



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**METROPOLITAN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION
MARION COUNTY**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Metropolitan Educational Technology Association
Marion County
100 Executive Drive
Marion, Ohio 43302

To the Board of Directors:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for the proprietary fund type and the fiduciary fund type as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, and related notes of the Metropolitan Educational Technology Association, Marion County, Ohio (the Association).

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to opine on these financial statements based on our audit. We audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require us to plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit requires obtaining evidence about financial statement amounts and disclosures. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including assessing the risks of material financial statement misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In assessing those risks, we consider internal control relevant to the Association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to the extent needed to opine on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

We believe the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the Association prepared these financial statements using the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D), which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements.

Although the effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory accounting basis and GAAP are not reasonably determinable, we presume they are material.

Though the Association does not intend these statements to conform to GAAP, auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America require us to include an adverse opinion on GAAP. However, the adverse opinion does not imply the amounts reported are materially misstated under the accounting basis Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit. Our opinion on this accounting basis is in the *Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting* paragraph below.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* paragraph, the financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Association, as of June 30, 2021, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended.

Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for the proprietary fund type and the fiduciary fund type as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, and related notes of the Association, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(D) permit, described in Note 1.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 25, 2022, on our consideration of the Association'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. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Association's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

January 25, 2022

META Solutions

Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and
Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
Enterprise Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

	<u>Enterprise</u>
Operating Cash Receipts	
Charges for Services	\$ 19,951,367
Member Premiums	3,012,319
Miscellaneous	707,561
Total Operating Cash Receipts	<u>23,671,247</u>
Operating Cash Disbursements	
Salaries	8,117,839
Employee Fringe Benefits	3,144,535
Purchased Services	5,932,983
Supplies and Materials	5,182,739
Claims	2,429,096
Miscellaneous	668,115
Total Operating Cash Disbursements	<u>25,475,307</u>
Operating Loss	(1,804,060)
Non-Operating Cash Receipts (Disbursements)	
Intergovernmental	5,459,972
Earnings on Investments	24,439
Sale of Assets	609,884
Capital Outlay	(2,689,096)
Debt Service:	
Principal Retirement	(302,902)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	(42,181)
Total Non-Operating Cash Receipts (Disbursements)	<u>3,060,116</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	1,256,056
Fund Cash Balance, July 1	<u>11,005,993</u>
Fund Cash Balance, June 30	<u>\$ 12,262,049</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

META Solutions

Statement of Additions, Deductions, and
Changes in Fund Balances (Regulatory Cash Basis)
Custodial Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

	<u>Custodial</u>
Additions	
Amounts Received for Member Premiums	\$ 3,544,108
Total Additions	<u>3,544,108</u>
Deductions	
Distributions on Behalf of Memebers	<u>3,544,108</u>
Total Deductions	<u>3,544,108</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	-
Fund Cash Balance, July 1	<u>187,496</u>
Fund Cash Balance, June 30	<u><u>\$ 187,496</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Metropolitan Educational Technology Association

*Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021*

NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Description of the Entity

The Metropolitan Educational Technology Association or META, (the Association) is a Regional Council of Governments pursuant to Chapter 167 of the Ohio Rev. Code. The Association provides computer systems for the needs of the member Boards of Education as authorized by state statute guidelines. The Association serves hundreds of schools throughout Ohio. The Association operates under a Board of Directors consisting of 13 members.

META was formed on April 1, 2015 through the merger of Tri-Rivers Educational Computer Association (TRECA) and the Metropolitan Educational Council (MEC). On January 1, 2016, the Association merged operations with the Southeastern Ohio Voluntary Education Cooperative, Athens County (SEOVEC), and on April 1, 2016, the Association merged with the Metropolitan Dayton Educational Cooperative Association (MDECA). These mergers were facilitated through agreements to better control costs and strengthen Ohio's largest and most comprehensive educational solutions provider. The result will maximize savings for member districts by providing continuous service, broadening portfolio offerings, and leveraging increased buying power.

