

SCHOOL DISTRICT
State Legal Compliance Audit Program
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

Initials

Date

Prepared by: _____

Reviewed by: _____

For Workpapers: _____ Through _____

**School District State Legal Compliance Audit Program
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025**

As Revised 10/2025 for 2025

SUMMARY OF STATE LEGAL COMPLIANCE CONCLUSIONS:

State Code Section and Title:

Compliance Results:

W/P Ref.

Surety Bonds:

Section 37-6-15 – Board Members	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 37-9-27 – Superintendent	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 37-9-31 – Principals	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 37-39-21 – Purchasing Agents	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 25-1-12(1)	YES	NO	N/A	_____

Purchasing:

Section 31-7-13 – Purchasing	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 73-13-45 – Architect/ Engineer	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 31-3-15 – Cert. of Responsibility	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 31-5-51 – Bonds	YES	NO	N/A	_____

Financial Statements:

Section 37-9-18 – Monthly Financials	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 37-61-21(2) – Year-End Financials	YES	NO	N/A	_____

School Depositories and Securities to be Deposited:

Section 37-7-333	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 27-105-305	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 27-105-5 & 27-105-315	YES	NO	N/A	_____

Education Enhancement Funds:

Section 37-61-33(2) – Building and Buses	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 37-61-33(3)(a)(iii) – Education Enhancement Funds	YES	NO	N/A	_____

Sixteenth Section Funds:

Section 29-3-113 – Principal Funds	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 29-3-119 – Shared Funds	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 29-3-121 – Children’s List	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 29-3-111 – Interest Funds	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 29-3-57 – Lease termination	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 29-3-115 – Expenditures – Interest Funds	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 29-3-117 – Transfers	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 29-3-47 – Forestry Escrow Funds	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 29-3-131 – Expenditures	YES	NO	N/A	_____

**School District State Legal Compliance Audit Program
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025**

As Revised 10/2025 for 2025

Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance:

Section 71-5-359	YES	NO	N/A	_____
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Limitations on Ad Valorem Taxes:

Section 37-57-1 – Tax levy and collection	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 37-57-104(105) – Tax Request / Preparation	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 37-57-107 – Limitation (Escrow Calculation)	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 37-57-108(27-39-333) – Shortfall Calculation	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 37-151-213 - Student Teacher Ratio	YES	NO	N/A	_____

Budgeting:

Section 37-61-19 – Budget Preparation	YES	NO	N/A	_____
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Investments:

Section 37-59-43	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 29-3-113 - Sixteenth Section Principal Funds	YES	NO	N/A	_____

Revenue Anticipation Notes:

Section 37-59-37	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 75-17-105	YES	NO	N/A	_____

Appropriate Coding at the Function Level for Expenditures:

Section 37-9-18	YES	NO	N/A	_____
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Public Employees' Retirement System:

Section 25-11-127	YES	NO	N/A	_____
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Fringes and Benefits

	YES	NO	N/A	_____
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Procurement Card and Credit Card

Section 31-7-1	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 31-7-305	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 31-7-12	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 31-7-13(o)	YES	NO	N/A	_____

Travel

Section 25-3-41	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 25-1-79	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 37-7-301	YES	NO	N/A	_____

Related Party

Section 37-7-333	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 37-9-21	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 37-9-17 (1)	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 25-4-103 (q)	YES	NO	N/A	_____
Section 25-4-105 (1)	YES	NO	N/A	_____

Activity Funds and Booster Clubs

Section 37-7-301	YES	NO	N/A	_____
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Scholarship Funds:

AG Opinion 1980 WL 28797	YES	NO	N/A	_____
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Other Tests:

_____	YES	NO	N/A	_____
_____	YES	NO	N/A	_____
_____	YES	NO	N/A	_____
_____	YES	NO	N/A	_____
_____	YES	NO	N/A	_____
_____	YES	NO	N/A	_____

SURETY BONDS

- A. Prepare a schedule of surety bonds. _____
- B. Section 37-6-15. (Board Members) and Section 25-1-19. (Recording)
1. Determine that bonds are at least \$50,000.
NOTE: See explanation for G. (1). _____
- C. Section 37-9-27. (Superintendent)
1. Determine that bond is \$100,000.
NOTE: See explanation for G. (1).
NOTE: If the superintendent is also the purchasing agent, see section G.(2). _____
- D. Section 37-9-31. (Principals)
1. All school principals and attendance center principals are bonded in the amount of \$50,000. (Effective 7-1-2009)
NOTE: See explanation for G. (1).
NOTE: If a principal is also a purchasing agent, see section G. (2). _____
- E. Section 37-39-21. (Purchasing Agent(s))
1. Bond is set in the amount of \$50,000.
NOTE: See explanation for G. (3) _____
- F. Prepare compliance overview working paper. _____
- G. The following guidance is based on the Attorney General's Opinion to Harold C. Middleton dated April 26, 1996:

1. Individual bonds are required for board members, superintendents and purchasing agents since the statutes requiring such bonding refers to "a" bond. See Section 25-1-15(1) for form for individual bonds for board members and superintendents and Section 25-1-15(2) for form for individual bonds for purchasing agents. Since the statute applicable to principals refers to "bonds," principals are not required to have individual bonds. Such positions may be covered by a blanket bond so long as the blanket bond(s) complies with the requirements of Section 25-1-15(4) wherein each position and the requisite amount of coverage for each position is listed.

2. If an individual is serving in more than one position for which bonding is required, the individual must be bonded for each position and the total coverage must equal the combined bonding requirements for the positions in which employed. For example, a superintendent also serving as a purchasing agent would be required to be bonded for \$100,000 as a superintendent and for another \$50,000 as a purchasing agent. Also, if a principal is serving as a purchasing agent, the same requirements apply. Normally, this happens with decentralized activity funds.

3. § 37-39-1 (b) defines a "purchasing agent" as follows: "Purchasing agent" shall mean the superintendent, or other individual or individuals designated by the school board or by the school boards acting jointly as its agent or agents to negotiate and make private contract or to purchase. Therefore, the auditor should ensure that all purchasing agents are designated by the school board through the minutes or board policy by position.

SURETY BONDS (Continued)

H. Section 25-1-12(1) (Employees in the regular course of their duties spends, receives, or has custody of public bonds require a bond.) Effective 7/1/21

1. Determine that the bond is for at least \$25,000.

Note: Example of employees who would need to be bonded would include: the employee who regularly physically holds the credit card, distributes it to other employees as needed and who approves or disapproves of expenditures on the credit card, any employee who handles material amounts of public money on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis. This would indeed include: Secretaries, Bookkeepers, Cashiers, and Gatekeepers.

Note: If the District considers the employees handling of public funds to be incidental, the governing authority should document the reasons, in its minutes, why the handling or having custody of public funds is considered to be incidental to the employment or job duties of the position.

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for surety bonds, and the results of these procedures are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

	Bonds Did		
	Bonds <u>Complied</u>	Not <u>Comply</u>	<u>N/A</u>
Section 37-6-15 - Board Members	YES	NO	N/A
Section 37-9-27 - Superintendent	YES	NO	N/A
Section 37-9-31 - Principals	YES	NO	N/A
Section 37-39-21 - Purchasing Agents	YES	NO	N/A
Section 25-1-12(1)	YES	NO	N/A

REMARKS

PURCHASING

Sections 31-7-13, 73-13-45, 31-3-15, 31-5-51

- A. Select a sample of purchase orders with total prices between \$5,001 and \$75,000. _____
- B. Determine that at least two competitive written bids were received or it was purchased from a state contract or it was priced at or below the state contract amount for an identical commodity or it was purchased based on competitive bid procedures established by the levying authority. _____

Note: Bids may be submitted by facsimile, electronic mail and require a signature unless submitted by electronic transmission and is not required by the governing authority.

