



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

**SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HAMILTON COUNTY**

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Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Southwest Local School District
Hamilton County
230 South Elm Street
Harrison, Ohio 45030

To the Board of Education

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the major funds, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Southwest Local School District, Hamilton County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2007, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the District's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinions.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the major funds, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Southwest Local School District, Hamilton County, Ohio, as of June 30, 2007, and the respective changes in financial position, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 15, 2008, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. While we did not opine on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance, that report describes the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*. You should read it in conjunction with this report in assessing the results of our audit.

Management's Discussion and Analysis and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires. We have applied certain limited procedures, consisting principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measuring and presenting the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on them.

We conducted our audit to opine on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The federal awards expenditure schedule is required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*, and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements. We subjected the federal awards expenditure schedule to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements. In our opinion, this information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

September 15, 2008

**SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2007
(Unaudited)**

The discussion and analysis of Southwest Local School District's financial performance provides an overall review of the District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the District's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and the notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the District's performance.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for fiscal year 2007 are as follows:

- In total, net assets decreased \$1,995,019.
- General revenues accounted for \$29,509,532 in revenue or 87% of all revenues. Program specific revenues in the form of charges for services and sales, grants and contributions accounted for \$4,317,548 or 13% of total revenues of \$33,827,080.
- The District had \$35,822,099 in expenses related to governmental activities; only \$4,317,548 of these expenses were offset by program specific charges for services, grants or contributions. General revenues of \$29,502,532 were also used to provide for these programs.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. These statements are organized so the reader can understand the District as a financial whole, an entire operating entity. The statements then proceed to provide an increasingly detailed look at specific financial activities.

The *Statement of Net Assets* and *Statement of Activities* provide information about the activities of the whole District, presenting both an aggregate view of the District's finances and a longer-term view of those finances. Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. For governmental funds, these statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. The fund financial statements also look at the District's most significant funds with all other nonmajor funds presented in total in one column. The General and Debt Service Funds are the major funds of the District.

Government-wide Financial Statements

While this document contains the large number of funds used by the District to provide programs and activities, the view of the District as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, “How did we do financially during 2007?” The Government-wide Financial Statements answer this question. These statements include *all assets* and *liabilities* using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all of the current year’s revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the District’s *net assets* and changes in those assets. This change in net assets is important because it tells the reader that, for the District as a whole, the financial position has improved or diminished. The causes of this change may be the result of many factors, both financial and non-financial. Non-financial factors include the District’s property tax base, current property tax laws in Ohio restricting revenue growth, facility conditions, required educational programs and other factors.

In the Government-wide Financial Statements, the overall financial position of the District is presented in the following manner:

- Governmental Activities – Most of the District’s programs and services are reported here including instruction, support services, operation of non-instructional services, extracurricular activities, and interest and fiscal charges.

Fund Financial Statements

The analysis of the District’s major funds is presented in the Fund Financial Statements. Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the District’s major funds. The District uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions. However, these fund financial statements focus on the District’s most significant funds.

Governmental Funds Most of the District’s activities are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using an accounting method called *modified accrual* accounting, which measures cash and all other *financial assets* that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed *short-term view* of the District’s general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance educational programs. The relationship (or differences) between governmental *activities* (reported in the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Activities) and governmental *funds* is reconciled in the financial statements.

Fiduciary Funds Fiduciary Funds are used to account for resources held for the benefits of parties outside the government. Fiduciary Funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are not available to support the District’s own programs.

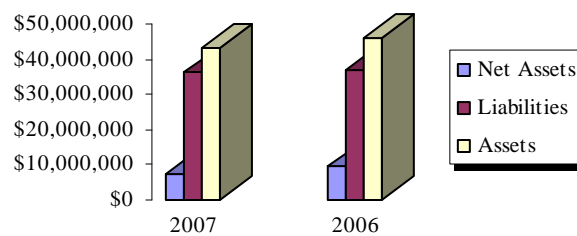
The District as a Whole

Recall that the Statement of Net Assets provides the perspective of the District as a whole.

Table 1 provides a summary of the District's net assets for 2007 compared to 2006:

Table 1
Net Assets

	Governmental Activities	
	2007	2006 Restated
Assets		
Current Assets	\$18,085,956	\$20,101,638
Capital Assets	25,163,007	26,138,665
Total Assets	43,248,963	46,240,303
Liabilities		
Long-Term Liabilities	24,012,181	24,546,319
Other Liabilities	12,025,589	12,487,772
Total Liabilities	36,037,770	37,034,091
Net Assets		
Invested in Capital		
Assets Net of Debt	5,271,448	5,453,149
Restricted	3,979,979	4,336,434
Unrestricted	(2,040,234)	(583,371)
Total Net Assets	\$7,211,193	\$9,206,212



Over time, net assets can serve as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. At June 30, 2007, the District's assets exceeded liabilities by \$7,211,193.

At year-end, capital assets represented 58% of total assets. Capital assets include land, land improvements, buildings and improvements, and equipment. Capital assets, net of related debt to acquire the assets at June 30, 2007, was \$5,271,448. These capital assets are used to provide services to the students and are not available for future spending. Although the District's investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources to repay the debt must be provided from other sources, since capital assets may not be used to liquidate these liabilities.

A portion of the District's net assets, \$3,979,979, represents resources that are subject to external restriction on how they must be used. The external restriction will not affect the availability of fund resources for future use.

Current assets decreased which was a result of the District holding a smaller balance of investments compared to the prior year. Capital Assets decreased mainly due to current year depreciation expense exceeded current year capital assets additions. Long-Term liabilities decreased mainly due to the District continuing to make regularly scheduled debt payments on their long-term debt obligations.

Table 2 shows the change in net assets for fiscal year 2007 and 2006.

Table 2
Changes in Net Assets

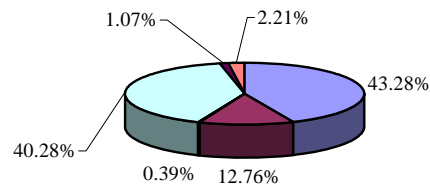
	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006 Restated</u>
Revenues		
Program Revenues:		
Charges for Services	\$1,443,194	\$1,340,903
Operating Grants	2,812,642	2,899,612
Capital Grants	61,712	24,163
General Revenue:		
Income Taxes	131,774	0
Property Taxes	13,625,031	13,564,706
Grants and Entitlements	14,640,646	14,193,738
Other	1,112,081	860,755
Total Revenues	<u>33,827,080</u>	<u>32,883,877</u>
Program Expenses:		
Instruction	20,050,946	19,714,310
Support Services:		
Pupil and Instructional Staff	2,502,812	2,982,134
General and School Administrative and Fiscal	3,661,788	3,503,246
Operations and Maintenance	3,362,662	3,404,129
Pupil Transportation	1,828,691	1,837,761
Central	53,064	33,195
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	2,061,358	1,958,502
Extracurricular Activities	818,807	785,607
Interest and Fiscal Charges	1,481,971	1,515,930
Total Expenses	<u>35,822,099</u>	<u>35,734,814</u>
Change in Net Assets	(1,995,019)	(2,850,937)
Beginning Net Assets	<u>9,206,212</u>	<u>12,057,149</u>
Ending Net Assets	<u><u>\$7,211,193</u></u>	<u><u>\$9,206,212</u></u>

The District revenues are mainly from two sources. Property taxes levied for general, debt service and capital projects purposes and grants and entitlements comprised 83.6% of the District's revenues for governmental activities.

The District depends greatly on property taxes as a revenue source. The unique nature of property taxes in Ohio creates the need to routinely seek voter approval for operating funds. The overall revenues generated by a levy will not increase solely as a result of inflation. As an example, a homeowner with a home valued at \$100,000 and taxed at 1.0 mill would pay \$35.00 annually in taxes. If three years later the home was reappraised and increased to \$200,000 (and this inflationary increase in value is comparable to other property owners) the effective tax rate would become .5 mills and the owner would still pay \$35.00.

Thus Ohio districts do not collect additional property taxes on the increase in property value due to the increase in appraisal value and must regularly return to the voters to maintain a constant level of service. Property taxes made up 40.3% of revenue for governmental activities for the District in fiscal year 2007.