COMPONENT UNIT

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the Association is financially accountable. The Association is financially accountable for an organization if the Association appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board and (1) the Association is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the Association is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the Association is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the Association is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the Association in that the Association approves the budget or issues debt. There are no component units of the Association.

The Association's management believes these financial statements presents all activities for which the Association is financially accountable.

B. Basis of Presentation

The Association's financial statements consists of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for the proprietary fund and a statement of additions, deductions, and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for the fiduciary fund.

C. Fund Accounting

The Association uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the Association are presented below:

Enterprise Funds account for operations that are similar to private business enterprises, where management intends to recover the significant costs of providing certain goods or services through user charges. The Associations operations are presented in a single enterprise fund.

Metropolitan Educational Technology Association

*Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021*

Fiduciary Funds are purely custodial in nature and are used to hold resources for individuals, organizations or other governments. The Association disburses these funds as directed by the individual, organization or other government. The Association had the following Fiduciary Fund:

Employee Benefits Insurance – This fund receives monies for insurance premiums by various participating members. Collections are then remitted to the appropriate provider on a monthly basis.

D. Basis of Accounting

These financial statements follows the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (D). This basis is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements accounting basis. The Association recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned, and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

These statement includes adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (D) permit.

E. Budgetary Process

The Association is not subject to budgetary laws prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code.

F. Deposits and Investments

The Association's accounting basis includes investments as assets. This basis does not record disbursements for investment purchases or receipts for investment sales. This basis records gains or losses at the time of sale as receipts or disbursements, respectively.

During fiscal year 2021, the Association invested in U.S. Treasury Notes, negotiable certificates of deposit, money market mutual funds, commercial paper, and STAR Ohio. U.S. Treasury Notes, negotiable certificates of deposit, and commercial paper are valued at cost and money market mutual funds are recorded at share values the mutual funds report. STAR Ohio (the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio), is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Statement No. 79, *Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants*. The Association measures their investment in STAR Ohio at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

For the fiscal year 2021, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, notice must be given 24 hours in advance of all deposits and withdrawals exceeding \$25 million. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$100 million, requiring the excess amount to be transacted the following business day(s), but only to the \$100 million limit. All accounts of the participant will be combined for these purposes.

G. Capital Assets

The Association records disbursements for acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment when paid. The accompanying financial statements do not report these items as assets.

Metropolitan Educational Technology Association

*Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021*

H. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. The financial statements do not include a liability for unpaid leave.

I. Operating Cash Receipts and Cash Disbursements

Operating cash receipts are those cash receipts that are generated directly from the primary activity of the Association. These cash receipts are charges for services provided. Operating cash disbursements are necessary costs incurred to provide the goods and/or services that are the primary activity of the fund. For the Association, these disbursements are for personal services, fringe benefits, purchased services, and any other operating related disbursements which support the operation of the Association. All cash receipts and cash disbursements not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

NOTE 2 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

The Association maintains a deposit and investment pool all funds use. The Ohio Revised Code prescribes allowable deposits and investments. The carrying amount of deposits and investments at June 30 was as follows:

Demand deposits	\$ 4,889,815
Total deposits	<u>4,889,815</u>
STAR Ohio	554,490
Money Market	559,782
Commercial Paper	1,247,958
US Government Agency Notes	4,961,913
Negotiable Certificates of Deposit	<u>235,587</u>
Total investments	<u>7,559,730</u>
Total deposits and investments	<u>\$ 12,449,545</u>

A. Deposits

Protection of the Association's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, or by the financial institutions participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

At June 30, 2021, \$4,466,253 of deposits were not insured; however, the amount is collateralized.

Metropolitan Educational Technology Association

*Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021*

B. Investments

The Federal Reserve holds the Association's U.S. Treasury Notes in book-entry form in the name of the Association's financial institution. The financial institution maintains records identifying the Association as owner of these securities.

Investments in STAR Ohio and money market funds are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book-entry form.

NOTE 3 - RISK MANAGEMENT

A. Commercial Insurance

The Association has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

- Comprehensive property and general liability;
- Vehicles;
- Errors and omissions.

