#### PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST



**'Ø** February 2024 Knowledge Café

#### State Aid and Financial Planning Service



www.questar.org





- SBO Calendar for March 2024
- Single Audit and Single Audit Exemption Filings
- Kathy's Corner Review Your 180 Day Calendar Now
- Budgeting Tips in Uncertain or Changing Times
- Questions and Answers



## SBO Calendar for March 2024 ∞



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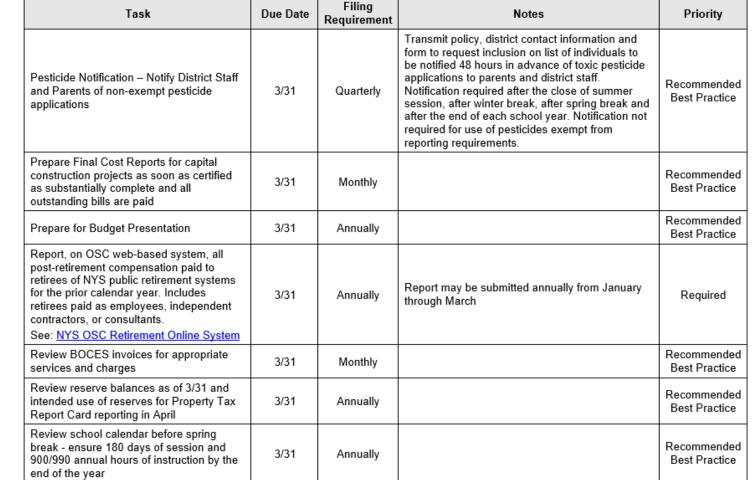
Task	Due Date	Filing Requirement	Notes	Priority
ESSA Financial Transparency reporting due for Big 5 districts	3/1	Annually	School districts, except for Dependent districts, must submit 2022-23 expenditure data by December 31, 2023. Dependent districts will need to submit by March 1, 2024.	Required
Last day to submit 2023 Calendar Year Building Condition Surveys to ensure Building Aid in the current year	3/1	Annually	The 2023 Building Condition Survey (BCS) must be completed by 12/31/2023 and submitted by 3/01/2024.	Required
Prepare and Submit Property Tax Cap Calculation form on OSC portal. See: <u>NYS OSC Portal Login</u>	3/1	Annually	Due March 1st. Data must be submitted via OSC's online portal. As required per EL §1608 and §1716 – The Property tax report card must now include a schedule of reserves, a description of its purpose, the balance as of the close of the 3rd quarter of the current school district fiscal year and a brief statement explaining any plans for the use of each reserve fund in the ensuing fiscal year.	Recommended Best Practice
File NYS Sales Tax Return for quarterly & annual filers	3/20	Quarterly	The filing requirement for sales tax is based on tax due and is either annual or 4 times per year. Due March 20th for the months of December, January and February if filing on a quarterly basis. Please check the instructions of the applicable forms to verify the correct due date when available. Annual sales tax filers using form ST- 101 are also due on this date.	Required
Billings (transportation, use of facilities, health services, parentally placed non- public etc.)	3/31	Monthly		Recommended Best Practice
Budget Development - Continue	3/31	Annually		Recommended Best Practice



### SBO Calendar for March 2024 ~~

Task	Due Date	Filing Requirement	Notes	Priority
Budget Status Reports to Board of Education including revenue and appropriation status reports	tus Reports to Board of including revenue and on status reports instatus reports including revenue and including revenue and inclu		Commissioner's Regulations 170.2(p) requires the treasurer to render a budget status report for the BoE and for the use of those staff members assigned responsibility for administration of specific portions of the budget, on at least a quarterly basis (monthly if budget transfers have been made since the last report). The report should include estimated revenues, revenues received to date, and estimated revenues yet to be received, original appropriations, adjustments and transfers, revised appropriations, expenditures, encumbrances, and unencumbered balances. Other information may be included, as necessary.	Required
Cash Flow and Fund Balance - modify assumptions, update, and review for accuracy	3/31	Monthly		Recommended Best Practice
Complete online verification (DVPUB) for all 10-month high-cost public placements, including the DCPUB and DCPOD (Other- public) submissions for required records	3/31	Annually		Required
Federal and State Cafeteria Reimbursement Form	3/31	Monthly		Recommended Best Practice
If necessary, collect school bus route data for one day for Non-Allowable Pupil Decimal (NAPD) calculation.	3/31	Annually		Required
Monthly Profit/Loss Statements for School Food Service	3/31	Monthly	Perform analysis on prior month's activities	Recommended Best Practice
Payroll Reports – ERS/TRS Payments and Reports	3/31	Monthly	ERS: Due the 7th day of the month following the report period. TRS: Due within 10 business days after the end of the previous month.	Recommended Best Practice

