



Michigan
Office of the Auditor General
REPORT SUMMARY

Performance Audit
Office of Field Services
Department of Education

Report Number:
31-300-01

Released:
May 2003

The Office of Field Services (OFS) is responsible for ensuring that the resources available to school districts are focused and targeted on improved student learning for all students. OFS's mission is to facilitate the improvement of student achievement in Michigan by collaborating with school districts on the implementation of their school improvement plans through identification, coordination, and utilization of categorical programs and other resources. OFS administers 14 federally funded and State-funded programs.

Audit Objectives and Conclusions:

1. To assess OFS's efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of programs it administers.

We concluded that OFS's efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of programs it administers were generally effective.

2. To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of OFS's application and allocation of funds processes.

We concluded that OFS's application and allocation of funds processes were generally effective and efficient.

3. To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of OFS in providing technical assistance to school districts.

We concluded that OFS was generally effective and efficient in providing technical assistance to school districts.

4. To assess the effectiveness of OFS's monitoring of school districts for programs it administers.

We concluded that OFS was generally effective in monitoring school districts for programs it administers.

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Reportable Conditions:

OFS sometimes awarded Reduced Class Size Program grants to school districts for school buildings that were not eligible for funding (Finding 1). OFS should significantly improve its field database to provide a more useful tool for both OFS management and OFS field consultants (Finding 2). OFS needs to improve various aspects of its on-site review and self-review processes (Finding 3).

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Noteworthy Accomplishments:

OFS put forth substantial effort to make itself and the programs it administers more

accessible to its customers. OFS developed a Web site to provide school districts and public school academies with information, forms, and other documents to improve awareness, accessibility, and utilization of its programs. Also, OFS assigned a full-time consultant to answer technical questions received via telephone calls from customers.

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Agency Response:

The agency preliminary response indicated that the Department generally agreed with the recommendations and will comply.

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A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: www.state.mi.us/audgen/



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