



**Auditor of State
Betty Montgomery**

DECLARATION OF FISCAL EMERGENCY

At the request of the Bristol Local School District Board of Education dated July 16, 2003, the Office of the Auditor of State performed an examination of the financial forecast of the general fund of the School District as required under Section 3316.03, Revised Code. In conjunction with our examination of the financial forecast, the Auditor determined and certified an operating deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2004 to the State Department of Education on October 14, 2003 in the amount of \$785,000.

Under Section 3316.03(B)(5), Revised Code, the Auditor of State may declare a school district to be in a state of fiscal emergency if all of the following conditions are satisfied.

- An operating deficit has been certified for the current fiscal year by the Auditor of State, and the certified operating deficit exceeds ten per cent, but does not exceed fifteen per cent, of the school district's general fund revenue for the preceding fiscal year;
- A majority of the voting electors have not voted in favor of levying a tax under sections 5705.194 or 5705.21 or Chapter 5748 of the Revised Code that the Auditor of State expects will raise enough additional revenue in the next succeeding fiscal year to reduce the deficit below 10 percent; and,
- The Auditor of State determines that a declaration of fiscal emergency is necessary to correct the school district's fiscal problems and to prevent further fiscal decline.

The analysis of the Bristol Local School District disclosed that the operating deficit for the general fund in the amount of \$785,000 is 14.6 percent of the general fund revenues for the prior fiscal year and that the voting electors of the School District have not passed a levy that will eliminate the deficit. After discussing the analysis with the School District's Board of Education, the Auditor of State believes a declaration of fiscal emergency is necessary to correct the School District's fiscal problems and to prevent further fiscal decline.

Accordingly, the Auditor of State hereby declares the Bristol Local School District to be in a state of fiscal emergency as defined by Section 3316.03(B)(5), Revised Code. A copy of this report is being submitted to Donald Mickel President of the Board of Education of the Bristol Local School District, Thomas W. Johnson, Director of Budget and Management, David Hines, Trumbull County Auditor, and Dr. Susan Tave Zelman, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

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October 14, 2003