- C. Select a sample of purchase orders, each totaling more than \$75,000. _____
- D. Determine that the district properly advertised for competitive sealed bids and it was purchased based on competitive bid procedures established by the governing authority or it was purchased from a state contract or it was priced at or below the state contract amount for an identical commodity or it was purchased based on competitive bid procedures established by the levying authority or another school district within the county. _____

NOTE: Agencies and governing authorities using federal funds for the procurement of any good or service, including exempt personal and professional services, must comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards-Subpart D-Post Federal Award Requirements Procurement Standards, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.317 through 2 CFR 200.327.

NOTE: The amounts shown in A and C would be considered exclusive of freight and shipping charges. Freight and shipping charges would be considered when selecting the lowest and best bid.

NOTE: The appropriate state contract or express product list (by ITS) should be reviewed to ensure compliance with the contract for B and D above.

- E. Determine that the lowest and best bid was accepted and if a bid other than the lowest bid was accepted, appropriate justification for this selection is documented in the board minutes. _____

PURCHASING (Continued)

F. If the bid accepted was for construction, and:

1. ensure that if the amount exceeded \$25,000, ensure that: § 31-5-51 was met

a. A performance bond payable to the school district for the work to be done, and

b. A payment bond payable to the school district but conditioned for prompt payment of all persons supplying labor and material used for the amount of the contract, or

c. A cash bond has been deposited with the State Treasurer in lieu of bonds.

2. if the amount exceeded \$100,000,

a. A licensed professional architect or engineer was retained, § 73-13-45 and

b. The contractor holds a certificate of responsibility. § 31-3-15

G. Determine that adequate documentation exists for:

1. Emergency purchases.

2. One-source only purchases.

3. Repairs to equipment where bids were not received.

NOTE: Replacement of complete assemblies, such as engines and transmissions, would be subject to bid requirements. If the district is charged a "core" charge, ensure that they get credit for the deposit "core" charge.

PURCHASING (Continued)

NOTE: Emergency purchases § 31 -7 -13 (k) If the governing authority, or the governing authority acting through its designee, shall determine that an emergency exists in regard to the purchase of any commodities or repair contracts, so that the delay incident to giving opportunity for competitive bidding would be detrimental to the interest of the governing authority, then the provisions herein for competitive bidding shall not apply and any officer or agent of such governing authority having general or special authority therefore in making such purchase or repair shall approve the bill presented therefore, and he shall certify in writing thereon from whom such purchase was made, or with whom such a repair contract was made. At the board meeting next following the emergency purchase or repair contract, documentation of the purchase or repair contract, including a description of the commodity purchased, the price thereof and the nature of the emergency shall be presented to the board and shall be placed on the minutes of the board of such governing authority.

NOTE: Noncompetitive items available from one (1) source only. § 31 -7 -13 (m)(viii) In connection with the purchase of noncompetitive items only available from one (1) source, a certification of the conditions and circumstances requiring the purchase shall be filed by the governing authority with the board of the governing authority. Upon receipt of that certification, the board of the governing authority may, in writing, authorize the purchase, which authority shall be noted on the minutes of the board at the next regular meeting thereafter.

- H. Prepare compliance overview working paper.

NOTE: Transactions selected as part of other tests, i.e., internal control, substantive, etc., can also be used for purchasing law test procedures. Additional items should be selected based on the auditor's judgment.

PURCHASING (Continued)

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for purchasing, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 31-7-13	YES	NO	N/A
Section 73-13-45	YES	NO	N/A
Section 31-3-15	YES	NO	N/A
Section 31-5-51	YES	NO	N/A

REMARKS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Sections 37-9-18

- A. Determine by observation or inquiry that the superintendent has furnished to the school board a financial statement of receipts and disbursements, by funds, on or before the last working day of the following month covering the prior month.

Sections 37-61-21(2)

- B. Determine if the district had the year-end financial statements available for audit on or before October 15, 2025.

NOTE: §37 -61 -21 (2) On or before the fifteenth day of October of each year, the local school board of each school district, with the assistance of the school district superintendent, shall prepare and file with the State Department of Education year-end financial statements and any other budgetary information that the State Board of Education may require. The State Board of Education shall prescribe and provide forms to each school district for this purpose. No additional changes may be made to the financial statements after October 15 of each year.

- C. Prepare compliance overview working paper.

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for financial statements, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 37-9-18	YES	NO	N/A
Section 37-61-21(2)	YES	NO	N/A

REMARKS

SCHOOL DEPOSITORIES AND SECURITIES TO BE DEPOSITED

Section 37-7-333.

- A. Determine that the school district has advertised for bids for all of its depositories.

NOTE: The school board may advertise and accept bids for depositories once every three (3) years when the board determines that it can obtain a more favorable rate of interest and less administrative processing.

- B. Determine if a bank submitted a bid, which if accepted, would have resulted in a contract in which a member of the school board had a direct or indirect interest. If such a bid was received, the school board should have not opened or considered any bids received. The superintendent of schools should have submitted the matter to the State Treasurer, who has the authority to solicit bids, select a depository or depositories, make all decisions and take any action within the authority of the school board under this section relating to the selection of a depository or depositories.

- C. Ensure that the funds of the district are not deposited in banking institutions not chosen in the bid selection process.

- D. Sections 27-105-5, 27-105-305 and 27-105-315.

1. Determine that the selected depositories are covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or the Federal Savings & Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC).

2. Ensure that the amount on the State Treasurer's report by banking institution is sufficient to collateralize the remaining school district's bank balances.

3. Determine that the school district personnel has reviewed the state treasurer's report summarizing the collateralization of district funds to ensure proper reporting of each bank balance on deposit for all of the school district accounts.

SCHOOL DEPOSITORIES AND SECURITIES TO BE DEPOSITED (Continued)

NOTE: §27-105-5. (6) Public depositors shall comply with the following requirements:

(a) A public depositor shall ensure that the name of the public depositor and its tax identification number are on the account or certificate provided to the public depositor by the qualified public depository in a manner sufficient to disclose the identity of the public depositor;

(b) Not later than thirty (30) days following its fiscal year end, a public depositor shall notify the State Treasurer of its official name, address, federal tax identification number, and provide a listing of all accounts that it had with qualified public depositories, including the deposit balance in those accounts, as of its fiscal year end. A public entity established during the year shall furnish its official name, address and federal tax identification number to the State Treasurer before making any public deposit.

Section 37-7-333.

- E. Ensure the district has on file the Collateral Security Agreements with the State Treasurer's Office. (The district is only required to enter the agreement once.)

N/A

NOTE: Public entities are required to enter into a Collateral Security Agreement with the State Treasurer acting as the signatory to affect the intent of Section 27 - 105 -5 . Op.Atty.Gen. No. 2003 -0694, Ross, February 28, 2003.

- F. Prepare compliance overview working paper.

