

PUBLIC TESTIMONY SUMMARY

I-900 STATE AUDITOR'S PERFORMANCE AUDIT:

School District Travel Practices

Central Valley, Clover Park, Evergreen, Pasco, Port Angeles, Seattle,
Spokane, Sunnyside, Tacoma, Toppenish, Vancouver, Walla Walla, Yakima
(November 12, 2008)

As Heard by the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Sub-Committee on I-900 Performance Audits
on December 3, 2008

The performance audit being discussed at this hearing was conducted solely and independently by the office of the State Auditor, under the authority of legislation approved by the voters in Initiative 900. The State Auditor is elected directly by the people of the State of Washington and operates independently of the Legislature and the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee. Staff to the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee prepare a summary of public testimony on State Auditor reports. These summaries are for informational purposes only, and do not serve as an assessment by committee staff of the findings and recommendations issued by the State Auditor nor do they reflect a staff opinion on legislative intent.

Title: School District Travel Practices

Audit Scope and Objectives:

The audit was designed to answer the following questions:

- How economical are school district travel expenditures? If not economical, what are the impacts and what can be done to correct those impacts?
- How effective were district policies in contributing to economical travel practices through clearly defined thresholds?

Additionally, the audit addressed the nine elements contained in Initiative 900.

The audit evaluated the economy of fiscal year 2006 travel expenditures at the 13 school districts. The audit indicates districts were selected based on fiscal year 2005 travel activity that was high in total dollars and/or high in the amount of travel dollars spent in proportion to the number of students enrolled.

SAO Findings:

The audit lists issues in the following four areas:

- 1) Lodging
- 2) Retreats
- 3) Questionable travel expenditures
- 4) Procurement of airfare

SAO Recommendations:

The overarching recommendation is that districts should improve their policies by establishing reasonable limits on lodging and providing guidance and limitations on retreats. There are then specific recommendations in each of the four issue areas, including a recommendation to consider the State of Washington airfare procurement contract.

Agency Responses in Audit Report?	Yes; responses from the school districts are in Appendix C.
Legislative Action Requested?	No

Staff Summary of Testimony from Audited Agencies:
(No testimony by the audited school districts.)

Staff Summary of Testimony from Other Parties:
(No testimony by other parties.)

Agencies Testifying:
None.

Other Parties Testifying:
None.