



Thatcher Unified School District No. 4

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June 21, 2011

Debra Davenport
Office of the Auditor General
2910 N. 44th St., Ste. 410
Phoenix, AZ 85018

RE: Response to Thatcher Unified School District #4 FY '09 Performance Audit

Dear Ms. Davenport:

Thatcher School District #4 respectfully submits this written response to the performance audit conducted by the Auditor General for FY '09.

Your recognition of the efforts made by our District to operate efficiently with low administrative and plant operation costs compared to peer districts and your acknowledgement of our student achievement being higher than the state and peer districts' averages is greatly appreciated.

The primary focus in this District continues to be to increase student achievement by keeping spending in the classroom. Results of rigorous teacher development at the building levels support the consistent performance by students in this District.

I would also like to recognize and commend your staff on their courtesy and professionalism exhibited during the audit, particularly their willingness to openly discuss all aspects of the audit.

Sincerely,

Paul Nelson
Superintendent
Thatcher Unified School District

Auditor General Performance Audit
Thatcher Unified School District #4
District Response to Audit Findings

Finding 1

District operated efficiently with most costs lower than peer districts.

- Significantly lower administrative Costs
- Efficient and effective administration
- Well managed business office

We appreciate the acknowledgement concerning the management of District operations. Our business office consistently strives to ensure the district runs smoothly with every safeguard in place to insure quality and efficiency.

Finding 2

The District agrees with the recommendations in this finding and will implement the necessary safeguards to meet the recommendations. This will involve all aspects as mentioned in the recommendation, involving:

- Tracking and monitoring Food inventory and meal Production
- Establish First-in, First-out inventory policy
- Establish a better method to determine the number of meals needed each day involving counts for student meals to be served daily, matching counts to meal production.

Following the recommendations of the audit should bring our individual meal cost down and provide better efficiency with food costs.

Other Findings:

The District concurs with the recommendation in regards to creating a formal disaster recovery plan and will develop a plan which will include a schedule of periodic testing of tape backups in order to discover and rectify any deficiencies which may be found. This new process will ensure that the District can recover from a disaster or equipment failure with minimal data loss and downtime.