

ISSUER COMMENT

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RATING

Issuer Rating ¹

A1 No Outlook

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West Salem School District, WI

Annual comment on West Salem SD

Issuer profile

West Salem School District is located in La Crosse County in western Wisconsin, approximately 10 miles northeast of La Crosse.

Key indicators

Exhibit 1

West Salem School District, WI

	2018	2019	2020	2021	A Medians
Economy					
Resident income	130.0%	126.7%	133.2%	N/A	96.2%
Full value (\$000)	\$904,808	\$931,415	\$981,543	\$1,018,092	\$1,160,791
Population	10,065	9,989	10,183	N/A	13,088
Full value per capita	\$89,896	\$93,244	\$96,390	N/A	\$85,943
Enrollment	1,823	1,797	1,838	1,782	1,827
Enrollment trend	N/A	0.5%	0.5%	-0.8%	-0.5%
Financial performance					
Operating revenue (\$000)	\$23,870	\$23,358	\$25,442	\$26,950	\$26,991
Available fund balance (\$000)	\$3,922	\$3,059	\$2,855	\$3,476	\$6,298
Net cash (\$000)	\$1,094	\$460	\$408	\$949	\$6,971
Available fund balance ratio	16.4%	13.1%	11.2%	12.9%	23.0%
Net cash ratio	4.6%	2.0%	1.6%	3.5%	26.2%
Leverage					
Debt (\$000)	\$28,044	\$27,572	\$26,890	\$26,444	\$21,881
ANPL (\$000)	\$27,583	\$24,484	\$33,341	\$43,585	\$48,862
OPEB (\$000)	\$992	\$972	\$1,407	\$1,289	\$4,011
Long-term liabilities ratio	237.2%	227.0%	242.3%	264.6%	335.4%
Implied debt service (\$000)	\$1,809	\$2,066	\$2,010	\$1,926	\$1,428
Pension tread water (\$000)	\$447	\$790	N/A	\$362	\$1,297
OPEB contributions (\$000)	\$228	\$38	\$0	\$0	\$146
Fixed-costs ratio	10.4%	12.4%	11.0%	8.5%	12.8%

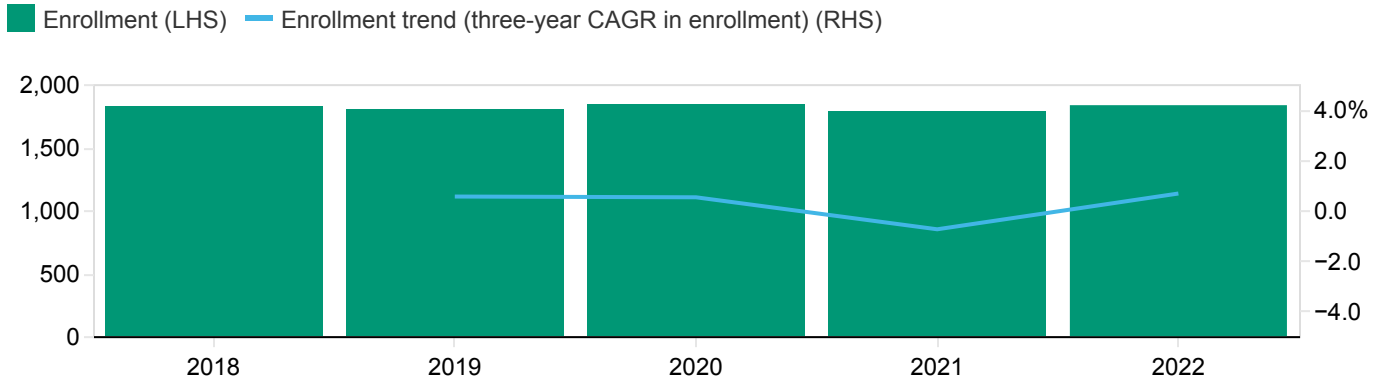
For definitions of the metrics in the table above please refer to the [US K-12 Public School Districts Methodology](#) or see the Glossary in the Appendix below. Metrics represented as N/A indicate the data were not available at the time of publication. The medians come from our most recently published [K12 Median Report](#).

Sources: US Census Bureau, West Salem School District, WI's financial statements and Moody's Investors Service

