

# CALIFORNIA STATE LOTTERY

Review Report

## QUARTERLY TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PUBLIC EDUCATION

*For the Quarter Ended March 31, 2024*



MALIA M. COHEN  
CALIFORNIA STATE CONTROLLER

September 2025



MALIA M. COHEN  
CALIFORNIA STATE CONTROLLER

September 11, 2025

Ms. Harjinder K. Shergill-Chima, Director  
California State Lottery  
700 North Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Director Shergill-Chima:

The State Controller's Office reviewed the financial documentation supporting the California State Lottery's (Lottery) transfer of funds to the public education community for the third quarter ended March 31, 2024. Our review found that the transfer amount of \$581,239,426 is supported by the Lottery's accounting records, and that the Lottery was on target to meet annual revenue allocation requirements for prize payouts, disbursement of funds to education, and administrative expenses, as specified in the Lottery Act, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Roochel Espilla, Chief, State Agency Audits Bureau, by telephone at 916-323-5744. Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by*

Kimberly A. Tarvin, CPA  
Chief, Division of Audits

KAT/ac

Ms. Harjinder K. Shergill-Chima

September 11, 2025

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Copy: Florence Bernal, Chief Deputy Director  
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California State Lottery  
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Keetha Mills, Vice Chair  
California State Lottery Commission  
Tiffani Alvidrez, Commissioner  
California State Lottery Commission  
Alexandre Rasouli, M.D., Commissioner  
California State Lottery Commission

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# Review Report

## Summary

The California State Lottery (Lottery) requested that the State Controller's Office (SCO) transfer \$581,239,426 to the Lottery Education Fund for disbursement to the public education community for the third quarter ended March 31, 2024. Based on the work performed, we determined that the requested transfer amount is supported by the Lottery's accounting records. In addition, we determined that the Lottery was on target to meet annual revenue allocation requirements for prize payouts, disbursement of funds to education, and administrative expenses, as specified in the Lottery Act, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

## Background

In 1984, California voters passed Proposition 37, authorizing a state-operated lottery. Proposition 37 created the Lottery Act, codified in Government Code section 8880 et seq. The Lottery Act requires the quarterly transfer of a portion of revenues to the public education community and establishes the allocation percentages for lottery revenues.

The Lottery Act requires revenues from the Lottery to be allocated to maximize the amount of funding allocated to the public education community. As amended by Assembly Bill 142 (Chapter 13, Statutes of 2010), the Lottery Act requires that not less than 87 percent of the total annual revenues from Lottery ticket sales be returned to the public in the form of prize payouts and disbursement of funds to education and not more than 13 percent be allocated for administrative expenses. Furthermore, the Lottery Act requires that not less than 50 percent of the total annual Lottery revenues, in an amount to be determined by the California State Lottery Commission (Commission), be returned to the public in the form of prize payouts. In addition, the Commission must establish the percentages to be allocated to the benefit of public education.

Each quarter, the Lottery requests that the SCO transfer funds to the Lottery Education Fund. The Lottery's request usually occurs eight to 10 weeks after the close of each quarter. This report includes the transfer request for the quarter ended March 31, 2024 as an attachment.

## Review Authority

We conducted this review in accordance with Government Code section 8880.46.6, which authorizes the SCO to conduct quarterly and annual audits of all accounts and transactions of the Commission and other special audits as necessary. The SCO has the authority to examine any and all records of the Commission, its distributing agencies, Lottery contractors, and Lottery retailers.

## Objectives, Scope, and Methodology

The objectives of our review were to determine whether:

- The requested transfer amount is supported by accounting records; and
- The Lottery was on target to meet the annual allocation requirements specified in the Lottery Act.

We performed this review for the third quarter ended March 31, 2024. To achieve our objectives, we performed the following procedures:

- We compared current fiscal year audited income statement balances with prior fiscal year audited income statement balances and performed analytical procedures for variances over 15 percent.
- We traced amounts reported in the income statement to the Lottery's accounting records.
- We judgmentally selected sales and expense items, based on dollar amount and type, and traced them to supporting documentation. Results were not projected to the intended (total) population.
- We determined whether the Lottery was on target to meet the annual revenue allocation requirements specified in the Lottery Act.
- We verified that the requested amount had been transferred to the Lottery Education Fund.
- We verified that the funds had been transferred from the Lottery Education Fund to the public education community.

