

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
COUNTY OF BERGEN  
AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL,  
COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AUDITORS' MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS –  
FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024  
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October 16, 2024

The Honorable President and Members  
of the Board of Education  
Borough of Demarest School District  
County of Bergen, New Jersey

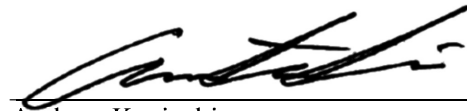
We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Board of Education of the Borough of Demarest School District in the County of Bergen for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated October 16, 2024.

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 16, 2024, on the financial statements of the Board.

We will review the status of the comments, during our next audit engagement. We have already discussed these 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 for the *information* of the Borough of Demarest School District's management and the New Jersey Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

NISIVOCIA LLP



Andrew Kucinski  
Certified Public Accountant  
Licensed Public School Accountant #2684

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE  
AND PERFORMANCE  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Scope of Audit

The audit covered the financial transactions of the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator and Treasurer, 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

Multi-peril insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed on Exhibit J-20, Insurance Schedule contained in the District's ACFR.

Officials in Office and Surety Bonds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Coverage</u>
Phil Nisonoff	Treasurer	\$ 300,000
Antoinette Kelly	Business Administrator/Board Secretary	300,000

The District also has Employee Dishonesty and Faithful Performance coverage through the Selective Insurance Company as detailed on Exhibit J-20 of the ACFR.

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 did include all health benefit plans offered by the District.

The District's data certification was completed by the Superintendent and the 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.

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 or supporting documentation.

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE  
AND PERFORMANCE  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024  
(Continued)

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (Cont'd)

Payroll Account and Position Control Roster

The net salaries of 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 tested were approved by the Superintendent and certified by the President of the Board, the School Business Administrator, and the Superintendent.

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

The required certification (E-CERT 1) of compliance with all documentation prepared for income tax related purposes of administrators (superintendent, assistant superintendent and business administrator) complying with the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations, was completed and submitted to the NJ Department of Treasury by the due date of March 15.

Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable

A review of outstanding issued purchase orders was made on a test basis as of June 30, 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-8.2. As a result of the procedures performed, no errors were noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classifications.

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.

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.

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

The E.S.E.A. financial exhibits are contained herein within the Special Revenue Section of the District's ACFR. This section of the ACFR documents the financial position pertaining to projects under Title II, Title III, and Title IV of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE  
AND PERFORMANCE  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024  
(Continued)

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 ACFR.

Our audit of the 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. Reimbursement

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

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, 2024. 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.

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 2023-24.

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE  
AND PERFORMANCE  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024  
(Continued)

School Purchasing Programs (Cont'd)

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

The Board of Education 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. General compliance was noted.

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 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.

Student Body Activities

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the Board, we considered the condition of the records of the Student Activities Fund 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.

Application for State School Aid

Our audit procedures included a test of enrollments and related services reported in the October 16, 2023 Application for State School Aid (A.S.S.A.) for on-roll, private schools for the disabled, low income and bilingual students. 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 work papers was verified on a test basis 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's written procedures for the recording of student enrollment data appear to be adequate.

Pupil Transportation

Our audit procedures included a test of on-roll status reported in the 2023-2024 District Report of Transported Resident Students (DRTRS). The information that was included on the DRTRS was verified on a test basis to the DRTRS Eligibility Summary Report without exception. The results of our procedures are presented in the Schedule of Audited Enrollments.

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE  
AND PERFORMANCE  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024  
(Continued)

Pupil Transportation (Cont'd)

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.

Facilities and Capital Assets

Our procedures included a review of the NJSDA grant agreements for consistency with recording NJSDA revenue, transfer of local funds from the General Fund or from the Capital Reserve Account and awarding of contracts for eligible facilities construction. No exceptions were noted.

Travel Expense and Reimbursement Policy

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

Our review of the travel policies and records revealed that the District was in compliance with the travel regulations.

Testing for Lead in Drinking Water of Education 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).

