



**MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS -
FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

JUNE 30, 2020

**MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS -
FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Honorable President and Members
of the Board of Education
Mercer County Special Services School District
County of Mercer
Hamilton, New Jersey 08690

We have audited, in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Mercer County Special Services School District in the County of Mercer as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020, and have issued our report thereon dated January 27, 2021.

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

This report is intended solely for the information of the Mercer County Special Services School District Board of Education's management and the New Jersey Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Scott A. Clelland
Licensed Public School Accountant
No. 1049

WISS & COMPANY, LLP

January 27, 2021
Florham Park, New Jersey

**MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS – FINANCIAL
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Scope of Audit

The audit covered the financial transactions of the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator and the Treasurer of School Moneys, the activities of the Board of Education and the records of the various funds under the auspices of the Board of Education.

Administrative Practices and Procedures

Insurance

Insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed on J-20, Insurance Schedule contained in the school district CAFR.

Official Bonds (N.J.S.A. 18A:17-26, 18A:17-32, 18A:13-13)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Deborah Donnelly	School Business Administrator/Board Secretary	\$ 300,000
David Miller	Treasurer of School Moneys	\$ 300,000

Tuition Charges

A comparison of tentative tuition charges and actual certified tuition charges was made. The actual costs were greater than or less than estimated costs. The District made a proper adjustment to the billings to sending Districts for the increase (decrease) in per pupil costs in accordance with *N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-17.1(f)3*.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Examination of Claims

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

Payroll Account and Position Control Roster

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

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

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

Payrolls were delivered to the treasurer of school moneys with a warrant made to his order for the full amount of each payroll.

An inquiry and subsequent review of the Position Control Roster did not identify any inconsistencies between the payroll records, employee benefit records (e.g. pension reports and health benefit coverage reports), the general ledger accounts to where wages are posted (administrative versus instruction), and the Position Control Roster.

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 and no exceptions were noted.

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 selection 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, a transaction error rate of 0% overall was noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

Board Secretary's Records

Our review of the financial and accounting records maintained by the Board Secretary did not identify any exceptions.

Treasurer's Records

No exceptions were noted during our review of the financial and accounting records maintained by the Treasurer.

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Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

The District did not receive any funding under the Elementary and Secondary Act as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

The District's special projects were approved as listed on Schedules A (K-3) and B (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.

The study of compliance for the special projects indicated no instances of noncompliance.

T.P.A.F. Reimbursement

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

T.P.A.F. Reimbursement to the State for Federal Salary Expenditures

The District does not receive federal funding for any employees whose TPAF/FICA payments are made by the State on-behalf of the school district.

School Purchasing Programs

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids

The bid thresholds in accordance with *N.J.S.A.* 18A:18A-2 and 18A:18A-3(a) are \$40,000 (with a Qualified Purchasing Agent) and \$29,000 (without a Qualified Purchasing Agent), respectively. The law regulating bidding for public school student transportation contracts under *N.J.S.A.* 18A:39-3 is currently \$19,000 for 2019-20.

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The District board of education has the responsibility of determining whether the expenditures in any category will exceed the statutory thresholds within the contract 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.

Based on the results of our audit, we did not identify any individual payments, contracts, or agreements made for the performance of any work or goods or services, in excess of the statutory thresholds where there had been no advertising for bids in accordance with the provision of *N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4*, as amended.

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

School Food Service

The school food service program was not selected as a major federal and/or State program. However, the program expenditures exceeded \$100,000 in federal support. Accordingly, we inquired of school management, or appropriate school food service personnel, as to whether the School Food Authority (SFA) had any Child Nutrition Program reimbursement overclaims or underclaims. No exceptions were noted.

We also inquired of school management, or appropriate school food service personnel, as to whether the SFA’s expenditures of school food service revenues were limited to allowable direct and indirect costs. No exceptions were noted.

Cash receipts and bank records were reviewed on a test basis for timely deposit and no exceptions were noted.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position (CAFR Schedule B-5) does separate program and non-program revenue and program and non-program cost of goods sold.

Exhibits reflecting Child Nutrition Program operations are included in the section entitled Enterprise Funds, Section B of the CAFR.

COVID-19 EMERGENCY

In accordance with the Governor’s Declaration of Emergency pertaining to the COVID-19 Virus all Public, Charter, Non-Public schools were ordered to close effective March 18, 2020 for an undetermined period to limit the spread of the virus. As a result, School Food Authorities (SFA) were required to institute alternate procedures to provide meals to Free and Reduced Price eligible students during the period of school closures.

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Therefore, SFA's were authorized to solicit and award emergency noncompetitive procurements and contracts with Food Service Management Companies in accordance with 2 CFR 200.320 and N.J.S.A. 18A:-7. The SFA's were also authorized to submit contract modifications to their existing Cost Reimbursable or Fixed Price contracts as necessary to ensure the feeding of Free and Reduced Price meal eligible students.

SFAs were notified of the requirement to maintain and report separate meal count records and financial records of all applicable costs incurred in providing meals to all free and reduced price meal eligible students during the emergency.

We also inquired of management about the emergency COVID-19 procedures/practices that the SFA instituted to provide meals to eligible students, maintenance of all applicable production records; meal counts; noncompetitive procurements; modification of existing contracts and applicable financial records to document the specific costs applicable to the emergency operations.

