1%. The primary benefit of participation in the SCO plans is the elimination of the uncertainty in the volatility of future pension contribution ARCs in the near term, thereby providing school districts with significant assistance in its ability to create a stable and reliable fiscal plan.

### ***Other Post-Employment Benefits***

In June 2015, GASB released GASB Statement No. 75 (“GASB 75”), which was required to be implemented in the District’s 2017-18 fiscal year. GASB 75 replaces the requirements of GASB 45 and establishes new standards for recognizing and measuring liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expense/expenditures. Under GASB 75, governments must report a liability on the face of the financial statements for the post-employment benefits (“OPEB”) that they provide; such liability can no longer be a footnote as was allowed under GASB 45.

The District is in compliance with the requirements of GASB 75 and it has been determined that the District does not have a liability.

### ***Investment Policy/Permitted Investments***

Pursuant to State law, including Sections 10 and 11 of the General Municipal Law (the “GML”), the District is generally permitted to deposit moneys in banks and trust companies located and authorized to do business in the State. All such deposits, including special time deposit accounts and certificates of deposit, in excess of the amount insured under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, are required to be secured in accordance with the provisions of and subject to the limitations of Section 10 of the GML.

The District may also temporarily invest moneys in: (1) obligations of the United States of America; (2) obligations guaranteed by agencies of the United States of America where the payment of principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States of America; (3) obligations of the State of New York; (4) with the approval of the New York State Comptroller, tax anticipation notes or revenue anticipation notes issued by any municipality, school district, or district corporation, other than those bonds issued by the District; (5) certificates of participation issued by political subdivisions of the State pursuant to Section 109-b(10) of the GML; (6) obligations of a New York public benefit corporation which are made lawful investments for municipalities pursuant to the enabling statute of such public benefit corporation; or (7) in the case of moneys held in certain reserve funds established by the District pursuant to law, obligations of the District.

All of the foregoing instruments and investments are required to be payable or redeemable at the option of the owner within such times as the proceeds will be needed to meet expenditures for purposes for which the moneys were provided and, in the case of instruments and investments purchased with the proceeds of bonds or notes, shall be payable or redeemable in any event, at the option of the owner, within two years of the date of purchase. Unless registered or inscribed in the name of the District, such instruments and investments must be purchased through, delivered to and held in custody of a bank or trust company in the State pursuant to a written custodial agreement as provided in Section 10 of the GML.

The Board has adopted an investment policy and such policy conforms with applicable laws of the State governing the deposit and investment of public moneys. All deposits and investments of the District are made in accordance with such policy.

## **FINANCIAL FACTORS**

### ***Revenues***

The District receives most of its revenue from a real property tax on all non-exempt real property situated within the District and State Aid. Total annual revenues from real property taxes account for 48.5% while annual revenues from State aid account for 40.3%.

**Real Property Tax**

The following table sets forth total general fund revenues and real property tax revenues during the last five audited fiscal years, and the amounts budgeted for the current and ensuing fiscal years.

**TABLE 3**  
**Property Taxes**

<b>Fiscal Year</b> <b>Ending June 30</b>	<b>Total</b> <b>Revenues</b>	<b>Real Property</b> <b>Tax Revenues</b> <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>Real Property</b> <b>Tax Revenues to</b> <b>Total Revenues</b>
2019	\$121,873,522	\$61,853,865	50.8%
2020	121,091,377	62,880,666	51.9%
2021	125,851,159	64,701,883	51.4%
2022	133,812,448	65,790,851	49.2%
2023	138,649,212	67,251,864	48.5%
2024 (Budgeted)	144,140,632	68,631,182	47.6%
2025 (Proposed Budget)	149,631,454	69,966,619	46.8%

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes STAR aid.

Source: District's Audited Financial Statements for the recent five years, Adopted 2024 Budget, and the Proposed 2025 Budget.

**State Aid**

The District also receives a portion of its revenues in the form of State aid. However, there is no assurance that the State appropriation for State aid to school districts will continue, either pursuant to existing formulas or in any form whatsoever. The State is not constitutionally obligated to maintain or continue such aid. State budgetary restrictions which eliminate or substantially reduce State aid could have a material adverse effect upon the District, requiring either a counterbalancing increase in revenues from other sources to the extent available, or a curtailment of expenditures.

The following table sets forth total State aid revenues during the last five audited fiscal years and the amounts budgeted for the current and ensuing fiscal years.

**TABLE 4**  
**State Aid**

<b>Fiscal Year</b> <b>Ending June 30</b>	<b>Total</b> <b>Revenues</b>	<b>State Aid</b>	<b>State Aid to</b> <b>Total Revenues</b>
2019	\$121,873,522	\$48,314,375	39.6%
2020	121,091,377	47,384,619	39.1%
2021	125,851,159	49,335,409	39.2%
2022	133,812,448	53,411,421	39.9%
2023	138,649,212	55,847,532	40.3%
2024 (Budgeted)	144,140,632	63,730,670	44.2%
2025 (Proposed Budget)	149,631,454	65,686,055	43.9%

Source: District's Audited Financial Statements for the recent five years, Adopted 2024 Budget, and the Proposed 2025 Budget.

In addition to the amount of State Aid budgeted by the District in its 2023-24 fiscal years, the State has made payments of STAR aid representing tax savings provided by school districts to their taxpayers under the STAR (see "STAR-School Tax Exemption") Program.

In January 2001, the State Supreme Court issued a decision in *Campaign for Fiscal Equity ("CFE") v. New York* mandating that the current system of apportionment of state aid to school districts within the State be restructured by the Governor and the State Legislature. On June 25, 2002, the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court reversed that decision. On June 26, 2003, the State Court of Appeals, the highest court in the State, reversed the Appellate Division, holding that the State must, by July 30, 2004, ascertain the actual cost of providing a sound basic education, enact reforms to the system of school funding and ensure a system of accountability for such reforms. The Court of Appeals further modified the decision of the Appellate Division by deciding against a Statewide remedy and instead limited its ruling solely to the New York City school system.

A case related to the *Campaign for Fiscal Equity, Inc. v. State of New York* is scheduled to be heard on appeal on May 30, 2017 in *New Yorkers for Students' Educational Rights ("NYSER") v. State of New York* and a consolidated case on the right to a sound basic education. The NYSER complaint filed in the lawsuit asserts that the State has failed to comply with the original decision in the Court of Appeals in the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case, and asks the Court of Appeals to require the State to develop new methodologies, formulas and mechanisms for determining State aid, to fully fund the "foundation aid" formula, to eliminate the supermajority requirement for voter approval of budgets which increase school district property tax levies above the property tax cap limitation, and related matters. In late 2021 a settlement was reached. The settlement required the State to make significant advancement in funding foundation aid in the 2022-2023 budget year, and to fully fund such aid by the 2023-2024 budget year. The State is on a path to honoring the settlement requirements. If it does not, the lawsuit can be revived.

The Smart Schools Bond Act was passed as part of the Enacted 2014-2015 State Budget. The Smart Schools Bond Act authorized the issuance of \$2 billion of general obligation bonds to finance improved educational technology and infrastructure to improve learning and opportunity for students throughout the State. The District's allocation of funds is \$4,195,952.

While the increases in State aid following this case have been targeted to high-needs schools. Other schools did share in the overall increase of State aid. The District is unable to predict whether this pattern of distribution will continue beyond that which is included in later legislation dealing with foundation aid. Increased State aid for New York City schools and other high-needs schools may result in reductions in the future of State aid to certain school districts, including the District.

In any event, the outcome of this matter will not affect the validity of any obligations issued by the District, including the Bonds, nor the ability of the District to levy taxes on the taxable real property in the District to pay the Bonds and the interest thereon as the same shall become due and payable.

There can be no assurance that the State appropriation for State aid to school districts will be continued in future years, either pursuant to existing formulas or in any form whatsoever. The State aid appropriated and apportioned to the District can be paid only if the State has such monies available therefor. The availability of such monies and the timeliness of such payment could be affected by a delay in the adoption of the State budget.

The District cannot predict at this time whether there will be any reductions in and/or delays in the receipt of State aid during the District's 2023-24 fiscal year. Should the District fail to receive monies expected from the State in the amounts and at the times expected, the District is permitted to issue revenue anticipation notes in anticipation of the receipt of delayed State aid.

### ***Recent Events Affecting New York School Districts***

School district fiscal year (2020-21): Due to the below-described decrease in State revenues as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the State budget included an increase of only \$95 million in State Aid (0.035% increase from the prior budget year), and Foundation Aid remained at essentially the same level as it was during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. While the budget actually included a decrease in State Aid (referred to as a "Pandemic Adjustment"), the decrease in State aid be fully offset by the State's allocation of federal stimulus funds. Absent the federal stimulus funds, there would have been a \$1.127 billion decrease in State Aid from the 2019-2020 year.

School district fiscal year (2021-22): The State budget includes large-scale increases in State aid to school districts, including a \$105 million expansion of full-day prekindergarten that will provide funding to 200 school districts that didn't previously receive State funding for such full-day prekindergarten programs. In contrast to the 2020-21 budget, this budget provides that additional federal aid would supplement, not supplant, State funding. Most notably, Foundation Aid is increased by \$1.4 billion (7.6%), and the State has committed to a three-year phase-in of the restoration of the full Foundation Aid formula to finally fulfill the State's commitments from the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case from the early 2000s.

The City of New York was an early epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States, and as a result the State suffered significant revenue shortfalls and unanticipated expenses beginning at the end of the State's 2019-2020 fiscal year, and continuing during the State's 2020-2021 fiscal year.

In response, the enacted State budget for the 2020-21 fiscal year allowed the State to reduce expenditures (including aid to local school districts and municipalities) if tax receipts were lower than anticipated. Accordingly, in June, 2020 the State Division of the Budget (“DOB”) began withholding 20 percent of most local aid payments, although such aid was restored in full later in that same fiscal year.

Many of the State’s 2020-21 budget decisions were based on the uncertainty of future federal aid. In the period of time since such decisions were made, the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act was signed into law (on March 11, 2021), which legislation includes almost \$24 billion in funding for various levels of government in the State, including approximately \$12.5 billion for the State, \$6 billion for New York City, and \$4 billion to be divided among counties in the State; another \$12 billion was intended to be used toward the safe reopening of K-12 schools as well as colleges and universities.

Accordingly, the State enacted budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year was more expansive (about 10% higher) than the prior budget, including significantly increased funding for schools and local governments. School districts benefitted from a \$1.4 billion increase in Foundation Aid and will benefit from a three-year Foundation Aid full restoration phase-in that will allow all school districts to receive, by the 2023-24 State fiscal year, the increased level of Foundation Aid that was originally promised in 2007, along with a \$105 million expansion of full-day prekindergarten. Local governments received a full restoration of proposed cuts to Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding. Further, municipalities that host Video Lottery Terminal (“VLT”) facilities received a full restoration of \$10.3 million in proposed VLT aid cuts.

Although the State’s 2021-22 and 2022-23 budgets contained additional aid for school districts and municipalities, it is uncertain whether the State will have future budget shortfalls necessitating cuts to State aid. Reductions in the payment of State aid could adversely affect the financial condition of school districts in the State, including the District. See “COVID-19,” herein, for further details on the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on the State.

See “COVID-19,” herein, for further details on such pandemic and its effects on the State.

School district fiscal year (2022-23): The Governor’s Enacted budget provides \$31.5 billion in School Aid for the 2022-23 fiscal year, an increase of \$2.1 billion (7.2 percent) from \$29.1 billion 2021-22. Foundation Aid is increased by \$1.5 billion (7.7% increase), This is the second year of the Foundation Aid Formulation, a three-year phase-in of the restoration of the full Foundation Aid formula to finally fulfill the State’s commitments from the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case from the early 2000s. The budget continues the expansion of full-day prekindergarten that will provide funding to 200 school districts with an increase of \$125 million from the 2022-23 fiscal year, and increase of 13%. The Budget also includes \$451 million increase in all other School Aid programs.

School district fiscal year (2023-24): The Governor’s Enacted State budget provides \$34.5 billion in School Aid for the 2023-24 fiscal year, an increase of \$3.1 billion (10.0 percent). Foundation Aid is increased by \$2.7 billion (12.8 percent), This is the third year of the Foundation Aid Formulation, a three-year phase-in of the restoration of the full Foundation Aid formula to finally fulfill the State’s commitments from the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case from the early 2000s. The budget continues the expansion of full-day prekindergarten that will provide funding to 200 school districts with an increase of \$1.2 million from the 2022-23 fiscal year. The total funding for the Universal Pre-Kindergarten includes \$25 million in expansion grants supported by the American Rescue Plan Act.

School district fiscal year (2024-25): The Governor’s Enacted State budget provides \$35.9 billion in School Aid, an increase of \$1.3 billion, including \$24.9 billion in Foundation Aid for the 2024-25 fiscal year. Governor Hochul is lowering the inflation factor from 3.4 percent to 2.8 percent in the formula to right-size funding for the 2024-25 school year. The Budget also commissions a Rockefeller Institute study to examine the Foundation Aid formula to prepare for changes next year.

The State budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year provides \$67.70 million of State Aid to the District, a 1.71% increase from the District's 2023-24 fiscal year.

The District presently anticipates an increase in its State Aid related to Foundation Aid for its 2024-2025 fiscal year in an amount of \$1,429,760.

It should also be noted that the District receives federal aid for certain programs. In its last audited fiscal year, the District received \$1,301,046 in such direct federal aid. It is not possible to predict whether such aid will continue in the future, or if continued, whether it will be funded at present levels.

The District is dependent to a substantial degree on financial assistance from the State in the form of State aid. If the State should experience difficulty in borrowing funds in anticipation of the receipt of State taxes in order to pay State aid to municipalities and school districts in the State, including the District, in this year or future years, the District may be affected by such a delay, until sufficient State taxes have been received by the State to make State aid payments to the District.

The District cannot predict at this time whether there will be any reductions in and/or delays in the receipt of State aid during the District's 2023-24 fiscal year. The District believes that it would mitigate the impact of any delays or the reduction in State aid by reducing expenditures, increasing revenues, appropriating other available funds on hand, and/or by any combination of the foregoing.

### ***Independent Audit***

The District retains independent certified public accountants to audit its financial statements. In addition, the District is subject to audit by the State Comptroller to review compliance with legal requirements and the rules and regulations established by the State.

### ***Fund Structure and Accounts***

The General Fund is the general operating fund for the District which is used to account for substantially all financial resources except those accounted for in another fund. The General Fund accounts for substantially all revenues and expenditures of the District. Special Revenue Funds include: the Lunch Fund and the Special Aid Fund. A Capital Projects Fund is used to account for and report financial resources used to construct or acquire capital assets.

Expendable trust funds and funds held in an agency capacity are accounted for in the Trust and Agency Fund. The District also maintains account groups for its General Fixed Asset Accounts and General Long-Term Debt Accounts in order to maintain accountability for its fixed assets and long-term debt, respectively.

### ***Basis of Accounting***

The District's governmental funds are accounted for on a modified accrual basis whereby revenues, other than those susceptible ("measurable" and "available" to finance current operations) to accrual, are recorded when received in cash. Revenues susceptible to accrual include real property taxes and State aid. The District generally records expenditures on the accrual basis when fund liabilities are incurred, except for interest on general obligation debt, which is recorded when it becomes due. Pension costs billed to the District by the State are recorded as expenditures in full in the fiscal year incurred. The estimated unbilled portion of these pension costs for governmental funds are shown as a liability on the balance sheet of the general long-term debt accounts group. Accumulated vacation and sick leave are also accounted for in the general long-term debt account group. Inventories are generally not recorded but expensed at the time of purchase; food and supplies in school lunch are inventoried and carried at values which approximate market. Fixed assets are recorded at replacement costs as determined by appraisal; there is no provision for depreciation expense.

### ***Budgetary Procedure***

Pursuant to the State Education Law, the Board annually prepares or causes to be prepared a tentative budget of the District for the ensuing year. The Board causes such budget to be published four times within seven weeks prior to the annual meeting which is held the third Tuesday in May. At the annual meeting a public hearing is held and after that, a referendum upon the question of the budget is held in which the District residents who are qualified to vote may participate. If the qualified voters at the annual or district meeting approve the tentative budget, the Board, by resolution, shall adopt the tentative budget as the budget of the District for the following fiscal year. If the budget is not so approved, the Board may make changes to the budget and resubmit it, as revised, to the voters for adoption. Alternatively, the Board may, by resolution, adopt an "austerity" or "contingency" budget for the following fiscal year. Such budget must provide a tax for ordinary contingent expenses of the District, which includes debt service, in a like manner as if the same had been approved by the qualified voters.

On May 21, 2024, the qualified voters of the District will vote on the District’s budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

**TAX INFORMATION**

***Real Property Tax Assessment and Rates***

The District derives its power to levy an *ad valorem* real property tax from the State Constitution; methods and procedures to levy, collect and enforce this tax are governed by the Real Property Tax Law. Real property assessment rolls used by the District are prepared by the towns listed in Table 5 below. Assessment valuations are determined by the Town Assessor and the State Board of Real Property Services, which is responsible for certain utility and railroad property. In addition, the State Board of Real Property Services annually establishes State Equalization Rates for all localities in the State, which are determined by statistical sampling of market sales/assessment studies. The equalization rates are used in the calculation and distribution of certain State aids and are used by many localities in the calculation of debt contracting and real property taxing limitations. The District is not subject to constitutional real property taxing limitations.

**TABLE 5  
Assessed and Full Valuations**

<u>Roll Year:</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>Tax Year End June 30:</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
<b>Assessed Valuations:</b>					
West Seneca	\$1,131,977,892	\$1,140,054,206	\$1,150,534,739	\$1,161,912,115	\$1,174,203,210
Cheektowaga	474,220,463	464,496,233	639,507,597	725,681,353	720,901,472
Orchard Park	59,991,465	60,546,737	60,837,157	61,308,986	61,347,767
Hamburg	<u>22,041,064</u>	<u>21,943,397</u>	<u>21,431,487</u>	<u>21,477,997</u>	<u>20,992,208</u>
Total	<u>\$1,688,230,884</u>	<u>\$1,687,040,573</u>	<u>\$1,872,310,980</u>	<u>\$1,970,380,451</u>	<u>\$1,977,444,657</u>
<b>State Equalization Rates:</b>					
West Seneca	37.00%	36.00%	34.00%	30.00%	26.00%
Cheektowaga	85.00%	83.00%	100.00%	100.00%	91.00%
Orchard Park	48.50%	46.50%	43.00%	39.00%	34.00%
Hamburg	47.00%	44.50%	41.00%	37.00%	32.00%
<b>Full Valuations:</b>					
West Seneca	\$3,059,399,708	\$3,166,817,239	\$3,383,925,703	\$3,873,040,383	\$4,516,166,192
Cheektowaga	557,906,427	559,634,016	639,507,597	725,681,353	792,199,420
Orchard Park	123,693,742	130,208,037	141,481,760	157,202,528	180,434,609
Hamburg	<u>46,895,881</u>	<u>49,311,004</u>	<u>52,271,920</u>	<u>58,048,641</u>	<u>65,600,650</u>
Total	<u>\$3,787,895,758</u>	<u>\$3,905,970,296</u>	<u>\$4,217,186,980</u>	<u>\$4,813,972,905</u>	<u>\$5,554,400,871</u>

Source: District Officials

**TABLE 6  
Tax Levy and Rates**

<u>Tax Year End June 30:</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024 <sup>(1)</sup></u>
Total Tax Levy	\$62,453,615	\$64,326,002	\$65,500,000	\$66,970,883	\$68,631,182
Amount Collected	61,142,304	62,976,088	64,277,544	65,481,453	66,934,118
Returned to County	1,311,311	1,349,914	1,222,456	1,489,430	1,697,064
West Seneca	\$44.56	\$45.75	\$45.68	\$46.37	\$47.52
Cheektowaga	19.40	19.84	15.53	13.91	13.58
Orchard Park	33.99	35.42	36.12	35.67	36.34
Hamburg	35.08	37.01	37.89	37.6	38.61

(1) 2024 collections are in process.

Source: District Officials



## ***The State Comptroller's Fiscal Stress Monitoring System***

The New York State Comptroller has reported that New York State's school districts and municipalities are facing significant fiscal challenges. As a result, the Office of the State Comptroller has developed a Fiscal Stress Monitoring System ("FSMS") to provide independent, objectively measured and quantifiable information to school district and municipal officials, taxpayers and policy makers regarding the various levels of fiscal stress under which the State's school districts and municipalities are operating.

The fiscal stress scores are based on financial information submitted as part of each school district's ST-3 report filed with the State Education Department annually, and each municipality's annual report filed with the State Comptroller. Using financial indicators that include year-end fund balance, cash position and patterns of operating deficits, the system creates an overall fiscal stress score which classifies whether a school district or municipality is in "significant fiscal stress," in "moderate fiscal stress," as "susceptible to fiscal stress" or "no designation." Entities that do not accumulate the number of points that would place them in a stress category will receive a financial score but will be classified in a category of "no designation." This classification should not be interpreted to imply that the entity is completely free of fiscal stress conditions. Rather, it means that the entity's financial information, when objectively scored according to the FSMS criteria, did not generate sufficient points to place them in one of the three established stress categories.

The most current applicable report of the State Comptroller designates the District as "No Designation" (see <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/fiscal-monitoring/pdf/2023-schools-summary.pdf>)

## ***New York State Comptroller's Audit***

Many school districts throughout the state can be subject to an audit of the New York State Office of the Comptroller ("OSC") pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the State Constitution and the State Comptroller's authority as set forth in Article 3 of the New York State General Municipal Law.

On March 6, 2020, OSC, Division of Local Government and School Accountability released an audit of the District to determine whether the Board and District officials provided adequate oversight to help ensure that community education program fees were properly accounted for. The audit found that District officials did not review or reconcile electronic payments with cash receipts records to verify that all amounts were collected and remitted to the District. As a result, the District did not initially receive more than \$5,500 in fees recorded as collected but not remitted by a vendor in January 2019. In January 2020, the vendor reimbursed the District for the lost revenue. The Board did not adopt written enforcement policies for overdue accounts and the Coordinator did not ensure all overdue accounts were invoiced in a timely manner.

The OSC recommended that the District adopt written policies and procedures for reconciling program fees, overseeing third-party vendors and collecting unpaid before and after school program fees; review and reconcile electronic payments collected by third-party vendors with cash receipts records; and invoice overdue accounts for unpaid before and after school program fees in a timely manner. District officials agreed with such recommendations and indicated they planned to initiate corrective action.

The link to the OSC report is as follows:

<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/audits/schools/2020/west-seneca-2019-241.pdf>

The OSC has not conducted any other audits of the District in the past five years.

## ***Tax Limit***

The Constitution does not limit the amount that may be raised by the District-wide tax levy on real estate in any fiscal year. See, however, the discussion immediately below under the sub-heading "Tax Levy Limitation Law."

## ***Tax Levy Limitation Law***

On June 24, 2011, Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 was signed into law by the Governor (the "Tax Levy Limitation Law"). The Tax Levy Limitation Law applies to all local governments, including school districts (with the exception

of New York City, and the counties comprising New York City). The discussion herein does not include school districts in New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, or Yonkers.