<u>Revenue Sources</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Percent of Total</u>
General Grants	\$14,640,646	43.28%
Program Revenues	4,317,548	12.76%
Income Tax Revenues	131,774	0.39%
Property Tax Revenues	13,625,031	40.28%
Investment Earnings	363,326	1.07%
Other Revenues	748,755	2.21%
	<u>\$33,827,080</u>	<u>100.00%</u>



Instruction comprises 56.0% of total governmental program expenses. Support services expenses were 31.8% of total governmental program expenses. All other expenses and interest expense was 12.2%. Interest expense was attributable to the outstanding bond and borrowing for capital projects.

Taxes Revenues increased largely due to the enactment of the .75% earned income tax levy on January 1, 2007. Total expenses remained relatively consistent in 2007 as compared to 2006.

Governmental Activities

The Statement of Activities shows the cost of program services and the charges for services and grants offsetting those services. Table 3 shows, for governmental activities, the total cost of services and the net cost of services. That is, it identifies the cost of these services supported by tax revenue and unrestricted state entitlements.

Table 3
Governmental Activities

	Total Cost of Services		Net Cost of Services	
	2007	2006 Restated	2007	2006 Restated
Instruction	\$20,050,946	\$19,714,310	(\$18,202,128)	(\$17,842,885)
Support Services:				
Pupil and Instructional Staff	2,502,812	2,982,134	(2,070,371)	(2,559,319)
General and School Administrative and Fiscal	3,661,788	3,503,246	(3,642,970)	(3,486,176)
Operations and Maintenance	3,362,662	3,404,129	(3,326,395)	(3,391,779)
Pupil Transportation	1,828,691	1,837,761	(1,770,087)	(1,785,115)
Central	53,064	33,195	(29,064)	(8,833)
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	2,061,358	1,958,502	(422,069)	(303,984)
Extracurricular Activities	818,807	785,607	(559,496)	(576,115)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	1,481,971	1,515,930	(1,481,971)	(1,515,930)
Total Expenses	<u>\$35,822,099</u>	<u>\$35,734,814</u>	<u>(\$31,504,551)</u>	<u>(\$31,470,136)</u>

The District's Major Funds

The District has two major governmental funds: the General Fund and the Debt Service Fund. Assets of the general fund comprised \$12,474,356 (69%) and the debt service fund comprised \$3,884,671 (21%) of the total \$18,189,371 governmental funds assets.

General Fund: Fund balance at June 30, 2007 was \$1,202,812 a decrease in fund balance of \$1,351,009 from 2006. The primary reasons for the decrease in fund balance are due to general inflationary increases in regular instruction and pupil transportation expense.

Debt Service Fund: Fund balance at June 30, 2007 was \$2,681,303 including \$2,102,303 of unreserved balance, an increase in fund balance of \$50,701 from 2006. The fund balance remained relatively consistent in 2007 as compared to 2006.

General Fund Budgeting Highlights

The District's budget is prepared according to Ohio law and is based on accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements and encumbrances. The most significant budgeted fund is the General Fund.

During the course of fiscal year 2007, the District amended its general fund budget numerous times, however none were significant. The District uses site-based budgeting and the budgeting systems are designed to tightly control total site budgets but provide flexibility for site management. During the course of the year, the District revised the budget in an attempt to deal with unexpected changes in revenues and expenditures.

For the General Fund, final budget basis revenue was \$27,372,557, which is below the original budget revenue estimates of \$29,405,639. The difference was mostly due to overestimating original estimate for taxes and intergovernmental revenue.

The District's ending unobligated cash balance was \$131,527 above the final budgeted amount.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

At fiscal year end, the District had \$25,163,007 invested in land, land improvements, buildings and improvements and equipment. Table 4 shows fiscal 2007 balances compared to fiscal 2006:

Table 4
Capital Assets at June 30
(Net of Depreciation)

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	
	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006 Restated</u>
Land	\$2,875,501	\$2,875,501
Land Improvements	1,336,920	1,467,831
Buildings and Improvements	19,735,538	20,470,434
Equipment	<u>1,215,048</u>	<u>1,324,899</u>
Total Net Capital Assets	<u>\$25,163,007</u>	<u>\$26,138,665</u>

The overall decrease in capital assets is due to current year depreciation expense exceeding current year capital asset additions.

See Note 6 to the basic financial statements for further details on the District's capital assets.

Debt

At June 30, 2007, the District had \$19,891,559 in bonds and notes outstanding, \$811,559 due within one year. Table 5 summarizes bonds and notes outstanding.

Table 5
Outstanding Debt, at Year End

	Governmental Activities	
	2007	2006
<u>General Obligation Bonds and Notes:</u>		
School Facilities Bond	\$31,559	\$65,516
School Improvement Bonds I	8,355,000	8,590,000
School Improvement Bonds II	8,445,000	8,670,000
School Facilities Bond - Refunding Bonds	1,660,000	1,660,000
Notes Payable	1,400,000	1,700,000
Total	<u>\$19,891,559</u>	<u>\$20,685,516</u>

See Note 7 to the basic financial statements for further details on the District's long-term obligations.

For the Future

In June of 2005, the State legislature passed House Bill 66. House Bill 66 phases out the tax on tangible personal property of general business, telephone and telecommunications companies, and railroads. The tax on general business and railroad property began being phased out in 2006 and will be eliminated by 2009. The tax on telephone and telecommunication property will begin being phased out in 2009 and will be eliminated by 2011. The tax is being phased out by reducing the assessment rate on the property each year. In the first five years, school districts are being reimbursed fully for the lost revenue; in the following seven years, the reimbursements are phased out.

This scenario requires management to plan carefully and prudently to provide the resources to meet student needs over the next several years. Financially, the future of the District is not without challenges. Management must diligently plan future expenditures.

All of the District's financial abilities will be needed to meet the challenges of the future. With careful planning and monitoring of the District's finances, the District's management is confident that the District can continue to provide a quality education for our students and provide a secure financial future.

Contacting the District's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, and investors and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to show the District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Gregory P. Bybee, Treasurer at Southwest Local School District, 230 South Elm Street, Harrison, Ohio 45030, or e-mail at greg.bybee@southwestschools.org.

Southwest Local School District
Statement of Net Assets
June 30, 2007

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets:	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments	\$4,356,527
Restricted Cash and Investments	177,561
Receivables:	
Taxes	13,374,843
Accounts	4,433
Intergovernmental	162,348
Inventory	10,244
Nondepreciable Capital Assets	2,875,501
Depreciable Capital Assets, Net	<u>22,287,506</u>
 Total Assets	 <u>43,248,963</u>
Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	319,370
Accrued Wages and Benefits	3,351,116
Accrued Interest Payable	116,766
Unearned Revenue	8,238,337
Long-Term Liabilities:	
Due Within One Year	1,229,848
Due In More Than One Year	<u>22,782,333</u>
 Total Liabilities	 <u>36,037,770</u>
Net Assets:	
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	5,271,448
Restricted for:	
Special Revenue	568,890
Debt Service	2,651,791
Capital Projects	581,737
Set-Aside	177,561
Unrestricted	<u>(2,040,234)</u>
 Total Net Assets	 <u><u>\$7,211,193</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Southwest Local School District
Statement of Activities
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2007

	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Assets Governmental Activities	
	Expenses	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions		Capital Grants and Contributions
Governmental Activities:					
Instruction:					
Regular	\$15,812,416	\$63,924	\$145,736	\$26,240	(\$15,576,516)
Special	3,335,577	7,852	1,470,993	0	(1,856,732)
Vocational	231,549	0	21,585	0	(209,964)
Other	671,404	14,438	98,050	0	(558,916)
Support Services:					
Pupil	1,195,095	0	277,218	0	(917,877)
Instructional Staff	1,307,717	0	155,223	0	(1,152,494)
General Administration	51,187	0	0	0	(51,187)
School Administration	2,818,027	0	18,818	0	(2,799,209)
Fiscal	792,574	0	0	0	(792,574)
Operations and Maintenance	3,362,662	33,967	2,300	0	(3,326,395)
Pupil Transportation	1,828,691	0	23,132	35,472	(1,770,087)
Central	53,064	0	24,000	0	(29,064)
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	2,061,358	1,063,702	575,587	0	(422,069)
Extracurricular Activities	818,807	259,311	0	0	(559,496)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	1,481,971	0	0	0	(1,481,971)
Total Governmental Activities	\$35,822,099	\$1,443,194	\$2,812,642	\$61,712	(31,504,551)

