

**Education Audit Appeals Panel
State of California**

Audit Appeal of: 2025 Performance Audit
Report and Findings for school facility
program project # 57 /62646-00-001:

Princeton Joint Unified School District,

Appellant.

EAAP Case No. 26-08
OAH Case No. 2026060314

Decision

The Education Audit Appeals Panel has adopted the attached Stipulated Agreement of the parties as its Decision in the above-entitled matter.

Effective date: October 19, 2026.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

10/19/26
Date

Elizabeth Dearstyne
Elizabeth Dearstyne, Chairperson
for Education Audit Appeals Panel

1 RYAN SEELEY
Chief Counsel for the California State Controller
2 ETHAN F. JAFFE
Attorney for the California State Controller
3 300 Capitol Mall Suite 1850
Sacramento, CA 95814
4 Telephone: 916-327-1041
Fax: (916) 322-1220
5 E-mail: ejaffe@sco.ca.gov
Attorneys for the California State Controller's Office
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8 BEFORE THE EDUCATION AUDIT APPEALS PANEL

9 STATE OF CALIFORNIA, SACRAMENTO
10

11 **In the Matter of the Audit Appeal of:**

12 **School Facilities Program Close-Out**
13 **Performance Audit Project NO. 57/62646-00-**
14 **001 by Princeton Joint Unified School**
District,

15 Appellant,

16 v.

17 **California State Controller, California**
18 **Department of Finance,**

19 Respondents.
20

Case No. 2026060314

EAAP Case No. 26-08

**JOINT STIPULATION AND
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

21 Appellant Princeton Joint Unified School District (Appellant), and Respondents Malia M.
22 Cohen, California State Controller (SCO), and the Department of Finance (Finance) (collectively,
23 the Parties), through their undersigned counsel, hereby agree to a complete settlement of the
24 above-captioned matter as follows:

25 **RECITALS**

26 1. The independent accounting firm of Christy White Inc. (Auditor) conducted a close-
27 out performance audit of the Princeton Joint Unified School District (District) School Facilities
28

1 Program for Project No. 57/62646-00-001 (Project), the results of which were included in the
2 final independent auditor's report, dated March 6, 2026 (Audit).

3 2. The Auditor determined that the Appellant was not in compliance with Education
4 Code section 41024 (Finding #1), which resulted in the overpayment of \$280,621.58 to the
5 Appellant for the above fiscal year.

6 3. The SCO certified the Audit.

7 4. Appellant timely filed a request for formal appeal of the Audit pursuant to Education
8 Code 41344, subdivision (d), on May 22, 2026, instituting the appeal before the Education Audit
9 Appeals Panel.

10 5. To avoid the cost and uncertainty of litigation, the Parties in this case agree to
11 completely resolve this dispute on the terms and conditions described below.

12 **STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT**

13 For the purposes of completely settling and resolving the Appeal, the Parties do hereby
14 stipulate and agree as follows:

15 1. This stipulated agreement fully and completely resolves all claims, demands, appeals,
16 obligations, or causes of action arising from or relating to the Project. Accordingly, the Parties
17 expressly waive any right or claim to assert or pursue thereafter any claim, demand, obligation, or
18 cause of action relating to the Project.

19 2. Appellant shall have nothing withheld from its future apportionment in regard to the
20 Project.

21 3. This stipulated agreement is subject to and conditioned upon approval and adoption
22 by Education Audit Appeals Panel, pursuant to section 41344.1, subdivision (b), of the Education
23 Code.

24 4. This stipulated agreement may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall
25 constitute an original. Facsimile and .pdf (electronic) signatures by the Parties or their designated
26 representatives are deemed the equivalent of original signatures.

27 5. The Parties shall bear their own attorneys' fees and costs relative to the Appeal.

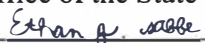
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1 The Parties ratify the preceding terms and conditions through the signatures of their
2 respective representatives as follows:

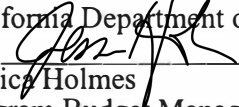
3 Dated: August 13, 2026

Princeton Joint Unified School District
By: 
Jeff Ochs
Superintendent
Princeton Joint Unified School District,
Appellant

7 Dated: August 14, 2026

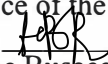
California Office of the State Controller
By: 
Ethan F. Jaffe
Staff Counsel
California State Controller, Respondent

10 Dated: August 17, 2026

California Department of Finance
By: 
Jessica Holmes
Program Budget Manager
California Department of Finance,
Respondent

15 APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY:

16 Dated: August 17, 2026

Office of the Attorney General
By: 
Anne Busacca-Ryan
Deputy Attorney General
Attorney for Respondent, California
Department of Finance