

# 218.39. Annual financial audit reports

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Chapter 218. Financial Matters Pertaining to Political Subdivisions

Part III. Local Financial Management and Reporting (Refs & Annos)

West's F.S.A. § 218.39

218.39. Annual financial audit reports

Effective: October 1, 2021

[Currentness](#)

(1) If, by the first day in any fiscal year, a local governmental entity, district school board, charter school, or charter technical career center has not been notified that a financial audit for that fiscal year will be performed by the Auditor General, each of the following entities shall have an annual financial audit of its accounts and records completed within 9 months after the end of its fiscal year by an independent certified public accountant retained by it and paid from its public funds:

- (a) Each county.
- (b) Any municipality with revenues or the total of expenditures and expenses in excess of \$250,000, as reported on the fund financial statements.
- (c) Any special district with revenues or the total of expenditures and expenses in excess of \$100,000, as reported on the fund financial statements.
- (d) Each district school board.
- (e) Each charter school established under [s. 1002.33](#).
- (f) Each charter technical center established under [s. 1002.34](#).
- (g) Each municipality with revenues or the total of expenditures and expenses between \$100,000 and \$250,000, as reported on the fund financial statements, which has not been subject to a financial audit pursuant to this subsection for the 2 preceding fiscal years.
- (h) As required by [s. 163.387\(8\)\(a\)](#), each community redevelopment agency with revenues or a total of expenditures and expenses in excess of \$100,000, as reported on the trust fund financial statements.

(i) Each special district with revenues or the total of expenditures and expenses between \$50,000 and \$100,000, as reported on the fund financial statement, which has not been subject to a financial audit pursuant to this subsection for the 2 preceding fiscal years.

(2) The county audit report must be a single document that includes a financial audit of the county as a whole and, for each county agency other than a board of county commissioners, an audit of its financial accounts and records, including reports on compliance and internal control, management letters, and financial statements as required by rules adopted by the Auditor General. In addition, if a board of county commissioners elects to have a separate audit of its financial accounts and records in the manner required by rules adopted by the Auditor General for other county agencies, the separate audit must be included in the county audit report.

(3)(a) A dependent special district, excluding a community redevelopment agency with revenues or a total of expenditures and expenses in excess of \$100,000, as reported on the trust fund financial statements, may provide for an annual financial audit by being included in the audit of the local governmental entity upon which it is dependent. An independent special district may not make provision for an annual financial audit by being included in the audit of another local governmental entity.

(b) A special district that is a component unit, as defined by generally accepted accounting principles, of a local governmental entity shall provide the local governmental entity, within a reasonable time period as established by the local governmental entity, with financial information necessary to comply with this section. The failure of a component unit to provide this financial information must be noted in the annual financial audit report of the local governmental entity.

(c) The financial audit of a dependent special district or of an independent special district, or the financial audit of a local governmental entity that includes the information of a dependent special district as provided in paragraph (a), shall separately include and specify the information required in [s. 218.32\(1\)\(e\) 2.-5.](#)

(4) A management letter shall be prepared and included as a part of each financial audit report.

(5) At the conclusion of the audit, the auditor shall discuss with the chair of the governing body of the local governmental entity or the chair's designee, the elected official of each county agency or the elected official's designee, the chair of the district school board or the chair's designee, the chair of the board of the charter school or the chair's designee, or the chair of the board of the charter technical career center or the chair's designee, as appropriate, all of the auditor's comments that will be included in the audit report. If the officer is not available to discuss the auditor's comments, their discussion is presumed when the comments are delivered in writing to his or her office. The auditor shall notify each member of the governing body of a local governmental entity, district school board, charter school, or charter technical career center for which:

(a) Deteriorating financial conditions exist that may cause a condition described in [s. 218.503\(1\)](#) to occur if actions are not taken to address such conditions.