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for school depositories and securities to be deposited, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 37-7-333	YES	NO	N/A
Section 27-105-305	YES	NO	N/A
Section 27-105-5 & 27-105-315	YES	NO	N/A

REMARKS

NOTE: Any uncollateralized cash balances are disclosed in the GASB 40 Cash and Investment Note to the Financial Statements.

EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT FUNDS

Section 37-61-33.

A. Buildings and Buses Fund. Section 37-61-33(2).

Determine that the district has used the funds for the purchasing or repairing of school buildings and related facilities, or as a pledge to pay all or a portion of the debt service on debt issued under Sections 37-59-1 through 37-59-45, 37-59-101 through 37-59-115, 37-7-351 through 37-7-359, 37-41-89 through 37-41-99; 37-7-301, 37-7-302 and 37-41-81 or as otherwise allowed by law (e.g., sixteenth section principal loans).

Audits performed on School Districts with procurement cards issued must complete all steps in Section B.

B. Education Enhancement Funds. Section 37-61-33(3)(a)(iii).

The audit steps in this section are applicable to school districts that issued procurement cards to teachers and other support personnel for making instructional supply fund expenditures.

ISSUING PROCUREMENT CARDS:

1. Determine that the school district authorized the issuance of procurement cards to eligible teachers, meaning any employee of the school district who is required by law to obtain a teacher's license from the State Board of Education and is assigned to an instructional area of work.

2. Determine that the school district maintains a roster that shows by card account number the teacher who received the card.

3. Determine that the school district has on file a Teacher Cardholder Agreement signed by each eligible teacher.

4. Determine that the school district has possession of procurement cards issued to teachers who have terminated employment with the school district during the fiscal year.

C. Prepare compliance overview working papers.

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for Education Enhancement Funds, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 37-61-33(2) - Building and Buses

YES

NO

N/A

Section 37-61-33(3)(a)(iii) - Education Enhancement Funds

YES

NO

N/A

REMARKS

SIXTEENTH SECTION FUNDS

A. Sixteenth Section Principal Funds. Section 29-3-113.

1. Determine that revenues received from the following sources are deposited in the principal funds.

a. Easements & R.O.W.'s

b. Sale of lieu land

c. Permanent damages

d. Sale of nonrenewable resources

e. Sale of certain buildings

f. Timber

2. Determine that all principal fund cash balances were invested.

3. Determine that borrowed principal funds are board approved and for the purpose of:

a. Constructing buildings

b. Repairing buildings

c. Equipping buildings

d. Purchase of school buses

4. Determine that the loan is subject to at least 4% interest.

5. Determine that repayment does not exceed the statutory time limit of twenty years for building purpose loans and ten years for the purchase of school buses.

6. Determine that the annual principal and interest payments are paid.

7. Determine that no sixteenth section interest funds are transferred to governmental funds after the annual payment date until the payment is made on such loan.

SIXTEENTH SECTION FUNDS (Continued)

8. It has been the opinion of the Attorney General's Office that Section 29-3-119 applies to sixteenth section principal funds therefore the auditor should perform the following:

Revenues and Expenditure from Shared Townships

a. Section 29-3-119. In cases where a township (not a 'section') is occupied by two or more school districts, determine that nonexpendable revenues have been shared with/from the other districts.

b. Section 29-3-119. Determine that these shared revenues are divided according to applicable percentages derived from the appropriate list of children.

c. Section 29-3-121. Determine that each school district superintendent completes a list of children and the list is filed with the county superintendent by December 31 of each year.

B. Sixteenth Section Interest Funds.

1. Section 29-3-111. Determine that revenues received from the following sources are deposited in the interest or principal funds.

a. Rents and leases

b. Interest on loans and investments

c. Sale of timber

2. Section 29-3-57. Determine that lease payments that are in default in excess of sixty days are terminated or that the board of education found extenuating circumstances present.

3. Expenditures.

a. Section 29-3-115. Determine that expenditures are for legal purposes.

b. Section 29-3-117. Determine that transfers to the maintenance or building fund are approved by the board.

c. Section 29-3-131. Determine that the expenses incurred by the board for the performance of its duties concerning sixteenth section lands are paid from the proper sixteenth section fund.

SIXTEENTH SECTION FUNDS (Continued)

4. Revenues and Expenditure from Shared Townships

a. Section 29-3-119. In cases where a township (not a 'section') is occupied by two or more school districts, determine that expendable revenues have been shared with/from the other districts.

b. Section 29-3-119. Determine that these shared revenues are divided according to applicable percentages derived from the appropriate list of children.

c. Section 29-3-121. Determine that each school district superintendent completes a list of children and the list is filed with the county superintendent by December 31 of each year.

C. Forestry Escrow Funds. Section 29-3-47.

1. Determine that at least 15% of the sale of forest products are credited to the fund.

2. Determine that expenditures are supported by itemized invoices and are forestry related.

3. Determine that excess funds (other than interest earned) transferred to the governmental funds are approved by the forestry commission.

D. Determine if disclosure is needed in the notes to the financial statements.

E. Prepare compliance overview working papers.

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for sixteenth section funds, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 29-3-113 - Principal Funds	YES	NO	N/A
Section 29-3-119 - Shared Funds	YES	NO	N/A
Section 29-3-121 - Children's List	YES	NO	N/A
Section 29-3-111 - Interest Funds	YES	NO	N/A
Section 29-3-57 - Lease termination	YES	NO	N/A
Section 29-3-115 - Expenditures - Interest Funds	YES	NO	N/A
Section 29-3-117 - Transfers	YES	NO	N/A
Section 29-3-47 - Forestry Escrow Funds	YES	NO	N/A
Section 29-3-131 - Expenditures	YES	NO	N/A

REMARKS

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FUND BALANCE

Section 71-5-359

- A. Using client copies of W-2 forms, calculate applicable wages.
Do not include excess above \$6,000, elected officials or part time salaries.

NOTE: In-lieu of using the W-2 forms, reasonable tests may be performed.

- B. Compute 2% of applicable wages and compare to the cash and investment balance of Fund 2820 at June 30, 2025

- C. Determine if disclosure is needed in the notes to the financial statements.

- D. Prepare compliance overview working paper.

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for the unemployment compensation fund, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 71-5-359	YES	NO	N/A
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REMARKS

LIMITATIONS ON AD VALOREM TAXES

Section 37-57-1

Section 37-57-104

Section 37-57-105

Section 37-57-107

Section 37-57-108

Section 37-151-213

- A. Obtain the district's request to the levying authority for ad valorem taxes for operations under Sections 37-57-105 & 37-57-1:

1. Review the district's documentation for establishing the base amount. Determine that it is properly calculated (see Section 2 of the form) for any one of the immediate preceding three fiscal years. A fiscal year for the base calculation is defined as an October 1 through September 30 year cash basis. (Section 37-57-107). The State Department of Education shall calculate a local pro rata amount for the aggregate receipts of the tax levied in this section by dividing the aggregate receipts by the sum of the school district's net enrollment, as determined under Section 37-151-211, and the net enrollment of any charter school students who reside in the district. (37-57-105)

2. Review the percentage increase to the base amount to determine:

a. That the increase to the base amount is limited to 4%. (Section 37-57-105) or

b. That a public notice was advertised in the local paper and that statutory provisions were followed regarding an increase to the base amount of an amount greater than 4% but not more than 7%. (Section 37-57-105, 37-57-104, 37-151-211) or

c. That an election was held for an increase in the base amount of an amount greater than 7%. (Section 37-57-107)

3. Determine that other increases to the base are only for:

a. New programs mandated by the Legislature.

b. New property (i.e., newly constructed properties, existing properties added to the tax rolls, and previously exempted property). (Section 37-57-107)

4. Determine that all of the ad valorem tax reduction funds were used to reduce the request for ad valorem taxes for operations.

