

Board Policy

Financial Accountability

Eastern Suffolk BOCES has internal controls in place to ensure that:

1. the goals and objectives of ESBOCES are accomplished;
2. laws, regulations, policies, and good business practices are complied with;
3. audit recommendations are considered and implemented when feasible;
4. operations are efficient and effective;
5. assets are safeguarded; and
6. accurate, timely, and reliable data are maintained.

The ESBOCES governance and control environment will include the following:

1. the ESBOCES Code of Ethics addresses conflict of interest transactions with Board members and employees; transactions that are less-than-arm's length are prohibited; less-than-arm's length is a relationship between ESBOCES and employees or vendors who are related to ESBOCES officials or Board members;
2. the Board requires corrective action for issues reported in the Certified Public Accountant's (CPA's) management letter, audit reports, the Single Audit, and consultant reports;
3. the Board has established the required policies and procedures concerning ESBOCES operations;
4. the Board routinely receives and discusses the necessary fiscal reports, including the
 - a. Treasurer's cash reports
 - b. budget status reports
 - c. revenue status reports; and
 - d. quarterly extra-classroom activity fund reports;
5. ESBOCES has a long-term (three to five years) financial plan for both capital projects and operating expenses;
6. ESBOCES requires attendance at training programs for Board members, business officials, Treasurers, claims auditors, and others to ensure they understand their duties and responsibilities and the data provided to them;
7. the Board has an Audit Committee to assist in carrying out its fiscal oversight responsibilities;

8. ESBOCES information systems are economical, efficient, current, and up-to-date;
9. All computer files are secured with passwords or other controls, backed up on a regular basis, and stored at an off-site or in a secure fireproof location;
10. ESBOCES periodically verifies that its controls are working efficiently; and
11. ESBOCES requires all staff to take leave time during which time another staff member performs the duties of the staff on leave. Staff may also schedule transactions and other responsibilities to occur electronically before taking a leave.

Audit Response

Periodically, ESBOCES receives audit reports from the External (Independent) Auditor, the Internal Auditor, the Office of the New York State Comptroller, and/or any another regulatory agency. The Board will review all audit recommendations in consultation with the Audit Committee and respond appropriately. Independent and Comptroller audit reports and the accompanying management letters will be made available for public inspection.

ESBOCES will also timely post a copy of the annual external audit report or the Comptroller's final audit report on its website for a period of five years. Notice of the availability of the independent and Comptroller audit reports will be published in the ESBOCES official newspaper or one having general circulation in the supervisory district. If there is no newspaper, notice must be placed in 10 public places within ESBOCES.

References:

- Education Law Section 2116-a(3-b)
- 8 NYCRR Section 170.12
- General Municipal Law Sections 33(2)(e) and 35(1), (2)

First Adopted: 5/15/2019
Adopted as Revised: 9/18/2024