

Board Policy

Duties of the ESBOCES External Auditor

The Board by law shall obtain an annual audit of its records by an independent certified public accountant or an independent public accountant. The audit shall also include all extraclassroom activity funds. The independent accountant shall present the report of the annual audit to the Board and provide a copy of the audit to each Board member. The Board shall adopt a resolution accepting the audit report and file a copy of the resolution with the Commissioner. Eastern Suffolk BOCES will also file the audit report with the Commissioner for a specific school year by October 15th of the following school year. In addition to the annual audit, ESBOCES shall be subject to State audits conducted by the State Comptroller.

Where an audit report contains findings that require correction, the Board and the Audit Committee will prepare a corrective action plan within ninety (90) days of receiving the report and implement the plan no later than the end of the next fiscal year.

In addition, the independence and objectivity of the auditor may be enhanced when the Board and Audit Committee perform an oversight role with respect to the hiring and performance of the auditor, as required by law.

Request for Proposal Process

In accordance with law, no audit engagement shall be for a term longer than five (5) consecutive years. ESBOCES may, however, permit an independent auditor engaged under an existing contract for such services to submit a proposal for such services in response to a request for competitive proposals or be awarded a contract to provide such services under a request for proposal process.

Duties and Responsibilities

The independent auditor must conduct the audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Standards of GAGAS are organized as general, fieldwork, and reporting.

Below are some important considerations ESBOCES shall expect of the auditor in preparing the audit. However, they should not be considered all inclusive or a substitute for the auditor's professional judgment.

1. **Independence:** The auditor must document that he/she is independent of ESBOCES and free of personal and external impairments. The auditor must establish an internal quality control system to identify any personal and external impairment and assure compliance with GAGAS independence requirements.
2. **Internal Quality Control System:** The auditor must document that his/her internal quality control processes adequately demonstrate compliance with government auditing standards. He/she must establish an organizational structure, policies, and procedures to provide reasonable assurance of complying with applicable standards governing audits.

3. Internal Controls: The auditor must obtain a sufficient understanding of ESBOCES internal controls and document such understanding covering the five (5) interrelated components: the control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communication, and monitoring.
4. Planning and Supervision: The auditor's work is to be properly planned and supervised and consider materiality in order to provide reasonable assurance of detecting misstatements resulting from direct and material illegal acts and material irregularities to financial statements. The auditor should also be aware of the possibility that indirect illegal acts may have occurred.
5. Audit documentation: In order to meet the GAGAS requirements, the audit documentation should provide a clear understanding of its purpose, the source, and the conclusions the auditor reached. It should be organized to provide a clear link to the findings, conclusions, and recommendations contained in the audit report.
6. Reporting on Internal Controls and Compliance: The auditor must report on and present the results of his/her testing of ESBOCES compliance with laws and regulations and its internal controls over financial reports in light of irregularities, illegal acts, other material noncompliance, significant deficiencies, and material weaknesses in internal controls.

References:

- Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards (GAGAS) §§3.50-3.54, 4.03, 4.19-4.24, and 5.07-5.20
- NYS Education Law §2116-a
- NYS General Municipal Law §§33 and 104-b
- 8 NYCRR §§170.2, 170.3, and 170.12
- Board Policy 4481 – Allegations of Financial Improprieties/Fraud or Wrongful Conduct

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