- B. Determine that the total receipts during the district's fiscal year (July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025) do not exceed the allowable amount as calculated in Section 2 of the form or that the excess received above the allowable amount has been placed in escrow. (Section 37-57-107)

LIMITATIONS ON AD VALOREM TAXES (Continued)

- C. Determine whether the school district met its uniform minimum ad valorem tax levy which must be the value of not less than 28 mills for the then current fiscal year or the millage rate equivalent to 27% of the total funding formula funds for the school district, any charter schools, and any MS Achievement School District Schools located in its boundaries, whichever is the lessor amount, (as certified by MDE) as reduced for the ad valorem tax reduction funds as explained in the note at item A(4) above. (Sections 37-57-105(1), 37-57-104, and 37-151-211)
- D. If the school district issued shortfall notes for the fiscal year ended 6-30-2025, determine that the issuance of the promissory notes is within statutory guidelines. (Sections 37-57-108 and 27-39-333)
- E. Determine whether the school district was subject to the "Notice of Tax Increase" requirements and, if so, determine that the notice requirements were met. (Section 27-39-207)

Note: Unless the increased revenue in a budget is derived solely from the expansion of a school district's ad valorem tax base, a school district shall not budget an increase in an ad valorem tax effort in dollars for support of the school district unless its first advertises its intention to do so at the same time that it advertises its intention to fix its budget for the next fiscal year.

The Office of the State Auditor requires the public school district's of the State of Mississippi to follow the wording exactly as prescribed by Section 27-39-207, Miss. Code Ann. (1972).

Section 37-57-107, Miss. Code Ann. (1972) states the following: "Except as otherwise provided for excess revenues generated pursuant to an election, if revenues collected as the result of the taxes levied for the fiscal year pursuant to this section and Section 37-57-1 exceed the increase limitation, then it shall be the mandatory duty of the school board of the school district to deposit such excess receipts over and above the increase limitation into a special account and credit it to the fund for which the levy was made. It will be the further duty of such board to hold said funds and invest the same as authorized by law. Such excess funds shall be calculated in the budgets for the school districts for the purpose for which such levies were made, for the succeeding fiscal year. Taxes imposed for the succeeding year shall be reduced by the amount of excess funds available. Under no circumstances shall such excess funds be expended during the fiscal year in which such excess funds are collected."

LIMITATIONS ON AD VALOREM TAXES (Continued)

If revenues collected as a result of the above code section for operations exceed the increase limitation, the auditor should propose adjustments and reflect the transactions in the audited financial statements of the school district.

The law is very specific about the wording of the notice.

- F. Determine if the limitations set forth in Section 37-57-104 apply to operating mills.

Limited to 55 mills except as noted below:

If the school district was levying over 55 mills as of July 1, 1997, they were not required to reduce to 55 mills. Also, they could increase up to 3 mills in the aggregate during the period beginning July 1, 1997, and ending June 30, 2003. School districts did not qualify for the 3 mill increase if they were levying 55 mills or less as of July 1, 1997.

Any additional amount that is levied pursuant to Section 37-57-105(1) to anticipated delinquencies and costs of collection shall be excluded from the 55 mill limitation.

- G. Determine if the school district did not exceed the student teacher ratio as required by 37-151-213. To qualify for state funds under this chapter, a school district may not exceed a student-teacher ratio determined in accordance with appropriate accreditation standards developed by the Mississippi Commission on School Accreditation.

- H. Prepare compliance overview working paper.

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for limitations on ad valorem taxes, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 37-57-1 - Tax levy and collection	YES	NO	N/A
Section 37-57-104(105) - Tax Request - Preparation	YES	NO	N/A
Section 37-57-107 - Limitation (Escrow Calculation)	YES	NO	N/A
Section 37-57-108(27-39-333) - Shortfall Calculation	YES	NO	N/A
Section 37-151-213 - Student-Teacher Ratio	YES	NO	N/A

REMARKS

**School District State Legal Compliance Audit Program
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025**

As Revised 10/2025 for 2025

LIMITATIONS ON AD VALOREM TAXES (Continued)

SHORTFALL BORROWING - OPERATIONS

Ad Valorem Tax Escrow/Shortfall Calculation Form For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

Total local source revenues budgeted as sent to the levying authority: Ad valorem Taxes, Homestead Exemption (Do not include the ad valorem reduction funds per A.G. Opinion to Dr. Bounds)	
Other local sources budgeted for FYE 6/30/25, if used below.	
<i>NOTE: Included estimated ad valorem revenue and/or revenues from local sources for the district maintenance fund. The debt service fund(s) would require a separate calculation.</i>	
Total local source revenues budgeted:	
Less: Receipts (cash basis) received from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.	
Ad valorem receipts include:	
Ad valorem tax received from 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025	
Homestead reimbursement received from 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025	
Ad valorem tax escrowed at 6/30/2024, (if reduced original request by this amount and used during the 2024-2025 fiscal year)	
Total Ad Valorem Receipts	
Other local source revenues received between 7/1/2024 and 6/30/2025, if used.	
Less: Total actual receipts	
Total amount allowed for Shortfall Borrowing for Operations (The district may have used the Community Disaster Loan Program for this amount.)	
<i>The district will need to maintain documentation separately for shortfalls attributable to ad valorem taxes and other local sources for future year calculations.</i>	
The escrow calculation on the next page should be performed to ensure that the amount collected is not in excess of the "actual" base amount. If the amount requested from the prior year was over-estimated, then the collections and/or proceeds from the shortfall loan could cause an escrow.	

**School District State Legal Compliance Audit Program
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025**

As Revised 10/2025 for 2025

LIMITATIONS ON AD VALOREM TAXES (Continued)

Shortfall Borrowing – Debt Service Funds

Total local source revenues budgeted as sent to the levying authority for specific debt service fund	
Less: Total local source revenues received between 7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025	
Total amount allowed for Shortfall Borrowing for Debt Service	
Base Calculation:	
[NOTE: Dates could change if the district used a different base period for their request.]	
Ad valorem tax received during 10/1/2023 through 9/30/2024 (cash basis)	
NOTE: District Maintenance (Generated from Operating mills only)	
Homestead reimbursement received during 10/1/2023 through 9/30/2024	
Add: Ad valorem tax reduction funds received for FYE 6/30/2024	
Ad valorem tax escrow at 6/30/2023 (Assumes used in 2024 - 2025) (Amount that levy was reduced for escrow)	
Proceeds of shortfall notes issued for FYE 6/30/2024	
Deduct: Ad valorem tax escrow at 6/30/2024	
Total Base	
Percentage increase allowable (Depending on advertisement)	
New program(s) - includes Local Contribution increase, if applicable (Only if ran advertisement)	
New property (Even if no ad was run)	
Total Ad Valorem Tax, Tax Reduction and Homestead Exemption Allowed	
Determination of Tax Escrow:	
Actual receipts from 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025: (Cash Basis)	
Ad valorem tax received during 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025	
Note: District Maintenance (Generated from operating mills only)	
Homestead reimbursement received during 7/1/2024 through 6/30/2025	
Ad valorem tax reduction funds received for FYE 6/30/2025	
Ad valorem tax escrow at 6/30/2023, (Assumes used in 2024 - 2025) (Amount that original levy was reduced for escrow)	
Shortfall note proceeds for FYE 6/30/2025 (if issued)*	
Total Receipts	
Less: "Total ad valorem tax and homestead allowed" from base calculation above	
Tax Escrow (only if positive number) (This is the amount that the receipts exceed the amount allowed.)	

