

Audit: Penfield schools padding reserve funds

Money could have reduced taxes

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For the past four years, the Penfield Central School District padded its reserve funds with money that could have been used instead to lower taxes, an audit from the state Comptroller's Office determined.

The audit, conducted by staff from state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli's office, was released last week. It covered a period between July 2011 and May 2015.

"The district is not using its resources in a way that is most beneficial to taxpayers and is raising more taxes than needed to fund operations," auditors said.

However, in a response letter, Penfield Superintendent Thomas Putnam and Board of Education President John Piper disputed some of the report's conclusions, noting that the district's conservative approach

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