

Auditor's Management Report

for the

*Borough of Metuchen
School District*

in the

*County of Middlesex
New Jersey*

for the

*Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2025*

**AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE
FINDINGS-FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Honorable President and Members
of the Board of Education
Metuchen School District
County of Middlesex
Metuchen, New Jersey 08840

We have audited, in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the basic financial statements of the Borough of Metuchen School District in the County of Middlesex for the year ended June 30, 2025, and have issued our report dated December 22, 2025.

As part of our audit, we performed procedures required by the New Jersey Department of Education, and the findings and results are disclosed on the following pages, as listed in the accompanying table of contents.

This report is intended solely for the information of the Borough of Metuchen School District, County of Middlesex, New Jersey, the New Jersey Department of Education and federal and state audit awarding agencies and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTANT NO. 948

December 22, 2025

**Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative
Findings - Financial and Compliance**

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 Borough of Metuchen School District, and the records of the various funds under the auspices of the Board of Education.

ADMINISTRATIVE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

Insurance (N.J.S.A. 18A:17-26, 18A: 17-32)

Insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed in the District's A.C.F.R. (See Exhibit "J-20").

Official Bonds

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF BONDS</u>
Rebecca Cuthbert	Treasurer of School Monies	\$280,000.00
Michael Harvier	Board Secretary/School Business Administrator	50,000.00

Adequacy of insurance coverage is the responsibility of the Board of Education.

Health Benefits-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.

FINANCIAL PLANNING, ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

Examination of Claims

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.

**Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative
Findings - Financial and Compliance**

Payroll Account (Continued)

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.

Payrolls were delivered to the treasurer of school monies with a warrant made to her order for the full amount of each payroll.

Position Control Roster

The Position Control Roster was reviewed and compared to payroll records, employee benefit records and charges made to the general ledger to ensure proper and consistent financial reporting and that employee benefits are only offered to current employees.

Reserve for Encumbrances, Liability (Current) for Accounts Payable

A review of outstanding purchase orders was made as of June 30 for proper classification of orders as reserve for encumbrances and accounts payable.

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 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 errors were noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

Board Secretary's Records

The records maintained by the Board Secretary were in satisfactory condition and appropriate balances matched to those prepared by the Treasurer of School Monies.

**Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative
Findings - Financial and Compliance**

Treasurer's Records

The records maintained by the Treasurer of School Monies are independently maintained from the Board Secretary/Board Administrator. Our examination of the records revealed:

2025-01 Finding: The reconciliation for the salary account includes incorrect items leading to reconciliations that do not match. Also, the split of funds between 10 and 20, and 30 and 40, was not matching to district records.

2025-01 Recommendation: That all salary account reconciliations be done correctly and that the split between funds for all other funds be allocated correctly in accordance with district records.

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

The E.S.E.A. financial exhibits are contained within the Special Revenue section of the A.C.F.R.. This section of the A.C.F.R. documents the financial position pertaining to projects under Title I, II, and IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

Other Special Federal and State Projects

The District's Special Projects were approved as listed on Schedule A and Schedule B located in the A.C.F.R.. 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 A.C.F.R.. This section of the A.C.F.R. documents the financial position pertaining to the aforementioned special projects.

T.P.A.F. Reimbursement

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

Our audit procedures also included a test of the reimbursement of the employer share of pensions, group life insurance, FICA and other benefits of the Teacher's Pension and Annuity Fund for TPAF members carrying out and paid from federally funded programs in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:66-90. The District filled out the required form and submitted prior to the end of the 90 day grant liquidation period required by the Office of Grants Management. Our test included verification of eligible employees to be included. No reimbursement was due for the fiscal year 2025. No exceptions were noted.

**Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative
Findings - Financial and Compliance**

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 \$44,000.00, 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 therefor, 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 \$44,000.00. 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 \$1,000.00. 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 every year in which it is made. 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.A. 18A:18A-5 may be awarded for a period not exceeding 12 consecutive months."

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 therefor, except as is provided otherwise in this chapter or specifically by any other law.

The board of education may, by resolution approve by the majority of the board of education and subject to subsections b. and c. of this section, disqualify a bidder who would otherwise be determined to be the lowest responsible bidder, if the board of education finds that it has had negative prior experience with the bidder."

Effective July 1, 2020 and thereafter, the bid thresholds in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3(a) became \$44,000.00. The law regulating bidding for public school student transportation contracts under N.J.S.A. 18:39-3 is currently \$22,400.00.

**Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative
Findings - Financial and Compliance**

SCHOOL PURCHASING PROGRAMS

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids (Continued)

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.

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.

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.

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.

**Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative
Findings - Financial and Compliance**

SCHOOL FOOD SERVICE FUND

School Food Service

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 as to whether the (SFA) had any Child Nutrition Program reimbursement overclaims or underclaims. No exceptions noted.

We also inquired of school management as to whether the SFA's expenditures of school food service revenues were limited to allowable direct and indirect costs. No exceptions noted.

The statement of revenues, expenses and charges in fund net position (ACFR exhibit B-5) does separate program and non-program revenue and program and non-program costs 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 PPPP loan was subsequently forgiven and the FSMC refunded or credited the applicable amounts to the SFA. No exceptions noted.

The financial transactions and statistical records of the school food service fund were reviewed. The financial accounts, meal count records were reviewed on a test-check basis. Cash receipts and bank records were reviewed for timely deposit. Expenditures should be separately recorded as food, labor and other costs. Vendor invoices were reviewed, and costs verified. Inventory records on food and supply items were currently maintained and properly applied in determining the cost of food and supplies used. The cash disbursements records reflected expenditures for program related goods and services. The appropriate revenue and expenditure records were maintained in order to substantiate the non-profit status of the school food service. Time sheets were reviewed, and labor costs verified. Payroll records were maintained without exception.

USDA Food Distribution Program (food and/or commodities) were received and a single inventory was maintained on a first-in, first-out basis. No exceptions were noted.

Our examination of the district's net cash resources calculation revealed:

2025-02 Finding: Our examination of the District's food service fund balances at year end revealed that the net cash resources exceeds three months average expenditures.

2025-02 Recommendation: That the District review procedures to ensure that net cash resources in the food service fund do not exceed three months average expenditures in compliance with 7CFR210:14.

**Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative
Findings - Financial and Compliance**

STUDENT BODY ACTIVITIES

A cash receipts and disbursement record was maintained in satisfactory condition.

APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID

Our audit procedures included a test of 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 that was included on the workpapers was verified with nominal exceptions.

PUPIL TRANSPORTATION

Our audit procedures included a test of on-roll status reported in the 2024-25 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. The bid specifications for the purchase of buses were in compliance with applicable statutes. No exceptions were noted in our review of transportation related purchases of goods and services.

FACILITIES AND CAPITAL ASSETS

Our procedures included review of transfers of local funds from the general fund or from the capital reserve account, awarding of contracts for eligible facilities construction, and the District's capital assets ledger. No exceptions noted.

TESTING FOR LEAD OF ALL DRINKING WATER IN EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Our procedures included examination and interviews regarding the district's compliance with N.J.A.C. 26-1.2 and 12.4 relating to the testing for lead in drinking water. 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). No exceptions were noted.

FOLLOW-UP ON PRIOR YEAR'S FINDINGS

There were no findings in prior year.

METUCHEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2024

	2023-24 Application for State School Aid										Sample for Verification										Private School for Handicapped																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
	Reported on A.S.S.A. as on Roll					Reported on Workpapers					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 Verfi- cation					Sample Verified																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																													
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	Shared	Full	Full	Shared	Full	Full	Shared	Full	Full	Shared	Full	Full	Shared	Full	Full	Shared	Full	Full	Shared	Full	Full	Shared	Full	Full	Shared	Full	Full	Shared	Full	Full	Shared	Full	Full	Shared	Full	Full

METUCHEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2024

	Low Income			Sample for Verification				Resident LEP Low Income			Sample for Verification		
	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 Application and Register	Sample Errors	
Half Day PreK 3 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Half Day PreK 4 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Full Day PreK 4 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Half Day K	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Full Day K	2	0	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
One	14	14	0	8	8	0	5	5	0	4	4	0	
Two	10	10	0	6	6	0	7	7	0	6	6	0	
Three	21	21	0	12	12	0	6	6	0	5	5	0	
Four	14	14	0	8	8	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	
Five	17	17	0	9	9	0	3	3	0	3	3	0	
Six	14	14	0	7	7	0	3	3	0	2	2	0	
Seven	13	13	0	8	8	0	3	3	0	2	2	0	
Eight	11	11	0	6	6	0	2	2	0	2	2	0	
Nine	11	11	0	6	6	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	
Ten	8	8	0	4	4	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	
Eleven	14	14	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Twelve	8	8	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Subtotal	157	155	-2	86	86	0	33	33	0	28	28	0	
SpEd Elementary	25	24	-1	14	14	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	
SpEd Middle School	14	14	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SpEd High School	20	20	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Subtotal	59	58	-1	33	33	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	
Totals	216	213	-3	119	119	0	34	34	0	29	29	0	
Percentage Error			-1.39%			0.00%			0.00%			0.00%	

