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News for Immediate Release

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Auditor General DePasquale Says Stroudsburg Area School District Received Nearly Half-Million Dollars in Overpayments from State

HARRISBURG – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale today said data reporting errors by the Stroudsburg Area School District led to the Monroe County district receiving \$480,761 more than it was owed by the state, according to a new audit.

"Data errors can wreak havoc on school budgets that are already tight," DePasquale said. "Districts must keep proper records so that they receive the appropriate level of funding and can focus on providing students with the best education possible."

Auditors found the district inaccurately reported transportation and student data to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) for the 2013-14 through 2016-17 school years.

The district incorrectly reported the number of miles traveled to transport students as well as the number of days that students were transported, which resulted in overpayments of \$327,340.

Another \$153,421 in overpayments occurred when the district reported 26 students as foster students during the four-year period. Districts receive funding from the state for each foster, or nonresident, student that attends its schools.

The past overpayments should be adjusted by PDE from future state reimbursements to the district.

Review the <u>Stroudsburg Area School District audit report</u> and learn more about the Department of the Auditor General online at <u>www.PaAuditor.gov</u>.

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