Management Suggestions:

COVID-19 Federal Funding

It is likely that the District will undergo some review of its COVID-19 federal funding if only at a desk review level by state and/or federal agencies. We strongly suggest that the District ensures that these funds are utilized in accordance with the applicable federal requirements especially with respect to procurement. Additionally, we strongly suggest that the District ensures that these funds are accounted for in the state account numbers designated by the NJ Department of Education and that any applicable Board policies are current with respect to federal grant requirements.

Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations

There were no prior year audit findings or recommendations.



BOROUGH OF DEMAREST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY  
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS  
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 16, 2023

	2024-2025 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		Verified per Registers On Roll		Errors per Registers On Roll	
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared
Full Day Preschool 3 Years Old	21		21				21		21			
Full Day Preschool 4 Years Old	34		34				34		34			
Full Day Kindergarten	71		71				71		71			
Grade One	52		52				52		52			
Grade Two	64		64				64		64			
Grade Three	70		70				70		70			
Grade Four	73		73				73		73			
Grade Five	85		85				85		85			
Grade Six	69		69				69		69			
Grade Seven	78		78				78		78			
Grade Eight	69		69				69		69			
Subtotal	686		686				686		686			
Special Ed - Elementary	45		45				5		5			
Special Ed - Middle School	32		32				3		3			
Subtotal	77		77				8		8			
Totals	763	- 0 -	763	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -	694	- 0 -	694	- 0 -	- 0 -	- 0 -
Percentage Error					0.00%	0.00%					0.00%	0.00%

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY  
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS  
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 16, 2023

	Private Schools for Disabled				Resident Low Income				
	Reported on A.S.S.A. as Private Schools	Sample for Verification	Sample Verified	Sample Errors	Reported on A.S.S.A. as Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as Low Income	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application and Register	Sample Errors
Full Day Kindergarten					1	1			
Grade One					1	1	1	1	
Grade Seven					1	1			
Grade Eight					2	2	1	1	
Subtotal					5	5	2	2	
Special Ed - Middle School	4	2	2						
Subtotal	4	2	2						
Totals	4	2	2	- 0 -	5	5	2	2	- 0 -
Percentage Error				0.00%					0.00%

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY  
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS  
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 16, 2023

	Resident LEP Low Income				
	Reported on A.S.A. as LEP Not Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as LEP Not Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Application Test Scores and Register
Full Day Kindergarten	1	1		1	1
Grade Eight	1	1		1	1
Totals	2	2	- 0 -	2	2
Percentage Error			0.00%		- 0 -
			0.00%		0.00%

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY  
SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS  
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 16, 2023

	Resident LEP Not Low Income					
	Reported on A.S.A. as LEP Not Low Income	Reported on Workpapers as LEP Not Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Test Scores and Register	Sample Errors
Full Day Kindergarten						
Grade Two	8	8		1	1	
Grade Three	3	3		1	1	
Grade Four	5	5				
Grade Five	5	5		1	1	
Grade Six	2	2				
Grade Seven	4	4				
Grade Eight	5	5		1	1	
Subtotal	1	1				
	33	33		4	4	
Totals	33	33	- 0 -	4	4	- 0 -
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY  
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 16, 2023

	Transportation				
	Reported on DRTRS by DOE	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified
Regular - Public Schools	3	3		2	2
Transported - Non Public	11	11		3	3
AIL - Non Public	17	17		5	5
Special Needs - Public	4	4		2	2
Special Needs -Private	4	4		2	2
Totals	39	39	- 0 -	14	14
Percentage Error			0.00%		- 0 -
			0.00%		0.00%

	Reported	Recalculated
Average Mileage - Regular Including Grade PK Students	4.9	4.9
Average Mileage - Regular Excluding Grade PK Students	4.9	4.9
Average Mileage - Special Education with Special Needs	9.2	9.2

**BOROUGH OF DEMAREST SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION**  
**FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**REGULAR DISTRICT**

