

**BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES
SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS -
FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE
JUNE 30, 2024**

**BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
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- FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE**

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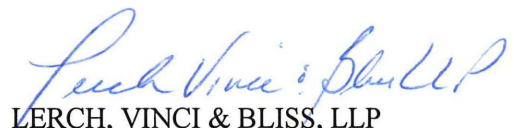
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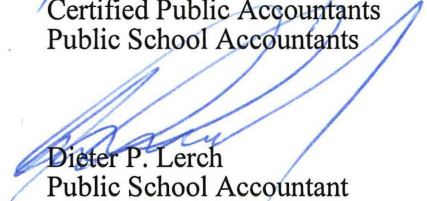
Honorable President and
Members of the Board of Education
Bergen County Special Services School District
Paramus, New Jersey

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 basic financial statements of the Bergen County Special Services School District as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated January 8, 2025.

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

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Board of Education, others within the District and the New Jersey State Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.


LERCH, VINCI & BLISS, LLP
Certified Public Accountants
Public School Accountants


Dieter P. Lerch
Public School Accountant
PSA Number CS00756

Fair Lawn, New Jersey
January 8, 2025

**BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Scope of Audit

The audit covered the financial transactions of the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, the activities of the Board of Education and the records of the various 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 the Insurance Schedule contained in the district's ACFR.

Official Bonds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
John Susino	Business Administrator/Board Secretary	\$ 10,000
Peter Bellani	Accounting Manager	10,000

All employees are covered by a blanket position bond and are part of the County of Bergen's Insurance Fund.

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 District and was submitted timely.

Tuition Charges

A comparison of tentative tuition charges and actual certified tuition charges was made. The actual costs were less than estimated costs. The Board made a proper adjustment to the billings to sending districts for the decrease in per pupil costs in accordance with NJAC 6A:23-3.1(f)3.

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 with the exception of the following:

Finding – Our audit of general construction contracts awarded through Job Order Contracting revealed that project estimates were not always approved timely for non-emergent projects. Furthermore, actual payments to the vendor were based upon the estimates received, not on actual work completed.

Recommendation – Construction contracts awarded through Job Order Contracting be approved timely for non-emergent projects and consideration be given to engage a District consultant to certify work completed prior to processing payments.

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 payroll taxes were deposited in the Payroll Agency Account.

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

**BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

Payroll Account (continued)

Salary withholdings were promptly remitted to the proper agencies, including health benefits premium amounts withheld due to General Fund.

Employee Position Control Roster

The Board has implemented and maintains a personnel tracking and accounting (Position Control) system.

Reserve for Encumbrances and 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: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. As a result of the procedures performed, a transaction error rate of 0% was noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

Board Secretary's Records

The financial records, books of account and minutes maintained by the Board Secretary were in good condition.

The prescribed contractual order system was followed.

Bids received were summarized in the minutes (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-21).

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

The original budget per the budget appropriation report did agree to the appropriations reflected in the adopted budget.

Unemployment Compensation Insurance Trust Fund

The Board has adopted the direct reimbursement method and has established an Unemployment Compensation Insurance Trust Fund. The financial transactions of this fund are reported in the General Fund.

**BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Continued)

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

The district's Special Projects were approved as listed on Exhibit K-3 and Exhibit K-4 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.

T.P.A.F. Reimbursements

Our audit procedures included a test of the semi-monthly 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.

T.P.A.F. Reimbursement to the State for Federal Salary Expenditures

The amount of expenditure charged to the current year's Final Report for all federal awards for the school district to reimburse the State for the TPAF/FICA payments made by the State on-behalf of the school district for those employees whose salaries are identified as being paid from federal funds was made prior to the end of the 90 day grant liquidation period required by the Office of Grants Management. The expenditure was reviewed subsequent to the reimbursement and no exceptions were noted.

School Purchasing Programs

Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids

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 Board has designated the Purchasing Manager as the Qualified Purchasing Agent. The law regulating bidding for public school student transportation contracts under N.J.S.A. 18A:39-3 is currently \$22,400.

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 Board 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.

The results of our examination indicated no instances where 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 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 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. Our examination did reveal, however, that purchases were made through the use of State contracts. However, the District does follow a rigorous policy where all purchases are publicly bid, quoted or bought through the use of state contracts.

**BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

School Food Service

SFA's 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 SFA's 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.

SFA's 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. No exception were noted.

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

The District utilized a food service management company (FSMC) and is depositing and expending program monies in accordance with N.J.S.A. Provisions of the FSMC contract were reviewed and audited. The FSMC contract included a stop-loss guarantee of \$108,705. The operating results provision has been met. All vendor discounts, rebates and credits from vendors and/or FSMC were tracked and credited to the Food Service Account and reconciled to supporting documentation at least annually.

U.S.D.A. Food Distribution Program Food and/or commodities were received and a separate inventory was maintained on a first-in, first-out basis. No exceptions were noted.

The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position (ACFR Schedule B-5) does separate program and non-program revenue and program and non-program cost of goods sold.

Exhibits reflecting Child Nutrition Program operations are included in the section of the ACFR entitled Enterprise Funds.

Regional Day School

The Board operates one Regional Day School as part of an agreement with the State of New Jersey.

Scholarship Accounts

The Board maintains scholarship accounts which are included in the Special Revenue Fund.

Cash receipts and disbursements records for the accounts were maintained in good condition.

Cash disbursements reviewed had proper supporting documentation.

