



GENTNER DRUMMOND  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 1, 2025

**Via Email**

The Honorable Cindy Byrd  
Oklahoma State Auditor and Inspector  
cbyrd@sai.ok.gov

**Re: Investigative Audit Request – Oklahoma State Department of Education**

Dear Auditor Byrd:

Now that former State Superintendent Ryan Walters has formally resigned, a number of current and previous OSDE staff have raised credible concerns about the spending practices under his leadership. You are well aware that the former Superintendent has a documented history of mismanaging tax dollars, as it was your office that exposed Mr. Walters for granting “blanket approval” for families to purchase non-educational items like Xboxes and refrigerators. My office subsequently released a grand jury report related to this conduct.

Given the former Superintendent’s well-established history of mishandling tax dollars, combined with new and ongoing allegations of misspending, I am now ordering an investigative audit of the Oklahoma State Department of Education for the period of time beginning January 9, 2023, through September 30, 2025. I have the authority to order this action pursuant to 74 O.S. 2021, § 18f and expect prompt and thorough attention to this matter.

Please contact me if you require any assistance or additional direction on this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gentner Drummond".

GENTNER DRUMMOND  
*Attorney General*