

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNTY OF ESSEX
AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,
COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
COUNTY OF ESSEX
AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE
FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,
COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover Letter.....	1
Scope of Audit.....	2
Administrative Practices and Procedures.....	2
Insurance.....	2
Officials in Office and Surety Bonds.....	2
P.L. 2020, Chapter 44.....	2
Tuition Charges.....	2
Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting.....	3
Examination of Claims.....	3
Payroll Account and Position Control Roster.....	3
Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable.....	3
Classification of Expenditures.....	3
General Classifications.....	3
Administrative Classifications.....	3
Board Secretary's Records.....	3
Treasurer's Records.....	3
Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E.S.E.A.) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act.....	4
T.P.A.F. Reimbursement.....	4
T.P.A.F. Reimbursement to the State for Federal Salary Expenditures.....	4
Other Special Federal and/or State Projects.....	4
School Purchasing Programs.....	4
Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids.....	4
School Food Service.....	5
Student Body Activities.....	5
Application for State School Aid.....	6
Pupil Transportation.....	6
Travel Expense and Reimbursement Policy.....	6
Facilities and Capital Assets.....	6
Testing for Lead of all Drinking Water in Educational Facilities.....	6
Management Suggestions.....	7
Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations.....	7
Schedule of Meal Count Activity (Not Applicable)	
Schedule of Net Cash Resources (Not Applicable)	
Schedule of Audited Enrollments.....	8
Excess Surplus Calculation.....	13
Summary of Recommendations.....	15

October 3, 2023

The Honorable President and Members
of the Board of Education
Fairfield Board of Education
County of Essex, New Jersey

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Board of Education of the Fairfield Township School District in the County of Essex for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated October 3, 2023.

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 letter does not affect our report dated October 3, 2023, on the financial statements of the Board.

We will review the status of the comments during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed these comments, recommendations and suggestions with various management personnel, and we will be pleased to discuss them in further detail at your convenience, to perform any additional study of these matters, or to assist you in implementing the recommendations, if any.

This report is intended for the information of the Fairfield Township School District's management and the New Jersey Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Nisivoccia LLP
NISIVOCCIA LLP

John J. Mooney

John J. Mooney
Licensed Public School Accountant #2602
Certified Public Accountant

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Scope of Audit

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

Administrative Practices and Procedures

Insurance

Multi-peril insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed on Exhibit J-20, Insurance Schedule contained in the District's ACFR.

Officials in Office and Surety Bonds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Coverage</u>
Kathleen Marano	Interim Business Administrator/ Board Secretary	\$ 200,000
Michael Halik	Treasurer of School Monies	\$ 200,000

P.L. 2020, Chapter 44

Our audit procedures included an inquiry and subsequent review of health benefit data required per N.J.S.A. 18A:16-13.3 (Chapter 44) submitted for the year on audit. The Chapter 44 summary report was reviewed for reasonableness and timeliness.

The data submitted did include all health benefit plans offered by the school district.

The school district data certification was completed by the chief school administrator. The school district Chapter 44 data was submitted timely.

The original data submission did not require significant revision due to errors or omissions on the part of the District.

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 N.J.A.C.6A:23A-3.1(f)3.

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

(Continued)

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Examination of Claims

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

Payroll Account and Position Control Roster

The net salaries of employees of the Board 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 certified by the President of the Board and the School Business Administrator, and the Chief School Administrator.

Salary withholdings were promptly remitted to the proper agencies, including health benefits due to the General Fund.

The required certification (E-CERT1) of compliance with requirements for income tax on compensation of administrators (superintendent, assistant superintendent, and business administrator) to the NJ Department of Treasury was filed in a timely manner.

Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable

A review of outstanding issued purchase orders was made on a test basis 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 N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.2(f) as part of our test of transactions of randomly selected expenditure items. In addition to randomly selecting a test sample, we also reviewed administrative coding classifications to determine overall reliability and compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-8.2. We also reviewed the coding of all expenditures included in our compliance and single audit testing procedures.

Board Secretary's Records

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Board, we considered the condition of the Board Secretary's records for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide specific assurance on the condition of the records. Based on these procedures, we have no comments.

Treasurer's Records

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Board, we considered the condition of the Treasurer's records for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide specific assurance on the condition of the records. Based on these procedures, we have no comments.

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Cont'd)

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E.S.E.A.) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

The E.S.E.A. financial exhibits are contained within the Special Revenue Section of the District's ACFR. This section of the ACFR documents the financial position pertaining to projects under Titles I, II and IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

The study of compliance for the E.S.E.A. did not indicate any area 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 T.P.A.F. Reimbursement to the State for Federal Salary Expenditures was remitted to the State of New Jersey prior to the required deadline of October 1, 2023. The reimbursement form was reviewed, and no exceptions were noted.

