



**BETTY T. YEE**  
California State Controller

July 1, 2015

Mariann Engle, Superintendent  
Mount Pleasant Elementary School District  
3434 Marten Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95148

Dear Ms. Engle:

The State Controller's Office performed a desk review of costs claimed by the Mount Pleasant Elementary School District for the legislatively mandated Collective Bargaining and Collective Bargaining Agreement Disclosure Program (Chapter 961, Statutes of 1975; and Chapter 1213, Statutes of 1991) for the period of July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2012. We conducted our review under the authority of Government Code sections 12410, 17558.5, and 17561. Our review was limited to ensuring that direct and indirect costs were properly reported in accordance with program requirements.

The district claimed \$151,041 for the mandated program. Our review found that \$127,501 is allowable and \$23,540 is unallowable. The costs are unallowable because the district did not report the Winton Act base-year costs and claimed unallowable Superintendent costs, as described in the attached Summary of Program Costs and the Review Results. The State made no payments to the district. The State will pay \$127,501, contingent upon available appropriations.

We informed Tracy Huynh, Director of Business Services, of the findings via email on June 16, 2015. We did not receive a response from the district.

If you disagree with the review findings, you may file an Incorrect Reduction Claim (IRC) with the Commission on State Mandates (Commission). The IRC must be filed within three years following the date of this report. You may obtain IRC information at the Commission's website at [www.csm.ca.gov/docs/IRCForm.pdf](http://www.csm.ca.gov/docs/IRCForm.pdf).

If you have any questions, please contact Jim L. Spano, Chief, Mandated Cost Audits Bureau, by telephone at (916) 323-5849.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

JEFFREY V. BROWNFIELD, CPA  
Chief, Division of Audits

JVB/as

Attachments

RE: S15-MCC-9048

cc: Tracy Huynh, Director of Business Services  
Mount Pleasant Elementary School District  
Kolvira Chheng, Director  
District Business and Advisory Services  
Santa Clara County Office of Education  
Peter Foggiato, Director  
School Fiscal Services Division  
California Department of Education  
Amy Tang-Paterno, Education Fiscal Services Consultant  
Government Affairs Division  
California Department of Education  
Thomas Todd, Assistant Program Budget Manager  
Education Systems Unit, California Department of Finance  
Jay Lal, Manager  
Division of Accounting and Reporting  
State Controller's Office

## Attachment 1— Summary of Program Costs July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2012

Cost Elements	Actual Costs Claimed	Allowable per Review	Review Adjustment	Reference <sup>1</sup>
<u>July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2011</u>				
Direct costs:				
Component activities G1 through G3:				
Salaries and benefits	\$ 3,030	\$ 2,039	\$ (991)	Finding 1
Contract services	4,402	4,402	-	
Subtotal	7,432	6,441	(991)	
Less base-year direct costs adjusted by the Implicit Price Deflator	-	(11,545)	(11,545)	Finding 2
Subtotal	7,432	(5,104)	(12,536)	
Adjustment to eliminate negative balance	-	5,104	5,104	
Increased direct costs, G1 through G3	7,432	-	(7,432)	
Component activities G4 through G7:				
Salaries and benefits	5,987	2,705	(3,282)	Finding 1
Contract services	12,083	12,083	-	
Increased direct costs, G4 through G7	18,070	14,788	(3,282)	
Total increased direct costs, G1 through G7	25,502	14,788	(10,714)	
Indirect costs	1,010	586	(424)	Findings 1, 2
Total program costs	<u>\$ 26,512</u>	15,374	<u>\$ (11,138)</u>	
Less amount paid by the State		-		
Allowable costs claimed in excess of (less than) amount paid		<u>\$ 15,374</u>		
<u>July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012</u>				
Direct costs:				
Component activities G1 through G3:				
Salaries and benefits	\$ 6,822	\$ 6,822	\$ -	
Contract services	8,794	8,794	-	
Subtotal	15,616	15,616	-	
Less base-year direct costs adjusted by the Implicit Price Deflator	-	(11,935)	(11,935)	Finding 2
Increased direct costs, G1 through G3	15,616	3,681	(11,935)	
Component activities G4 through G7:				
Salaries and benefits	3,196	3,196	-	
Contract services	101,031	101,031	-	
Increased direct costs, G4 through G7	104,227	104,227	-	
Total increased direct costs, G1 through G7	119,843	107,908	(11,935)	
Indirect costs	4,686	4,219	(467)	Finding 2
Total program costs	<u>\$ 124,529</u>	112,127	<u>\$ (12,402)</u>	
Less amount paid by the State		-		
Allowable costs claimed in excess of (less than) amount paid		<u>\$ 112,127</u>		

## Attachment 1 (continued)

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Cost Elements	Actual Costs Claimed	Allowable per Review	Review Adjustment	Reference <sup>1</sup>
<u>Summary: July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2012</u>				
Total increased direct costs, G1 through G7	\$ 145,345	\$ 122,696	\$ (22,649)	
Indirect costs	<u>5,696</u>	<u>4,805</u>	<u>(891)</u>	
Total program costs	<u>\$ 151,041</u>	127,501	<u>\$ (23,540)</u>	
Less amount paid by the State		-		
Allowable costs claimed in excess of (less than) amount paid		<u>\$ 127,501</u>		

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<sup>1</sup> See Attachment 2, Review Results.