## SBO Calendar for March 2024 ~~

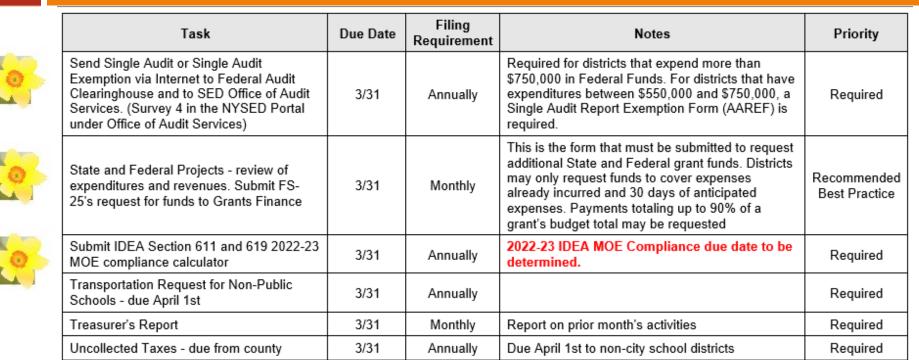






## SBO Calendar for March 2024 ~~

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- Building Condition Survey
  - 2023 Calendar Year Survey's Report due by 3/1/24
- Budget Calendar responsibilities for March
- Calculations of State Aid in the Executive Budget
- Billing Opportunities

  - Health Services
    Use of Facilities
    CK look back
  - Non-Resident Billings

# 8 Federal Grant Reporting

### Submit either Single Audit or Single Audit Exemption Form – due 3/31/24

### Federal Grants – Reporting due by March 31, 2024

- If your district had >=\$750,000 in federal expenditures in 22-23, then you needed a separate Single Audit
  - Single Audit report needs to be uploaded through the Business Portal – Survey 4
- If had between \$550,000 \$750,000 in federal expenditures in 22-23, then need to complete the Single Audit Report Exemption Form



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

#### SINGLE AUDIT REPORT EXEMPTION FORM (Part 1 of 2)

This form must be completed and submitted if your agency is not required to have a Single Audit or Program-Specific Audit conducted in accordance with Uniform Guidance 2 CFR Part 200.501. If the form is not submitted upon request, your agency may be subject to withholding of funding for federal programs.

#### Agency Information:

Agency Name and Address		FEIN(s)	Fiscal Year End Date
Agency Representative		Title	
Telephone	Fax	Email	

#### Certification:

For the fiscal year indicated above, the agency did not incur expenditures of \$750,000 or more for all federal programs and is not required to have an audit of federal programs in accordance with Uniform Guidance 2 CFR Part 200.501.

Agency Representative's Signature	Date

#### Independent Auditor Information:

Firm Name and Address		
CPA Name		New York State License Number
Telephone	Fax	Email

The agency must fill in the information above and sign the certification. Exemption forms that do not have a signature and are not submitted for the appropriate fiscal year (e.g., year-end 2023 is uploaded in 2023 cycle) will not be accepted. For School Districts and BOCES, the form should be uploaded in Survey 4 in the NYSED Application Business Portal. Charter Schools, not-for-profits, and other entities should e-mail the form to FSandSingleAudit@nysed.gov.

Guidance on submitting either the Single Audit or the Exemption Form is available here: Submission of Single Audits or Program-Specific <u>Audits | New York</u> State Education Department (nysed.gov)

Both are done through the Business Portal

#### SINGLE AUDIT REPORT EXEMPTION FORM (Part 2 of 2)

If your agency expended between \$550,000 and \$750,000 for all federal programs, please complete the following table for all federal programs where expenditures were incurred:

Sample entry:

	Federal Agency	Pass Through Entity (if applicable)	Pass Through Entity Identifying Number	Assistance Listings/CFDA #	Total Expenditures for Fiscal Year *
[	United States Department of	New York State Education	0000-05-0000	84.010A	\$153,000
	Education	Department			

Agency Name:

Federal Agency	Pass Through Entity (if applicable)	Pass Through Entity Identifying Number	Assistance Listings/CFDA #	Total Expenditures for Fiscal Year*		
	Where	Where does this				
	information	tion co	me			
	fro	om?				



