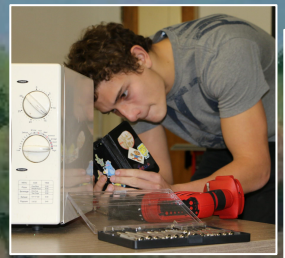
2016-17 School Budget Development Presentation

Queensbury Union Free School District
February 8, 2016



QUFSD Education Program

- **Queensbury UFSD offers:**
  - **Robust academic programs**
    - IB
    - Career Academy: ECHS
    - PLTW
    - AP courses
  - **21st-century technology**
  - **Sports**
  - **Fine/performing arts**

Record of Excellence in QUFSD

- **Achievement:**
  - **QHS graduation rate = 90%**
    - state average = 78.1%
  - **Academics**:
    - 12th out of 84 districts in Capital Region (Albany *Business Review*, 2015)
    - 58th out of 431 districts in Upstate (Buffalo *Business First*, 2015)

Expenses

- **Cost-effective**:
  - **90th out of 90** districts for lowest total spending per pupil in the Capital Region (Albany *Business Review, 2015*)
  - **20th out of 431** districts for most cost-effective in Upstate (Buffalo *Business First*, 2015)
  - Offers taxpayers a high ROI in education (Center for American Progress, 2014)

Expenses

- **Energy Efficient:**

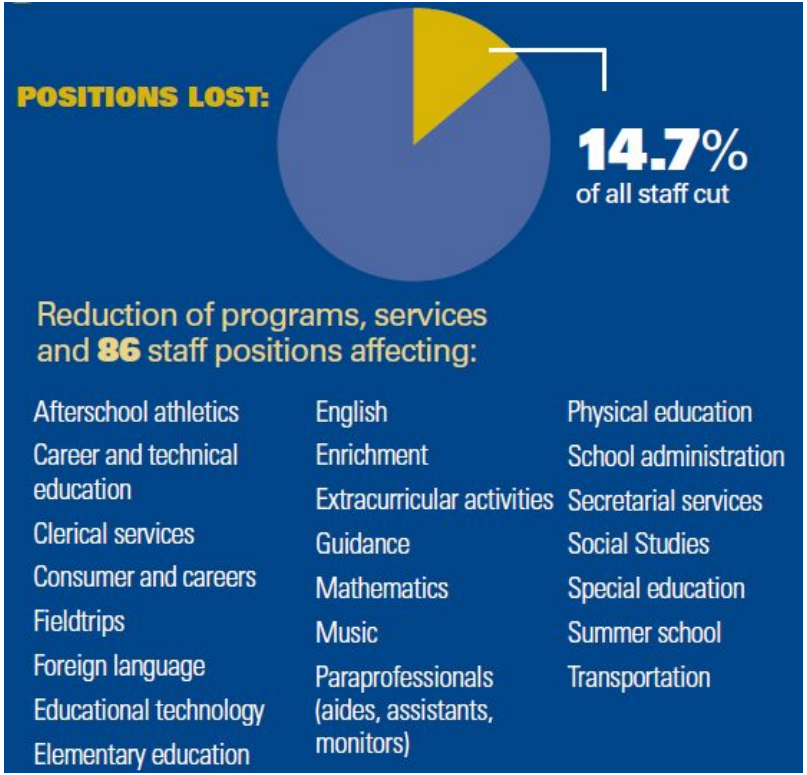
  $2.1 million in cost reductions since July 2009:

  - Energy management program
  - Solar panels
  - Infrastructure Capital Project
  - Legacy Capital Project

Expenses:

