



Mary Taylor, CPA

Auditor of State

Declaration of Fiscal Watch

Effective April 24, 2009, the Department of Education declared the Bellaire Local School District, Belmont County, to be in a state of Fiscal Caution in accordance with Section 3316.031 of the Ohio Revised Code. The declaration was based on an anticipated deficit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 and future years.

Section 3316.031 (C) of the Ohio Revised Code requires that the board of education of a district declared to be in fiscal caution provide a written proposal to the Department of Education for correcting the budgetary conditions that prompted the declaration and for preventing the district from experiencing further fiscal difficulties. Upon a determination by the Department of Education that the district has not provided an acceptable proposal and with the concurrence of the Auditor of State that this determination is reasonable, the district is to be declared in fiscal watch.

The Department of Education has notified the Auditor of State that the Bellaire Local School District failed to submit the acceptable written proposal required by Section 3316.031(C) for correcting the conditions that prompted the declaration of fiscal caution, and has requested that the School District be placed in fiscal watch in order to prevent further decline. Upon review of the Department of Education's determination and based on the Bellaire Local School District's five-year forecast filed with the Department of Education on May 28, 2009, which includes a deficit of \$495,000 and \$1,693,000 for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2009 and 2010, and information obtained from the School District indicating the general fund's unencumbered fund balance at June 30, 2009, was a deficit of \$1,659,000, the Auditor of State finds the Department of Education's determination that the Bellaire Local School District be placed in fiscal watch to be reasonable.

Accordingly, the Auditor of State hereby declares the Bellaire Local School District to be in a state of Fiscal Watch under Section 3316.03 (A) (3) of the Ohio Revised Code. A copy of this declaration is being submitted to Michael Wallace, President of the Board of Education of the Bellaire Local School District, J. Pari Sabety, State Director the Office of Budget and Management, Joseph A. Pappano, Belmont County Auditor, and Deborah Delisle, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

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

Mary Taylor, CPA
Auditor of State

September 10, 2009