



## LANCASTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

### CLAIMS AUDIT POLICY ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF CLAIMS AUDITOR

The Lancaster Public Library Board of Trustees is responsible for establishing an adequate system of internal controls over processing claims to ensure taxpayer moneys are safeguarded.

The Board of Trustees may, by resolution, establish the position of a Claims Auditor. The Board may appoint the Claims Auditor at its annual Organizational Meeting or whenever the appointment becomes necessary. The Claims Auditor shall hold the position subject to the pleasure of the Board and report directly to the Board on the results of audits of claims approved and released for payment. The Claims Auditor may be required to work with the Treasurer for administrative matters such as work time, attendance and the creation of reports for the Board. The Board of Trustees shall review this claims audit policy as necessary, and it shall have the power to amend this policy at any time.

#### **Qualifications**

The Claims Auditor must have the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively audit claims. The Claims Auditor is a voluntary appointment and will not receive compensation. The Claims Auditor is not required to be a resident of the Library's service area.

No person shall be eligible for appointment to the position of Claims Auditor who shall be:

- A member of the Board who has any involvement in the library's accounting, procurement and/or check signing.
- An employee or volunteer responsible for procurement or accounting.
- The individual or entity responsible for the internal audit function (the Internal Auditor).
- The External (Independent) Auditor responsible for the external audit of the financial statements.
- A close or immediate family member of an employee, officer, or contractor providing services to the library. A "close family member" is defined as a parent, sibling or nondependent child; an "immediate family member" is a spouse, spouse equivalent, or dependent (whether or not related).
- An individual with an interest in any other contracts of the library and/or who provides any goods or services to the library.

## **Duties**

The Claims Auditor shall certify that claims against the Library listed on the financial report were audited and payment is authorized. The Claims auditor shall:

1. Examine all claims to determine they are valid claims against the library.
2. Inspect receipts/packing slips to ensure goods or services were received by the library and that an appropriate staff member has confirmed receipt of goods and services.
3. Meet such other requirements as may be established by the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and/or the Comptroller of the State of New York.

Only claims certified by the Claims Auditor pursuant to this policy shall be paid unless exempt by NYS law.

## **Review of Claims**

Claims for payment must be accompanied by the following:

- Purchase orders or order forms listing goods purchased.
- Receipts and/or packing slips verifying underlying goods or services have been received.
- A sequentially numbered claim form initialed by appropriate staff member verifying goods or services have been received.

All claims submitted for approval will be summarized on an abstract of claims presented with above documentation, to the Board, or its appointed claims auditor, for audit.

## Payments Not Requiring Pre-Audit

- Fixed salaries of officers or employees regularly engaged at agreed- upon wages by the hour, day, week, month, year, or other authorized period, including any payroll withholdings.
- Principal or interest payments on debt.
- Payments made pursuant to a court order.
- Amounts due upon lawful contracts for periods exceeding one year.
- Retirement contributions by a participating employer in the New York State and Local Retirement System as billed by the State Comptroller.

These types of payments should not be included on the abstract of audited claims.

### Payments Allowed in Advance of Audit

- The Board of Trustees may, by resolution, authorize payment in advance for public utility services, postage, freight, and express charges.
- Payments discharged from petty cash.

### **Approval of Claims**

Upon completing the review of claims, the Claims Auditor may approve said claims for payment. At its regular monthly meeting or special meeting, the Board shall review the payment of claims approved and paid pursuant to the signed recommendation of its Claims Auditor. All claims, including supporting documentation and the abstract, approved by the Claims Auditor will be available for Board inspection at each meeting.

### **Absence of Claims Auditor**

The Board of Trustees will audit all claims in the event that the Claims Auditor position is vacant or unavailable. Such audit by the Board will be completed at a regular bi-monthly meeting or special meeting.

*Adopted by the Lancaster Public Library Board of Trustees at a public meeting on February 21, 2019.  
Adopted as amended by the Lancaster Public Library Board of Trustees at a public meeting on October 13, 2022.*