



Fairfax County Public Schools Internal Audit Office

**Office of Adult and Community Education
Petty Cash Audit for Fiscal Year 2006**

October 2007

"promoting an efficient & effective school division"

Executive Summary

Our review of the Office of Adult and Community Education petty cash account revealed that internal controls were adequate. In general, expenditures appeared reasonable, properly approved, and supported by appropriate documentation. In addition, custodial records agreed with the information maintained by the Office of Finance. The petty cash fund appeared to be in compliance with Regulation 5210.5 School Board Petty Cash Funds (effective 06-17-02). One area where controls could be strengthened in the future would be to cancel paid receipts by indicating "paid" to prevent reuse. Additionally, we are recommending that closure of the fund be considered.

Background

Reimbursement for small expenditures is commonly accomplished by establishing a petty cash fund requiring that checks issued periodically to replenish the fund agree with the amount of disbursements from the fund. Section 22.1-123 of the Code of Virginia authorizes local school boards to establish petty cash funds to help principals and program managers make purchases. Petty cash funds shall be established at dollar levels consistent with user needs; however, they may not exceed \$2,000 per fund.

The Office of Finance, Accounting Section, is responsible for monitoring the monthly report of transactions for each petty cash fund and consolidating these reports to present a single report to the school board for approval in accordance with Section 22.1-123 of the Code of Virginia. In addition, Regulation 5210.5 requires annual audits of the funds, which helps encourage compliance and promote a strong internal control environment.

The Office of Adult and Community Education petty cash fund was established for \$1,000. The petty cash fund was measured both by its dollar value and the number of times it turned over in a given period. For the period under review, there were a total of 22 expenditures totaling \$2,577.12, resulting in a petty cash fund turnover of 2.58 times.

Scope and Objectives

This audit was performed as part of our fiscal year 2007 Annual Audit Plan. The audit covered the period of July 2005 through June 2006, Fiscal Year 2006, and was conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Our objectives were to determine that:

- Petty cash funds were being used in accordance with Regulation 5210
- The balance of funds on hand, checkbook balances, and unreimbursed vouchers agreed with Office of Finance and FAMIS records
- The primary and alternate custodians of record agreed with that listed in the Office of Finance

Methodology

Audit methodology included a review and analysis of internal control procedures, petty cash vouchers, and checking account balances. Our audit approach included an examination of

disbursements, records maintained in the department, bank statements, interviews of appropriate employees, and a review of applicable regulations and procedures. We obtained a listing of authorized petty cash fund reimbursements from the Office of Finance and therefore did not rely on system generated information.

The FCPS Office of Internal Audit is free from organizational impairments to independence in our reporting as defined by generally accepted government auditing standards. We are organizationally part of the Office of the Superintendent and report directly to the Audit Committee. Organizationally, we are outside the staff or line management function of the units that we audit. We report the results of our audits to the management of the department under review, the appropriate leadership team member, the Superintendent, and the Audit Committee, and reports are available to the public.

Findings, Recommendations, and Management Response

Receipts are not cancelled upon payment

Receipts submitted for reimbursement were not cancelled upon payment for 20 of 22 expenditures reviewed. Petty cash expenditures submitted for reimbursement should always be supported by original documentation which is cancelled upon payment to prevent duplicate reimbursements. Receipts not marked "paid" may inadvertently or intentionally be reused resulting in a duplicate payment.

Recommendation: Petty cash custodians should cancel all documents submitted for reimbursement by stamping or writing "paid" on each receipt.

Note: This issue was also noted in the previous petty cash audit report which was issued to the Office of Finance. Subsequently, the Office of Finance notified all petty cash custodians of this requirement and has revised Regulation 5210, effective 11-28-06, to include this requirement. However, the revised regulation was not in effect during the audit period. The Office of Adult and Community Education began canceling receipts upon notification by the Office of Finance. Therefore, a management response was not requested for this issue.

Management Response: Response not required for this issue.

Other Observations

Petty cash funds were originally established when the methods of procurement were limited and usually required the use of a purchase order. With the implementation of the FCPS credit card program, there is an efficient, less time consuming, alternative to petty cash. We did not find evidence that an alternate method would be inappropriate. Therefore, unless sufficient evidence can be provided to the contrary, we recommend the Office of Adult and Community Education consider closing the petty cash fund.

Management Response: The fund was closed in June 2007.

Note: Fund closure was verified by audit and no further follow up is deemed necessary.