

## Bowie Unified School District

High teacher turnover and noncompliance with State's online instruction program requirements may have negatively impacted student achievement. In addition, District spent more on administration, plant operations, and food service than peer districts and did not generate revenues to cover community program costs—likely diverting monies from instruction.

### Audit purpose

To assess the District's spending on administration, plant operations and maintenance, food service, and transportation and its compliance with certain State requirements.

### Key findings

- In fiscal year 2018, no more than 11 percent of the District's tested students passed State assessments.
- District's high teacher turnover rate and only partial implementation of State online instruction program requirements may have negatively impacted student achievement.
- District spent over \$255,800 more on administrative staff than peer districts.
- District inefficiently spent at least \$121,200 on plant operations due to higher plant staffing than peer districts and operating schools substantially below designed capacities.
- District used less than 20 percent of its space, some of which District officials believe is unsafe.
- Inefficient food service practices likely diverted monies away from instruction or other priorities.
- District did not generate revenues to cover community program costs, entered an inequitable cost-sharing agreement, and may have paid another district thousands of dollars for inaccurate charges.

### Key recommendations

The District should:

- Continue to implement steps that it has taken to improve student achievement.
- Develop and implement actions to improve teacher retention and ensure its online instruction program meets State accountability requirements.
- Reduce its administrative spending by assessing staffing and salary levels and determining how to reduce them to levels similar to peer districts'.
- Determine whether space is needed before spending to fix deficiencies and close excess space.
- Charge students correct meal prices and take other steps to control food service spending.
- Determine whether to continue operating community programs and, if it does, generate revenues to cover costs.