

SUSSEX COUNTY CHARTER SCHOOL  
FOR TECHNOLOGY  
AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,  
COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

SUSSEX COUNTY CHARTER SCHOOL FOR TECHNOLOGY  
AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE  
FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,  
COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023  
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October 6, 2023

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Board of Trustees  
Sussex County Charter School for Technology  
County of Sussex, NJ

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 Trustees of the Sussex County Charter School for Technology for the year ended June 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated October 6, 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 6, 2023, on the financial statements of the Board.

We will review the status of the comments, if any, during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed any comments 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 solely for the information and use of the Sussex County Charter School for Technology's Board of Trustees, the 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



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Valerie A. Dolan  
Licensed Public School Accountant #2526  
Certified Public Accountant

SUSSEX COUNTY CHARTER SCHOOL FOR TECHNOLOGY  
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 the Treasurer, the activities of the Board of Trustees, the records of the various funds under the auspices of the Board of Trustees.

Administrative Practices and Procedures

Insurance

Fire Insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed on Exhibit J-20, Insurance Schedule contained in the School's ACFR.

Officials in Office and Surety Bonds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Coverage</u>
Candace Leatham	Treasurer	\$ 125,000
Kimberly Wettstein	Board Secretary/School Business Administrator	125,000

There is Blanket Employee Dishonesty coverage with the Selective Insurance Company in the amount 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 included all health benefit plans offered by the charter school.

The charter school data certification was completed by the Chief School Administrator. The charter school Chapter 44 data was submitted timely.

The data certification date does not reflect a submission date later than 60 days after the end of the enrollment period.

Tuition Charges

A review of the financial statements indicated that no tuition was charged for any student attending the Charter School.

SUSSEX COUNTY CHARTER SCHOOL FOR TECHNOLOGY  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE  
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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 and supporting documentation.

Payroll Account and Position Control Roster

The net salaries of employees of the Charter School were deposited in the Payroll Account. Employees' payroll deductions and employer's share of fringe benefits were deposited in the Payroll Agency Account. Salary withholdings were promptly remitted to the proper agencies, including health benefits withholding due to the General Fund.

All payrolls were approved by the Executive Director and certified by the President of the Board and School Business Administrator and Executive Director.

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, 2023 for proper classification of orders as reserve for encumbrances and accounts payable.

Classification of General and Administrative 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, we reviewed 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

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 except as noted herein.

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 except as noted herein.

SUSSEX COUNTY CHARTER SCHOOL FOR TECHNOLOGY  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE  
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FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023  
(Continued)

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 Charter School's ACFR. This section of the ACFR documents the financial position pertaining to projects under Title I, Title II and IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

The Charter School'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 the special projects revealed no areas of noncompliance.

T.P.A.F. Reimbursement

Our audit procedures included a test of the biweekly reimbursements filed with the Department of Education for Charter School 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.

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.

SUSSEX COUNTY CHARTER SCHOOL FOR TECHNOLOGY  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE  
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FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023  
(Continued)

School Purchasing Programs (Cont'd)

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

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 . . . ."

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 2022-2023.

The Board of Trustees 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. None were noted.

The results of our examination indicated that no individual payments, contracts, or agreements were 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.

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 Charter School 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 Charter School entered into an agreement to consolidate food service operations with Sussex County Technical School serving as the administrative agency in 1997. The food service operations are operated as part of the Technical School lunch program, with all revenue, expenses and food inventories being maintained by Sussex County Technical School.

SUSSEX COUNTY CHARTER SCHOOL FOR TECHNOLOGY  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE  
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FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023  
(Continued)

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 except as noted herein.

Enrollment Counts and Submission to the Department

Our audit procedures included a test of information reported on the enrollment count reports for October 15, 2022 and the last day of school for on-roll, special education, bilingual and low income students (if applicable) and a review of the Charter School's procedures related to its completion. The information on the enrollment reports agreed to the Charter School's workpapers without exception. The information 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.

Travel Expense and Reimbursement Policy

Travel regulations require each Charter School to adopt a formal policy and procedure pertaining to travel and expense reimbursement for its employees and board members. The regulations include requirements for the Charter School to establish a maximum travel amount for the year and to ensure that the maximum amount is not exceeded. The regulations also require that all travel must be preapproved by the Board of Trustees and that a brief report detailing the key issues addressed at the travel event must be submitted after the travel event has occurred.

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).

Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations

The prior year audit recommendation regarding the Charter School adopting a formal policy and procedure pertaining to travel and expense reimbursements for its employees and board members, establishes a maximum travel amount for the year, and accounts for travel expenditures in an appropriate separate account line was resolved in the current year.



SUSSEX COUNTY CHARTER SCHOOL FOR TECHNOLOGY  
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS  
APPLICATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOL AID

ENROLLMENT COUNT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2022

Grades	(1)	(2)	(2a)	(2b)	(2c)
	Submission to DOE Reported on Roll	Reported on Workpapers	50% Verification Required 10/15/2022	Verified Signed Registration Forms	Verified # Days Enrolled
Six	59	59	30	30	30
Seven	84	84	42	42	42
Eight	77	77	39	39	39
Totals	220	220	111	111	111
Percentage Error		- 0 -		- 0 -	- 0 -
		0%		0%	0%

Grades	(3)	(3a)	(3b)	(4)	(4a)
	Submission to DOE Reported Special Ed/ Bilingual	Verified Documentation	Verified # Days Service Provided	Low Income	Verified Documentation
Six	11	11	11	15	15
Seven	16	16	16	15	15
Eight	19	19	19	13	13
Totals	46	46	46	43	43
Percentage Error		- 0 -		- 0 -	- 0 -
		0%		0%	0%

SUSSEX COUNTY CHARTER SCHOOL FOR TECHNOLOGY  
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS  
APPLICATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOL AID  
(Continued)

ENROLLMENT COUNT AS OF LAST DAY OF SCHOOL YEAR 2023

Grades	(1) Submission to DOE Reported on Roll	(2) Reported on Workpapers	(2a) 50% Verification Required Last Day	(2b) Verified Signed Registration Forms	(2c) Verified # Days Enrolled	Errors
Six	66	66	33	33	33	
Seven	82	82	41	41	41	
Eight	77	77	39	39	39	
Totals	225	225	113	113	113	- 0 -
Percentage Error			0%			0%

Grades	(3) Submission to DOE Reported Special Ed/ Bilingual	(3a) Verified Documentation	(3b) Verified # Days Service Provided	(4) Low Income	(4a) Verified Documentation	Errors
Six	14	14	14	17	17	
Seven	16	16	16	14	14	
Eight	19	19	19	13	13	
Totals	49	49	49	44	44	- 0 -
Percentage Error			0%			0%

SUSSEX COUNTY CHARTER SCHOOL FOR TECHNOLOGY  
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. Transportation  
None
6. Student Body Activities  
None
7. Enrollment Counts and Submission to the Department  
None
8. Travel Expense and Reimbursement Policy  
None
9. Facilities and Capital Assets  
None
10. Miscellaneous  
None
11. Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations

The prior year audit recommendation regarding the Charter School adopting a formal policy and procedure pertaining to travel and expense reimbursements for its employees and board members, establishing a maximum travel amount for the year, and accounting for travel expenditures in an appropriate separate account line was resolved in the current year.