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Controller's Charter School Audit Leads to Jail Sentence

SACRAMENTO – State Controller Steve Westly announced today that former Sierra City school superintendent and charter school executive Jeff Bauer has been sentenced to 8 months in county jail and 5 years probation as a result of an audit and investigation by his office. He will also pay the state \$317,668.

Jeff Bauer, former superintendent of the Sierra-Plumas Joint Unified School District and CEO of Sierra Summit Academy, pleaded no contest in September to criminal charges of conflict of interest and misappropriation of public funds.

“This sentencing sends a message that we won’t tolerate fraud and will pursue criminal charges where appropriate,” Westly said. “Mr. Bauer misused state funds intended to help children and my auditors documented the evidence.”

Bauer was indicted after the Controller’s Division of Audits uncovered possible misuse of state funds at the academy. The Controller’s Special Investigations Bureau investigated the case, which was prosecuted by the Attorney General’s Office.

The district has since revoked the academy’s charter.

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