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

The District's Special Projects were approved as listed on Schedule A and Schedule B located in the ACFR.

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 ACFR. This section of the ACFR documents the financial position pertaining to the aforementioned special projects.

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. of section 9 of P.L.1971, c. 198 the Board of Education may establish that the bid threshold may be up to \$25,000. Such authorization may be granted for each contract or by a general delegation of the power to negotiate and award such contracts pursuant to 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. 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 . . ."

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)

School Purchasing Programs (Cont'd)

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids (Cont'd)

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 bid thresholds in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2 and 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 \$20,200 for 2022-23.

The 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 Attorney'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. General compliance was noted.

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 provision 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.

School Food Service

The District does not operate a school food service program and does not participate in the Child Nutrition Program or receive any related federal or state awards.

Student Body Activities

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Board, we considered the condition of the Student Activities records for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide specific assurance on the condition of the records. Based on these procedures, we have no comments.

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)

Application for State School Aid

Our audit procedures included a test of enrollments and related services reported in the October 15, 2022 Application for State School Aid (A.S.S.A.) for on-roll, private schools for the handicapped, bilingual and low income. 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 on a test basis 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 has adequate written procedures for the recording of student enrollment data.

Pupil Transportation

Our audit procedures included a test of on-roll status reported in the 2022-2023 District Report of Transported Resident Students (DRTRS). The information that was included on the DRTRS was verified to the DRTRS Eligibility Summary Report without exception. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

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. No exceptions were noted in our review of transportation related purchases of goods and services.

Travel Expense and Reimbursement Policy

Travel regulations require each District to adopt a formal policy and procedure pertaining to travel and expense reimbursement for its employees and board members. The regulations require the District to establish a maximum travel for the year and to ensure that the maximum is not exceeded. The regulations also require that all travel be preapproved by the Board of Education and that the approval must be itemized by event, event total cost, and individuals attending. General compliance was noted.

Facilities and Capital Assets

There were no School Development Authority (SDA) projects for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

Testing for Lead of All Drinking Water in Educational Facilities

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

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)

Management Suggestions

COVID-19 Federal Funding

It is likely that the District will undergo some review of its COVID-19 federal funding if only at a desk review level by state and/or federal agencies. We strongly suggest that the District ensures that these funds are utilized in accordance with the applicable federal requirements especially with respect to procurement. Additionally, we strongly suggest that the District ensures that these funds are accounted for in the state account numbers designated by the NJ Department of Education and that any applicable Board policies are current with respect to federal grant requirements.

Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations

There were no prior year recommendations.

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2022

	2023-2024 Application for State School Aid						Sample for Verification							
	Reported on		Reported on		Errors		Sample		Verified per		Registers		Errors	
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared
Half Day Preschool 4 Yr Old	18		18				18				18			
Full Day Kindergarten	91		91				91				91			
Grade One	88		88				88				88			
Grade Two	80		80				80				80			
Grade Three	97		97				97				97			
Grade Four	88		88				88				88			
Grade Five	74		74				74				74			
Grade Six	80		80				80				80			
Subtotal	616		616				616				616			
Special Education:														
Elementary	67		67				6				6			
Middle	10		10				1				1			
Subtotal	77		77				7				7			
Totals	693		693				623				623			
Percentage Error							0.00%				0.00%			0.00%

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2022

	Private Schools for Disabled					Resident Low Income					
	Reported on ASSA as Private Schools	Workpapers as Private Schools	Sample for Verification	Sample Verified	Sample Errors	Reported on ASSA as Low Income	Workpapers as Low Income	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Errors	Verified to Application and Register	Sample Errors
Full Day Kindergarten						7	7	1		1	
Grade One						1	1	1		1	
Grade Two						2	2				
Grade Three						4	4	1		1	
Grade Four						3	3	2		2	
Grade Five						2	2	1		1	
Grade Six						4	4				
Subtotal						23	23	6		6	
Special Education:											
Elementary School	1	1	1	1		11	11	3		3	
Subtotal	1	1	1	1		12	12	3		3	
Totals	1	1	1	1		35	35	9		9	
Percentage Error									0.00%		0.00%

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2022

	Resident LEP Low Income					
	Reported on ASSA as LEP Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as LEP Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Test Scores, Application and Register	Sample Errors
Full Day Kindergarten	3	3		1	1	
Grade One	1	1				
Grade Three	2	2		1	1	
Subtotal	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>		<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	
Totals	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>		<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	
Percentage Error			<u>0.00%</u>			<u>0.00%</u>

