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West New York School District's Preschool Program Improved Accuracy of Payments to Providers, Documentation for Food Program

TRENTON – A follow-up report released today by the Office of the State Comptroller finds that the West New York School District is properly administering payments to the providers of its preschool program, obtaining documentation to ensure preschool providers are eligible to participate in a federally-funded food program, and maintaining records in accordance with District policy.

In its original 2015 audit, OSC found weaknesses in how the District was processing payments to the preschool providers, resulting in incorrect transactions and delays in recouping funds from a provider who was improperly paid. West New York has since corrected those issues and properly administered more than \$24.5 million in payments to preschool providers in the time period OSC analyzed. Auditors from OSC also found that the West New York School District is obtaining documentation that ensures the eligibility of providers who participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program which provides meals to preschool children throughout the day.

Other areas of OSC's review found that the District made strides in following state rules around adopting corrective action plans after an audit or investigation. Finally, the District is now following its record retention policy for documents concerning the operation of its preschool program.

OSC's original audit report of the West New York School District Preschool Program can be found <u>here</u> and the follow-up report can be found <u>here</u>.

The Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) is an independent state agency that works to advance transparency and integrity throughout New Jersey government and to ensure taxpayer funds are spent efficiently and effectively. The OSC conducts audits and investigations of government agencies throughout New Jersey, reviews certain government contracts, and works to detect and prevent Medicaid fraud.

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