

OCEAN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

COUNTY OF OCEAN, NEW JERSEY

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

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

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

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

Honorable President and
Members of the Board of Trustees
Ocean Academy Charter School
County of Ocean, 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 Ocean Academy Charter School in the County of Ocean for the year ended June 30, 2024, and have issued our report thereon dated December 23, 2024.

As part of our audit, we performed procedures required by the New Jersey Department of Education, 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 Ocean Academy Charter School's management and the New Jersey Department of Education. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Respectfully submitted,

Jump, Perry and Company, L.L.P.
Toms River, New Jersey

Kathryn Perry, Partner
Public School Accountant
No. CS 20CS00226400

December 23, 2024

ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS - FINANCIAL, COMPLIANCE AND PERFORMANCE

Scope of Audit

The audit covered the financial transactions of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the activities of the Charter School, and the records of the various funds under the auspices of the Charter School.

Administrative Practices and Procedures

Insurance

Fire insurance coverage was carried in the amounts as detailed on Exhibit J-20, Insurance Schedule contained in the charter school ACFR.

Official Bonds

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Valarie Smith	Board Secretary	\$ 180,000

Finding 2024-001:

During our review of the charter school's records, it was noted that the Charter School official did not have enough surety bond coverage for its School Business Administrator as required in the schedule set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.4.

Recommendation:

The Charter School should obtain surety bond with enough coverage for its School Business Administrator as required in the schedule set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.4.

There is a Public Employees' Faithful Performance Blanket Position Bond covering all other employees with multiple coverage of \$500,000.

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 charter school data certification was not completed by the chief school administrator. The charter school Chapter 44 data was not submitted timely.

Tuition Charges

N/A

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.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (cont'd)

Payroll Account

The net salaries of all employees of the Charter School 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 Head of School/Board Secretary and were certified by the President of the Board, and the Business Administrator.

Salary withholdings were promptly remitted to the proper agencies, including health benefits.

Payrolls were delivered to the secretary of the board who then deposited with warrants in separate bank accounts for net payroll and withholdings.

Employee Position Control Roster

A review of the Position Control Roster was made and found proper and consistent financial reporting, and that employee benefits are offered only to current employees and their eligible relations.

Reserve for Encumbrances and Accounts Payable

A review of outstanding issued purchase orders was made as of June 30, 2024 for proper classification of orders as reserve for encumbrances and accounts payable.

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 is not exceeded. The regulations also require that all travel be preapproved by the Board of Education and that the approval must be itemized by event, event total cost, and individuals attending.

Findings 2024-002* (ACFR Finding 2024-001):

During our review of the charter school's records, it was noted that travel expenditures did not have prior approval by a majority of the full voting membership of the Board.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that travel expenditures have prior approval by a majority of the Board.

Findings 2024-003*:

The charter school did not obtain written approval of the Executive County Superintendent for a travel events that exceeded \$5,000 as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.9.

Recommendations:

The charter school should implement a process for submitting request for approval to the Executive County Superintendent at least 10 working days in advance of a travel event with a total cost exceeding \$5,000.

Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting (cont'd)

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 0.0 percent overall was noted and no additional procedures were deemed necessary to test the propriety of expenditure classification.

Board Secretary's Records

Our review of the financial and accounting records maintained by the board secretary disclosed the following items.

Findings 2024-004*:

During our review of the charter school's records, it was noted that charter school is not maximizing its efforts under the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program for obtaining federal funding for special education services.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that charter school should establish procedures to ensure that it maximizes its efforts under SEMI for obtaining federal reimbursement for special education services.

Treasurer's Records

The following items were noted during our review of the records of the board secretary.

No findings.

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 projects under the Titles I and VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as amended and preauthorized.

Other Special Federal and/or State Projects

The Charter School's Special Projects were approved as listed on Schedule K-3 and Schedule 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 Single Audit 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 quarterly reimbursement filed with the Department of Education for district employees who are members of the Teacher's Pension and Annuity Fund. No exceptions were noted.

