



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Financial Statements and Federal Single Audit Report

Meridian School District No. 505

For the period September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022

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

August 17, 2023

Board of Directors
Meridian School District No. 505
Bellingham, Washington

Report on Financial Statements and Federal Single Audit

Please find attached our report on Meridian School District No. 505's financial statements and compliance with federal laws and regulations.

We are issuing this report in order to provide information on the District's financial condition.

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor
Olympia, WA

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.....	4
Schedule of Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs.....	6
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	14
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and Report on Internal Control Over Compliance in Accordance With the Uniform Guidance	17
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements.....	21
Financial Section.....	25
Corrective Action Plan for Findings Reported Under Uniform Guidance	67
About the State Auditor's Office.....	69

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

Meridian School District No. 505 September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022

SECTION I – SUMMARY OF AUDITOR’S RESULTS

The results of our audit of Meridian School District No. 505 are summarized below in accordance with Title 2 *U.S. Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

Financial Statements

We issued an unmodified opinion on the fair presentation of the District’s financial statements in accordance with its regulatory basis of accounting. Separately, we issued an adverse opinion on the fair presentation with regard to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) because the financial statements are prepared using a basis of accounting other than GAAP.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting:

- *Significant Deficiencies:* We reported no deficiencies in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be significant deficiencies.
- *Material Weaknesses:* We identified no deficiencies that we consider to be material weaknesses.

We noted no instances of noncompliance that were material to the financial statements of the District.

Federal Awards

Internal Control over Major Programs:

- *Significant Deficiencies:* We reported no deficiencies in the design or operation of internal control over major federal programs that we consider to be significant deficiencies.
- *Material Weaknesses:* We identified deficiencies that we consider to be material weaknesses.

We issued an unmodified opinion on the District’s compliance with requirements applicable to each of its major federal programs.

We reported findings that are required to be disclosed in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a).

Identification of Major Federal Programs

The following programs were selected as major programs in our audit of compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.

<u>ALN</u>	<u>Program or Cluster Title</u>
10.553	Child Nutrition Cluster – School Breakfast Program
10.555	Child Nutrition Cluster – National School Lunch Program
10.559	Child Nutrition Cluster – Summer Food Service Program for Children
84.425	COVID-19 – Education Stabilization Fund

The dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs, as prescribed by the Uniform Guidance, was \$750,000.

The District qualified as a low-risk auditee under the Uniform Guidance.

SECTION II – FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

None reported.

SECTION III – FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

See Findings 2022-001 and 2022-002.

SCHEDULE OF FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

Meridian School District No. 505 September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022

2022-001 The District did not have adequate internal controls for ensuring compliance with federal wage rate requirements.

Assistance Listing Number and Title:	84.425, COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund
Federal Grantor Name:	U.S. Department of Education
Federal Award/Contract Number:	N/A
Pass-through Entity Name:	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Pass-through Award/Contract Number:	84.425D-120471, 84.425D-140511, 84.425U-138132, 84.425U-137129
Known Questioned Cost Amount:	\$0

Background

The objectives of the Education Stabilization Fund (ESF) program are to prevent, prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In fiscal year 2022, the District spent a total of \$1,760,422 in federal funding under its ESF awards. This included \$858,630 in the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund subprogram (84.425D), and \$901,792 in the American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER/ESSER III) subprogram (84.425U).

Federal regulations require award recipients to establish and follow internal controls that ensure compliance with program requirements. These controls include understanding grant requirements and monitoring the effectiveness of established controls.

Under federal wage rate requirements, also known as the Davis-Bacon Act, contractors and subcontractors that work on projects financed with more than \$2,000 of federal money must pay laborers and mechanics prevailing wage rates that the U.S. Department of Labor considers being similar to what local workers have been paid for similar projects.

For construction contracts subject to these wage rate requirements, the District must include a provision that the contractor and subcontractor comply with those requirements and the Department of Labor's regulations. This includes a requirement for the contractor and its subcontractor to submit to the District weekly, for each week in which any contract work is performed, certified payroll reports. These reports must include a copy of the payroll and a signed statement of compliance.

Description of Condition

During the 2021–2022 school year, the District spent \$808,174 from its ESSER II award to pay seven contractors to install portable classrooms.

Our audit found the District did not have adequate internal controls for ensuring compliance with wage rate requirements. Specifically, the District did not:

- Ensure the clause in the contract specifically conveyed the requirement
- Review weekly certified payroll reports submitted by the contractors to confirm they paid laborers proper prevailing wages

We consider these deficiencies in internal controls to be a material weakness, which led to material noncompliance.

The issue was not reported as a finding in the prior audit.

Cause of Condition

The District used a contract procured through a cooperative and believed the language included in the contract was adequate to convey the wage rate requirement.

Further, the District was aware that the contractor needed to submit weekly certifications but were not aware of the federal guidelines to review those prior to payment. Instead, the District focused on the state requirements including the Affidavit of Wages paid that were submitted with each progress payment to ensure the higher of federal or state prevailing wage rates were paid.

Effect of Condition

Without adequate internal controls that ensure it includes the prevailing wage rate clauses in its contracts and reviews all weekly certified payroll reports, the District cannot demonstrate it complied with the federal wage rate requirements. The District could also be liable for paying any additional wages if the contractor and

subcontractors did not pay prevailing wage rates to laborers working on the contract.

We were able to confirm that weekly certifications were submitted and that the higher of federal or state prevailing wages were paid. Therefore, we are not questioning any costs related to these projects.

Recommendation

We recommend the District strengthen internal controls to ensure compliance with federal wage rate requirements. This should include a process to ensure the prevailing wage rate clause in contracts clearly convey the applicable requirements. Further, the District should strengthen monitoring processes to ensure all weekly certified payroll reports are reviewed in a timely manner from contractors and subcontractors.

District's Response

The District would like to thank the auditors for their work and recommendations regarding Davis-Bacon requirements.

The District has implemented internal controls to ensure that contract language meets Davis-Bacon requirements.

The District has also implemented internal controls to ensure that contractors submit weekly certified payroll and Davis-Bacon requirements are met.

Auditor's Remarks

We appreciate the District's commitment to resolve this finding and thank the District for its cooperation and assistance during the audit. We will review the corrective action taken during our next regular audit.

Applicable Laws and Regulations

Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), section 516, Audit findings, establishes reporting requirements for audit findings.

Title 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Guidance, section 303, Internal controls, describes the requirements for auditees to maintain internal controls over federal programs and comply with federal program requirements.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants defines significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in its *Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards*, section 935, Compliance Audits, paragraph 11.

Title 29 CFR, Section 5.5 – *Contract provisions and related matters* establishes the requirements for the contracting officer to insert in full in any contract in excess of \$2,000 which is entered into for the actual construction, alteration and/or repair, including painting and decorating, of a public building or public work, or building or work financed in whole or in part with federal funds the clauses listed, which includes but is not limited to the minimum wages to be paid and payrolls and basic records to be maintained (submission of weekly certified payrolls).

Title 29 CFR, Section 3.3 – *Weekly statement with respect to payment of wages*, and Section 3.4 – *Submission of weekly statements and the preservation and inspection of weekly payroll records*, establishes requirements for contractor or subcontractor submission of weekly certified payroll reports.

SCHEDULE OF FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

Meridian School District No. 505 September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022

2022-002 The District did not have adequate internal controls for ensuring compliance with federal procurement requirements.

CFDA Number and Title:	10.553 – School Breakfast Program 10.555 – National School Lunch Program 10.559 – Summer Food Service Program for Children
Federal Grantor Name:	U.S. Department of Agriculture
Federal Award/Contract Number:	
Pass-through Entity Name:	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Pass-through Award/Contract Number:	699800 619803
Questioned Cost Amount:	\$0

Background

The District participates in the School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, and the Summer Food Service Program for Children. During the 2021–2022 school year, the District spent \$939,498 in federal funding to administer these programs.

Federal regulations require recipients to establish and maintain internal controls that ensure compliance with program requirements. These controls include understanding grant requirements and monitoring the effectiveness of established controls.

When using federal funds to purchase goods or services, governments must apply the more restrictive of federal requirements, state law or local policies by obtaining quotes or following a competitive bidding process, depending on the purchase amount.

Additionally, state and federal requirements allow local entities to bypass normal procurement laws through a process commonly referred to as “piggybacking.” This process allows entities to purchase goods and services using contracts awarded by another government or group of governments via an interlocal agreement or cooperative. To comply with piggybacking requirements under state law, the entity must ensure it purchases the same goods or services at the same price in the awarding entity’s specifications.

Description of Condition

Our audit found the District’s control procedures were ineffective for ensuring compliance with federal procurement and state piggybacking requirements. Specifically, the District piggybacked onto a purchasing cooperative’s contract for the installation of a portable building to be used as a cafeteria. However, the awarding entity’s contract specifications were for the purchase and installation of a portable building and did not allow for only the installation. This resulted in the District not performing competitive procurement procedures when paying \$226,612 for installation services for a portable building that was to be used as a cafeteria. Therefore, the District did not comply with all the applicable federal procurement requirements. We consider this internal control deficiency to be a material weakness, which led to material noncompliance.

This issue was not reported as a finding in the prior audit.

Cause of Condition

The District did not properly evaluate the contract to ensure its specifications appropriately matched the services it was procuring.

Effect of Condition

The District spent \$226,612 in program funds on a contract that it did not properly procure. Since the District did not purchase the same services that were detailed in the awarding entity’s contract, federal procurement requirements would have required it to competitively procure the installation of the portable building. Without effective internal controls that ensure it follows procurement or piggybacking procedures, the District cannot demonstrate it complied with applicable procurement requirements and received the best price for the public works project.