*Normally, if you have tax escrow, you would not have shortfall note proceeds. If shortfall notes were incorrectly issued, they need to be included in the calculation.

LIMITATIONS ON AD VALOREM TAXES (Continued)

[NOTE: Section 37-57-108]

(1) In the event that the amount of revenue collected or estimated to be collected from local sources, on behalf of a school district during a fiscal year, is less than the amount provided for in the duly adopted budget of said school district for the fiscal year, then the school district may issue promissory notes in an amount and in the manner set forth in Section 27-39-333, not to exceed the estimated shortfall of revenue from local sources, but in no event to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of its budget anticipated to be funded from the sources of the shortfall for the fiscal year. A school district issuing notes under the provisions of this section shall not be required to publish notice of its intention to do so or to secure the consent of the qualified electors or the tax levying authority of such school district.

(2) Any political subdivision which, during a fiscal year, estimates that the amount of the ad valorem taxes or other anticipated revenue from local sources to be collected therein is less than the amount estimated at the time of formulation of its budget for the fiscal year due to circumstances which were unanticipated at the time of formulation of the budget and which will prevent the political subdivision from meeting its financial obligations may, with the approval of the levying authority for such political subdivision, issue promissory notes in an amount equal to the estimated shortfall of ad valorem taxes and/or revenue from local sources but in no event to exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of its budget anticipated to be funded from the sources of the shortfall for the fiscal year.

(3) The proceeds of such notes shall be used in the budget or budgets in which the shortfall occurred and shall be used solely to offset the shortfall in such budgets for the fiscal year. The rate of interest paid thereon shall not exceed that amount set forth in Section 75-17-105, Mississippi Code of 1972. The indebtedness shall be repaid in full, including interest thereon, in equal installments, during the three (3) fiscal years next succeeding the fiscal year in which the notes were issued. For the payment of such indebtedness, the levying authority for the political subdivision shall, at its next regular meeting at which ad valorem taxes are lawfully levied, levy an ad valorem tax sufficient to repay the indebtedness in full, including interest. The proceeds of the notes shall be included as proceeds of ad valorem taxes for the purposes of the limitation on increases in revenue for the next succeeding fiscal year under Section 27-39-305, 27-39-320, 27-39-321 or 37-57-107, Mississippi Code of 1972, whichever is applicable depending upon the purpose for which such proceeds are used.

BUDGETING

Sections 37-61-19; 37-61-9(4).

- A. Determine that the district did not spend more than “resources available” by reviewing each fund for negative ending fund balances.
- B. Determine compliance with § 37-61-19 by examining the final amended budget and school board minutes to determine final amended budget was legally adopted on or before October 15, 2024. Document if funds were available to cover the expenditures which exceeded the budget.

NOTE: Compliance should be based on expenditures before auditor's adjustments are made, not after.

- C. Prepare a schedule showing unbudgeted funds.
- D. Determine if disclosure in the notes to the financial statements is needed.

NOTE: Footnote disclosure and legal compliance are both based upon total expenditures compared to total budgeted expenditures by fund and not functional expenditures. Unlike compliance, footnote disclosure should be based on expenditures after auditor's adjustments are made. If this results in footnote disclosure without a compliance violation, the footnote disclosure should state that this " is not in violation of state law since the excesses resulted from auditor's adjustments."

- E. Prepare compliance overview working paper.

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for budgeting, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 37-61-19 - Budget Preparation	YES	NO	N/A
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REMARKS

INVESTMENTS

Sections 37-59-43 and 29-3-113.

A. Determine that investments are the type authorized by law. These consist of:

1. The sixteenth section principal fund may be invested in:

(1) any direct obligation issued by or guaranteed in full
as to principal and interest by the United States of America, or

(2) in certificates of deposit issued by a qualified depository of the state of
Mississippi as approved by the State Treasurer, or

(3) in interest-bearing deposits or other obligations of financial institutions in
which, and to the same extent as, the State Treasurer is authorized to invest
excess state funds under and by virtue of the provisions of Section 27-105-33,
or

(4) in any other type investment in which any other agency, instrumentality or
subdivision of the State of Mississippi may invest, except that one hundred
percent of said funds are authorized to be so invested.

2. Other funds may be invested in:

(1) Bonds or other direct obligations of the United States
of America or the state of Mississippi, or of any county or municipality of this
state.

(2) Interest-bearing time certificates of deposit or interest-bearing accounts
with any financial institution approved for the deposit of state funds.

(3) Any type of investment permitted by Sections 27-105-33(d) and 27-105-
33(e). (These sections allow investment in certain indirect obligations of the
United States of America, certain direct security repurchase agreements and
reverse direct security repurchase agreements, and certain mutual funds.)

B. Determine that interest earned in excess of \$100 per fund is credited to the
investing fund.

***NOTE: All interest earned on bond and note funds and debt service funds
must be credited to and remain with the investing fund.***

C. For sixteenth section principal fund investments, determine that the rate of
interest paid on certificates of deposit is not less than that paid on passbook
savings. (Section 29-3-113)

D. Prepare compliance overview working paper.

INVESTMENTS (Continued)

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for investments, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 37-59-43	YES	NO	N/A
Section 29-3-113 - Sixteenth Section Principal Funds	YES	NO	N/A

REMARKS

REVENUE ANTICIPATION NOTES

Section 37-59-37.

- A. Determine that:
- 1. The money was borrowed by the board of the school district. _____
 - 2. The money borrowed did not exceed the amount of taxes and other revenues collected during the last preceding fiscal year, unless the tax levy for the current fiscal year has been made, then the amount borrowed shall not exceed the estimated amount of taxes and other revenues to be collected during the current fiscal year. _____
 - 3. The notes are (were) repaid within fourteen (14) months from the date of issuance out of the taxes and other revenues in anticipation of which such money was borrowed. _____
 - 4. The money borrowed was used for the current fiscal year's expenses or for the current fiscal year's interest maturities on bonded debt. _____
- B. Determine that the money borrowed bears interest at a rate not greater than 11%. (Section 75-17-105) _____
- C. Prepare compliance overview working paper. _____

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for revenue anticipation notes, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 37-59-37	YES	NO	N/A
Section 75-17-105	YES	NO	N/A

REMARKS

[These are short-term borrowings and should be accounted for as a current liability on the balance sheet. No entry should be made for these proceeds on the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Governmental Funds.]

APPROPRIATE CODING AT THE FUNCTION LEVEL FOR EXPENDITURES

Section 37-9-18.

- A. Select a sample of payroll and non-payroll expenditures. _____
- B. Determine whether coding at the function level is correct and appropriate.
Please examine coding to determine whether the expenditures should be coded to 1000, 2100, 2200, 2300, 2400, 2500, 2600, 2700, 2800, 3000, 4000, 5000, 6000, etc. to establish that testing is performed at the reporting level within all of the reports including the Schedule of Instructional, Administrative and Other Expenditures - Governmental Funds. _____

[This test can be performed in conjunction with other payroll and non-payroll expenditure testing.]

