



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report

Lummi Nation

(Lummi Nation School)

For the period September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2021

Published March 13, 2023

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

March 13, 2023

Council
Lummi Nation School
Bellingham, 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 State-Tribal Education Compact Schools 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 State-Tribal Education Compact Schools 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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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Audit Results..... 4

Information about the State Tribal Educational Compact School 5

About the State Auditor's Office..... 6

AUDIT RESULTS

Results in brief

This report describes the overall results and conclusions for the areas we examined. In those selected areas, State-Tribal Education Compact Schools 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.

However, we noted certain matters related to Payroll and Restricted Funds-Professional Learning that we communicated to State-Tribal Education Compact Schools management and the Council in a letter dated March 7, 2023. We appreciate the State-Tribal Education Compact Schools commitment to resolving those matters.

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 Lummi Nation School from September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2021.

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 State-Tribal Education Compact Schools 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, 2021, 2020 and 2019, 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 supplemental contracts for enrichment activities
- Use of restricted funds – professional learning
- Payroll – direct deposits, leave balances and accruals
- Student enrollment reporting – special education
- Student transportation reporting

INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATE-TRIBAL EDUCATION COMPACT SCHOOL

Lummi Nation School No. 903, located in Whatcom County, opened in September 2014 as one of three Washington State-Tribal Education Compact Schools. For school year 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, the Lummi Nation School served approximately 334, 378 and 398 students respectively in grades K-12.

The Lummi Nation School education campus offers one elementary school, one middle school, and one high school. For fiscal years 2019, 2020 and 2021, the school received approximately \$5.4, \$6.2 and \$6.4 million in direct state funding, respectively.

As a sovereign nation, the Lummi Indian Business Council has the ultimate control over the educational needs of the students attending the Lummi Nation School.

Contact information related to this report

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Telephone:	360-758-4362
Website:	http://www.lummi-k12.org/

Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Lummi Nation School 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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