Settled claims have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage in any of the past three years. There has been no significant reduction in insurance coverage in fiscal year 2021 from fiscal year 2020.

Workers' Compensation coverage is provided by the State of Ohio. The Association pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs (if material). In addition, the Association provides health insurance to full time employees through private carriers.

B. Dental Insurance Consortium

The Association operates a dental insurance consortium for those members who wish to participate. Payments are made by members to the Association for monthly dental insurance premiums and administrative charges. The Association has contracted with a third-party administrator to process and pay dental benefit claims incurred by its members. The Association's third-party administrator for the year ended June 30, 2021 was Delta Dental. The Association approves monthly payments to the third-party administrator for actual insurance claims processed and administrative charges incurred on behalf of the members. If the members aggregate contributions less expenses cause it to have a negative cash balance, the Association shall promptly notify in writing each member of any additional funds necessary to correct the deficiency. Whereupon each member shall appropriate (pursuant to Chapter 5705 of the Revised Code) the amount stated in that notice and remit the same to the Association within the time periods determined by the Association.

A comparison of Self Insurance Fund cash and investments to the actuarially-measured liability as of June 30 is as follows:

	2021	2020	2019
Cash and Investments	\$ 645,203	\$ 586,994	\$ 433,100
Actuarial Liability	71,400	48,900	61,600

Metropolitan Educational Technology Association

*Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021*

C. META Solutions Group Health Benefits Plan

The Association participates in a self-funded medical insurance program administered by UMR with prescriptions provided through Optum Rx. The program is a partially self-funded program for medical and pharmacy and is protected by both individual stop loss coverage of \$75,000 per member as well as group aggregate stop loss coverage. The employees make contributions through payroll deductions. The Association receives monthly invoices from UMR for the administrative charges and weekly invoices for the claim costs. The Association offers 75 percent coverage for the PPO with single monthly coverage of \$589 and family monthly coverage of \$1,560. The Association also covers 90 percent for HSA with \$553 and \$1,467 for single and family monthly coverage, respectively.

A comparison of Self Insurance Fund cash and investments to the actuarially-measured liability as of June 30 is as follows:

	2021	2020
Actuarial Liability	\$ 121,900	\$ 80,400
Cash and Investments	709,669	651,801

NOTE 4 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description – Association non-teaching employees participate in SERS, a statewide, cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by SERS. SERS provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits, annual cost of living adjustments and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3309. SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about SERS’ fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by visiting the SERS website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

	Eligible to Retire on or before August 1, 2017 *	Eligible to Retire on or after August 1, 2017
Full Benefits	Any age with 30 years of service credit	Age 67 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 57 with 30 years of service credit
Actuarially Reduced Benefits	Age 60 with 5 years of service credit Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age 62 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 60 with 25 years of service credit

* Members with 25 years of service credit as of August 1, 2017, will be included in this plan.

Annual retirement benefits are calculated based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on year of service; 2.2 percent for the first 30 years of service and 2.5 percent for years of service credit over 30. Final average salary is the average of the highest three years of salary.

Metropolitan Educational Technology Association

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. Beginning April 1, 2018, new benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. A three-year COLA suspension is in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. Upon resumption of the COLA, it will be indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5 percent and with a floor of 0 percent.

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the School District is required to contribute 14 percent of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS' Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10 percent for plan members and 14 percent for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System's funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.0 percent. SERS did not allocate employer contributions to the Health Care Fund for fiscal year 2021.

Pension payments to SERS during the fiscal year totaled \$1,283,795.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description – Association licensed teachers and other faculty members participate in STRS Ohio, a cost-sharing multiple-employer public employee retirement system administered by STRS. STRS provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. STRS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about STRS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by writing to STRS, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771, by calling (888) 227-7877, or by visiting the STRS Web site 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. Benefits are established by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307.

