Washington State Auditor's Office

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Accountability Audit Report

Peninsula School District No. 401

Pierce County

For the period September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015

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Board of Directors
Peninsula School District No. 401
Gig Harbor, 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,

TROY KELLEY
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 Peninsula School District No. 401 from September 1, 2014 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 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:

- Student enrollment reporting – career and technical education
- Self insurance
- Open public meeting minutes
- Associated Student Body cash receipting
- Payroll/personnel
- Credit card disbursements
- Cash receipting
- Legal authority for actions taken
- Online fundraising

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

Our opinion on the District's financial statements and compliance with federal grant program requirements is provided in a separate report, 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 Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs section of the separate financial statement and single audit report. That report is available on our website, http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch.

Other reports

We have conducted a separate audit to examine the District's compliance with Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) requirements. That report is available on our website, http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISTRICT

Peninsula School District No. 401, located in Pierce County, provides educational services to about 8,700 students in pre-school through 12th grade. The District provides services out of 15 schools.

An elected, five-member Board of Directors governs the District. Board Members serve staggered, four-year terms. The Board appoints a Superintendent to oversee the District's daily operations as well as its approximately 1,200 employees. For fiscal year 2015, the District operated on a combined budget of more than $98 million.

Contact information related to this report

Address:	Peninsula School District No. 401 14015 62nd Avenue N.W. Gig Harbor, WA 98335
Contact:	Karen Andersen, Chief Financial Officer
Telephone:	(253) 530-1000
Website:	www.psd401.net

Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for Peninsula School District No. 401 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.

Contact information for the State Auditor's Office

Public Records requests	PublicRecords@sao.wa.gov
Main telephone	(360) 902-0370
Toll-free Citizen Hotline	(866) 902-3900
Website	www.sao.wa.gov