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NEW YORK STATE E	OUCATIO	N DEPARTME	NT			
About NYSED Program	n Offices	News Room	Business Porta	I Finance	e & Business	Po
Grants Fina	nce					
Reports	NYSE	2 / Grants Finance	/ Reports		nild Nutrit	
Forms	Re	ports		Fede	ral Grant	S
Guidance and Information	Gra	ants Finance off	ers several repo	orts to help l	ocal agencies	s mar
Contact Grants Finance	the	ir records with	the Department	's. To view r	eports for a	specif
Procurement	age	ency's 12-digit I	BEDS (or agency	y) code and	click on the	Go bu
Report Waste, Fraud and Abuse					Go	
	– If t	he 12-digit cod	e is not available	e, click on tł	he appropriat	te cou
	the	n click on the a	gency's name. (	County code	s are in pare	nthes
	A	<u>bany (01)</u>	<u>Allegany (</u>	<u>02)</u>	Broome (03	<u>3)</u>
	Ca	<u>ayuga (05)</u>	<u>Chautauqu</u>	<u>ua (06)</u>	<u>Chemung (</u>	<u>07)</u>

### **Grants Finance Information**

				ATE EDUCATION DEPA	RTMENT R	UN DATE: 8/07/23		
3		-		RANTS FINANCE				
		END		FOR THE PERIOD 7/0 STATE GRANT PAYMEN				
			TEDERAL AND	STATE GRANT PATHE	115			
	4						CFDA = C	atalog of
	U		B					<b>U</b>
							Federal D	omestic
			•		PAID TO DATE	BUDGET TOTAL	Assistanc	
		REVENU		PAID IN 22-23	AS OF 8/07/23	AS OF 8/07/23	Assistance	e l
		A4286	5895-21-0010	1,419	14,182	14,182		
		F4289		305,321	503,954	801,325		
		F4289	5882-21-0010	57,230	79,644	112,073	84 = US	Department
		F4289		35,346	57,760	112,073		•
			5884-21-0010 5891-21-0010	93,560 353,935	205,630 581,880	560,351 672,699	of Educati	on 🛈
	844250 84425C		5896-21-0010	33,261	58,229	58,229		-
	044250	14205	5650-21-0010	55,201	50,225	50,225		
	TOTAL FO	OR 21	PROJECTS	880,072	1,501,279	2,330,932	84	.XXX
	84010A	F4126	0021-22-0010	11,088	117,417	117,417	XXX = sn(	ecific grant
	84027X	F4256	5532-22-0016	36,588	36,588	40,654	- Sh	Some grant
	84173X	F4256	5533-22-0016	4,073	4,073	4,526		
	84367A	F4289	0147-22-0010	2,308	23,077	23,077	_ <u>_</u> .	
	84424A	F4289	0204-22-0010	1,000	10,000	10,000	Pass Thro	ough Entity
	TOTAL FO	DR 22	PROJECTS	55,057	191,155	195,674		ED for these
		F3289	0409-23-7048	162,902	162,902	181,003	grants 🛛	
			0021-23-0010	23,392	23,392	117,910	grants •	
	84027A			200,827	200,827	223,142		
			0033-23-0016	9,954	9,954	11,060		
	84367A		0147-23-0010	3,862	3,862	19,311		
	84424A	F4289	0204-23-0010	2,000	2,000	10,000		
	Feder	al Agenc	у	Pass Through Ent	tity (if applicable)	Pass Through Entity Identifying Number	CFDA #	Total Expenditures for fiscal year*
		0		2		ß	4	Your books

## **Other Common Federal Grants**

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- Impact Aid in the General Fund
  - **CFDA #84.041, Direct**
  - Funded from the US Department of Education
- Emergency Connectivity Fund Program
  - **CFDA** #32.009, Direct
  - Funded from the US Federal Communications Commission
- Disaster Grants Public Assistance
  - CFDA #97.056, Direct
  - Funded from the US Department of Homeland Security