The DB Plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. Effective August 1, 2017 – July 1, 2019, any member could retire with reduced benefits who had (1) five years of service credit and age 60; (2) 27 years of service credit and age 55; or (3) 30 years of service credit regardless of age. Effective August 1, 2019 – July 1, 2021, any member may retire with reduced benefits who has (1) five years of service credit and age 60; (2) 28 years of service credit and age 55; or (3) 30 years of service credit regardless of age. Eligibility changes will continue to be phased through August 1, 2026, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit and at least age 60. Eligibility changes for actuarially reduced benefits will be phased in until August 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility will be five years of qualifying service credit and age 60, or 30 years of service credit at any age.

Metropolitan Educational Technology Association

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 9.53 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. Investment allocation decisions are determined by the member. The remaining 4.47 percent of the 14 percent employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit plan unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a monthly retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lump-sum withdrawal.

The Combined plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined plan, 12 percent of the 14 percent member rate is deposited into the member's DC account and the remaining 2 percent is applied to the DB Plan. Member contributions to the DC Plan are allocated among investment choices by the member, and contributions to the DB Plan from the employer and the member are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of service. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity at age 50 and after termination of employment.

New members who choose the DC Plan or Combined Plan will have another opportunity to reselect a permanent plan during their fifth year of membership. Members may remain in the same plan or transfer to another STRS plan. The optional annuitization of a member's defined contribution account or the defined contribution portion of a member's Combined Plan account to a lifetime benefit results in STRS bearing the risk of investment gain or loss on the account. STRS has therefore included all three plan options as one defined benefit plan for GASB 68 reporting purposes.

A DB or Combined Plan member with five or more years of credited service who is determined to be disabled may qualify for a disability benefit. New members must have at least ten years of qualifying service credit to apply for disability benefits. Members in the DC plan who become disabled are entitled only to their account balance. Eligible survivors of members who die before service retirement may qualify for monthly benefits. If a member of the DC plan dies before retirement benefits begin, the member's designated beneficiary is entitled to receive the member's account balance.

Funding Policy – Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The statutory employer rate is 14 percent and the statutory member rate is 14 percent of covered payroll effective July 1, 2016. The County was required to contribute 14 percent; the entire 14 percent was the portion used to fund pension obligations. The 2020 contribution rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates.

Pension payments to STRS during the fiscal year totaled \$12,884.

Metropolitan Educational Technology Association

*Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021*

NOTE 5 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description - The Association contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 75 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. SERS' Health Care Plan provides healthcare benefits to eligible individuals receiving retirement, disability, and survivor benefits, and to their eligible dependents. Members who retire after June 1, 1986, need 10 years of service credit, exclusive of most types of purchased credit, to qualify to participate in SERS' health care coverage. In addition to age and service retirees, disability benefit recipients and beneficiaries who are receiving monthly benefits due to the death of a member or retiree, are eligible for SERS' health care coverage. Most retirees and dependents choosing SERS' health care coverage are over the age of 65 and therefore enrolled in a fully insured Medicare Advantage plan; however, SERS maintains a traditional, self-insured preferred provider organization for its non-Medicare retiree population. For both groups, SERS offers a self-insured prescription drug program. Health care is a benefit that is permitted, not mandated, by statute. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

Access to health care for retirees and beneficiaries is permitted in accordance with Section 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Health Care Fund was established and is administered in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 105(e). SERS' Retirement Board reserves the right to change or discontinue any health plan or program. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. The SERS Retirement Board established the rules for the premiums paid by the retirees for health care coverage for themselves and their dependents or for their surviving beneficiaries. Premiums vary depending on the plan selected, qualified years of service, Medicare eligibility, and retirement status.

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, SERS did not allocate any employer contributions to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2021, this amount was \$23,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2.0 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. Health care payments to SERS, including the surcharge, during fiscal years 2021, 2020 and 2019 were \$0, \$45,111 and \$44,543, respectively.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description – The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) administers a cost-sharing Health Plan administered for eligible retirees who participated in the defined benefit or combined pension plans offered by STRS. Ohio law authorizes STRS to offer this plan. Benefits include hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs and partial reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were discontinued effective January 1, 2021. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting www.strsoh.org or by calling (888) 227-7877.