Student Body Activities

During our review of the student activity funds, there were no exceptions noted.

Application for State School Aid (A.S.S.A.)

Because the General State Aid cluster was not tested as a major program in the 2020 fiscal year, our audit procedures did not include a test of information reported in the October 15, 2019 Application for State School Aid (ASSA) for on-roll, private schools for the handicapped, low-income and bilingual. We did agree the ASSA summary report to the underlying District working papers without exception. We also performed a review of the District procedures related to its completion.

The District maintained workpapers on the prescribed state forms or their equivalent.

The District has adequate written procedures for the recording of student enrollment data.

Facilities and Capital Assets

Our procedures included a review of the New Jersey Schools Development Authority ("NJSDA") grant agreement for consistency with recording NJSDA revenue, transfer of local funds from the general fund or from the capital reserve account and awarding of contracts for eligible facilities construction. No exceptions were noted.

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Testing for Lead of All Drinking Water in Educational Facilities

The school district adhered to all 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 school district 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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, our procedures included a review of all prior year findings and recommendations. Corrective action was not needed as there were no prior year findings.

There were no Office of Accountability and Fiscal Compliance (“OFAC”) audit reports issued during the 2019-20 fiscal year.

Acknowledgment

We received the complete cooperation of all the officials of the School District and we greatly appreciate the courtesies extended to the members of the audit team.

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2019

Note: Detailed testing over ASSA was not performed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 as the General State Aid Cluster was not tested as a major program in the current year for single audit purposes.

	2020-2021 Application for State School Aid				Sample for Verification				Private Schools for Disabled					
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared
Half Day Preschool	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Full Day Preschool	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Half Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Full Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
One	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Two	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Three	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Five	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Six	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eight	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eleven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Twelve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post-Graduate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult H.S. (15+CR.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult H.S. (1-14 CR.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	173	-	173	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - Elementary	113	-	113	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - Middle School	241	22	241	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - High School	527	22	527	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Co. Voc. - Regular	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Co. Voc. Ft. Post Sec.	527	22	527	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage Error			0.00%											0.00%

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2019

Note: Detailed testing over ASSA was not performed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 as the General State Aid Cluster was not tested as a major program in the current year for single audit purposes.

	Resident Low Income		Sample for Verification		Resident LEP Low Income		Sample for Verification	
	Reported on A.S.S.A. as Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as Low Income	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application and Register	Reported on A.S.S.A. as LEP low Income	Reported on Workpapers as LEP low Income	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Test Score and Register
Half Day Preschool	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Full Day Preschool	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Half Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Full Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
One	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Two	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Three	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Five	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Six	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eight	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eleven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Twelve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post-Graduate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult H.S. (15+CR.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult H.S. (1-14 CR.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	129.0	129.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - Elementary	73.0	73.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - Middle	148.0	148.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - High	350.0	350.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	350.0	350.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage Error							0.00%	
Co. Voc. - Regular	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Co. Voc. Ft. Post Sec.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	350.0	350.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage Error							0.00%	
Transportation								
Reported on DRTRS by DOE/county	Reported on DRTRS by District	Tested	Verified	Errors				
-	-	-	-	-				
NOT APPLICABLE								
Reg. - Public Schools, col. 1	-	-	-	-	Reported	Recalculated		
Reg -SpEd, col. 4	-	-	-	-			NOT APPLICABLE	
Transported - Non-Public, col. 3	-	-	-	-				
Special Ed Spec, col. 6	-	-	-	-				
Totals	-	-	-	-			0.00%	
Percentage Error							0.00%	

**MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2019**

Note: Detailed testing over ASSA was not performed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 as the General State Aid Cluster was not tested as a major program in the current year for single audit purposes.

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

	Resident LEP NOT Low Income		Sample for Verification	
	Reported on A.S.A. as NOT Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as NOT Low Income	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application and Register
	Errors	Errors	Sample Errors	Sample Errors
Half Day Preschool	-	-	-	-
Full Day Preschool	-	-	-	-
Half Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-
Full Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-
One	-	-	-	-
Two	-	-	-	-
Three	-	-	-	-
Four	-	-	-	-
Five	-	-	-	-
Six	-	-	-	-
Seven	-	-	-	-
Eight	-	-	-	-
Nine	-	-	-	-
Ten	-	-	-	-
Eleven	-	-	-	-
Twelve	-	-	-	-
Post-Graduate	-	-	-	-
Adult H.S. (15+CR.)	-	-	-	-
Adult H.S. (1-14 CR.)	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - Elementary	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - Middle	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - High	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-
Co. Voc. - Regular	-	-	-	-
Co. Voc. Ft. Post Sec.	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-
Percentage Error	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

NOT APPLICABLE

**MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Audit Recommendations Summary

We suggest the following:

1. **Administrative Practices and Procedures**
None
2. **Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting**
None
3. **School Purchasing Programs**
None
4. **School Food Service**
None
5. **Student Body Activities**
None
6. **Application for State School Aid**
None
7. **Pupil Transportation**
None
8. **Facilities and Capital Assets**
None
9. **Miscellaneous**
None
10. **Status of Prior Year Findings**
None