



HEMPSTEAD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MID-YEAR REPORT
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NEW YORK STATE MONITOR
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[Document subtitle]

Mid-Year Monitor's Academic and Fiscal Update for the
Hempstead Public Schools
July 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022

July 1, 2021 saw the commencement of the second year of the Monitor's work in the Hempstead Union Free School District (HUFSD or "the District"). The work during this reporting period focused on reviewing the implementation of the recommendations from year one (i.e., the 2020–21 school year) and then amending and adding to those that required adjustments. The amended and additional recommendations for year two (i.e., the 2021–22 school year) were then approved by the Board of Education ("the Board"). Distributing these recommendations and commencing their implementation took place in November and December 2021.

The position of Monitor was created by the State Legislature and approved by the Governor because they and many in the Hempstead community viewed the school system as one with serious academic and fiscal problems. The monitor in Hempstead has a dual role of providing oversight, guidance, and technical assistance for both fiscal and academic policies, practices, programs and decisions of the Board and the Superintendent. Although progress has been made during the first year, there remain fiscal and academic challenges that require continuing attention.

Academically, student underperformance continues as a very real problem. The graduation rate has improved, but performance on every measure of language arts and math demonstrate the disproportionate and damaging impact the COVID pandemic has had on the students of the Hempstead schools. On the fiscal side, there has been a significant increase in State aid that has helped mitigate the impact of charter school tuition costs, which have led to reductions in leadership and instructional staff. It is hoped that the amended and additional

recommendations made in the 2021–22 school year update to the Academic and Fiscal Improvement Plans in concert with those made in the year one plan will continue to keep the District on the road of continued improvement.

There are six areas of particular

Specific Findings

This section of the report has two sections. The first is the District response to the continuing recommendations from year one and the second is my summary of activities related to implementing my amended and added recommendations.

The District response to the continuing recommendations of the monitor is in block form and arranged in five columns. The headings for the columns from left to right are Recommendation, Status (reported as a color described on page one of the district responses), District Action(s), Evidence of Action and Other Information. NA when appearing in the status column means not applicable at this time.

tutions. The budget for the 2022–2023 school year is a work in progress. However, two of the major cost drivers for next year have been updated and included. The tuition costs for charters were based on the estimated information provided by the State Education Department and the costs of teachers included realistic estimates of salaries and benefits connected to ongoing negotiations. The budget still needs the approval of the Board of Education and continue to undergo changes based on those discussions.

While I believe that the efforts of the District to improve the overall performance of students is moving students in the right direction, the current budget is not sufficient to meet the needs of the District. The current budget is \$11.4 million, which is a decrease from the previous year's budget of \$12.3 million. This decrease is primarily due to the reduction in the number of students in the District, which has resulted in a decrease in the number of teachers and other staff members. The District is currently facing a significant budget deficit, and it is essential that the Board of Education approve a budget that is sufficient to meet the needs of the District and ensure the quality of education for all students.