NOTE: § 37 -9 -18. (3)(b) When conducting an audit of a public school district, the State Auditor shall test to insure correct and appropriate coding at the function level. The audit must include a report showing correct and appropriate functional level expenditure codes in expenditures by the school district. Compliance standards for this audit provision shall be established by the Office of the State Auditor. Based upon the audit report, the State Auditor shall compile a report on the compliance or noncompliance by all public school districts with correct and appropriate coding at the function level, which report must be submitted to the Chairmen of the Education and Appropriations Committees of the House of Representatives and Senate.

- C. Prepare compliance overview working paper. _____

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for appropriate coding at the function level for expenditures, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 37-9-18	YES	NO	N/A
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REMARKS

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF MISSISSIPPI

Section 25-11-127.

Section 25-11-127 MS Code Ann. (1972) addresses reemployment of PERS retirees by an entity covered under the PERS System. Before an entity hires an individual as an employee, the entity should verify if the prospective employee is a current retiree of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) receiving retirement benefits.

If the prospective employee is a PERS retiree, and the person is determined to be an employee (v. a true independent contractor), the entity should have filed with PERS the PERS Form 4B "Certification / Acknowledgment of Reemployment of Retiree" within five days of employment.

If the individual is a PERS retiree and has been hired as a true independent contractor, the entity should have completed and filed with PERS the "Employee vs. Independent Contractor Form" to determine the prospective employee's status (Employee vs. Independent Contractor).

Audit Procedures:

- A. Inquire of the Human Resources Department / Payroll if the entity has employed any individuals either as an employee or as a contractual employee that are also current PERS retirees. Another source of this information could come from inquiry about the existence of any individuals on the payroll register that do not have retirement withholdings etc withheld from their check.
- B. Inquire of the Human Resources Department/Payroll if the entity has engaged any individuals as true independent contractors who are also current PERS retirees.
- C. On a test basis, where a retiree has been reemployed as an employee, verify that the retiree has not been paid more than allowed by law as noted on the Form 4-B. If the reemployed retiree has been paid more than is allowed by law (based on the State's fiscal year regardless of the entity's fiscal year), prepare a memo to your supervisor for notifying PERS that the entity and retiree have not complied with the law.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF MISSISSIPPI (Continued)

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for retiree issues noted, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 25-11-127	YES	NO	N/A
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REMARKS

FRINGES AND BENEFITS

- A. Make inquiries of fringes and benefits paid to Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, Directors, Teachers, and other office staff. Review the following information as it relates to fringes and document District's policy:

1995 WL 779527 – School Board has the authority to pay term life insurance for its employees.

2006 WL 3824137 – Expenditure of School funds for vaccination of employees.

1979 WL 41450 – School District cannot allow the use of school owned residential housing rent-free or less than value.

1. Review the District's Board Minutes.
2. Review the signed and approved contracts within the employee's personnel files.
3. Determine if the District owns houses.
4. Determine if the District supplies cellphones.
5. Determine if the District supplies personnel car allowances or fuel-man cards for district vehicles for travel.
6. If fringes are being given to the employees, determine if they are taxable according to the IRS code.

Auditor Note: If these fringe benefits are offered to the District's Employees, they should be included at fair market value to the recipient. Ensure these items were Board approved. The signature of the recipient and the Superintendent is not in compliance without the Board's approval.

FRINGES AND BENEFITS (Continued)

- B. Based on auditor judgement, perform, on a sample basis, from the list above of District employees testing to determine compliance based the District's policies.

Required and mandatory fringes could be the following:

1. Health Insurance
2. Unemployment Insurance
3. Medical Leave
4. Worker's Compensation
5. Retirement
6. Life Insurance

Fringe benefits not required by law would be the following:

1. Disability Insurance
2. Paid holidays
3. Education Assistance
4. Commuter benefits/car allowances
5. Housing
6. Computers/ Laptops
7. Cellphones
8. Tuition

Auditor Notes: Non-compliance would include:

1. *Fringes not being recorded at Fair Market Value*
2. *Fringes not included on W-2s*
3. *Providing cellphone allowances*
4. *Allowing fuelman cards and car allowances*

- C. Prepare the compliance working papers.

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for Salary, Fringes and Benefits, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Fringes and Benefits

YES

NO

N/A

REMARKS

PROCUREMENT CARD AND CREDIT CARD

Any purchases made using a procurement card or credit card should adhere to all applicable purchasing procedures, as set forth in MS Code Section 31-7-1, the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration - Mississippi Procurement Manual and the State of Mississippi – State Procurement Card Guidelines

A. Obtain the following from the school district:

1. Approved district policies and procedures regarding the procurement cards.
2. List of ALL procurement cards. (include merchant credit cards)
3. Sign in and out ledger (if applicable)
4. List of authorized users of cards
5. List of district's approvers of cards

PROCUREMENT CARD

B. Obtain monthly card statement and test card on a sample basis. *Must review at minimum of 25 card transactions on pro rata basis on classification of the card. If there is more than one card per classification, strongly consider testing different cards.*

TRANSACTIONAL TEST:

1. Compare the selected items on the monthly statement to the charge slip.
2. Ensure the person signing is authorized to use the credit card OR verify the user has signed the card in and out.
3. Verify state and local taxes are not paid.
4. Verify the purchase of hotel or restaurant charges is for district employee.
5. Verify the purpose of expenditure appears to be for legitimate district business.
6. Verify evidence of independent review of charges by approving officials.

ALL STATEMENT SAMPLED:

7. Ensure balance is paid off with 45 days of receipt of the bill. (MS Code Section 31-7-305)
8. Verify the purchase of state contract items are made only from the state contract vendor or below the state contract. (MS Code Section 31-7-12)
9. Scan the monthly statement to ensure no single purchase is over \$5,000 and to ensure the district is not splitting invoices to circumvent the \$5,000 limit. (MS Code Section 31-7-13(o))

PROCUREMENT CARD AND CREDIT CARD (Continued)

10. Determine the limits set by the district for each cardholder (may not exceed the limit established by the district) and verify the cardholder complied with the limits for the month tested by scanning the monthly statement.

11. Ensure district personnel maintains files with statements and all applicable receipts and supporting documentation.

C. Scan the monthly card statements to ensure no cash advances were made with the card.

D. Prepare a compliance overview working paper.

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for the procurement card, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 31-7-1	YES	NO	N/A
Section 31-7-305	YES	NO	N/A
Section 31-7-12	YES	NO	N/A
Section 31-7-13 (o)	YES	NO	N/A

REMARKS

TRAVEL

Mississippi Code Section 25-3-41 establishes guidelines for travel reimbursement. It also provides that the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate economies for all expenses authorized under this section.

Travel regulations are also contained in the Mississippi Agency Accounting Policies and Procedures (MAAPP) Manual Travel Section and DFA- State Travel Policy Rules and Regulations

- A. Obtain the district's approval travel policy and procedures. _____

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES (unless tested in subsequent section)

- B. Perform a compliance test on travel vouchers. Judgmentally select a minimum of 15 travel vouchers. Perform the following audit steps:

a. Verify travel voucher is properly signed approved for payment. _____

b. Review evidence that support purpose of the trip (conference agenda). _____

c. Verify travel in private automobile is being reimbursed at appropriate federal rate. (MS Code Section 25-3-41) _____

d. Verify that meals are within the maximum daily limit set by DFA. Ensure meals are properly reported as taxable (no overnight travel) or nontaxable (overnight travel). Verify meals were not claimed for meals included with the registration. (MS Code Section 25-3-41) _____

NOTE: Continental breakfast and receptions are not considered meals.

