

The October 2020 Quartzsite Elementary School District performance audit found that the District continued to operate 1 of its schools even though it posed significant safety concerns to students and staff and was not meeting the requirements of the State-mandated school improvement program designed to improve student achievement. We made 4 recommendations to the District, and its status in implementing the recommendations is as follows:

Status of 4 recommendations

Implemented	2
Implemented in a different manner	1
Not implemented	1

Unless otherwise directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, this report concludes our follow-up work on the District’s efforts to implement the recommendations from the October 2020 report.

Finding 1: District continued to operate 2 schools even though 1 posed significant safety concerns to students and staff and the other was large enough to serve all students

1. The District should evaluate excess building space at its schools and determine and implement ways to reduce it, including considering whether to consolidate all students to 1 campus.

Not implemented—Although all students are currently attending Ehrenburg Elementary School, during an open meeting in April 2021 the Governing Board discussed and agreed upon its intent to keep both schools in the District open in the future and continue with renovations at Quartzsite Elementary School. As of November 2022, the District has begun demolition of Quartzsite Elementary School buildings and continues to work with the Arizona Department of Administration School Facilities Oversight Board (ADOA-SFOB) to complete construction on the Quartzsite Elementary School campus using Building Renewal Grant (BRG) funds.

2. The District should ensure that any Quartzsite Elementary School buildings are safe before allowing any students or staff in them.

Implemented in a different manner at 24 months—As explained for recommendation 1, the District has begun demolition of Quartzsite Elementary School buildings and continues to work with ADOA-SFOB to complete construction on the Quartzsite Elementary School Campus using BRG funds.

Finding 2: District is not meeting requirements of State-mandated school improvement program designed to improve student achievement, resulting in more than \$200,000 in federal monies withheld

3. The District should work with the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to develop and implement required past due integrated action plans (IAPs) to improve its instructional program and students’ academic achievement.

Implemented at 12 months—The District worked with ADE to submit past due IAPs, and the previously withheld monies were released to the District.

4. The District should ensure it performs the required comprehensive needs assessment and develops and submits any future required IAPs during the time frame specified by ADE and, once approved, implement all action steps.

Implemented at 24 months—The District has continued to work with ADE to implement action steps outlined in its required IAPs. Additionally, for fiscal year 2023 the District has been identified as no longer requiring Comprehensive Support and Improvement for overall low student achievement. Further, Ehrenberg Elementary School improved its fiscal year 2022 letter grade to a B from a previously reported D and Quartzsite Elementary School improved its letter grade to a C from a previously reported F.¹

¹ For fiscal year 2022, although all students were physically attending Ehrenberg Elementary School when in person, these students were still enrolled in grades that were assigned to Quartzsite Elementary School for reporting purposes, which is why a letter grade was still calculated for Quartzsite Elementary School. For fiscal year 2023, these students are enrolled at Ehrenberg Elementary School and will be reflected in future letter grade determinations for that school.