

**ATLANTIC COUNTY
SPECIAL SERVICES
SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

(a component unit of the County of Atlantic)

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

June 30, 2021

**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
Atlantic County Special Services School District
(a component unit of the County of Atlantic)
Mays Landing, New Jersey

We have audited, in accordance with generally accepted audit standards and Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Board of Education of the Atlantic County Special Services School District (a component unit of the County of Atlantic) in the County of Atlantic for the year ended June 30, 2021, and have issued our report thereon dated February 21, 2022.

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 Atlantic 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.

Very truly yours,

Ford, Scott & Associates, L.L.C.
FORD, SCOTT & ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Leon P. Costello

Leon P. Costello
Certified Public Accountant
Licensed Public School Accountant
No. 767

February 21, 2022

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ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE

Scope of Audit

The audit covered the financial transactions of the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator and the Chief School Administrator, 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

Fire insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed on Exhibit J-20, Insurance Schedule contained in the district's 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>
Lauren Flynn	School Business Administrator	\$75,000

Tuition Charges

A comparison of tentative tuition charges and actual certified tuition charges was made. The actual costs were less than estimated costs. The Board made a proper adjustment to the billings to sending districts for the decrease in per pupil costs in accordance with NJAC 6A:23A-17.1(f)3.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Examination of Claims

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

Payroll Account

The net salaries of all employees of the Board were deposited in the Payroll Account. Employees' payroll deduction 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/School Business Administrator.

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 secretary of the board who then deposited with warrants in separate bank accounts for net payroll and withholdings.

Employee Position Control Roster

No inconsistencies were noted between the Position Control Roster and the payroll records, employee benefit records, and the general ledger accounts to where wages are posted.

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.

Classification of Expenditures

The coding of expenditures was tested for proper classification in accordance with NJAC 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 NJAC 6A:23A-8.3. As a result of the procedures performed, a transaction error rate of 0.00% was noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

A. General Classification Findings

None

B. Administrative Classification Findings

None

Board Secretary's Records

The records of the Board Secretary were in satisfactory condition.

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

The district's Special Projects were approved as listed on Exhibit K-3 and Exhibit 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 Special Federal and/or State Projects indicated no areas of noncompliance and/or questionable costs.

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.

TPAF Reimbursement to the State for Federal Salary Expenditures

No salaries were charged to federal programs; therefore; no reimbursement was required.

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 \$17,500, 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 C40A:11-9) the board of education may establish that the bid threshold may be up to \$44,000. Such authorization may be granted for each contract or by a general delegation of the power to negotiate and award such contracts pursuant to the section.

b. Commencing in the fifth year after the year in which P.L. 1999, c.440 took 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 NJS 18A:18A-2, and shall round the adjustment to the nearest \$1,000. 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 the 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 sub section a. of NJSA 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.

The board of education may, by resolution approved by a 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 prior negative experience with the bidder.

The bid thresholds in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3(a) are \$44,000, with a Qualified Purchasing Agent and \$32,000 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 \$19,600 for 2020-21.

The business administrator/board secretary of the school district is a qualified purchasing agent and the board of education has adopted a resolution to establish a bid threshold of \$44,000.

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.

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.

Based on the results of my examination, I did not note 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, amended.

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.

School Food Service

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

In accordance with the Governor's Declaration of Emergency pertaining to the public health emergency all Public, Charter, Non-Public schools were ordered to close effective as of 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 eligible students during the period of school closures.

During SY2020-2021 the public health emergency was still applicable. As a result, School Food Authorities (SFAs) were required to provide means in accordance with the regulations governing the National School Nutrition Seamless Summer Option (SSO) or the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) option.

SFAs 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:18A-7. The SFAs were also authorized to submit contract modifications to their existing Cost Reimbursable or Fixed Price contracts as necessary to ensure the feeding of all children throughout the age of 18, as well as persons over 18 with disabilities as defined in the regulations.

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 students during the emergency.

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 and/or state support. Accordingly, we inquired of school management, or appropriate school food service personnel, as to whether the 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.

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

We inquired of management about the public health emergency procedures/practices that the SFA instituted to provide meals to all 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.

The financial transactions and statistical records of the school food service fund were reviewed. The financial accounts, meal count records and eligibility applications were reviewed on a test-check basis.

Cash receipts and bank records were reviewed for timely deposit.

Expenditures should be separately recorded as food, labor and other costs. Vendor invoices were reviewed and costs verified. Inventory records on food supply items were currently maintained and properly applied in determining the cost of food and supplies used.

The cash disbursements records reflected expenditures for program related goods and services. The appropriate revenue and expenditure records were maintained in order to substantiate the nonprofit status of the school food service.

Net cash resources did not exceed three months average expenditures.

Time sheets were reviewed and labor costs verified. Payroll records were maintained on all School Food Services employees authorized by the board of education. No exceptions were noted.

The number of meals claimed for reimbursement was compared to sales and meal count records. As part of the claims review process the Edit Check Worksheet was completed. Reimbursement claims were submitted/certified in a timely manner.