NOTE: Districts may require meal receipts. If so, this policy should be approved in the board minutes.

e. Verify that hotel expenses are supported by receipt indicating payment by employee. If hotel payment is direct billed, ensure no taxes were paid by the district. _____

f. Verify employee was not on leave during travel. _____

g. Verify travel advances were settled within 5 working days after the end of the month in which travel was completed, or employee's payroll check was withheld until the liability was resolved. (OSA Circular No.15). _____

h. Verify travel advance includes receipts and board approval. (MS Code Section 25-1-79). _____

TRAVEL (Continued)

i. For all flights, verify the district maintains on file a cost comparison indicating a minimum of two (2) fares and the most economical rate was selected. If the most economical option was not selected, documentation for justification of the more expensive rate should be reviewed.

j. For rental cars, verify the district maintains documents of cost comparison on the most economical rental car selected. If the most economical option was not selected, documentation for justification of the more expensive rate should be reviewed.

OTHER DISTRICT OFFICIALS (BOARD MEMBERS, SUPERINTENDENT, BUSINESS MANAGER)

C. Perform a compliance test on travel vouchers on Other District Officials. Judgmentally select 25 travel vouchers (3 for each board member) or 10% of all travel vouchers on other District Officials. Perform the following audit steps:

a. Verify travel voucher is properly signed approved for payment.

b. Review evidence that support purpose of the trip (conference agenda).

c. Verify travel in private automobile is being reimbursed at appropriate federal rate. (MS Code Section 25-3-41)
Mileage reimbursement rate (www.gsa.gov/portal/content/103969)

NOTE: If the rate is lower, there should be approval in the board minutes.

d. Verify that meals are within the maximum daily limit set by DFA. Ensure meals are properly reported as taxable (no overnight travel) or nontaxable (overnight taxable). Verify meals were not claimed for meals included with the registration. (MS Code Section 25-3-41)

NOTE: Continental breakfast and receptions are not considered meals.

NOTE: Districts may require meal receipts. If so, this policy should be approved in the board minutes.

e. Verify that hotel expenses are supported by receipt indicating payment by employee. If hotel payment is direct billed, ensure no taxes were paid by the district.

f. Verify travel advances were settled within 5 working days after the end of the month in which travel was completed, or employee's payroll check was withheld until the liability was resolved. (OSA Circular No.15).

g. Verify travel advance includes receipts and board approval.
(MS Code Section 25-1-79).

TRAVEL (Continued)

h. For all flights, verify the district maintains on file a cost comparison indicating a minimum of two (2) fares and the most economical rate was selected. If the most economical option was not selected, documentation for justification of the more expensive rate should be reviewed.

i. For rental cars, verify the district maintain documents of cost comparison on the most economical rental car selected. If the most economical option was not selected, documentation for justification of the more expensive rate should be reviewed.

MOVING EXPENSES

D. Determine if moving expenses were received by any district personnel.

E. Review board minutes and inquiry with district personnel to determine if the district issued stipends to employees.

F. If any moving expenses were received, verify compliance with Section 37-7-301 (nn), Mississippi Code Annotated (1972).

G. Prepare a compliance overview working paper.

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for travel, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 25-3-41	YES	NO	N/A
Section 25-1-79	YES	NO	N/A
Section 37-7-301	YES	NO	N/A

REMARKS

RELATED PARTY

- A. Determine if there are related party issues School Board Members, Superintendent, Business Manager, Purchasing Agents, Directors, Principals, other Administrative/Accounting Personnel, and others within purchasing. Inquiries should include the following:

1. Sale or exchange of property. _____
2. Leasing of property. _____
3. Receiving or furnishing of goods, services, or facilities of the District. _____
4. Purchase of property from the District. _____
5. Transfer of income or assets. _____

6. Banking institutions doing business with the District. (**Auditor Note:** Section 37-7-333, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972), states, "In the event a bank submits a bid or offer to a school district to act as a depository for the district and such bid or offer, if accepted, would result in a contract in which a member of the school board would have a direct or indirect interest, the school board should not open or consider any bids received. The superintendent of schools shall submit the matter to the State Treasurer, who shall have the authority to solicit bids, select a depository or depositories, make all decisions and take any action within the authority of the school board under this section relating to the selection of a depository or depositories.")

7. Related party indebted to the District (excluding utilities, travel, and expenses advances). _____

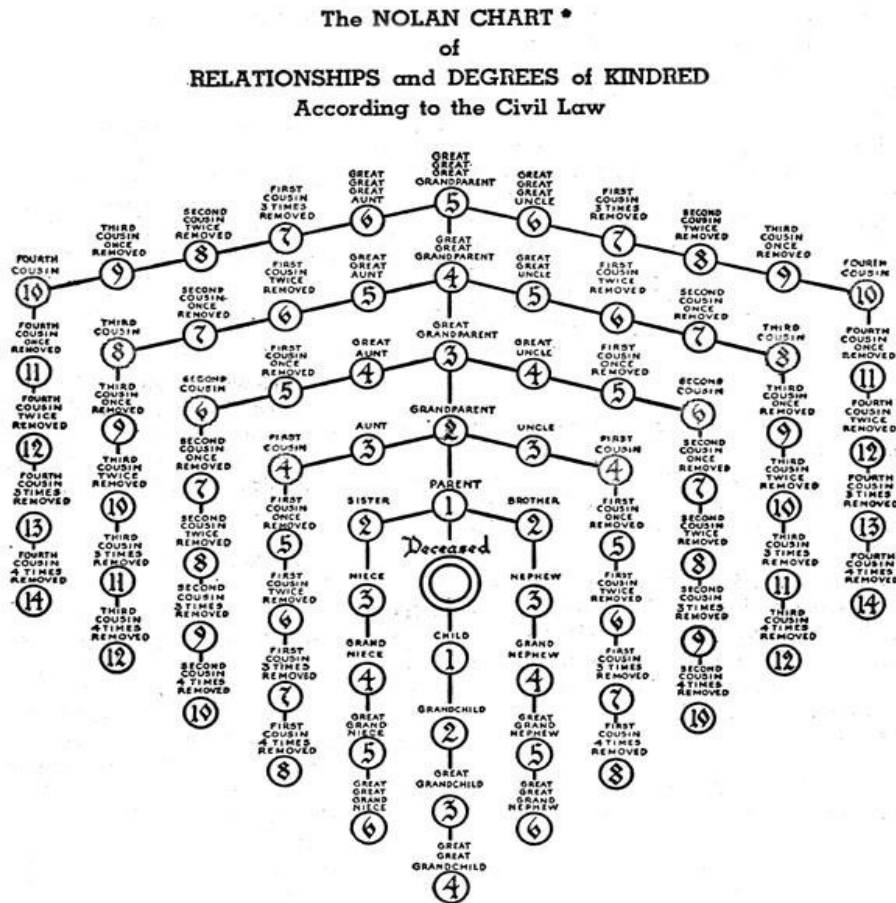
8. Are there any employees related? If so, include employee(s) name, position(s), date hired and nature of relationship. To determine, if issues exists, please review the following nepotism, ethic laws, and opinions. _____

Auditor Related Party laws and regulations:

Nepotism.