Recommendation

We recommend the District strengthen internal controls to ensure it complies with applicable procurement requirements, including purchasing the same goods or services for the same specified price when piggybacking onto a contract from another government or group of governments.

District's Response

The District disagrees with the findings by the auditor in all areas related to the Scheduled of Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs.

The District prides itself on developing and implementing effective internal controls. The District has effective internal controls to ensure that we meet procurement and piggybacking requirements. Through the audit process the District has demonstrated that it complied with applicable procurement process and received the best price for the portable relocation project.

The Director of Business and Finance and Director of Maintenance and Operations are knowledgeable of state and federal procurement requirements. They meet on a regular basis to evaluate the best method to obtain the lowest pricing while also meeting all state and federal requirements. In this instance, contract KCDA #19-255 was reviewed, and it was determined that piggybacking for relocation and installation services were allowable within the contract.

The finding states that “the awarding entity’s contract specifications were for the purchase and installation of a portable building and did not allow for only the installation.” We disagree with the auditor’s stance. The contract has language that allows for relocation and installation services and does not specify that a building is required to be purchased to obtain those services. The District reviewed the contract and noted that section (D) specifically states relocation pricing. The District also noted that section (F) details “any additions that are specific to a project/building installation may be covered by R.S. Means.”

The finding states “Since the District did not purchase the same services that were detailed in the awarding entity’s contract, federal procurement requirements would have required it to competitively procure the installation of the portable building.” As noted above, section (F) allows for project specific installation costs to be determined using R.S. Means price listing. As was the case for the scope of this project. The project specific R.S. Means price list was provided to the auditors as well as the accompanying invoices that detail the District received pricing within the contract limits.

Auditor's Remarks

State law allows for piggybacking on contracts when the specifications and price are the same. The contract the District piggybacked did not clearly identify the specifications and price but instead referenced “any additions that are specific to a project/building installation.” This is not specific enough to be an allowable piggybacking method.

We reaffirm our finding and will review the corrective action taken during our next audit.

Applicable Laws and Regulations

Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), section 516, Audit findings, establishes reporting requirements for audit findings.

Title 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Guidance, section 303 Internal controls, describes the requirements for auditees to maintain internal controls over federal programs and comply with federal program requirements.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants defines significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in its *Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards*, section 935, Compliance Audits, paragraph 11.

Title 2 CFR Part 200, Section 319 – Competition, establishes all procurement transactions are to be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition, and requires non-federal entities to have written procedures for procurement transactions.

Title 2 CFR Part 200, Section 320 – Methods of procurement to be followed, describes each allowable procurement method.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*

Meridian School District No. 505 September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022

Board of Directors
Meridian School District No. 505
Bellingham, Washington

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of Meridian School District No. 505, as of and for the year ended August 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated August 2, 2023.

We issued an unmodified opinion on the fair presentation of the District's financial statements in accordance with its regulatory basis of accounting. We issued an adverse opinion on the fair presentation with regard to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) because, as described in Note 1, the *Accounting Manual for Public School Districts in the State of Washington* does not require the District to prepare the government-wide statements presenting the financial position and changes in financial position of its governmental activities as required by GAAP. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the District's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose. However,

this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor

Olympia, WA

August 2, 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and Report on Internal Control over Compliance in Accordance with the Uniform Guidance

Meridian School District No. 505 September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022

Board of Directors
Meridian School District No. 505
Bellingham, Washington

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the compliance of Meridian School District No. 505, with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. *Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the District's major federal programs for the year ended August 31, 2022. The District's major federal programs are identified in the auditor's results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

In our opinion, the District complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended August 31, 2022.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance)* are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on

compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination on the District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the District's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the District's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance will always detect a material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the District's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

Performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance includes the following responsibilities:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit;
- Identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances;
- Obtain an understanding of the District's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed; and

- We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed. Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

However, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control over compliance, as described in the accompanying Schedule of Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs as Findings 2022-001 and 2022-002 that we consider to be material weaknesses.

District's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District's response to the internal control over compliance findings identified in our audit described in the accompanying Schedule of Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs. The District's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. However, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited. It also serves to disseminate information to the public as a reporting tool to help citizens assess government operations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "P" and "M".

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor

Olympia, WA

August 2, 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Meridian School District No. 505 September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022

Board of Directors
Meridian School District No. 505
Bellingham, Washington

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of Meridian School District No. 505, as of and for the year ended August 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements, as listed in the financial section of our report.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting (Accounting Manual)

As described in Note 1 the District has prepared these financial statements to meet the financial reporting requirements of state law and the accounting practices prescribed by the *Accounting Manual for Public School Districts in the State of Washington* (Accounting Manual). Those accounting practices differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). The differences in these accounting practices are also described in Note 1.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the regulatory basis financial position of Meridian School District No. 505, as of the year ended August 31, 2022, and the regulatory basis of changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended, on the basis of accounting as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. GAAP

The financial statements referred to above were not intended to, and in our opinion they do not, present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of Meridian School District No. 505, as of August 31, 2022, or the changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended, because of the significance of the matter discussed below.

Basis for Unmodified and Adverse Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and *Governmental Auditing Standards*. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our unmodified and adverse audit opinions.

Matter Giving Rise to Adverse Opinion on U.S. GAAP

Auditing standards issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) require auditors to formally acknowledge when governments do not prepare their financial statements, intended for general use, in accordance with GAAP. As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the government-wide financial statements are prepared by the District in accordance with state law using accounting practices prescribed by the Accounting Manual, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Matters of Emphasis

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, in 2022, the District adopted new accounting guidance for financial reporting for leases as required by the Accounting Manual. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of state law and the Accounting Manual described in Note 1. This includes determining that the basis of accounting is acceptable for the presentation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

Performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* includes the following responsibilities:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit;
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements;
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time; and
- We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.


Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 2 *U.S. Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). The Schedule of Long-Term Liabilities is also presented for

purposes of additional analysis, as required by the prescribed Accounting Manual. These schedules are not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements, and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

OTHER REPORTING REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated August 2, 2023 on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Pat McCarthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pat" and last name "McCarthy" clearly distinguishable.

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor

Olympia, WA

August 2, 2023

FINANCIAL SECTION

Meridian School District No. 505 September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds – 2022

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Governmental
Funds – 2022

Statement of Fiduciary Net Position – Fiduciary Funds – 2022

Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position – Fiduciary Funds – 2022

Notes to Financial Statements – 2022

SUPPLEMENTARY AND OTHER INFORMATION

Schedule of Long-Term Liabilities – 2022

Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards – 2022

Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards – 2022

Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds

August 31, 2022

	General Fund	ASB Fund	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Transportation Vehicle Fund	Permanent Fund	Total
Assets							
Cash and Cash Equivalents	667,216.86	26,896.39	2,428.48	372.48	0.00	0.00	696,914.21
Minus Warrants Outstanding	-658,563.26	-11,999.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-670,563.23
Taxes Receivable	1,967,693.61		589,046.66	321,616.36	0.00		2,878,356.63
Due From Other Funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Due From Other Governmental Units	391,885.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	391,885.85
Accounts Receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interfund Loans Receivable	0.00			0.00			0.00
Accrued Interest Receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Inventory	0.00	0.00		0.00			0.00
Prepaid Items	0.00	0.00			0.00	0.00	0.00
Investments	3,164,590.73	175,491.78	836,881.38	673,433.47	407,196.39	0.00	5,257,593.75
Investments/Cash With Trustee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Investments-Deferred Compensation	0.00			0.00			0.00
Self-Insurance Security Deposit	0.00						0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	5,532,823.79	190,388.20	1,428,356.52	995,422.31	407,196.39	0.00	8,554,187.21
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES:							
Deferred Outflows of Resources - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES	5,532,823.79	190,388.20	1,428,356.52	995,422.31	407,196.39	0.00	8,554,187.21
LIABILITIES							
Accounts Payable	30,289.84	234.23	0.00	163.72	0.00	0.00	30,687.79
Contracts Payable Current	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Accrued Interest Payable			0.00				0.00

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

Meridian School District No. 505
Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds
August 31, 2022

	General Fund	ASB Fund	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Transportation Vehicle Fund	Permanent Fund	Total
Accrued Salaries	6,747.86						6,747.86
Anticipation Notes Payable	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00
LIABILITIES:							
Payroll Deductions and Taxes Payable	37,988.96			0.00			37,988.96
Due To Other Governmental Units	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Deferred Compensation Payable	0.00			0.00			0.00
Estimated Employee Benefits Payable	0.00						0.00
Due To Other Funds	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interfund Loans Payable	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Deposits	0.00		0.00	0.00			0.00
Unearned Revenue	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Matured Bonds Payable			0.00				0.00
Matured Bond Interest Payable			0.00				0.00
Arbitrage Rebate Payable	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	75,026.66	234.23	0.00	163.72	0.00	0.00	75,424.61
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES							
Unavailable Revenue	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unavailable Revenue - Taxes Receivable	1,967,693.61		589,046.66	321,616.36	0.00		2,878,356.63
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES	1,967,693.61	0.00	589,046.66	321,616.36	0.00	0.00	2,878,356.63
FUND BALANCE:							
Nonspendable Fund Balance	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Restricted Fund Balance	52,393.37	190,153.97	839,309.86	0.00	407,196.39	0.00	1,489,053.59
Committed Fund Balance	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	348,125.11	0.00	0.00	368,125.11
Assigned Fund Balance	260,860.06	0.00	0.00	325,517.12	0.00	0.00	586,377.18

