

Arizona State Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

ASDB provides sensory impaired students in the State with educational and support services and has processes for maintaining its campus schools' accreditation but has not developed a multi-year capital plan, impacting its ability to address its capital improvement needs, and it may be collecting more revenue than needed to administer its Itinerant Services Program

Audit purpose

To assess ASDB's processes for meeting its responsibility to educate students in Arizona with sensory impairments and determine whether ASDB developed a multi-year capital plan, evaluated the appropriateness of its Itinerant Services Program fees, and complied with State conflict-of-interest requirements, and to provide responses to the statutory sunset factors.

Key findings

ASDB:

- Was established in 1912 to educate students in Arizona with sensory impairments, such as a hearing and/or vision impairment, and provides sensory impaired students throughout the State with educational and support services through its 2 campus schools and Itinerant Services Program.
- Established policies and procedures for maintaining its campus schools' accreditation and for ensuring that its teachers meet State requirements for certification.
- Has identified millions of dollars in capital improvement needs, including buildings that are vacant, underutilized, or that present health and safety concerns, but has not developed a multi-year capital plan, hindering its ability to address these needs in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- May be collecting more revenue than necessary to administer the Itinerant Services Program.
- Does not use a consistent approach to assess its post-school outcomes (PSO) survey data, limiting the exchange of best practices between its campuses to improve transition services for students.
- Did not comply with 1 statutory conflict-of-interest requirement and had not fully aligned its conflict-of-interest process with recommended practices.

Key recommendations

ASDB should:

- Develop and implement a comprehensive, multi-year capital plan that assesses, identifies, and documents its capital needs.
- Develop and implement policies and procedures to periodically review the appropriateness of its Itinerant Services Program fees.
- Develop and implement policies and procedures for analyzing PSO surveys agency-wide.
- Develop and implement conflict-of-interest policies and procedures to help ensure it complies with State conflict-of-interest requirements and follows recommended practices.