Transportation

Reported on DRTS by DOE	Reported on DRTS by District		Errors		Tested		Verified		Errors	
Reg. Public Schools col.1	31	31	0	8	8	0	A1-A5			
Non Pub - AIL - Col.3	84	84	0	23	23	0	A7			
Reg. - SpEd, Col.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	A8			
Special Ed Spec, col.6	79	79	0	22	22	0	B1-B3, B-8			
Totals	194	194	0	53	53	0				
Percentage Error			0.00%							0.00%

METUCHEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2024

	Resident LEP NOT Low Income			Sample for Verification		
	Reported on A.S.S.A. as NOT Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as NOT Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application and Register	Sample Errors
Half Day Preschool 3 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Half Day Preschool 4 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Full Day PreK 4 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Half Day Kindergarten	6	6	0	6	6	0
Full Day Kindergarten	0	0	0	0	0	0
One	5	5	0	5	5	0
Two	4	4	0	3	3	0
Three	4	4	0	3	3	0
Four	4	4	0	3	3	0
Five	2	2	0	2	2	0
Six	5	5	0	4	4	0
Seven	4	4	0	3	3	0
Eight	3	2	-1	2	3	1
Nine	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ten	2	2	0	2	2	0
Eleven	1	1	0	1	1	0
Twelve	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	40	39	-1	34	35	1
SpEd Elementary	5	5	0	4	4	0
SpEd Middle School	0	0	0	0	0	0
SpEd High School	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal	5	5	0	4	4	0
Totals	45	44	(1)	38	39	1
Percentage Error			-2.22%			2.63%

BOROUGH OF METUCHEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF CALCULATION OF EXCESS SURPLUS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

SECTION 1

2% Calculation of Excess Surplus (2024-25 expenditures of \$100 million or less)

2024 - 2025 Total General Fund Expenditures	<u>56,274,276.84</u>	
Increased by:		
Transfer from Capital Outlay to Capital Projects Fund	<u>5,700,000.00</u>	
Transfer from Capital Reserve to Capital Projects Fund	<u>565,500.00</u>	
Decreased by:		
On-Behalf TPAF Pension & Social Security	<u>10,693,860.78</u>	
Adjusted 2024 - 2025 General Fund Expenditures		<u>51,845,916.06</u>
2% of Adjusted 2024 - 2025 General Fund Expenditures		<u>1,036,918.32</u>
Greater of line above or \$250,000.00		<u>1,036,918.32</u>
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment		<u>574,802.00</u>
Maximum Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance		<u><u>1,611,720.32</u></u>

SECTION 2

Total General Fund Balances @ 6-30-25	<u>12,511,335.43</u>	
Decreased by:		
Year End Encumbrances	<u>346,850.99</u>	
Legally Restricted-Excess Surplus-Designated For Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>2,609,555.50</u>	
Other Restricted Fund Balances (Capital Reserve, Maintenance Reserve, Emergency Reserve, Unemployment)	<u>6,343,208.62</u>	
Total Unreserved/Undesignated Fund Balance for Excess Surplus Calculation		<u>3,211,720.32</u>

SECTION 3

Restricted Fund Balance-Excess Surplus	<u><u>1,600,000.00</u></u>
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Recapitulation of excess surplus as of June 30, 2025

Restricted Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>2,609,555.50</u>
Restricted Excess Surplus	<u>1,600,000.00</u>
Total	<u><u>4,209,555.50</u></u>

Detail of Allowable Adjustments

Additional/Unbudgeted Extraordinary Aid	538,376.00
Additional/Unbudgeted Non-Public School Transportation Aid	<u>36,426.00</u>
	<u><u>574,802.00</u></u>

**Independent Auditor's Management Report of Administrative
Findings - Financial and Compliance**

It is recommended that:

1. Administrative Practices and Procedures
None
2. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting
2025-01 Recommendation: That all salary account reconciliations be done correctly and that the split between funds for all other funds be allocated correctly in accordance with district records.
3. School Purchasing Program
None
4. School Food Service
2025-02 Recommendation: That the District review procedures to ensure that net cash resources in the food service fund do not exceed three months average expenditures in compliance with 7CFR210:14.
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's Findings/Recommendations
Not Applicable

