

**ESSEX FELS SCHOOL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF ESSEX
NEW JERSEY**

**AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT
ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE
AND PERFORMANCE
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2024**

**SAMUEL KLEIN AND COMPANY, LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

**ESSEX FELS SCHOOL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF ESSEX
NEW JERSEY**

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

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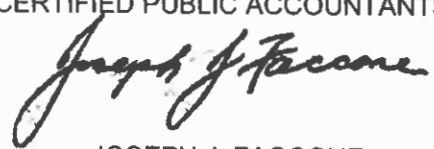
REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Honorable President and Members
of the Board of Education
Essex Fells School District
County of Essex, 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 Essex Fells School District in the County of Essex for the year ended June 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated December 11, 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 report is intended for the information of the Essex Fells 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.


SAMUEL KLEIN AND COMPANY, LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

JOSEPH J. FACCONI
Licensed Public School Accountant #194

Newark, New Jersey
December 11, 2024

ESSEX FELS SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Official Bonds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Steven J. Lella	Board Secretary/School Business Administrator	\$160,000.00
Marie Criscuolo	Treasurer of School Moneys	160,000.00

There is an Employee Dishonesty Bond with the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group covering all other employees in the amount of \$50,000.00.

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 school district.

The school district data certification was completed by the Chief School Administrator. The school district Chapter 44 data was submitted timely.

Tuition Charges

Not Applicable.

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.

In verifying expenditures, computations were tested on claims approved and paid. No attempt was made in this connection to establish proof of rendition, character or extent of services, nor quantities, nature, propriety of prices or receipt of materials, these elements being left necessarily to internal review in connection with approval of claims.

Payroll Account and Position Control Roster

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 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, including health benefits premium amounts withheld due to the general fund.

The propriety of deductions from individual salaries for Pensions, Social Security, Withholding Tax and other purposes was not verified as part of this examination.

Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable

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

All encumbrances, contracts, salaries and expenditures for state and federally funded projects were in accordance with laws and regulations and in conformity with procurement requirements.

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 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, a transaction error rate of 0% overall 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 accounts and minutes maintained by the Board Secretary were in satisfactory condition. The prescribed contractual order system was followed.

District funds were provided and expended in the proper GAAP account codes based upon audit testing of transactions.

Revenue and receipts were established and verified as to source and amount only insofar as the local records permitted.

Treasurer's Records

The Treasurer's records were found to be maintained properly.

Acknowledgment of the Board's receipt of the Treasurer's Report was included in the minutes.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act 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 Titles I and VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended and reauthorized.

The study of compliance for E.S.E.A. indicated that there were no areas of noncompliance and/or questioned costs.

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. Expenditures of federal awards did not meet the \$750,000.00 expenditure threshold requiring a federal single audit.

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.

The study of compliance for the special projects did not indicate any areas of noncompliance.

TPAF 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.

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

The bid threshold in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-2 is \$44,000.00 with a Qualified Purchasing Agent. The law regulating bidding for public school student transportation contracts under N.J.S.A. 18A:39-3 is \$20,200.00 for 2023-2024.

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 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 goods or services, 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.

School Food Service

Not Applicable.

Student Body Activities

Cash receipts and disbursement records were examined only insofar as the local records permitted. Our review of the student activity fund did not determine any exceptions.

Application for State School Aid

Our audit procedures included a test of information reported in the October 13, 2023 Application for State School Aid (ASSA) 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 ASSA 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 written procedures for the recording of student enrollment data.

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 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.

Facilities and Capital Assets

Accounting for capital assets is required in order to maintain physical accountability over the assets owned by a school. The accounting system should provide a record of the fixed assets obtained over the years that are still in service and identify the funding source for the purchase of those assets. This provides the ability to prevent, detect and recognize losses of capital assets. The New Jersey Department of Education notified school districts that, effective July 1, 2001, there is a \$2,000.00 capitalization threshold for capital assets. This is a policy set for financial reporting and accounting purposes. Schools may use a lower threshold for asset management and insurance purposes.

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 did submit the Annual Statement of Assurance to the Department of Education, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:26-12.4(g).


Follow-Up on Prior Years' Findings

Not Applicable

Acknowledgment

We received the complete cooperation of all the officials of the school district and greatly appreciate the courtesies extended to the members of the audit team.


SAMUEL KLEIN AND COMPANY, LLP
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS


JOSEPH J. FACCONI
Licensed Public School Accountant #194

Newark, New Jersey
December 11, 2024

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

ESSEX FELLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2023

	2024-2025 Application for State School Aid						Sample for Verification						Private Schools for Handicapped				
	Reported on		Reported on		Errors		Sample		Verified per		Errors per		Reported on		Sample for	Sample	Sample
	A.S.S.A		Workpapers				Selected from		Registers		Registers		A.S.S.A as				
	On-Roll		On-Roll				Workpapers		On-Roll		On-Roll		On-Roll		Private	Verification	Verified
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Schools				
Half Day Preschool 3 Years Old	14		14				8		8								
Half Day Preschool 4 Years Old	11		11				6		6								
Full Day Kindergarten	35		35				20		20								
One	23		23				13		13								
Two	27		27				15		15								
Three	34		34				19		19								
Four	21		21				12		12								
Five	26		26				15		15								
Six	29		29				17		17								
Sub-Total	220	-	220	-	-	-	125	-	125	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - Elementary	26		26				15		15				4	3	3		
Special Ed - Middle	1		1				1		1								
Sub-Total	27	-	27	-	-	-	16	-	16	-	-	-	4	3	3	-	-
Totals	247	-	247	-	-	-	141	-	141	-	-	-	4	3	3	-	-
Percentage Error					-	-					-	-					-