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

Meridian School District No. 505
Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds
August 31, 2022

	General Fund	ASB Fund	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Transportation Vehicle Fund	Permanent Fund	Total
Unassigned Fund Balance	3,156,850.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,156,850.09
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	3,490,103.52	190,153.97	839,309.86	673,642.23	407,196.39	0.00	5,600,405.97
TOTAL LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOW OF RESOURCES, AND FUND BALANCE	5,532,823.79	190,388.20	1,428,356.52	995,422.31	407,196.39	0.00	8,554,187.21

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Governmental Funds

For the Year Ended August 31, 2022

	General Fund	ASB Fund	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Transportation Vehicle Fund	Permanent Fund	Total
REVENUES:							
Local	4,644,016.59	258,347.37	1,270,335.53	714,632.90	2,408.09		6,889,740.48
State	19,750,614.63		0.00	0.00	293,985.96		20,044,600.59
Federal	4,262,297.28		0.00	0.00	0.00		4,262,297.28
Other	139,465.84			0.00	0.00	0.00	139,465.84
TOTAL REVENUES	28,796,394.34	258,347.37	1,270,335.53	714,632.90	296,394.05	0.00	31,336,104.19
EXPENDITURES:							
CURRENT:							
Regular Instruction	14,256,389.23						14,256,389.23
Special Education	3,433,171.27						3,433,171.27
Vocational Education	786,807.89						786,807.89
Skill Center	0.00						0.00
Compensatory Programs	1,182,981.86						1,182,981.86
Other Instructional Programs	192,084.39						192,084.39
Federal Stimulus COVID-19	1,040,669.06						1,040,669.06
Community Services	750.00						750.00
Support Services	7,081,669.78						7,081,669.78
Student Activities/Other		252,800.97				0.00	252,800.97
CAPITAL OUTLAY:							
Sites				0.00			0.00
Building				1.07			1.07
Equipment				0.00			0.00
Instructional Technology				0.00			0.00
Energy				0.00			0.00
Transportation Equipment					282,356.24		282,356.24
Sales and Lease				0.00			0.00
Other	1,315,697.40						1,315,697.40
DEBT SERVICE:							
Principal	561,495.16		795,000.00	0.00	0.00		1,356,495.16

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Governmental Funds

For the Year Ended August 31, 2022

	General Fund	ASB Fund	Debt Service Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Transportation Vehicle Fund	Permanent Fund	Total
Interest and Other Charges	127,185.22		436,041.05	0.00	0.00		563,226.27
Bond/Levy Issuance				0.00	0.00		0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	29,978,901.26	252,800.97	1,231,041.05	1.07	282,356.24	0.00	31,745,100.59
REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	-1,182,506.92	5,546.40	39,294.48	714,631.83	14,037.81	0.00	-408,996.40
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES) :							
Bond Sales & Refunding Bond Sales	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Long-Term Financing	0.00			0.00	0.00		0.00
Transfers In	521,924.60		0.00	0.00	0.00		521,924.60
Transfers Out (GL 536)	0.00		0.00	-521,924.60	0.00	0.00	-521,924.60
Other Financing Uses (GL 535)	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Other	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	521,924.60		0.00	-521,924.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
EXCESS OF REVENUES/OTHER FINANCING SOURCES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES AND OTHER FINANCING USES	-660,582.32	5,546.40	39,294.48	192,707.23	14,037.81	0.00	-408,996.40
BEGINNING TOTAL FUND BALANCE	4,150,685.84	184,607.57	800,015.38	480,935.00	393,158.58	0.00	6,009,402.37
Prior Year(s) Corrections or Restatements	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
ENDING TOTAL FUND BALANCE	3,490,103.52	190,153.97	839,309.86	673,642.23	407,196.39	0.00	5,600,405.97

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

Meridian School District No. 505
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
August 31, 2022

	Custodial Funds	Private Purpose Trust
ASSETS:		
Imprest Cash	0.00	0.00
Cash On Hand	0.00	0.00
Cash On Deposit with Cty Treas	0.00	0.00
Minus Warrants Outstanding	0.00	0.00
Due From Other Governmental Units	0.00	0.00
Accounts Receivable	0.00	0.00
Accrued Interest Receivable	0.00	0.00
Investments	0.00	16,754.32
Investments/Cash With Trustee	0.00	0.00
Other Assets	0.00	0.00
Capital Assets, Land	0.00	0.00
Capital Assets, Buildings	0.00	0.00
Capital Assets, Equipment	0.00	0.00
Accum Depreciation, Buildings	0.00	0.00
Accum Depreciation, Equipment	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ASSETS	0.00	16,754.32
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts Payable	0.00	0.00
Due To Other Governmental Units	0.00	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00
NET POSITION:		
Restricted for:		
Restricted For Intact Trust Principal	0.00	15,201.76
Restricted for Individuals, Organizations, and Other Governments - CF	0.00	
Restricted for Individuals, Organizations, and Other Governments - PPT		0.00
Restricted For Other Purposes	0.00	1,552.56
TOTAL NET POSITION	0.00	16,754.32

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

Meridian School District No. 505
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
For the Year Ended August 31, 2022

	Custodial Funds	Private Purpose Trust
ADDITIONS:		
Contributions:		
Private Donations	0.00	0.00
Employer		0.00
Members		0.00
Other	0.00	0.00
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	0.00	0.00
Investment Income:		
Net Appreciation (Depreciation) in Fair Value		
Interest and Dividends	0.00	0.00
Less Investment Expenses	0.00	130.50
Net Investment Income	0.00	0.00
		130.50
Other Additions:		
Rent or Lease Revenue	0.00	0.00
Total Other Additions	0.00	0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONS	0.00	130.50
DEDUCTIONS:		
Benefits		0.00
Refund of Contributions	0.00	0.00
Administrative Expenses	0.00	0.00
Scholarships	0.00	
Other	0.00	0.00
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	0.00	0.00
Net Increase (Decrease)	0.00	130.50
Net Position - Beginning Balance	0.00	16,623.82
Prior Year(s) Corrections or Restatements	0.00	0.00
NET POSITION--ENDING	0.00	16,754.32

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

Meridian School District
Notes to the Financial Statements
September 1, 2021 Through August 31, 2022

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Meridian School District (District) is a municipal corporation organized pursuant to Title 28A of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) for the purposes of providing public school services to students in grades K–12. Oversight responsibility for the District's operations is vested with the independently elected board of directors. Management of the District is appointed by and is accountable to the board of directors. Fiscal responsibility, including budget authority and the power to set fees, levy property taxes, and issue debt consistent with provisions of state statutes, also rests with the board of directors.

The District presents governmental fund financial statements and related notes on the modified accrual basis of accounting in accordance with the *Accounting Manual for Public School Districts in the State of Washington*, issued jointly by the State Auditor's Office and the Superintendent of Public Instruction by the authority of RCW 43.09.200, RCW 28A.505.140, RCW 28A.505.010(1) and RCW 28A.505.020. This manual prescribes a financial reporting framework that differs from generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the following manner:

- (1) Districtwide statements, as defined in GAAP, are not presented.
- (2) A Schedule of Long-Term Liabilities is presented as supplementary information.
- (3) Supplementary information required by GAAP is not presented.
- (4) Property Taxes collected after the end of the fiscal period are not considered available for revenue accrual as described below.

Fund Accounting

Financial transactions of the District are reported in individual funds. Each fund uses a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures (or expenses) as appropriate. All funds are considered major funds. The various funds in the report are grouped into governmental (and fiduciary) funds as follows:

Governmental Funds

General Fund

This fund is used to account for all expendable financial resources, except for those that are required to be accounted for in another fund. In keeping with the principle of having as few funds as are necessary, activities such as food services, maintenance, data processing, printing, and student transportation are included in the General Fund.

Capital Projects Funds

These funds account for financial resources that are to be used for the construction or acquisition of major capital assets. There are two funds that are considered to be of the capital projects fund type: the Capital Projects Fund and the Transportation Vehicle Fund.

Capital Projects Fund. This fund is used to account for resources set aside for the acquisition and construction of major capital assets such as land and buildings.

Transportation Vehicle Fund. This fund is used to account for the purchase, major repair, rebuilding, and debt service expenditures that relate to pupil transportation equipment.

Debt Service Fund

This fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for and the payment of matured general long-term debt principal and interest.

Special Revenue Fund

In Washington state, the only allowable special revenue fund for school districts is the Associated Student Body (ASB) Fund. This fund is accounted for in the District's financial statements as the financial resources legally belong to the District. As a special revenue fund, amounts within the ASB Fund may only be used for those purposes that relate to the operation of the Associated Student Body of the District.

Permanent Funds

These funds are used to report resources that are legally restricted such that only earnings, and not principal, may be expended. Amounts in the Permanent Fund may only be spent in support of the District's programs and may not be used to the benefit of any individual.

Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary funds include pension and other employee benefit trust funds, private-purpose trust funds, and custodial funds, and are used to account for assets that are held by the District in a fiduciary capacity.

Private-Purpose Trust Fund

This fund is used to account for resources that are legally held in trust by the District. The trust agreement details whether principal and interest may both be spent, or whether only interest may be spent. Money from a Private-Purpose Trust Fund may not be used to support the District's programs, and may be used to benefit individuals, private organizations, or other governments.