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

The amount of the expenditure charged to the current year's Final Report(s) for all federal awards for the charter school to reimburse the State for the TPAF/FICA payments made by the State on-behalf of the charter school for those employees whose salaries are identified as being paid from federal funds was made subsequent to the end of the 60 day grant liquidation period, but prior to the 90 days 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

N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 states:

1. 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 (C.40A:11-9) 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.
2. 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 the 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.

Any contract made pursuant to this section may be awarded for a period of 24 consecutive months, except that contracts for professional services pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection a. of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5 may be awarded for a period not exceeding 12 consecutive months.

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 \$22,400 for 2023-2024.

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 questions arise 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.

Findings 2024-005 (ACFR Finding 2024-002):

During our review of the charter school's records, it was noted that two vendors paid in excess of the bid threshold for sidewalk installation and installation of the classroom trailer were not bid or awarded a contract by the state or approved cooperative purchasing agreement.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the charter school implement control policies to ensure contracts/purchases paid in excess of the bid threshold be formally bid or awarded through an approved state contract or cooperative purchasing agreement.

School Food Service

SFAs 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 SFAs 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.

SFAs 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. Required comments for a School Food Service Program that has not been audited as a major program, but has expended \$100,000 or more in federal and/or state support.

The school food service 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 exceptions were noted.

We also inquired of school management, or appropriate school food service personnel, as to whether the SFA's expenditures of school food service revenues were limited to allowable direct and indirect costs. 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 costs of goods sold.

We inquired of management about the public health emergency procedures/practices that the SFA instituted to provide meals to all students, maintenance of all applicable production records; meal counts; noncompetitive procurements; modification of existing contracts and applicable financial records to document the specific costs applicable to the emergency operations. We also inquired if the FSMC received a loan in accordance with the Payroll Protection Plan and whether the funds were used to pay for costs applicable to the Food Service Programs. We also inquired if the PPP loan was subsequently forgiven and the FSMC refunded or credited the applicable amounts to the SFA.

School Food Service (cont'd)

Net cash resources did not exceed three months average expenditures.

Time sheets were reviewed, and labor costs verified. Payroll records were maintained on all School Food Services employees authorized by the board of education. No exceptions were noted.

The number of meals claimed for reimbursement was compared to sales and meal count records. As part of the claims review process the Edit Check Worksheet was completed. Reimbursement claims were submitted/certified in a timely manner.

Applications for free and reduced price meals were reviewed for completeness and accuracy. The number of free and reduced price meals claimed as served was compared to the number of valid applications / or to the list of directly certified students on file, times the number of operating days, on a school-by-school basis. The free and reduced price meal and free milk policy was reviewed for uniform administration throughout the school system. Sites approved to participate in Provisions I and II were examined for compliance with all counting and claiming requirements. The required verification procedures for free and reduced price applications were completed and available for review.

USDA Food Distribution Program (food and/or commodities) were received. No exceptions were noted.

Student Body Activities

During our review of the student activity funds, no exceptions noted.

Enrollment Counts and Submission to the Department

Our audit procedures included a test of enrollment information reported on October 13, 2023 and the last day of school for on-roll, special education, bilingual and low-income.

The Charter School maintained written procedures that appear to be adequate for the recording of student enrollment data.

Pupil Transportation

N/A

Facilities and Capital Assets

N/A

Miscellaneous

Testing For Lead Of All Drinking Water In Educational Facilities

The charter school 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 charter school 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

In accordance with government auditing standards, our procedures included a review of all prior year recommendations. Corrective action has been taken on all prior year findings. Findings marked with an asterisk (*) indicate repeat findings.

