

Auditor's Management Report

for the

*Hunterdon County Educational
Services Commission*

in the

*County of Hunterdon
New Jersey*

for the

*Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2020*

**AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE
FINDINGS FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Honorable President and Members
of the Board of Directors
Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission
County of Hunterdon
Califon, New Jersey 07830

We have audited, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission in the County of Hunterdon for the year ended June 30, 2020, and have issued our report dated December 16, 2020.

As part of our audit, we performed procedures required by the New Jersey Department of Education, and the findings and results are disclosed on the following pages, as listed in the accompanying table of contents.

This report is intended solely for the information of the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission in the County of Hunterdon, New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Education and federal and state audit awarding agencies and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.


CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS


PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT NO. 962

December 16, 2020

**Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative
Findings – Financial and Compliance**

SCOPE OF AUDIT

The audit covered the financial transactions of the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, the activities of the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission, and the records of the various funds under the auspices of the Commission.

ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

Insurance

Insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed on the Insurance Schedule (Exhibit J-20) contained in the District's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR).

Official Bonds (N.J.S.A. 18A:17-26, 17-32)

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF BONDS</u>
Corrine Steinmetz	Board Secretary/School Business Administrator	\$200,000.00

There is a Public Employee's Faithful Performance Blanket Position Bond with the New Jersey School Insurance Group (NJSIG) covering all other employees with multiple coverage of \$1,000,000.00.

Adequacy of insurance coverage is the responsibility of the Commission.

Tuition and Local Educational Agency Charges

The Commission has ceased receiving tuition students. The Commission bills for local educational agency charges on an ongoing basis based on contractual rates agreed to by the various local educational agencies. The computer system provides an accounts receivable schedule of uncollected balances.

FINANCIAL PLANNING, ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

Examination of Claims

Our audit of claims paid during the period under review did not indicate any discrepancies with respect to signatures, certification or supporting documentation.

Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative Findings – Financial and Compliance

FINANCIAL PLANNING, ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING (CONTINUED)

Payroll Account

The net salaries of all employees of the Commission were deposited in the Net Payroll Account. Employees' payroll deductions and employer's share of fringe benefits were deposited in the Payroll Agency Account.

All payrolls tested were approved by the Superintendent and were certified by the President of the Board and the Board Secretary/Business Administrator.

Salary withholdings were promptly remitted to the proper agencies, including health benefits withholding due to the general fund.

The balances of funds on deposit in the Payroll Account are analyzed on a monthly basis.

Position Control Roster

The Position Control Roster was reviewed and compared to payroll records, employee benefit records and charges made to the general ledger to ensure proper and consistent financial reporting and that employee benefits are only offered to current employees.

Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable

A review of outstanding issued purchase orders was made as of June 30 for proper classification of orders as reserve for encumbrances and accounts payable without exception.

Classification of Expenditures

The coding of expenditures was tested for proper classification in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.2(f) as part of our test of transactions of randomly selected expenditure items. We also reviewed the coding of all expenditures included in our compliance and single audit testing procedures. In addition to randomly selecting a test sample, our sample specifically targeted administrative coding classifications to determine overall reliability and compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.3. As a result of the procedures performed, no errors were noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

Board Secretary's Records

The financial records, books of account and minutes of the Board Secretary were maintained in satisfactory condition and the contractual order system was fully implemented.

**Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative
Findings – Financial and Compliance**

FINANCIAL PLANNING, ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING (CONTINUED)

Other Special Federal and State Projects

The Commission's Special Projects were approved as listed on Exhibits K-3 and K-4 located in the CAFR.

Our audit of the federal and state funds, on a test basis, indicated that obligations and expenditures were incurred during the fiscal year or project period for which the project was approved.

The financial exhibits are contained within the Special Revenue Section of the CAFR. This section of the CAFR documents the financial position pertaining to the aforementioned special projects.

T.P.A.F. Reimbursement

Our audit procedures included a test of the biweekly reimbursements filed with the Department of Education for commission employees who are members of the Teachers Pension and Annuity Fund. No exceptions were noted.

Our audit procedures also included a test of the reimbursement of the employer share of pensions, group life insurance, FICA and other benefits of the Teacher's Pension and Annuity Fund for TPAF members carrying out and paid from federally funded programs in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:66-90. The Commission filled out the required form and submitted it for audit. Our test included verification of eligible employees to be included, and, if applicable, a recalculation to verify proper amounts was used. No exceptions were noted.

**Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative
Findings – Financial and Compliance**

SCHOOL PURCHASING PROGRAMS

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 States:

"a. When the cost or price of any contract awarded by the purchasing agent in the aggregate, does not exceed in a contract year the total sum of \$29,000.00, the contract may be awarded by a purchasing agent when so authorized by resolution of the board of education without public advertising for bids and bidding therefore, except that the board of education may adopt a resolution to set a lower threshold for the receipt of public bids or the solicitation of competitive quotations. If the purchasing agent is qualified pursuant to subsection b. (pending before the Legislature as section 15 of this bill) of section 9 of P.L. 1971 c. 198 (C.40A:11-9) the board of education may establish that the bid threshold may be up to \$40,000.00. Such authorization may be granted or each contract for by a general delegation of the power to negotiate and award such contracts pursuant to this section.

b. Commencing in the fifth year after the year in which P.L. 1999 c. 440 takes effect, and every five years thereafter, the Governor, in consultation with the Department of Treasury, shall adjust the threshold amount and the higher threshold amount which the board of education is permitted to establish as set forth in subsection a. of this section or the threshold amount resulting from any adjustment under this subsection, in direct proportion to the rise or fall of the index rate as that term is defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2 and shall round the adjustment to the nearest \$1,000.00. The Governor shall notify all local school districts of the adjustment no later than June 1 of every fifth year. The adjustment shall become effective on July 1 of every year in which it is made. Any contract made pursuant to this section may be awarded for a period of 24 consecutive months, except that contracts for professional services pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection a. of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 may be awarded for a period not exceeding 12 consecutive months."

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4 states, "Every contract for the provision or performance of any goods or services, the cost of which in the aggregate exceeds the bid threshold, shall be awarded only by resolution of the board of education to the lowest responsible bidder after public advertising for bids and bidding therefore, except as is provided otherwise in this chapter or specifically by any other law.

The board of education may, by resolution approve by the majority of the board of education and subject to subsections b. and c. of this section, disqualify a bidder who would otherwise be determined to be the lowest responsible bidder, if the board of education finds that it has had negative prior experience with the bidder."

Effective July 1, 2015, the bid thresholds in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3(a) and (c) is \$40,000.00 (with a Qualified Purchasing Agent) and \$29,000.00 (without a Qualified Purchasing Agent), respectively. The law regulating bidding for public school student transportation contracts under N.J.S.A. 18:39-3 is currently \$19,000.00.

**Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative
Findings – Financial and Compliance**

SCHOOL PURCHASING PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids (Continued)

The Commission appointed Corinne Steinmetz as the Qualified Purchasing Agent and has set the bid threshold at \$40,000.00.

The Board of Education has the responsibility of determining whether the expenditures in any category will exceed the statutory thresholds within the fiscal year. Where question arises as to whether any contract or agreement might result in violation of the statute, the solicitor's opinion should be sought before a commitment is made.

Inasmuch as the system of records did not provide for an accumulation of payments for categories for the performance of any work or the furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies; the results of such an accumulation could not reasonably be ascertained. Disbursements were reviewed, however, to determine whether any clear-cut violations existed.

The results of our examination indicated that no individual payments, contracts or agreements were made "for the performance of any work or the furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies," in excess of the statutory thresholds where there had been no advertising for bids in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.

Resolutions were adopted authorizing the awarding of contracts or agreements for "Professional Services" per N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5.

The system of records did not provide for an accumulation of purchases for which the School Board used contracts entered into by the State Department of Purchase and Property pursuant to Ch. 114, P.L. 1977, therefore, the extent of such purchases could not reasonably be ascertained. My examination did reveal however, that the commission did purchase goods through the use of state contracts.

ENTERPRISE FUNDS

School Food Service Funds

The Commission ceased food service operations as of June 30, 2019.

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

Our procedures included a review of transportation related contracts and purchases. Based on our review, the commission complied with proper bidding procedures and award of contracts. The bid specifications for the purchase of buses were in compliance with applicable statutes. No exceptions were noted in our review of transportation related purchases of goods and services.

**Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative
Findings – Financial and Compliance**

TESTING FOR LEAD OF DRINKING WATER IN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

We were advised that the commission adhered to the requirements of N.J.A.C. 26-1.2 and 12.4 related to the testing for lead of all drinking water in educational facilities.

The commission submitted the annual Statement of Assurance to the Department of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4(g).

FOLLOW-UP ON PRIOR YEAR'S FINDINGS

Not Applicable

Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative Findings – Financial and Compliance

RECOMMENDATIONS

Administrative Practices and Procedures

None

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

None

School Purchasing Program

None

School Food Services

Not Applicable

Student Body Activities

Not Applicable

Application for State School Aid

Not Applicable

Pupil Transportation

None

Testing for Lead of Drinking Water in Educational Facilities

None

Capital Assets and Facilities

Not Applicable

Prior Year's Findings

Not Applicable