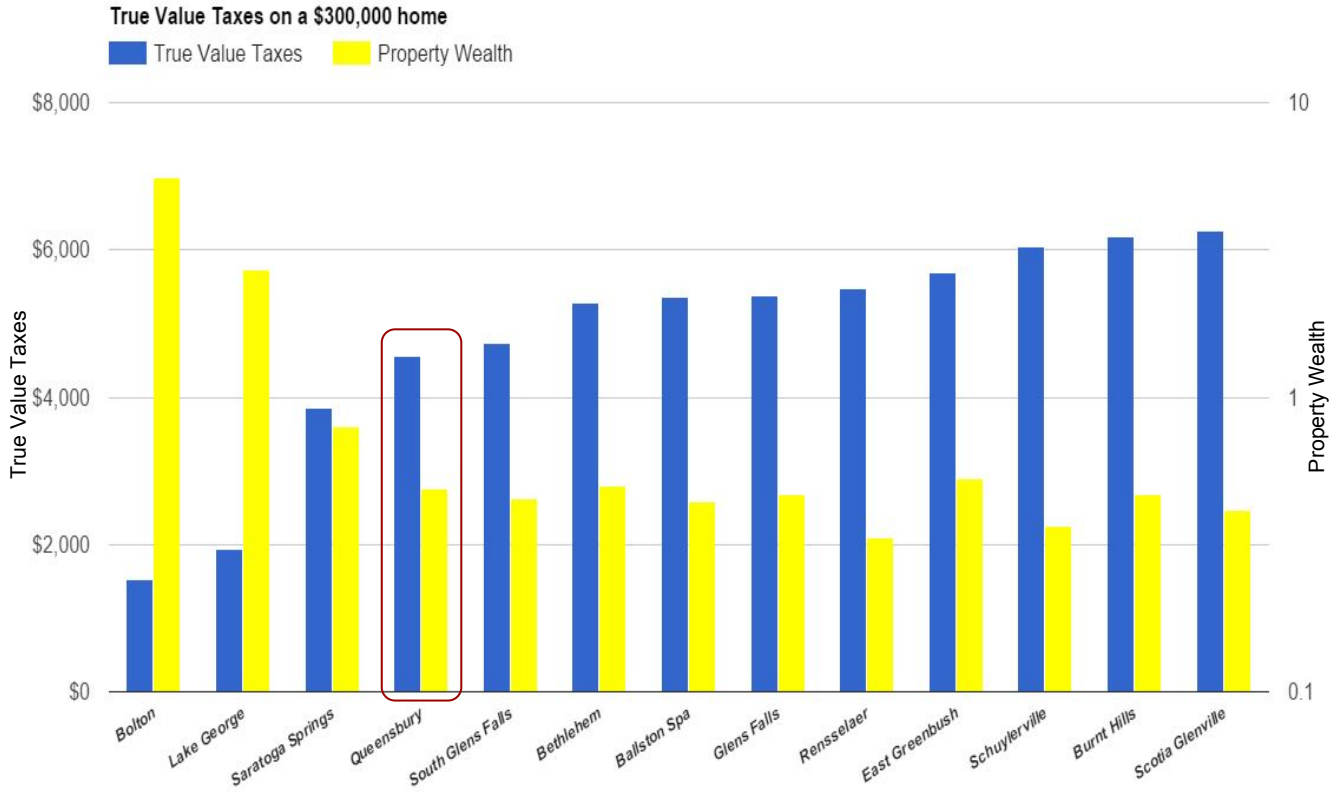
Reductions in the GEA/Tax Cap Era

- Just beginning to adjust from past losses (2009-10 to 2014-15):
  - Programs
  - Services
  - Staff positions (86)