Metropolitan Educational Technology Association

*Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021*

Funding Policy – Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. Nearly all health care plan enrollees, for the most recent year, pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14 percent of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

NOTE 6 - LEASE OBLIGATIONS

The Association has entered into capitalized leases for technology equipment, computer storage, networking equipment, and telephone equipment.

Due to the Association reporting on the regulatory cash basis of accounting, the accompanying technology equipment, computer storage, networking equipment, and telephone equipment are not reflected as assets and liabilities within the accompanying financial statements. Principal and interest payments associated with outstanding lease obligations are paid from the resources of the Association.

During fiscal year 2021, the Association made lease payments totaling \$302,902 in principal and \$42,181 in interest.

The agreements provide for future minimum annual lease payments as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Payments	Interest
2022	\$ 288,794	\$ 28,684
2023	302,795	14,681
	\$ 591,589	\$ 43,365

NOTE 7 - CONTINGENCIES

Grants

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the Association are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. The grantor may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

Litigation

The Association is currently not a party to any material legal proceedings.

Metropolitan Educational Technology Association

*Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021*

NOTE 8 - SUBCONTRACT AGREEMENT

On January 1, 2016, the Association executed a Merger Agreement with the South Central Ohio Computer Association (SCOCA), with the Association continuing as the surviving entity, to better control costs and strengthen Ohio's largest and most comprehensive educational solutions provider. With the execution of the Merger Agreement, all SCOCA employees became employees of the Association.

On April 25, 2016, the Association executed a Subcontract Agreement with SCOCA that replaced the Merger Agreement executed on January 1, 2016. In accordance with the Subcontract Agreement, the merger with SCOCA was postponed until all of SCOCA's pre-Merger Agreement debts, obligations, and liabilities are fully satisfied, and the Association agreed to perform all work and do all things necessary to perform the information technology services on behalf of SCOCA to SCOCA's member districts.

On October 31, 2017, the Association executed an Asset Purchase Agreement with SCOCA whereas the Association purchased substantially all of SCOCA's assets, except items specifically excluded in Section 1.2 of the Asset Purchase Agreement. As consideration for the sale, conveyance, and transfer of the purchased assets, the Association assumed the liabilities of SCOCA, as detailed in Exhibit 2.1 of the Asset Purchase Agreement. As of November 3, 2017, the balance that remained in SCOCA's bank account is to be utilized to address the liabilities that SCOCA retained per Section 2.1 of the Asset Purchase Agreement.

NOTE 9 – CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, the Association has implemented GASB Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*. GASB Statement No. 84 establishes specific criteria for identifying activities that should be reported as fiduciary activities and clarifies whether and how business type activities should report their fiduciary activities. The Association reviewed its funds for proper classification. The implementation of this statement did not have a significant effect on the financial statements of the Association.

NOTE 10 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures will impact subsequent periods of the Association. The Association's investment portfolio fluctuates with market conditions, and due to market volatility, the amount of gains or losses that will be realized in subsequent periods, if any, cannot be determined. In addition, the impact on the Association's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from emergency funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated. During fiscal year 2021, the Association received \$3,000 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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

Metropolitan Educational Technology Association
Marion County
100 Executive Drive
Marion, Ohio 43302

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts, and disbursements for the proprietary fund type and the fiduciary fund type as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, and related notes of the Metropolitan Educational Technology Association, Marion County, (the Association) and have issued our report thereon dated January 25, 2022, wherein we noted the Association followed financial reporting provisions Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(D) permit.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the Association's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinions on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control. Accordingly, we have not opined on it.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the Association's financial statements. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all internal control deficiencies that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider material weaknesses. However, unidentified material weaknesses may exist.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of reasonably assuring whether the Association'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 financial statements. However, opining 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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

This report only describes the scope of our internal control and compliance testing and our testing results, and does not opine on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Association's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

January 25, 2022

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



METROPOLITAN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

MARION COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

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



Certified for Release 2/8/2022

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

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov