



# Washington State Auditor's Office

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## Accountability Audit Report

# Walla Walla School District No. 140

Walla Walla County

For the period September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014

Published May 28, 2015

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## Washington State Auditor

May 28, 2015

Board of Directors  
Walla Walla School District No. 140  
Walla Walla, Washington

### Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The State Auditor's Office takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for District operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

The attached comprises our report on the District's compliance and safeguarding of public resources. Our independent audit report describes the overall results and conclusions for areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and we value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

JAN M. JUTTE, CPA, CGFM  
ACTING STATE AUDITOR  
OLYMPIA, WA

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## AUDIT SUMMARY

### Results in brief

In the areas we audited, District operations complied with applicable requirements and provided adequate safeguarding of public resources. The District also complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures in the areas we examined.

### About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of Walla Walla School District No. 140 from September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

Our audit involved performing procedures to obtain evidence about the District's uses of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity or area. Instead, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. The following areas were examined during this audit period:

- Accounting/financial reporting
- Financial condition
- Cash receipting
- Teacher education and experience (staff mix) reporting
- Use of restricted funds

## RELATED REPORTS

### Financial

Our opinion on the District's financial statements and compliance with federal grant program requirements is provided in a separate report issued in May 2015, which includes the District's financial statements. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

### Federal grant programs

We evaluated internal controls and tested compliance with the federal program requirements, as applicable, for the District's major federal programs, which are listed in the Federal Summary section of the financial statement and single audit report issued in May 2015. That report includes a federal finding regarding controls over procurement in the Title I program. That report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

### Special investigations

We noted certain matters that we communicated to District management in a letter dated May 2015, relating to loss of public funds through payroll over-reporting. We appreciate the District's commitment to resolving those matters.

### Other reports

We have conducted a separate audit to examine the District's compliance with Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) requirements. A separate report will be issued and will be available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>. That separately issued report also includes the status of findings contained in the prior year audit Report No. 1008102, dated August 6, 2012, relating to the District's compliance with ALE requirements.

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Walla Walla School District No. 140 provides a full range of school programs and services including elementary, middle school, high school, vocational education, bilingual education, special education, pupil transportation and food services. The District operates 10 schools and serves over 6,000 students in Walla Walla County.

An elected, five-member Board of Directors governs the District. Board Members serve staggered, four-year terms. The Board appoints a Superintendent who is responsible for day-to-day operations and oversees its staff of approximately 400 certificated and 360 classified employees. During the 2013-2014 school year, the District's operated on a budget of \$76 million.

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*Information current as of report publish date.*

### Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for Walla Walla School District No. 140 at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

## ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

The State Auditor's Office is established in the state's Constitution and is part of the executive branch of state government. The State Auditor is elected by the citizens of Washington and serves four-year terms.

We work with our audit clients and citizens to achieve our vision of government that works for citizens, by helping governments work better, cost less, deliver higher value, and earn greater public trust.

In fulfilling our mission to hold state and local governments accountable for the use of public resources, we also hold ourselves accountable by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency and developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an elected agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits and investigations. Our audits are designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with state, federal and local laws on the part of all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits of state agencies and local governments as well as [fraud](#), state [whistleblower](#) and [citizen hotline](#) investigations.

The results of our work are widely distributed through a variety of reports, which are available on our [website](#) and through our free, electronic [subscription](#) service.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously, and provide training and technical assistance to governments, and have an extensive quality assurance program.

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