



**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS ON INTERNAL CONTROLS OVER
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN
AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

The Board of Education
Howard County, Maryland

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Howard County Public School System (HCPSS), a component unit of Howard County, Maryland, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 27, 2024.

Report on Internal Controls over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered HCPSS's internal controls over financial reporting (internal controls) as a basis for designing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of HCPSS's internal controls. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of HCPSS's internal controls.

A *deficiency in internal controls* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal controls, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal controls that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal controls was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal controls that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether HCPSS's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.



Certified Public
Accountants &
Business Advisors

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal controls and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal controls and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Owings Mills, Maryland
September 27, 2024

SB & Company, LLC