General Revenues:	
Income Taxes	131,774
Property Taxes Levied for:	
General Purposes	11,789,162
Debt Service Purposes	1,784,048
Capital Projects Purposes	51,821
Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs	14,640,646
Unrestricted Contributions	400
Investment Earnings	363,326
Other Revenues	748,355
Total General Revenues	29,509,532
Change in Net Assets	(1,995,019)
Net Assets Beginning of Year, Restated	9,206,212
Net Assets End of Year	\$7,211,193

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Southwest Local School District
Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2007

	General	Debt Service	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:				
Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments	\$598,656	\$2,102,303	\$1,655,568	\$4,356,527
Restricted Cash and Investments	177,561	0	0	177,561
Receivables:				
Taxes	11,592,475	1,782,368	0	13,374,843
Accounts	2,249	0	2,184	4,433
Intergovernmental	0	0	162,348	162,348
Interfund	103,415	0	0	103,415
Inventory	0	0	10,244	10,244
Total Assets	12,474,356	3,884,671	1,830,344	18,189,371
Liabilities and Fund Balances:				
Liabilities:				
Accounts Payable	286,330	0	33,040	319,370
Accrued Wages and Benefits	3,037,518	0	313,598	3,351,116
Compensated Absences	253,497	0	0	253,497
Interfund Payable	0	0	103,415	103,415
Deferred Revenue	7,694,199	1,203,368	49,053	8,946,620
Total Liabilities	11,271,544	1,203,368	499,106	12,974,018
Fund Balances:				
Reserved for Encumbrances	66,503	0	253,403	319,906
Reserved for Inventory	0	0	10,244	10,244
Reserved for Property Tax Advances	3,470,000	579,000	0	4,049,000
Reserved for Set-Aside	177,561	0	0	177,561
Unreserved, Undesignated, Reported in:				
General Fund	(2,511,252)	0	0	(2,511,252)
Special Revenue Funds	0	0	605,802	605,802
Debt Service Funds	0	2,102,303	0	2,102,303
Capital Projects Funds	0	0	461,789	461,789
Total Fund Balances	1,202,812	2,681,303	1,331,238	5,215,353
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$12,474,356	\$3,884,671	\$1,830,344	\$18,189,371

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Southwest Local School District
 Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balance to
 Net Assets of Governmental Activities
 June 30, 2007

Total Governmental Fund Balance		\$5,215,353
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:		
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.		25,163,007
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and therefore are deferred in the funds.		
Delinquent Property Taxes	659,230	
Intergovernmental	<u>49,053</u>	
		708,283
In the statement of net assets interest payable is accrued when incurred, whereas in the governmental funds interest is reported as a liability only when it will require the use of current financial resources.		(116,766)
Some liabilities reported in the statement of net assets do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as liabilities in governmental funds.		
Compensated Absences	<u>(3,867,125)</u>	
		(3,867,125)
Long-term liabilities, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.		<u>(19,891,559)</u>
Net Assets of Governmental Activities		<u><u>\$7,211,193</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Southwest Local School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
and Changes in Fund Balance
Governmental Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2007

	General	Debt Service	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:				
Taxes	\$11,895,530	\$1,788,321	\$65,621	\$13,749,472
Tuition and Fees	86,214	0	0	86,214
Investment Earnings	311,931	0	51,395	363,326
Intergovernmental	15,333,070	187,813	1,954,763	17,475,646
Extracurricular Activities	0	0	259,311	259,311
Charges for Services	0	0	1,063,702	1,063,702
Other Revenues	217,958	25,551	539,213	782,722
Total Revenues	27,844,703	2,001,685	3,934,005	33,780,393
Expenditures:				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	14,722,241	0	243,303	14,965,544
Special	2,451,346	0	771,038	3,222,384
Vocational	231,279	0	0	231,279
Other	613,407	0	57,997	671,404
Support Services:				
Pupil	963,024	0	296,909	1,259,933
Instructional Staff	1,080,091	0	206,933	1,287,024
General Administration	51,187	0	0	51,187
School Administration	2,596,001	3,463	162,969	2,762,433
Fiscal	680,502	30,271	2,271	713,044
Operations and Maintenance	3,272,626	0	57,390	3,330,016
Pupil Transportation	1,744,073	0	0	1,744,073
Central	27,014	0	26,050	53,064
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	0	0	1,968,027	1,968,027
Extracurricular Activities	552,401	0	249,089	801,490
Capital Outlay	0	0	108,351	108,351
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	150,000	493,957	150,000	793,957
Interest and Fiscal Charges	60,520	1,423,293	0	1,483,813
Total Expenditures	29,195,712	1,950,984	4,300,327	35,447,023
Net Change in Fund Balance	(1,351,009)	50,701	(366,322)	(1,666,630)
Fund Balance Beginning of Year	2,553,821	2,630,602	1,697,560	6,881,983
Fund Balance End of Year	\$1,202,812	\$2,681,303	\$1,331,238	\$5,215,353

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Southwest Local School District
 Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes
 in Fund Balance of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2007

Net Change in Fund Balance - Total Governmental Funds (\$1,666,630)

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Governmental funds report capital asset additions as expenditures.

However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount of the difference between capital asset additions and depreciation in the current period.

Capital assets used in governmental activities	188,232	
Depreciation Expense	<u>(1,163,890)</u>	(975,658)

Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.

Delinquent Property Taxes	7,331	
Intergovernmental	<u>39,356</u>	46,687

Repayment of bond principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net assets. 793,957

In the statement of activities interest expense is accrued when incurred, whereas in governmental funds an interest expenditure is reported when due. 1,842

Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.

Compensated Absences	<u>(195,217)</u>	<u>(195,217)</u>
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Change in Net Assets of Governmental Activities (\$1,995,019)

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Southwest Local School District
Statement of Fiduciary Net Assets
Fiduciary Funds
June 30, 2007

	Private Purpose Trust	Agency
Assets:		
Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments	\$10,634	\$82,041
Total Assets	<u>10,634</u>	<u>82,041</u>
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	0	1,935
Other Liabilities	0	80,106
Total Liabilities	<u>0</u>	<u>\$82,041</u>
Net Assets:		
Held in Trust	<u>10,634</u>	
Total Net Assets	<u>\$10,634</u>	

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Southwest Local School District
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Assets
Fiduciary Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2007

	Private Purpose Trust
Additions:	
Donations	\$13,835
Total Additions	13,835
Deductions:	
Scholarships	12,166
Total Deductions	12,166
Change in Net Assets	1,669
Net Assets Beginning of Year	8,965
Net Assets End of Year	\$10,634

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2007**

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT

The Southwest Local School District (the "District") was formed in 1954 with the consolidation of Harrison, Crosby and Whitewater School Districts. Today, the District operates under current standards prescribed by the Ohio State Board of Education as provided in division (D) of Section 3301.07 and Section 119.01 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The District operates under a locally elected five member Board form of government and provides educational services as authorized by its charter or further mandated by state and/or federal agencies. This Board controls the District's instructional and support facilities staffed by 237 non-certificated personnel and 154 certificated full time teaching and administrative personnel to provide services to students and other community members.

The District enrollment for October 2006 was 3,695. It currently operates six elementary schools, one junior school (grades 7-8), and one comprehensive high school (grades 9-12).

REPORTING ENTITY

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board [GASB] Statement 14, the financial reporting entity consists of a primary government. The District is a primary government because it is a special-purpose government that has a separately elected governing body, is legally separate, and is fiscally independent of other state and local governments.

There are no component units combined with the District for financial statement presentation purposes, and it is not included in any other governmental reporting entity. Consequently, the District's financial statements include only the funds of those organizational entities for which its elected governing body is financially accountable. The District's major operations include education, pupil transportation, food service, and maintenance of District facilities.

This District is associated with two organizations which are defined as jointly governed organizations. These organizations are the Hamilton/Clermont Cooperative Association and Great Oaks Institute of Technology. These organizations are presented in Note 12.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the District have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The most significant of the District's accounting policies are described below.

MEASUREMENT FOCUS

Government-wide Financial Statements

The District's basic financial statements consist of government-wide statements, including a statement of net assets and a statement of activities and fund financial statements which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

The government-wide statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. All assets and liabilities associated with the operation of the District are included on the statement of net assets. Fiduciary Funds are not included in entity-wide statements.

