



The Humboldt Schools.
Motivating achievement since 1906.

June 25, 2012

Ms. Debra K. Davenport
Auditor General
2910 North 44th Street, Suite 410
Phoenix, Arizona 85018

Dear Ms. Davenport:

The Humboldt Unified School District respectfully submits its response to the Performance Audit conducted by the Office of the Auditor General for the 2010 Fiscal Year. The District would like to thank the Auditor General's staff for their exemplary professionalism and courtesy during the multiple visits to our District. We are extremely pleased with the overall assessment, and agree with and will implement the Audit's findings and recommendations.

In its First Finding, the Performance Audit indicates that HUSD compares most favorably with its peer districts in both student achievement and operational efficiencies. Following are some of the Performance Audit conclusions for Finding #1:

Student Achievement higher than state and peer districts' averages

The Auditor's report strongly highlights that our student achievement is higher than both our peer districts and state averages. In fiscal year 2010, the percentage of District students who met or exceeded state standards in math, reading and writing was higher than the state and peer districts' averages. The District's 82% high school graduation rate was also higher than the peer group average of 80% and the state average of 78%.

District operated efficiently in costs for administration and plant operations

The Auditor's report reflects that HUSD has operated very efficiently, spending much less per student than peer districts on administration and plant operations. In the area of administration, our costs were 26% lower per pupil than peer districts. The District spent less on administration due to the fact that it employs fewer administrative staff and pays lower salaries for some administrative positions. In the area of plant operations, our per-square-foot costs were 10% lower and our per-pupil-costs were 20% lower compared to our peer district averages. The Audit further underscores that our Food Service and Transportation programs have operated with great efficiency in providing much lower costs per meal and transporting students with a much lower cost per mile and cost per rider. We would like to state that this was accomplished with a complete focus on the needs of the students whom we serve.

Under Finding #2, the Performance Audit recommends that the District, a) Strengthen its controls relative to its computer systems and, b) Formalize a disaster recovery plan in the case of a system or equipment

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failure and/or interruption.

Finally, it is essential to point out that the high student achievement and efficient operation of the district is directly associated with our outstanding teaching, support and administrative staff. The difficult Arizona economic conditions directly impacting our district have not deterred them in the least from executing exemplary service and work on behalf of our students. We are grateful for all of our employees.

Once again, we thank you for your thorough and diligent review. The Humboldt Unified School District is steadfast in its commitment to being a good steward of our financial resources and to strengthening our academic and business systems.

Sincerely,

Dr. Paul Stanton, Superintendent

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