



**LICKING COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
LICKING COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015



Dave Yost • Auditor of State

LICKING COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
LICKING COUNTY

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Dave Yost • Auditor of State

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Licking County Educational Service Center
Licking County
145 North Quentin Road
Newark, Ohio 43055

To the Board of Education:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Licking County Educational Service Center, Licking County, Ohio (the Educational Service Center), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Educational Service Center's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these financial statements in accordance with the cash accounting basis Note 2 describes. This responsibility includes determining that the cash accounting basis is acceptable for the circumstances. Management is also responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements that are 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 Educational Service Center'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 Educational Service Center's internal control. Accordingly, we express no 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.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash financial position of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Licking County Educational Service Center, Licking County, Ohio, as of June 30, 2015, and the respective changes in cash financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting basis described in Note 2.

Accounting Basis

Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the Educational Service Center to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis applied to these statements. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis other than generally accepted accounting principles. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

Other Matters

Other Information

We applied no procedures to Management's Discussion & Analysis as listed in the table of contents. Accordingly, we express no opinion or any other assurance on it.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 2, 2017, on our consideration of the Educational Service Center'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 Educational Service Center's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Dave Yost
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

February 2, 2017

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015
Unaudited

The discussion and analysis of the Licking County Educational Service Center's financial performance provides an overall review of the Educational Service Center's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the Educational Service Center's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the cash financial statements and the notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the Educational Service Center's financial performance.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for fiscal year 2015 are as follows:

- Net position of governmental activities decreased \$54,937.
- The Educational Service Center had \$8,302,118 in disbursements; \$7,625,149 of these disbursements were offset by program specific charges for services and operating grants and contributions. General receipts in the amount of \$622,032 were not adequate to provide for these programs.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, the Educational Service Center's governmental funds reported receipts in the amount of \$8,247,181 and disbursements in the amount of \$8,302,118. The ending fund balance was \$1,228,469 which is a decrease of \$54,937 from the prior fiscal year.

Using this Annual Financial Report

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

The Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis and Statement of Activities – Cash Basis provide information about the activities of the whole Educational Service Center, presenting both an aggregate view of the Educational Service Center'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 Educational Service Center's most significant funds with all other non-major funds presented in total in one column.

Basis of Accounting

The basis of accounting is a set of guidelines that determine when financial events are recorded. The Educational Service Center has elected to present its financial statements on a cash basis of accounting. This basis of accounting is a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. Under the Educational Service Center's cash basis of accounting, receipts and disbursements are recorded when cash is received or paid.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015
Unaudited

As a result of using the modified cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable) are not recorded in the financial statements. Therefore, when reviewing the financial information and discussion within this report, the reader must keep in mind that limitations resulting from the use of the cash basis of accounting.

Reporting the Educational Service Center as a Whole

Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis and Statement of Activities – Cash Basis

While this document contains information about the funds used by the Educational Service Center to provide programs and activities for the Educational Service Center, the view of the Educational Service Center as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, “How did we do financially during fiscal year 2015?” The Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis and the Statement of Activities – Cash Basis answer this question. These statements report the Educational Service Center’s net position and changes in that position. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader that, for the Educational Service Center as a whole, the financial position of the Educational Service Center has improved or diminished. The causes of this change may be the result of many factors, some financial, some not.

In the Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis and the Statement of Activities – Cash Basis, all of the Educational Service Center’s activities are reported as governmental including instruction and support services.

Reporting the Educational Service Center’s Most Significant Funds

Fund Financial Statements

The analysis of the Educational Service Center’s major fund begins on page 8. Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the Educational Service Center’s major fund. The Educational Service Center uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions. However, these fund financial statements focus on the Educational Service Center’s most significant funds. The Educational Service Center’s major governmental fund is the General Fund.

Governmental Funds All of the Educational Service Center’s activities are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at fiscal year end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using a cash basis. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Educational Service Center’s general governmental 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 Educational Service Center as a Whole

The Educational Service Center has chosen to report on an Other Comprehensive Basis of Accounting in a format similar to that required by Governmental Accounting Statement No. 34.

