

newsobserver.com

Community papers

triangle.com

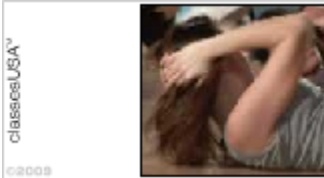
Moms

Jobs

Cars

Homes

R



**Obama Asks Moms to
Return to School**
Financial Aid Available to Those Who Qualify

Select 1
AL
[See Degrees
Now](#)

[Subscribe](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [e-edition](#) | [Subscriber Rewards](#)



[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Lifestyles](#) | [Business](#) | [Politics](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Obits](#) | [Blogs](#) | [Multimedia](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Sho](#)

Politics

Topics: [Blog: Under the Dome](#) | [Elections](#) | [Legislature](#) **Columns:** [Christensen](#) | [Under the Dome](#) **Photo Column:** [Jones Street](#)

Auditor faults state purchase agency

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Published: Wed, May. 09, 2007 12:50PM

Modified Wed, May. 09, 2007 01:23PM

BOOKMARK

BUZZ UP!

E-MAIL

PRINT

TEXT SIZE:

RALEIGH -- The state auditor today faulted the N.C. Purchase and Contract Division for not following up on pricing errors by Office Depot, the company providing state office supplies.

In a performance audit made public today, State Auditor Leslie Merritt said the division had not required permanent steps to correct pricing errors and problems with the availability of products.

The Purchase and Contract Division, which is in the Department of Administration, contracted with Office Depot on Feb. 1, 2006, to provide office supplies to state agencies.

More Politics

[President's talk alarms parents](#)

[Education board aims to groom 21st-century students](#)

[Longtime politico Hefner dies](#)

[Durham Committee endorses Hughes, Clement in City Council primary](#)

[Bowles insisted on full disclosure by Easley](#)

[Perdue to hunt economic prospects in China, Japan](#)

As a result of the audit, Merritt said in a news release, Office Depot identified and credited the state \$40,887 for overcharges.


Merritt said the division's process for monitoring the contract lacked follow up to make sure errors are identified and permanently corrected. He said the problem was "especially disconcerting" given that the division monitors 125 contracts with 400 vendors, representing a value of \$1.4 billion.

The division said its contract with Office Depot saves taxpayers 71 percent off retail prices, according to the auditor's news

release.

In response to the audit, officials in the Department of Administration said they did not concur completely with Merritt's conclusions and statements. Officials said the division "has done an exemplary job in the management of this contract to the benefit of the taxpayers" and had in place a system to monitor pricing and availability. Merritt previously faulted the division for its management of statewide contracts. In September, he said that the division had failed to discover that a vendor on the state tire retread contract had raised prices in violation of the contract.

[Get it all with convenient home delivery of The News & Observer.](#)



COMMENTS

ADD COMMENT

DISCLAIMER

Please [login](#) to add a comment

The News & Observer is pleased to be able to offer its users the opportunity to make comments and hold conversations online. However, the interactive nature of the internet makes it impracticable for our staff to monitor each and every posting.

Since The News & Observer does not control user submitted statements, we cannot promise that readers will not occasionally find offensive or inaccurate comments posted on our website. In addition, we remind anyone interested in making an online comment that responsibility for statements posted lies with the person submitting the comment, not The News and Observer.

If you find a comment offensive, clicking on the exclamation icon will flag the comment for review by the administrators, we are counting on the good judgment of all our readers to help us.

**[Office Depot®
Supplies](#)**

Supplies, Storage & Equipment - Save on 1,000s of Office Supplies.
www.OfficeDepot.com

[Storeall Trolleys](#)

Carts to store all your office supplies that easily moves from room to room.
www.bindertek.com

[Fault Tree Software](#)

Blocksim FTI Edition is a complete and integrated Fault Tree and reliability block diagram
www.reliasoft.com

Ads by Yahoo!

© Copyright 2009, The News & Observer Publishing Company
A subsidiary of [The McClatchy Company](#)

[Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Parental Consent](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [N&O Store](#) | [Adve](#)