Applications for free and reduced price meals were reviewed for completeness and accuracy. The number of free and reduced price meals claimed as served was compared to the number of valid applications and/or to the list of directly certified students on file, times the number of operating days, on a school by school basis. The free and reduced price meal and free milk policy was reviewed for uniform administration throughout the school system. Sites approved to participate in Provisions I and II were examined for compliance with all counting and claiming requirements. The required verification procedures for free and reduced price applications were completed and available for review.

USDA Food Distribution Program (food and/or commodities) were received and a single inventory was maintained on a first-in, first-out basis. No exceptions were noted.

Exhibits reflecting Child Nutrition Program operations are included in the section entitled Proprietary Funds, Exhibits B-4 through B-6 of the CAFR.

The school district did provide the detailed revenue and expenditure information necessary information necessary in order to execute the USDA mandated Non-Program Food Revenue Tool at least annually.

Student Body Activities

The activities funds are maintained in a satisfactory manner.

Application for State School Aid

Our audit procedures included a test of information reported in the October 15, 2020 Application for State School Aid (A.S.S.A) for on-roll, private schools for the handicapped, low-income and bilingual. We also performed a review of the district procedures related to its completion. The information on the A.S.S.A. was compared to the district workpapers without exception. The information that was included on the workpapers was verified without exception. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

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

The district written procedures appear to be adequate for the recording of student enrollment data.

Pupil Transportation

Our procedures also included a review of transportation related contracts and purchases. Based on our review, the district 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.

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 Years' Findings

In accordance with government auditing standards, our procedures included a review of all prior year recommendations including findings. No findings were identified in the prior year.

Acknowledgment

We received the complete cooperation of all the officials of the school district and I greatly appreciate the courtesies extended to the members of the audit team.

ATLANTIC COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
 APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
 ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2020

	2021-2022 Application for State School Aid (10/15/20 data)			Sample for Verification			Errors per Registers on Roll
	Reported on A.S.S.A. on Roll	Reported on Workpapers on Roll	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified per Registers on Roll	Errors per Registers on Roll	
	Full	Shared	Full	Full	Shared	Full	Shared
Pre-K Half Day	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Half Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Full Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
One	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Two	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Three	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Five	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Six	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eight	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eleven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Twelve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed Elementary	108	-	-	53	-	53	-
Special Ed Middle School	55	-	-	24	-	24	-
Special Ed High School	141	-	-	69	-	69	-
Subtotal	304	-	-	146	-	146	-
Totals	304	-	-	146	-	146	-
Percentage			0.00%			0.00%	0.00%

ATLANTIC COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
 APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
 ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2020

	Private Schools for Disabled			Resident Low Income			Sample for Verification			Resident LEP Low Income			
	Reported on ASSA as Private Schools	Sample for Verification	Sample Verified	Sample Errors	Reported on ASSA as Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application and Register	Sample Errors	Reported on ASSA as LEP Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as LEP Low Income	Errors
Pre-K Half Day	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Half Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Full Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
One	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Two	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Three	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Five	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Six	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eight	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eleven	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Twelve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	221	221	-	126	126	-	-	-	-
Special Ed Elementary	-	-	-	-	85	85	-	51	51	-	-	-	-
Special Ed Middle School	-	-	-	-	40	40	-	23	23	-	-	-	-
Special Ed High School	-	-	-	-	96	96	-	52	52	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	221	221	-	126	126	-	-	-	-
Co. Voc. - Regular	-	-	-	-	221	221	-	126	126	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	221	221	-	126	126	-	-	-	-
Percentage Error							0.00%						0.00%

ATLANTIC COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
 APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
 ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2020

	Sample for Verification		Resident LEP Not Low Income		Sample for Verification	
	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Test Score, Application & Register	Reported on ASSA as LEP Low Income	Reported on ASSA as LEP Low Income	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Test Score and Register
Pre-K Half Day	-	-	-	-	-	-
Half Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-
Full Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-
One	-	-	-	-	-	-
Two	-	-	-	-	-	-
Three	-	-	-	-	-	-
Four	-	-	-	-	-	-
Five	-	-	-	-	-	-
Six	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seven	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eight	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nine	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ten	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eleven	-	-	-	-	-	-
Twelve	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed Elementary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed Middle School	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed High School	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage Error	0.00%					

	Transportation			Reported	Re-
	Reported on DRTS by DOE/county	Errors	Tested		
Reg. - Public Schools	-	-	-	-	-
Transported - Non-Public	-	-	-	-	-
Non-Public AIL	-	-	-	-	-
Regular Special Ed	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed Special Needs	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage Error	0.00%				

Avg. Mileage-Regular including Grade PK student 0.0 0.0

Avg. Mileage-Regular excluding Grade PK student 0.0 0.0

Avg. Mileage-Special Ed with Special Needs 0.0 0.0

AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021
ATLANTIC COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

None

6. Application for State School Aid

None

7. Pupil Transportation

None

8. Miscellaneous

None

9. Status of Prior Year Audit Findings/Recommendations

There were no prior year findings noted, therefore no corrective action necessary.