

LYCOMING CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER
LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT

OCTOBER 2011

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Ms. Vicki Egli
Joint Operating Committee Chairperson
Lycoming Career & Technology Center
293 Cemetery Street
Hughesville, Pennsylvania 17737

Dear Governor Corbett and Ms. Egli:

We conducted a performance audit of the Lycoming Career & Technology Center (LCTC) to determine its compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, grant requirements and administrative procedures. Our audit covered the period April 17, 2009 through April 11, 2011, except as otherwise indicated in the report. Additionally, compliance specific to state subsidy and reimbursements was determined for the school years ended June 30, 2010 and June 30, 2009. Our audit was conducted pursuant to 72 P.S. § 403 and in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Our audit found that the LCTC complied, in all significant respects, with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, grant requirements, and administrative procedures.

We appreciate the LCTC's cooperation during the conduct of the audit and their willingness to implement our recommendations.

Sincerely,

/s/

JACK WAGNER
Auditor General

October 11, 2011

cc: **LYCOMING CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER** Joint Operating Committee
Members

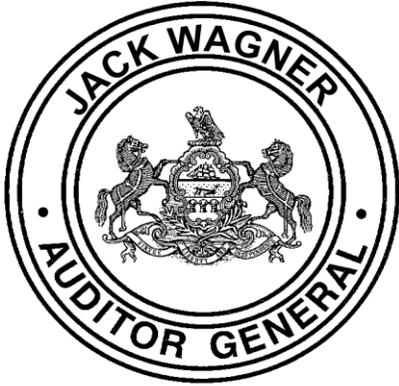
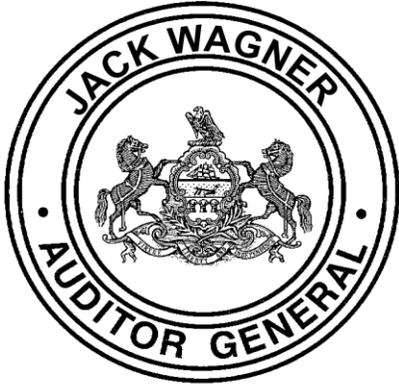


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Executive Summary

Audit Work

The Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General conducted a performance audit of the Lycoming Career & Technology Center (LCTC). Our audit sought to answer certain questions regarding the LCTC's compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, grant requirements, and administrative procedures; and to determine the status of corrective action taken by the LCTC in response to our prior audit recommendations.

Our audit scope covered the period April 17, 2009 through April 11, 2011, except as otherwise indicated in the audit scope, objectives, and methodology section of the report. Compliance specific to state subsidy and reimbursements was determined for school years 2009-10 and 2008-09.

School Background

According to School officials, in school year 2009-10 the LCTC provided educational services to 251 secondary pupils through the employment of 9 teachers, 4 full-time and part-time support personnel, and 1 administrator. The operation, administration and management of the school are directed by a joint operating committee (JOC) which is comprised of four members from the following school districts:

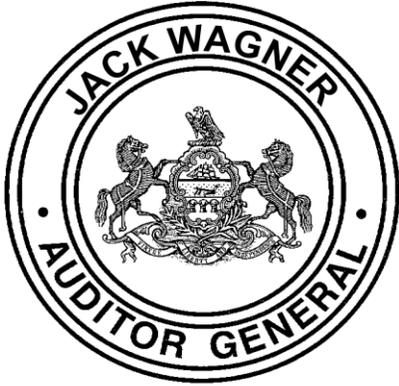
East Lycoming
Montoursville Area
Muncy
Warrior Run

The JOC members are appointed by the individual school boards at the December meeting, each to serve a one year term. Lastly, the LCTC received \$222,863 in state funding in school year 2009-10.

Audit Conclusion and Results

Our audit found that the LCTC complied, in all significant respects, with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, grant requirements, and administrative procedures. There were no findings or observations indicated in this report.

Status of Prior Audit Findings and Observations. With regard to the status of our prior audit recommendations to the LCTC from an audit we conducted of the 2007-08 and 2006-07 school years, we found the LCTC had taken appropriate corrective action in implementing our recommendations pertaining to unmonitored vendor system access and logical access control weaknesses (see page 7).



Audit Scope, Objectives, and Methodology

Scope

What is a school performance audit?

School performance audits allow the Department of the Auditor General to determine whether state funds, including school subsidies, are being used according to the purposes and guidelines that govern the use of those funds. Additionally, our audits examine the appropriateness of certain administrative and operational practices at each Local Education Agency (LEA). The results of these audits are shared with LEA management, the Governor, the PA Department of Education, and other concerned entities.

Our audit, conducted under authority of 72 P.S. § 403, is not a substitute for the local annual audit required by the Public School Code of 1949, as amended. We conducted our audit in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Our audit covered the period April 17, 2009 through April 11, 2011 except for the verification of professional employee certification which was performed for the period April 9, 2009 through March 30, 2011.

Regarding state subsidy and reimbursements, our audit covered school years 2009-10 and 2008-09.

While all LEAs have the same school years, some have different fiscal years. Therefore, for the purposes of our audit work and to be consistent with Department of Education (DE) reporting guidelines, we use the term school year rather than fiscal year throughout this report. A school year covers the period July 1 to June 30.

Objectives

What is the difference between a finding and an observation?

Our performance audits may contain findings and/or observations related to our audit objectives. Findings describe noncompliance with a law, regulation, contract, grant requirement, or administrative procedure. Observations are reported when we believe corrective action should be taken to remedy a potential problem not rising to the level of noncompliance with specific criteria.

