

BOARD OF EDUCATION

CALIFON BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

COUNTY OF HUNTERDON

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS

FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE

JUNE 30, 2025

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

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Anthony Ardito, CPA, RMA, CMFO, PSA

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Honorable President and
Members of the Board of Education
Califon Borough School District
County of Hunterdon, 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 Califon Borough School District in the County of Hunterdon for the year ended June 30, 2025, and have issued our report thereon dated November 16, 2025.

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 for the information of the Califon Borough 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.

Anthony Ardito

Anthony Ardito
Licensed Public School Accountant No. 2369
ARDITO & COMPANY LLC

Date: November 16, 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS-FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE

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, 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 Exhibit J-20, Insurance Schedule contained in the district's ACFR.

Official Bonds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Matthew Herzer	Assistant Business Administrator/Board Secretary	\$ 135,000
Paula Hatch	Treasurer	\$ 150,000

There is Public Employees' Faithful Performance Blanket Position Bond with the Selective Insurance Company covering all other employees with coverage of \$7,500.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Examination of Claims

The State purchase order system is fully operational in that purchase orders are issued for the financial transactions of the Board.

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 deductions and employer's share of fringe benefits were deposited in the Payroll Agency Account.

All payrolls were approved by the Chief School Administrator and were certified by the President of the Board and Board Secretary/School Business Administrator.

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

The Board, at present, processes the payroll through an approved off-site computer system.

Reserve for Encumbrances Accounts Payable

A review of outstanding issued purchase orders was made as of June 30, for goods not yet received or services not yet rendered and it was determined that no blanket purchase orders were included in the balance of the reserves for encumbrances. Also, unpaid purchase orders included in the balance of accounts payable were reviewed for propriety and to determine that goods were received and services were rendered, as of June 30.

Classification of Expenditures

The coding of expenditures was tested for proper classification in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-16.2f 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, no transaction error rate was noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

Board Secretary and Treasurer's Records

The financial records, books of accounts and minutes maintained by the Secretary and Treasurer were in excellent condition.

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 ACFR. This section of the ACFR documents the financial position pertaining to the projects under Title I and VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended.

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 single audit section of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (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.

TPAF Reimbursement

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

TPAF Reimbursement to the State for Federal Salary Expenditures

There were no TPAF employee salaries charged to federal award expenditures that would require reimbursement to the State of New Jersey for TPAF Pension or FICA paid on-behalf of the district.

School Purchasing Programs

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids

Effective April 17, 2000, *N.J.S.A.* 18A:18A (Public School Contracts Law) was revised by P.L.1999,c.440 (originally known as Assembly Bill No. 3519). Rules and regulations pertaining to the amended law are to be promulgated by the Division of Local Government Services, with consultation from the Commissioner of Education.

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids-(Continued)

Effective April 17, 2000, *N.J.S.A.* 18A:18A (Public School Contracts Law) was revised by P.L.1999,c.440 (originally *N.J.S.A.* 18A:18A-3 is amended to read as follows:

- a. When the cost or price of any contract awarded by the purchasing agent in the aggregate, does not exceed in the 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 before the Legislature as section 15 of this bill) of section 9 of P.L.1971,c.198(C.40A:11-9) the board of education may establish that the bid threshold may be up to \$36,000. 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

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 subsection a. of *N.J.S.*18A:18A-5 may be awarded for a period not exceeding 12 consecutive months.

*N.J.S.A.*18A:18A-4 (as amended) states, "Every contract or agreement 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.

Effective July 1, 2020 and thereafter 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.

The 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.

Within the state budgeting structure and general ledger accounting system, payments for categories for the performance of any work or the furnishing or hiring of any materials or supplies are not accumulated by category type. As such, the results of such an accumulation could not reasonably be ascertained. Disbursements were reviewed, however, to determine whether any clear-cut violations existed.

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 provisions 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.

Within the state budgeting structure and general ledger accounting system, payments are not accumulated for
General School Supplies/Equipment

School Food Service

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

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 vouchers were properly computed and filed timely. No exceptions noted.

Cash receipts and bank records were reviewed for timely deposit.

Applications for free milk were reviewed for completeness and accuracy. The number of free milk 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. The 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 applications were not completed or available for review.

Expenditures were 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.

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

Student Body Activity and Athletic Funds

Cash receipts and disbursements records were maintained in good condition.

Receipts appear to be promptly deposited in the bank.

Application for State School Aid

Our audit procedures included a test of the information reported in the October 15, 2024, 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 has adequate procedures for the recording of student enrollment data.

Pupil Transportation

Our audit procedures included a test of on-roll status reported in the 2024-2025 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.

Follow-up on Prior Years' Findings

In accordance with government auditing standards, our procedures included a review of all prior year recommendations. All prior year findings were corrected.

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)

Summary of Recommendations

None

Acknowledgement

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.

CALIFON BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2024

	<u>2025-2026 Application for State School Aid</u>						<u>Sample for Verification</u>				<u>On Roll-Related Services</u>			<u>Private Schools for Handicapped</u>				<u>Private Schools-Related Services</u>				
	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		Sample for Veri-	Sample	Sample	Reported on A.S.S.A. as Private School	Sample for Verifi-	Sample	Sample	Sample for Verifi-	Sample	Sample
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Verifi-	Verified	Errors		Verifi-	Verified	Errors	Verifi-	Verified	Errors
Full Day Preschool-3yrs	5		5				4		4													
Full Day Preschool-4yrs	6		6				5		5													
Full Day Kindergarten	11		11				8		8													
One	7		7				5		5													
Two	5		5				4		4													
Three	3		3				2		2													
Four	9		9				7		7													
Five	8		8				6		6													
Six	9		9				7		7													
Seven	6		6				5		5													
Eight	10		10				8		8													
Subtotal	79	0	79	0	0	0	61	0	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sp. Ed. - Elementary	10		10				8		8													
Sp. Ed. - Middle	3		3				2		2							0		0		0		
Subtotal	13	0	13	0	0	0	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	92	0	92	0	0	0	71	0	71	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage Error					0.00%	0.00%					0.00%	0.00%			0.00%				0.00%			0.00%

CALIFON BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2024

	<u>Low Income</u>			<u>Sample for Verification</u>			<u>Bilingual Education</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 Bilingual Education	Reported on Workpapers as Bilingual Education	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Test Score and Register	Sample Errors
One	-	-		-	-		0	0	0	0	0	0
Sp Ed- Elementary	-	-		-	-	None			0.00%			0.00%
Sp Ed- Middle	-	-		-	-	None						
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-						
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-						
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%						

	<u>Transportation</u>					
	Reported on DRTRS by DOE	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors
Transported - Regular	18	18		18	18	
Spec Ed - Spec Needs	0	0		0	0	
Totals	18	18	0	18	18	0
Percentage Error					0.00%	

BOROUGH OF CALIFON SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANALYSIS OF EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION
June 30, 2025

THE CALCULATION OF THE 2% EXCESS AT JUNE 30, 2025 IS AS FOLLOWS :

SECTION 1

2024-2025 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES(per the ACFR)

B	TOTAL	\$3,694,749	
	INCREASED BY:		
B1A	TRANSFER TO FOOD SERVICE FUND		
B1B	TRANSFER FROM CAPITAL OUTLAY TO CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND		
B1C	TRANSFER FROM CAPITAL RESERVE TO CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND		
	DECREASED BY:		
B2a	ON-BEHALF TPAF PENSION/PRM & SOCIAL SECURITY	(688,677)	
B2b	ASSETS ACQUIRED UNDER CAPITAL LEASES		
		-	
B3	ADJUSTED 2024-2025 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES		<u>\$ 3,006,072</u>
B4	GREATER OF .02 OF EXPENDITURES OR \$250,000		\$ 250,000
K	INCREASED BY: ALLOWABLE ADJUSTMENT		<u>74,054</u>
M	MAXIMUM UNRESERVED/UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE	10.78%	<u><u>\$ 324,054</u></u>
C	GENERAL FUND FREE BALANCE AT 6-30-2025 (per ACFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1)		\$ 1,380,214
	DECREASED BY:		
C1	YEAR END ENCUMBRANCES	(1,372)	
C2	LEGALLY RESTRICTED - DESIGNATED FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS' EXPENDITURES		
C3	LEGALLY RESTRICTED - EXCESS SURPLUS - DESIGNATED FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS' EXPENDITURES	(266,910)	
C4	OTHER RESERVED FUND BALANCES	(708,352)	
C5	ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE - UNRESERVED - DESIGNATED FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS' EXPENDITURES	(22,353)	
C6	ADDITIONAL ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE – UNRESERVED		
U1	TOTAL UNASSIGNED FUND BALANCE	12.68%	381,227
U2	TOTAL UNRESERVED/UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCE FOR EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION		<u><u>381,227</u></u>
E	EXCESS SURPLUS-RESERVED FUND BALANCE		<u><u>\$ 57,173</u></u>
	(IF NEGATIVE, NO ADDITIONAL RESERVED AMOUNT)		

BOROUGH OF CALIFON SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANALYSIS OF EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION
June 30, 2025

RECAPITULATION OF EXCESS SURPLUS AS OF JUNE 30, 2025

C3	RESERVED EXCESS SURPLUS - DESIGNATED FOR SUBSEQUENT YEARS' EXPENDITURES	\$ 266,910
E	RESERVED EXCESS SURPLUS	<u>57,173</u>
	TOTAL	<u><u>\$ 324,083</u></u>

DETAIL OF ALLOWABLE ADJUSTMENTS:

H	IMPACT AID	
J	SALE & LEASE-BACK	
J-1	EXTRAORDINARY AID	\$ 72,186
J-2	ADDITIONAL NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION AID	1,868
J-3	STABILIZATION AID	<u>-</u>
K	TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS	<u><u>74,054</u></u>

DETAIL OF OTHER RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE:

STATUTORY RESTRICTIONS:

APPROVED UNSPENT SEPARATE PROSAL	
CAPITAL OUTLAY FOR A DISTRICT WITH A CAPITAL OUTLAY SGLA	
RESERVE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS	\$ 7,968
CAPITAL RESERVE	384,071
MAINTENANCE RESERVE	116,287
EMERGENCY RESERVE	200,026
OTHER STATE/GOV'T MANDATED RESERVES	
OTHER RESERVES FUND BALANCE NOT NOTED ABOVE	<u>-</u>

C-4	TOTAL OTHER RESTRICTED FUND BALANCE	<u><u>\$ 708,352</u></u>
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CALIFON BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

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. 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 Audit Findings/Recommendations

A review was performed on the prior year recommendations. There were no prior year recommendations.