

## **OFAC Audit Summary**

June 2, 2011

Prepared by Dr. Frank Cocchiola, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schools

The Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance (OFAC) audited the activities and disbursement of federal funds expended by the South Plainfield School District from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. The report was received on June 1, 2011. The district is required (N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.6) to publicly review the findings of the report at a public meeting within 30 days of receipt of the report (June 15, 2011 meeting).

Within 30 days of the aforementioned public meeting the board must adopt a resolution certifying that the findings were discussed, and approving a Corrective Action Plan addressing issues raised, and/or an appeal of any monetary findings in dispute (July 13 board meeting).

A copy of the resolution and approved CAP and/or appeal must be sent to the DOE within ten days (July 23) of adoption by the board.

The findings of the report and the CAP must be placed on the district's website.

The auditor is requested to comment on all areas of noncompliance and recommendations in the next certified audit submitted to the NJDOE.

The audit focused on two areas, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA-IDEA) and the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, including Title I, title II Part A, Title II Part D, Title III and Title IV.

Highlights of each area follow:

### **ARRA-IDEA/Basic**

- EWEG project description did not include the district's summer program activities, and nonpublic services description was not provided in the plan narrative. Charges are allowable and approved, but narrative should be expanded for clarity.
- The grant must be amended to reflect funds expended on activities that solely benefit students with disabilities directly (i.e. Being a Writer training, Naglieri Test purchase). Other charges need to be reversed to general fund.
- Nonpublic students receiving funding through IDEA Basic and ARRA-IDEA should have service plans revised to reflect all funding sources. The district contracts with MRESC to provide these services. This correction has been in place since Sept. 2010.
- Procedures must be put in place to verify Affirmation of Consultation for nonpublic services this is currently in place.
- Child Find activities implemented must be documented in more detail.

- Expenditures totaling \$10,026.25 for software are unrelated to special education students and the ARRA Basic account must be reimbursed by the district.
- The district must reimburse the ARRA-IDEA account \$59,591 for the difference between the actual approved special education bus and the general education bus inappropriately charged to ARRA.

## NCLB

### Title I

- The district did not consult with nonpublic schools outside the district boundaries as required. Policies and procedures must be put in place and submitted to the NJDOE with the CAP.
- Title I legislative requirements re: comparison to schools in the district and state, the actions taken to address problems and parent input were not included in the Grant School (SINI) notification to parents. A revised letter must be submitted to the NJDOE with the CAP.
- The letter to Grant School parents did not include a comprehensive list of providers for Supplemental Educational Services (SES). A revised letter must be submitted to the NJDOE with the CAP.
- \$325 from Title I funds was inappropriately expended and must be reversed.

### Title II, Parts A & D

- No documentation exists for the expenditure of nonpublic school funds. The application must be amended to reflect nonpublic schools not served.

### Title IV

- Documentation supporting collaboration of the program with other federal, state and local programs was not provided in the application.
- Documentation is required to verify ongoing consultation with parents, and the evaluation of program effectiveness.