Performance audits draw conclusions based on an evaluation of sufficient, appropriate evidence. Evidence is measured against criteria, such as, laws, regulations, and defined business practices. Our audit focused on assessing the LCTC's compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, grant requirements and administrative procedures. However, as we conducted our audit procedures, we sought to determine answers to the following questions, which serve as our objectives:

- ✓ Were professional employees certified for the positions they held?
- ✓ Does the School ensure that Joint Operating Committee members appropriately comply with the Public Official and Employee Ethics Act?
- ✓ Are there any declining fund balances which may impose risk to the fiscal viability of the School?

- ✓ Did the School pursue a contract buyout with an administrator and if so, what was the total cost of the buy-out, reasons for the termination/settlement, and do the current employment contract(s) contain adequate termination provisions?
- ✓ Were there any other areas of concern reported by local auditors, citizens, or other interested parties which warrant further attention during our audit?
- ✓ Is the School taking appropriate steps to ensure school safety?
- ✓ Did the School use an outside vendor to maintain its membership data and if so, are there internal controls in place related to vendor access?
- ✓ Did the School take appropriate corrective action to address recommendations made in our prior audits?

Methodology

What are internal controls?

Internal controls are processes designed by management to provide reasonable assurance of achieving objectives in areas such as:

- Effectiveness and efficiency of operations;
- Relevance and reliability of operational and financial information;
- Compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, grant requirements and administrative procedures.

Government Auditing Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our conclusions based on our audit objectives.

LCTC management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the School is in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, grant requirements, and administrative procedures. Within the context of our audit objectives, we obtained an understanding of internal controls and assessed whether those controls were properly designed and implemented.

Any significant deficiencies found during the audit are included in this report.

In order to properly plan our audit and to guide us in possible audit areas, we performed analytical procedures in the areas of state subsidies/reimbursement, pupil membership, pupil transportation, and comparative financial information.

Our audit examined the following:

- Records pertaining to professional employee certification, state ethics compliance, and financial stability.
- Items such as meeting minutes

Additionally, we interviewed selected administrators and support personnel associated with LCTC operations.

Lastly, to determine the status of our audit recommendations made in a prior audit report released on October 8, 2009, we reviewed the LCTC's response to DE dated February 18, 2010. We then performed additional audit procedures targeting the previously reported matters.

Findings and Recommendations

For the audited period, our audit of the Lycoming Career & Technology Center resulted in no findings or observations.

Status of Prior Audit Findings and Observations

Our prior audit of the Lycoming Career & Technology Center (LCTC) for the school years 2007-08 and 2006-07 resulted in one reported observation. The observation pertained to unmonitored vendor system access and logical access control weaknesses. As part of our current audit, we determined the status of corrective action taken by the LCTC to implement our prior recommendations. We analyzed the LCTC Executive Director's written response provided to the Department of Education, performed audit procedures, and questioned LCTC personnel regarding the prior observation. As shown below, we found that the LCTC did implement recommendations related to unmonitored vendor system access and logical access control weaknesses.

School Years 2007-08 and 2006-07 Auditor General Performance Audit Report

Observation: **Unmonitored Vendor System Access and Logical Access Control Weaknesses**

Observation

Summary:

LCTC personnel should improve controls over remote access to its computers. In particular, controls should be strengthened over outside vendor access to the student accounting applications.

Recommendations:

Our audit observation recommended that the LCTC should:

1. Have legal counsel review the vendor contract.
2. Ensure the Acceptable Use Policy includes provisions for authentication (password security and syntax requirements).
3. Establish separate information technology policies and procedures for controlling the activities of vendors and have the vendor sign this policy, or the LCTC should require the vendor to sign the School's Acceptable Use Policy.
4. Develop policies and procedures to require written authorization when adding, deleting, or changing a userID.
5. Maintain documentation to evidence that terminated employees are properly removed from the system in a timely manner.
6. Implement a security policy and system parameter settings to require all users, including the vendor, to change their passwords on a regular basis (i.e., every 30 days). Passwords should be a minimum length of eight characters and include alpha, numeric and special characters.

Also, lock out users after three unsuccessful attempts and log users off the system after a period of inactivity (i.e., 60 minutes maximum).

7. Require the vendor to assign unique userIDs and passwords to vendor employees authorized to access the LCTC's system. Further, the LCTC should obtain a list of vendor employees with access to its data and ensure that changes to the data are made only by authorized vendor representatives.
8. Require the upgrades/updates to the LCTC's system be made only after receipt of written authorization from appropriate School officials.

Current Status:

During our current audit procedures we found that the LCTC did implement the recommendations.

Distribution List

This report was initially distributed to the career and technology center superintendent of record, the joint operating committee, our website address at www.auditorgen.state.pa.us, and the following:

The Honorable Tom Corbett
Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, PA 17120

The Honorable Ronald J. Tomalis
Secretary of Education
1010 Harristown Building #2
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

The Honorable Robert M. McCord
State Treasurer
Room 129 - Finance Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Ms. Nichole Duffy
Director, Bureau of Budget and Fiscal
Management
Department of Education
4th Floor, 333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dr. David Wazeter
Research Manager
Pennsylvania State Education Association
400 North Third Street - Box 1724
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dr. David Davare
Director of Research Services
Pennsylvania School Boards Association
P.O. Box 2042
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

This report is a matter of public record. Copies of this report may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General, Office of Communications, 318 Finance Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. If you have any questions regarding this report or any other matter, you may contact the Department of the Auditor General by accessing our website at www.auditorgen.state.pa.us.