On June 25, 2015, Chapter 20 of the 2015 Laws of New York (“Chapter 20”) amended the Tax Levy Limitation Law to extend its expiration from June 15, 2016 to June 15, 2020. Chapter 20 also affects the calculation of tax base growth factor and exclusions available to school districts, and introduces a new real property tax rebate, as outlined below. On April 12, 2019, the enacted budget legislation made the Tax Levy Limitation Law permanent.

Prior to the enactment of the Tax Levy Limitation Law, there was no statutory limitation on the amount of real property taxes that a school district could levy as part of its budget if its budget had been approved by a simple majority of its voters. In the event the budget had been defeated by the voters, the school district was required to adopt a contingency budget. Under a contingency budget, school budget increases were limited to the lesser of four percent (4%) of the prior year’s budget or one hundred twenty percent (120%) of the consumer price index (“CPI”).

The Tax Levy Limitation Law restricts, among other things, the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by or on behalf of a school district in a particular year. Pursuant to the Tax Levy Limitation Law, the tax levy of a school district cannot increase by more than the lesser of (i) two percent (2%) or (ii) the annual increase in the CPI, over the amount of the prior year’s tax levy. Certain adjustments are permitted for taxable real property full valuation increases or changes in physical or quantity growth in the real property base as defined in Section 1220 of the Real Property Tax Law. The newly enacted Chapter 20 additionally allows the State Commissioner of Taxation and Finance to adjust for changes in the real property base to reflect development on tax exempt real property.

Beginning with the 2012-13 fiscal year, school districts have had to submit their proposed tax levies to the voters each year. A school district could exceed the tax levy limitation for the coming fiscal year only if the voters of such school district first approve a budget by at least 60% affirmative vote of those voting to override such limitation for such coming fiscal year only. Tax levies that do not exceed the limitation only require approval by at least a simple majority of those voting. In the event that a budget is defeated and not re-proposed, or in the event of two budget vote defeats in the same year, a school district may not levy taxes in an amount greater than the amount levied in the most recent year when a budget was approved. A school district’s calculation of each fiscal year’s tax levy limit is subject to review by the Commissioner of Education and the Commissioner of Taxation and Finance prior to adoption of each fiscal year budget.

There are exceptions for school districts to the tax levy limitation provided in the Tax Levy Limitation Law, including expenditures made on account of certain tort settlements and certain increases in the average actuarial contribution rates of the New York State and Local Employees’ Retirement System, and the Teachers’ Retirement System. School districts are also permitted to carry forward a certain portion of their unused levy limitation from a prior year.

There is also an exception for school districts for “Capital Local Expenditures” subject to voter approval where required by law. This term is defined in a manner that does not include certain items for which a school district may issue debt including the payment of judgments or settled claims, including tax certiorari payments, and cashflow borrowings including tax anticipation notes, revenue anticipation notes, budget notes and deficiency notes. “Capital Local Expenditures” are defined as “the taxes associated with budgeted expenditures resulting from the financing, refinancing, acquisition, design, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvement, furnishing and equipping of or otherwise providing for school district capital facilities or school district capital equipment, including debt service and lease expenditures, and transportation capital debt service, subject to the approval of the qualified voters where required by law.” The State Commissioner of Taxation and Finance has promulgated a regulation that will allow school districts, beginning in the year 2020-21 school year, to adjust the exclusion to reflect a school District’s share of capital expenditures related to projects funded through a board of cooperative education services (“BOCES”). The portion of the tax levy necessary to support “Capital Local Expenditures” is defined as the “Capital Tax Levy,” and this is an exclusion from the tax levy limitation (except in a case when the District would be prohibited from raising the tax levy amount at all due to budget vote results, as explained above).

### ***Tax Collection Procedure***

Real property taxes for school purposes are levied by the District but are collected by the respective Towns. Such taxes may be paid without penalty on or before October 15. Delinquent school tax payments are assessed penalties

in accordance with an ascending scale which starts at 5% if paid between October 16 and October 31 and 6% if paid between November 1 and November 30.

On or about December 1, uncollected taxes are turned over to the Erie County Commissioner of Finance and the County reimburses the District in full for the uncollected amount no later than April 1 of the District's fiscal year.

The County has the power to enforce the collection of real property taxes and to issue and sell tax anticipation notes in order to finance any uncollected taxes returned to the District.

***STAR - School Tax Exemption***

The STAR (School Tax Relief) program provides State-funded exemptions from school property taxes to homeowners for their primary residences. School districts are reimbursed by the State for real property taxes exempted pursuant to the STAR Program.

For the 2024-25 school levy year, homeowners subject to certain household income limitations are eligible for an enhanced exemption and basic exemption as follows:

<u>Municipality:</u>	<u>Enhanced Exemption</u>	<u>Basic Exemption</u>
Town of West Seneca	\$21,840	\$8,080
Town of Cheektowaga	76,440	27,300
Town of Hamburg	26,880	9,880
Town of Orchard Park	28,560	10,410

*Date Certified: 04/09/2024*

The enhanced or basic STAR exemption is the amount that an assessment will be reduced prior to the levy of school taxes. For example, if a home is assessed at \$150,000 and the enhanced STAR exemption for a municipality is \$50,000, the school taxes on the property would be paid on a taxable assessment of \$100,000 (\$150,000 - \$50,000 = \$100,000).

Since the 2011-12 school tax bills, there has been a 2% limit on STAR savings increases, the savings results from the Basic or Enhanced STAR exemptions are limited to a 2% increase over the prior year. When school district initially calculates their tax bills, for each municipal segment they will compare the amount of STAR savings to the maximum. If the STAR savings exceeded the maximum, the school district will use the maximum when calculating tax bills for the segment.

Part A of Chapter 60 of the Laws of 2016 of the State of New York (“Chapter 60”) gradually converts the STAR program from a real property tax exemption to a personal income tax credit. While the dollar benefit to eligible taxpayers did not change, Chapter 60 prohibited new STAR exemptions from being granted to homeowners who took title after the taxable status date for the assessment roll used to levy taxes for the 2015-2016 school year. Instead, a taxpayer who is eligible for the new credit will receive a check from the State equal to the amount by which the STAR exemption would have reduced his or her school tax bill.

The 2019-20 State Budget made several changes to the STAR program, which were intended to encourage homeowners to switch from the STAR exemption to the STAR credit. For those homeowners with incomes over \$250,000, the STAR benefit was capped at the 2019 fiscal year level, rather than allowed to grow by up to 2% annually under the STAR credit program. Those homeowners with incomes between \$250,000 and \$500,000 are able to convert to the STAR credit program to maintain the full STAR benefit.

The maximum savings for each of the municipalities within the District for the 2024-25 fiscal year are as follows:

<u>Municipality:</u>	<u>Basic Maximum Savings</u>	<u>Enhanced Maximum Savings</u>
Town of West Seneca	\$432	\$1,149
Town of Cheektowaga	415	1,105
Town of Hamburg	429	1,129
Town of Orchard Park	425	1,129

*Updated: 03/28/2024*

The District expects to receive full reimbursement of such exempt taxes from the State during the current fiscal year.

***Largest Taxpayers for the 2023-24 Fiscal Year***

The following table presents the full valuations of ten of the District's largest taxpayers for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

**TABLE 7**  
**Selected Listing of Large Taxable Properties**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type of Business</u>	<u>Estimated Assessed Valuation</u>	<u>Total Valuation</u> <sup>(4)</sup>
Idylwood LLC <sup>(2)</sup>	Apartments/Condos	27,117,500	1.37%
National Fuel Gas Distribution <sup>(1)</sup>	Natural Gas Utility	19,172,897	0.97%
Garden Village Apartments <sup>(2)</sup>	Apartments/Condos	12,000,000	0.61%
LB Real Estate Holdings <sup>(2)</sup>	Commercial	10,945,000	0.55%
KQ Bell Towers <sup>(2)</sup>	Apartments/Condos	6,920,000	0.35%
Southgate Associates, LLC Total <sup>(3)</sup>	Plaza	6,663,590	0.34%
Waltrust Properties <sup>(2)</sup>	Retail	4,940,000	0.25%
National Grid Total <sup>(3)</sup>	Electrical Utility	4,478,827	0.23%
MM Bell Towers Of Erie <sup>(2)</sup>	Apartments/Condos	4,260,000	0.22%
Bridgeview Square P 1 LLC Total <sup>(3)</sup>	Apartments/Condos	<u>4,182,000</u>	<u>0.21%</u>
		<u>\$100,679,814</u>	<u>5.09%</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> Located in more than one Town.

