

# New York State Comptroller Designates 22 School Districts in Fiscal Stress



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**N**ew York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli released the annual Fiscal Stress Monitoring System (FSMS) report. According to the report, just two school districts were identified as being in “Significant Fiscal Stress”—Mount Vernon in Westchester County and New Suffolk Common in Suffolk County.

Four school districts were identified as being in “Moderate Fiscal Stress” – Amityville, Chittenango, Harrisville, and Tuxedo. Sixteen districts were identified as being “Susceptible to Fiscal Stress” (East Meadow, Fabius-Pompey, Fredonia, Fulton, Green Island, Hadley-Luzerne, Homer, Little Falls, Oneida, Prattsburgh, Roscoe, Salmon River, Sharon Springs, Sherrill, West Canada Valley, and York).

Based on their fiscal score, school districts are assigned into one of four categories:

1. *No Designation.* 648 school districts were given this rating indicating that their fiscal score doesn't meet the threshold for stress.
2. *Susceptible to Fiscal Stress.* 16 school districts were given this rating indicating that they are exhibiting some signs of fiscal stress.
3. *Moderate Fiscal Stress.* 4 school districts were given this rating indicating that they are fiscally stressed, but the level is less severe.
4. *Significant Fiscal Stress.* 2 school districts were given this rating indicating that they are considered to be the most fiscally stressed.

FSMS uses various financial indicators such as fund balances, operating deficits, cash ratio, and short-term borrowing to assign an annual fiscal score to every school district, except for the Big 5 City School Districts (Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers). The current fiscal score is based on financial data from the 2023-24 school year.

A copy of the comptroller’s report *Fiscal Stress Monitoring System School Districts in Stress Fiscal Years Ending 2024* is available at <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/local-government/fiscal-monitoring/pdf/2024-schools-stressed.pdf>

This is the ninth annual scoring of school districts provided by FSMS. The following table, based on data from the Office of State Comptroller, provides a history of the number of school districts identified by year.

	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
<b>Significant Fiscal Stress</b>	2	2	5	4	2	2	1	3	2
<b>Moderate Fiscal Stress</b>	9	7	0	5	7	0	5	1	4
<b>Susceptible to Fiscal Stress</b>	48	17	21	24	22	21	8	12	16
<b>No Designation</b>	612	648	646	637	637	647	655	653	648