

HIGHLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2024

HIGHLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT AUDITOR'S MANAGEMENT REPORT ON ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Report of Independent Auditors	1
Scope of Audit	2
Administrative Practices and Procedures	
Insurance	2
Official Bonds	2
P.L. 2020,c.44	2
Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting	
Examination of Claims	2
Payroll Account and Position Control Roster	2
Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable	3
Classification of Expenditures	3
General Classifications	3
Administrative Classifications	3
Board Secretary's Records	3
Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)	3
Other Special Federal and/or State Projects	3
T.P.A.F. Reimbursement	3
School Purchasing Programs	
Contracts and Agreements Requiring Advertisement for Bids	4
School Food Service	4
Student Body Activities	5
Application for State School Aid (ASSA)	5
Pupil Transportation	5
Facilities and Capital Assets	5
Miscellaneous	5
Follow-up on Prior Year Findings	5
Acknowledgment	5
Schedule of Audited Enrollments	6 to 8
Excess Surplus Calculation	9 to 10
Audit Recommendations Summary	11

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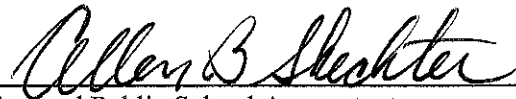
REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Honorable President and
Members of the Board of Education
Highlands School District
County of Monmouth, 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 Highlands School District in the County of Monmouth for the 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 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 Highlands 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.



Licensed Public School Accountant
No. 2183
ALVINO & SHECHTER, L.L.C.

January 8, 2025
Neptune, New Jersey

ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE

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

Official Bonds (N.J.S.A.18A:17-26, 18A:17-32, 18A:13-13)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Christopher J. Mullins	Board Secretary/School Business Administrator	\$200,000.00

There is a Public Employees' Faithful Performance Blanket Position Bond with Selective Insurance Company covering all other employees with multiple coverage of \$25,000.00.

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 school district.

The school district data certification was completed by the Board Secretary/School Business 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 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/School Business Administrator.

Salary withholdings were promptly remitted to the proper agencies.

Payrolls were delivered to the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator with a warrant made to his order for the full amount of each payroll.

An inquiry and subsequent review of the Position Control Roster found no inconsistencies between the payroll records, employee benefit records (e.g. pension reports and health benefit coverage reports), the general ledger accounts to where wages are posted (administrative versus instruction), and the Position Control Roster.

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

A. General Classification Findings

None

B. Administrative Classification Findings

None

Board Secretary's Records

The records of the Board Secretary were properly maintained during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (E.S.E.A.) 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 Title I and VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and reauthorized.

The study of compliance for E.S.E.A. indicated no areas of noncompliance and/or questionable 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.

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 indicated no areas of noncompliance.

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 amount of the expenditure charged to the current year's Final Report(s) 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:18-3(a) are \$44,000.00 (with a Qualified Purchasing Agent) and \$32,000.00 (without a Qualified Purchasing Agent), respectively. Christopher J. Mullins has been appointed as the qualified purchasing agent pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-9(b) and therefore the bid threshold has been increased to \$44,000.00 per statute. The law regulating bidding for public school student transportation under N.J.S.A. 18A:39-3 is currently \$22,400.00 for 2023-24.

The board of education has the responsibility of determining whether the expenditure 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.

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.

School Food Service

The financial transactions and statistical records of the school food service fund were reviewed. The financial accounts, meal count records and eligibility applications were reviewed on a test-check basis.

The School Food Service Fund has not been audited as a major program and has not expended \$100,000.00 or more in Federal and State support.

The number of meals claimed for reimbursement was verified against meal count records. As part of the claims review process the Edit Check Worksheet was completed. Reimbursement vouchers were timely filed, and meals claimed agreed with meal count records.

The Board of Education entered into a food service management contract (FSMC) with Maschio's Food Services, Inc., to operate the cafeteria for 2023/2024 school year.

Expenditures were separately recorded as food, labor and other costs. Vendor invoices were reviewed and costs verified. Inventory records on food supply items were currently maintained and properly applied in determining the cost of food and supplies used. The beginning and ending inventories were accepted as submitted.

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. Net cash resources did not exceed three months average expenditures.

We inquired if the FSMC applied for and received a loan in accordance with the Payroll Protection Plan and were informed they did not apply or receive a loan.

Food Distribution Program commodities were received and a separate inventory was maintained on a first-in, first-out basis. No exceptions were noted.

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

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

Student Body Activities

The financial transactions of the student activity funds were reviewed. No exceptions were noted.

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 on roll, private school for the handicapped, 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 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 enrollments.

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 service.

Facilities and Capital Assets

The fixed asset records were updated for any additions and disposals of assets made during the year.

Our procedures included a review of NJSDA grant agreements for consistency with recording NJSDA revenue, transfer from General fund or from Capital Reserve Account and awarding of contracts for eligible facilities construction.