True Value Tax Comparison

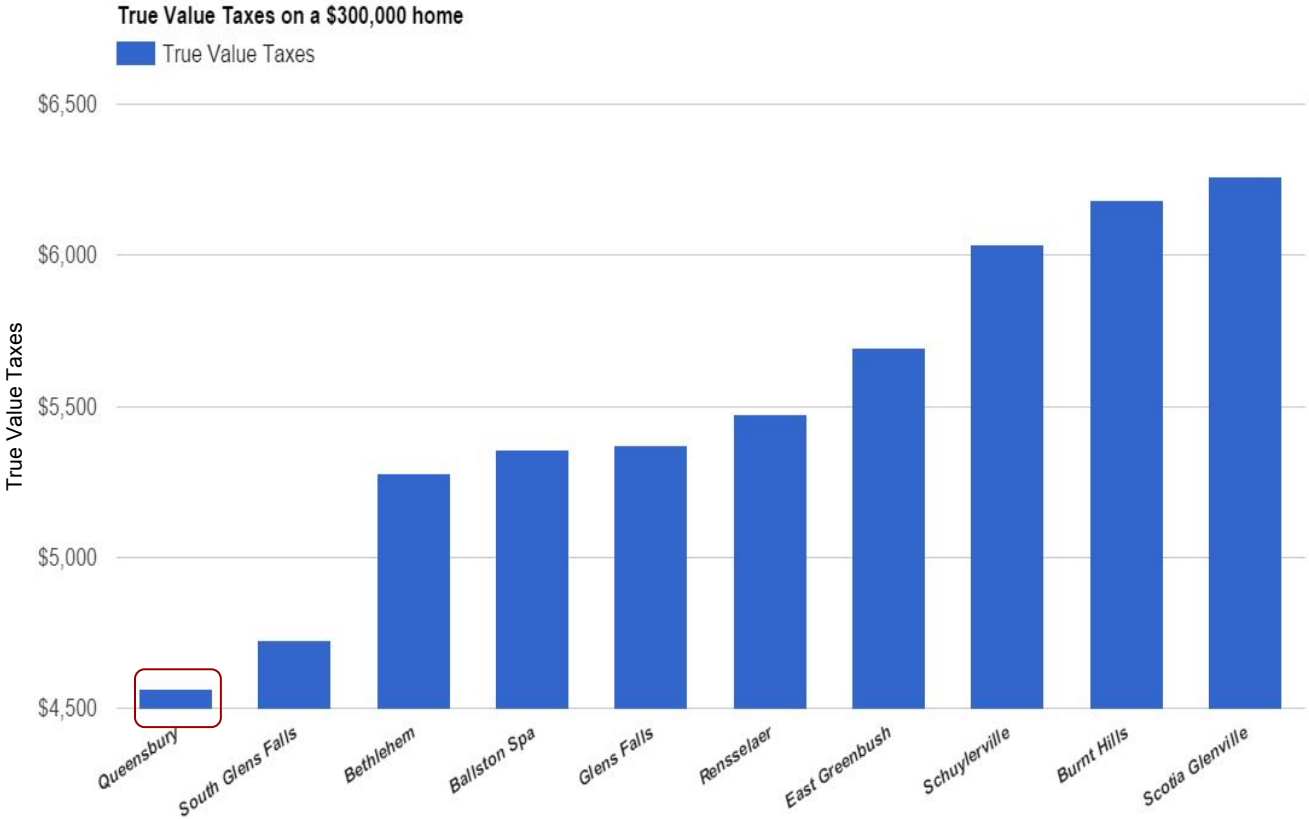
- QUFSD is on the low end of **true value taxes** when compared to districts of similar property wealth



(Sources: Albany Business Review schools report 2015, 2013-14 property wealth data at www.oms.nysed.gov)

True Value Tax Comparison

- QUFSD offers “value” for taxpayers when compared to similar districts



(Source: Albany Business Review schools report 2015)

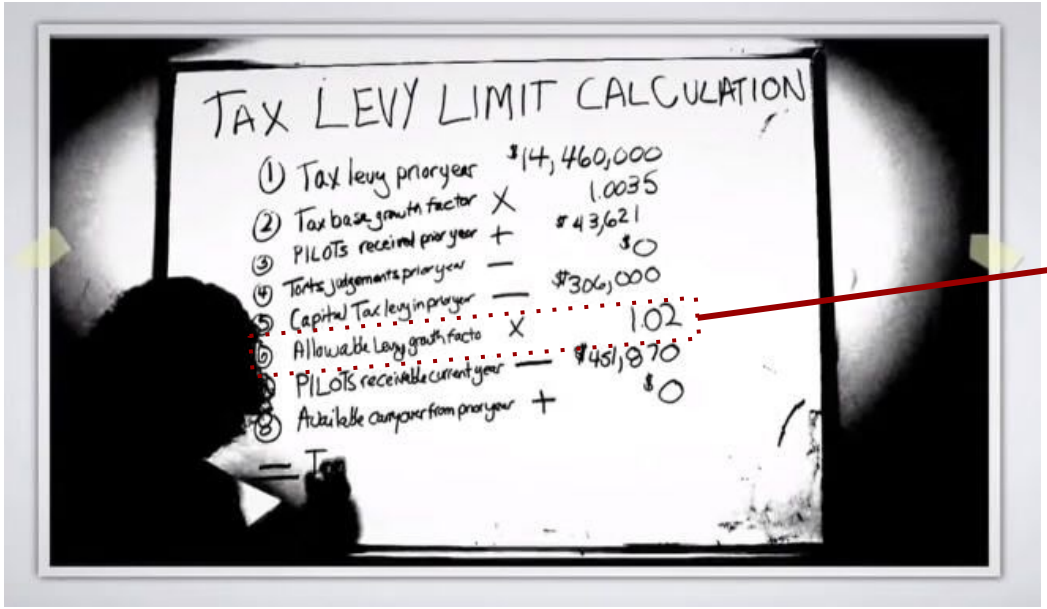
Revenue:

