

Executive Summary

Investigative Audit of Caroline County Public Schools' Sole Source Contracts

Objectives:

To determine a) whether non-competitively awarded contracts were made in compliance with state and local laws; and b) whether there was any evidence of fraud, waste, or abuse associated with non-competitively awarded contracts.

Recommendations and Response:

The report contains two recommendations to assist Caroline County Public Schools (CCPS) in improving their ability to prevent fraud, waste and abuse in future contracts with vendors. Responses to the recommendations will be provided by CCPS.



Findings:

1. CCPS Has Not Cultivated an Environment of Competitive Bidding Practices
2. Contracts Awarded Non-Competitively in Violation of State and Local Policies

Results in Brief:

OIGE concluded that CCPS has not adequately addressed findings from a 2016 Office of Legislative Audits report regarding non-compliance with competitive contracting requirements. Several contracts reviewed were awarded without a valid exemption from competitive bidding procedures and resulted in considerable risk of fraud and/or waste. In multiple instances, contracts were awarded non-competitively to friends or relatives of CCPS personnel, without proper disclosure of potential conflicts of interest.