### Child Nutrition Federal Aid Programs

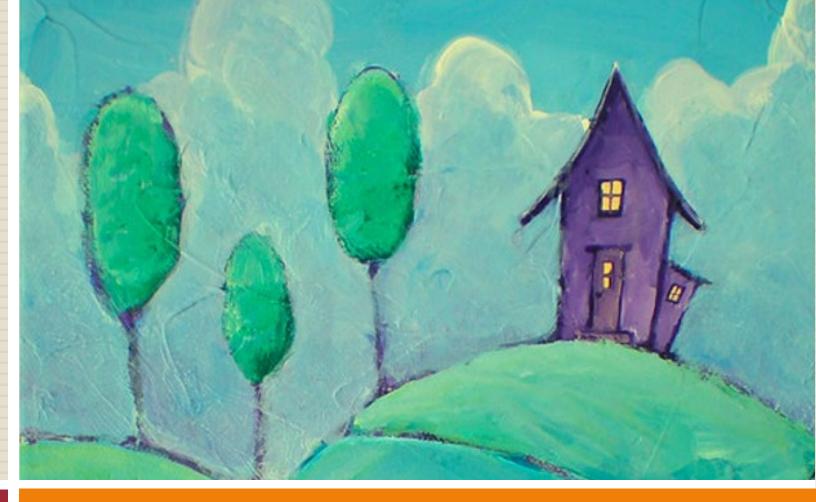
- From the US Department of Agriculture and passed through NYS Child Nutrition:
  - 10.553 National School Breakfast Program
  - 10.555 National School Lunch Program
  - 10.556 National School Milk Program
  - 10.555 National School Snack Program
  - 10.559 School Summer Feeding Program
  - 10.582 Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
  - 10.649 State Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Admin Cost Grants

## Survey #4 Summary

- Under Business Portal
  - SED Monitoring and Vendor Performance System
    - Office of Audit Services

Survey #4

- If your district had a Single Audit Due 9 months after the year end (3/31)
- Complete Survey with either upload of Single Audit or Single Audit Exemption Form
- Need a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) for any findings noted in the Single Audit and BOE approval of CAP



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### Kathy's Corner

Monthly Section – Thoughts from a Newer SDBL



## Reminders from an SBO... Mid-Year Review of 180 Day Calendar







- 19
- Review hours and days ahead of time for planning purposes
- Review all contracts (teachers/administrators etc.)
  - Bell schedule change?
- Review Snow Days
  - Before you give back, will you be compliant?
  - School Breaks
    - Work from farthest break and work yourself back to give back days
- Ensure that the attendance clerk is properly entering days
  - Back-up is necessary
  - Claim Forms

# Tips

- Have your calendar approved by BOE
  - Amendments should be brought to the BOE
  - Discuss with district timely for planning purposes
- Reference your BOCES calendar
  - Then work on your own district one
  - Ensure that you are following contract language
- Professional Development
  - Should have an agenda
  - Superintendent should ensure that actual PD is occurring in case of audit



### **SED** Guidance

		Board of Regents	University of the Stat	te of New York	
JINY SED.g	OV				Search State Aid
NEW YORK STATE ED	UCATION DEPARTME	NT			Index A-Z
About NYSED Program	Offices News Room	Business Portal	Finance & Business	Policy & Guidance	
State Aid					
View District Data	NYSED / State Aid / Top	pics / Attendance and En	rollment		
Go Clear		Attendance	and Enrollment ]	Information	
2023-24 Calendar of Deadlines	Contact: OMSSAN				
2023-24 State Aid Handbook	Attendance and E FTE Calculator	<u>:nroiiment Frequent</u>	<u>ly Asked Questions (F/</u>	<u>AQ)</u>	
Topics		e Waiver Decisions			
Attendance and Enrollment				_	
BOCES	SAMS Help	iance & Emergency	Declaration Applicatio	<u>n</u>	
Building	Textbook, Softwa	re, Library Materials	and Computer Hard	<u>ware &amp; Equipment</u>	
Charter Schools		Atte	ndance Latest No	ews	
Payment	12-7-2023				
Special Education		180 Day Model Ca	lendar Available foi	r Completion	
ST-3		•	24 School year is now	•	use. The 2024-
Transportation	25 School Year M	odel Calendar has b	een released for planr	ning purposes only.	<u>Model Calendars</u>
SAMS	12-1-2023				
General State Aid Information	<u>Asian Lunar New</u>	Year & Diwali Guida	nce		
Forms					
Contact Us	08-25-2023 Directions for Sch	nedule A-8 (Extraord	linary Condition Days	and State of Emergy	ency Days)
Links to Related Sites			<u>, conación buys</u>		<u> </u>
	02-3-2023				
			as posted a <u>list of Free</u>		
		ding information reg	garding instructional h	ours and session da	ys for state aid
	purposes.				