The government-wide statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function or program of the District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues which are not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues of the District, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each business segment or governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the District.

Fund Financial Statements

All governmental funds are accounted for using a flow of current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities generally are included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

Fiduciary Funds are reported using the economic resources measurement focus.

FUND ACCOUNTING

The District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the fiscal year. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid management by segregating transactions related to certain District functions or activities. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The various funds of the District are grouped into the categories governmental and fiduciary. The focus of government fund financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds focus on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between governmental fund assets and liabilities is reported as fund balance. The following are the District's major governmental funds:

General Fund - The general fund is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The general fund balance is available for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Debt Service Fund – The debt service fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for the payment of general obligation bond principal and interest and certain other long-term obligations from governmental resources when the District is obligated in some manner for the payment.

Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net assets and changes in net assets. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds and agency funds. Trust funds are used to account for assets held by the District under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments and are therefore not available to support the District's own programs. Agency funds are custodial in nature (assets equal liabilities) and do not involve measurement of results of operations. The District has a student activity fund which accounts for assets and liabilities generated by student managed activities. The District's only trust fund is a private purpose trust which accounts for scholarship programs for students.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. Government-wide financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Fiduciary funds also use the accrual basis of accounting. Differences in the actual and the modified accrual basis of accounting arise in the recognition of revenue, the recording of deferred revenue, and in the presentation of expenses versus expenditures.

Revenues – Exchange and Non-exchange Transactions

Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place. On a modified accrual basis, revenue is recorded in the fiscal year in which the resources are measurable and become available. Available means that the resources will be collected within the current fiscal year or are expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current fiscal year. For the District, available means expected to be received within sixty days of fiscal year end.

Nonexchange transactions, in which the District receives value without directly giving equal value in return, included property taxes, grants, entitlements and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. Revenue from grants, entitlements and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the District must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the District on a reimbursement basis. On a modified accrual basis, revenue from nonexchange transactions must also be available before it can be recognized.

Under the modified accrual basis, the following revenue sources are considered to be both measurable and available at year end: property taxes available for advance, grants and interest.

Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue arises when assets are recognized before revenue recognition criteria have been satisfied.

Property taxes for which there is an enforceable legal claim as of June 30, 2007, but which were levied to finance fiscal year 2008 operations, have been recorded as deferred revenue. Grants and entitlements received before the eligibility requirements are met are also recorded as deferred revenue.

On governmental fund financial statements, receivables that will not be collected within the available period have also been reported as deferred revenue.

Unearned Revenue

Unearned revenue represents amounts under the accrual basis of accounting for which asset recognition criteria have been met, but for which revenue recognition criteria have not yet been met because such amounts have not yet been earned.

Expenses/Expenditures

On the accrual basis of accounting, expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred. The fair value of donated commodities used during the year is reported in the operating statement as an expense with a like amount reported as donated commodities revenue. Unused donated commodities are reported as deferred revenue.

The measurement focus of governmental fund accounting is on decreases in net financial resources (expenditures) rather than expenses. Expenditures are generally recognized in the accounting period in which the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable. Allocations of cost, such as depreciation and amortization, are not recognized in the governmental funds.

EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Cash received by the District is pooled for investment purposes. Interest in the pool is presented as “Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments” on the financial statements.

Investments are reported at fair value which is based on quoted market prices.

The District has invested funds in the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAROhio) during fiscal year 2007. STAROhio is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer’s Office, which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAROhio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company but does operate in a manner consistent with Rule2A7 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Investments in STAROhio are valued at STAROhio’s share price, which is the price the investment could be sold for on June 30, 2007.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest revenue during fiscal year 2007 amounted to \$311,931 in the general fund and \$51,395 in other governmental funds.

For presentation on the financial statements, all investments of the cash management pool are considered to be cash equivalents.

INVENTORY

Inventories are presented at cost on a first-in, first-out basis and are expensed/expensed when used. Inventory consists of food held for resale and consumable supplies.

CAPITAL ASSETS

All capital assets are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their fair market values as of the date received. The District has a capitalization threshold of \$2,500. The District does not possess any infrastructure. Improvements are capitalized; the costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend an asset's life are not. Interest incurred during the construction of capital assets is also capitalized.

All reported capital assets are depreciated, except land. Improvements are depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets. Depreciation is allocated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Lives</u>
Land Improvements	10-45 years
Buildings and Improvements	10-45 years
Equipment	5-20 years

COMPENSATED ABSENCES

The District reports compensated absences in accordance with the provisions of GASB Statement No. 16, "Accounting for Compensated Absences." Vacation benefits are accrued as a liability as the benefits are earned if the employees' rights to receive compensation are attributable to services already rendered and it is probable that the District will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means. The District records a liability for accumulated unused vacation time, when earned, for all employees with more than one year of service.

Sick leave benefits are accrued as a liability using the vesting method. The entire compensated absence liability is reported on the government-wide financial statements.

For governmental fund financial statements, the expenditures for compensated absences are recognized when paid, or in the case of termination benefits, when due for payment. These amounts due at year end are recorded in the account "compensated absences payable" in the fund from which the employees who have accumulated unpaid leave are paid. Compensated absences are reported in governmental funds only if they have matured.

The District's policies regarding compensated absences are determined by the state laws and/or negotiated agreements. In summary, the policies are as follows:

<u>Vacation</u>	<u>Certified</u>	<u>Administrators</u>	<u>Non-certificated</u>
How earned	Not Eligible	20 days	3-26 days for each service year depending on length of service
Maximum Accumulation	Not Applicable	20 days	26 days
Vested	Not Applicable	As Earned	As Earned
Termination Entitlement	Not Applicable	None	None
<u>Sick Leave</u>	<u>Certified</u>	<u>Administers</u>	<u>Non-certificated</u>
How Earned	1 1/4 days per month of employment (15 days per year)	1 1/4 days per month of employment (15 days per year)	1 1/4 days per month of employment (15 days per year)
Maximum Accumulation	270 days	280 days	275 days
Vested	As Earned	As Earned	As Earned
Termination Entitlement	Per Contract	Per Contract	Per Contract

NET ASSETS

Net assets represent the difference between assets and liabilities. Net assets invested in capital assets, net of related debt consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowings used for the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net assets are reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments.

The District applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available. Of the District's \$3,979,979 in restricted net assets, none were restricted by enabling legislation.

INTERFUND ACTIVITY

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as revenues in the seller funds and as expenditures/expenses in the purchaser funds. Flows of cash or goods from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular expenditures/expenses to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented on the financial statements.

On fund financial statements, receivables and payables resulting from short-term interfund loans are classified as "interfund receivables/payables". These amounts are eliminated in the governmental activities column on the Statement of Net Assets.

As a general rule, the effect of interfund (internal) activity has been eliminated from the government-wide statement of activities. The interfund services provided and used are not eliminated in the process of consolidation.

FUND EQUITY

Reserved fund balances indicate a portion of fund equity which is not available for current appropriation or is legally segregated for a specific use. Fund balances are reserved for encumbrances, inventory, budgetary set-asides, and property tax advances. The reserve for property taxes represents taxes recognized as revenue under generally accepted accounting principles but not available for appropriations under State statute. The unreserved portion of fund equity, reflected for the Governmental Funds, is available for use within the specific purpose of those funds.

ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

RESTRICTED ASSETS

Restricted assets in the General Fund represent cash and investments set aside to establish a budget stabilization reserve. A corresponding fund balance reserve has also been established.

3. EQUITY IN POOLED CASH AND INVESTMENTS

The District maintains a cash and investment pool used by all funds. Each fund type's portion of this pool is displayed on the combined balance sheet as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments."

State statute requires the classification of monies held by the District into three categories:

Active Monies - Those monies required to be kept in a "cash" or "near cash" status for immediate use by the District. Such monies must by law be maintained either as cash in the District treasury, in depository accounts payable or withdrawable on demand.

Inactive Monies – Those monies not required for use within the current two year period of designated depositories. Ohio law permits inactive monies to be deposited or invested as certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designated depositories, or as savings or deposit accounts, including, but not limited to passbook accounts.

