

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**SALEM COUNTY SPECIALSERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**COUNTY OF SALEM**  
**AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORTON**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS-**  
**FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED**  
**JUNE 30, 2023**

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## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Honorable President and  
Members of the Board of Education  
Salem County Special Services School District  
County of Salem  
Woodstown, New Jersey

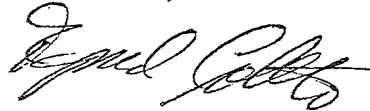
We have audited, in accordance with generally accepted audit standards and **Government Auditing Standards** issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Board of Education of the Salem County Special Services School District in the County of Salem for the year ended June 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated December 5, 2023.

As part of our audit, we performed procedures required by the District of Administration and Finance, 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 issued in conjunction with the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report of the Board of Education of the Salem County Special Services School District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 and is intended for the information of the 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.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIGHTLINGER, COLAVITA & VOLPA, P.A.**



Raymond Colavita, C.P.A., R.M.A.  
Licensed Public School Accountant  
No. 915  
December 5, 2023

**ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING**

**Scope of Audit**

The audit covered the financial transactions of the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, the activities of the Board of Education, the records of the Student Activity Fund, Food Service with other Enterprise Funds, Special Revenue Fund and other 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 **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>
Frank H. Maurer III	School Bus. Administrator / Board Secretary	\$ 155,000

There is a Blanket Employee Dishonesty Bond with New Jersey School Boards Assn. Insurance Group, covering all employees with coverage of \$100,000.

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

**Tuition Charges**

A comparison of tentative charges and actual certified tuition charges was made, and the actual costs were different than estimated cost. The district made proper adjustments to the billings to sending districts in the amount of (\$4,309) for the net increases and decreases in per pupil costs in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-17.1(f)3.

**District Internal Control Policies**

District boards of education and administration are responsible for developing internal controls policies and procedures and maintaining a strong internal control environment. NJAC 6A:23A-6.4 requires that the district's internal control policies include specific requirements at NJAC 6A:23A-6.5 through 6.13. Internal control policies were found in accordance with NJAC 6A:23A.

## **Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting**

### **Examination of Claims**

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

### **Payroll Account and Position Control Roster**

The net salaries of all 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 were certified by the President of the Board and the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary.

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

### **Minutes**

The monthly minutes of the Board were generally well prepared and budget transfers were noted in the minutes.

### **Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable**

A review of outstanding issued purchase orders was made as of June 30, 2023, for proper classification of orders as reserve for encumbrances and accounts payable, and it was determined that no blanket purchase orders were included in the balance of the reserves for encumbrances. This was accomplished through a review of unpaid purchase orders included on the balance as accounts payable for proprietary and to determine that goods were received and services rendered as of June 30, 2023.

### **Unemployment Compensation Insurance Trust Fund**

The Board has adopted the direct reimbursement method and has established an Unemployment Compensation Insurance Trust Fund.

### **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 0.0% 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**

## **Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (cont'd)**

### **Board Secretary's Records**

The financial records, books of accounts maintained by the Secretary, were in satisfactory condition.

The general fixed asset amounts, reflected in the financial statements, were determined, as part of the audit based on the report of an outside vendor.

Acknowledgment of the Board's receipt of the Board Secretary's and Treasurer's monthly financial reports was included in the minutes.

Monthly financial certificates of the Board Secretary and Board of Education for positive line item account status certifications (**N.J.A.C. 6:2-2.13**) were performed. Budgetary line item account transfers were approved monthly to cover any anticipated deficits.

Purchase orders were charged to the appropriate line item accounts in accordance with the State prescribed **Uniform Minimum Chart of Accounts (2R2) for New Jersey Public School.**

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

As there were no required E.S.E.A. grants during the 2021-2022 school year, financial exhibits and/or a Special Revenue Section was not required in the **ACFR.**

### **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.

The study of compliance for special projects indicated no areas of noncompliance.

### **T.P.A.F. Reimbursement**

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

## **School Purchasing Programs**

### **Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids**

**N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1** et seq. (Public School Contracts Law), the associated rules and related information on the statute, and school contracts in general are available on the website: [http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dlgs/programs/ps\\_contract.html](http://www.state.nj.us/dca/divisions/dlgs/programs/ps_contract.html).

The current statute is posted on the New Jersey Legislature website at: [http://lis.njleg.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/om\\_isapi.dll?clientID=1319801&depth=2&expandheadings=off&headingswithhits=on&infobase=statutes.nfo&softpage=TOC\\_Frame\\_pg42](http://lis.njleg.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/om_isapi.dll?clientID=1319801&depth=2&expandheadings=off&headingswithhits=on&infobase=statutes.nfo&softpage=TOC_Frame_pg42)

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 currently \$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 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.

Based on the results of our examination, we did not note 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 provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4, amended. The review of contracts and agreements did not disclose any areas of statutory noncompliance.

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. No exceptions were noted in purchases through vendors approved for state contract.

The review of contracts and agreements did not disclose any areas of statutory noncompliance.

