

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



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According to New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's latest Fiscal Stress Monitoring System (FSMS) report, there are just five school districts (Eldred, New Suffolk, Norwich, Schenevus, and Wyandanch) in the state that are in fiscal stress. All five were identified as being in "Significant Fiscal Stress."

There were no districts in the state that were identified as being in "Moderate Stress" and twenty-one identified as being "Susceptible to Fiscal Stress" (Adirondack, Binghamton, Clymer, Cortland, Crown Point, East Aurora, East Ramapo, Eastport-South Manor, Fort Edward, Hempstead, Hudson Falls, Lafayette, Livingston Manor, Long Beach, Marathon, North Bellmore, Oxford, Phelps-Clifton Springs, Rensselaer, Rockville Centre and Roosevelt).

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

1. *No Designation.* 646 school districts were given this rating indicating that their fiscal score doesn't meet the threshold for stress.
2. *Susceptible to Fiscal Stress.* 21 school districts were given this rating indicating that they are exhibiting some signs of fiscal stress.
3. *Moderate Fiscal Stress.* No school districts were given this rating indicating that they are fiscally stressed, but the level is less severe.
4. *Significant Fiscal Stress.* 5 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 2017-18 school year.

A copy of the comptroller’s report *Fiscal Stress in School Districts Common Themes for School Year 2017-18* is available at

<https://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/fiscalmonitoring/pdf/common-themes-for-school-year-2017-18.pdf>

This is the sixth annual scoring of school districts provided by FSMS. Fewer school districts have been designated this year than in previous years. The following table, based on data from the Office of State Comptroller, provides a history of the designations by year.

	<b>2012-13 School Year</b>	<b>2013-14 School Year</b>	<b>2014-15 School Year</b>	<b>2015-16 School Year</b>	<b>2016-17 School Year</b>	<b>2017-18 School Year</b>
<i>Number of School Districts Identified</i>						
Significant Fiscal Stress	12	10	8	2	2	5
Moderate Fiscal Stress	23	27	24	9	7	0
Susceptible to Fiscal Stress	52	53	50	48	17	21
No Designation	583	582	590	612	648	646