## Results

Based on the work performed, we determined that the requested transfer amount of \$581,239,426 for the third quarter ended March 31, 2024 is supported by the Lottery's accounting records. In addition, we determined that the Lottery was on target to meet annual revenue allocation requirements for prize payouts, disbursement of funds to education, and administrative expenses, as specified in the Lottery Act, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

In a letter dated May 29, 2024, the Lottery requested that the SCO transfer \$581,239,426 to the Lottery Education Fund for disbursement to the public education community. On June 27, 2024, the Local Government Programs and Services Division of the SCO transferred \$581,239,426 from the State Lottery Fund to the Lottery Education Fund; and as a result of the SCO apportionment process, the entire amount except \$15 was disbursed from the Lottery Education Fund to the public education community on the same date. The remainder was apportioned during the subsequent quarterly transfer.

For the nine months ended March 31, 2024, of the total revenues from ticket sales:

- 64.66 percent was returned to the public in the form of prize payouts;
- 23.66 percent was transferred to the public education community; and
- 11.68 percent was used for administrative expenses.

The Lottery returned 88.32 percent of total revenues from ticket sales in the form of prize payouts and disbursement of funds to education. The Lottery was on target to meet annual allocation requirements specified in the Lottery Act. See Schedules 1 and 2 for a summary of Lottery revenue allocations and allocation percentages.

**Views of  
Responsible  
Officials**

We discussed our review results with a Lottery representative via email on July 15, 2025. The Lottery representative agreed with the review results.

**Restricted Use**

This report is solely for the information and use of the Lottery, the Commission, and the SCO; it is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties. This restriction is not intended to limit distribution of this report, which is a matter of public record and is available on the SCO website at [www.sco.ca.gov](http://www.sco.ca.gov).

*Original signed by*

Kimberly A. Tarvin, CPA  
Chief, Division of Audits

September 11, 2025

## Schedule 1— Fiscal Year 2023-24 Year-to-Date Lottery Revenue Allocations

AB 142 (Chapter 13, Statutes of 2010) requires revenues from the Lottery to be allocated to maximize the amount of funding allocated to the public education community. The statute requires the following annual revenue allocation percentages:

- Prizes – Not less than 50 percent of sales
- Administrative expenses – Not more than 13 percent of sales
- Prizes and disbursement of funds to education – Not less than 87 percent of sales
- Other income – 100 percent to education

Statutory compliance is determined on an annual basis at fiscal year-end. The interim percentages are presented to show the Lottery's year-to-date progress toward meeting annual statutory requirements.

Miscellaneous income includes Surplus Money Investment Fund interest earned, unclaimed prizes, and other income.

The Education Fund allocation amount is sales plus miscellaneous income, less prizes, less administrative expenses, less amount withheld pending audit, plus amount released after completion of audit.

Fiscal Year 2023-24	Three Months Ended September 30, 2023	% of Sales	Six Months Ended December 31, 2023	% of Sales	Nine Months Ended March 31, 2024	% of Sales
Sales	\$ 2,464,152,707	100.00%	\$ 4,776,875,819	100.00%	\$ 7,130,565,549	100.00%
Prizes	1,561,405,686	63.36%	3,075,739,965	64.39%	4,610,449,064	64.66%
Operating income to education	614,475,968	24.94%	1,141,156,969	23.89%	1,687,225,477	23.66%
Revenues returned to public	2,175,881,654	88.30%	4,216,896,934	88.28%	6,297,674,541	88.32%
Administrative expenses	288,271,053	11.70%	559,978,885	11.72%	832,891,008	11.68%
Miscellaneous income	48,725,779		75,034,425		110,205,343	
Less: Withheld pending annual audit	-		-		-	
Release of prior amount withheld	-		-		-	
<b>Allocation to Education Fund</b>	<b>\$ 663,201,747</b>		<b>\$ 1,216,191,394</b>		<b>\$ 1,797,430,820</b>	



## Schedule 2— Fiscal Year 2022-23 Lottery Revenue Allocations

AB 142 (Chapter 13, Statutes of 2010) requires revenues from the Lottery to be allocated to maximize the amount of funding allocated to the public education community. The statute requires the following annual revenue allocation percentages:

- Prizes – Not less than 50 percent of sales
- Administrative expenses – Not more than 13 percent of sales
- Prizes and disbursement of funds to education – Not less than 87 percent of sales
- Other income – 100 percent to education

Statutory compliance is determined on an annual basis at fiscal year-end. The interim percentages are presented to show the Lottery's progress toward meeting annual statutory requirements.

