



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report

Washington Schools Risk Management Pool

For the period September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020

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

May 6, 2021

Executive Board
Washington Schools Risk Management Pool
Tukwila, 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 Pool 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 Pool'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 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, Pool 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 Washington Schools Risk Management Pool from September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020.

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 Washington State Auditor to examine the financial affairs of all local governments. Our audit involved obtaining evidence about the Pool'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 year ended August 31, 2020, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. We examined the following areas during this audit period:

- Compliance with risk pool solvency requirements
- Accounts payable – credit cards
- Citizen referral – procurement

RELATED REPORTS

Financial

A financial statement audit was performed by a firm of certified public accountants. That firm's report is available on our website, <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE POOL

The Washington Schools Risk Management Pool was formed on August 31, 1986, pursuant to Chapter 48.62 of the Revised Code of Washington. The Pool's purpose is to provide its members the capability and authority to jointly purchase property/liability insurance, establish, and maintain a reserve to pay for self-insurance coverage, provide a plan of self-insurance, and provide related services, including a cooperative program of risk management. The membership of the Pool consists of approximately 79 school districts, including six educational service districts and five inter-local cooperatives with a total insured value of approximately \$23 billion.

The Pool is governed by a 10-member Executive Board. Board Members are elected from the member districts to serve staggered, three-year terms. The Board appoints an Executive Director to oversee the Pool's daily operations. The Pool employs no staff but instead contracts with Puget Sound Educational Service District No. 121 for administrative support. Approved 2019-2020 operating budget of \$59,429,664 for Revenues and \$53,936,389 for Expenses.

Contact information related to this report

Address:	Washington Schools Risk Management Pool 320 Andover Park East P.O. Box 88700 Tukwila, WA 98138-2700
Contact:	Deborah Callahan, Executive Director
Telephone:	206-394-9727
Website:	www.wsrmp.com

Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Washington Schools Risk Management Pool at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

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

We work with state agencies, local governments and the public to achieve our vision of increasing trust in government by helping governments work better and deliver higher value.

In fulfilling our mission to provide citizens with independent and transparent examinations of how state and local governments use public funds, we hold ourselves to those same standards by continually improving our audit quality and operational efficiency, and by developing highly engaged and committed employees.

As an agency, the State Auditor's Office has the independence necessary to objectively perform audits, attestation engagements and investigations. Our work is designed to comply with professional standards as well as to satisfy the requirements of federal, state and local laws. The Office also has an extensive quality control program and undergoes regular external peer review to ensure our work meets the highest possible standards of accuracy, objectivity and clarity.

Our audits look at financial information and compliance with federal, state and local laws for all local governments, including schools, and all state agencies, including institutions of higher education. In addition, we conduct performance audits and cybersecurity audits of state agencies and local governments, as well as state whistleblower, fraud and citizen hotline investigations.

The results of our work are available to everyone through the more than 2,000 reports we publish each year on our website, www.sao.wa.gov. Additionally, we share regular news and other information via an email subscription service and social media channels.

We take our role as partners in accountability seriously. The Office provides training and technical assistance to governments both directly and through partnerships with other governmental support organizations.

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