

Memorandum

To : Mike Havey, Chief
Division of Accounting and Reporting
State Controller's Office

Date: July 22, 2009

From: Jeffrey V. Brownfield, Chief
Division of Audits
State Controller's Office

Subject: MERCED COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
HEALTH FEE ELIMINATION PROGRAM MANDATED COST CLAIMS
FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2003, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2006

We reviewed the costs claimed by Merced Community College District for the legislatively mandated Health Fee Elimination Program (Chapter 1, Statutes of 1984, 2nd Extraordinary Session, and Chapter 1118, Statutes of 1987) for the period July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2006. Our review was limited to validating the authorized health service fees that the district reported.

The district claimed \$114,327 (\$115,327 less a \$1,000 penalty for filing a late claim) for the mandated program. Our review disclosed that the entire amount is unallowable. The costs are unallowable because the district understated authorized health service fees, as described in the attached Summary of Program Costs and Finding and Recommendation.

For the fiscal year (FY) 2003-04 through FY 2005-06 claims, the State made no payment to the district. Our review disclosed that the claimed costs are unallowable.

We recommend that the Division of Accounting and Reporting notify the district of the results of this review. If you have any questions, please contact either Jim L. Spano, Chief, Mandated Cost Audits Bureau, at (916) 323-5849 (jspano@sco.ca.gov), or Steve Van Zee, Audit Manager, at (916) 323-2368 (svanzee@sco.ca.gov).

JVB/sk

Attachments

Re: S09-MCC-905

cc: Jill Kanemasu, Bureau Chief
SCO-Division of Accounting and Reporting
Ginny Brummels, Manager
SCO-Division of Accounting and Reporting

**Attachment 1—
Summary of Program Costs
July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2006**

<u>Cost Elements</u>	<u>Actual Costs Claimed</u>	<u>Allowable per Review</u>	<u>Review Adjustment ¹</u>
<u>July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004</u>			
Direct costs	\$ 135,169	\$ 135,169	\$ —
Indirect costs	11,737	11,737	—
Total direct and indirect costs	146,906	146,906	—
Less authorized health service fees	(115,107)	(255,876)	(140,769)
Less late filing penalty	(1,000)	(1,000)	—
Subtotal	30,799	(109,970)	(140,769)
Review adjustments that exceed costs claimed	—	109,970	109,970
Total program costs	<u>\$ 30,799</u>	—	<u>\$ (30,799)</u>
Less amount paid by the State		—	
Allowable costs claimed in excess of (less than) amount paid		<u>\$ —</u>	
<u>July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005</u>			
Direct costs	\$ 149,549	\$ 149,549	—
Indirect costs	19,277	19,277	—
Total direct and indirect costs	168,826	168,826	—
Less authorized health service fees	(114,723)	(274,298)	(159,575)
Subtotal	54,103	(105,472)	(159,575)
Review adjustments that exceed costs claimed	—	105,472	105,472
Total program costs	<u>\$ 54,103</u>	—	<u>\$ (54,103)</u>
Less amount paid by the State		—	
Allowable costs claimed in excess of (less than) amount paid		<u>\$ —</u>	
<u>July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006</u>			
Direct costs	\$ 159,235	\$ 159,235	\$ —
Indirect costs	21,478	21,478	—
Total direct and indirect costs	180,713	180,713	—
Less authorized health service fees	(151,288)	(363,748)	(212,460)
Subtotal	29,425	(183,035)	(212,460)
Review adjustments that exceed costs claimed	—	183,035	183,035
Total program costs	<u>\$ 29,425</u>	—	<u>\$ (29,425)</u>
Less amount paid by the State		—	
Allowable costs claimed in excess of (less than) amount paid		<u>\$ —</u>	

Attachment 1 (continued)

<u>Cost Elements</u>	<u>Actual Costs Claimed</u>	<u>Allowable per Review</u>	<u>Review Adjustment ¹</u>
<u>Summary: July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2006</u>			
Direct costs	\$ 443,953	\$ 443,953	\$ —
Indirect costs	52,492	52,492	—
Total direct and indirect costs	496,445	496,445	—
Less authorized health service fees	(381,118)	(893,922)	(512,804)
Less late filing penalty	(1,000)	(1,000)	—
Subtotal	114,327	(398,477)	(512,804)
Review adjustments that exceed costs claimed	—	398,477	398,477
Total program costs	<u>\$ 114,327</u>	—	<u>\$ (114,327)</u>
Less amount paid by the State		—	
Allowable costs claimed in excess of (less than) amount paid		<u>\$ —</u>	

¹ See Attachment 2, Finding and Recommendation.