Miscellaneous income includes Surplus Money Investment Fund interest earned, unclaimed prizes, and other income.

The Education Fund allocation amount is sales plus miscellaneous income, less prizes, less administrative expenses, less amount withheld pending audit, plus amount released after completion of audit.

Fiscal Year 2022-23	Three Months Ended		Six Months Ended		Nine Months Ended		Twelve Months Ended	
	September 30, 2022	% of Sales	December 31, 2022	% of Sales	March 31, 2023	% of Sales	June 30, 2023	% of Sales
Sales	\$ 2,254,306,451	100.00%	\$ 4,661,534,818	100.00%	\$ 7,008,858,709	100.00%	\$ 9,239,353,311	100.00%
Prizes	1,466,984,553	65.07%	2,977,491,532	63.87%	4,517,290,678	64.45%	5,960,301,724	64.51%
Operating income to education	525,001,259	23.29%	1,148,496,936	24.64%	1,692,959,244	24.15%	2,231,053,935	24.15%
Revenues returned to public	1,991,985,812	88.36%	4,125,988,468	88.51%	6,210,249,922	88.61%	8,191,355,659	88.66%
Administrative expenses	262,320,639	11.64%	535,546,350	11.49%	798,608,787	11.39%	1,047,997,652	11.34%
Miscellaneous income	14,699,045		28,482,455		47,564,859		77,611,112	
Less: Withheld pending annual audit	-		-		-		35,140,944	
Release of prior amount withheld	-		-		-		27,448,056	
<b>Allocation to Education Fund</b>	<b>\$ 539,700,304</b>		<b>\$ 1,176,979,391</b>		<b>\$ 1,740,524,103</b>		<b>\$ 2,300,972,159</b>	

**Attachment—  
California State Lottery's  
Transfer Request Dated May 29, 2024**

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May 29, 2024

Natalie Sidarous, Chief  
Local Government Programs and Services Division  
State Controller's Office  
3301 C Street, Suite 740  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Dear Ms. Sidarous:

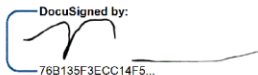
The California State Lottery requests that you transfer to the Lottery Education Fund for disbursement to the education community \$581,239,426. This figure represents:

Operating income for the nine months ended	
March 31, 2024	\$ 1,687,225,477
SMIF interest earned	51,926,558
Other income	175,115
Unclaimed prizes	<u>58,103,670</u>
	\$ 1,797,430,820
Less: Transfer for the six months ended	
December 31, 2023	<u>1,216,191,394</u>
	<u>\$ 581,239,426</u>

We have attached a copy of the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position for the nine months ended March 31, 2024, prepared from books without audit, for your files.

Please note, the amount withheld from the 2022-23 transfer pending audit will be transferred in a subsequent quarter after the June 2023 audit is complete.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
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Nicholas Buchen, Deputy Director  
Finance Division

Attachment  
cc: Harjinder K. Shergill Chima, Director

**California State Lottery**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Fund Position**  
**For the Nine Months Ended March 31, 2024**

Operating revenues: Lottery Sales	\$	7,130,565,549
Prizes	\$	<u>4,610,449,064</u>
Sales after prizes	\$	<u>2,520,116,485</u>
Less game costs:		
Retailer costs	\$	485,408,950
Gaming system costs	\$	84,719,603
Scratchers game costs	\$	<u>36,520,112</u>
Total game costs	\$	<u>606,648,665</u>
Income before operating expenses	\$	<u>1,913,467,820</u>
Operating expenses:		
Salaries, wages, and benefits	\$	94,845,753
Advertising	\$	78,147,878
Promotion, public relations, and point of sale	\$	8,976,715
Other professional services	\$	14,319,893
Depreciation and amortization	\$	10,988,140
Other general & administrative expenses	\$	<u>18,963,964</u>
Total operating expenses	\$	<u>226,242,343</u>
Operating Income	\$	<u>1,687,225,477</u>
Non-operating (expenses) revenues:		
Investment Earnings	\$	40,344,055
Other Income	\$	175,115
Allocation to Education Fund	\$	<u>(1,739,327,150)</u>
Total non-operating (expenses) revenues	\$	<u>(1,698,807,980)</u>
Changes in net position	\$	(11,582,503)
Total net position-beginning balance	\$	<u>(279,071,780)</u>
Total net position-ending balance	\$	<u><u>(290,654,283)</u></u>

**State Controller's Office  
Division of Audits  
Post Office Box 942850  
Sacramento, CA 94250**

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