

Lexington

11 Years Ranked "Excellent" or "A"

Staff Update

September 22, 2014

From the office of the Treasurer...

All Staff

Congratulations on yet another year of "Excellent" or "A" rating on the statewide report card issued by the Ohio Department of Education. This marks the 11th consecutive year our District has received such a rating!

Student Activity Advisors

Within the next week or two, student activity advisors will receive budget forms for fiscal year 2015. Please complete these forms timely and return to the Treasurer's Office.

Also, for any planned student activity fundraisers, please complete a Fundraiser Project Proposal Form prior to the anticipated fundraiser. Thank you for all you do to ensure the success of the various student activities throughout the District.

Useful? Information:

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.

Annual Section 125 Enrollment

It's that time of year again. Representatives from American Fidelity will be in District buildings meeting with all employees beginning October 1st. Soon, we will be sending out the schedule and sign-up sheets for each building. Please remember, all staff must meet with a representative and sign the required documents.

Additionally, in an effort to assist our employees with planning family medical needs, we will be working to coordinate our Flexible Spending Account plan year with our medical/dental plan year of January 1st through December 31st. This will create two months (November and December 2014) for which there will be no Flexible Spending Accounts for unreimbursed medical expenses and no corresponding payroll deductions. However, should any employee have a planned medical expense for which they intended to use Flexible Spending Account funds, a two month Flexible Spending Account plan will be made available for those who wish to sign up for such a plan. Please speak to your American Fidelity representative should you wish to enroll in a two month plan for the months of November and December 2014.

Communications:

This month we were reminded of the need for appropriate internal controls and oversight when spending District funds.

As a number of you know, virtually every building in the State of Ohio received invoices in the amount of \$647.50 from a company calling itself Scholastic School Supply. These invoices included a return address of Las Vegas, Nevada and claimed to be for 50 English-Language Arts Practice Books. However, no such books were ever ordered by, nor delivered to, the District or any other building across the State.

These invoices were strategically timed to arrive during the beginning of the school year, one of the busiest times of any year. This was done in an attempt to increase the likelihood of invoices slipping through the cracks and being paid by school districts while dealing with the many other responsibilities and time requirements that coincide with the beginning of any school year.

Certain Districts around the State most likely paid at least some of these fictitious invoices. Fortunately, due to the internal control procedures in place within the District as well as communication between the Treasurer's Office and District buildings, none of the invoices received were paid by our District.

The Ohio Auditor of State's Office and the Ohio Attorney General are aware of this situation and are currently looking into it. It's unfortunate the lengths individuals will go through attempting to steal public monies intended to educate children around the State and within our own community. However, as I became all too aware in my previous position within the Special Audit Section of the Ohio Auditor of State's Office, fraudulent activities such as these fictitious invoices and many other similar schemes are a disappointing reality.

Circumstances such as these can serve as a reminder of why we have the internal controls we have and why we follow the policies we follow to ensure appropriate safeguards over the public monies with which we have been entrusted as we educate the students of this great community.

GO LEX!!!