Interim Monies – Those monies which are not needed for immediate use but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Ohio law permits interim monies to be invested or deposited in the following securities:

- (1) Bonds, notes, or other obligations of or guaranteed by the United States, or those for which the faith of the United States is pledged for the payment of principal and interest.
- (2) Bonds, notes, debentures, or other obligations or securities issued by any federal governmental agency.
- (3) No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in (1) or (2) above and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions.
- (4) Interim deposits in the eligible institutions applying for interim monies to be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from date of deposit, or by savings or deposit accounts, including, but limited to, passbook accounts.
- (5) Bonds, and other obligations of the State of Ohio.
- (6) The Ohio State Treasurer's investment pool (STAROhio).
- (7) Commercial paper and banker's acceptances which meet the requirements established by Ohio Revised Code, Sec. 135.142.
- (8) Under limited circumstances, corporate debt interests in either of the two highest rating classifications by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies.

Protection of the District's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, by surety company bonds deposited with the treasurer by the financial institution, by a line of credit, or by a single collateral pool established by the financial institution to secure the repayment of all public moneys deposited with the institution.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage and short selling are also prohibited. An investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the District, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity. Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the treasurer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

Deposits

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the government's deposits may not be returned to it. The District's policy for deposits is any balance not covered by depository insurance will be collateralized by the financial institutions with pledged securities or a line of credit. As of June 30, 2007, \$700,100 of the District's bank balance of \$1,159,700 was exposed to custodial risk because it was uninsured and collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent, but not in the District's name.

Ohio Revised Code Chapter 135, Uniform Depository Act, authorizes pledging of pooled securities in lieu of specific securities. Specifically, a designated public depository may pledge a single pool of eligible securities to secure repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution, provided that all times the total value of the securities so pledged is at least equal to 105% of the total amount of all public deposits secured by the pool, including the portion of such deposits covered by any federal deposit insurance.

Investments

As of June 30, 2007, the District had the following investments:

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Weighted Average Maturity (Years)</u>
Money Market Funds	\$463,286	0.00
STAROhio	290,363	0.11
Federal Home Loan Bank	1,000,000	1.65
Federal Home Loan Mortgage	1,000,167	1.03
Federal National Mortgage Association	1,000,000	1.71
Total Fair Value	<u>\$3,753,816</u>	
Portfolio Weighted Average Maturity		1.17

Interest rate risk - In accordance with the investment policy, the District manages its exposure to declines in fair values by limiting the weighted average maturity of its investment portfolio to three years.

Credit Risk – It is the District’s policy to limit its investments that are not obligations of the U.S. Government or obligations explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. Government to investments which have the highest credit quality rating issued by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations. The District’s investments in the Money Market Funds, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage, and Federal National Mortgage Association funds were rated AAA by Standard and Poor’s and Fitch ratings and Aaa by Moody’s Investment Service. Investments in STAROhio were rated AAAM by Standard & Pools.

Concentration of credit risk – The District’s investment policy allows investments in Federal Agencies or Instrumentalities. The District has invested 12% of the District’s investments in Money Market Funds, 8% in STAROhio, 27% in Federal Home Loan Bank, 27% in Federal Home Loan Mortgage, and 27% in Federal National Mortgage Association.

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the District will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. All of the District’s securities are either insured and registered in the name of the District or at least registered in the name of the District.

4. PROPERTY AND INCOME TAXES

Property Tax

Real property taxes collected in 2007 were levied in April on the assessed values as of January 1, 2006, the lien date. Assessed values are established by the County Auditor at 35 percent of appraised market value. A re-evaluation of real property is required to be completed no less than every six years, with a statistical update every third year. Tangible personal property tax is assessed on equipment and inventory held by businesses. Tangible property is assessed at 25 percent of true value (as defined). Each business was eligible to receive a \$10,000 exemption in assessed value which was reimbursed by the State.

The tangible personal property tax will phase out over a four-year period starting with tax year 2006 and ending with no tax due in 2009. This phase-out applies to most businesses and includes furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment and inventory. New manufacturing and equipment first reportable on the 2006 and subsequent year returns is not subject to the personal property tax.

Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. In 2007, if paid annually, payment was due by January 20th. If paid semi-annually, the first payment (at least 1/2 amount billed) was due January 20th with the remainder due on June 20th.

The Hamilton County Auditor remits portions of the taxes collected to all taxing districts with periodic settlements of real and public utility property taxes in February and August and tangible personal property taxes in June and October. The District records billed but uncollected property taxes as receivables at their estimated net realizable value.

Accrued property taxes receivable represent delinquent taxes outstanding and real property, personal property and public utility taxes which became measurable at June 30, 2007. Delinquent property taxes collected within 60 days of the fiscal year end are included as a receivable and tax revenue on the fund financial statements. Although total property tax collections for the next fiscal year are measurable, only the amount available as an advance at June 30 is available to finance current year operations. The receivable is offset by a credit to deferred revenue for that portion not intended to finance current year operations. The amount available as an advance at June 30, 2007, was \$3,470,000 for General Fund and \$579,000 for Debt Service Fund and is recognized as revenue, with a corresponding reserve to fund balance since the Board did not appropriate these receivables for fiscal year 2007 operations.

On a full accrual basis, collectible delinquent property taxes have been recorded as a receivable and revenue, while on a modified accrual basis the revenue has been deferred.

The assessed values upon which the fiscal year 2007 taxes were collected are:

	<u>Amount</u>
Agricultural/Residential and Other Real Estate	\$475,683,570
Public Utility Personal	18,682,270
Tangible Personal Property	<u>38,141,034</u>
Total	<u>\$532,506,874</u>

Income Tax

The District levies a voted tax of .75 percent for general operations on the earned income of residents. The tax was effective on January 1, 2007, and is a continuous levy. Employers of residents are required to withhold income tax on compensation and remit the tax to the State. Taxpayers are required to file an annual return. The State makes quarterly distributions to the District after withholding amounts for administrative fees and estimated refunds. Income tax revenue is credited to the General Fund.

5. RECEIVABLES

Receivables at June 30, 2007, consisted of taxes, accounts (rent and student fees), intergovernmental grants, and interfund. All receivables are considered collectible in full due to the ability to foreclose for the nonpayment of taxes, the stable condition of State programs, and the current year guarantee of federal funds.

6. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007, was as follows:

	Restated Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance
Governmental Activities				
<i>Capital Assets, not being depreciated:</i>				
Land	\$2,875,501	\$0	\$0	\$2,875,501
<i>Capital Assets, being depreciated:</i>				
Land Improvements	2,729,562	0	0	2,729,562
Buildings and Improvements	31,847,291	0	0	31,847,291
Equipment	5,096,519	188,232	0	5,284,751
Totals at Historical Cost	<u>42,548,873</u>	<u>188,232</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>42,737,105</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation:				
Land Improvements	1,261,731	130,911	0	1,392,642
Buildings and Improvements	11,376,857	734,896	0	12,111,753
Equipment	3,771,620	298,083	0	4,069,703
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>16,410,208</u>	<u>1,163,890</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>17,574,098</u>
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$26,138,665</u>	<u>(\$975,658)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$25,163,007</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to governmental functions as follows:

Instruction:	
Regular	\$800,865
Special	35,738
Vocational	270
Support Services:	
Pupils	879
Instructional Staff	24,499
School Administration	54,020
Operations and Maintenance	51,258
Pupil Transportation	126,004
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	53,040
Extracurricular Activities	17,317
Total Depreciation Expense	<u>\$1,163,890</u>

7. LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

	Maturity Dates	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance	Due Within One Year
Governmental Activities						
<u>General Obligation Bonds and Notes:</u>						
1994 5.07% School Facilities	12/01/10	\$65,516	\$0	\$33,957	\$31,559	\$31,559
1999 4.96% School Improvement I	12/01/27	8,590,000	0	235,000	8,355,000	245,000
1999 5.05% School Improvement II	12/01/27	8,670,000	0	225,000	8,445,000	235,000
2006 4.50% School Facilities - Refunding Bonds	12/01/10	1,660,000	0	0	1,660,000	0
2005 3.67% Notes Payable	03/15/10	1,700,000	0	300,000	1,400,000	300,000
Total General Obligation Bonds and Notes		20,685,516	0	793,957	19,891,559	811,559
Compensated Absences		3,860,803	616,508	356,689	4,120,622	418,289
Total Governmental Activities Long-Term Liabilities		\$24,546,319	\$616,508	\$1,150,646	\$24,012,181	\$1,229,848

General obligation bonds will be paid from the debt service fund. The notes will be paid from the general and permanent improvement fund. Compensated absences will be paid from the fund from which the person is paid.

