Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Business Office – October 2026

This time of year, the District Office is buy with full staff payroll, the October 1st student child count, reporting non-public enrollment to the state, and, of course, our annual financial audit. During audit week—when the independent auditing team digs deep into our books—our office operates as "all hands on deck."

I thought it would be helpful to highlight what actually goes into this yearly financial check-up. Each year, we contract with an independent audit firm, **Creative Planning**, to inspect every dollar spent and earned at Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Public Schools. Their primary job is to ensure our financial record books are accurate, transparent, and fully compliant with state and federal standards.

Key Areas of the Yearly Audit

- **State Legal Compliance:** The auditors verify that we adhere to strict Minnesota laws governing public schools. This includes testing our public bidding processes for purchases, ensuring there are no vendor conflicts of interest, verifying that district funds are safely deposited in state-approved banks, and confirming that accounting follows Minnesota's **Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards (UFARS)**.
- **Federal Single Audit:** Because LPGE receives federal funding, we undergo an additional, rigorous federal audit. These funds support key programs such as:
    - **US Department of Agriculture (USDA):** The National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program.
    - **US Department of Education:** Title I (reading and math support), Title II (teacher quality), and Title III (English learner support).
    - **Competitive Grants:** The Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers program.
    - *During the federal review, auditors confirm that every grant dollar was spent strictly for its intended purpose, students, and instructional supplies.*
- **Fraud Prevention & Internal Controls:** Auditors don't just review financial spreadsheets; they also conduct confidential interviews with various staff members across the district. They ask whether staff suspect or are aware of any potential fraud or financial irregularities. This process allows auditors to evaluate operational risk and internal controls beyond what numbers on a balance sheet can show.

Once the audit is complete later this fall, the auditors will present their official findings and report card directly to the LPGE School Board during a public meeting.

As always, please contact our office if you have any questions, or just stop in and say hi.

Sherri Evenson