## **Attachment 2— Review Results July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2012**

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### **BACKGROUND—**

In 1975, the State enacted the Rodda Act (Chapter 961, Statutes of 1975), requiring the employer and employee to meet and negotiate, thereby creating a collective bargaining atmosphere for public school employers. The legislation created the Public Employment Relations Board to issue formal interpretations and rulings regarding collective bargaining under the Rodda Act. In addition, the legislation established organizational rights of employees and representational rights of employee organizations, and recognized exclusive representatives related to collective bargaining.

On July 17, 1978, the Board of Control (now the Commission on State Mandates [Commission]) determined that the Rodda Act imposed a state mandate upon school districts, reimbursable under Government Code section 17561.

Chapter 1213, Statutes of 1991, added Government Code section 3547.5. This section requires school districts to publicly disclose major provisions of a collective bargaining effort before the agreement becomes binding. On August 20, 1998, the Commission determined that this legislation also imposed a state mandate upon school districts, reimbursable under Government Code section 17561.

Claimants are allowed to claim increased costs. For components G1 through G3, increased costs represent the difference between the current-year Rodda Act activities and the base-year Winton Act activities (generally, fiscal year [FY] 1974-75), as adjusted by the Implicit Price Deflator. For components G4 through G7, increased costs represent actual costs incurred.

The seven components are as follows:

- G1 – Determining bargaining units and exclusive representatives
- G2 – Election of unit representatives
- G3 – Cost of negotiations
- G4 – Impasse proceedings
- G5 – Collective bargaining agreement disclosure
- G6 – Contract administration
- G7 – Unfair labor practice charges

The program's parameters and guidelines establish the state mandate and define the reimbursement criteria. The Commission adopted the parameters and guidelines on October 22, 1980, and amended them ten times, most recently on January 29, 2010.

In compliance with Government Code section 17558, the State Controller's Office (SCO) issues claiming instructions to assist school districts in claiming mandated program reimbursable costs.

The current findings are the result of our review of the mandated cost claims filed for the legislatively mandated Collective Bargaining and Collective Bargaining Agreement Disclosure Program for the period of July 1, 2010, through June 30, 2012.

**FINDING 1—  
Unallowable  
Superintendent costs  
and related indirect  
costs**

For FY 2010-11, the district claimed unallowable salaries and benefits of its Superintendent, totaling \$4,273. In addition, unallowable related indirect costs total \$169.

The following table summarizes the unallowable Superintendent cost adjustment:

	Fiscal Year 2010-11
Superintendent costs claimed	\$ (4,273)
Related indirect costs adjustment	<u>(169)</u>
Review adjustment	<u>\$ (4,442)</u>

The parameters and guidelines (section E., Governing Authority) state:

The costs for salaries and expenses of the governing authority, for example the School Superintendent and Governing Board, are not reimbursable. These are costs of general government as described by the federal guideline entitled “Cost Principles and Procedures for Establishing Cost Allocation Plans and Indirect Cost Rates for Grants and Contracts with the Federal Government,” ASMB C-10.

Recommendation

Commencing in FY 2012-13, the district elected to participate in a block grant program, pursuant to Government Code section 17581.6, in lieu of filing annual mandated cost claims. If the district chooses to opt out of the block grant program, we recommend that the district ensure that all costs claimed are reimbursable per the parameters and guidelines.

**FINDING 2—  
Unreported Winton Act  
base-year direct costs  
and related indirect  
costs**

The district did not report the Winton Act direct costs on its mandated cost claims for FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12. Specifically, the district did not offset the Winton Act base-year costs against the current-year Rodda Act costs for components G1 through G3, thus understating the Winton Act base-year costs by \$23,480 for the review period. Unallowable related indirect costs total \$722.

The following table summarizes the unreported Winton Act base-year cost adjustments by fiscal year:

	Fiscal Year		Total
	2010-11	2011-12	
Winton Act base-year costs, FY 1997-98	\$ (2,519)	\$ (2,519)	
Implicit Price Deflator (IPD)	× 4.583	× 4.738	
Winton Act base-year costs adjusted by the IPD	(11,545)	(11,935)	\$ (23,480)
Less reported Winton Act base-year costs	-	-	-
Unreported Winton Act base-year costs adjusted by the IPD	(11,545)	(11,935)	(23,480)
Related indirect cost adjustment	(255)	(467)	(722)
Review adjustment	\$ (11,800)	\$ (12,402)	\$ (24,202)

The parameters and guidelines (section H., Supporting Data for Claims – Report Format for Submission of Claim) state:

- a. For component activities G1, G2, and G3:
  1. Determination of the “increased costs” for each of these three components requires the costs of current year Rodda Act activities to be offset [reduced] by the cost of the base-year Winton Act activities. The Winton Act base-year is generally fiscal year 1974-75.

Winton Act base-year costs are adjusted by the Implicit Price Deflator prior to offset against the current year Rodda Act costs for these three components. The Implicit Price Deflator shall be listed in the annual claiming instructions of the State Controller.

The Winton Act base-year costs were obtained from the FY 1997-98 claim the district submitted to the SCO’s Division of Accounting and Reporting. The Implicit Price Deflator is reported in the SCO’s annual claiming instructions.

Recommendation

Commencing in FY 2012-13, the district elected to participate in a block grant program, pursuant to Government Code section 17581.6, in lieu of filing annual mandated cost claims. If the district chooses to opt out of the block grant program, we recommend that the district ensure that all Winton Act base-year costs are adjusted by the Implicit Price Deflator, as listed in the SCO’s annual claiming instructions, and are properly offset against the district’s current-year Rodda Act direct costs claimed.