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### **Digging into the Budget Development Process**

**Budgeting in Uncertain or Changing Times** 

### **Budget Development thru March**

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### 2024 2025 SAMPLE BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

#### STATE AID & FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICE

DATE	BUDGET DEVELOPMENT
October 2023	Present 2024-25 budget calendar and budget development procedures to the Board of Education for adoption.
November 2023	Meet with budget builders and distribute budget guidelines.
December 2023	Meet with finance committee (preliminary budget presentation by budget builders).
January 2024	Meet with finance committee and/or Board of Education (on parameters).
January 2024	Meet with budget builders various throughout the month.
February 2024	Budget builders submit program budget composite to Business Office.
February 2024	Present 2024-25 preliminary budget forecast and budget assumptions to the Board of Education.
March 1, 2024	Submit 2024-25 calculation for tax levy limit to Office of State Comptroller, Tax & Finance & SED (single submission to OSC only).
March 2024	Present 2024-25 operational and general support budget to the Board of Education for review and comment (Operations & Maintenance, Transportation and General support).
March 2024	Present 2024-25 debt service and employee benefits budget to the Board of Education for review and comment
March 2024	Present 2024-25 instructional and special education budget to the Board of Education for review and comment

# Tax Cap Tips

- Tax Cap is due by March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Included in the reporting is the amount that your district plans on levying
  - Without knowing what the final State Budget might include, this can be a stressful part of the form
  - Please note that you can revise the Tax Cap form as many times as you want/need
  - OSC Tax Cap Reporting System is open throughout the spring
- Unless you absolutely know you are going out over the tax cap, it is recommended you hold off on reporting that until formally approved

### Common Questions – Transfers to Capital

- How do Transfers to Capital (TTC) affect the Tax Cap?
  - Technically, they don't
  - A budgeted Transfer to Capital does not directly increase the Capital Exclusion
  - What does affect the Tax Cap is what the district plans to pay from the H522-Expenditures from Appropriations account in the 2024-25 school year
  - Example: \$1,000,000 budgeted for TTC in 24-25; plan to spend \$300,000 out of H522 in 24-25
    - \$300,000 would be the amount included in the capital exclusion (and increases the Tax Cap)

### Common Questions – Pension Exclusion

What is the Pension Exclusion all about?

- The Tax Cap provides some relief when the TRS or ERS contribution rates increase by more than 2 percentage points
- Districts are allowed to increase the tax cap by the portion of the rate beyond a 2% increase x the projected covered salaries for 24-25
- For 24-25: Average ERS rate is increasing to 15.3%, up from 13.2%, thus a 2.1% rise in the rate
  - .1% x Projected covered salaries for ERS for 24-25 is the exclusion
  - Projected covered salaries is what the ERS bill will be based on vs. actual salaries for 24-25
- Note: unlike PILOTs and Capital Exclusions, the following year's tax cap is not affected by the 24-25 pension exclusion

### Common Questions – BOCES Rent & Capital

- How do I include the BOCES rent and capital projected expenditures and revenues in the Tax Cap?
- Your BOCES should provide you with the projected cost of rent and capital for 24-25 and also the projected BOCES Aid on these costs
  - Note: The rent and capital portion of your BOCES expense is aided current vs. in the following year
- Include expense portion with your other capital expenditures (↑ exclusion) and include the BOCES Aid with your other capital related State Aid (↓ exclusion)

### Common Concern – My Tax Cap is Too High/Low

- While the tax cap formula is fixed, you do have some options available to you
- Is your Tax Cap lower than what the community would approve?
  - Sometimes caused by a drop in the Capital Exclusion. If so, consider:
    - Purchasing a bus

