



A Follow-up Audit of Cybersecurity at the School for the Deaf

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State Auditor

July 29, 2026

Members of the Legislative Audit Committee:

The State Auditor’s Office (SAO) notified you on June 1, 2026, that we would be conducting a follow-up audit of cybersecurity at the School for the Deaf (School). However, we are issuing this report instead of proceeding with the audit because the School has not completed the work required for our follow-up. Specifically, as of July 2026, the School has not yet fully implemented 11 (92 percent) of the 12 recommendations for chapters rated Priority or High in *An Audit Report on Cybersecurity at the School for the Deaf* (SAO Report No. 19-031) and its companion confidential report, which were released in February 2019. The identified weaknesses place the School’s data at risk of unauthorized or inappropriate access, use, and modification.

In the seven years since the SAO issued the recommendations, the School has repeatedly extended the date by which it anticipated full implementation of those recommendations. The School has asserted that turnover and a lack of appropriately skilled personnel have contributed to the delay.

The School received \$1 million from the 89th Legislature in June 2025 to address cybersecurity weaknesses and asserted that it has utilized almost half of that amount since then, in addition to hiring two cybersecurity analysts. The School self-reported in June 2026 that all recommendations from the 2019 reports should be fully implemented by the end of fiscal year 2027.

Summary of Objective and Scope

The objective of this audit was to determine whether the School for the Deaf (School) has implemented recommendations identified in the State Auditor’s Office (SAO) report titled *An Audit Report on Cybersecurity at the School for the Deaf* and its companion confidential report released in February 2019.

The audit scope includes the self-reported implementation status related to 11 selected prior SAO audit recommendations from the 2019 SAO cybersecurity audit as of June 2026.

PRIORITY

Six recommendations were Priority because the issues identified present risks or effects that if not addressed could **critically affect** the School’s ability to effectively administer the program(s)/function(s) audited. Immediate action is required to address the noted concern(s) and reduce risks to the School.

HIGH

Five recommendations were High because the issues identified present risks or effects that if not addressed could **substantially affect** the School’s ability to effectively administer the program(s)/function(s) audited. Prompt action is essential to address the noted concern(s) and reduce risks to the School.

Sincerely,

Lisa R. Collier, CPA, CFE, CIDA
State Auditor

cc: The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor
Members of the School for the Deaf Governing Board
Mr. Peter Bailey, Superintendent



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