Governor's Budget Proposal

- **Proposed total state aid increase: $1,022,099**
  - Foundation Aid increase: $40,350
  - Expense Based Aid increases: $1,862,265
  - GEA reduction: ($1,327,388)
  - GEA restoration: $446,872
- ***Remaining GEA due from NYS: $880,516***

Revenue:

School Taxes & the Tax “Cap”



Allowable levy growth factor =

- the lesser of 2% or
- the change in CPI (0.12% for 2016-17)

https://youtu.be/ZnpN9p8Tq9g

Revenue:

School Tax Levy

- **Tax Levy** = total $ amount a district raises with school taxes

School Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	*7-year Average*
QUFSD Year-to-Year Tax Levy Change	0.31%	0.82%	1.13%	2.18%	2.93%	1.45%	2.96%	*1.68%*
		GEA began		Tax cap began				

Closing the Revenue-Expenses Gap:

Lessons Learned from Others

- Comptroller's audits for neighboring school district:
  - **Audit Year: 2011**
    "...we estimate that the District has over $1.89 million in excess fund balance and unnecessary reserves that could be used to benefit taxpayers."
  - **Audit Year: 2015**
    "...the Board routinely relied on significant amounts of appropriated fund balance to finance operations...If these trends continue, the District will incur fiscal instability that will negatively affect future District operations."

(http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/audits/index.htm Audit No: 2010M-256 and Audit No: 2015M-68)

Fiscal Stress-No Designation

County: Warren
MuniCode: 520669700200

Queensbury Union Free School District

Fiscal Year: 2015
Stress Level: No Designation

6 Short Term Debt Issuance	**All Funds** 3 Points > 15% Last Fiscal Year 2 Points > 5% But ≤ 15% Last Fiscal Year 1 Point > 0% But ≤ 5% Last Fiscal Year	2015	Debt Issued Total Revenues Debt / Total Revenues (General Fund)	- 52,186,262 0.0%	0 pts	0	10%	0.0%
7 Short Term Debt Issuance Trend	**All Funds** 3 Points = Issuance In Each of Last Three Fiscal Years or Issued a Budget Note In Last Fiscal Year 2 Points = Issuance In Each of Last Two Fiscal Years 1 Point = Issuance In Last Fiscal Year	2013 2014 2015 2015	Debt Issued Debt Issued Debt Issued Budget Note Issued	- - - No	0 pts 0 pts 0 pts 0 pts	0		
				TOTAL		3		**20.0%**