Credit overview

Economy

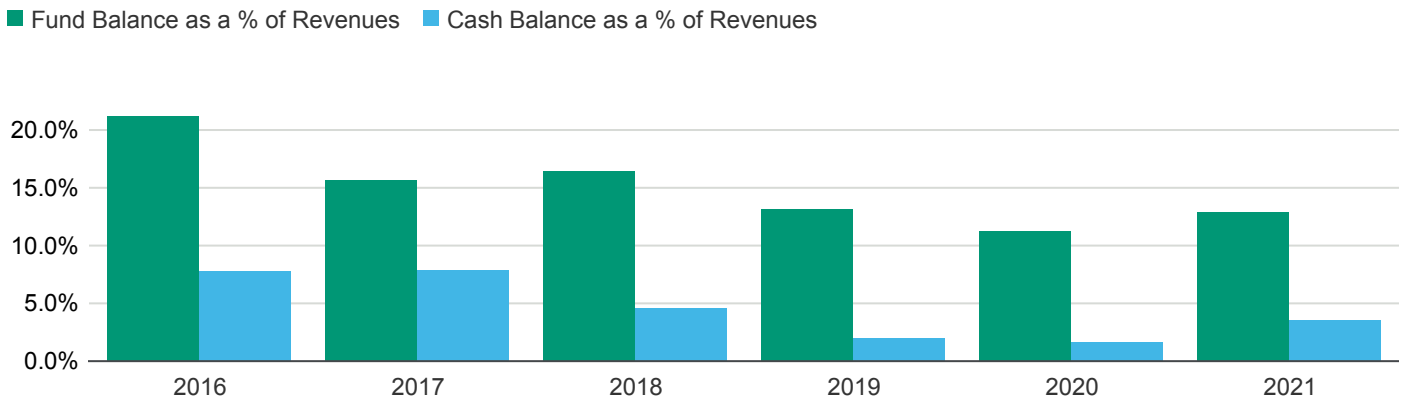
Exhibit 2
Enrollment



Source: Moody's Investors Service

Financial performance

Exhibit 3
Financial Trends



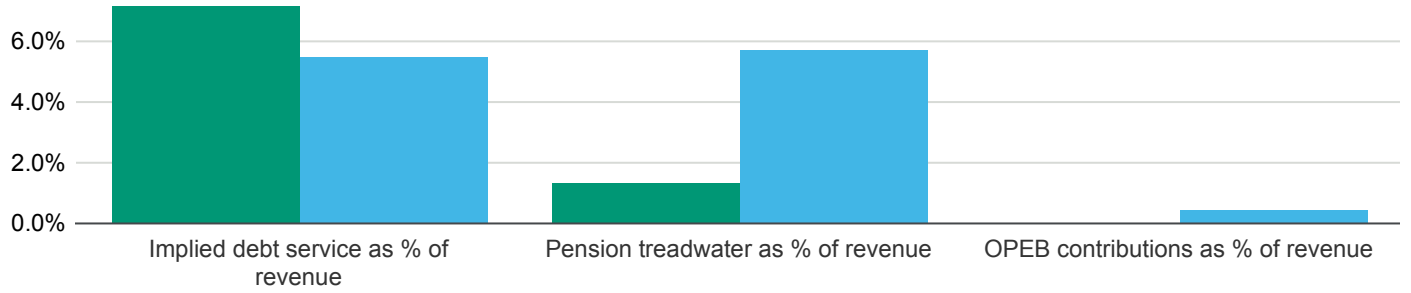
Source: Moody's Investors Service

Leverage

This publication does not announce a credit rating action. For any credit ratings referenced in this publication, please see the issuer/deal page on <https://ratings.moodys.com> for the most updated credit rating action information and rating history.

Exhibit 4
Fixed costs components

■ West Salem School District, WI ■ A1 Median



Source: Moody's Investors Service

Appendix

Exhibit 5

Key Indicators Glossary

	Definition	Source
Economy		
Resident income	Median Household Income (MHI), adjusted for Regional Price Parity (RPP), as a % of the US	MHI: American Community Survey (US Census Bureau) RPP: US Bureau of Economic Analysis
Full value (\$000)	Estimated market value of taxable property accessible to the district	State repositories, district's audited financial reports, offering documents or continuing disclosure
Population	Population of school district	American Community Survey (US Census Bureau)
Full value per capita	Full value / population of school district	
Enrollment	Student enrollment of school district	State data publications
Enrollment trend	3-year Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of Enrollment	State data publications; Moody's Investors Service
Financial performance		
Operating revenue (\$000)	Total annual operating revenue in what we consider to be the district's operating funds	Audited financial statements
Available fund balance (\$000)	Committed, assigned and unassigned fund balances in what we consider to be the district's operating funds	Audited financial statements
Net cash (\$000)	Net cash (cash and liquid investments minus short-term debt) in what we consider to be the district's operating funds	Audited financial statements
Available fund balance ratio	Available fund balance / Operating Revenue	Audited financial statements
Net cash ratio	Net Cash / Operating Revenue	Audited financial statements
Leverage		
Debt (\$000)	District's direct gross debt outstanding	Audited financial statements; official statements
ANPL (\$000)	District's pension liabilities adjusted by Moody's to standardize the discount rate used to compute the present value of accrued benefits	Audited financial statements; Moody's Investors Service
OPEB (\$000)	District's net other post-employment benefit (OPEB) liabilities adjusted by Moody's to standardize the discount rate used to compute the present value of accrued benefits	Audited financial statements; Moody's Investors Service
Long-term liabilities ratio	Debt, ANPL and OPEB liabilities as % of operating revenue	Audited financial statements, official statements; Moody's Investors Service
Implied debt service (\$000)	Annual cost to amortize district's long-term debt over 20 years with level payments	Audited financial statements; official statements; Moody's Investors Service
Pension tread water (\$000)	Pension contribution necessary to prevent reported unfunded pension liabilities from growing, year over year, in nominal dollars, if all actuarial assumptions are met	Audited financial statements; Moody's Investors Service
OPEB contributions (\$000s)	District's actual contribution in a given period, typically the fiscal year	Audited financial statements; official statements
Fixed-costs ratio	Implied debt service, pension tread water and OPEB contributions as % of operating revenue	Audited financial statements, official statements, pension system financial statements

*Note: If typical data source is not available then alternative sources or proxy data may be considered. For more detailed definitions of the metrics listed above please refer to the [US K-12 Public School Districts Methodology](#).

Source: Moody's Investors Service

Endnotes

- 1 Issuer Rating reflects the government's ability to repay debt and debt-like obligations without consideration of any pledge, security or structural features. In some circumstances, credit characteristics are sufficient to result in a GO bond rating that is higher than the Issuer Rating. Local governments with Moody's rated debt outstanding will have separate ratings detailed by security pledge on their Moody's.com issuer page and credit opinions explaining our credit view for each rating.

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