Recall that the Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis provides the perspective of the Educational Service Center as a whole. Table 1 provides a summary of the Educational Service Center’s net position for 2015 compared to 2014.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015
Unaudited

Table 1 - Net Position - Cash Basis

	Governmental Activities		
	2015	2014	Change
Assets			
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,228,469	\$1,283,406	(\$54,937)
Net Position			
Restricted	52,586	81,845	(29,259)
Unrestricted	1,175,883	1,201,561	(25,678)
Total Net Position	\$1,228,469	\$1,283,406	(\$54,937)

Net position in the amount of \$52,586, or 4 percent, is restricted as to how the funds can be spent. The remaining balance, \$1,175,883 or 96 percent, represents unrestricted net position and is to be used to meet ongoing obligations. The decrease in equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents and net position was the result of a reduction in services requested by local school districts.

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, and comparisons to fiscal year 2014.

Table 2 - Changes in Net Position

	Governmental Activities		
	2015	2014	Change
Receipts			
Program Receipts:			
Charges for Services	\$6,329,490	\$7,116,849	(\$787,359)
Operating Grants and Contributions	1,295,659	1,330,927	(35,268)
Total Program Receipts	7,625,149	8,447,776	(822,627)
General Receipts:			
Grants and Entitlements	565,233	646,081	(80,848)
Investment Earnings	1,558	1,112	446
Miscellaneous	55,241	58,930	(3,689)
Total General Receipts	622,032	706,123	(84,091)
Total Receipts	8,247,181	9,153,899	(906,718)
Program Disbursements			
Instruction:			
Regular	2,500	2,500	0
Special	3,899,683	3,836,176	63,507
Intergovernmental	36,803	0	36,803
Support Services:			
Pupils	1,269,422	1,180,739	88,683
Instructional Staff	1,786,144	1,948,750	(162,606)
Intergovernmental	0	37,605	(37,605)
Board of Education	12,283	13,560	(1,277)
Administration	801,696	788,165	13,531
Fiscal	275,152	316,274	(41,122)
Business	501	7,508	(7,007)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	102,651	97,257	5,394
Central	115,283	242,384	(127,101)
Total Disbursements	8,302,118	8,470,918	(168,800)
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	(54,937)	682,981	(737,918)
Net Position Beginning of Year	1,283,406	600,425	682,981
Net Position End of Year	\$1,228,469	\$1,283,406	(\$54,937)

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015
Unaudited

The Educational Service Center relies heavily upon special education programs and services provided to local school districts. As a result, charges for services receipts are 77 percent of total receipts. The decrease in net position is the result of a decrease in services requested from local school districts which resulted in a decrease in receipts. A portion of the total decrease in charges for services was due to the Educational Service Center receiving a \$269,000 past due payment from a local school district during fiscal year 2014. This did not reoccur during fiscal year 2015.

Overall disbursements decreased by 2 percent from fiscal year 2014 to fiscal year 2015. The majority of the decrease in disbursements was due to a decrease in contract services requested by the local school districts served by the Educational Service Center. The increases in special instruction, special-intergovernmental instruction, and support services pupils were offset primarily by decreases in support services instructional staff, instructional staff- intergovernmental, and central due to the reclassification of staff positions. Special instruction programs comprise approximately 47 percent of total governmental program disbursements while support services comprise approximately 53 percent of total governmental program disbursements. Of the support services disbursements, approximately 29 percent is for pupils, 41 percent for instructional staff, 19 percent for administration, 6 percent for fiscal, 2 percent for operation and maintenance, and 3 percent for central.

The Statement of Activities – Cash Basis shows the cost of program services and the charges for services and grants and contributions, offsetting those services. Table 3 shows the total cost of services and the net cost of services. In other words, it identifies the cost of those services supported by unrestricted entitlements.

