



Michigan
Office of the Auditor General
REPORT SUMMARY

Performance Audit

Report Number:
313-0140-10

Office of Professional Preparation Services

Michigan Department of Education

Released:
March 2011

The Office of Professional Preparation Services (OPPS) is responsible for ensuring that a person employed in a public elementary or secondary school with instructional responsibilities has a valid credential for the position held. OPPS is also responsible for ensuring that professional school personnel meet preparation and professional development requirements.

Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of OPPS's monitoring of teachers' professional development and continuing education requirements.

Audit Conclusion:

We concluded that OPPS was not effective in the monitoring of teachers' professional development requirements and was effective in the monitoring of teachers' continuing education requirements. We noted one material condition (Finding 1) and one reportable condition (Finding 2).

Material Condition:

OPPS should monitor school districts to ensure that school districts provide teachers with the required amount of professional development. In addition, OPPS should validate the professional development data recorded by school districts in the Registry of Educational Personnel database. (Finding 1)

Reportable Condition:

OPPS had not developed sufficient sampling procedures to determine if applicants who renewed their teacher certificates obtained the required continuing education credits (Finding 2).

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of OPPS's efforts to ensure that K-12 classes were taught by qualified teachers.

Audit Conclusion:

We concluded that OPPS's efforts were effective in ensuring that K-12 classes were taught by qualified teachers. However, we noted four reportable conditions (Findings 3 through 6).

Reportable Conditions:

OPPS's certification reporting process did not identify all school district teachers who had not renewed or obtained their teaching certificates (Finding 3).

OPPS did not solicit competitive bids for the acquisition of contractual services as required by federal and State purchasing policies. In addition, OPPS should discontinue classifying intermediate school districts as subrecipients when OPPS is managing the grant program. (Finding 4)

OPPS needs to improve its procedures related to site visits at school districts to ensure that contractors complete appropriate reviews and submit complete data regarding teacher qualifications (Finding 5).

OPPS did not refer late special permit applications to the Office of State Aid and School Finance as required by State statute (Finding 6).

Noteworthy Accomplishments:

OPPS used Title II funding to hire monitors to conduct site visits of school districts to verify that teachers were instructing only core curricular subjects in their field of certification or endorsement. On-site visits began in March 2007. Monitors also assisted school districts in analyzing their needs regarding highly qualified teachers and in developing a corrective action plan for meeting those requirements.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Agency Responses:

Our audit report contains 6 findings and 8 corresponding recommendations. The Michigan Department of Education's preliminary response indicates that it agrees with 7 of the recommendations and disagrees with 1 of the recommendations.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: <http://audgen.michigan.gov>



Michigan Office of the Auditor General
201 N. Washington Square
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Thomas H. McTavish, C.P.A.
Auditor General

Scott M. Strong, C.P.A., C.I.A.
Deputy Auditor General