

## **Duquesne City School District**

### **Financial Recovery Plan**

Consistent with the School District Financial Recovery Act 141 of 2012, the Duquesne City School District Financial Recovery Plan was issued on February 11, 2013 and implemented on April 2, 2013. On November 12, 2020, a Fourth Amendment was approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education and final approval was granted by the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas on November 16, 2020. The Fourth Amendment provides visionary, strategic, and operational goals and objectives for sustainability now and in the future.

### **Status of Continuing Operations**

The Duquesne City School District (DCSD) operates the Duquesne K-8 school. The primary goal of the school district is to be recognized as a K-8 “turnaround school” and a model for rebuilding educational programs, services, and activities in a financially distressed school district.

During the past five years, visionary and strategic actions have contributed to extraordinary progress: a new Chief School Administrator and Business Manager; newly aligned administrative leadership team; adoption of new curricula aligned with state standards; improved accountability and fiscal management; acceptable and effective use of all federal funds; continuous recruitment efforts of charter and cyber school students; a health and safety plan to manage safety of all students and staff; an education foundation; and expanded school community collaboration.

There is a concerted effort for continuous school improvement of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Each component is an integral part of the Duquesne City delivery system for educational programs and services based on collaborative and professional working relationships. Financial sustainability, transparency, and accountability, including updates of projections as part of the Annual Budget planning and approval process, are also an integral part of continuous efforts for school improvement.

Every fiscal quarter since 2013-2014, the Duquesne City School District has been in good financial standing. There have been no unpaid or contested invoices; and, all payroll, benefit expenditures, debt service obligations and tuition payments have been made in a timely manner.

As of the June 30, 2022 Annual Financial Report and Local Audit, there is no threatened or pending litigation against Duquesne City School District.

### **Court-Appointed Receiver**

The Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Education for the Department of Education, appointed William H. Kerr, Ed. D. as Receiver for the Duquesne City School District, effective April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022.

On March 23, 2022, upon consideration of the Petition for Extension of Receivership and Reappointment of Receiver filed by the Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania pursuant to Section 675-A of the Public School Code of 1949, 24 P.S. § 6-675-A, The Honorable Judge Alan Hertzberg of the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County, granted the Petition period of three years beginning on March 31, 2022, and ending on April 1, 2025, subject to further extension under section 675-A(b) of the Public School Code, 24 P.S. § 6-675-A(b).

Further, the Court ordered that Dr. William H. Kerr be appointed to serve as Receiver for the Duquesne City School District pursuant to Section 671-A of the School Code, 24 P.S. § 6-671-A, until April 1, 2025, or until further petition to this Court.

Under Act 141 of 2012, the Court-appointed Receiver is assigned the responsibility and authority of the elected Board of School Directors in almost all matters, including academic, financial, and school operations oversight. Through a collaborative, professional working relationship with the elected Board and all key stakeholders, the primary goal is to do what is best for Duquesne City students educationally and what is fiscally responsible for its citizens.