



STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR
JAMES R. NOBLES, LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

June 18, 1998

Members
Legislative Audit Commission

The Minnesota State High School League is a non-profit voluntary association of schools. But its power to regulate student activities gives it an authority closely akin to government and creates high expectations that, like government, it will be accountable to the public.

In the 1980s there was legislative concern about the management of the League's internal operations and finances. An evaluation by our office identified several management weaknesses, and the Legislature subsequently enacted numerous reforms that strengthened the League's accountability structure.

Responding to continuing legislative concerns about the League, in May 1997 the Legislative Audit Commission directed us to re-examine the League, focusing particularly on its accountability structure, its policy making processes, and the legal framework within which it operates.

Although we found several minor problems, such as a lack of competitive bidding for some purchasing decisions, inconsistency in some League rules and bylaws, and an underutilization of its ombudsperson program, the League has made major progress in addressing the issues identified in the past. We found no significant problems with its rulemaking process and compliance with state laws. Also, most of the League's constituent groups reported that they are satisfied with its overall methods of operation. Nevertheless, we recommend strengthening the authority of the Department of Children, Families, and Learning to oversee the activities of the League to ensure that the League remains accountable to its diverse constituencies and the public. We also recommend giving the State Auditor greater discretion in conducting financial audits of the League and requiring that all League board members begin their terms on August 1.

We received the full cooperation of the League and the Department of Children, Families, and Learning in conducting our evaluation. This report was researched and written by Jo Vos (project manager), David Chein, Steve Coleman, and Carrie Meyerhoff.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James R. Nobles in black ink.

James Nobles
Legislative Auditor

Handwritten signature of Roger Brooks in black ink.

Roger Brooks
Deputy Legislative Auditor