



Los Angeles Unified School District
Office of the Inspector General
Audit Unit

Contract Audit Report

*Special Review of Builders of Jewish
Education Affiliated Schools
Title I Funding Eligibility*



Los Angeles Unified School District

Office of the Inspector General

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November 27, 2018

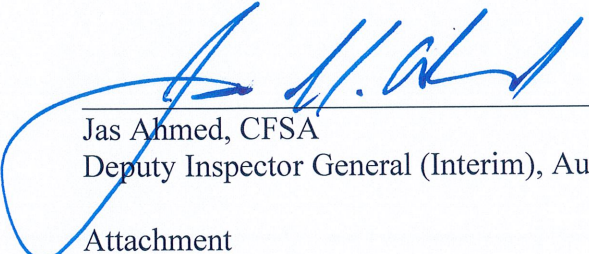
Ms. Karen Ryback, Executive Director
Federal and State Education Programs
Los Angeles Unified School District
333 S. Beaudry Avenue, 16th floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Ryback,

This is the report of our review of the Title I Funding Eligibility of Builders of Jewish Education (BJE) affiliated schools.

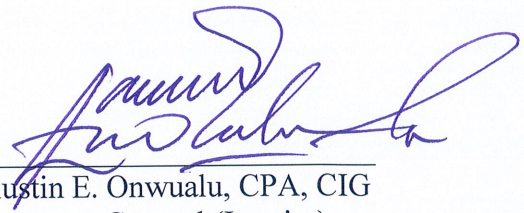
We appreciate your continued support of our services.

Sincerely,



Jas Ahmed, CFSA
Deputy Inspector General (Interim), Audits

Attachment



Austin E. Onwualu, CPA, CIG
Inspector General (Interim)

About the Office of the Inspector General

The Office of the Inspector General reports directly to the Board of Education. We conduct independent audits, reviews and investigations of District operations, contracts and vendors in order to:

- ✓ Find ways to improve processes, programs, functions and activities.
- ✓ Provide information that supports effective decision making.
- ✓ Identify real or potential misuse of District resources.
- ✓ Prevent and detect waste, fraud and abuse within the District.

Through our work, we strive to encourage a culture of accountability, transparency, collaboration and excellence and to assist the Board and the Superintendent in their efforts to provide a high quality education for the students and parents of the Los Angeles Unified School District.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We performed a review to determine if the funding eligibility of the students reported by the Builders of Jewish Education (BJE) affiliated schools (schools) on their 2017-2018 Title I Funding Eligibility Form A (Form A) or Form B (Form B) was supported by the results of the schools' family surveys or the students' applications for free and reduced-price meal.

Fourteen BJE schools reported a total of 335 eligible students: thirteen schools submitted Form A to report a total of 316 eligible students, and one school submitted Form B to report 19 eligible students. Our review of the family surveys and applications for free and reduced-price meal found the following:

For the school that submitted Form A - Of the 316 reported eligible students, 17 students' eligibility was supported by Family Survey Forms that are acceptable to the District. For the remaining 299 students, there was no Family Survey Form provided for one student, and the Family Survey Forms completed for 298 students are not acceptable to the District: the survey forms were either entirely (281 students) or partially (17 students) completed by school staff and not the students' families as required by the District.

For the school that submitted Form B – Of the 19 eligible students reported on the Form B, 13 students' eligibility was supported by properly completed applications for free and reduced-price meal. The applications for the remaining 6 students were incomplete.

INTRODUCTION

The Los Angeles Unified School District (District) is required under Title I Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to make available equitable Title I services to low-achieving nonpublic school students who reside within a District school attendance area that receives Title I funds. The District's Federal and State Education Programs Branch (FSEP) allocates funding for services to nonpublic schools based on the number of funding eligible students reported by the nonpublic schools on their Title I Funding Eligibility Forms. Students are determined to be funding eligible if they are low income, between the ages of 5 to 17, and reside within a District school attendance area that receives Title I funds.

