



Office of the State Comptroller

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prospect Park School District Makes Progress in Improving Practices around Protecting Technology, Keeping Records of Background Checks of Substitute Teachers

TRENTON – The Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) released a follow-up report on the Prospect Park School District, finding that the District has made significant strides since its 2019 audit in improving how it protects its technology and tracks background checks for its substitute teachers.

OSC's original audit from 2019 found that the District failed to develop a formal information technology (IT) disaster recovery plan – a violation of state requirements – and failed to keep a complete inventory of its IT assets. The District has since developed a disaster recovery plan; however, OSC found the plan lacks some requirements, including identifying essential equipment in the event of a catastrophic hardware failure. OSC also found in its follow-up review that the District now keeps an inventory list, but has yet to develop written policies for maintaining complete records or conducting periodic checks on its inventory.

In 2019, OSC found that the District did not maintain evidence of a completed background check for substitute teachers. OSC's follow-up report found that the District independently approved the completed background checks of substitute teachers with the Department of Education, Office of Student Protection – however, the District did not formalize this policy. Likewise, while the District now keeps evidence of a background check for each of its substitute teachers, it has yet to develop a formal process to ensure ongoing compliance.

The Prospect Park School District agreed with OSC's assessment and plans on fully implementing our recommendations. The follow-up report along with the District's response can be found [here](#).

Read OSC's original 2019 audit [here](#).

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