Table 3 - Governmental Activities - Cash Basis

	2015 Total Cost of Services	2015 Net Cost of Services	2014 Total Cost of Services	2014 Net Cost of Services
Program Disbursements				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$2,500	(\$397)	\$2,500	\$737
Special	3,899,683	(421,644)	3,836,176	(951,482)
Intergovernmental	36,803	3,473	0	0
Support Services:				
Pupils	1,269,422	225,326	1,180,739	128,586
Instructional Staff	1,786,144	(52,466)	1,948,750	(325,524)
Intergovernmental	0	0	37,605	804
Board of Education	12,283	12,283	13,560	13,560
Administration	801,696	531,051	788,165	557,131
Fiscal	275,152	217,900	316,274	268,145
Business	501	501	7,508	7,508
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	102,651	72,562	97,257	97,257
Central	115,283	88,380	242,384	226,420
Totals	\$8,302,118	\$676,969	\$8,470,918	\$23,142

The prior schedule clearly shows that the majority of the Educational Service Center's disbursements are funded through the program receipts. For 2015, 92 percent of governmental activities performed by the Educational Service Center are supported through program revenues such as charges for services, grants, and contributions. The remaining 8 percent is provided through grants and entitlements.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015
Unaudited

The Educational Service Center's Major Fund

The Educational Service Center's major fund, the General, is accounted for using the cash basis of accounting. The General Fund had total receipts of \$6,985,745, disbursements of \$7,010,400, and advances out of \$1,023 which resulted in a decrease in fund balance of \$25,678. Receipts decreased by \$1,060,509 and disbursements decreased by \$350,436. The main decreases in receipts is reflected in the areas of intergovernmental receipts in the amount of \$268,385 and charges for services in the amount of \$720,829. These decreases are the result of decreases in contracts for services requested by local school districts which resulted in a decrease in the number of students served. The decrease in charges for services was also due to a payment in the amount of \$269,000 that was received during fiscal year 2014 from a local school district for past due services from prior fiscal years which did not reoccur during fiscal year 2015. Due to decreases in contract services with local school districts, the Educational Service Center's disbursements also decreased. The Educational Service Center had to make disbursement reduction decisions in order to maintain a healthy fund balance.

Budgeting Highlights

Under Ohio law Educational Service Centers are no longer required to prepare a budget. Therefore, at June 30, 2015 a budgetary statement is not presented within the basic financial statements because the Board did not approve estimated revenues or adopt appropriations.

Debt Administration

Debt

At June 30, 2015, the Educational Service Center had \$25,896 in capital leases outstanding. Principal payments in the amount of \$18,399 were made during fiscal year 2015. See Note 9 for more detailed information of the Educational Service Center's debt.

Economic Factors

The Licking County Educational Service Center's net position decreased by \$54,937 during fiscal year 2015. As the preceding information reflects, the Educational Service Center relies heavily on the special education services that are provided to local school districts. Special education service charges are based upon the actual cost of the service divided by the number of students who will benefit from these services. The financial positions of the local school districts and their willingness to continue to contract for special education services with the Educational Service Center will have a direct impact on the increase or decrease in receipts of the Educational Service Center.

Contacting the Educational Service Center's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, districts, investors and creditors with a general overview of the Educational Service Center's finances and to show the Educational Service Center's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information please contact Trent Montgomery, Treasurer at the Licking County Educational Service Center, 145 Quentin Road, Newark, Ohio 43055. You may also E-mail the treasurer at tmontgomery@laca.org.

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Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis

June 30, 2015

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$1,228,469</u>
Net Position	
Restricted for Public Preschool	23,352
Restricted for Advisory Services	24,733
Restricted for Other Purposes	4,501
Unrestricted	<u>1,175,883</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u><u>\$1,228,469</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Statement of Activities - Cash Basis

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Cash Disbursements	Program Cash Receipts		Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position
		Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$2,500	\$0	\$2,897	\$397
Special	3,899,683	3,807,325	514,002	421,644
Intergovernmental	36,803	0	33,330	(3,473)
Support Services:				
Pupils	1,269,422	1,018,275	25,821	(225,326)
Instructional Staff	1,786,144	1,385,121	453,489	52,466
Board of Education	12,283	0	0	(12,283)
Administration	801,696	106,373	164,272	(531,051)
Fiscal	275,152	3,396	53,856	(217,900)
Business	501	0	0	(501)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	102,651	0	30,089	(72,562)
Central	115,283	9,000	17,903	(88,380)
<i>Totals</i>	<u>\$8,302,118</u>	<u>\$6,329,490</u>	<u>\$1,295,659</u>	<u>(\$676,969)</u>