Miscellaneous

Testing for Lead of All Drinking Water in Educational Facilities

The school district adhered to all 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 submitted 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 Year Findings

There were no prior year findings.

Acknowledgment

We received the complete cooperation of all the officials of the school district and we greatly appreciate the courtesies extended to us.

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

HIGHLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2023

	2024-2025 Application for State School Aid						Sample for Verification						Private Schools for Disabled					
	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		Reported on A.S.S.A. as Private Schools	Sample for Verifi- cation	Sample Verified	Sample Errors		
	Full	Shared	Full	Shared			Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared	Full	Shared				
Half Day Preschool-3yr																		
Half Day Preschool-4yr																		
Full Day Preschool-3yr	8		8				8		8									
Full Day Preschool-4yr	10		10				10		10									
Half Day Kindergarten																		
Full Day Kindergarten	15		15				15		15									
One	14		14				14		14									
Two	10		10				10		10									
Three	18		18				18		18									
Four	18		18				18		18									
Five	21		21				21		21									
Six	14		14				14		14									
Seven																		
Eight																		
Nine																		
Ten																		
Eleven																		
Twelve																		
Post-Graduate																		
Adult H.S. (15+CR.)																		
Adult H.S. (1-14 CR.)																		
Subtotal	128	0	128	0	0	0	128	0	128	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Special Ed - Elementary	26		26				26		26				1	1	1			
Special Ed - Middle School	6		6				6		6									
Special Ed - High School																		
Subtotal	32	0	32	0	0	0	32	0	32	0	0	0	1	1	1	0		
Co. Voc. - Regular																		
Co. Voc. Ft. Post Sec.																		
Totals	160	0	160	0	0	0	160	0	160	0	0	0	1	1	1	0		
Percentage Error					0.00%	0.00%					0.00%	0.00%					0.00%	

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

HIGHLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2023

	Resident 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 Test Score and Register	Sample Errors
Half Day Preschool-3yr												
Half Day Preschool-4yr												
Full Day Preschool-3yr												
Full Day Preschool-4yr												
Half Day Kindergarten												
Full Day Kindergarten	5	5		5	5		1	1		1	1	
One	3	3		3	3		1	1		1	1	
Two	5	5		5	5		1	1		1	1	
Three	8	8		8	8							
Four	3	3		3	3							
Five	5	5		5	5		1	1		1	1	
Six	6	6		6	6							
Seven												
Eight												
Nine												
Ten												
Eleven												
Twelve												
Post-Graduate												
Adult H.S. (15+CR.)												
Adult H.S. (1-14 CR.)												
Subtotal	35	35	0	35	35	0	4	4	0	4	4	0
Special Ed - Elementary	19	19		19	19		5	5		5	5	
Special Ed - Middle	2	2		2	2							
Special Ed - High												
Subtotal	21	21	0	21	21	0	5	5	0	5	5	0
Co. Voc. - Regular												
Co. Voc. Ft. Post Sec.												
Totals	56	56	0	56	56	0	9	9	0	9	9	0
Percentage Error			0.00%			0.00%			0.00%			0.00%

Transportation							
Reported on DRTRS by DOE/County	Reported on DRTRS by District	Errors	Tested	Verified	Errors	Reported	Recalculated
Reg. - Public Schools, col. 1	2		2	2		7.4	7.4
Reg - SpEd, col. 4						0	7.4
Non-Public AIL, col 3	8		8	8			0
Transported - Non-Public, col. 2							
Special Ed Spec, col. 6							
Totals	10	0	10	10	0		
Percentage Error		0.00%			0.00%		

Reg Avg.(Mileage) = Regular Including Grade PK students (Part A)
Reg Avg.(Mileage) = Regular Excluding Grade PK students (Part A)
Spec Avg. = Special Ed with Special Needs

HIGHLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT
APPLICATION FOR STATE SCHOOL AID SUMMARY
ENROLLMENT AS OF OCTOBER 15, 2023

SCHEDULE OF AUDITED ENROLLMENTS

	<u>Resident LEP NOT Low Income</u>			<u>Sample for Verification</u>		
	<u>Reported on A.S.S.A. as NOT Low Income</u>	<u>Reported on Workpapers as NOT Low Income</u>	<u>Errors</u>	<u>Sample Selected from Workpapers</u>	<u>Verified to Application and Register</u>	<u>Sample Errors</u>
Half Day Preschool-3yr						
Half Day Preschool-4yr						
Full Day Preschool-3yr						
Full Day Preschool-4yr						
Half Day Kindergarten						
Full Day Kindergarten	1	1		1	1	
One						
Two						
Three						
Four						
Five						
Six						
Seven						
Eight						
Nine						
Ten						
Eleven						
Twelve						
Post-Graduate						
Adult H.S. (15+CR.)						
Adult H.S. (1-14 CR.)						
Subtotal	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Special Ed - Elementary	1	1		1	1	
Special Ed - High						
Subtotal	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Co. Voc. - Regular						
Co. Voc. Ft. Post Sec.						
Totals	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>
Percentage Error			<u>0.00%</u>			<u>0.00%</u>