Custodial Funds

These funds are used to account for assets that the District holds on behalf of others in a purely custodial capacity.

Measurement focus, basis of accounting, and fund financial statement presentation

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are measurable and available. Revenues are considered "measurable" if the amount of the transaction can be readily determined. Revenues are considered "available" when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the District considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days after year-end. Categorical program claims and interdistrict billings are measurable and available and are accrued. Property taxes not collected by the fiscal year end are measurable and recorded as a receivable, however the receivable is not considered available revenue and is recorded as a deferred inflow of resources.

Expenditures are recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred, except for unmatured principal and interest on long-term debt which are recorded when due. Purchases of capital assets are expensed during the year of acquisition. For federal grants, the recognition of expenditures is dependent on the obligation date. (Obligation means a purchase order has been issued, contracts have been awarded, or goods and/or services have been received.)

Budgets

Chapter 28A.505 RCW and Chapter 392-123 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) mandate school district budget policies and procedures. The board adopts annual appropriated budgets for all governmental funds. These budgets are appropriated at the fund level. The budget constitutes the legal authority for expenditures at that level. Appropriations lapse at the end of the fiscal period.

Budgets are adopted on the same modified accrual basis as used for financial reporting. Fund balance is budgeted as available resources and, under statute, may not be negative, unless the District enters into binding conditions with state oversight pursuant to RCW 28A.505.110.

The government's policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available.

The District receives state funding for specific categorical education-related programs. Amounts that are received for these programs that are not used in the current fiscal year may be carried forward into the subsequent fiscal year, where they may be used only for the same purpose as they were originally received. When the District has such carryover, those funds are expended before any amounts received in the current year are expended.

Additionally, the District has other restrictions placed on its financial resources. When expenditures are recorded for purposes for which a restriction or commitment of fund balance is available, those funds that are restricted or committed to that purpose are considered first before any unrestricted or unassigned amounts are expended.

The government's fund balance classifications policies and procedures.

The District classifies ending fund balance for its governmental funds into five categories.

Nonspendable Fund Balance. The amounts reported as Nonspendable are resources of the District that are not in spendable format. They are either non-liquid resources such as inventory or prepaid items, or the resources are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

Restricted Fund Balance. Amounts that are reported as Restricted are those resources of the District that have had a legal restriction placed on their use either from statute, WAC, or other legal requirements that are beyond the control of the board of directors. Restricted fund balance includes anticipated recovery of revenues that have been received but are restricted as to their usage.

Committed Fund Balance. Amounts that are reported as Committed are those resources of the District that have had a limitation placed upon their usage by formal action of the District's board of directors. Commitments are made either through a formal adopted board resolution or

are related to a school board policy. Commitments may only be changed when the resources are used for the intended purpose or the limitation is removed by a subsequent formal action of the board of directors.

Assigned Fund Balance. In the General Fund, amounts that are reported as Assigned are those resources that the District has set aside for specific purposes. These accounts reflect tentative management plans for future financial resource use such as the replacement of equipment or the assignment of resources for contingencies. Assignments reduce the amount reported as Unassigned Fund Balance, but may not reduce that balance below zero.

In other governmental funds, Assigned fund balance represents a positive ending spendable fund balance once all restrictions and commitments are considered. These resources are only available for expenditure in that fund and may not be used in any other fund without formal action by the District's board of directors and as allowed by statute.

The Superintendent and Director of Business and Finance are the only persons who have the authority to create Assignments of fund balance.

Unassigned Fund Balance. In the General Fund, amounts that are reported as Unassigned are those net spendable resources of the District that are not otherwise Restricted, Committed, or Assigned, and may be used for any purpose within the General Fund.

In other governmental funds, Unassigned fund balance represents a deficit ending spendable fund balance once all restrictions and commitments are considered.

A negative Unassigned fund balance means that the legal restrictions and formal commitments of the District exceed its currently available resources.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

All of the District's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits, and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Receivables and Payables

The District does not hold any receivables not expected to be collected within one year for any fund.

Inventory

Inventory is valued at cost using the first-in, first-out (FIFO) method. The consumption method of inventory is used, which charges inventory as an expenditure when it is consumed. A portion of fund balance, representing inventory, is considered Nonspendable. USDA commodity

inventory consists of food donated by the United States Department of Agriculture. It is valued at the prices paid by the USDA for the commodities.

Accounting and Reporting Changes

Leases

For the year ended August 31, 2022, the district implemented guidance for the presentation and disclosures of leases, as required by the School District Accounting Manual. These changes were in response to the provisions of GASB Statement No. 87.

Information regarding the District's leases are presented in the Leases note, as applicable.

NOTE 2: DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

All of the District's bank balances are insured by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or by collateral held in a multiple financial institution collateral pool administered by the Washington Public Deposit Protection Commission (PDPC).

Statutes authorize the District to invest in (1) securities, certificates, notes, bonds, short-term securities, or other obligations of the United States, and (2) deposits in any state bank or trust company, national banking association, stock savings bank, mutual savings bank, savings and loan association, and any branch bank engaged in banking in the state in accordance with RCW 30.04.300 if the institution has been approved by the Public Deposit Protection Commission to hold public deposits and has segregated eligible collateral having a value of not less than its maximum liability.

The Whatcom County Treasurer is the *ex officio* treasurer for the District and holds all accounts of the District. The District directs the County Treasurer to invest those financial resources of the District that the District has determined are not needed to meet the current financial obligations of the District.

The district's deposits and certificates of deposit are mostly covered by federal depository insurance (FDIC) or by collateral held in a multiple financial institution collateral pool administered by the Washington Public Deposit Protection Commission (PDPC).

The district's participation in the Whatcom County investment pool is voluntary and the pool does not have a credit rating. The district reports its investment in the pool at the fair value amount, which is the same as the value of the pool per share. The fair value of the district's investment in the pool is measured using a net asset value (NAV) as determined by the pool. The pool maintains a weighted average maturity of 515 days.

All of the District's investments during the year and at year-end were insured or registered and held by the District or its agent in the District's name.

Washington State statutes authorize the district to invest in the following types of securities:

- Certificates, notes, or bonds of the United States, its agencies, or any corporation wholly owned by the government of the United States,
- Obligations of government-sponsored corporations which are eligible as collateral for advances to member banks as determined by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System,
- Bankers' acceptances purchased on the secondary market,
- Repurchase agreements for securities listed in the three items above, provided that the transaction is structured so that the public treasurer obtains control over the underlying securities,
- Investment deposits with qualified public depositories,
- Washington State Local Government Investment Pool, and
- County Treasurer Investment Pools.

The District's investments as of August 31, 2022, are as follows:

Type of Investment	(District's) own investments	Investments held by (district) as an agent for other organizations	Total
County Treasurer's Investment Pool	\$5,257,594	\$16,754	\$5,274,348
Total	\$5,257,594	\$16,754	\$5,274,348

NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Litigation

The District has no known legal obligations that would materially impact the financial position of the District.

NOTE 4: SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS OF SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

COVID-19 Pandemic

In February 2020, Governor Inslee declared a state of emergency in response to the spread of a deadly new virus. In the weeks following the declaration, precautionary measures to slow the spread of the virus were ordered. These measures included closing schools, canceling public events, limiting gathering sizes, and requiring people to stay home unless they were leaving for an essential function. On April 6, 2020, the Governor closed all public and private K–12 school buildings throughout the remainder of the 2019–20 school year and continuing through the 2020–21 school year. The school district, however, continues to operate, educating students using continuous learning models.

There are not significant financial implications affecting the district for the 2022–2023 school year.

NOTE 5: PENSION PLANS

General Information

The Washington State Department of Retirement Systems (DRS), a department within the primary government of the state of Washington, prepares a stand-alone annual comprehensive financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for each pension plan. The pension plan's basic financial statement is accounted for using the accrual basis of accounting. The measurement date of the pension plans is June 30. Benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

The school district is reporting the net pension liability in the notes and on the Schedule of Long-term Liabilities calculated as the district's proportionate allocation percentage multiplied by the total plan collective net pension liability. The DRS total collective net pension liabilities for the pension plans school districts participate in are shown here.

The Collective Net Pension Liability (Asset)

The collective net pension liability or asset for the pension plans districts participated in are reported in the following tables

The Collective Net Pension Liability or (Asset) as of June 30, 2022				
	Total Pension Liability	Plan fiduciary net position	Participating employers' net pension liability or (Asset)	Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability
PERS 1	11,877,621,000	9,093,254,000	2,784,367,000	76.56%
SERS 2/3	8,478,821,000	8,747,471,000	(268,650,000)	103.17%
TRS 1	8,739,146,000	6,837,316,000	1,901,830,000	78.24%
TRS 2/3	22,946,845,000	23,143,631,000	(196,786,000)	100.86%

Detailed information about the pension plans' fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued DRS report. Copies of the report may be obtained by contacting the Washington State Department of Retirement Systems, P.O. Box 48380, Olympia, WA 98504-8380; or online at [Annual Financial Reports](#) or <http://www.drs.wa.gov/administrations/annual-report>.

Membership Participation

Substantially all school district full-time and qualifying part-time employees participate in one of the following three contributory, multi-employer, cost-sharing statewide retirement systems

managed by DRS: Teachers' Retirement System (TRS), Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and School Employees' Retirement System (SERS).