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

**ESSEX FELLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2023**

	Low Income						Sample for Verification						Resident LEP Low Income			Sample for Verification		
	Free Reported on A.S.S.A as Low Income	Reduced Reported on A.S.S.A as Low Income	Free Reported on Workpapers as Low Income	Reduced Reported on Workpapers as Low Income	Free Errors	Reduced Errors	Free Sample Selected from Workpapers	Reduced Sample Selected from Workpapers	Free Verified to Application and Register	Reduced Verified to Application and Register	Free Sample Errors	Reduced Sample Errors	Reported on A.S.S.A. as LEP Low Income	Reported on Workpapers LEP Low Income	Errors	Sample Selected from Workpapers	Verified to Test Score and Register	Sample Errors
Half Day Preschool 3 Years Old																		
Half Day Preschool 4 Years Old																		
Full Day Kindergarten																		
One																		
Two																		
Three																		
Four																		
Five																		
Six																		
Sub-Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Special Ed - Elementary																		
Special Ed - Middle																		
Sub-Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage Error					-	-					-	-			-			-

	Transportation						Reported	Recalculated
	Reported on DRTRS by DOE	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors		
Reg. - Public Schools, col. 1							6.1	6.1
Reg. - Special Education, col. 4								
Nonpublic Schools (AIL), col. 3	4.0	4.0	-	4.0	4.0	-		
Spec. - Special Needs, col. 6	1.0	1.0	-	1.0	1.0	-		
Totals	5.0	5.0	-	5.0	5.0	-	20.0	20.0
Percentage Error			-			-		

Regular Average Mileage = Regular Including Grade PK Students
Regular Average Mileage = Regular Excluding Grade PK Students
Special Average = Special Ed with Special Needs

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

ESSEX FELS SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2023

	<u>Resident LEP NOT Low Income</u>			<u>Sample for Verification</u>		
	<u>Reported on</u> <u>A.S.S.A. as</u> <u>NOT Low</u> <u>Income</u>	<u>Reported on</u> <u>Workpapers</u> <u>NOT Low</u> <u>Income</u>	<u>Errors</u>	<u>Sample</u> <u>Selected</u> <u>from</u> <u>Workpapers</u>	<u>Verified to</u> <u>Application</u> <u>and Register</u>	<u>Sample</u> <u>Errors</u>
Half Day Preschool 3 Years Old						
Half Day Preschool 4 Years Old						
Full Day Kindergarten						
One						
Two						
Three						
Four						
Five						
Six						
Sub-Total	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Special Ed - Elementary						
Special Ed - Middle						
Sub-Total	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Percentage Error			<u>-</u>			<u>-</u>

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

ESSEX FELLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2023

Military Connected Students			
Reported on A.S.S.A. as Military Connected Students	Sample for Verification	Sample Verified	Sample Errors
-	-	-	-

ESSEX FELS SCHOOL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF ESSEX
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION

REGULAR DISTRICT

SECTION 1

A. 2% Calculation of Excess Surplus

2023-24 Total General Fund Expenditures per the ACFR, Ex. C-1	\$ 7,648,483.19	
Decreased by:		
On-Behalf TPAF Pension and Social Security	<u>1,482,505.92</u>	
Adjusted 2023-24 General Fund Expenditures	<u>\$ 6,165,977.27</u>	
2% of Adjusted 2023-24 General Fund Expenditures (Times .02)	<u>\$ 123,319.55</u>	
Enter Greater of Above or \$250,000	\$ 250,000.00	
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment	<u>143,336.00</u>	
Maximum Unassigned/Undesignated-Unreserved Fund Balance		<u>\$ 393,336.00</u>

SECTION 2

Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6-30-24 (Per ACFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1)	\$ 1,614,892.13	
Decreased by:		
Year-End Encumbrances	<u>8,095.64</u>	
Legally Restricted - Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	<u>200,000.00</u>	
Other Restricted Fund Balances	<u>813,460.49</u>	
Total Unassigned Fund Balance		<u>\$ 593,336.00</u>

SECTION 3

Restricted Fund Balance - Excess Surplus	<u>\$ 200,000.00</u>
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ESSEX FELS SCHOOL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF ESSEX
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2024

Reserved Excess Surplus - Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ 200,000.00
Reserved Excess Surplus	<u>200,000.00</u>
Total Excess Surplus	<u><u>\$ 400,000.00</u></u>

Detail of Allowable Adjustments

Extraordinary Aid	<u>\$ 143,336.00</u>
Total Allowable Adjustments	<u><u>\$ 143,336.00</u></u>

Detail of Other Restricted Fund Balance

Capital Reserve	\$ 765,741.94
Reserve for Unemployment Fund	<u>47,718.55</u>
Total Other Restricted Fund Balance	<u><u>\$ 813,460.49</u></u>

ESSEX FELS SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Recommendations:

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. Follow-Up on Prior Years' Findings

Not Applicable