



Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy

Accountability Audit Report

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

(Muckleshoot Tribal School)

For the period September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2023

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Office of the Washington State Auditor Pat McCarthy

June 10, 2024

Muckleshoot Tribal School
Auburn, Washington

Report on Accountability

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government. The Office of the Washington State Auditor takes seriously our role of providing state and local governments with assurance and accountability as the independent auditor of public accounts. In this way, we strive to help government work better, cost less, deliver higher value and earn greater public trust.

Independent audits provide essential accountability and transparency for State-Tribal Education Compact School operations. This information is valuable to management, the governing body and public stakeholders when assessing the government's stewardship of public resources.

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

Sincerely,

Pat McCarthy, State Auditor
Olympia, WA

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AUDIT RESULTS

Results in brief

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

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

About the audit

This report contains the results of our independent accountability audit of Muckleshoot Tribal School from September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2023.

Management is responsible for ensuring compliance and adequate safeguarding of public resources from fraud, loss or abuse. This includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls relevant to these objectives.

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

Based on our risk assessment for the years ended August 31, 2023 and 2022, the areas examined were those representing the highest risk of fraud, loss, abuse, or noncompliance. We examined the following areas during this audit period:

- Payroll – gross wages, bonus and incentive payments
- Compliance with supplemental contracts for enrichment activities
- Use of restricted funds – professional learning
- Establishment of local revenue subfund
- Student enrollment reporting—special education



MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN TRIBE

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SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

Muckleshoot Tribal School September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2023

This schedule presents the status of findings reported in prior audit periods.

Audit Period: 9/1/18 – 8/31/21	Report Ref. No.: 1032663	Finding Ref. No.: 2021-001
Finding Caption: The State Tribal Education Compact School (STEC) did not maintain adequate documentation to support all employee pay.		
Background: The STEC offered incentive, stipend and supplemental pay to employees during the audit period. However, the school did not consistently maintain documentation to support this additional pay. A lack of controls, oversight and monitoring of payroll disbursements resulted in missing supporting documentation for payments, as well as underpayments to employees.		
Status of Corrective Action: (check one) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fully Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Partially Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Not Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Finding is considered no longer valid		
Corrective Action Taken: <i>This finding has been corrected. Additional or supplemental contracts are written for any or all stipends, this documentation is uploaded in Skyward so it is available for State Audit purposes.</i>		

INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATE-TRIBAL EDUCATION COMPACT SCHOOL

Muckleshoot Tribal School 17903, established in September 2014 as one of the first three Washington State Tribal Compact Schools, located in King County. For the school years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, Muckleshoot Tribal School served an average of 537, and 550 students respectively from K-12th grade. The Muckleshoot Tribal School education campus operates a single K-12 school, which includes elementary, middle school, and high school programs.

The school received approximately \$7.6 million in direct state funding for fiscal year 2022 and \$9.5 million in direct state funding for fiscal year 2023. As a sovereign nation, the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe has the ultimate control over the educational needs of the students attending the Muckleshoot Tribal School.

Contact information related to this report

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Information current as of report publish date.

Audit history

You can find current and past audit reports for the Muckleshoot Tribal School at <http://portal.sao.wa.gov/ReportSearch>.

ABOUT THE STATE AUDITOR'S OFFICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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