Membership participation by retirement plan as of June 30, 2022, was as follows:

Plan	Retirees and Beneficiaries Receiving Benefits	Inactive Plan Members Entitled to but not yet Receiving Benefits	Active Plan Members
PERS 1	41,154	196	632
SERS 2	13,480	7,186	33,622
SERS 3	13,819	9,896	31,861
TRS 1	29,731	63	111
TRS 2	7,026	3,428	27,202
TRS 3	18,956	8,681	54,336

Membership & Plan Benefits

Certificated employees are members of TRS. Classified employees are members of PERS (if Plan 1) or SERS. Plan 1 under the TRS and PERS programs are defined benefit pension plans whose members joined the system on or before September 30, 1977. TRS 1 and PERS 1 are closed to new entrants.

TRS Plan Information

TRS was established in 1938, and its retirement provisions are contained in RCW Chapters 41.34 and 41.32. TRS is a cost-sharing multi-employer retirement system comprised of three separate plans for membership purposes: Plans 1 and 2 are defined benefit plans and Plan 3 is a defined benefit plan with a defined contribution component. TRS eligibility for membership requires service as a certificated, public school employee working in an instructional, administrative or supervisory capacity.

TRS is comprised of three separate plans for accounting purposes: Plan 1, Plan 2/3, and Plan 3. Plan 1 accounts for the defined benefits of Plan 1 members. Plan 2/3 accounts for the defined benefits of Plan 2 members and the defined benefit portion of benefits for Plan 3 members. Plan 3 accounts for the defined contribution portion of benefits for Plan 3 members. Although members can only be a member of either Plan 2 or Plan 3, the defined benefit portions of Plan 2 and Plan 3 are accounted for in the same pension trust fund. All assets of this Plan 2/3 defined benefit plan may legally be used to pay the defined benefits of any of the Plan 2 or Plan 3 members or beneficiaries, as defined by the terms of the plan. Therefore, Plan 2/3 is considered to be a single plan for accounting purposes.

TRS Plan 1 provides retirement, disability and death benefits. TRS 1 members were vested after the completion of five years of eligible service. Retirement benefits are determined as two percent of the average final compensation (AFC), for each year of service credit, up to a

maximum of 60 percent, divided by twelve. The AFC is the total earnable compensation for the two consecutive highest-paid fiscal years, divided by two. Members are eligible for retirement at any age after 30 years of service, or at the age of 60 with five years of service, or at the age of 55 with 25 years of service. Other benefits include temporary and permanent disability payments, an optional cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), and a one-time duty-related death benefit, if found eligible by the Department of Labor and Industries.

TRS Plan 2/3 provides retirement, disability and death benefits. Retirement benefits are determined as two percent of the average final compensation (AFC) per year of service for Plan 2 members and one percent of AFC for Plan 3 members. The AFC is the monthly average of the 60 consecutive highest-paid service credit months. There is no cap on years of service credit. Members are eligible for normal retirement at the age of 65 with at least five years of service credit. Retirement before age 65 is considered an early retirement. TRS Plan 2/3 members, who have at least 20 years of service credit and are 55 years of age or older, are eligible for early retirement with a reduced benefit.

The benefit is reduced by a factor that varies according to age, for each year before age 65. TRS Plan 2/3 members who have 30 or more years of service credit, were hired prior to May 1, 2013, and are at least 55 years old, can retire under one of two provisions: With a benefit that is reduced by three percent for each year before age 65; or with a benefit that has a smaller (or no) reduction (depending on age) that imposes stricter return-to-work rules. TRS Plan 2/3 members hired on or after May 1, 2013, have the option to retire early by accepting a reduction of five percent for each year of retirement before age 65. This option is available only to those who are age 55 or older and have at least 30 years of service. TRS Plan 2/3 retirement benefits are also actuarially reduced to reflect the choice of a survivor benefit. Other benefits include duty and non-duty disability payments, a cost-of-living allowance (based on the Consumer Price Index), capped at three percent annually and a one-time duty-related death benefit, if found eligible by the Department of Labor and Industries.

PERS Plan Information

PERS was established in 1947, and its retirement benefit provisions are contained in RCW Chapters 41.34 and 41.40. PERS is a cost-sharing, multi-employer retirement system. PERS Plan 1 provides retirement, disability and death benefits. PERS 1 members were vested after the completion of five years of eligible service. Retirement benefits are determined as two percent of the member's average final compensation (AFC) times the member's years of service. The AFC is the average of the member's 24 highest consecutive service months. Members are eligible for retirement from active status at any age with at least 30 years of service, at age 55 with at least 25 years of service, or at age 60 with at least five years of service.

Members retiring from inactive status prior to the age of 65 may receive actuarially reduced benefits. PERS Plan 1 retirement benefits are actuarially reduced to reflect the choice of a survivor benefit. Other benefits include duty and non-duty disability payments, an optional

cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), and a one-time duty-related death benefit, if found eligible by the Department of Labor and Industries.

SERS Plan Information

SERS was established by the legislature in 1998, and the plan became effective in 2000. SERS retirement benefit provisions are established in RCW Chapters 41.34 and 41.35. SERS is a cost-sharing, multiemployer retirement system comprised of two separate plans for membership purposes. SERS Plan 2 is a defined benefit plan and SERS Plan 3 is a defined benefit plan with a defined contribution component. SERS members include classified employees of school districts and educational service districts.

SERS is reported as two separate plans for accounting purposes: Plan 2/3 and Plan 3. Plan 2/3 accounts for the defined benefits of Plan 2 members and the defined benefit portion of benefits for Plan 3 members. Plan 3 accounts for the defined contribution portion of benefits for Plan 3 members. Although members can only be a member of either Plan 2 or Plan 3, the defined benefit portions of Plan 2 and Plan 3 are accounted for in the same pension trust fund. All assets of this Plan 2/3 defined benefit plan may legally be used to pay the defined benefits of any of the Plan 2 or Plan 3 members or beneficiaries. Therefore, Plan 2/3 is considered to be a single plan for accounting purposes.

SERS provides retirement, disability and death benefits. Retirement benefits are determined as two percent of the member's average final compensation (AFC) times the member's years of service for Plan 2 and one percent of AFC for Plan 3. The AFC is the monthly average of the member's 60 highest-paid consecutive service months before retirement, termination or death. There is no cap on years of service credit. Members are eligible for retirement with a full benefit at 65 with at least five years of service credit. Retirement before age 65 is considered an early retirement. SERS members, who have at least 20 years of service credit and are 55 years of age or older, are eligible for early retirement with a reduced benefit.

The benefit is reduced by a factor that varies according to age, for each year before age 65. SERS members who have 30 or more years of service credit and are at least 55 years old can retire under one of two provisions, if hired prior to May 2, 2013: With a benefit that is reduced by three percent for each year before age 65; or with a benefit that has a smaller (or no) reduction (depending on age) that imposes stricter return-to-work rules. SERS members hired on or after May 1, 2013, have the option to retire early by accepting a reduction of five percent for each year of retirement before age 65. This option is available only to those who are age 55 or older and have at least 30 years of service. SERS retirement benefits are also actuarially reduced to reflect the choice of a survivor benefit. Other benefits include duty and non-duty disability payments, a cost-of-living allowance (based on the Consumer Price Index), capped at three percent annually and a one-time duty-related death benefit, if found eligible by the Department of Labor and Industries.

Plan Contributions

The employer contribution rates for PERS, TRS, and SERS (Plans 1, 2, and 3) and the TRS and SERS Plan 2 employee contribution rates are established by the Pension Funding Council based upon the rates set by the Legislature. The methods used to determine the contribution requirements are established under chapters 41.34 and 41.40 RCW for PERS, 41.34 and 41.35 RCW for SERS, and 41.32 and 41.34 RCW for TRS. Employers do not contribute to the defined contribution portions of TRS Plan 3 or SERS Plan 3. Under current law the employer must contribute 100 percent of the employer-required contribution. The employee contribution rate for Plan 1 in PERS and TRS is set by statute at six percent and does not vary from year to year.

The employer and employee contribution rates for all plans were effective as of September 1, 2021. PERS contribution rates changed on July 1, 2021. Contribution rates for TRS and SERS plans changed on September 1, 2021. The pension plan contribution rates (expressed as a percentage of covered payroll) for fiscal year 2022 are listed below:

	From this date	Through this date	Member rate	Employer rate	
PERS 1	7/1/2021	8/31/2022	6.00%	10.25%	
TRS 1	9/1/2021	8/31/2022	6.00%	14.42%	
TRS 2	9/1/2021	8/31/2022	8.05%	14.42%	
TRS 3	9/1/2021	8/31/2022	*	14.42%	**
SERS 2	9/1/2021	8/31/2022	7.76%	11.65%	
SERS 3	9/1/2021	8/31/2022	*	11.65%	**
<i>Note: The Employer rates include .0018 DRS administrative expense.</i>					
* – TRS and SERS Plan 3 Employee Contribution Variable from 5% to 15% based on rate selected by the employee member.					
** – TRS and SERS Plan 2/3 Employer Contributions for defined benefit portion only.					

The School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)

At June 30, 2022, the school district reported a total liability of \$3,442,648 for its proportionate shares of the individual plans' collective net pension liability and \$682,865 for its proportionate shares of net pension assets. Proportions of net pension amounts are based on annual contributions for each of the employers participating in the DRS administered plans. At June 30, 2022 the district's proportionate share of each plan's net pension liability is reported below:

June 30, 2022	PERS 1	SERS 2/3	TRS 1	TRS 2/3
District's Annual Contributions	166,407	334,705	724,901	913,710
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)	756,024	(401,750)	2,686,623	(281,115)

At June 30, 2022, the school district's percentage of the proportionate share of the collective net pension amount was as follows and the change in the allocation percentage from the prior period is illustrated below.