General Receipts

Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs	565,233
Investment Earnings	1,558
Miscellaneous	55,241
<i>Total General Receipts</i>	<u>622,032</u>
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	(54,937)
Net Position Beginning of Year	<u>1,283,406</u>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<u>\$1,228,469</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio
Statement of Cash Basis Assets and Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2015

	General	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets			
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,175,883	\$52,586	\$1,228,469
Total Assets	<u>\$1,175,883</u>	<u>\$52,586</u>	<u>\$1,228,469</u>
Fund Balances			
Restricted	\$0	\$52,586	\$52,586
Committed	7,345	0	7,345
Assigned	104,466	0	104,466
Unassigned	1,064,072	0	1,064,072
Total Fund Balances	<u>1,175,883</u>	<u>52,586</u>	<u>1,228,469</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$1,175,883</u>	<u>\$52,586</u>	<u>\$1,228,469</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio
Statement of Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, and Changes in Cash Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

	General	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receipts			
Intergovernmental	\$673,980	\$1,135,976	\$1,809,956
Investment Earnings	1,558	0	1,558
Charges for Services	6,008,616	106,460	6,115,076
Tuition and Fees	214,414	0	214,414
Contributions and Donations	31,936	19,000	50,936
Miscellaneous	55,241	0	55,241
Total Receipts	6,985,745	1,261,436	8,247,181
Disbursements			
Current:			
Instruction:			
Regular	0	2,500	2,500
Special	3,498,009	401,674	3,899,683
Support Services:			
Pupils	1,243,427	25,995	1,269,422
Instructional Staff	1,232,662	553,482	1,786,144
Board of Education	12,283	0	12,283
Administration	643,651	158,045	801,696
Fiscal	216,840	58,312	275,152
Business	501	0	501
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	71,209	31,442	102,651
Central	91,818	23,465	115,283
Intergovernmental	0	36,803	36,803
Total Disbursements	7,010,400	1,291,718	8,302,118
Excess of Revenues Under Expenditures	(24,655)	(30,282)	(54,937)
Other Financing Source (Use)			
Advance In	0	1,023	1,023
Advance Out	(1,023)	0	(1,023)
Total Other Financing Source (Use)	(1,023)	1,023	0
Net Change in Fund Balances	(25,678)	(29,259)	(54,937)
Fund Balances Beginning of Year	1,201,561	81,845	1,283,406
Fund Balances End of Year	\$1,175,883	\$52,586	\$1,228,469

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

NOTE 1 - REPORTING ENTITY

The Licking County Educational Service Center (the Educational Service Center) is located in Newark, Ohio, the county seat. The Educational Service Center supplies supervisory, special education, administrative, cooperative classes, multi-handicapped preschool, and other services to Johnstown-Monroe, Lakewood, Licking Valley, North Fork, Northridge, Southwest Licking Local School Districts, Granville Exempted Village School District, Newark, and Heath City School District, and the Career and Technology Education Centers of Licking County. The Educational Service Center also provides limited services to Newark Digital Academy, Licking Heights, Canal Winchester, River View, West Muskingum, Northern, and East Muskingum Local School Districts, and Coshocton, Westerville, and Southwestern City School Districts. The Educational Service Center furnishes leadership and consulting services designed to strengthen the school districts in areas they are unable to finance or staff independently.

The Licking County Educational Service Center operates under a locally-elected Board form of government consisting of five members elected at-large for staggered four year terms. The Educational Service Center has 72 support staff employees and 60 certified personnel that provide services to the school districts.

The reporting entity is composed of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to insure that the financial statements of the Educational Service Center are not misleading.

A. Primary Government

The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the Educational Service Center. For the Licking County Educational Service Center, this includes general operations and student related activities.

The Educational Service Center participates in the Licking Area Computer Association, the Career and Technology Education Centers of Licking County, the Metropolitan Educational Technology Association, the Licking County Children and Families First Council, the Ohio School Comp Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Program, the Ohio School Plan, and the Ohio School Benefits Cooperative, which are defined as jointly governed organizations and insurance purchasing pools. These organizations are presented in Notes 10 and 11.