Acknowledgment

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

**OCEAN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
APPLICATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOL AID
ENROLLMENT COUNT AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2023**

Submission to DOE reported				50% Verification					Submission to DOE Reported Special Ed/					Low		
Grades	On Roll	Reported on workpapers	Errors	<i>required</i>	Verified signed registration forms	Errors	Verified # days enrolled	Errors	Bilingual	Verified documentation	Errors	Verified # days Service Provided	Errors	Income	Verified documentation	Errors
Kindergarten	59	59	0	30	30	0	30	0	35	35	0	35	0	55	55	0
One	66	66	0	33	33	0	33	0	50	50	0	50	0	60	60	0
Two	59	59	0	30	30	0	30	0	46	46	0	46	0	54	54	0
Three	60	60	0	30	30	0	30	0	50	50	0	50	0	55	55	0
Four	57	57	0	29	29	0	29	0	39	39	0	39	0	48	48	0
Five	59	59	0	30	30	0	30	0	26	26	0	26	0	54	54	0
Six	57	57	0	29	29	0	29	0	20	20	0	20	0	51	51	0
Seven	49	49	0	25	25	0	25	0	16	16	0	16	0	47	47	0
Eight	32	32	0	16	16	0	16	0	13	13	0	13	0	30	30	0
Total	498	498	0	252	252	0	252	0	295	295	0	295	0	454	454	0
Percentage			0.0%			0%		0%			0%		0%			0%

**OCEAN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
APPLICATION FOR CHARTER SCHOOL AID
ENROLLMENT COUNT AS OF LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

Submission to DOE reported									Submission to DOE Reported							
Grades	On Roll	Reported on workpapers	Errors	50% Verification required	Verified signed registration forms	Errors	Verified # days enrolled	Errors	Special Ed/ Bilingual	Verified documentation	Errors	Verified # days Service Provided	Errors	Low Income	Verified documentation	Errors
Kindergarten	58	58	0	29	29	0	29	0	35	35	0	35	0	54	54	0
One	65	65	0	33	33	0	33	0	47	47	0	47	0	57	57	0
Two	58	58	0	29	29	0	29	0	46	46	0	46	0	53	53	0
Three	59	59	0	30	30	0	30	0	48	48	0	48	0	54	54	0
Four	58	58	0	29	29	0	29	0	39	39	0	39	0	48	48	0
Five	59	59	0	30	30	0	30	0	26	26	0	26	0	54	54	0
Six	57	57	0	29	29	0	29	0	20	20	0	20	0	51	51	0
Seven	49	49	0	25	25	0	25	0	16	16	0	16	0	47	47	0
Eight	31	31	0	16	16	0	16	0	13	13	0	13	0	29	29	0
Total	494	494	0	250	250	0	250	0	290	290	0	290	0	447	447	0
Percentage			0.0%			0%		0%			0%		0%			0%

OCEAN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
AUDIT RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

It is recommended that:

1. Administrative Practices and Procedures

Finding 2024-001

The Charter School should obtain surety bond with enough coverage for its School Business Administrator as required in the schedule set forth in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.4.

2. Financial Planning, Accounting and Reporting

Findings 2024-002* (ACFR Finding 2024-001)

It is recommended that travel expenditures have prior approval by a majority of the Board.

Findings 2024-003*

The charter school should implement a process for submitting request for approval to the Executive County Superintendent at least 10 working days in advance of a travel event with a total cost exceeding \$5,000.

Findings 2024-004*

It is recommended that charter school should establish procedures to ensure that it maximizes its efforts under SEMI for obtaining federal reimbursement for special education services.

3. School Purchasing Program

Findings 2024-005 (ACFR Finding 2024-002)

It is recommended that the charter school implement control policies to ensure contracts/purchases paid in excess of the bid threshold be formally bid or awarded through an approved state contract or cooperative purchasing agreement.

4. School Food Service

None

5. Student Body Activities

None

6. Application for State School Aid

None

OCEAN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
AUDIT RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

It is recommended that (cont'd):

7. Pupil Transportation

None

8. Facilities and Capital Assets

None

9. Miscellaneous

None

10. Status of Prior Year Findings/Recommendations

In accordance with government auditing standards, our procedures included a review of all prior year recommendations. Corrective action has been taken on all prior year findings.