

**MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

JUNE 30, 2023

**MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

**Honorable President and Members
of the Board of Education
Mercer County Special Services School District
County of Mercer
Trenton, 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, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated December 4, 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 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.

PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP

December 4, 2023
Cranford, New Jersey

Scott A. Clelland

Scott A. Clelland, CPA
Licensed Public School Accountant, No. 1049

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**MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS – FINANCIAL
COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

JUNE 30, 2023

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 ACFR.

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

P.L.2020,c.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 school district.

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

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.

**MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS – FINANCIAL
COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

JUNE 30, 2023

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.

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.

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

**MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS – FINANCIAL
COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

JUNE 30, 2023

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 Board Secretary.

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 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.

The study of compliance for the special projects indicated the following.

Finding 2023-001:

During our audit of the SEMI program, we noted that the District did not keep parental consent forms on file for all students.

Recommendation:

We recommend that the District maintain the parental consent forms for all students through their graduation date plus seven years.

**MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS – FINANCIAL
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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 amount of the expenditure charged to the current year's Final Report for all federal awards for the school district to reimburse the State for TPAF/FICA payments made by the State on-behalf of the school district for those employees whose salaries are identified as being paid from federal funds was made prior to the end of the 90 day grant liquidation period required by the Office of Grants Management. The expenditure was reviewed subsequent to the reimbursement and no exceptions were noted.

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 \$44,000 (with a Qualified Purchasing Agent) and \$32,000 (without a Qualified Purchasing Agent), respectively. The law regulating bidding for public school transportation contracts under N.J.S.A. 18A:39-3 is \$20,200 for 2022-23.

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

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.

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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 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.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position (ACFR 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. We also inquired if the FSMC received a loan in accordance with the Payroll Protection Plan and whether the funds were used to pay for costs applicable to the Food Service Programs. We also inquired if the PPP loan was subsequently forgiven and the FSMC refunded or credited the applicable amounts to the SFA.

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 2023 fiscal year, our audit procedures did not include a test of information reported in the October 15, 2022 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.

**MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS – FINANCIAL
COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

JUNE 30, 2023

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.

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).

Other Suggestions to Management

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the food service net cash resources exceeded three times the average food service monthly operating expenses. We suggest the District develop a plan for the excess funds to be utilized in the subsequent year’s allowable expenses that will further support the operation and enhance the child nutrition program, such as improving the nutritional quality of the food or purchasing equipment for the cafeteria as outlined in 7 CFR 210.14(a).

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 2022-23 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, 2022**

Note: Detailed testing over ASSA was not performed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 as the General State Aid Cluster was not tested as a major program in the current year for single audit purposes.

	2023-2024 Application for State School Aid						Sample for Verification						Private Schools for Disabled				
	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		Reported on A.S.S.A. as Private Schools	Sample for Verifi- cation	Sample Verified	Sample Errors	
	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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - Elementary	139	-	139	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - Middle School	89	-	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - High School	215	5	215	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	<u>443</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>443</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Co. Voc. - Regular	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Co. Voc. Ft. Post Sec.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	<u>443</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>443</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Percentage Error					<u>0.00%</u>	<u>0.00%</u>						<u>0.00%</u>	<u>0.00%</u>				<u>0.00%</u>

MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2022

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

Note: Detailed testing over ASSA was not performed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 as the General State Aid Cluster was not tested as a major program in the current year for single audit purposes.

	<u>Resident Low Income</u>			<u>Sample for Verification</u>			<u>Resident LEP Low Income</u>			<u>Sample for Verification</u>		
	Reported on A.S.S.A. as Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application and Register	Sample Errors	Reported on A.S.S.A. as LEP low Income	Reported on Workpapers as LEP low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Test Score and Register	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	96.0	96.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - Middle	53.0	53.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - High	129.0	129.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	278.0	278.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Co. Voc. - Regular	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Co. Voc. Ft. Post Sec.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	278.0	278.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%			0.00%			0.00%

	<u>Transportation</u>					
	Reported on DRTRS by DOE/county	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors
	Reg. - Public Schools, col. 1					
Reg -SpEd, col. 4						
Transported - Non-Public, col. 3						
Special Ed Spec, col. 6						
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage Error					0.00%	

Reg Avg.(Mileage) = Regular Including Grade PK students (Part A)
Reg Avg.(Mileage) = Regular Excluding Grade PK students (Part B) **NOT APPLICABLE**
Spec Avg. = Special Ed with Special Needs

MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2022

Note: Detailed testing over ASSA was not performed for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 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

	<u>Resident LEP NOT Low Income</u>			<u>Sample for Verification</u>		
	<u>Reported on A.S.S.A. as NOT Low Income</u>	<u>Reported on Workpapers as NOT Low Income</u>	<u>Errors</u>	<u>Sample Selected from Workpapers</u>	<u>Verified to Application and Register</u>	<u>Sample Errors</u>
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	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Special Ed - Elementary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - Middle	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - High	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Co. Voc. - Regular	-	-	-	-	-	-
Co. Voc. Ft. Post Sec.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Percentage Error			<u>0.00%</u>			<u>0.00%</u>

**MERCER COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS – FINANCIAL
COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

JUNE 30, 2023

Audit Recommendations Summary

We suggest the following:

1. **Administrative Practices and Procedures**
None
2. **Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting**
Finding 2023-001:
The District maintain the parental consent forms for students through graduation plus seven years.
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