- \$100,000 Transfer to Capital that can be spent in 24-25
- Paying down higher BAN principal amount
- Sometimes caused by increase in PILOTs
  - Make sure you include the higher PILOT revenue in the next budget

### Common Concern – My Tax Cap is Too High/Low

- Is your Tax Cap higher than what the community would approve? Consider if:
  - Any of the expenditures in the 24-25 budget could be funded from a reserve or one-time use of fund balance
    - Reserve for Debt

- Capital Reserve / Bus Replacement Reserve
- Additional Appropriated Fund Balance
- All of these would lower the Capital Exclusion and thus lower the Tax Cap
- You can always go out below the Tax Cap, but make sure you understand what that may do to the following year's Tax Cap and make plans now



# Executive Budget Reductions in State Aid

- The Governor has proposed two changes to the Foundation Aid formula:
  - Change CPI increase from prior year's CPI (4.1%) to the average of the last 10 years less high and low years (2.4%)
    - Affects all districts
  - Removes Hold Harmless provision for those districts that currently receive more Foundation Aid than the formula generates
    - Proposal is to pay the revised Foundation Aid formula + a transition adjustment (between 50% 91% of the difference between 23-24 Foundation Aid and revised 24-25 estimated Foundation Aid)

### Executive Budget vs. District Budget

- Don't let the uncertainty stop you from moving forward with your district's budget preparation
- "Word on the street" is that it is possible that the State Budget will be late again this year
   Due by April 1<sup>st</sup>; last year was 5/1/23
- Don't assume the worst only make plans for a few outcomes so the BOE will be able to pivot when necessary



# **Budgeting in Uncertain Times**

- Develop during the budget process what are the district's priorities
  - This will help identify those areas that shouldn't be cut and those that may be able to be
    - Stops the "every activity is reduced by X%" and then no programs have enough money to be effective
    - Tiers of potential cuts can be identified
  - Include in the evaluation any new positions funded from the COVID grants that have or will be ending by 9/30/24
    - Do they need to be included in the General Fund in 24-25?
  - Be cautious of causing unneeded panic

### Even if Foundation Aid Formula Remain Unchanged for 24-25

- It is time for each district with declining enrollment and/or increasing property/income wealth to begin or to continue discussions on a long-range plan for the district that considers, at a minimum:
  - Enrollment projections
    - Including needs of the projected enrollment, e.g., ELL, etc.
  - Right sizing staffing

- Prioritizing programs
- Reviewing employee benefits
  - Are they consistent with other districts?
- Any options available to share services?
  - Through your BOCES or close by districts

### Don't Forget the Other Side of the Budget Either – Fund Balance

Over the last few years, many districts were able to add to their fund balance from open positions, limitations on programs due to COVID protocols and supplanting of expenses from CRRSA and ARPA grants.

- Appropriating more fund balance to offset potential cuts can give you more time to thoughtfully make cuts going forward.
  - If aid restored, full appropriations will be available for 24-25.
  - If aid not restored, BOE still has ability to either make cuts in 24-25 or use the 24-25 year to plan future cuts.

### Don't Forget the Other Side of the Budget Either – Revenues

- It is always a good time to ensure that you are maximizing revenues, but critical when the budget is more volatile.
- Some areas to consider:
  - Interest are you investing district resources to maximize interest revenue?
    - Adjust 24-25 budget for higher interest rate?
  - Review your State Aid
    - Are you getting all that you are entitled to?
  - Billings to others

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Are they properly calculated, billed timely and promptly followed up on?







### Conclusion



- Make sure to submit the Single Audit or Single Audit Exemption Form by 3/31/24.
- Review 180 Day Calendar for 23-24 remember that insufficient days in 23-24 causes 24-25 Foundation Aid to be reduced.
- Between now and the end of April the budget development will be in full swing.
  - Develop various funding options due to the uncertainty of the amount of Foundation Aid for 24-25.
  - Add potential budget meeting(s) in April to give yourself some added flexibility and reduce the stress level. Extra meetings can always be cancelled!

### Questions?

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State Aid and Financial Planning Service

Questar III BOCES

10 Empire State Boulevard

Castleton, NY 12033

518-477-2635

Option 1 (SAP)

http://sap.questar.org twitter.com/qiiisap - @qiiisap



Upcoming dates: March 13, 2024 April 17, 2024 May 15, 2024 June 26, 2024