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STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE DOAA SPECIAL EXAMINATION AUDIT

Dublin City Schools has been actively working in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Education, the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA), and state officials to address its financial situation, including items identified in the DOAA's special examination released on January 5 to the district, State Rep. Matt Hatchett, and the Georgia General Assembly.

Three major takeaways that Dublin City Schools has from the report include:

1. The special examination makes clear that the Dublin City Schools Finance Department engaged in practices that were inconsistent with generally accepted standards during fiscal years 2021–2025. (Page 12)
2. The report also indicates that proper internal controls, documentation, and procedures were not in place to protect the district's financial solvency. (Page 12)
3. The board was unaware of the true financial condition of the system, because the finance department provided them with false information. (Page 13)

Since discovering these oversights—which resulted in an unprecedented deficit and a debt owed to the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP)—the district's goal has been to eliminate the deficit, fully repay all SHBP funds owed, and present a balanced budget by fiscal year 2027. Under current projections, and as requested by the Georgia Department of Education, each of those goals are expected to be achieved.

This special examination has been an eye-opening experience for those working to restore the district's financial footing. In response, Dublin City Schools is committed to implementing the recommendations outlined by the DOAA, including strengthening internal processes and documentation, improving oversight and compliance procedures, ensuring clarity and consistency in district operations, and aligning practices with state expectations and regulations.

District leadership has reviewed the findings and is actively working with the Georgia Department of Education and state officials to address each item identified. Corrective actions are underway to strengthen systems, improve accountability, and ensure long-term compliance.

"We are extremely grateful to the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts for this deep dive into the causes of our current situation," said Marcee Pool, Interim Superintendent. "Diligent doesn't begin to describe how we are working alongside our financial advisors, the Georgia Department of Education, the DOAA, and state officials to address every item outlined in this report and to implement best practices at every level to protect the district's financial stability and ensure its integrity moving forward."

Dublin City Schools remains committed to transparency, continuous improvement, and responsible stewardship of public resources in support of student success. The full report is available on the district's transparency page at:

<https://www.dcsirish.com/departments/transparency>