<sup>(2)</sup> Located in the Town of Cheektowaga.

<sup>(3)</sup> Located in the Town of West Seneca.

<sup>(4)</sup> The District's total assessed valuation for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, is \$1,977,444,657.

**DISTRICT INDEBTEDNESS**

***Constitutional Requirements***

The New York State Constitution and Local Finance Law limit the power of the District (and other municipalities and school districts of the State) to issue obligations and to otherwise contract indebtedness. Such constitutional limitations include the following, in summary form, and are generally applicable to the District.

**Purpose and Pledge.** Subject to certain enumerated exceptions, the District shall not give or loan any money or property to or in aid of any individual or private corporation or private undertaking or give or loan its credit to or in aid of any of the foregoing or any public corporation.

The District may contract indebtedness only for a District purpose and shall pledge its faith and credit for the payment of principal of and interest thereon.

**Payment and Maturity.** Except for certain short-term obligations, indebtedness shall be paid in annual installments commencing no later than two years after the date such indebtedness shall have been contracted and ending no later than the expiration of the period of probable usefulness of the object or purpose as determined by statute; unless substantially level or declining debt service is utilized, no principal installment may be more than fifty percent in excess of the smallest prior principal installment. The District is required to provide an annual appropriation for the payment of interest due during the year on its indebtedness and for the amounts required in such year for amortization and redemption of its serial bonds and bond anticipation notes.

**General.** The District is further subject to constitutional limitation by the general constitutionally imposed duty on the State Legislature to restrict the power of taxation and contracting indebtedness to prevent abuses in the exercise of such power; however, as has been noted under "Nature of Obligation," the State Legislature is prohibited by a specific constitutional provision from restricting the power of the District to levy taxes on real estate for the payment of interest on or principal of indebtedness theretofore contracted.

### ***Statutory Procedure***

In general, the State Legislature has, by the enactment of the Local Finance Law, authorized the powers and procedure for the District to borrow and incur indebtedness subject, of course, to the constitutional provisions set forth above. The power to spend money, however, generally derives from other law, including the Education Law.

The District is generally required by such laws to submit propositions for the expenditure of money for capital purposes to the qualified electors of the District. Upon approval thereby, the Board may adopt a bond resolution authorizing the issuance of bonds and notes in anticipation of the bonds. However, such finance board may delegate the power to sell the bonds to the President of the Board, the chief fiscal officer of the District, pursuant to the Local Finance Law. The District is not permitted to spend in excess of \$100,000 with respect to certain school building construction projects, until the plans and specification for such project have been approved by the Commissioner of Education of the State.

The Local Finance Law also provides a 20-day statute of limitations after publication of a bond resolution, together with a statutory form of notice which, in effect, serves as a bar to most legal challenges to the validity of obligations authorized by such bond resolution.

The Board, as the finance board of the District, has the power to enact tax anticipation note resolutions. Such resolutions may authorize the issuance of tax anticipation notes in an aggregate principal amount necessary to fund anticipated cash flow deficits but in no event exceeding the amount of real property taxes levied or to be levied by the District, less any tax anticipation notes previously issued and less the amount of such taxes previously received by the District.

### ***Debt Limit***

Pursuant to the Local Finance Law, the District has the power to contract indebtedness for any District purpose authorized by the Legislature of the State so long as the aggregate principal amount thereof shall not exceed ten per centum of the full valuation of taxable real estate of the District and subject to certain enumerated deductions such as State aid for building purposes. The constitutional and statutory method for determining full valuation is by taking the assessed valuation of taxable real estate for the last completed assessment roll and applying thereto the ratio (equalization rate) which such assessed valuation bears to the full valuation as determined by the State Board of Real Property Services. The State Legislature is required to prescribe the manner by which such ratio shall be determined.

**Statutory Debt Limit and Net Indebtedness**

The debt limit of the District is \$555,440,087 as of June 3, 2024. This is calculated by taking 10% of the current full value of taxable real estate within the District.

**TABLE 8**  
**Statutory Debt Limit and Net Indebtedness**  
 Computation of Debt Limit as of June 3, 2024

<u>Town</u>	<u>Assessed Valuation</u>	<u>State Equalization Rate</u>	<u>Full Valuation</u>
West Seneca	\$1,174,203,210	26.00%	\$4,516,166,192
Cheektowaga	720,901,472	91.00%	792,199,420
Orchard Park	61,347,767	34.00%	180,434,609
Hamburg	20,992,208	32.00%	<u>65,600,650</u>
			<u>\$5,554,400,871</u>

**Calculation of Total Net Indebtedness**

Debt Limit: 10% of Full Valuation	<u>\$555,440,087</u>
Inclusions:	
Serial Bonds	\$58,190,000
Total Gross Indebtedness	<u>\$58,190,000</u>
Less:	
Building Aid <sup>(1)</sup>	<u>0</u>
Total Net Indebtedness	<u>\$58,190,000</u>
Net Contracting Margin	<u>\$497,250,087</u>
Percentage of Debt Limit Exhausted	<u>10.48%</u>

<sup>(1)</sup> In prior years the District received State debt service building aid in a calculated amount of approximately 76.8% of its outstanding bonded indebtedness. Given the “assumed amortization” of State building aid as provided in Chapter 383 of the Laws of 2001, no assurance can be given regarding the direct or indirect effect that “assumed amortization” will have on the net indebtedness of the District, or the timing or amount of such Building aid in connection with school facilities financed with the proceeds of the issuance of bonds or notes. See also “State Aid” herein.

Source: District Officials

**Remedies Upon Default**

Section 99-b of the State Finance Law (the "SFL") provides for a covenant between the State of New York (the "State") and the purchasers and the holders and owners from time to time of the bonds and notes issued by school districts in the State for school purposes that it will not repeal, revoke or rescind the provisions of Section 99-b of the SFL, or amend or modify the same so as to limit, impair or impede the rights and remedies granted thereby.

Such section provides that in the event a holder or owner of any bond or note issued by a school district for school purposes shall file with the State Comptroller, a verified statement describing such bond or note and alleging default in the payment thereof or the interest thereon or both, it shall be the duty of the State Comptroller to immediately investigate the circumstances of the alleged default and prepare and file in his office a certificate setting forth his determinations with respect thereto and to serve a copy thereof by registered mail upon the chief fiscal officer of the school district which issued the bond or note. Such investigation by the State Comptroller shall set forth a description of all such bonds and notes of the school district found to be in default and the amount of principal and interest thereon past due.

Upon the filing of such a certificate in the office of the State Comptroller, he shall thereafter deduct and withhold from the next succeeding allotment, apportionment or payment of such State aid or assistance due to such school district such amount thereof as may be required to pay (a) the school district's contribution to the State Teachers' Retirement System, and (b) the principal of and interest on such bonds and notes of such school district then in default. In the event such State aid or assistance initially so withheld shall be insufficient to pay said amounts in full, the State Comptroller shall similarly deduct and withhold from each succeeding allotment, apportionment or payment of such State aid or assistance due such school district such amount or amounts thereof as may be required to cure such default. Allotments, apportionments and payments of such State aid so deducted or withheld by the State Comptroller for the payment of principal and interest on the bonds and notes shall be forwarded promptly to

the paying agent or agents for the bonds and notes in default of such school district for the sole purpose of the payment of defaulted principal of and interest on such bonds or notes. If any such successive allotments, apportionments or payment of such State aid so deducted or withheld shall be less than the amount of all principal and interest on the bonds and notes in default with respect to which the same was so deducted or withheld, then the State Comptroller shall promptly forward to each paying agent an amount in the proportion that the amount of such bonds and notes in default payable to such paying agent bears to the total amount of the principal and interest then in default on such bonds and notes of such school district. The State Comptroller shall promptly notify the chief fiscal officer of such school district of any payment or payments made to any paying agent or agents of defaulted bonds or notes pursuant to said section SFL.

