

RESULTS

The Arizona Auditor General engaged Sjoberg Evashenk Consulting, Inc. to conduct a performance audit of Stanfield Unified School District, pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes §41-1279.03(A)(9), and determine the District's efficiency and effectiveness in 4 operational areas—administration, plant operations and maintenance, food service, and transportation—and its compliance with certain State requirements. We found that the District did not comply with important requirements and recommended practices in various areas, including travel reimbursements, accounts payables, and payroll, increasing the risk for errors, fraud, and improper payments. Additionally, we identified various information technology (IT) deficiencies that increased the District's risk for unauthorized access to sensitive District information and data loss. Finally, the District did not fully comply with annual school bus driver drug testing requirements and did not maintain all required school bus driver records, increasing risks to student safety.

AUDIT PURPOSE

To assess the District's efficiency and effectiveness in 4 operational areas—administration, plant operations and maintenance, food service, and transportation—and its compliance with certain State requirements.

BACKGROUND

Stanfield Elementary School District is a rural school district located in Pinal County and was responsible for the education of 383 students in fiscal year 2022. The District has 1 school providing education services for students in kindergarten through 8th grade.

KEY FINDINGS

- The District did not comply with school bus driver annual drug testing requirements in 2023 and did not maintain all required bus driver certification documentation, increasing risks to student safety. The District also inaccurately reported its miles and riders for State funding purposes in fiscal year 2022.
- The District did not accurately classify expenditures and lacked sufficient internal controls in some areas, putting public monies at an increased risk of loss, theft, or misuse.
- The District did not comply with important payroll requirements and incorrectly calculated hours worked for some hourly employees, resulting in over- and underpayments to hourly employees and putting public monies at an increased risk of errors, fraud, and improper payments.
- District employees' excessive access to sensitive computerized data and other information technology deficiencies increased risk of unauthorized access to sensitive information, errors, fraud, and data loss.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The District should:

- Recalculate and resubmit accurate fiscal year 2022 miles driven and riders transported to Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to determine if any corrections are necessary to its transportation reporting.
- Ensure employees responsible for classifying expenditures review the *Uniform System of Financial Records for Arizona School Districts* (USFR) Uniform Chart of Accounts at least annually and implement its guidance to accurately account for and report the District's spending.
- Identify and correct over- and underpayments made to all current hourly employees and compensatory time balances from fiscal year 2022 to the present, including the over- and underpayments we identified.
- Implement a policy to regularly review all user accounts for all information systems and applications to determine whether access levels remain appropriate and to ensure users have only the access necessary to perform their job duties.