



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**





**CANTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
STARK COUNTY**

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65 East State Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
FraudOhio@ohioauditor.gov  
(800) 282-0370  
Report fraud: 866-Fraud-OH

Canton City School District  
Stark County  
305 McKinley Ave NW  
Canton, Ohio 44702

To the Canton City School District Board of Education, Superintendent Jeffery S. Talbert, and District Treasurer Jeff Gruber:

### **Background**

The Auditor of State (AOS), Special Investigations Unit (SIU) conducted a criminal investigation and special audit of the Canton City School District (the District) predicated on information alleging a possible theft by a former school district employee.

The investigation began in April 2023, after SIU received information from the District Treasurer concerning allegations the former Career Technology-Welding instructor, Todd Hoover, purchased parts for his personal vehicle using District funds.

After the information obtained from interviews and preliminary examination of the District's payment records and vendor records was considered, a special audit was declared by the Auditor of State.

This engagement was conducted in accordance with the [Auditor of State Special Investigations Unit, Quality Standards](#).

### **Suspect**

Mr. Hoover was hired by the District as an instructor in the Career and Technical Performing Arts Program in August 2017 and taught in this compacity until his resignation effective May 30, 2023.

### **Scheme**

We defined our audit period (Period) as covering April 1, 2019 to April 11, 2023, during which time Mr. Hoover used District funds to purchase \$11,501.99 in vehicle parts, equipment, graphic renditions, and paint for his personal vehicle. During the Period, the District wanted to promote and attract future students to their Autobody Technology program by displaying a restored vehicle at shows, parades, and District football games. The Autobody Technology program leadership team, which included Mr. Hoover, sought to purchase a vehicle to restore and utilize for this purpose, but were unable to locate a satisfactory vehicle. Mr. Hoover offered his 2004 Subaru Baja utility vehicle to the program to be modified and restored; however, the vehicle was never purchased by the District. When the program ended, Mr. Hoover traded the vehicle and received an \$8,000 trade-in value.

### **Findings**

Based on the special audit procedures and investigation, the Auditor of State confirmed the allegation that Mr. Hoover misappropriated \$11,501.99 over a span of approximately four years.

We issued \$11,501.99 in a finding for recovery for misappropriated cash during the Period.

The full details of the finding for recovery are located in the Appendix.

## **Prosecution**

At the conclusion of the special audit and investigation, a prosecution packet was presented to the Stark County Prosecutor.

On August 28, 2024, Mr. Hoover was indicted by the Stark County grand jury on one count of Grand Theft.

On October 7, 2024, Mr. Hoover entered a negotiated guilty plea to one count of theft, a misdemeanor of the first degree, in violation of Ohio Rev. Code § 2913.02(A)(1)(B)(2), and the Honorable Judge Frank Forchione sentenced Mr. Hoover to 180 days suspended sentence on the condition of two years good behavior. On October 24, 2024, Judge Forchione ordered Mr. Hoover to pay \$3,886.18 in restitution.

The exit conference was waived by the District; however, the District was given five days to respond to this special audit report. A response was not received from the District.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

February 26, 2025



**APPENDIX**  
**SCHEDULE OF FINDING FOR RECOVERY**

## **FINDING FOR RECOVERY – PARTIALLY REPAYED UNDER AUDIT**

**Ohio Rev. Code § 102.03(D)** states, in part, no public official or employee shall use or authorize the use of the authority or influence of office or employment to secure anything of value or the promise or offer of anything of value.

During the Period, Mr. Hoover submitted requisitions and purchase order requests for various parts, materials, supplies, and services related to the restoration project of his personal vehicle. The District approved and made payment for the items purchased. Mr. Hoover also purchased other parts, supplies, repairs and services for his personal vehicle restoration and requested reimbursement from the District. The District approved these payments with the understanding the vehicle was District property; however, no verification of ownership was performed.

Our analysis identified 11 District payments totaling \$11,501.99 made by Mr. Hoover for his personal vehicle.

On October 24, 2024, Mr. Hoover was ordered to pay \$3,886.18 in restitution to the District in Stark County Common Pleas Court, Case No. 2024CR1811.

In accordance with the foregoing facts and pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.28, a finding for recovery for public property converted or misappropriated is hereby issued against Todd Hoover, in the amount of \$11,501.99 in favor of Canton City School District's General Fund.

On May 30, 2023, the District negotiated Mr. Hoover's separation agreement from the District, which included a reimbursement to the District in the amount of \$1,400, which was properly deposited and recorded into the District's General Fund. Additionally, on December 19, 2024, Mr. Hoover made restitution to the District totaling \$3,886.18, which was also properly deposited and recorded into the District's General Fund. The remaining unpaid balance is \$6,215.81.

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



## CANTON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL AUDIT

STARK COUNTY

### AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 4/15/2025

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)