(b) A fund balance deficit in total or a deficit for that portion of a fund balance not classified as restricted, committed, or nonspendable, or a total or unrestricted net assets deficit, as reported on the fund financial statements

of entities required to report under governmental financial reporting standards or on the basic financial statements of entities required to report under not-for-profit financial reporting standards, for which sufficient resources of the local governmental entity, charter school, charter technical career center, or district school board, as reported on the fund financial statements, are not available to cover the deficit. Resources available to cover reported deficits include fund balance or net assets that are not otherwise restricted by federal, state, or local laws, bond covenants, contractual agreements, or other legal constraints. Property, plant, and equipment, the disposal of which would impair the ability of a local governmental entity, charter school, charter technical career center, or district school board to carry out its functions, are not considered resources available to cover reported deficits.

(6) The officer's written statement of explanation or rebuttal concerning the auditor's findings, including corrective action to be taken, must be filed with the governing body of the local governmental entity, district school board, charter school, or charter technical career center within 30 days after the delivery of the auditor's findings.

(7) All audits conducted pursuant to this section must be conducted in accordance with the rules of the Auditor General adopted pursuant to [s. 11.45](#). Upon completion of the audit, the auditor shall prepare an audit report in accordance with the rules of the Auditor General. The audit report shall be filed with the Auditor General within 45 days after delivery of the audit report to the governing body of the audited entity, but no later than 9 months after the end of the audited entity's fiscal year. The audit report must include a written statement describing corrective actions to be taken in response to each of the auditor's recommendations included in the audit report.

(8) The Auditor General shall notify the Legislative Auditing Committee of any audit report prepared pursuant to this section which indicates that an audited entity has failed to take full corrective action in response to a recommendation that was included in the two preceding financial audit reports.

(a) The committee may direct the governing body of the audited entity to provide a written statement to the committee explaining why full corrective action has not been taken or, if the governing body intends to take full corrective action, describing the corrective action to be taken and when it will occur.

(b) If the committee determines that the written statement is not sufficient, it may require the chair of the governing body of the local governmental entity or the chair's designee, the elected official of each county agency or the elected official's designee, the chair of the district school board or the chair's designee, the chair of the board of the charter school or the chair's designee, or the chair of the board of the charter technical career center or the chair's designee, as appropriate, to appear before the committee.

(c) If the committee determines that an audited entity has failed to take full corrective action for which there is no justifiable reason for not taking such action, or has failed to comply with committee requests made pursuant to this section, the committee may proceed in accordance with [s. 11.40\(2\)](#).

(9) The predecessor auditor of a district school board shall provide the Auditor General access to the prior year's working papers in accordance with the Statements on Auditing Standards, including documentation of planning, internal control, audit results, and other matters of continuing accounting and auditing significance, such as the working paper analysis of balance sheet accounts and those relating to contingencies.

(10) Each charter school and charter technical career center must file a copy of its audit report with the sponsoring entity; the local district school board, if not the sponsoring entity; the Auditor General; and with the Department of Education.

(11) This section does not apply to housing authorities created under chapter 421.

(12) Notwithstanding the provisions of any local law, the provisions of this section shall govern.

#### **Credits**

Added by Laws 2001, c. 2001-266, § 65, eff. July 1, 2001. Amended by Laws 2002, c. 2002-387, § 924, eff. Jan. 7, 2003; Laws 2004, c. 2004-305, § 28, eff. June 17, 2004; Laws 2006, c. 2006-190, § 2, eff. July 1, 2006; Laws 2009, c. 2009-214, § 2, eff. July 1, 2009; Laws 2011, c. 2011-144, § 20, eff. Oct. 1, 2011; Laws 2012, c. 2012-5, § 25, eff. May 8, 2012; Laws 2012, c. 2012-38, § 1, eff. July 1, 2012; Laws 2016, c. 2016-10, § 23, eff. May 10, 2016; Laws 2021, c. 2021-226, § 3, eff. Oct. 1, 2021.

West's F. S. A. § 218.39, FL ST § 218.39

Current with laws, joint and concurrent resolutions and memorials in effect from the 2023 Special B and C Sessions and the 2023 first regular session. Some statute sections may be more current, see credits for details. The statutes are subject to change as determined by the Florida Revisor of Statutes.