B. Component Units

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the Educational Service Center is financially accountable. The Educational Service Center is financially accountable for an organization if the Educational Service Center appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board and (1) the Educational Service Center is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the Educational Service Center is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the Educational Service Center is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the Educational Service Center in that the Educational Service Center approves the budget, the issuance of debt, or the levying of taxes. No separate governmental units meet the criteria for inclusion as a component unit.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As discussed further in Note 2C, these financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. This cash basis of accounting differs from generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) followed in the United States of America. GAAP includes all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. The more significant of the Educational Service Center's accounting policies are described below.

A. Basis Of Presentation

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

Government-wide Financial Statements The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the Educational Service Center as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government. These statements usually distinguish between those activities of the Educational Service Center that are governmental (primarily supported by intergovernmental receipts) and those that are considered business-type activities (primarily supported by fees and charges). The Educational Service Center, however, has no business-type activities.

The statement of net position presents the financial condition of the governmental activities of the Educational Service Center at fiscal year-end. The statement of activities presents a comparison between disbursements and program receipts for each program or function of the Educational Service Center's governmental activities. Disbursements are reported by function. A function is a group of related activities designed to accomplish a major service or regulatory program for which the government is responsible. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program, grants, and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program and interest earned on grants that is required to be used to support a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing on a cash basis or draws from the general receipts of the Educational Service Center.

Fund Financial Statements During the fiscal year, the Educational Service Center segregates transactions related to certain Educational Service Center functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the Educational Service Center at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds. The Educational Service Center's major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column.

B. Fund Accounting

The Educational Service Center 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 functions or activities. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. All funds used by the Educational Service Center are classified as governmental.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Governmental Funds Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions typically are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses, and balances of current financial resources. The following is a description of the Educational Service Center's major governmental fund:

General Fund The General Fund accounts for and reports all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The General Fund balance is available to the School District for any purpose, provided it is expended and transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

The other governmental funds of the Educational Service Center account for grants and other resources whose use is restricted to a particular purpose.

C. Basis of Accounting

The Educational Service Center's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Except for modifications having substantial support, receipts are recorded in the Educational Service Center's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Any such modifications made by the Educational Service Center are described in the appropriate section in this note.

As a result of the use of this cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in these financial statements.

D. Budgetary Data

No budgetary information is presented because the Board did not approve estimated revenues or adopt appropriations. Under Ohio law, Educational Service Centers are no longer required to prepare a budget.

E. Cash and Cash Equivalents

To improve cash management, all cash received by the Educational Service Center is pooled. Monies for all funds are maintained in these accounts or temporarily used to purchase short term investments. Individual fund integrity is maintained through Educational Service Center records. Interest in the pool is presented as "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents" on the financial statements.

Investments of the cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the Educational Service Center are considered to be cash equivalents. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months that are not purchased from the pool are reported as investments.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Education has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest receipts credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2015 amounted to \$1,558, which includes \$164 assigned from other Educational Service Center funds.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

F. Inventory and Prepaid Items

The Educational Service Center reports disbursements for inventory and prepaid items when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

G. Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

H. Interfund Receivables/Payables

The Educational Service Center reports advances in and advances out for interfund loans. These items are not reflected as assets and liabilities in the accompanying financial statements.

I. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the Educational Service Center's cash basis of accounting.

J. Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, information about the fiduciary net position of the pension plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the pension systems. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The pension systems report investments at fair value.

K. Long-Term Obligations

The Educational Service Center's cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for bonds and other long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received and principal and interest payments are reported when paid.

L. Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the Educational Service Center or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes include State and federal grants restricted to expenditures for specified purposes. The Educational Service Center applies restricted resources first when a disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

M. Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Educational Service Center is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Nonspendable: The nonspendable fund balance category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash. It also includes the long-term amount of loans and notes receivable, prepaids, as well as property acquired for resale, unless the use of the proceeds from the collection of those receivables or from the sale of those properties is restricted committed, or assigned. Currently the Educational Service Center does not have any nonspendable fund balances.

Restricted: The restricted fund balance category includes amounts that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by State constitution or external resource providers. Fund balance is reported as restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation (Educational Service Center resolutions).

