

Auditor's Management Report

for the

*Somerset County Educational
Services Commission*

in the

*County of Somerset
New Jersey*

for the

*Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2020*

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

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Tax ID Number 22-2213688



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Honorable President and Members
of the Board of Directors
Somerset County Educational Services Commission
County of Somerset, New Jersey

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 Somerset County Educational Services Commission in the County of Somerset for the year ended June 30, 2020, and have issued our report dated December 17, 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 Somerset County Educational Services Commission in the County of Somerset, 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 17, 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 Somerset County Educational Services Commission, and the records of the various funds under the auspices of the Somerset County Educational Services 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>
Jeff Siipola	Business Administrator/Board Secretary	\$300,000.00

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 \$500,000.00.

Adequacy of insurance coverage is the responsibility of the Commission.

Tuition and Local Educational Agency Charges

The Commission bills for tuition and local educational agency charges on an ongoing basis based on attendance at 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, the Board Secretary/Business Administrator and the Chief School 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)

Treasurer's Records

While the Commission does not have a Treasurer, they have hired the accounting firm of Klatzkin and Company to perform many of the Treasurer's functions. These records were in agreement with the records maintained by the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator.

Other Special Local Projects

The Commission contracts with other school districts and bills those districts administering the following programs:

I.D.E.A. Part B
Non-Public Textbooks
Non-Public Nursing Services
Non-Public Technology
Non-Public Security Aid
Non-Public Chapter 192/193

Our audit of the above programs, 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 reimbursement filed with the Department of Education for district 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.

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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
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SCHOOL PURCHASING PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids (Continued)

The Commission appointed Jeff Siipola 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.

SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE

COVID – 19 Emergency

In accordance with the Governor's Declaration of Emergency pertaining to the COVID 19 Virus all Public, Charter and Non-Public schools were ordered to close effective as of March 18, 2020 for an undetermined period to limit the spread of the virus.

**Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative
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SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE (CONTINUED)

The financial transactions and statistical records of the School Food Services were maintained in satisfactory condition. The financial accounts and meal count records were reviewed on a test-check basis. No exceptions were noted.

Cash receipts and bank records were review for timely deposit without exception.

The number of meals claimed for reimbursement was verified against sales and meal count records. As part of the claims review process the edit check worksheet was completed. Reimbursement vouchers were properly computed and timely filed. Meals claimed agreed with the meal count records tested. No exceptions were noted.

The Commission participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) option that allows high poverty districts to offer breakfast and lunch free of charge to all on-roll students without the need to collect and perform eligibility verification procedures related to the traditional school meal eligibility form. The number of free and reduced price meals claimed as served did not exceed the number of on-roll students, times the number of operating days, on a school by school basis. No exceptions were noted.

The food service contract is with the Bridgewater-Raritan School District. Vendor invoices were reviewed and costs verified.

The cash disbursements records reflected expenditures for program related goods and services. The Commission is depositing and expending program monies in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:17-34, and 19-1 through 19-4.1. Cash receipts and bank records were reviewed for timely deposit. The appropriate revenue and expenditure records were maintained in order to substantiate the non-profit status of the school food service. Net cash resources did not exceed three months average expenditures.

Exhibits reflecting Child Nutrition Program operations are included in Section G of the CAFR.

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.

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TESTING FOR LEAD OF ALL DRINKING WATER IN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

We were advised that the school district 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 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

Not applicable

**Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative
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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Administrative Practices and Procedures
None
2. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting
None
3. School Purchasing Program
None
4. School Food Service
None
5. Student Body Activities
Not Applicable
6. Application for State School Aid
Not Applicable
7. Pupil Transportation
None
8. Facilities and Capital Assets
Not Applicable
9. Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations
Not Applicable