EXCESS SURPLUS CALCULATION

REGULAR DISTRICT

SECTION 1

A. 2% Calculation of Excess Surplus

2023-2024 Total General Fund Expenditures per the ACFR, Ex. C-1	\$ <u>5,616,266.77</u> (B)
Increased by Applicable Operating Transfers:	
Transfer from Capital Outlay to Capital Projects Fund	\$ <u>240,000.00</u> (B1a)
Transfer from Capital Reserve to Capital Projects Fund	\$ _____(B1b)
Transfer from General Fund to SRF for Pre K - Regular	\$ <u>44,007.00</u> (B1c)
Transfer from General Fund to SRF for Pre K - Inclusion	\$ _____(B1d)
Decreased by:	
On-Behalf TPAF Pension & Social Security	\$ <u>1,196,356.81</u> (B2a)
Assets Acquired Under Capital Leases	\$ _____(B2b)
Adjusted 2023-2024 General Fund Expenditures [(B)+(B1s)-(B2s)]	\$ <u>4,703,916.96</u> (B3)
2% of Adjusted 2023-2024 General Fund Expenditures [(B3) times .02]	\$ <u>94,078.34</u> (B4)
Enter Greater of (B4) or \$250,000	\$ <u>250,000.00</u> (B5)
Increased by: Allowable Adjustment	\$ <u>30,791.00</u> (K)
Maximum Unassigned/Undesignated - Unreserved Fund Balance [(B5)+(K)]	\$ <u>280,791.00</u> (M)

SECTION 2

Total General Fund - Fund Balances @ 6-30-24 (Per ACFR Budgetary Comparison Schedule C-1)	\$ <u>3,148,161.28</u> (C)
Decreased by:	
Year-End Encumbrances	\$ <u>334,826.95</u> (C1)
Legally Restricted-Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ _____(C2)
Legally Restricted-Excess Surplus-Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ <u>490,864.87</u> (C3)
Other Restricted Fund Balances	\$ <u>1,001,968.10</u> (C4)
Assigned Fund Balance-Unreserved-Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ _____(C5)
Total Unassigned Fund Balance [(C)-(C1)-(C2)-(C3)-(C4)-(C5)]	\$ <u>1,320,501.36</u> (U1)

SECTION 3

Restricted Fund Balance-Excess Surplus [(U1)-(M)] IF NEGATIVE ENTER -0- \$1,039,710.36(E)

Recapitulation of Excess Surplus as of June 30, 2024

Restricted Excess Surplus-Designated for Subsequent Year's Expenditures	\$ <u>490,864.87(C3)</u>
Restricted Excess Surplus [(E)]	\$ <u>1,039,710.36(E)</u>
Total Excess Surplus [(C3)+(E)]	\$ <u>1,530,575.23(D)</u>

Detail of Allowable Adjustments

Impact Aid	\$ _____(H)
Sales & Lease-back	\$ _____(I)
Extraordinary Aid	\$ <u>27,151.00(J1)</u>
Additional Nonpublic School Transportation Aid	\$ <u>3,640.00(J2)</u>
Current Year School Bus Advertising Revenue Recognized	\$ _____(J3)
Family Crisis Transportation Aid	\$ _____(J4)
Supplemental Stabilization Aid & Maintenance of Equity Aid	\$ _____(J5)
Total Adjustments [(H)+(I)+(J1)+(J2)+(J3)+(J4)+(J5)]	\$ <u>30,791.00(K)</u>

Detail of Other Restricted Fund Balance

Statutory restrictions:	
Approved unspent separate proposal	\$ _____
Sale/lease-back reserve	\$ _____
Capital reserve	\$ <u>824,027.86</u>
Maintenance reserve	\$ <u>177,940.24</u>
Emergency reserve	\$ _____
Tuition reserve	\$ _____
School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve - current year	\$ _____
School Bus Advertising 50% Fuel Offset Reserve - prior year	\$ _____
Impact Aid General Fund Reserve (Sections 8002 and 8003)	\$ _____
Impact Aid Capital Fund Reserve (Sections 8007 and 8008)	\$ _____
Other state/government mandated reserve	\$ _____
Reserve for Unemployment Fund	\$ _____
Other Restricted Fund Balance not noted above	\$ _____
Total Other Restricted Fund Balance	\$ <u>1,001,968.10(C4)</u>

HIGHLANDS SCHOOL DISTRICT
AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Recommendations:

1. Administrative Practices and Procedures

None

2. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

None

3. School Purchasing Programs

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. Miscellaneous

None

10. Follow-up on Prior Year Findings

None