

## AUDITS

The assets of the Nixa Public Schools will be professionally and transparently managed in accordance with law and the high expectations of the Board and the community. The superintendent or designee will ensure that the district's financial statements accurately reflect the district's financial position and that all applicable state and federal laws are followed.

The district will retain an independent auditor at the close of each fiscal year for the purpose of auditing and making necessary reports to the Board of Education, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the federal government. The Board directs all district employees to cooperate with and assist the auditor so that the Board may obtain a fair and accurate report.

The cost of the audit and reports shall be paid from the incidental fund of the district.

### **Auditor Selection**

The Board will procure the services of the independent auditor by competitive bid pursuant to Board policy. The independent auditor must hold a current permit to practice public accounting in the state of Missouri and meet the requirements for continuing education and peer review as defined by the Missouri State Board of Accountancy and *Government Auditing Standards*. The district will request a copy of the audit organization's peer review report. The independent auditor cannot be suspended or debarred from doing business with the state or federal government. All subcontractors must also meet these requirements. The district will receive proposals for audit services at least every six years and will select the auditor based on specified criteria to determine a firm that is experienced and qualified to provide audit services at a reasonable rate of compensation.

### **Scope of Audit**

All requests for audit services will clearly identify the scope of the audit.

The audit shall be made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, government auditing standards, federal audit standards, and DESE audit guidelines. Minimally, the audit will include the district's General, Special Revenue, Debt Service and Capital Projects funds; fiduciary funds; proprietary funds; and component units, unless a component unit issues its own audited financial statements. All financial, transportation, food service and attendance records of the district will be audited in accordance with state law.

The audit will include reviews and tests of the accounting system, books and records, and other underlying data as necessary to reach an informed opinion on the financial affairs of the district.

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The auditor will give an opinion on the fairness of presentation of the district's financial statements and will review the financial operations systems of internal control and compliance with law. The Board may expand the scope of the audit to include an examination of a specific district program, fund or process or to require a more comprehensive audit than is required by law.

### ***Audit of Federal Funds***

The district will conduct audits of federal awards and federal funds as directed by the Board and in accordance with law and the requirements of the agency awarding the funding.

### **Audit Report**

The audit report shall meet the requirements of state and federal law. The independent auditor shall provide a copy of the audit report to each member of the Board and the superintendent. Once the audit report is final, the Board will vote by motion or resolution to approve the audit report, and the Board secretary will sign a copy of the final approved motion or resolution verifying that the final report has been approved. The Board delegates to the superintendent or designee the responsibility for transmitting to DESE on behalf of the Board a copy of the final audit report, the related management letter if prepared by the auditor, and a copy of the final, approved and signed Board minutes or Board resolution approving the audit report. These materials must be submitted electronically in the manner directed by DESE no later than December 31 each year.

### **Public Access and Publication**

The final audit report is an open record, and any member of the public may request to inspect or copy the report. Confidential and privileged communications between the district and its auditor, including all auditor work product, are closed to the extent permitted by law.

Within 30 days of receipt of the final audit report, the superintendent or designee, on behalf of the Board, shall prepare a summary of the report and publish it in a qualifying newspaper or by other means allowed by law. The publication shall state that the audit report is available in the superintendent's office for inspection.

### **Response to Audit**

All recommendations of the auditor will be taken seriously and will be implemented as appropriate. The superintendent or designee is directed to resolve any questions or discrepancies disclosed by the audit and must provide a full report of the resolution to the Board.

If the district receives an audit with a disclaimer of opinion, the district shall institute corrective measures immediately to ensure that subsequent audits do not contain a disclaimer. If fraud or embezzlement is discovered during the course of an audit, the superintendent or designee will notify DESE. If the superintendent or designee is implicated in the suspected fraud or embezzlement, the Board president will notify DESE.

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***Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.***

Adopted: 10/08/1998

Revised: 05/11/2000; 05/13/2010; 10/14/2010; 08/18/2016

Cross Refs: BDC, Closed Meetings, Records and Votes  
KB, Public Information Program

Legal Refs: §§ 163.021, .081, 165.111, .121, 610.021(17), RSMo.  
5 C.S.R. 30-4.030  
Single Audit Act, 31 U.S.C. §§ 7501 - 7507  
2 C.F.R. Part 200

Nixa Public Schools, Nixa, Missouri