Enabling legislation authorizes the Educational Service Center to access, levy, charge, or otherwise mandates payment of resources (from external resources providers) and includes a legally enforceable requirement that those resources be used only for the specific purposes stipulated in the legislation. Legal enforceability means that the Educational Service Center can be compelled by an external party such as citizens, public interest groups, or the judiciary to use resources created by enabling legislation only for the purposes specified by the legislation.

Committed: The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action (resolution) of the Educational Service Center's Board of Education. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Educational Service Center's Board of Education removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for the use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

Assigned: Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the Educational Service Center for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. These amounts are assigned by the Educational Service Center's Board of Education. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the Educational Service Center's Board of Education or an Educational Service Center official delegated that authority by resolution or by State Statute. State statute authorizes the Educational Service Center's Treasurer to assign fund balance for purchases on order provided such amounts have been lawfully appropriated.

Unassigned: Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report deficit balances.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

The Educational Service Center applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which the amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

N. Internal Transactions

Transfers within governmental activities are eliminated. Internal allocations of overhead disbursements from one program to another or within the same program are eliminated on the Statement of Activities. Payments of interfund services provided and used are not eliminated.

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as receipts in the seller funds and as disbursements in the purchaser funds. Subsidies 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 and after nonoperating receipts/cash disbursements in proprietary funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular cash disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented in the financial statements.

O. Flow-Through Grants

The Educational Service Center is the primary recipient of grants which are passed through or spent on behalf of the local, exempted village, and city school districts. When the Educational Service Center has a financial or administrative role in the grants, the grants are reported as receipts and intergovernmental disbursements. For fiscal year 2015, this included the Early Childhood Special Education Grant Special Revenue Fund.

P. Special Items

Extraordinary items are transactions or events that are both unusual in nature and infrequent in occurrence. Special items are transactions or events that are within the control of management are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence. During fiscal year 2015, the Educational Service Center did not have activity that met the definition of a special item.

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

Monies held by the Educational Service Center are classified by State statute into three categories.

Active deposits are public deposits determined to be necessary to meet current demands on the treasury. Active monies must be maintained either as cash in the Educational Service Center treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawable on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

Inactive deposits are public deposits the Board of Education has identified as not required for use within the current five year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are 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. Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts, including passbook accounts.

Interim monies held by the Educational Service Center may be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury or any obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above;
4. Bonds and obligations of the State of Ohio;
5. Time certificates of deposits or savings or deposit accounts, including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2);
7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio); and,
8. Commercial paper and bankers acceptances if training requirements have been met.

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. Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions.

Deposits

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the Educational Service Center will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. At fiscal year-end, the Educational Service Center's bank balance of \$1,444,447 was not exposed to custodial credit risk because it was all insured and collateralized.

The Educational Service Center has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits be either insured or be protected by eligible securities pledged to and deposited either with the Educational Service Center or a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment, or by a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution whose market value at all times shall be at least one hundred five percent of the deposits being secured.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Investments

As of June 30, 2015, the Educational Service Center had no investments.

NOTE 4 - STATE FUNDING

The Educational Service Center, under state law, provides supervisory services to the local school districts within its territory. Each city and exempted village school district that entered into an agreement with the Educational Service Center is considered to be provided supervisory services. The cost of the supervisory services is determined by formula under State law. The State Department of Education apportions the costs for all supervisory services among the Educational Service Center's local school districts based on each school's total student count.

The Department of Education deducts each school district's amount from their State Foundation Program settlements and remits the amount to the Educational Service Center. The Educational Service Center may provide additional supervisory services if the majority of local school districts agree to the services and the apportionment of the costs to all of the local school districts.

The Educational Service Center also receives funding from the State Department of Education in the amount of \$35 times the average daily membership of the Educational Service Center. Average daily membership includes the total student counts of all local school districts within the Educational Service Center's territory and all of the Educational Service Center's client school districts. This amount is paid from State resources. The State Department of Education also deducts from the State Foundation Program settlement of each of the Educational Service Center's local and client school districts an amount equal to \$6.50 times the school district's total student count and remits this amount to the Educational Service Center.