Although a particular contract is exempt from the formal requirements of public advertising and competitive bidding, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37 requires that quotations be obtained, whenever practical, for any contract less than the bid threshold but 15% or more of that amount, except for contracts for professional services. All contracts and agreements, which are subject to quotations, shall be awarded on the basis of the lowest responsible quotation received, which is most advantageous to the Board of Education, price and other factors considered.

### **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.

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. Exceptions were not 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. Exceptions were not noted.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Assets (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. Exceptions were not noted.

### **Other Enterprise Funds**

Cash receipts and bank records were reviewed for timely deposit. No exceptions were noted. Expenditures were separately recorded based on line items deemed appropriate. Vendor invoices were available and examined.

### **Finding 2023-1**

The Child Study Team, Related Services, and Regional Day School Enterprise Funds did not generate sufficient revenue to support expenditures for the 2022-23 School Year.

### **Recommendation**

Continued analysis and evaluation of each Enterprise Fund should be made, in order to assure tuition and other fees are established that generate sufficient revenue to support expenditures.



### **Student Body Activities**

The Board has a policy, which clearly established the regulation of student activity funds.

All receipts were promptly deposited, and a monthly report of student activity funds is being submitted to the Board.

Vouchers and supporting invoices were maintained for the student activity fund purchases. All disbursements appeared to be supported by appropriate documentation. In addition, cash receipts and disbursements books appear to be maintained in a satisfactory manner.

### **Application for State School Aid**

Our audit procedures included a test of information reported in the October 15, 2021 Application for State School Aid (ASSA) for on-roll, private schools for students with disabilities, low-income, and bilingual. We also performed a review of the district procedures related to its completion. The information on the ASSA was compared to the district workpapers without exception. The information included as part of 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**

The Salem County Special Services School District has no resident students. Therefore, our audit procedures did not include a test of on roll status that would normally be reported in the 2022-2023 District Report of Transported Resident Students (DRTRS). The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

Our procedures 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.

### **Facilities and Capital Assets**

Our procedures included a review of the SDA grant agreements, if any, for consistency with recording SDA revenue, transfer of local funds from the general fund or from the capital reserve account, and awarding of contracts for eligible facilities construction. There were no SDA grant agreements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

Fixed asset records were updated as of June 30, 2023, through contracting with an outside vendor.

### **Testing for Lead of all Drinking Water in Educational Facilities**

The school district adhered to all the requirements of NJAC 26-1.2 and 12.4 related to the testing for lead of all drinking water in educational facilities.

The test results were posted on the district's website as well as being available at the school facility.

**Miscellaneous**

The balance in the Medical Reimbursement Bank Account was analyzed and evaluated for proper disposition of the balance, in accordance with the Section 125 Flexible Spending Plan.

**Follow-up on Prior Years' Findings**

In accordance with government auditing standards, our procedures included a review of all prior year findings including recommendations. Corrective action was taken on the prior year findings and recommendations, with the exception of the following:

**Finding 2022-1**

The Child Study Team, Related Services, and Regional Day School Enterprise Funds did not generate sufficient revenue to support expenditures for the 2021-22 School Year.

Status: Unresolved

**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.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIGHTLINGER, COLAVITA & VOLPA, P.A.**



Raymond Colavita, C.P.A., R.M.A.  
Licensed Public School Accountant  
No. 915

**SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS**

**SALEM COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES BOARD OF EDUCATION  
APPLICATION OR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY  
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 14, 2022**

	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			
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Private Schools	Sample for Verification	Sample Verified	Sample Errors
Seven	1		1					1		1						
Eight	1		1					1		1						
Nine																
Ten	1		1					1		1						
Eleven	1		1					1		1						
Twelve	1		1					1		1						
Subtotal	5	0	5	0	0	0		5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Ed - Elementary	42		42					29		29						
Special Ed - Middle	32		32					22		22						
Special Ed - High	53		53					36		36						
Subtotal	127	0	127	0	0	0		87	0	87	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	132	0	132	0	0	0		92	0	92	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage Error					0.00%	0.00%				0.00%	0.00%				0.00%	

**AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**  
**Salem County Special Services School District**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Administrative Practices and Procedures - None
2. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting - None
3. School Purchasing Programs -None
4. School Food Service – None
5. Other Enterprise Funds

**Finding 2023-1**

**Recommendation** - The Child Study Team, Related Services, and Regional Day School Enterprise Funds did not generate sufficient revenue to support expenditures for the 2022-23 School Year.

6. Student Body Activities – None
7. Application for State School Aid - None
8. Pupil Transportation - None
9. Facilities and Capital Assets - None
10. Miscellaneous - None
11. Status of Prior Year Audit Findings/Recommendations

A review was performed on the prior year recommendations and corrective action was taken on all prior year findings, with the exception of the following:

**Finding 2022-1**

**Recommendation** - Continued analysis and evaluation of each Enterprise Fund should be made, in order to assure tuition and other fees are established that generate sufficient revenue to support expenditures.

Status: Unresolved

**Finding 2022-2 (ACFR Finding 2022-1)**

**Recommendation** - Board contributions to cover deficits within the enterprise funds should be board approved and reflected in the budget, prior to transfer.

Status: Resolved