On March 15, 2005, the District issued \$2,000,000 in General Obligation Notes with an interest rate of 3.67%. The net proceeds were used to purchase 63.51 acres of land.

Principal and interest requirements to retire general obligation debt outstanding at year end are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	<u>General Obligation Bonds and Notes</u>		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2008	\$811,559	\$1,452,570	\$2,264,129
2009	1,330,000	920,495	2,250,495
2010	1,870,000	863,258	2,733,258
2011	1,120,000	781,773	1,901,773
2012	570,000	737,083	1,307,083
2013-2017	3,310,000	3,161,095	6,471,095
2018-2022	4,225,000	2,221,237	6,446,237
2023-2027	5,390,000	1,025,309	6,415,309
2028	1,265,000	31,950	1,296,950
Total	\$19,891,559	\$11,194,770	\$31,086,329

8. PRIOR YEAR DEFEASANCE OF DEBT

In prior years, the District defeased certain general obligation bonds by placing the proceeds of the new bonds in an irrevocable trust to provide for all future debt service payments on the old bonds. Accordingly, the trust account assets and the liability for the defeased bonds are not included on the District's financial statements. On June 30, 2007, \$1,660,000 of bonds outstanding are considered defeased.

9. PENSION PLANS

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The District contributes to the School Employees Retirement System (SERS), a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan. SERS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained by writing to the School Employees Retirement System, 300 East Broad Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3746, or by calling (800) 878-5823 or by visiting the SERS website at ohsers.org.

Plan members are required to contribute 10% of their annual covered salary and the District is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current District rate is 14% of annual covered payroll. A portion of the School District's contribution is used to fund pension obligations with the remainder being used to fund health care benefits; for fiscal year 2007, 10.68 percent of annual covered salary was the portion used to fund pension obligations. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended, up to a statutory maximum amount, by the SERS' Retirement Board. The District's required contributions for pension obligations to SERS for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2007, 2006, and 2005 were \$542,724, \$541,848, and \$517,596, respectively; 52% has been contributed for fiscal year 2007 and 100% for fiscal years 2006 and 2005.

STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The District participates in State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS Ohio), a cost-sharing, multiple employer public employee retirement system. STRS Ohio provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. STRS Ohio issues a stand-alone financial report that may be obtained by writing to STRS Ohio, 275 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3371, or by calling (614) 227-4090 or by visiting the STRS website at www.strsoh.org.

New members have a choice of three retirement plans, a Defined Benefit (DB) Plan, a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan and a Combined Plan. The DB Plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary times a percentage that varies based on years of service, or an allowance based on member contributions and earned interest matched by STRS Ohio funds times an actuarially determined annuity factor. The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and employer contributions equal to 10.5% of earned compensation

into an investment account. Investment decisions are made by the member. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The Combined Plan offers features of both the DC Plan and DB Plan. In the Combined Plan, member contributions are invested by the member, and employer contributions are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. DC and Combined Plan members will transfer to the Defined Benefit Plan during their fifth year of membership unless they permanently select the DC or Combined Plan. Existing members with less than five years of service credit as of June 30, 2001, were given the option of making a one time irrevocable decision to transfer their account balances from the existing DB Plan into the DC Plan or the Combined Plan. This option expired on December 31, 2001. Benefits are established by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code.

A DB or Combined Plan member with five or more years credited service who becomes disabled may qualify for a disability benefit. Eligible spouses and dependents of these active members who die before retirement may qualify for survivor benefits. Members in the DC Plan who become disabled are entitled only to their account balance. If a member dies before retirement benefits begin, the member's designated beneficiary is entitled to receive the member's account balance.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007, plan members were required to contribute 10% of their annual covered salaries. The District was required to contribute 14%; 13% was the portion used to fund pension obligations. Contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board, upon recommendations of its consulting actuary, not to exceed statutory maximum rates of 10% for members and 14% for employers. Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code provides statutory authority for members and employer contributions.

The District's required contributions for pension obligations for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2007, 2006, and 2005 were \$2,212,608, \$2,166,948, and \$1,992,504, respectively; 84% has been contributed for fiscal year 2007 and 100% for fiscal years 2006 and 2005.

10. POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The District provides comprehensive health care benefits to retired teachers and their dependents through the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS), and to retired non-certified employees and their dependents through the School Employees Retirement System (SERS). Benefits included hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs, and reimbursement of monthly Medicare premiums. Benefit provision and the obligations to contribute are established by the Systems based on authority granted by State statute. Both systems are on a pay-as-you-go basis.

All STRS Ohio retirees who participated in the DB or Combined Plans and their dependents are eligible for health care coverage. The STRS Ohio Board has statutory authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS Ohio. All benefit recipients are required to pay a portion of health care cost in the form of a monthly premium. By Ohio law, the cost of coverage paid from STRS funds shall be included in the employer contribution rate, currently 14% of covered payroll. The Board currently allocates employer contributions equal to 1% of covered payroll to the Health Care Reserve Fund for which payments for health care benefits are paid. For the District, this amount equaled \$158,043 during the 2007 fiscal year.

STRS pays health care benefits from the Health Care Stabilization Fund. At June 30, 2006, (the latest information available) the balance in the Fund was \$3.5 billion. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, net health care costs paid by STRS were \$282,743,000 and STRS had 119,184 eligible benefit recipients.

For SERS, coverage is made available to service retirees with ten or more fiscal years of qualifying service credit, disability, and survivor benefit recipients. All retirees and beneficiaries are required to pay a portion of their premium for health care. The portion is based on years of service, Medicare eligibility, and retirement status. Premiums may be reduced for retirees whose household income falls below the poverty level.

After the allocation for basic benefits, the remainder of the employer's 14 percent contribution is allocated to providing health care benefits. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007, employer contributions to fund health care benefits were 3.32 percent of covered payroll. In addition, SERS levies a surcharge to fund health care benefits equal to 14 percent of the difference between a minimum pay and the member's pay, pro-rated for partial service credit. For fiscal year 2007, the minimum pay was established at \$35,800. However, the surcharge is capped at 2 percent of each employer's SERS salaries. For the 2007 fiscal year, District paid approximately \$128,703 to fund health care benefits, including the surcharge.

The surcharge, added to the unallocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate, provides for maintenance of the asset target level for the health care fund. The target level for the health care reserve is 150 percent of annual health care expenses. Net health care cost for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006 (the latest information available), were \$158,751,207. At June 30, 2006, SERS had net assets available for payment of health care benefits of \$295.6 million. SERS has approximately 59,492 participants currently receiving health care benefits.

11. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

GRANTS

The District receives significant financial assistance from numerous federal, state and local agencies in the form of grants. The disbursement of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and is subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the General Fund or other applicable funds.

However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material effect on any of the financial statements of the individual fund types included herein or on the overall financial position of the District as of June 30, 2007.

LITIGATION

The District's attorney estimates that all other potential claims against the District not covered by insurance resulting from all other litigation would not materially affect the financial statements of the District.

12. JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

Hamilton/Clermont Cooperative Association (HCAA) - The Hamilton/Clermont Cooperative Association is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio operated under the direction of a Board consisting of one representative from each of the twenty-four participating school districts' elected boards, which possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. To obtain financial information write to the Hamilton Clermont Cooperative Association, Don Rabe, who serves as Treasurer, at 11083 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45231.

Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development - The Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio operated under the direction of a Board consisting of thirty-five members representing thirty-six affiliated school districts, which possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. To obtain financial information, write to the Great Oaks Institute of Technology and Career Development, Robert Giuffré, who serves as Chief Financial Officer, at 3254 East Kemper Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45241.

13. RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft or damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During the fiscal year, the District contracted with Indiana Insurance for fleet and liability insurance and Inland Marine coverage for property insurance.