The Educational Service Center may contract with city, exempted village, local, joint vocational, or cooperative education school districts to provide special education and related services or career-technical education services. The individual boards of education pay the costs for these services directly to the Educational Service Center.

NOTE 5 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Educational Service Center 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 fiscal year 2015, the Educational Service Center participated with other school districts in the Ohio School Plan (OSP), a public entity insurance purchasing pool. Each individual school district enters into an agreement with the OSP and its premium is based on types of coverage, limits of coverage, and deductibles that it selects. The Educational Service Center pays this annual premium to the OSP (See Note 11).

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

The types and amounts of coverage provided by the Ohio School Plan are as follows:

<u>Building and Contents (\$1,000 deductible)</u>	
Property	\$1,083,180
Valuable Paper and Records	100,000
Accounts Receivable	100,000
Extra Expense	1,000,000
Business Income	250,000
<u>Crime Insurance (\$1,000 deductible)</u>	
Employee Theft	25,000
Forgery or Alteration	25,000
Computer Fraud	25,000
<u>Inland Marine (\$1,000 deductible)</u>	
Electronic Data Processing Media and Data Reproduction	57,289
<u>Fleet Insurance</u>	
Automobile Liability (\$250 deductible comprehensive and \$500 collision)	2,000,000
<u>General Liability</u>	
Per Occurrence	2,000,000
Aggregate Limit	4,000,000
<u>Educational Legal Liability for General Liability (\$2,500 deductible)</u>	
Errors and Omissions	
Per Occurrence	2,000,000
Aggregate Limit	4,000,000

Settled claims have not exceeded coverage in any of the past three years. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from last year except in the area of property which saw a reduction of \$339,250.

For fiscal year 2015, the Educational Service Center participated in the Ohio School Comp Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Program (Program), an insurance purchasing pool (Note 11). The Program is intended to achieve lower workers' compensation rates while establishing safer working conditions and environments for participants. The participating school districts continue to pay their own premiums and have the opportunity to receive retrospective premium adjustments based upon the combined performance of the group. Depending upon that performance, the participating school districts can either receive a premium refund or assessment. Employers will pay experience or based rated premiums under the same terms as if they were not in a retro group. The total premium for the entire group is the standard premium of the group. The standard premium serves as the benchmark that is adjusted up and down retroactively. In order to allocate the savings derived by formation of the Program, the Program's executive committee annually calculates the group-retrospective premium based on developed incurred claim losses for the whole group. The new premium is compared to the standard premium. If the retrospective premium is lower than the standard premium, a refund will be distributed to the employers of the group. If the retrospective premium is higher, an assessment will be charged to each participant.

Participation in the Program is limited to school districts that can meet the Program's selection criteria. The firm of Comp Management, Inc. serves as the third party administrator of the Program and provides administrative, cost control, and actuarial services. Each year, the Educational Service Center pays an enrollment fee to the Program to cover the cost of administering the Program.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

The Education Service Center may withdraw from the Program if written notice is provided sixty days prior to the prescribed application deadline of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation. However, the participant is not relieved of the obligation to pay any amounts owed to the Program prior to withdrawal.

NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

For fiscal year 2015, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions" and GASB Statement No. 71, "Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 68" were effective. These GASB pronouncements had no effect on beginning net position as reported June 30, 2014, as the net pension liability is not reported in the accompanying financial statements. The net pension liability has been disclosed below.

Pensions are a component of exchange transactions—between an employer and its employees—of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions are provided to an employee—on a deferred-payment basis—as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period.

The net pension liability represents the Educational Service Center's proportionate share of each pension plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension liability calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting this estimate annually.

Ohio Revised Code limits the Educational Service Center's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The Educational Service Center cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions are financed; however, the Educational Service Center does receive the benefit of employees' services in exchange for compensation including pension.

GASB 68 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires all funding to come from these employers. All contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). State statute requires the pension plans to amortize unfunded liabilities within 30 years. If the amortization period exceeds 30 years, each pension plan's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension liability. Resulting adjustments to the net pension liability would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description – Educational Service Center non-teaching employees participate in SERS, a 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.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015*

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 thirty 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.