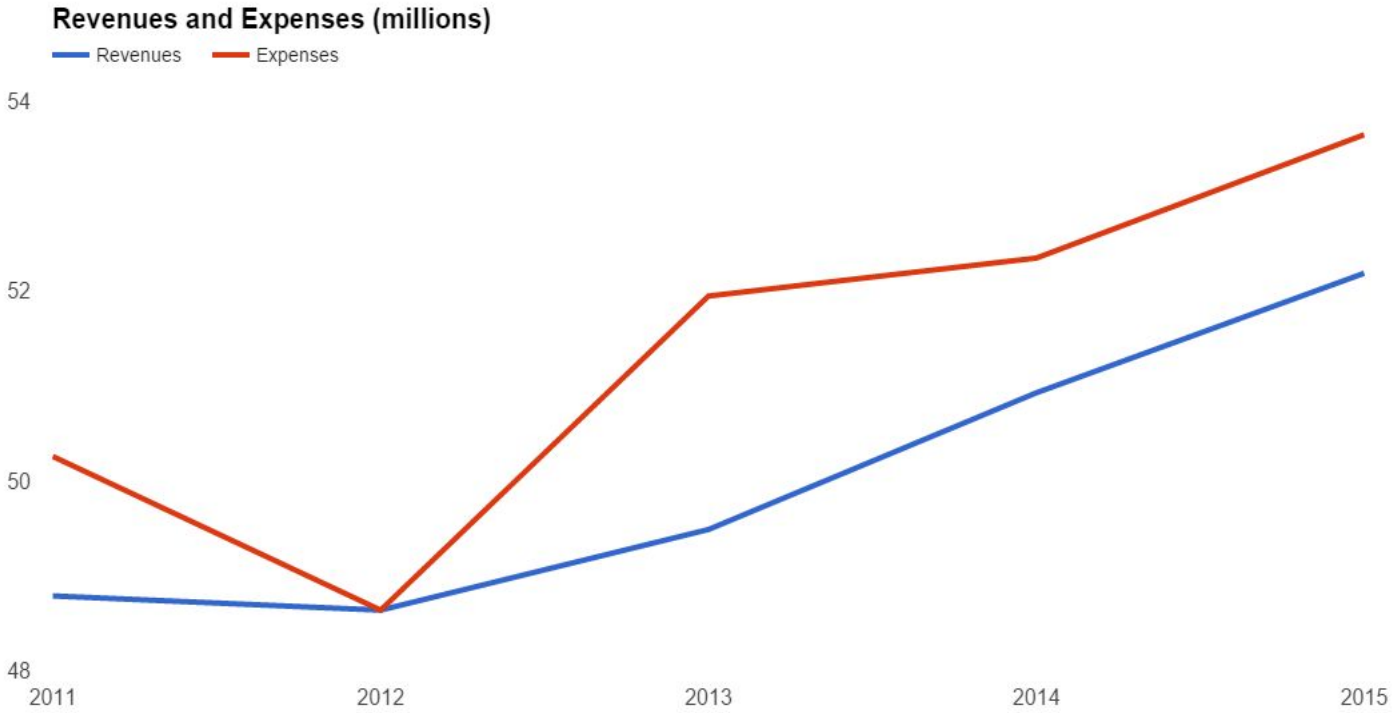
	Percent Range (out of 21 max pts)
Significant Fiscal Stress	65 - 100%
Moderate Fiscal Stress	45 - 64.9%
Susceptible Fiscal Stress	25 - 44.9%
No Designation	0 - 24.9%

Gross Revenues = Revenues and Other Sources
Total Revenues = Revenues
Gross Expenditures = Expenditures and Other Uses
Total Expenditures = Expenditures