Coverages provided by Indiana Insurance are as follows:

Building and Contents-replacement cost (\$10,000 deductible)	\$81,283,145
Inland Marine Coverage (\$1,000 deductible)	
Musical Instruments (\$250 deductible)	50,650
1999 John Deer Mower (\$500 deductible)	7,000
Automobile Liability (\$1,000 deductible)	1,000,000
Uninsured Motorists (\$1,000 deductible)	1,000,000
General Liability	
Per occurrence	1,000,000
Aggregate	2,000,000
Total per year	5,000,000

Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years.

14. FUND BALANCE RESERVES FOR SET-ASIDES

The District is required by State statute to annually set aside in the general fund an amount based on a statutory formula for the purchase of textbooks and other instructional materials and an equal amount for the acquisition and construction of capital improvements. Amounts not spent by year-end or offset by similarly restricted resources received during the year must be held in cash at year-end and carried forward to be used for the same purposes in future years.

The District was no longer required to set aside funds in the budget reserve set-aside, with the exception of refund monies received from the Bureau of Workers' Compensation, which must be spent for specified purposes.

The following cash basis information describes the change in the year-end set-aside amounts for textbooks and capital acquisition. Disclosure of this information is required by State statute.

	Textbooks	Capital Acquisition	Budget Stabilization
Set-aside Reserve Balance as of June 30, 2006	(\$697,707)	\$0	\$177,561
Current Year Set-aside Requirement	553,357	553,357	0
Qualified Disbursements	(338,951)	(717,411)	0
Set-aside Reserve Balance as of June 30, 2007	<u>(\$483,301)</u>	<u>(\$164,054)</u>	<u>\$177,561</u>
Restricted Cash as of June 30, 2007	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$177,561</u>
Carried Forward to FY 2008	<u>(\$483,301)</u>		

Offsets/expenditures for textbook activity during the year exceeded the required set-aside and the reserve balance. The surplus of \$483,301 above may be carried forward to reduce the amount of the required set-aside in succeeding fiscal years.

Expenditures for capital activity during the year totaled \$717,411 above, which exceeded the required set-aside and the reserve balance. Although the District had qualifying disbursements during the year that reduced the Capital Acquisition set-aside amounts to below zero, these extra amounts may not be used to reduce the set-aside requirements of future years. Negative amounts are therefore not presented as being carried forward to the next fiscal year.

15. ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

Accountability

The following funds had a deficit in fund balance:

Special Revenue Funds:	
Title VI-B	\$11,166
Title I	97,817
Improving Teacher Quality	7,861

The deficit in fund balance was due to accruals in GAAP. The general fund is liable for any deficit in these funds and will provide operating transfers when cash is required not when accruals occur.

Compliance

Ohio Rev. Code, § 5705.41(D)(1) prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance. The District did not properly certify the availability of funds for purchase commitments for 16 expenditures totaling \$445,784 in 2007.

16. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT

A prior period adjustment was required to restate capital assets at June 30, 2006 due to the District updating their capital asset policy to exclude textbooks from their capital asset detail. This restatement had the following effect on net assets at June 30, 2006:

	Governmental <u>Activities</u>
Net assets as previously reported	\$9,577,031
Restatement for capital assets	<u>(370,819)</u>
Net assets, restated at July 1, 2006	<u>\$9,206,212</u>

17. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

On August 29, 2007 Southwest Local School District issued \$9,310,000 School Improvement Refunding Bonds. These bonds were issued to retire former issuance of bonds for building construction and renovation.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Southwest Local School District
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis)
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2007

	General Fund			
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance from Final Budget
Revenues:				
Taxes	\$12,298,913	\$11,467,254	\$11,467,254	\$0
Tuition and Fees	92,467	86,214	86,214	0
Investment Earnings	334,554	267,274	311,931	44,657
Intergovernmental	16,445,096	15,333,070	15,333,070	0
Other Revenues	234,609	218,745	218,745	0
Total Revenues	29,405,639	27,372,557	27,417,214	44,657
Expenditures:				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	14,477,961	14,731,480	14,645,118	86,362
Special	2,835,376	2,868,112	2,868,112	0
Vocational	241,536	244,325	244,325	0
Other	611,976	619,042	619,042	0
Support Services:				
Pupil	935,505	946,306	946,306	0
Instructional Staff	1,102,399	1,115,127	1,115,127	0
General Administration	55,909	56,555	56,555	0
School Administration	2,577,378	2,607,135	2,607,135	0
Fiscal	676,729	684,542	684,542	0
Operations and Maintenance	3,290,701	3,328,694	3,328,694	0
Pupil Transportation	1,710,609	1,730,359	1,730,359	0
Central	26,706	27,014	27,014	0
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	2,046	2,578	2,070	508
Extracurricular Activities	544,818	551,108	551,108	0
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	150,000	150,000	150,000	0
Interest and Fiscal Charges	58,117	60,520	60,520	0
Total Expenditures	29,297,766	29,722,897	29,636,027	86,870
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	107,873	(2,350,340)	(2,218,813)	131,527
Other financing sources (uses):				
Advances (Out)	(102,235)	(103,415)	(103,415)	0
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(102,235)	(103,415)	(103,415)	0
Net Change in Fund Balance	5,638	(2,453,755)	(2,322,228)	131,527
Fund Balance Beginning of Year (includes prior year encumbrances appropriated)	2,747,526	2,747,526	2,747,526	0
Fund Balance End of Year	\$2,753,164	\$293,771	\$425,298	\$131,527

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
For The Year Ended June 30, 2007

1. BUDGETARY PROCESS

All funds, except agency funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the appropriations resolution and the certificate of estimated resources which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amount that the Board of Education may appropriate. The appropriation resolution is the Board's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on expenditures plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Board. The legal level of control has been established by the Board at the fund level. Any budgetary modifications at this level may only be made by resolution of the Board.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in revenue are identified by the District Treasurer. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the certificate of estimated resources when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the final amended certificate of estimated resources issued during the fiscal year 2007.

The appropriation resolution is subject to amendment by the Board throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation resolution for that fund that covered the entire year, including amounts automatically carried forward from prior years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the Board during the year.

While the District is reporting financial position, results of operations and changes in fund balance on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements and encumbrances. The Combined Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Budget (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual presented on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The major differences between the budget basis and GAAP basis are as follows:

1. Revenues are recorded when received in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP basis).
2. Expenditures are recorded when paid in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when the liability is incurred (GAAP basis).
3. Encumbrances are treated as expenditures for all funds (budget basis) rather than as a reservation of fund balance for governmental fund types and expendable trust funds (GAAP basis).
4. Advances in and advances out are operating transactions (budget basis) as opposed to balance sheet transactions.

The following table summarizes the adjustments necessary to reconcile the GAAP basis statements to the budgetary basis statements for the general fund.

Net Change in Fund Balance

	<u>General</u>
GAAP Basis	(\$1,351,009)
Net Adjustment for Revenue Accruals	(427,489)
Net Adjustment for Expenditure Accruals	(89,395)
Advances	(103,415)
Encumbrances	<u>(350,920)</u>
Budget Basis	<u>(\$2,322,228)</u>

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**SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HAMILTON COUNTY**

**FEDERAL AWARDS EXPENDITURES SCHEDULE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007**

Federal Grantor/ Pass Through Grantor Program Title	Pass Through Entity Number	Federal CFDA Number	Receipts	Non-Cash Receipts	Disbursements	Non-Cash Disbursements
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</u>						
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education:</i>						
Child Nutrition Cluster						
School Breakfast Program	05-PU	10.553	\$99,506	\$0	\$99,506	\$0
National School Lunch Program	LL-P4	10.555	301,020	0	301,020	0
Total Child Nutrition Cluster			400,526	0	400,526	0
Food Commodity Distribution	nn-n1	10.550	0	55,549	0	55,549
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			400,526	55,549	400,526	55,549
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</u>						
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education:</i>						
Special Education Cluster:						
Special Education Grants to States (Title VI-B)	6B-SF	84.027	703,729	0	774,288	0
Total Special Education Cluster			703,729	0	774,288	0
Grants to Local Educational Agencies (Title I)	C1-S1	84.010	271,476	0	269,882	0
Safe and Drug Free Schools	DR-S1	84.186	7,133	0	10,133	0
Title V -- Innovative Education Program Strategies	C2-S1	84.298	5,647	0	4,922	0
Title II-D - Technology Literacy Challenge	TJ-S1	84.318	3,732	0	19,590	0
Improving Teacher Quality	TR-S1	84.367	140,319	0	125,166	0
Total U.S. Department of Education			1,132,036	0	1,203,981	0
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY</u>						
Katrina Relief	HR-01	84.938	6,500	0	16,500	0
Total U.S. Department of Homeland Security			6,500	0	16,500	0
Totals			\$1,539,062	\$55,549	\$1,621,007	\$55,549

The accompanying notes to this schedule are an integral part of this schedule.

**SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HAMILTON COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FEDERAL AWARDS EXPENDITURES SCHEDULE
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2007**

NOTE A – SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying Federal Awards Expenditures Schedule (the Schedule) summarizes activity of the District's federal award programs. The schedule has been prepared on the cash basis of accounting.

NOTE B – MATCHING REQUIREMENTS

Certain federal programs require that the District contribute non-federal funds (matching funds) to support the federally-funded programs. The District has complied with such matching requirements. The expenditure of non-federal matching funds is not included on the Schedule.

NOTE C - CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

Cash receipts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture are commingled with State grants. It is assumed federal monies are expended first.

NOTE D – FOOD DONATION PROGRAM

Program regulations do not require the District to maintain separate inventory records for purchased food and food received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This non-monetary assistance (expenditures) is reported in the Schedule at the fair value of the commodities received.



Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS REQUIRED BY *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Southwest Local School District
Hamilton County
230 South Elm Street
Harrison, Ohio 45030

To the Board of Education:

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the major funds, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Southwest Local School District, Hamilton County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2007, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated September 15, 2008. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our audit procedures for expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not to opine on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we have not opined on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting.

A control deficiency exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect misstatements on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the District's ability to initiate, authorize, record, process, or report financial data reliably in accordance with its applicable accounting basis, such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect a more-than-inconsequential financial statement misstatement.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies resulting in more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect a material financial statement misstatement.

Our consideration of internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all internal control deficiencies that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider material weaknesses, as defined above.

We noted certain matters that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated September 15, 2008.

Corporate Centre of Blue Ash / 11117 Kenwood Rd. / Blue Ash, OH 45242
Telephone: (513) 361-8550 (800) 368-7419 Fax: (513) 361-8577
www.auditor.state.oh.us

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*, which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2007-001.

We also noted certain noncompliance or other matters not requiring inclusion in this report that we reported to the District's management in a separate letter dated September 15, 2008.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management, Board of Education, and federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities. We intend it for no one other than these specified parties.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Taylor".

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

September 15, 2008



Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OMB CIRCULAR A-133

Southwest Local School District
Hamilton County
230 South Elm Street
Harrison, Ohio 45030

To the Board of Education:

Compliance

We have audited the compliance of Southwest Local School District, Hamilton County, Ohio (the District), with the types of compliance requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Circular A-133, Compliance Supplement* that apply to each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2007. The summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings identifies the District's major federal programs. The District's management is responsible for complying with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to each major federal program. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the District's compliance based on our audit.

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-133 require that we plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure whether noncompliance occurred with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could directly and materially affect a major federal program. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the District's compliance with those requirements and performing other procedures we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our audit does not provide a legal determination on the District's compliance with those requirements.

In our opinion, the District complied, in all material respects, with the requirements referred to above that apply to each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2007.

Internal Control Over Compliance

The District's management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to federal programs. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the District's internal control over compliance with requirements that could directly and materially affect a major federal program in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over compliance.

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A *control deficiency* in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect noncompliance with a federal program compliance requirement on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a control deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, that adversely affects the District's ability to administer a federal program such that there is more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect more-than-inconsequential noncompliance with a federal program compliance requirement.

A material weakness is a significant deficiency, or combination of significant deficiencies, that results in more than a remote likelihood that the District's internal control will not prevent or detect material noncompliance with a federal program's compliance requirements.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and would not necessarily identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above.

However, we noted a matter involving the internal control over federal compliance not requiring inclusion in this report, that we reported to the District's Management in a separate letter dated September 15, 2008.

We intend this report solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management, Board of Education, federal awarding agencies, and pass-through entities. It is not intended for anyone other than these specified parties.



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

September 15, 2008

**SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HAMILTON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
OMB CIRCULAR A -133 § .505
JUNE 30, 2007**

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unqualified
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any material control weakness conditions reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any other significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material non-compliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	Yes
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any material internal control weakness conditions reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any other significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(v)	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unqualified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under § .510?	No
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Programs (list):	CFDA # 84.027- Special Education Grants to States (Title VI-B) CFDA # 84.367-Improving Teacher Quality
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A\B Programs	Type A: > \$ 300,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee?	Yes

**FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS**

FINDING NUMBER 2007-001

Material Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code, Section 5705.41(D)(1), prohibits a subdivision or taxing entity from making any contract or ordering any expenditure of money unless a certificate signed by the fiscal officer is attached thereto. The fiscal officer must certify that the amount required to meet any such contract or expenditure has been lawfully appropriated and is in the treasury, or is in the process of collection to the credit of an appropriate fund free from any previous encumbrance. Further, contracts and orders for expenditures lacking prior certification shall be null and void.

There are several exceptions to the standard requirement stated above that a fiscal officer's certificate must be obtained prior to a subdivision or taxing authority entering into a contract or order involving the expenditure of money. The main exceptions are: "then and now" certificates, blanket certificates, and super blanket certificates, which are provided for in Sections 5705.41(D)(1) and 5705.41(D)(3), respectively, of the Ohio Revised Code.

**FINDING NUMBER 2007-001
(Continued)**

1. **“Then and Now” Certificate** – If the fiscal officer can certify that both at the time that the contract or order was made (“then”), and at the time that the fiscal officer is completing the certification (“now”), that sufficient funds were available or in the process of collection, to the credit of a proper fund, properly appropriated and free from any previous encumbrance, the District can authorize the drawing of a warrant for the payment of the amount due. The District has thirty days from the receipt of the “then and now” certificate to approve payment by ordinance or resolution.

Amounts of less than \$3,000 may be paid by the fiscal officer without a resolution or ordinance upon completion of the “then and now” certificate, provided that the expenditure is otherwise lawful. This does not eliminate any otherwise applicable requirement for approval of expenditures by the District.

2. **Blanket Certificate** – Fiscal officers may prepare “blanket” certificates for a certain sum of money not in excess of an amount established by resolution or ordinance adopted by a majority of the members of the legislative authority against any specific line item account over a period not running beyond the end of the current fiscal year. The blanket certificates may, but need not, be limited to a specific vendor. Only one blanket certificate may be outstanding at one particular time for any one particular line item appropriation.
3. **Super Blanket Certificate** – The District may also make expenditures and contracts for any amount from a specific line-item appropriation account in a specified fund upon certification of the fiscal officer for most professional services, fuel, oil, food items, and any other specific recurring and reasonably predictable operating expense. This certification is not to extend beyond the current year. More than one super blanket certificate may be outstanding at a particular time for any line item appropriation.

The District did not properly certify the availability of funds for purchase commitments for 26% of expenditures tested and none of the exceptions above applied. Failure to properly certify the availability of funds can result in overspending funds and negative cash fund balances.

Unless the District uses the exceptions noted above, prior certification is not only required by statute but also is a key control in the disbursement process to assure that purchase commitments receive prior approval. To improve controls over disbursements and to help reduce the possibility of the District’s funds exceeding budgetary spending limitations, we recommend that the Treasurer certify that funds are or will be available prior to obligation by the District. When prior certification is not possible, “then and now” certification should be used.

We recommend the District officials and employees obtain Treasurer’s certification of the availability of funds prior to the commitment being incurred. The most convenient certification method is to use purchase orders that include the certification language which 5705.41(D) requires to authorize disbursements. The Treasurer should sign the certification at the time the District incurs a commitment, and only when the requirements of 5705.41(D) are satisfied. The Treasurer should post approved purchase commitments to the proper appropriation code to reduce the available appropriation.

Officials’ Response:

We did not receive a response from officials regarding this finding.

FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None

**SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HAMILTON COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
JUNE 30, 2007**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i>
2006-001	5705.41(D) Properly Certifying Availability of Funds.	No	Reissued as Finding 2007-001



Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HAMILTON COUNTY

CLERK'S CERTIFICATION

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

Susan Babbitt

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

**CERTIFIED
OCTOBER 9, 2008**