Change in Proportionate Shares	PERS 1	SERS 2/3	TRS 1	TRS 2/3
Current year proportionate share	0.027152%	0.149544%	0.141265%	0.142853%
Prior year proportionate share	0.024128%	0.145252%	0.136989%	0.137588%
Net difference percentage	0.003024%	0.004292%	0.004276%	0.005265%

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liabilities for TRS 1, TRS 2/3, PERS 1 and SERS 2/3 were determined by actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2021, with the results rolled forward to June 30, 2022, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all prior periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.75% total economic inflation, 3.25% salary inflation
Salary increases	In addition to the base 3.25% salary inflation assumption, salaries are also expected to grow by promotions and longevity.
Investment rate of return	7.00%

Mortality Rates

Mortality rates used in the plans were developed using the Society of Actuaries' Pub.H-2010 Mortality rates, which vary by member status as the base table. OSA applies age offsets for each system to better tailor the mortality rates to the demographics of each plan. OSA applied the long-term MP-2017 generational improvement scale to project mortality rates for every year after the 2010 base table. The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2021, valuation were based on the results of the *2013–2018 Demographic Experience Study Report and the 2021 Economic Experience Study*. Additional assumptions for subsequent events and law changes are current as of the 2021 actuarial valuation report.

Long-term Expected Rate of Return

OSA selected a 7.00% long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments using a building-block method. In selecting the assumptions, OSA reviewed the historical experience

data, considered the historical conditions that produced past annual investment returns, and considered Capital Market Assumptions (CMAs) and simulated expected investment returns the Washington State Investment Board (WSIB) provided.

The CMAs contain three pieces of information for each class of assets the WSIB currently invest in:

- Expected annual return
- Standard deviation of the annual return
- Correlations between the annual returns of each asset class with every other asset class

WSIB uses the CMAs and their target asset allocation to simulate future investment returns over various time horizons.

The expected future rates of return are developed by the WSIB for each major asset class.

Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plans' target asset allocation as of June 30, 2022, are summarized in the following table:

TRS 1, TRS 2/3, PERS 1, and SERS 2/3		
Asset Class	Target Allocation	% Long-term Expected Real Rate of Return
Fixed Income	20.00%	1.50%
Tangible Assets	7.00%	4.70%
Real Estate	18.00%	5.40%
Global Equity	32.00%	5.90%
Private Equity	23.00%	8.90%

The inflation component used to create the above table is 2.20% and represents WSIB's most recent long-term estimate of broad economic inflation.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00%. To determine the discount rate, an asset sufficiency test was completed to test whether the pension plan's fiduciary net position was sufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Based on the assumptions described in the DRS Certification Letter, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return, a 7.00% on pension plan investments was applied to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability (Asset)

The following table presents the Meridian School District's proportionate share of the collective net pension liability or asset calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%, as well as what the net

pension liability or asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower (6.00%) or one percentage-point higher (8.00%) than the current rate. Amounts are calculated using the school district's specific allocation percentage, by plan, to determine the proportionate share of the collective net pension liability or asset.

Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability or Asset to Changes in the Discount Rate			
	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
PERS 1	\$3,719,876,000	\$2,784,367,000	\$1,967,887,000
Allocation Percentage	0.027152%	0.027152%	0.027152%
Proportionate Share	\$1,010,038	\$756,024	\$534,330
SERS 2/3	\$929,172,000	(\$268,650,000)	(\$1,255,926,000)
Allocation Percentage	0.149544%	0.149544%	0.149544%
Proportionate Share	\$1,389,521	(\$401,750)	(\$1,878,163)
TRS 1	\$2,582,448,000	\$1,901,830,000	\$1,306,883,000
Allocation Percentage	0.141265%	0.141265%	0.141265%
Proportionate Share	\$3,648,100	\$2,686,623	\$1,846,171
TRS 2/3	\$3,565,129,000	(\$196,786,000)	(\$3,255,167,000)
Allocation Percentage	0.142853%	0.142853%	0.142853%
Proportionate Share	\$5,092,891	(\$281,115)	(\$4,650,101)

NOTE 6: ANNUAL OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT COST AND NET OPEB OBLIGATIONS

The state, through the Health Care Authority (HCA), administers a defined benefit other post-employment benefit (OPEB) plan that is not administered through a qualifying trust. The Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB), created within the HCA, is authorized to design benefits, and determine the terms and conditions of employee and retired employee participation and coverage, including establishment of eligibility criteria for both active and retired employees. Benefits purchased by PEBB include medical, dental, life insurance and long-term disability insurance.

The relationship between the PEBB OPEB plan and its member employers and their employees and retirees is not formalized in a contract or plan document. Rather, the benefits are provided in accordance with a substantive plan. A substantive plan is one, which the employers and plan members understand the plan terms. This understanding is based on communications between the HCA, employers and plan members, and historical pattern of practice with regards to sharing of benefit costs.

Employers participating in the plan include the state of Washington (which includes general government agencies and higher education institutions), political subdivisions and tribal governments. Additionally, the PEBB plan is available to the retirees of the K–12 school districts and ESDs. The District's retirees (approximately 147) are eligible to participate in the PEBB plan under this arrangement.

Eligibility

District members are eligible for retiree medical benefits after becoming eligible for service retirement pension benefits (either reduced or full pension benefits) Under PERS 1, 2, 3; TRS 1, 2, or 3; or SERS 2 and 3 plans.

Former members who are entitled to a deferred vested pension benefit are not eligible to receive medical and life insurance benefits after pension benefit commencement. Survivors of covered members who die are eligible for medical benefits.

Medical Benefits

Upon retirement, members are permitted to receive medical benefits. Retirees pay the following monthly rates for pre-65 medical coverage for 2022.

Members not eligible for Medicare (or enrolled in Part A only)			
Descriptions	Type of Coverage		
	Employee	Employee & Spouse	Full Family
Kaiser Permanente NW Classic	\$768.23	\$1,531.47	\$2,103.90
Kaiser Permanente NW CDHP	\$643.88	\$1,277.21	\$1,708.47
Kaiser Permanente WA Classic	\$813.24	\$1,621.48	\$2,227.66
Kaiser Permanente WA CDHP	\$641.39	\$1,272.99	\$1,702.94
Kaiser Permanente WA Sound Choice	\$659.19	\$1,313.37	\$1,804.01
Kaiser Permanente WA Value	\$721.89	\$1,438.79	\$1,976.46
UMP Classic	\$718.68	\$1,432.35	\$1,967.61
UMP Select	\$647.73	\$1,290.45	\$1,772.50
UMP CDHP	\$638.69	\$1,270.29	\$1,700.24
UMP Plus-Puget Sound High Value Network	\$687.13	\$1,369.26	\$1,880.86
UMP Plus-UW Medicine Accountable Care Network	\$687.13	\$1,369.26	\$1,880.86

Retirees enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B receive an explicit subsidy in the form of reduced premiums on Medicare supplemental plans. Retirees pay the following monthly rates.

Members enrolled in Part A and B of Medicare			
Descriptions	Type of Coverage		
	Employee	Employee & Spouse¹	Full Family¹
Kaiser Permanente NW Senior Advantage	\$172.79	\$340.58	\$913.01
Kaiser Permanente WA Medicare Plan	\$175.69	\$346.39	N/A
Kaiser Permanente WA Classic	N/A	N/A	\$952.57
Kaiser Permanente WA Sound Choice	N/A	N/A	\$837.03
Kaiser Permanente WA Value	N/A	N/A	\$884.06
UMP Classic	\$364.87	\$724.74	\$1,260.00

Note 1: Employee–Spouse and Full Family with two Medicare eligible subscribers.

Funding Policy

The School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) Program administers health insurance and other benefits to all employees in school districts and charter schools, and union-represented employees of educational service districts in Washington. The SEBB studies, designs, and approves comprehensive and cost-effective insurance benefit plans for school employees and establishes eligibility criteria for participation in these plans. The SEB Board is separate and independent from the Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB).

The funding policy is based upon pay-as-you go financing.

The SEBB collects benefit premiums from all school district entities for covered employees. The premium includes a fee, established in state law. The purpose of this fee is to cover the impact of the subsidized rate of health care benefits for school retirees who elect to purchase their health care benefits through the state Health Care Authority PEBB plan. The amount collected is set forth in the state's operating budget and is subject to change on an annual basis. This amount is not actuarially determined and is not placed in a trust to pay the obligations for post-employment health care benefits.

For the fiscal year 2021-22, the Meridian School District paid \$2,884,214 in total to HCA-SEBB.

The District has no control over the benefits offered to retirees, the rates charged to retirees, nor the fee paid to the Health Care Authority. The District does not determine its annual required contribution, nor the net other post-employment benefit obligation associated with this plan. These amounts are not shown on the financial statements.

For further information on the results of the actuarial valuation of the employer provided subsidies associated with the state's PEBB plan, refer to the [Office of the State Actuary](#). The plan does not issue a separate report; however, additional information is included in the State of Washington Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, which is available on the [OFM](#) website

NOTE 7: LEASES

The district is committed under various leases for technology devices to provide each student with a device to support online learning. The lease agreements were made with Insight Investments, LLC and are capital leases in which the District has the option to purchase the equipment at the end of the lease term. The base term of both leases is 48 months billed Semi-Annually. The district entered into these lease agreements during school year 2019/20.

