

## Hackberry Elementary School District

**District spent more on administration, plant operations, food service, and transportation than its peer districts and could redirect an estimated \$145,000 or more to instruction or other District priorities**

### Audit purpose

To assess the District's spending on administration, plant operations and maintenance, food service, and transportation and its compliance with certain State requirements.

### Key findings

- District spent twice as much on administration as peer districts and could redirect an estimated \$104,600 annually to instruction.
- District has continually operated its 1 school substantially below designed capacity, resulting in an estimated \$95,300 of inefficient spending in fiscal year 2018.
- District produced more meals than it served and had higher food service labor hours than similarly sized peer districts, costing an estimated \$31,500 annually in monies that could have been used for instruction.
- District operated its transportation program at a higher cost in fiscal year 2018 than peer districts and did not perform timely bus preventative maintenance.
- District did not follow credible industry standards for access to its student information system, putting sensitive information at risk.

### Key recommendations

The District should:

- Operate more efficiently by reviewing administrative staffing levels and implementing reductions.
- Ensure supervisors review all timecards and pay employees only for hours worked.
- Determine and implement ways to reduce its excess capacity and/or the costs associated with it.
- Ensure meals are not overproduced by using the number of lunch orders as the basis for food preparation.
- Reduce the number of labor hours used to conduct its food service program.
- Evaluate the cost effectiveness of purchasing or leasing an appropriately sized bus or paying parents to transport students.
- Track mileage and perform timely preventative maintenance if it continues to use a bus.
- Implement credible industry standards regarding access to and oversight of its student information system.

We also made a recommendation to the Legislature to consider adopting statutory requirements to reduce the risk of districts substantially overbuilding schools in the future.