Attachment 2— Finding and Recommendation July 1, 2003, through June 30, 2006

**FINDING—
Understated authorized
health service fees**

The district understated authorized health service fees by \$512,804.

Mandated costs do not include costs that are reimbursable from authorized fees. Government Code section 17514 states that “costs mandated by the state” means any increased costs that a school district is required to incur. To the extent community college districts can charge a fee, they are not required to incur a cost. In addition, Government Code section 17556 states that the Commission on State Mandates shall not find costs mandated by the State if the school district has the authority to levy fees to pay for the mandated program or increased level of service.

For the period of July 1, 2003, through December 31, 2005, Education Code section 76355, subdivision (c), states that health fees are authorized for all students except those who: (1) depend exclusively on prayer for healing; (2) are attending a community college under an approved apprenticeship training program; or (3) demonstrate financial need. Effective January 1, 2006, only subdivisions (c)(1) and (c)(2) are applicable. The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) identified the fees authorized by Education Code section 76355, subdivision (a). The following table summarizes the authorized fee per student:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Authorized Health Service Fee</u>	
	<u>Semester</u>	<u>Summer</u>
2003-04	\$ 12	\$ 9
2004-05	13	10
2005-06	14	11

We obtained student enrollment, apprenticeship program enrollment, and Board of Governors Grant (BOGG) recipient data from the CCCCCO. The CCCCCO identified enrollment and BOGG recipient data from its management information system (MIS) based on student data that the district reported. CCCCCO identified the district’s enrollment based on its MIS data element STD7, codes A through G. Within the student enrollment, CCCCCO identified the number of apprenticeship program enrollees based on its Data Element SB23, Code 1. CCCCCO eliminated any duplicate students based on their social security numbers. From the district enrollment, CCCCCO identified the number of BOGG recipients based on MIS data element SF21, all codes with first letter of B or F.

The following table shows the authorized health service fee calculation and review adjustment:

	Period			Total
	Summer Session	Fall Semester	Spring Semester	
Fiscal Year 2003-04:				
Number of enrolled students	4,776	13,026	13,191	
Less number of BOGG recipients	<u>(1,036)</u>	<u>(3,780)</u>	<u>(3,919)</u>	
Subtotal	3,740	9,246	9,272	
Authorized health fee rate	<u>× \$ (9)</u>	<u>× \$ (12)</u>	<u>× \$ (12)</u>	
Authorized health service fees	<u>\$ (33,660)</u>	<u>\$ (110,952)</u>	<u>\$ (111,264)</u>	\$ (255,876)
Less authorized health service fees claimed				<u>115,107</u>
Review adjustment, FY 2003-04				<u>(140,769)</u>
Fiscal Year 2004-05:				
Number of enrolled students	4,732	13,406	13,956	
Less number of BOGG recipients	<u>(1,308)</u>	<u>(4,487)</u>	<u>(4,409)</u>	
Subtotal	3,424	8,919	9,547	
Authorized health fee rate	<u>× \$ (10)</u>	<u>× \$ (13)</u>	<u>× \$ (13)</u>	
Authorized health service fees	<u>\$ (34,240)</u>	<u>\$ (115,947)</u>	<u>\$ (124,111)</u>	(274,298)
Less authorized health service fees claimed				<u>114,723</u>
Review adjustment, FY 2004-05				<u>(159,575)</u>
Fiscal Year 2005-06:				
Number of enrolled students	5,556	13,192	14,011	
Less number of BOGG recipients	<u>(1,370)</u>	<u>(4,510)</u>	<u>—</u>	
Subtotal	4,186	8,682	14,011	
Authorized health fee rate	<u>× \$ (11)</u>	<u>× \$ (14)</u>	<u>× \$ (14)</u>	
Authorized health service fees	<u>\$ (46,046)</u>	<u>\$ (121,548)</u>	<u>\$ (196,154)</u>	(363,748)
Less authorized health service fees claimed				<u>151,288</u>
Review adjustment, FY 2005-06				<u>(212,460)</u>
Total review adjustment				<u>\$ (512,804)</u>

Recommendation

We recommend that the district deduct authorized health service fees from mandate-related costs claimed. To properly calculate authorized health service fees, we recommend that the district identify the number of enrolled students based on CCCC data element STD7, codes A through G. We also recommend that the district identify the number of apprenticeship program enrollees based on data elements SB 23, code 1, and STD7, codes A through G. The district should eliminate duplicate entries for students who attend more than one of the district's colleges. In addition, we recommend that the district maintain documentation that identifies any students the district excludes from the health service fee based on Education Code section 76355, subdivision (c)(1). If the district denies health services to any portion of its student population, it should maintain contemporaneous documentation of a district policy that excludes those students and documentation identifying the number of students excluded.