The District did not enter into any new lease agreements in the 2021/22 fiscal year. The District's beginning lease balance as of September 1, 2021 was \$767,159. During the 2021/22 fiscal year, the District redeemed \$561,495. The District's outstanding lease balance as of August 31, 2022 is \$205,664. Principal lease payments due within one year are \$103,186.

The District did not have any commitments that were required prior to the lease term beginning.

As of August 31, 2022, the principal and interest requirements to maturity are as follows:

Year ended August 31	Principal	Interest	Total
2022/23	\$103,185.55	\$1,969.63	\$105,155.18
2023/24	\$102,478.45	\$2,676.73	\$105,155.18
Total	\$205,663.99	\$4,646.37	\$210,310.36

Changes in lease liabilities are presented in the accompanying Schedule of Long-Term Liabilities.

NOTE 8: REQUIRED DISCLOSURES ABOUT CAPITAL ASSETS

The District's capital assets are insured in the amount of \$81,485,598 for fiscal year 2022. In the opinion of the District's insurance consultant, the amount is sufficient to adequately fund replacement of the District's assets.

NOTE 9: LONG-TERM DEBT

Long-Term Debt

The accompanying Schedule of Long-Term Liabilities provides more details of the outstanding debt and liabilities of the district and summarizes the district's debt transactions for year ended August 31, 2022.

The following is a summary of changes in long-term debt of the District for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2022:

Governmental activities	Balance at Sept. 1, 2021	Increases	Decreases	Balance at Aug. 31, 2022	Due within One Year
General Obligation Bonds	\$11,515,000	\$0	\$795,000	\$10,720,000	\$855,000
Total	\$11,515,000	\$0	\$795,000	\$10,720,000	\$855,000

Long-term debt at August 31, 2022, are comprised of the following individual issues:

Issue Name	Amount Authorized	Annual Installments	Final Maturity	Interest Rate(s)	Amount Outstanding
General Obligation Bonds					
UTGO Ref Bonds, 2016	\$17,000,000	\$355,000-\$1,590,000	12/1/2030	4.00%	\$8,350,000
UTGO Ref Bonds, 2020		\$595,000-\$920,000	12/1/2024	3.00-5.00%	\$2,370,000
Total General Obligation Bonds	\$17,000,000				\$10,720,000

Debt service requirements on long-term debt as of August 31, 2022, are as follows:

Years Ending August 31	Principal	Interest	Total
2023	855,000	410,625	1,265,625
2024	920,000	377,800	1,297,800
2025	950,000	338,800	1,288,800
2026	1,095,000	297,900	1,392,900
2027	1,185,000	252,300	1,437,300
2028-31	5,715,000	478,100	6,193,100
Total	10,720,000	2,155,525	12,875,525

At August 31, 2022, the District had \$839,310 available in the Debt Service Fund to service the general obligation bonds.

Prior-Year Defeasance of Debt

In prior years, the District defeased certain general obligation and other bonds by placing the proceeds of new bonds in an irrevocable trust to provide for all future debt service payments on the old bonds. Accordingly, the trust account assets and the liability for the defeased bonds are not included in the District's financial statements. At August 31, 2020, \$0 of bonds outstanding were considered defeased.

NOTE 10: INTERFUND BALANCES AND TRANSFERS

The following table depicts interfund loan activity:

Transferred From (Fund) 535 or 536	Transferred To (Fund) 965 9900 or 9901	Amount	Description
Capital Projects Fund	General Fund	\$521,925	Technology Levy Expenditures

NOTE 11: ENTITY RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The district is a member of the Washington Schools Risk Management Pool (WSRMP). Chapter 48.62 RCW authorizes the governing body of any one or more governmental entities to form together into or join a pool or organization for the joint purchasing of insurance, and/or joint self-insuring, and/or joint hiring or contracting for risk management services to the same extent that they may individually purchase insurance, self-insure, or hire or contract for risk management services. An agreement to form a pooling arrangement was made pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 39.34 RCW, the Interlocal Cooperation Act. WSRMP was formed in 1986 when educational service districts and school districts in the state of Washington joined by signing the Cooperative Risk Management Pool Account Agreement (Account Agreement) to pool their self-insured losses and jointly purchase insurance and administrative services. Over 90 school and educational service districts have joined WSRMP.

WSRMP allows members to jointly purchase insurance coverage, establish a plan of self-insurance, and provide related services, such as risk management. WSRMP provides the following coverages for its members: property, liability, vehicle, school board liability, crime, employment practices, errors and omissions, equipment breakdown, cyber security, crisis/active shooter coverage, and stop gap liability.

Members make an annual contribution to fund WSRMP. WSRMP purchases reinsurance and excess insurance from unrelated carriers subject to a per-occurrence self-insured retention of \$1 million for property risk \$2M for liability risk shared by WSRMP. Reinsurance or Excess carriers cover losses over the self-insured retention to the maximum limits of each Coverage Agreement. Since WSRMP is a cooperative program, there is a joint liability among the participating members.

Members contract to remain in WSRMP for a minimum of three years and must give notice three years before terminating participation. The Account Agreement is renewed automatically each year after the initial three-year period. Even after termination, a member is still responsible for their share of contributions to WSRMP for any unresolved, unreported, and in-process claims for the period in which they were a signatory to the Account Agreement.

WSRMP is fully funded by its member participants and is governed by a board of directors that consists of one designated representative from each participating member. An executive board is elected at the annual meeting and is responsible for overseeing the business affairs of WSRMP.

NOTE 12: PROPERTY TAXES

Property tax revenues are collected as the result of special levies passed by the voters in the District. Taxes are levied on January 1. The taxpayer has the obligation of paying all taxes on April 30 or one-half then and one-half on October 31. Typically, slightly more than half of the collections are made on the April 30 date. The tax collections occurring after the end of the fiscal period are unavailable for revenue accrual. Therefore, the fall portion of property taxes is not accrued as revenue. Instead, the property taxes due after the end of the fiscal period are recorded as a deferred inflow of resources.

Tax Abatements

The Meridian School District independently has entered into agreements that affect the levy rate assessed by the District:

Tax Abatement Program	Total Amount of Taxes Abated
Future nonprofit churches, parsonages, and convents (84.36.020(2))	\$37,902
Property used for character building, benevolent, protective or rehabilitative social services—Camp facilities—Veteran or relief organization owned property—Property of nonprofit organizations that issue debt for student loans or that are guarantee agencies. (84.36.030)	\$5,380
Schools and colleges – Art, scientific and historical collections and property used to maintain, etc. (84.36.250-260)	\$2,221
Total	\$45,508

NOTE 13: JOINT VENTURES AND JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

The District is a member of the King County Directors Association (KCDA). KCDA is a purchasing cooperative designed to pool the member districts' purchasing power. The District's current equity of \$33,174 is the accumulation of the annual assignment of KCDA's operating surplus based upon the percentage derived from KCDA's total sales to the District compared to all other districts applied against paid administrative fees. The District may withdraw from the joint venture and will receive its equity in ten annual allocations of merchandise or 15 annual payments.

NOTE 14: FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATION DETAILS

The District's financial statements include the following amounts presented in the aggregate.

	General Fund	ASB Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Debt Service Fund	Transportation Vehicle Fund
Nonspendable Fund Balance					
Restricted Fund Balance					
For Fund Purpose		\$190,154			\$407,196
For Carryover of Food Service Revenue	\$52,393				
For Debt Service				\$839,310	
Committed Fund Balance					
Committed from Levy Proceeds			\$348,125		
Other Commitments	\$20,000				

Assigned Fund Balance					
Contingencies	\$200,000				
Other Purposes	\$60,860				
Fund Purposes			\$325,517		
Unassigned Fund Balance	\$3,156,850				

On May 23, 2012, the board of directors took an action to commit a portion of the District's ending balance (\$20,000) towards payment of sick leave buy back for the Meridian Parent Partnership Program (MP3). The amount of fund balance that has been set aside may only be used for that purpose. It cannot be used for any other purpose of the District.

The board of directors has established a minimum fund balance policy for the general fund to provide for financial stability and contingencies within the District. The policy is that the District shall maintain at a minimum of four percent (4%) and within a range of four (4) to five and a half (5.5) percent of budgeted General Fund expenditures. Portions of fund balance that are set aside for the purpose of meeting this policy are recorded on the financial statements as a part of Unassigned Fund Balance.

NOTE 15: DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PENSION AND OPEB PLANS

457 Plan – Deferred Compensation Plan

District employees have the option of participating in a deferred compensation plan as defined in §457 of the Internal Revenue Code that is administered by the state deferred compensation plan, or the District. The District does not make employer contributions to the plan.

NOTE 16: TERMINATION BENEFITS

Employees earn sick leave at a rate of 12 days per year up to a maximum of one contract year.

Under the provisions of RCW 28A.400.210, sick leave accumulated by District employees is reimbursed at death or retirement at the rate of one day for each four days of accrued leave, limited to 180 accrued days. This chapter also provides for an annual buyout of an amount up to the maximum annual accumulation of 12 days. For buyout purposes, employees may accumulate such leave to a maximum of 192 days, including the annual accumulation, as of December 31 of each year.

These expenditures are recorded when paid, except termination sick leave that is accrued upon death, retirement, or upon termination provided the employee is at least 55 years of age and has sufficient years of service. Vested sick leave was computed using the termination payment method.

Vacation pay, including benefits, that is expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources is reported as expenditures and a fund liability of the governmental fund that will pay it.

No unrecorded liability exists for other employee benefits.

