Washington State Auditor's Office

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Accountability Audit Report

United Schools Insurance Program

Grant County

For the period September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2015

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Washington State Auditor's Office

May 26, 2016

Board of Directors
United Schools Insurance Program
Ephrata, 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 Pool 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 Pool'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,

TROY KELLEY

STATE AUDITOR

OLYMPIA, WA

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AUDIT SUMMARY

Results in brief

In the areas we audited, Pool operations complied with applicable requirements and provided adequate safeguarding of public resources. The Pool 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 the United Schools Insurance Program from September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2015.

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 Pool'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:

- Third Party Administrator (TPA) and Brokerage Contract compliance with Washington Administrative Codes (WACs)
- Third Party Administrator Contract expenses
- Disbursements

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

Our opinion on the Pool's financial statements is provided in a separate report, which includes the Pool's financial statements. That report is available on our website, http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE POOL

The Eastern Washington School District Insurance Group was formed through an interlocal agreement in 1985 to allow the joint purchase of insurance, joint self-insuring, joint hiring or contracting for risk management services and purposes, and claims administration. On March 15, 2004, the group changed its name to the United Schools Insurance Program. The Pool has approximately 155 member districts. The Pool is regulated by the Local Government Self-Insurance Program Division of the state Department of Enterprise Services.

An elected, nine-member Board of Directors governs the Pool. Board Members serve staggered, three-year terms. The Pool has no employees of its own, but contracts with a private firm for claims administration and risk management services. For fiscal years 2014 and 2015, the Pool's operating expenses were approximately $12.4 million and $12.8 million, respectively.

Contact information related to this report

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Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the United Schools Insurance Program 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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