Section 37-9-21, Mississippi Code Annotated (1972) , states "It shall be illegal for any superintendent, principal, or other licensed employee to be elected by the school board if such superintendent, principal or licensed employee is related within the third degree by blood or marriage according to the common law to a majority of the members of the school board. No member of the school board shall vote for any person as a superintendent, principal or licensed employee who is related to him within the third degree by blood or marriage or who is dependent upon him in a financial way. Any contract entered into in violation of the provisions of this section shall be null and void. (**Auditor Note: Per the Attorney General Opinion: This law only pertains to certified employees.**)

RELATED PARTY (Continued)



NOTE: Please refer to the "Nolan Chart of Relationships and Degrees of Kindred According to Civil Law" in order to determine if a relationship is within the third degree.

Section 37-9-17(1) Mississippi Code Annotated (1972), states if there is an instance in which the Superintendent, Principal, or Director are related to District employees that meet the definition of relatives **25-4-104(q)**. The school board has the authority to designate another employee to recommend the relative. The recommendation can be made for licensed or non-instructional employee. However, when there has been a designation made by the Board, no more than two (2) positions for each employment period for each school in the local school district.

RELATED PARTY (Continued)

Ethics.

Section 25-4-103(q), Mississippi Code Annotated (1972) , states "relative" means:

- (i) The spouse of the public servant;
- (ii) The child of the public servant;
- (iii) The parent of the public servant;
- (iv) The sibling of the public servant; and
- (v) The spouse of any of the relatives of the public servant specified in (ii) through (iv).

Section 25-4-105(1), Mississippi Code Annotated (1972) , states "No public servant shall use his official position to obtain, or attempt to obtain, pecuniary benefit for himself other than that compensation provided for by law, or to obtain, pecuniary benefit for any relative or any business with which he is associated.

Ethic Opinions:

16th Section Land

11-003-E – A hunting club in which the Superintendent is an officer may not lease Sixteenth Section land from the School District.

18-048-E – A sixteenth section leaseholder may not retain his lease if he is elected to the school board and be renewed during his term of office.

Board Members

20-008-E – The spouse of a newly elected school board member may continue employment with the school district for the remainder of the current academic year only if the school board takes no future action to authorize the employment. Under no circumstances may the spouse continue employment with the school district after the conclusion of the current academic year.

14-051-E – The financially independent child of a newly elected school board member may remain employed with the school district. If the board member and relative are indeed financially independent, then no violation... but the board member must recuse himself or herself (Which should be spread upon the minutes) from any matter which could result in a pecuniary benefit to the relative.

14-050-E – A School District may continue to employ the child and son-in-law of a newly elected school board member if the school board member is financially independent from relatives. There is no violation. However, the board member must recuse himself or herself (Which should be spread upon the minutes) Additionally, the grandchildren are not considered a relative according to the definition of ethics.

RELATED PARTY (Continued)

Superintendent

14-039-E – A school superintendent’s siblings may be employed in the same district. If the school board designee recommends a Superintendent’s siblings and the Superintendent fully and completely recuses himself or herself from the hiring and supervision process. (Which should be spread upon the minutes)

11-012-E – A superintendent’s spouse may be employed as a principal in the same district. If the school board’s designee recommends a superintendent’s spouse and the superintendent recuses himself or herself from the hiring and supervision process. *(Which should be spread upon the minutes)*

10-077-E – A school superintendent’s spouse may be employed in a position at a particular school under the supervision of a school principal if the school board designates someone other than the superintendent to make the employment recommendation. However, the superintendent’s spouse may not be employed under the authority of the school district central office.

Principals/Directors

10-067-E – Pursuant to *Section 25-4-105(1), Mississippi Code of 1972*, the food service director is prohibited from hiring or supervising her husband. ***(This ethic’s opinion means a spouses, parent, or child cannot supervise one another.)***

B. Prepare the compliance working papers.

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for related parties, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 37-7-333	YES	NO	N/A
Section 37-9-21	YES	NO	N/A
Section 37-9-17 (1)	YES	NO	N/A
Section 25-4-103 (q)	YES	NO	N/A
Section 25-4-105 (1)	YES	NO	N/A

REMARKS

ACTIVITY FUNDS

- A. Obtain the client transmittals, count sheets, bank statements, receipt books, and general ledger to test the District's varsity football and basketball games to ensure the following attributes are met:

Mississippi Department Education Accounting Manual

1. Determine all monies are receipted using a three-part receipt.

2. Ensure all signors on the bank accounts are Board approved.

3. Ensure transmittals are submitted to the Central Office no later than five days after the close of the month.

4. Ensure pre-numbered tickets are utilized and beginning and ending ticket numbers are recorded on the count sheets.

5. Ensure deposits are made in a timely manner.

6. Trace deposits to the bank statements and general ledger. Also, ensure the gate receipts are being deposited in the proper funds.

7. Ensure admission fees for extracurricular events are Board approved with its Board policy.

Auditor Note: If the District only offers GoFan to the Public as a way to pay for extracurricular events, the Deputy State Auditor states the Districts do not have this authority. The Public should also have the option to pay cash at the Gate without paying a service/convenience fee. This fee cannot be pushed onto the Public. Districts are governmental entities not private. The funds collected from the Public are not private.

- B. Ensure expenditures within activity funds are allowed.

SECTION 37-7-301(s)

1. Ensure purchasing laws are being followed.

2. Ensure expenditures within the activity funds are allowed.

ACTIVITY FUNDS (Continued)

BOOSTER CLUBS

- C. Determine by reviewing the Booster Club funds are private or public, by following the steps below:

MS AG OPINION 1988 WL 250239 and Statement 84

1. Review and determine if the Booster Club is utilizing the District's Tax Identification Number. *(Auditor's Note: If the Booster Club is utilizing the District's)*
2. Review the Board's policy in regards to its Booster Clubs and fees, if noted.
3. Determine if the funds are being matched by the District within the club funds.
4. If the Booster Club funds are determined to be public, purchasing laws should be followed and should be recorded within the District's General Fund.

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

- D. Review the District's financial statements, general ledger, and trial balance and determine if there are Scholarship Funds on the books.

MS AG OPINION 1980 WL 28797

1. There is no authority whereby the School Board can administer Scholarship Funds. Therefore, the School District may not maintain a Scholarship Fund composed of nonpublic funds.

- E. Prepare the compliance working papers.

CONCLUSION

We have performed procedures to sufficiently achieve the audit objectives for the examination of the legal compliance requirements for activity funds, and the results are adequately presented in the accompanying working papers.

Section 37-7-301

YES

NO

N/A

REMARKS

OTHER TESTS

As required by AU Section 317, prepare a legal compliance test in any other state legal compliance area for which noncompliance could cause a direct and material misstatement of the general purpose financial statements.

Document procedures performed.

CONCLUSION

				W/P Ref
	YES	NO	N/A	
	YES	NO	N/A	
	YES	NO	N/A	
	YES	NO	N/A	
	YES	NO	N/A	
	YES	NO	N/A	
	YES	NO	N/A	
	YES	NO	N/A	
	YES	NO	N/A	
	YES	NO	N/A	
	YES	NO	N/A	
	YES	NO	N/A	

REMARKS

COMPLETION

- A. Prepare findings and recommendations, if necessary.
- B. Prepare any audit exception schedules.
- C. Index work paper and accumulate for file.

REMARKS