NOTE 17: OTHER DISCLOSURES

The District operates a Satellite Campus of the Northwest Career & Technical Academy Skill Center, hosted by the Mount Vernon School District. A Skill Center is a regional cooperative program, designed to enhance the availability and offering of career and technical education programs by avoiding unnecessary duplication of course offerings and allowing for participation from multiple districts.

The Northwest Career & Technical Academy Skill Center was created by an agreement of Seven member districts. In the agreement, the Mount Vernon School District is designated as the host district and fiscal agent for the Skill Center, responsible for accounting and fiscal matters relating to the Skill Center. The Skill Center is governed by an Administrative Council, comprised of the superintendents of all participating districts, or their assigned representative. Administration of the Skill Center is handled through a director, who is an employee of the Mount Vernon School District.

A Satellite Campus is considered an extension of the Skill Center Core Campus. Satellite campuses do not report enrollment apart from the Core Campus, and so do not receive apportionment funding directly from the state. The District is responsible for hiring the teachers who will work on the Satellite Campus programs but as the District does not receive direct state funding, it requires that the Core Campus reimburse the District for the cost of the instructors.

Meridian School District No. 505
Schedule of Long-Term Liabilities
For the Year Ended August 31, 2022

Description	Beginning Outstanding Debt September 1, 2021	Amount Issued / Increased	Amount Redeemed / Decreased	Ending Outstanding Debt August 31, 2022	Amount Due Within One Year
Voted Debt					
Voted Bonds	11,515,000.00	0.00	795,000.00	10,720,000.00	855,000.00
LOCAL Program Proceeds Issued in Lieu of Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Non-Voted Debt and Liabilities					
Non-Voted Bonds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
LOCAL Program Proceeds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Leases	767,159.16	0.00	561,495.17	205,663.99	103,185.55
Contracts Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Claims & Judgements	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Compensated Absences	712,005.84	0.00	93,451.60	618,554.24	121,500.00
Long-Term Notes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Anticipation Notes Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lines of Credit	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Non-Voted Debt	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Liabilities					
Non-Voted Notes Not Recorded as Debt	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Pension Liabilities:					
Net Pension Liabilities TRS 1	922,343.00	1,764,281.00	0.00	2,686,624.00	
Net Pension Liabilities TRS 2/3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Net Pension Liabilities SERS 2/3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Net Pension Liabilities PERS 1	294,659.00	461,365.00	0.00	756,024.00	
Total Long-Term Liabilities	14,211,167.00	2,225,646.00	1,449,946.77	14,986,866.23	1,079,685.55

Other postemployment benefits other than pensions (OPEB) liabilities are not presented in the Schedule of Long Term Liabilities.

Meridian School District No. 505
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Year Ended August 31, 2022

Federal Agency (Pass-Through Agency)	Federal Program	ALN Number	Other Award Number	Expenditures			Passed through to Subrecipients	Note
				From Pass- Through Awards	From Direct Awards	Total		
Child Nutrition Cluster								
FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE, AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF (via OSPI)	COVID 19 - School Breakfast Program	10.553	619804	283,975	-	283,975	-	
	National School Lunch Program	10.555	699800	39,304	-	39,304	-	3
	COVID 19 - National School Lunch Program	10.555	619800	615,581	-	615,581	-	
Total ALN 10.555:				654,885	-	654,885	-	
FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE, AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF (via OSPI)	COVID 19 - Summer Food Service Program for Children	10.559	619803	638	-	638	-	
	Total Child Nutrition Cluster:				-	939,498	-	
Forest Service Schools and Roads Cluster								
FOREST SERVICE, AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF (via Office of the State Treasurer)	Schools and Roads - Grants to States	10.665	N/A	25,050	-	25,050	-	
	Total Forest Service Schools and Roads Cluster:				-	25,050	-	
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (via OSPI)	COVID 19 - Emergency Connectivity Fund Program	32.009	631900	570,473	-	570,473	-	
	Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	204092	292,400	-	292,400	-	4, 5

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

Meridian School District No. 505
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Year Ended August 31, 2022

Federal Agency (Pass-Through Agency)	Federal Program	ALN Number	Other Award Number	Expenditures			Passed through to Subrecipients	Note
				From Pass- Through Awards	From Direct Awards	Total		
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF (via OSPI)	COVID 19 - Special Education Grants to States	84.027	312144	38,585	-	38,585	-	5
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF (via OSPI)	Special Education Grants to States	84.027	307446	244,488	-	244,488	-	5
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF (via OSPI)	Special Education Grants to States	84.027	338485	28,374	-	28,374	-	6
Total ALN 84.027:				311,447	-	311,447	-	
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF (via OSPI)	Special Education Preschool Grants	84.173	366821	9,847	-	9,847	-	5
OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES, EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF (via OSPI)	Special Education Preschool Grants	84.173	388048	5,164	-	5,164	-	5
Total ALN 84.173:				15,011	-	15,011	-	
Total Special Education Cluster (IDEA):				326,458	-	326,458	-	
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF (via Mount Baker School District)	Education for Homeless Children and Youth	84.196	1212122093	4,000	-	4,000	-	

Meridian School District No. 505
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Year Ended August 31, 2022

Federal Agency (Pass-Through Agency)	Federal Program	ALN Number	Other Award Number	Expenditures			Passed through to Subrecipients	Note
				From Pass- Through Awards	From Direct Awards	Total		
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF (via OSPI)	Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants (formerly Improving Teacher Quality State Grants)	84.367	525357	25,238	-	25,238	-	5
EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF, EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF (via OSPI)	Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	431230	17,733	-	17,733	-	5
EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF, EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF (via OSPI)	COVID 19 - Education Stabilization Fund	84.425	120471 84.425D	834,386	-	834,386	-	8
EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF, EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF (via OSPI)	COVID 19 - Education Stabilization Fund	84.425	140511 84.425D	4,803	-	4,803	-	7
EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF, EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF (via OSPI)	COVID 19 - Education Stabilization Fund	84.425	138132 84.425U	609,521	-	609,521	-	7
EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF, EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF (via OSPI)	COVID 19 - Education Stabilization Fund	84.425	137129 84.425U	292,271	-	292,271	-	7
Total ALN 84.425:				1,740,981	-	1,740,981	-	
Total Federal Awards Expended:				3,941,831	-	3,941,831	-	

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

NOTE 1—BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is prepared on the same basis of accounting as the District's financial statements. The District uses the *modified accrual* basis of accounting.

Expenditures represent only the federally funded portions of the program. District records should be consulted to determine amounts expended or matched from non-federal sources.

NOTE 2—PROGRAM COSTS/MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS

The amounts shown as current year expenses represent only the federal grant portion of the program costs. Entire program costs, including the District's local matching share, may be more than shown. Such expenditures are recognized following, as applicable, either the cost principles in the OMB Circular A-87, Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments, or the cost principles contained in Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.

NOTE 3—NONCASH AWARDS

The amount of *commodities* reported on the schedule is the value of commodities distributed by the district during the current year and priced as prescribed by USDA/OSPI.

NOTE 4—SCHOOLWIDE PROGRAMS

The *District* operates a "schoolwide program" in one elementary building. Using federal funding, schoolwide programs are designed to upgrade an entire educational program within a school for all students, rather than limit services to certain targeted students. The following federal program amounts were expended by the *District* in its schoolwide program. Title I (84.010) (\$242,400).

NOTE 5—FEDERAL INDIRECT RATE

The *District* used the federal *restricted* rate of 5.62 percent for this program. See footnote column on SEFA. The District has not elected to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE 6—FEDERAL INDIRECT RATE

The *District* used the federal *restricted* rate of 6.14 percent for this program. See footnote column on SEFA. The District has not elected to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE 7—FEDERAL INDIRECT RATE

The *District* used the federal *unrestricted* rate of 20.05 percent for this program. See footnote column on SEFA. The District has not elected to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE 8—FEDERAL INDIRECT RATE

The *District* used the federal *unrestricted* rate of 19.48 percent for this program. See footnote column on SEFA. The District has not elected to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.



MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Each student will succeed through quality, inspirational and innovative education

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR FINDINGS REPORTED UNDER UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Meridian School District No. 505 September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022

This schedule presents the corrective action planned by the District for findings reported in this report in accordance with Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance).

Finding ref number: 2022-001	Finding caption: The District did not have adequate internal controls for ensuring compliance with federal wage rate requirements.
Name, address, and telephone of District's contact person: Daniel Yorton 214 W. Laurel Road Bellingham, WA 98226 360-318-2161	
Corrective action the auditee plans to take in response to the finding: <i>The District would like to thank the auditors for their work and recommendations regarding Davis-Bacon requirements.</i> <i>The District has implemented internal controls to ensure that contract language meets Davis-Bacon requirements.</i> <i>The District has also implemented internal controls to ensure that contractors submit weekly certified payroll and Davis-Bacon requirements are met.</i>	
Anticipated date to complete the corrective action: 7/31/23	

Finding ref number: 2022-002	Finding caption: The District did not have adequate internal controls for ensuring compliance with federal procurement requirements.
Name, address, and telephone of District's contact person: Daniel Yorton 214 W. Laurel Road Bellingham, WA 98226 360-988-3840	
Corrective action the auditee plans to take in response to the finding: <i>The District does not agree with the finding. See detail in the finding response. Based on SAO's stance regarding piggybacking for public works projects, the District will continue to use our process for determining piggybacking requirements while seeking support when needed. The District will default to the public bid process for the public works process. In instances where it is favorable for the District to piggyback on public works projects, we will consult our attorney for legal guidance. We will also consider submitting a help desk request for guidance from SAO when needed.</i>	
Anticipated date to complete the corrective action: 7/31/23	

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