



**Office of the Washington State Auditor**  
**Pat McCarthy**

**Accountability Audit Report**  
**Suquamish Indian Tribe**  
**(Chief Kitsap Academy)**

**For the period September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2018**

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**Office of the Washington State Auditor  
Pat McCarthy**

July 23, 2020

Chief Kitsap Academy  
Suquamish, Washington

**Report on Accountability**

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The Office of the Washington State Auditor 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 Tribal School operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

Attached is our independent audit report on the Tribal School's compliance with applicable requirements and safeguarding of public resources for the areas we examined. We appreciate the opportunity to work with your staff and we value your cooperation during the audit.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy

State Auditor

Olympia, WA

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## AUDIT RESULTS

### Results in brief

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, Tribal School operations complied, in all material respects, with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies, and provided adequate controls over the safeguarding of public resources.

In keeping with general auditing practices, we do not examine every transaction, activity, policy, internal control, or area. As a result, no information is provided on the areas that were not examined.

### About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of the Chief Kitsap Academy from September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2018.

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.

This audit was conducted under the authority of RCW 43.09.260, which requires the Office of the State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all local governments. Our audit involved obtaining evidence about the Tribal School's use of public resources, compliance with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures, and internal controls over such matters. The procedures performed were based on our assessment of risks in the areas we examined.

Based on our risk assessment for the years ended August 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. We examined the following areas during this audit period:

- Basic enrollment reporting – review support for students counts
- Special education enrollment reporting – review for students eligibility
- Teacher (staff mix) reporting – support for education and experience of staff
- Transportation – review support for ridership counts
- General revenue and expenditures – state funding and amounts paid to vendors
- Payroll – support for amounts paid to certificated staff

## INFORMATION ABOUT THE TRIBAL SCHOOL

The Suquamish Tribal Education Department No. 902 established Chief Kitsap Academy in September 2014 as the first of three Washington State Tribal Compact Schools, located in Kitsap County. For school year 2018, Chief Kitsap Academy served approximately 73 students from six through 12th grade. The Suquamish Tribal Education Department campus operates a single 6-12 school, which includes middle school, and high school programs.

The school received approximately 1.7 million in direct state funding for fiscal year 2018. As a sovereign nation, the Suquamish Tribal Council has the ultimate control over the educational needs of the students attending the Chief Kitsap Academy.

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*Information current as of report publish date.*

### Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Chief Kitsap Academy 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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