Nonpublic schools may submit Title I Funding Eligibility Form - Form A (Form A) or Title I Funding Eligibility Form - Form B (Form B) depending on how the schools collect poverty data. Nonpublic schools submitting Form A are required to collect poverty data by conducting a family survey using the FSEP's Family Survey Form and to maintain the survey forms on file. Nonpublic schools opting to use the number of students participating in the National School Lunch Program as the Title I funding eligibility student count should submit Form B and maintain on file the students' Applications for Free and Reduced-Price Meals. Thirteen BJE schools submitted 2017-2018 Form A and one BJE school submitted 2017-2018 Form B for the allocation of services for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

SCOPE AND OBJECTIVE

The objective of our review was to determine if the funding eligibility of the students reported by Builders of Jewish Education (BJE) affiliated schools (schools) on their 2017-2018 Title I Funding Eligibility Form A (Form A) or Form B (Form B) was supported by the results of the schools' family surveys or the applications for free and reduced-price meal.

METHODOLOGY

For the students identified on the eligible student list accompanying the schools' Form A or Form B, we performed the following: agreed the students' dates of birth and addresses to their Family Survey Forms or Applications for Free and Reduced-Price Meal; reviewed their Family Survey Forms or Applications for Free and Reduced-Price Meal to confirm that the income eligibility was supported; recalculated the students' age as of October 4, 2017, to verify age eligibility; confirmed that the students' addresses are within the boundaries of a District Title I school; and reviewed school records to verify the students' enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year.

RESULTS OF REVIEW

Fourteen BJE schools reported a total of 335 eligible students: thirteen schools submitted Form A to report a total of 316 eligible students, and one school submitted Form B to report 19 eligible students. Our review of the family surveys and applications for free and reduced-price meal and determined the following:

For the school that submitted Form A - Of the 316 reported eligible students, 17 students' eligibility was supported by Family Survey Forms that are acceptable to the District. For the remaining 299 students, there was no Family Survey Form provided for one student, and the Family Survey Forms for 298 students are not acceptable to the District: the survey forms were either entirely (281 students) or partially (17 students) completed by school staff and not the students' families as required by the District. According to the BJE consultant, school staff completed the Family Survey Forms – this was the practice at eight of the BJE schools – based on discussions with the families or based on financial information submitted by the families. The BJE consultant claimed that a former District staff member from the Office of General Counsel had approved this practice, but she did not produce any record of the approval. For the survey forms that were partially completed (the student information portion of the survey) by school staff, the BJE consultant explained that those two schools had their staff complete the student information portion of the form and let the families complete the rest – which only consisted of circling the appropriate income level - in order to increase the survey response rate. However, FSEP management indicated that these practices are not consistent with the District prescribed survey methodology; therefore, the 298 family surveys are not acceptable eligibility documentation.

For the school that submitted Form B – Of the 19 eligible students reported on the Form B, 13 students' eligibility was supported by properly completed applications for free and reduced-price meal. The applications for the remaining 6 students were incomplete: family size information and/or the student's date of birth was missing on those applications.

The following table shows the number of students whose eligibility are properly supported.

BJE Affiliated School Name	Eligible Students Reported	Eligibility Supported
<i>Schools that submitted Form A:</i>		
Alice and Nahum Lainer School	2	2
Gindi Maimonides Academy **	5	-
Pressman Academy	8	8
Shalhevet High School	7	7
YULA Boys High School **	12	-
Adat Ari El Day School *	6	-
Brawerman Elementary School *	4	-
Emek Hebrew Academy *	77	-
Or Hachaim Academy *	88	-
Tashbar Sephardic Yeshiva Ketana *	60	-
Temple Israel of Hollywood *	3	-
YAYOE *	25	-
YULA Girls High School *	19	-
Subtotal	316	17
<i>School that submitted Form B:</i>		
Mesivta of Greater LA	19	13
Subtotal	19	13
Total	335	30

* Schools that completed the entire survey forms.

** Schools that completed the student information portion of the survey forms.

REPORT DISTRIBUTION

This report is intended for the information and use of the Federal and State Education Programs Branch.

ENGAGEMENT TEAM

This review was conducted by the Office of the Inspector's General Audit Unit team:

Stella Lai, Audit Manager
Shelly Guo, Principal Auditor
Armando Ng, Principal Auditor
Vilma Baquir, Senior Auditor
Liqing Lin, Senior Auditor

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The Office of the Inspector General has a hotline for you to call. You can also write to us.

If you wish, we will keep your identity confidential. You can remain anonymous, if you prefer. And you are protected by law from reprisal by your employer.

Call the hotline:

**(213) 241-7778
or
(866) LAUSD-OIG**

Write to us:

**Fraud Hotline Center
333 S. Beaudry Ave., 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017**

Website:

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