

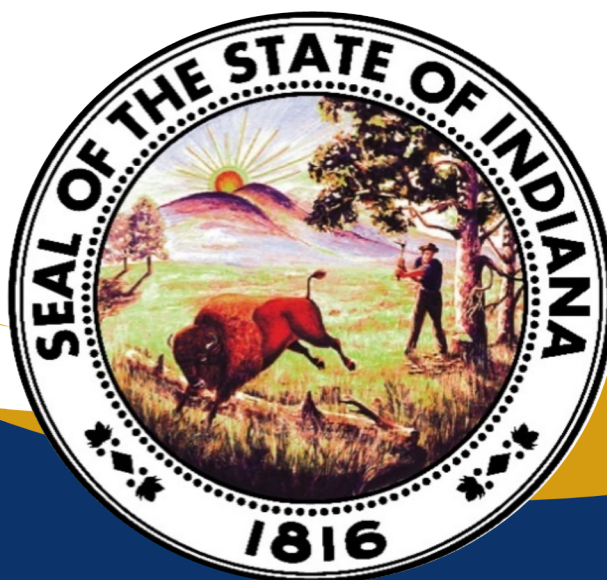
**STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS
302 West Washington Street
Room E418
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2769**

**Paul D. Joyce, CPA
State Examiner**

COMPLIANCE ENGAGEMENT REPORT
OF

NORTHWESTERN SCHOOL CORPORATION
EXTRACURRICULAR ACCOUNTS
HOWARD COUNTY, INDIANA

July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023



FILED
12/16/2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Description</u>	<u>Page</u>
Schedule of Officials	2
Compliance Report	3
Comments: Northwestern High School.....	4-5

SCHEDULE OF OFFICIALS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Official</u>	<u>Term</u>
School Corporation Treasurer	Jamie Bolser Camden Parkhurst	07-01-21 to 06-30-22 07-01-23 to 06-30-25
Superintendent of Schools	Kristen Bilkey	07-01-21 to 06-30-25
President of the School Board	Ted Merrell Jonathan Underwood	07-01-21 to 01-12-23 01-13-23 to 06-30-25



Paul D. Joyce, CPA
State Examiner

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS

302 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
ROOM E418
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204-2769
Telephone: (317) 232-2513
Fax: (317) 232-4711
www.in.gov/sboa

TO: THE OFFICIALS OF THE NORTHWESTERN SCHOOL CORPORATION,
EXTRACURRICULAR ACCOUNTS, HOWARD COUNTY, INDIANA

As authorized under Indiana Code 5-11-1, we performed certain procedures to the accounting records and related documents of the Northwestern School Corporation, Extracurricular Accounts (School ECAs), for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023. The objective of this engagement was to determine compliance with applicable Indiana laws, regulations, and uniform compliance guidelines (Guidelines) established by the Indiana State Board of Accounts pursuant to Indiana Code 5-11-1-24. The objective of this engagement is not to opine on compliance or financial activity of the School ECAs as this engagement was not conducted in accordance with any standards established by an authoritative standard setting body, and, as such, we do not provide any opinions on compliance or financial activity.

Management is responsible for preparing and maintaining its accounting records and related documents in accordance with applicable Indiana laws, regulations, and Guidelines. Management's responsibility also includes, but is not limited to, complying with other applicable Indiana laws, regulations, and Guidelines concerning how it operates: authorized sources and uses of funds and what reports are required to be prepared and filed.

We fulfilled our responsibility as detailed in the first paragraph, by applying procedures over cash, receipts, and disbursements. Expanding the scope and nature of these procedures can and does occur in specific circumstances.

The Comments contained herein, if any, describe the identified reportable instances of noncompliance found during our engagement. Our procedures were not designed to identify all instances of noncompliance; therefore, noncompliance may exist that is unidentified. Any Official Response to the Comments incorporated within this report was not verified for accuracy.

The Schedule of Officials is informational only.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of management, governance, and others within the organization. This restriction is not intended to limit the distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record. Reports can be found on the Indiana State Board of Accounts' website: <http://www.in.gov/sboa/>, and the School ECAs' reports filed by management can be found on the Indiana Gateway for Government Units financial reporting system website: <http://www.gateway.ifionline.org>.

The contents of this report were communicated to Camden Parkhurst, School Corporation Treasurer; Kristen Bilkey, Superintendent of Schools; and Jonathan Underwood, President of the School Board, on November 26, 2024.

Beth Kelley, CPA, CFE
Deputy State Examiner

November 4, 2024

NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL
EXTRACURRICULAR ACCOUNT
COMMENT

TICKET SALES - PRESCRIBED FORM SA-4

Condition and Context

The Extracurricular Account (ECA) had not properly designed or implemented a system of internal controls, which would include appropriate segregation of duties that would likely be effective in preventing, or detecting and correcting, noncompliance related to Ticket Sales - Prescribed Form SA-4.

For the School ECAs, five basketball games and five football games were selected for testing during the engagement. For all the games selected for testing, documentation of the serially prenumbered ticket series used was not provided. As a result, a recalculation of collections using the first and last ticket number sold and price per ticket could not be performed. Therefore, we were unable to determine the accuracy of recorded tickets sold and the recorded collections.

Criteria

The Indiana State Board of Accounts (SBOA) is required under Indiana Code 5-11-1-27(e) to define the acceptable minimum level of internal control standards. To provide clarifying guidance, the State Examiner compiled the standards contained in the manual, *Uniform Internal Control Standards for Indiana Political Subdivisions*. All political subdivisions subject to audit by SBOA are expected to adhere to these standards. The standards include adequate control activities. According to this manual:

"Control activities are the actions and tools established through policies and procedures that help to detect, prevent, or reduce the identified risks that interfere with the achievement of objectives. Detection activities are designed to identify unfavorable events in a timely manner whereas prevention activities are designed to deter the occurrence of an unfavorable event. Examples of these activities include reconciliations, authorizations, approval processes, performance reviews, and verification processes.

An integral part of the control activity component is segregation of duties. . . .

There is an expectation of segregation of duties. If compensating controls are necessary, documentation should exist to identify both the areas where segregation of duties are not feasible or practical and the compensating controls implemented to mitigate the risk. . . ."

NORTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL
EXTRACURRICULAR ACCOUNT
COMMENT
(Continued)

Officials and employees are required to use prescribed and approved forms in the manner prescribed. (Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Extracurricular Accounts, Chapter 1)

Ticket sales conducted by any activity should be accounted for as follows:

The treasurer should be responsible for the proper accounting for all tickets and should keep a record of the number purchased, the number issued for sale, and the number returned. The treasurer should see that proper accounting is made for the cash received from those sold. All tickets shall be prenumbered, with a different ticket color and numerical series for each price group. When cash for ticket sales is deposited with the treasurer, the treasurer's receipt issued therefore should show the number of tickets issued to the seller, the number returned unsold, and the balance remitted in cash. All tickets (including free or reduced) must be listed and accounted for on the SA-4 Ticket Sales Form.

(Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Extracurricular Accounts, Chapter 2)

Serially prenumbered tickets by the printing supplier should be used for all athletic and other extracurricular activities and events for which admission is charged. Part of the prenumbered ticket should be given to the person paying for the ticket upon admission to the event. The other part of the ticket (which should also be prenumbered, referred to as the stub) should be retained. All tickets (unused tickets and stubs) should be retained for audit.

Tickets for each price group should be different colors and/or different in the series number.

(Accounting and Uniform Compliance Guidelines Manual for Extracurricular Accounts, Chapter 2)