Under current law, provision is made for contract creditors (including the holders of the Bonds) of the District to enforce payments upon such contracts, if necessary, through court action, although the present statute limits interest on the amount adjudged due to creditors to nine per centum per annum from the date due to the date of payment. As a general rule, property and funds of a municipal corporation servicing the public welfare and interest have not been judicially subjected to execution or attachment to satisfy a judgment, although judicial mandates have been issued to officials to appropriate and pay judgments out of current funds or the proceeds of a tax levy.

In recent times, certain events and legislation affecting remedies on default have resulted in litigation. While courts of final jurisdiction have upheld and sustained the rights of bondholders, such courts might hold that future events including financial crises as they may occur in the State and in municipalities of the State require the exercise by the State of its emergency and police powers to assure the continuation of essential public services.

There is in the Constitution of the State, Article VIII, Section 2, the following provision relating to the annual appropriation of monies for the payment of due principal of and interest on indebtedness of every county, city, town, village and school district in the State: "If at any time the respective appropriating authorities shall fail to make such appropriations, a sufficient sum shall be set apart from the first revenues thereafter received and shall be applied to such purposes. The fiscal officer of any county, city, town, village or school district may be required to set aside and apply such revenues as aforesaid at the suit of any holder of obligations issued for such indebtedness."

The constitutional provision providing for first revenue set asides does not apply to tax anticipation notes, revenue anticipation notes, or bond anticipation notes.

No principal or interest payment on District indebtedness is past due. The District has never defaulted in the payment of the principal of and interest on any indebtedness.

### ***Bond Anticipation Notes***

Following the issuance of the Notes, the District will have \$11,500,000 of bond anticipation notes maturing on June 27, 2025.

### ***Tax and Revenue Anticipation Notes***

The District currently has no tax or revenue anticipation notes outstanding.

### ***Authorized but Unissued Indebtedness***

On December 4, 2018, the qualified voters of the District authorized a \$75.5 million District-wide Capital Improvements Project and the expenditure toward the Project of \$870,000 of available District Funds. Following the issuance of the Notes, the District will have \$5,730,000 of remaining authorized but unissued indebtedness for the Project.

On December 12, 2023, the qualified voters of the District authorized a \$23.5 million District-wide Capital Improvements Project and the expenditure toward the Project of \$2,500,000 of available District Funds. Following the issuance of the Notes, the District has \$15,000,000 of remaining authorized but unissued indebtedness for the Project.

### ***Trend of Outstanding Indebtedness***

The following table provides information relating to direct capital outstanding indebtedness for the District’s last five fiscal years ending June 30th.

**TABLE 9**  
**Outstanding Long-Term Bond Indebtedness**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Serial Bonds	\$20,895,000	\$35,250,000	\$39,615,000	\$46,560,000	\$61,550,000
Bond Anticipation Notes	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total:	<u>\$20,895,000</u>	<u>\$35,250,000</u>	<u>\$39,615,000</u>	<u>\$46,560,000</u>	<u>\$61,550,000</u>

### ***Other Long-Term Obligations***

On August 23, 2018, the District entered into an energy performance contract (“EPC”) for modifications to various facilities. The modifications were made to improve energy efficiency. The EPC carries an interest rate of 3.46% and is payable semi-annually. Total outstanding balance at June 30, 2023 was \$3,956,155.

### ***Overlapping and Underlying Debt***

In addition to the District, other political subdivisions have the power to issue bonds and to levy taxes or cause taxes to be levied on taxable real property in the District. The real property taxpayers of the District are responsible for a proportionate share of outstanding debt obligations of these subdivisions. Such taxpayers' share of overlapping and underlying debt is based on the amount of the District's equalized property values taken as a percentage of each separate unit's total values. The following table presents the amount of overlapping and underlying debt and the District's share of this debt. Authorized but unissued debt has not been included.

**TABLE 10**  
**Statement of Direct and Overlapping Indebtedness**

<u>Overlapping Units</u>	<u>Date of Report</u>	<u>Net Indebtedness</u>	<u>Percentage Applicable</u>	<u>Applicable Net Indebtedness</u>
Erie County	06/30/23	\$271,059,571	5.73%	\$15,531,713
Town of West Seneca	01/18/24	38,834,000	90.99%	35,335,057
Town of Cheektowaga	06/26/23	53,305,000	9.86%	5,255,873
Town of Orchard Park	07/26/23	39,140,000	3.69%	1,444,266
Town of Hamburg	06/15/23	10,670,000	0.93%	<u>99,231</u>
Net Overlapping Debt				\$54,059,442
Net Direct Debt				<u>\$58,190,000</u>
Net Direct & Overlapping Debt				<u>\$115,856,140</u>

*Source: Annual Reports of the respective units for the most recently completed fiscal year on file with the Office of the State Comptroller, local officials or more recently published official statements.*

### ***Debt Ratios***

The following table presents certain debt ratios relating to the District's direct and overlapping indebtedness.

**TABLE 11**  
**Debt Ratios**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Debt Per Capita</u> <sup>(1)</sup>	<u>Debt to Full Value</u> <sup>(2)</sup>
Net Direct Debt	\$58,190,000	\$1,251	1.05%
Net Direct and Overlapping Debt	\$115,856,140	\$2,492	2.09%

<sup>(1)</sup> The population of the District is estimated by District officials to be approximately 46,500.

<sup>(2)</sup> The District's full value of taxable real property for fiscal year 2023-24 \$5,554,400,871.



## ***Debt Service Schedule***

The following table shows the debt service requirements on the District's outstanding bonded indebtedness for the fiscal years ending June 30 (as of June 3, 2024).

**TABLE 12**  
**Annual Maturity Schedule**

<u>FYE 6/30</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2024	\$2,170,000	\$1,369,227	\$3,539,227
2025	5,015,000	2,089,725	7,104,725
2026	5,060,000	1,877,250	6,937,250
2027	4,855,000	1,667,250	6,522,250
2028	4,520,000	1,463,225	5,983,225
2029	3,930,000	1,283,800	5,213,800
2030	4,095,000	1,119,300	5,214,300
2031	4,245,000	967,300	5,212,300
2032	4,400,000	825,150	5,225,150
2033	4,535,000	693,650	5,228,650
2034	4,670,000	557,650	5,227,650
2035	4,805,000	417,100	5,222,100
2036	3,260,000	289,000	3,549,000
2037	<u>2,630,000</u>	<u>171,400</u>	<u>2,801,400</u>
	<u>\$58,190,000</u>	<u>\$14,791,027</u>	<u>\$72,981,027</u>

## **ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC DATA**

### ***School Enrollment Trends***

The following table presents the past and projected school enrollment statistics for the District.

**TABLE 13**  
**School Enrollment Trends**

<u>Fiscal Year:</u>	<u>Actual District Enrollment</u>	<u>FYE June 30:</u>	<u>Estimated Enrollment</u>
2021-22	6,067	2024-25	5,950
2022-23	6,029	2025-26	5,940
2024-24	5,957	2026-27	5,930

*Source: District official*

### ***Population***

The District estimates its population to be approximately 46,500. The following table presents population trends for the Town of West Seneca, the County and the State, based on recent census data. Data provided in the following table is not necessarily representative of the District.

**TABLE 14**  
**Population Trend**

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
Town	44,711	45,500	1.8%
County	919,040	954,236	3.8%
State	19,378,102	20,201,249	4.3%

*Source: New York State Department of Commerce; New York State Department of Economic Development.*

***Employment and Unemployment***

Employment and unemployment data are not compiled for the District or the Towns. The following tables provide information concerning employment and unemployment in the Town of West Seneca, the County and the State. Data provided in the following tables is not necessarily representative of the District.

