



OFFICE OF THE
STATE AUDITOR

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Office of the State Auditor Announces Management Letter Concerning ProStart

*Program designed to prepare high school students for a career in the
restaurant and food service industries*

Salt Lake City, UTAH –

The Office of the State Auditor (Office) today announces a Management Letter sent to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction concerning ProStart, a program contracted by the Utah State Board of Education (USBE) to prepare high school students for a career in the restaurant and food service industries. The review compliments USBE personnel who initially detected reporting inconsistencies and condemns the Utah Restaurant Association's use of 'dummy' checks that give a misrepresentation of program expenses. The letter identifies additional actions that can be taken by USBE program personnel.

Said State Auditor John Dougall, "The Utah Restaurant Association's practice of using 'dummy' checks was completely inappropriate and, quite frankly, a very bizarre financial practice. It creates a heightened risk of fraud. Expense reimbursements should always be supported with actual receipts and other appropriate supporting documentation."

The news release and related information are found at auditor.utah.gov.

The Management Letter may be found at:

<https://reporting.auditor.utah.gov/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=0151K000003dnYqQAI> .

About the Office of the State Auditor

The Office of the State Auditor provides Utah taxpayers and government officials with an independent assessment of financial operation, statutory compliance, and performance management for state and local government.

Specific activities of the Office include performing financial audits, conducting federal funds compliance audits, providing local government oversight, conducting agency and program performance audits, performing fraud and compliance audits, and operating the State Auditor Hotline for citizens to report suspected financial issues or improprieties. These capabilities strengthen Utah State Government and help taxpayers have confidence in the integrity of Utah's government agencies.

The Office also provides interactive graphical tools to help taxpayers and policymakers gain greater insight into governmental financial activities.

The State Auditor is a Constitutional Officer of the State of Utah, elected directly by the state's citizens every 4 years. The role of the Utah State Auditor is authorized in Article VII, Section 15 of the Utah Constitution. For more information, see auditor.utah.gov.

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