



ARIZONA AUDITOR GENERAL

Lindsey A. Perry, Auditor General

Melanie M. Chesney, Deputy Auditor General

August 5, 2025

Arizona State Board of Education
1700 W. Washington St.
Executive Tower Ste. 300
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Subject: Ajo Unified School District—Still in Noncompliance with the USFR

Dear Members of the State Board:

In accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) §15-271, we are notifying you that Ajo Unified School District (District) is still in noncompliance with the *Uniform System of Financial Records for Arizona School Districts* (USFR) based on our review of the District's fiscal year (FY) 2024 financial audit reports and USFR Compliance Questionnaire (Questionnaire). As required, we are providing you a list of the most significant USFR deficiencies we noted in those reports.

The following summarizes our past notifications and State Board of Education (State Board) action related to the District's continued noncompliance with the USFR:

- August 2024—We notified the District it had not complied with the USFR based on our review of the significant deficiencies cited in its FY 2023 audit reports and Questionnaire. The District had 90 days to correct its deficiencies, but it did not do so.
- December 2024—We notified the State Board that the District was not ready for a status review to determine if it is no longer in noncompliance with the USFR based on assertions in its submitted November 2024 corrective action plan and discussions with District management.
- March 2025—The State Board directed the Superintendent of Public Instruction to withhold 3 percent of the District's State Aid in accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes §15-272(B).

Further, we will continue to assist the District as it works to correct its internal control deficiencies. For example, we provided the District an updated corrective action plan template to document corrective actions taken to comply with the USFR and we will schedule periodic meetings with District management to discuss the District's implemented and planned corrective actions. When the District can show it has corrected its deficiencies, my Office may perform a status review to

determine if the District is no longer in noncompliance with the USFR, and we will inform you of the results.

If you have questions concerning the District's noncompliance or our process, please call Meghan Hieger, Director, or Chris Votroubek, Manager, within our Accountability Services Division at (602) 977-2796.

Sincerely,

Lindsey A. Perry

Lindsey A. Perry, CPA, CFE
Auditor General

cc: Governing Board
Roman Soltero, Superintendent
Rona Cotay, Assistant Business Manager
Ajo Unified School District
The Honorable Dustin Williams, Pima County School Superintendent
Sean Ross, Executive Director
Arizona State Board of Education
Art Harding, Chief Operations Officer
Nicole von Prisk, Deputy Associate Superintendent, Grants Management
Arizona Department of Education