Student Activity Accounts

The Board has a policy which clearly established the regulation of student activity funds. Cash receipts and disbursements records for the District's student activity accounts were maintained in satisfactory condition.

**BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE REPORTING
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Application for State School Aid

Our audit procedures included a test of information reported in the October 15, 2023 Application for State School Aid (A.S.S.A.) for students on-roll and low income. 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. 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 written procedures for the recording of student enrollment data.

Pupil Transportation

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. 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.

**BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOOD SERVICE FUND
SCHEDULE OF MEAL COUNT ACTIVITY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOT APPLICABLE

**BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOOD SERVICE ENTERPRISE FUND
CALCULATION OF NET CASH RESOURCES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Current Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 21,869
Due from Other Governments	16,581
Accounts Receivable	8,343

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	-
Unearned Revenue	(4,588)

Net Cash Resources	\$ 42,205
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Adjusted Total Operating Expense:

Total Operating Expenses	\$ 478,821
Less Depreciation	(1,677)

Adjusted Total Operating Expense	<u>\$ 477,144</u>
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<u>Average Monthly Operating Expense:</u>	<u>\$ 47,714</u>
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<u>Three Times Monthly Average:</u>	<u>\$ 143,143</u>
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Total Net Cash Resources	\$ 42,205
Three Times Monthly Average	<u>143,143</u>

Deficit in Net Cash Resources	<u>\$ (100,938)</u>
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BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES
A.S.S.A.
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
October 15, 2023

Special Education												
2023-2024 Application for State School Aid							Sample for Verification					
	Reported on A.S.S.A. On Roll		Reported on Workpapers On Roll		Errors		Sample Selected from Workpapers		Sample Verified		Sample Errors	
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared
Half Day Preschool - 3 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Half Day Preschool - 4 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Half Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Full Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1st Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2nd Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3rd Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spec Ed - Elementary	180		180		-	-	20		20		-	-
Spec Ed - Middle School	102		102		-	-	11		11		-	-
Spec Ed - High School	286	12.0	286	12	-	-	32		32		-	-
Subtotal	568	12.0	568	12	-	-	63	-	63	-	-	-
Totals	568	12	568	12	-	-	63	-	63	-	-	-
Percentage Error					0.00%	0.00%					0.00%	0.00%

BLESHPAN ON ROLL												
ASSA v Workpapers							Sample for Verification					
	Reported on A.S.S.A. On Roll		Reported on Workpapers On Roll		Errors		Sample Selected from Workpapers		Verified per Register On Roll		Errors per Registers On Roll	
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared
Spec Ed - Elementary	45		45		-	-	2		2		-	-
Spec Ed - Middle School	12		12		-	-	1		1		-	-
Spec Ed - High School	39		39		-	-	2		2		-	-
Subtotal	96	-	96	-	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	-
Totals	96	-	96	-	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	-
Percentage Error					0.00%	0.00%					0.00%	0.00%

BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES
A.S.S.A.
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
October 15, 2023

	Low Income			Sample for Verification			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 Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application and Register	Sample Errors
Half Day Pre-School (3 Yrs)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Half Day Pre-School (4 Yrs)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Half Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Full Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1st Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2nd Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3rd Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spec Ed - Elementary	88.0	88.0	-	18.0	18.0	-				-	-	-
Spec Ed - Middle School	69.0	69.0	-	14.0	14.0	-				-	-	-
Spec Ed - High School	132.0	132.0	-	27.0	27.0	-				-	-	-
Subtotal	289.0	289.0	-	59.0	59.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	289.0	289.0	-	59.0	59.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage Error		0.00%			0.00%			0.00%			0.00%	
Transportation												
	Reported on DRTS by DOE	Reported on DRTS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors						
Regular - Public Schools	-	-	-			-						
Transported - Non-Public						-						
Regular - Spec.						-						
Special Needs - Public			-			-						
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-						
		0.00%			0.00%							

BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES
A.S.S.A.
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS
October 15, 2023

	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 Register	Sample Errors
Half Day Pre-School (3 Yrs)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Half Day Pre-School (4 Yrs)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Half Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-
Full Day Kindergarten	-	-	-	-	-	-
1st Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-
2nd Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-
3rd Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-
4th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-
5th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-
6th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-
7th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-
8th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-
9th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-
10th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-
11th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-
12th Grade	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spec Ed - Elementary	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spec Ed - Middle School	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spec Ed - High School	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage Error						

NONE

**BERGEN COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS – FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Administrative Practices and Procedures

There are none.

II. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

1. It is recommended that construction contracts awarded through Job Order Contracting be approved timely for non-emergent projects and consideration be given to engage a District consultant to certify work completed prior to processing payments.

III. School Purchasing Program

There are none.

IV. Food Service Fund

There are none.

V. Internal Service Fund

There are none.

VI. Student Body Activities

There are none.

VII. Application for State School Aid

There are none.

VIII. Pupil Transportation

There are none.

IX. Status of Prior Years' Audit Findings/Recommendations

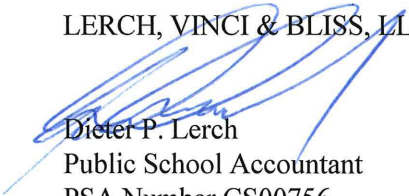
There were none.

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 our audit team.

Respectfully submitted,

LERCH, VINCI & BLISS, LLP



Dieter P. Lerch
Public School Accountant
PSA Number CS00756