

SPRING COVE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BLAIR COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
PERFORMANCE AUDIT REPORT

JANUARY 2010



The Honorable Edward G. Rendell  
Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Mr. James H. Butler, Board President  
Spring Cove School District  
1100 East Main Street  
Roaring Spring, Pennsylvania 16673

Dear Governor Rendell and Mr. Butler:

We conducted a performance audit of the Spring Cove School District (SCSD) to determine its compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, grant requirements and administrative procedures. Our audit covered the period October 25, 2006 through April 30, 2009, except as otherwise indicated in the report. Additionally, compliance specific to state subsidy and reimbursements was determined for the school years ended June 30, 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005. 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 SCSD complied, in all significant respects, with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, grant requirements, and administrative procedures.

We appreciate the SCSD's cooperation during the conduct of the audit.

Sincerely,

/s/

JACK WAGNER  
Auditor General

January 13, 2010

cc: **SPRING COVE SCHOOL DISTRICT** Board Members



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## **Executive Summary**

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### **Audit Work**

The Pennsylvania Department of the Auditor General conducted a performance audit of the Spring Cove School District (SCSD). Our audit sought to answer certain questions regarding the District's compliance with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, grant requirements, and administrative procedures.

Our audit scope covered the period October 25, 2006 through April 30, 2009, 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 2007-08, 2006-07, 2005-06 and 2004-05.

### **District Background**

The SCSD encompasses approximately 99 square miles. According to 2004 local census data, it serves a resident population of 13,333. According to District officials, in school year 2007-08 the SCSD provided basic educational services to 1,873 pupils through the employment of 135 teachers, 114 full-time and part-time support personnel, and 13 administrators. Lastly, the SCSD received more than \$10.7 million in state funding in school year 2007-08.

### **Audit Conclusion and Results**

Our audit found that the SCSD complied, in all significant respects, with applicable state laws, regulations, contracts, grant requirements, and administrative procedures. For the audited period, our audit of the SCSD resulted in no findings or observations.

**Status of Prior Audit Findings and Observations.** There were no findings or observations issued during our prior audit conducted for the school years 2003-04 and 2002-03.





## Audit Scope, Objectives, and Methodology

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### 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 of October 25, 2006 through April 30, 2009.

Regarding state subsidy and reimbursements, our audit covered school years 2007-08, 2006-07, 2005-06 and 2004-05.

While all districts 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 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

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 SCSD'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 audit objectives:

- ✓ Are there any declining fund balances which may impose risk to the fiscal viability of the District?
- ✓ Did the District 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?

## 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 findings, observations and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives.

SCSD management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that the District 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 financial stability.
- Items such as Board meeting minutes.

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

## **Findings and Observations**

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**F**or the audited period, our audit of the Spring Cove School District resulted in no findings or observations.

## **Status of Prior Audit Findings and Observations**

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**O**ur prior audit of the Spring Cove School District for the school years 2003-04 and 2002-03 resulted in no findings or observations.

## **Distribution List**

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This report was initially distributed to the superintendent of the school district, the board members, our website address at [www.auditorgen.state.pa.us](http://www.auditorgen.state.pa.us), and the following:

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell  
Governor  
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The Honorable Gerald Zahorchak, D.Ed.  
Secretary of Education  
1010 Harristown Building #2  
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The Honorable Robert M. McCord  
State Treasurer  
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Harrisburg, PA 17120

Senator Jeffrey Piccola  
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Senate Education Committee  
173 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Senator Andrew Dinniman  
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Senate Education Committee  
183 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Representative James Roebuck  
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