

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the BPS FY23 Budget Deficit

Is \$14.4 million 'missing'?

No. By definition, a deficit occurs when expenses exceed revenues. In this instance, the existence of a deficit means that district spending exceeded the approved budget by approximately \$14.4 million in FY2023.

Is this a deficit for the current school year?

No. Fiscal Year 2023 ended on June 30, 2023, and we are therefore referring to a deficit that existed last year.

Has the City been in contact with the FBI about the deficit?

No. Neither the district nor the Mayor's Office has been in contact with any law enforcement entity regarding the deficit. Regrettably, this is a rumor that spread Thursday night just as the Committee entered its first executive session about the deficit and it has impacted the lens through which our community is now viewing this matter.

The public should expect regular updates as the audit begins, but we urge everyone to refrain from sharing information that doesn't come directly from the School Committee, Mayor Sullivan's Office, or the Committee's designee(s).

Do you have a preliminary understanding of the areas that were overspent?

Exact data will be released to the public following an independent external audit. We recognize the breakdown in trust that has been caused by this matter and we don't want to add to that by rushing to release information that needs to be thoroughly vetted by an outside auditing firm.

As of this writing, data shows that the budget was exceeded due to transportation costs, including mandated door-to-door transportation, Special Education services related to psychiatric evaluations and out-of-district placements, and staffing/payroll.

At the conclusion of the audit, the auditing firm will release an independent report to the public.

What is the goal of the audit?

The goal is to better understand the unbudgeted expenses so that we can learn from them while providing taxpayers a detailed explanation from an independent third-party organization.

Distributed on September 5, 2023