**SECTION 1**

**2% Calculation of Excess Surplus**

2023-24 Total General Fund Expenditures per the ACFR, Ex. C-1	<u>\$ 21,368,457</u>	(B)
Increased by:		
Transfer from Capital Outlay to Capital Projects Fund	<u>\$ - 0 -</u>	(B1a)
Transfer from Capital Reserve to Capital Projects Fund	<u>\$ 3,200,000</u>	(B1b)
Decreased by:		
On-Behalf TPAF Pension and Social Security	<u>\$ 3,943,166</u>	(B2a)
Assets Acquired Under Leases and Financed Purchases	<u>\$ - 0 -</u>	(B2b)
Adjusted 2023-24 General Fund Expenditures [(B)+(B1's)-(B2's)]	<u><u>\$ 20,625,291</u></u>	(B3)
2% of Adjusted 2023-24 General Fund Expenditures [(B3) times .02]	<u>\$ 412,506</u>	(B4)
Enter Greater of (B4) or \$250,000	<u>\$ 412,506</u>	(B5)
Increased by: Allowable Adjustments	<u>\$ 263,417</u>	(K)
Maximum Unassigned Fund Balance [(B5)+(K)]		<u><u>\$ 675,923</u></u> (M)

**SECTION 2**

Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6/30/2024 (Per ACFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1)	<u>\$ 7,926,242</u>	(C )
Decreased by:		
Year-End Encumbrances	<u>\$ 126,490</u>	(C1)
Legally Restricted:		
Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>\$ - 0 -</u>	(C2)
Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>\$ 800,000</u>	(C3)
Other Restricted Fund Balances	<u>\$ 5,587,880</u>	(C4)
Assigned Fund Balance:		
Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>\$ 135,949</u>	(C5)
Total Unassigned Fund Balance [(C)-(C1)-(C2)-(C3)-(C4)-(C5)]		<u><u>\$ 1,275,923</u></u> (U1)

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024  
(Continued)

**SECTION 3**

Restricted Fund Balance - Excess Surplus [(U1)-(M)] IF NEGATIVE, ENTER -0- \$ 600,000 (E)

**Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2024**

Restricted Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures \$ 800,000 (C3)

Restricted Excess Surplus [(E)] \$ 600,000 (E)

Total Excess Surplus [(C3)+(E)] \$ 1,400,000 (D)

**Detail of Allowable Adjustments**

Impact Aid \$ - 0 - (H)

Sale & Lease-back \$ - 0 - (I)

Extraordinary Aid \$ 252,802 (J1)

Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid \$ 10,615 (J2)

Current Year School Bus Advertising Revenue Recognized \$ - 0 - (J3)

Family Crisis Transportation Aid \$ - 0 - (J4)

Supplemental Stabilization Aid (April 2024) & Maintenance of Equity Aid (July 2024) \$ - 0 - (J5)

Total Adjustments [(H)+(I)+(J1)+(J2)+(J3)+(J4)+(J5)] \$ 263,417 (K)

**Detail of Other Restricted Fund Balances**

Statutory Restrictions:

Approved Unspent Separate Proposal \$ - 0 -

Sale/Lease-back Reserve \$ - 0 -

Capital Reserve \$ 5,187,880

Maintenance Reserve \$ 400,000

Emergency Reserve \$ - 0 -

Tuition Reserve \$ - 0 -

School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve - Current Year \$ - 0 -

School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve - Prior Year \$ - 0 -

Impact Aid General Fund Reserve (Sections 8002 and 8003) \$ - 0 -

Impact Aid Capital Fund Reserve (Sections 8007 and 8008) \$ - 0 -

Other State/Government Mandated Reserves \$ - 0 -

Reserve for Unemployment Fund \$ - 0 -

Other Restricted Fund Balances Not Noted Above \$ - 0 -

Total Other Restricted Fund Balances \$ 5,587,880 (C4)

BOROUGH OF DEMAREST SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS  
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

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.     Student Body Activities  
None
6.     Application for State School Aid  
None
7.     Pupil Transportation  
None
8.     Facilities and Capital Assets  
None
9.     Status of Prior Year's Findings/Recommendations  
There were no prior year audit findings or recommendations.