

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

2023–24 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY JOURNAL

RECESS JOURNAL NO. 36

FINAL RECESS

Assembly Chamber, Sacramento
Thursday, November 21, 2024

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 59, the following Assembly Journal for the 2023–24 Regular Session was printed while the Assembly was in Final Recess.

REPORTS

The following letters of transmittal were presented by the Chief Clerk and ordered printed in the Journal:

California State Auditor

2023-122
November 19, 2024

*The Honorable Speaker of the Assembly
The Honorable Members of the Assembly
of the Legislature of California
State Capitol, Room 319
Sacramento, California*

Members of the Assembly: As directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, my office conducted an audit of California Public School Custodial Cleanliness Standards, which included assessing the conditions of 18 public schools across six school districts: Calaveras Unified School District, Chico Unified School District, Fresno Unified School District, Los Angeles Unified School District, Palo Verde Unified School District, and Santa Maria-Bonita School District. Our evaluation focused on the custodial cleanliness standards and staffing at these public schools, and we determined that the schools had numerous maintenance deficiencies that may place students' safety and learning at risk.

My office found that many schools are not meeting State standards for cleanliness and maintenance, exposing children to unsafe and unhealthful conditions that can affect their academic success. For example, we found improperly stored hazardous cleaning supplies in multiple schools we visited. We also observed among the schools we visited leaky roofs, structural deterioration, stained ceiling tiles, and fire safety issues, such as classrooms with missing fire extinguishers. We noted that schools lack a funding source dedicated to facilities maintenance because the school funding formula is based solely on attendance and student characteristics. We recommend that the Legislature consider developing a funding category for maintenance separate from the current school funding formula.

We also found that oversight of school facilities needs improvement. Using the same Facility Inspection Tool (FIT) that schools use to evaluate facility conditions, my office generally scored the schools lower than the schools scored themselves on their School Accountability Report Cards, and our FIT scores were generally lower than those from their respective county Offices of Education. Because the report cards are a way for the school to provide information on school conditions to the public, there may be an incentive for schools to rate themselves generously. Additional oversight of this process is necessary. Finally, we identified potential improvements to the FIT itself so that it will better reflect school conditions and be a better means of communicating information on school cleanliness and maintenance to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

GRANT PARKS
California State Auditor

Above report referred to the Committee on Education.

California State Auditor

2024-1
November 21, 2024

*The Honorable Speaker of the Assembly
The Honorable Members of the Assembly
of the Legislature of California
State Capitol, Room 319
Sacramento, California*

Members of the Assembly: The California Whistleblower Protection Act authorizes my office to publish the following report that summarizes some of the investigations of alleged improper governmental activities that we have recently completed. This report details eight substantiated allegations involving several state agencies. Our investigations found waste and inefficiency, improper hiring, and other improper governmental activities totaling nearly \$2.6 million.

In one example, we found that an agency did not deposit a check for nearly \$875,000 that had been in its receipt for two years. This error resulted from accounting staff not following its internal controls and then losing track of the payment. Another case involves a manager who operated a personal business in which he coached prospective state employees on how to embellish or falsify their qualifications when applying for state jobs. Our investigation focused on three of the manager's clients and found that they received unlawful appointments. The manager used his own methods to unlawfully obtain state positions for himself. In yet another example, a chief information security officer (CISO) violated the law when he improperly provided to a job candidate 35 job applications containing confidential information. The CISO sent the information to the job candidate to help him understand the qualifications of the other candidates he would be competing against for the position.

State agencies must report to my office any corrective or disciplinary action they take in response to recommendations we have made. Their first reports are due within 60 days after we notify the agency or authority of the improper activity, and they continue to report monthly thereafter until they have completed corrective action.

Respectfully submitted,

GRANT PARKS
California State Auditor

Above report referred to the Committee on Governmental Organization.

ROBERT RIVAS, Speaker

DANIEL ALVAREZ, Assistant Minute Clerk