**TABLE 15**  
**Civilian Labor Force**  
(Thousands)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Town	22.7	21.2	21.8	22.3	22.3
County	434.8	405.78	416.7	426.9	432.7
State	9,470.4	8,628.0	8,857.0	9,178.6	9,307.0

Source: New York State Department Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**TABLE 16**  
**Yearly Average Unemployment Rates**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>
2019	3.8%	4.1%	3.9%
2020	8.3%	9.2%	9.8%
2021	5.0%	5.5%	7.1%
2022	3.2%	3.7%	4.3%
2023	3.3%	3.8%	4.2%

Source: New York State Department Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Information not seasonally adjusted.

**TABLE 17**  
**Monthly Unemployment Rates**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>
April 2023	2.5%	3.0%	3.6%
May	2.7%	3.3%	3.9%
June	3.0%	3.5%	4.1%
July	3.1%	3.7%	4.2%
August	3.4%	4.1%	4.5%
September	3.2%	3.8%	4.2%
October	3.3%	4.0%	4.4%
November	3.5%	4.0%	4.2%
December	3.9%	4.4%	4.4%
January 2024	4.2%	4.6%	4.3%
February	4.4%	4.7%	4.5%
March	4.0%	4.4%	4.2%

Source: New York State Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Information not seasonally adjusted.

**LITIGATION**

In common with other school districts, the District from time to time receives notices of claim and is party to litigation. In the opinion of the District after consultations with its attorneys, unless otherwise set forth herein and apart from matters provided for by applicable insurance coverage, there are no claims or action pending which, if determined against the District, would have an adverse material effect on the financial condition of the District.

Litigation surrounds a number of injury/accident cases, and several student vs student cases where bullying/sexual harassment is alleged.

For our annual audit, the law firms did not indicate any would rise to the level of impacting financial condition.

**END OF APPENDIX A**

**APPENDIX B**

**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS AND BUDGETS**

**WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**General Fund**  
**As of Fiscal Year Ended June 30**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>ASSETS:</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$7,130,821	\$8,176,803
Restricted Cash & Cash Equivalents	20,068,305	23,264,490
Receivables	123,511	214,929
Lease receivable	1,375,226	631,401
Intergovernmental Receivables	11,062,291	10,759,640
Due from other funds	433,229	1,059,419
Prepaid Items	<u>368,518</u>	<u>365,895</u>
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<u><u>\$40,561,901</u></u>	<u><u>\$44,472,577</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY:</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$1,240,228	\$2,101,076
Accrued Liabilities	1,098,763	1,874,984
Intergovernmental payable	313,906	381,690
Due to other funds	0	778,553
Due to Retirement System	5,357,132	5,336,519
Unearned Revenue	<u>5,140</u>	<u>5,642</u>
<b>Total Liabilities:</b>	<u><u>\$8,015,169</u></u>	<u><u>\$10,478,464</u></u>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES:</b>		
Deferred inflow - relating to leases	<u>1,345,503</u>	<u>601,180</u>
Total deferred inflows	<u><u>1,345,503</u></u>	<u><u>601,180</u></u>
<b>FUND BALANCES:</b>		
Nonspendable	\$368,518	\$365,895
Restricted	20,063,165	23,258,848
Assigned	5,222,506	3,855,532
Unassigned	<u>5,547,040</u>	<u>5,912,658</u>
<b>Total Fund Equity:</b>	<u><u>31,201,229</u></u>	<u><u>33,392,933</u></u>
<b>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows and Fund Balances:</b>	<u><u>\$40,561,901</u></u>	<u><u>\$44,472,577</u></u>

Source: Compiled from prior years' audited financial reports although this statement was not subject to audit.

**WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance**  
**General Fund**  
**Fiscal Year Ended June 30**

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>Revenues:</b>					
Real Property Taxes	\$61,853,865	\$62,880,666	\$64,701,883	\$65,790,851	\$67,251,864
Non-Property Taxes	7,745,963	7,328,918	8,213,383	9,022,906	9,885,202
Charges for Services	1,413,151	1,066,371	650,324	907,679	1,044,987
Use of Money and Property	798,810	705,215	467,186	670,372	1,972,663
Sale of Property & Comp. For Loss	55	20,301	6,053	193,819	8,274
Miscellaneous	802,307	970,815	930,029	1,921,786	1,337,644
State Sources	48,314,375	47,384,619	49,335,409	53,411,421	55,847,532
Federal Sources	944,996	734,472	1,546,892	1,893,614	1,301,046
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<u>121,873,522</u>	<u>121,091,377</u>	<u>125,851,159</u>	<u>133,812,448</u>	<u>138,649,212</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>					
General Support	11,116,834	11,731,842	12,121,172	12,204,083	13,443,970
Instruction	68,476,693	70,365,011	71,643,464	75,728,286	80,544,181
Pupil Transportation	6,560,728	5,871,334	5,331,644	6,934,651	7,454,289
Employee Benefits	25,605,943	26,113,443	28,559,548	28,072,949	30,250,658
Debt Service	5,605,498	5,803,638	6,454,264	7,403,464	6,998,999
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<u>117,365,696</u>	<u>119,885,268</u>	<u>124,110,092</u>	<u>130,343,433</u>	<u>138,692,097</u>
<b>Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and other Sources over Expenditures and Other Uses:</b>	<u>4,507,826</u>	<u>1,206,109</u>	<u>1,741,067</u>	<u>3,469,015</u>	<u>(42,885)</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>					
Interfund Transfers In	0	0	0	0	0
Interfund Transfers Out	(377,850)	(483,274)	(1,050,476)	(291,059)	(346,136)
Issuances of leases	0	0	0	998,405	1,158,517
Premium on serial bonds issued	0	2,625	-	405,369	1,422,208
<b>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses):</b>	<u>(377,850)</u>	<u>(480,649)</u>	<u>(1,050,476)</u>	<u>1,112,715</u>	<u>2,234,589</u>
<b>Net change in fund balances</b>	4,129,976	725,460	690,591	4,581,730	2,191,704
<b>Fund Balance Beginning of Year:</b>	<u>21,073,472</u>	<u>25,203,448</u>	<u>25,928,908</u>	<u>26,619,499</u>	<u>31,201,229</u>
<b>Fund Balance End of Year:</b>	<u>\$25,203,448</u>	<u>\$25,928,908</u>	<u>\$26,619,499</u>	<u>\$31,201,229</u>	<u>\$33,392,933</u>

Source: Compiled from prior years' audited financial reports although this statement was not subject to audit.

**WEST SENECA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Statement of Estimated Revenues and Appropriations**  
**General Fund**  
**As of Fiscal Year Ended/Ending June 30**

	Adopted Budget <u>2023-24</u>	Proposed Budget <u>2024-25</u>
<b>Estimated Revenues:</b>		
Real Property Taxes	\$68,631,182	\$69,966,619
Other Real Property Tax Items	155,999	178,323
Non Property Tax Items	8,500,000	9,481,676
Charges for Services	1,333,750	1,333,750
Use of Money and Property	709,031	1,305,031
Sale of Property and Comp for Loss		
Miscellaneous	580,000	580,000
State Sources	63,730,670	65,686,055
Federal Sources	<u>500,000</u>	<u>1,100,000</u>
Total Estimated Revenues	<u>144,140,632</u>	<u>149,631,454</u>
Fund Balance:		
Appropriation of Fund Balance	<u>3,675,820</u>	<u>6,389,121</u>
<b>Total Revenues and Appropriated</b>		
<b>Fund Balance:</b>	<u><u>\$147,816,452</u></u>	<u><u>\$156,020,575</u></u>
<b>Appropriations:</b>		
General Government Support	\$15,639,323	\$14,795,887
Instruction	85,808,184	90,028,315
Pupil Transportation	6,789,640	8,126,063
Employee Benefits	32,751,461	34,663,120
Debt Service	6,440,844	8,017,190
Interfund Transfers	<u>390,000</u>	<u>390,000</u>
<b>Total Appropriations:</b>	<u><u>\$147,819,452</u></u>	<u><u>\$156,020,575</u></u>

**APPENDIX C**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED  
JUNE 30, 2023**

**Can be accessed on the Electronic Municipal Market Access (“EMMA”) website  
of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (“MSRB”)  
at the following link:**

**<https://emma.msrb.org/P21738707-P21335336-P21769472.pdf>**

**The audited financial statements referenced above are hereby incorporated into the  
attached Official Statement.**

**\* Such Financial Statements and opinion are intended to be representative only as  
of the date thereof. Drescher & Malecki LLP has not been requested by the District  
to further review and/or update such Financial Statements or opinion in connection  
with the preparation and dissemination of this Official Statement.**

**APPENDIX D**

**FORM OF DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING**



## DISCLOSURE UNDERTAKING

This undertaking to provide notice of certain designated events (the “Disclosure Undertaking”) is executed and delivered by the West Seneca Central School District, Erie County, New York (the “Issuer”) in connection with the issuance of its \$11,500,000 Bond Anticipation Note(s), 2024 or interests therein (such Note(s), including any interests therein, being collectively referred to herein as the “Security”). The Security has a stated maturity of 18 months or less. The Issuer hereby covenants and agrees as follows:

Section 1. Obligation to Provide Notices of Events. (a) The Issuer hereby undertakes (for the benefit of Security Holders) to provide (or cause to be provided either directly or through a dissemination agent) to EMMA (or any successor thereto) in an electronic format (as prescribed by the MSRB) in a timely manner (not in excess of ten business days after the occurrence of any such event) notice of any of the following events with respect to the Security:

- (1) Principal and interest payment delinquencies;
- (2) Non-payment related defaults, if material;
- (3) Unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties;
- (4) Unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties;
- (5) Substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform;
- (6) Adverse tax opinions, the issuance by the Internal Revenue Service of proposed or final determinations of taxability, Notices of Proposed Issue (IRS Form 5701-TEB) or other material notices or determinations with respect to the tax status of the Security, or other material events affecting the tax status of the Security;
- (7) Modifications to rights of Security Holders, if material;
- (8) Note calls, if material, and tender offers;
- (9) Defeasances;
- (10) Release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the Security, if material;
- (11) Rating changes;
- (12) Bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the obligated person;

Note to paragraph (12): For the purposes of the event identified in paragraph (12) of this section, the event is considered to occur when any of the following occur: The appointment of a receiver, fiscal agent or similar officer for an obligated person in a proceeding under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code or in any other proceeding under state or federal law in which a court or governmental authority has assumed jurisdiction over substantially all of the assets or business of the obligated person, or if such jurisdiction has been assumed by leaving the existing governing body and officials or officers in possession but subject to the supervision and orders of a court or governmental authority, or the entry of an order confirming a plan of reorganization, arrangement or liquidation by a court or governmental authority having supervision or jurisdiction over substantially all of the assets or business of the obligated person.

(13) The consummation of a merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving an obligated person or the sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the obligated person, other than in the ordinary course of business, the entry into a definitive agreement to undertake such an action or the termination of a definitive agreement relating to any such actions, other than pursuant to its terms, if material;

(14) Appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee, if material;

(15) Incurrence of a Financial Obligation of the obligated person, if material, or agreement to covenants, events of default, remedies, priority rights, or other similar terms of a Financial Obligation of the obligated person, any of which affect Security Holders, if material; and

(16) Default, event of acceleration, termination event, modification of terms, or other similar events under the terms of a Financial Obligation of the obligated person, any of which reflect financial difficulties.

(b) The Issuer may choose to disseminate other information in addition to the information required as part of this Disclosure Undertaking. Such other information may be disseminated in any manner chosen by the Issuer. If the Issuer disseminates any such additional information, the Issuer shall have no obligation to update such information or include it in any future materials disseminated pursuant to this Disclosure Undertaking.

(c) The Issuer may choose to provide notice of the occurrence of certain other events, in addition to those listed in Section 1(a) above, if the Issuer determines that any such other event is material with respect to the Security; but the Issuer does not undertake to commit to provide any such notice of the occurrence of any material event except those events listed above.

## Section 2. Definitions.

“EMMA” means Electronic Municipal Market Access System implemented by the MSRB.

“Financial Obligation” means a (A) debt obligation; (B) derivative instrument entered into in connection with, or pledged as security or a source of payment for, an existing or planned debt obligation; or (C) guarantee of (A) or (B). Financial Obligation shall not include municipal securities as to which a final official statement has been provided to the MSRB consistent with Rule 15c2-12.

“MSRB” means the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board established in accordance with the provisions of Section 15B(b)(1) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or any successor thereto or to the functions of the MSRB contemplated by this Disclosure Undertaking.

“Purchaser” means the financial institution referred to in a certain Certificate of Determination that is being delivered by the Issuer in connection with the issuance of the Security.

“Rule 15c2-12” means Rule 15c2-12 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended through the date of this Disclosure Undertaking, including any official interpretations thereof.

“Security Holder” means any registered owner of the Security and any beneficial owner of the Security within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Section 3. Remedies. If the Issuer fails to comply with any provision of this Disclosure Undertaking, then any Security Holder may enforce, for the equal benefit and protection of all Security Holders similarly situated, by mandamus or other suit or proceeding at law or in equity, this Disclosure Undertaking against the Issuer and any of the officers, agents and employees of the Issuer, and may compel the Issuer or any such officers, agents or employees to perform and carry out their duties under this Disclosure Undertaking; provided that the sole and exclusive remedy for breach of this Disclosure Undertaking shall be an action to compel specific performance of the obligations of the Issuer hereunder and no person or entity shall be entitled to recover monetary damages hereunder under any circumstances. Failure to comply with any provision of this Disclosure Undertaking shall not constitute an event of default on the Security.

Section 4. Parties in Interest. This Disclosure Undertaking is executed to assist the Purchaser to comply with paragraph (b)(5) of Rule 15c2-12 and is delivered for the benefit of the Security Holders. No other person has any right to enforce the provisions hereof or any other rights hereunder.

Section 5. Amendments. Without the consent of any Security Holders, at any time while this Disclosure Undertaking is outstanding, the Issuer may enter into any amendments or changes to this Disclosure Undertaking for any of the following purposes:

- (a) to comply with or conform to any changes to Rule 15c2-12 (whether required or optional);
- (b) to add a dissemination agent for the information required to be provided as part of this Disclosure Undertaking and to make any necessary or desirable provisions with respect thereto;
- (c) to evidence the succession of another person to the Issuer and the assumption of any such successor of the duties of the Issuer hereunder;
- (d) to add to the duties of the Issuer for the benefit of the Security Holders, or to surrender any right or power herein conferred upon the Issuer;
- (e) to cure any ambiguity, to correct or supplement any provision hereof which may be inconsistent with any other provision hereof, or to make any other provisions with respect to matters or questions arising under this Disclosure Undertaking which, in each case, comply with Rule 15c2-12 or Rule 15c2-12 as in effect at the time of such amendment or change;

provided that no such action pursuant to this Section 5 shall adversely affect the interests of the Security Holders in any material respect. In making such determination, the Issuer shall rely upon an opinion of nationally recognized bond counsel.

Section 6. Termination. (a) This Disclosure Undertaking shall remain in full force and effect until such time as all principal, redemption premiums, if any, and interest on the Security shall have been paid in full or the Security shall have otherwise been paid or legally defeased in accordance with their terms. Upon any such legal defeasance, the Issuer shall provide notice of such defeasance to EMMA. Such notice shall state whether the Security has been defeased to maturity or to redemption and the timing of such maturity or redemption.

(b) In addition, this Disclosure Undertaking, or any provision hereof, shall be null and void in the event that those portions of Rule 15c2-12 which require this Disclosure Undertaking, or such provision, as

