



Auditor of Public Accounts
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Edelen Releases Examination of Procurement, Travel by Kenton County School District Food Services Personnel

Out-of-State Travel Appears Excessive; 46 Employees Attended Same Conference Costing District More Than \$40,000

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Sept. 19, 2012) – State Auditor Adam Edelen today released a review of spending of the food service fund at Kenton County School District, finding excessive travel and lax financial controls.

Since calendar year 2007, the Student Nutrition Department has spent at least \$116,388 on out-of-state travel. In 2009, 46 employees attended the same conference in Las Vegas costing the district more than \$40,000. Twenty-seven employees attended the same conference in Nashville last year costing the district more than \$19,000. The former Director of Food Services traveled to locations such as New York, Miami, Boston, Seattle, Napa Valley, and Japan.

The Kenton County Board of Education agreed in its response to the review that it is unnecessary for large numbers of employees to travel to the same conference. The Director of Operations stated that he had no prior knowledge of many of the out-of-state trips and was not aware of many of the trips until the District gathered the travel documentation per the auditor's request.

"I am pleased the Kenton County Board of Education agrees with the analysis and has already begun taking steps to implement my recommendations," Edelen said.

The review was prompted after a citizen reported concerns about procurement, travel by district food service personnel, the use of take-home vehicles and other financial related issues. The report presents six findings and 36 recommendations to strengthen district policies and oversight of financial activity.

The review also found that personnel were reimbursed for travel expenses without proper pre-authorizations, the former Director of Food Services circumvented small purchase procedures and that controls over the purchase of fuel were inadequate.

Edelen is committed to making sure education dollars are spent wisely in Kentucky, as evidenced by ongoing investigations at two other school districts – Mason County and Breathitt County. Those reviews are set to be released by the end of the year.

“Taxpayers expect school districts to tighten their belts and watch their spending just as they have in these tough economic times,” Edelen said. “And Kentucky’s students deserve an education system that puts the focus on their needs.”

The review can be found on the [auditor’s website](#).

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The Auditor of Public Accounts ensures that public resources are protected, accurately valued, properly accounted for, and effectively employed to raise the quality of life of Kentuckians.

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