



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 4, 2026

Tamara Allen-Thomas, Ed.D
Clairton City School District
c/o Superintendent's Office
501 Mitchell Avenue
Clairton, PA 15025-1559

RE: Financial Watch Status

Dear Dr. Allen-Thomas,

This letter serves as official notification that the Clairton City School District (District) is hereby designated in Financial Watch Status pursuant to Section 611-A of the Public School Code of 1949. (24 P.S. § 6-611-A; *see also*, 22 Pa. Code § 731.2.)

Section 611-A requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Department) to use an Early Warning System to identify and offer technical assistance to school districts experiencing financial difficulties. The Early Warning System identifies a number of indicators that the Department evaluates to determine if a school district should be designated in Financial Watch Status.

Pursuant to the provisions of section 611-A, the Department conducted an initial analysis of the financial health of the District. Based upon this initial analysis, the following indicators support the District's designation as a Financial Watch District:

1. The 2024-2025 Market Value/Personal Income Ratio is identified as .8534, ranking the District 495 of 500 school districts.
2. The District's 2023-2024 Annual Financial Report (AFR) was not certified by the District, and a 2024-2025 AFR was not submitted to the Department.
3. The District experienced a delinquent tax rate of 33.2%, indicating that 33.2% of levied taxes remained unpaid past their scheduled due date. Over the three-year period from 2021–2022 through 2023–2024, tax collection performance has shown a consistent decline.



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4. The District's 2023-2024 Fund Balance Ratio was -3.71% of the General Fund as reported on the District's AFR. Based on a three-year average from the fiscal years 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024, the reporting concluded a continual decline of the General Fund to -3.69%.
5. Prior-year AFRs and locally audited financial statements for the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 fiscal years were not completed. As a result, a reliable assessment of the District's outstanding fund balance ratio in relation to its annual expenditures could not be conducted.
6. The District requested a Basic Education Funding advance on July 16, 2026, and received an advance payment of \$1,512,050 on July 27, 2026.

Additional information gathered from the District indicates:

- The District was unable to acquire a tax anticipation note in June 2026, which necessitated the request for a Basic Education Fund advance in July 2026; and
- The District projected a -\$2,933,416.40 cash shortfall ending June 2026. Anticipated cash flow issues include difficulty paying payroll and accounts payable obligations.

Therefore, effective immediately, the Department is designating Clairton City School District as being in Financial Watch and will begin offering technical assistance to help the District with its financial challenges.

The Department will contact you to schedule a time to meet and discuss the next steps to provide resources and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Angela P. Fitterer".

Angela P. Fitterer

Executive Deputy Secretary

CC: Richard P. Livingston, Board President

Andrews & Price, Solicitor