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2022

	Resident LEP Not Low Income					
	Reported on ASSA as LEP Not Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as LEP Not Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Test Scores and Register	Sample Errors
Full Day Kindergarten	3	3				
Grade One	4	4		2	2	
Grade Two	3	3		1	1	
Grade Three	1	1				
Grade Five	1	1		1	1	
Subtotal	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	
Totals	<u>12</u>	<u>12</u>		<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	
Percentage Error			<u>0.00%</u>			<u>0.00%</u>

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2022

	Transportation					
	Reported on DRTRS by DOE	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors
Regular - Public Schools	121	121		17	17	
Regular - Special Education	3	3		1	1	
AIL - Non Public	11	11		2	2	
Special Needs - Public	23	23		4	4	
Special Needs - Private	1	1		1	1	
Totals	159	159		25	25	
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%

	Reported	Recalculated
Average Mileage - Regular Including Grade PK Students	3.2	3.3
Average Mileage - Regular Excluding Grade PK Students	3.2	3.3
Average Mileage - Special Education with Special Needs	2.1	2.1

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

Regular District

Section 1

2% Calculation of Excess Surplus

2022-2023 Total General Fund Expenditures per the ACFR, Ex. C-1	\$ 16,639,452	(B)
Increased by:		
Transfer from Capital Reserve to Capital Projects Fund	\$ -0-	(B1b)
Decreased by:		
On-Behalf TPAF Pension and Social Security	\$ 3,305,873	(B2a)
Assets Acquired Under Leases, Finance Purchases & SBITAs	\$ 242,000	(B2b)
 Adjusted 2022-2023 General Fund Expenditures [(B)+(B1's)-(B2's)]	 <u>\$ 13,091,579</u>	 (B3)
 2% of Adjusted 2022-2023 General Fund Expenditures [(B5) times .02]	 <u>\$ 261,832</u>	 (B4)
Enter Greater of (B4) or \$250,000	<u>\$ 261,832</u>	(B5)
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment	<u>\$ 137,316</u>	(K)
 Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance [(B5)+(K)]	 <u>\$ 399,148</u>	 (M)

Section 2

Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6/30/2023 (Per ACFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule/Statement)	\$ 4,123,066	(C)
Decreased by:		
Year-end Encumbrances	\$ 40,495	(C1)
Legally Restricted - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ -0-	(C2)
Legally Restricted Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>\$ 394,735</u>	(C3)
Other Restricted Fund Balances	<u>\$ 2,651,645</u>	(C4)
Assigned - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>\$ 237,043</u>	(C5)
Additional Assigned Fund Balance - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures July 1, 2023 - August 1, 2023	<u>\$ -0-</u>	(C6)
Total Unassigned Fund Balance [(C)-(C1)-(C2)-(C3)-(C4)-(C5)-(C6)]	 <u>\$ 799,148</u>	 (U)

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)

Section 3

Restricted Fund Balance-Excess Surplus [(U)-(M)] IF NEGATIVE, ENTER -0- \$ 400,000 (E)

Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2023

Restricted Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures \$ 394,735 (C3)

Restricted Excess Surplus [(E)] \$ 400,000 (E)

Total [(C3)+(E)] \$ 794,735 (D)

Detail of Allowable Adjustments

Impact Aid \$ -0- (H)

Sale & Lease-back \$ -0- (I)

Extraordinary Aid \$ 133,884 (J1)

Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid \$ 3,432 (J2)

Supplemental Stabilization Aid received April 2023
& Maintenance of Equity Aid received July 2023 \$ -0- (J3)

Total Adjustments (H)+(I)+(J1)+(J2)+(J3) \$ 137,316 (K)

Detail of Other Restricted Fund Balances

Statutory Restrictions:

Approved Unspent Separate Proposal \$ -0-

Sale/Lease-back Reserve \$ -0-

Capital Reserve (N-1) \$ 2,501,645

Maintenance Reserve (N-2) \$ 150,000

Tuition Reserve (N-3) \$ -0-

Emergency Reserve (N-4) \$ -0-

Waiver Offset Reserve (N-5) \$ -0-

Other Restricted Fund Balance not Noted Above \$ -0-

School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve - prior year \$ -0-

Impact Aid General Fund Reserve (Sections 8002 and 8003) \$ -0-

Impact Aid Capital Fund Reserve (Sections 8007 and 8008) \$ -0-

Other Restricted Fund Balance not Noted Above \$ -0-

Total Other Restricted Fund Balance \$ 2,651,645 (C-4)

FAIRFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

It is recommended that:

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. Facilities and Capital Assets
None
9. Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations
None