As of 31-DEC-2015

Revenue & Expense History

- QUFSD projected expenses generally exceed projected revenue*

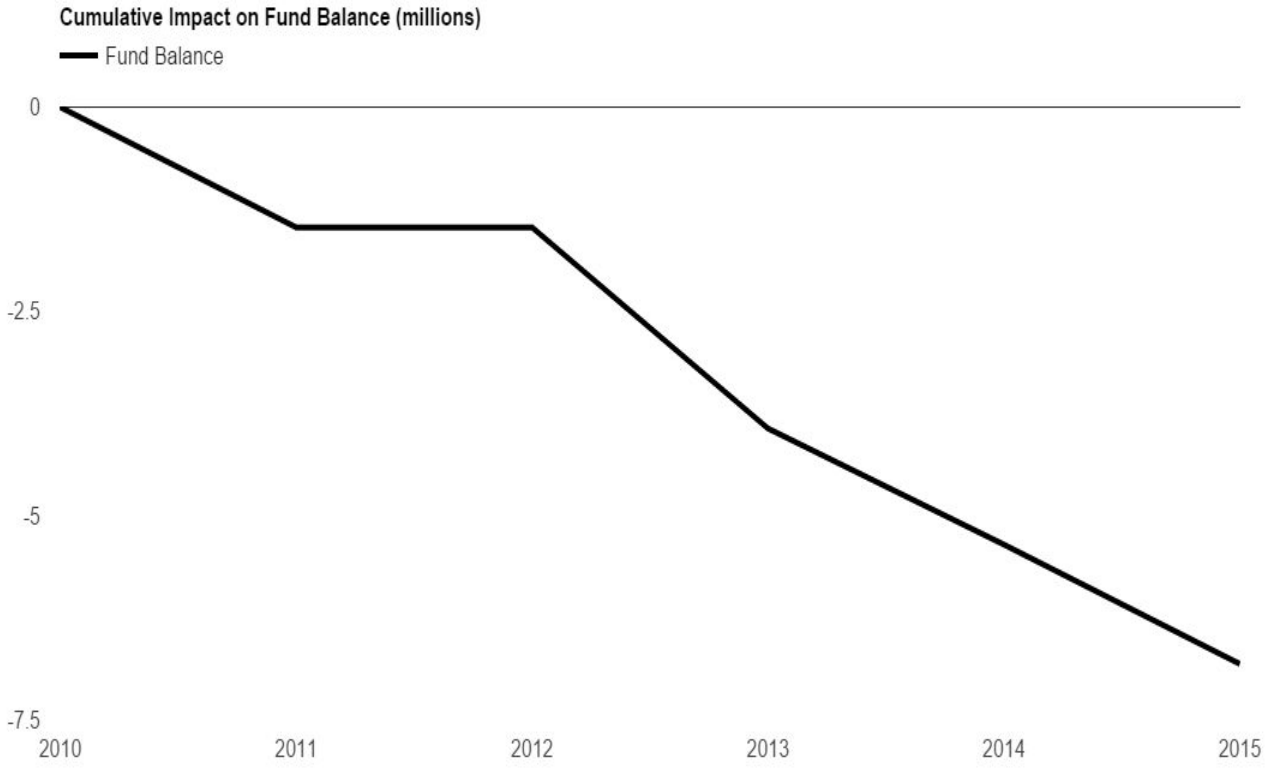


**before the use of assigned/appropriated fund balance*

Closing the Revenue-Expenses Gap:

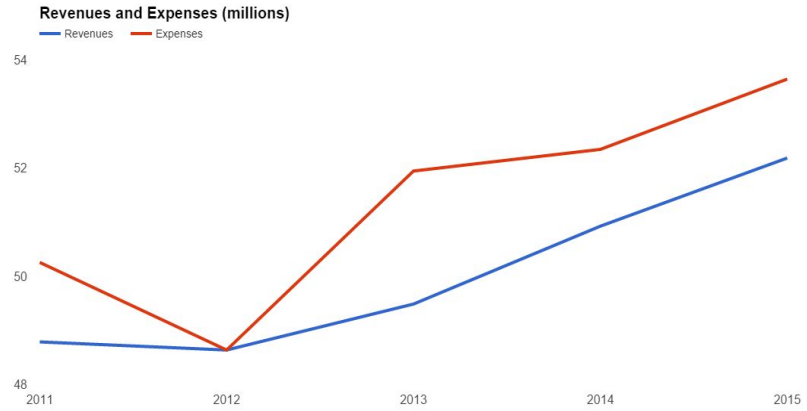
Fund Balance History

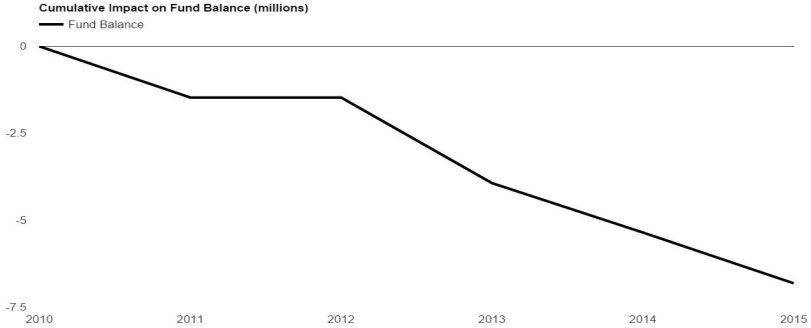
- Draining total fund balance with continued reliance on “assigned fund balance” to close the revenue-expenses gap



Projected 2016-2017 Budget

- Projected budget shortfall:
  - GEA Restoration
  - Maximum Allowable Tax Levy
    - Simple majority (50%)
  - Appropriated Fund Balance
  - Program





Key Budget Development Dates

February 22	BOE budget workshop
March 1	Tax levy limit due to state
March 14	BOE meeting, budget presentation
March 28	BOE budget workshop
April 18	BOE candidate petitions due
April 22	**Deadline to adopt budget proposal**
May 9	Budget hearing
May 17	**Budget vote**

www.queensburyschool.org/budget