

Queen Creek School District No.95

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Learning Is Our #1 Priority!

October 17, 2012

State of Arizona
Office of the Auditor General
Debra Davenport, Auditor General
2910 North 44th Street, Suite 410
Phoenix, Arizona 85018

Ms. Davenport,

Queen Creek Unified School District (QCUSD) respectfully submits our response to the Performance Audit for Fiscal Year 2010, which was conducted in conformity with Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) §41-1279.03. QCUSD understands that this Statute requires all Arizona public school districts to undergo a specialized audit to assess a District's comparative expenditure patterns with similar sized districts.

QCUSD welcomes the opportunity to improve our organization and appreciates the Auditor General staff that was assigned to our District in regard to their professionalism while interacting with our staff. The A.G.'s staff was sensitive to the additional time necessary for completion of this audit and has been extremely supportive and helpful throughout the audit process.

QCUSD appreciates the auditor's recognition of our student achievement, with AIMS scores similar to peer districts' scores and much higher than state averages. We further appreciate the acknowledgement that the District operated efficiently overall, with costs that were lower than or similar to peer districts.

The Performance Audit lists two main findings regarding low administrative costs and improvements needed to lower transportation costs and accurately report transportation miles and riders and one other less significant finding in that the District incurred losses on lunches provided to some charter schools. On the following pages, in compliance with the requirements of A.R.S. §41-1279.03, QCUSD has addressed each recommendation in the report, stating whether the District:

1. Does or does not agree with the findings and recommendations, and
2. Will implement the recommendation, will implement a modification to the recommendation, or will not implement the recommendation.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding our response.

Sincerely,

Thomas Lindsey
QCUSD Superintendent

Cc: Shari Zara, Chief Financial Officer
Governing Board, Queen Creek Unified School District
Ross Ehrick, Division of School Audits Director
Ann Orrico, Division of School Audits Manager

Together We Make A Difference!
Mr. Tom Lindsey, Superintendent of QCUSD Schools

Finding 1:

Response:

The District concurs with the finding and will ensure strengthened controls over access to accounting and student information systems.

The District has reviewed employee job responsibilities and limited their access to the accounting and the student information systems to be in alignment with their responsibilities.

Finding 2:

Response:

The Transportation Department agrees, with the findings of the Auditor General's office in reference to the operations of this Department.

It is the intent, of the Queen Creek Unified School District Transportation Department, to comply with all of the recommendations in the report.

1. The District will closely review its bus routes to determine if changes can be made to improve efficiency. We have already combined some routes and will continue to try to combine other routes. More routes may be able to be combined, to reach the 75% ridership desired. We have also already implemented a Transportation routing software system.
2. The District will develop and monitor performance measures such as cost per mile, cost per rider, and bus capacity usage. We have already implemented new vehicle maintenance software, in our vehicle repair area, which will assist us in more accurately measuring and monitoring vehicle costs per mile, cost per rider, and bus capacity usage.
3. The District will accurately calculate and report the miles driven for state funding purposes. This department has very recently received training on how to properly calculate and report the miles driven for state funding purposes. There will be no further discrepancies in the reporting of the mileage.
4. The District will contact the Arizona Department of Education regarding needed corrections to its transportation funding reports and corresponding adjustments to its expenditure budget.
5. The District will retain ALL supporting documentation to support the reported number of transportation students and miles as required by the Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records retention schedule.

Other Findings:

Response:

The District agrees with the finding and will renegotiate prices with the charter schools to ensure that revenues generated from selling meals at least cover the related costs. The District has analyzed prices with the charter schools to ensure that revenues generated from selling meals at least cover the related costs. The preschool sites contracts will be reviewed to include all costs and will be kept with contracts commencing 2013-14 school year. A recent analysis was completed. A new contract that increased lunch prices for the K-8 charter schools was presented to the Governing Board for approval, on June 2012.