One year after an effective benefit date, a benefit recipient is entitled to a three percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). This same COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit.

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the Educational Service Center 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, 2015, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 13.18 percent. The remaining 0.82 percent of the 14 percent employer contribution rate was allocated to the Health Care Fund.

The Educational Service Center’s contractually required contribution to SERS was \$247,852 for fiscal year 2015.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description – Educational Service Center 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 will be 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. With certain exceptions, the basic benefit is increased each year by two percent of the original base benefit. For members retiring August 1, 2013, or later, the first two percent is paid on the fifth

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

anniversary of the retirement benefit. Members are eligible to retire at age 60 with five year of qualifying service credit, or age 55 with 25 years of service, or 30 years of service regardless of age. Age and service requirements for retirement will increase effective August 1, 2015, and will continue to increase periodically until they reach age 60 with 35 years of service or age 65 with five year of service on August 1, 2026.

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 9.5 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. Investment allocation decisions are determined by the member. The remaining 4.5 percent of the 14 percent employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, member contributions are allocated among investment choices by the member, and employer contributions 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 services. 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.

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. Eligible survivors of members who die before service retirement may qualify for monthly benefits. New members on or after July 1, 2013, must have at least ten years of qualifying service credit that apply for disability benefits. Members in the DC Plan who become disabled are entitled only to their account balance. 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 maximum employee contribution rate was increased one percent July 1, 2014, and will be increased one percent each year until it reaches 14 percent on July 1, 2016. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, plan members were required to contribute 12 percent of their annual covered salary. The School District was required to contribute 14 percent; the entire 14 percent was the portion used to fund pension obligations. The fiscal year 2015 contribution rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates.

The Educational Service Center's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$475,488 for fiscal year 2015.

Net Pension Liability

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2014, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Educational Service Center's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Educational Service

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Center's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$3,757,800	\$7,615,019	\$11,372,819
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.074251%	0.0313073%	

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

SERS' total pension liability was determined by their actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 67, as part of their annual actuarial valuation for each defined benefit retirement plan. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts (e.g., salaries, credited service) and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future (e.g., mortality, disabilities, retirements, employment termination). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations.

Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. For a newly hired employee, actuarial calculations will take into account the employee's entire career with the employer and also take into consideration the benefits, if any, paid to the employee after termination of employment until the death of the employee and any applicable contingent annuitant. In many cases actuarial calculations reflect several decades of service with the employer and the payment of benefits after termination.

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2014, are presented below:

Wage Inflation	3.25 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	4.00 percent to 22 percent
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	3 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.75 percent net of investments expense, including inflation
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal

For post-retirement mortality, the table used in evaluating allowances to be paid is the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Table set back one year for both men and women. Special mortality tables are used for the period after disability retirement.

The most recent experience study was completed June 30, 2010.

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS' *Statement of Investment Policy*. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted averaged of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major assets class are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	1.00 %	0.00 %
US Stocks	22.50	5.00
Non-US Stocks	22.50	5.50
Fixed Income	19.00	1.50
Private Equity	10.00	10.00
Real Assets	10.00	5.00
Multi-Asset Strategies	15.00	7.50
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

Discount Rate The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.75 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earning were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.75 percent). Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the Educational Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate Net pension liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact the following table presents the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.75 percent, as well as what each plan's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.75 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.75 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.75%)	Current Discount Rate (7.75%)	1% Increase (8.75%)
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$5,361,265	\$3,757,800	\$2,409,149

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

The total pension liability in the June 30, 2014, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.75 percent
Projected salary increases	2.75 percent at age 70 to 12.25 percent at age 20
Investment Rate of Return	7.75 percent, net of investment expenses
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	2 percent simple applied as follows: for members retiring before August 1, 2013, 2 percent per year; for members retiring August 1, 2013, or later, 2 percent COLA paid on fifth anniversary of retirement date.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table (Projection 2022—Scale AA) for Males and Females. Males’ ages are set-back two years through age 89 and no set-back for age 90 and above. Females younger than age 80 are set back four years, one year set back from age 80 through 89 and not set back from age 90 and above.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2014, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study, effective July 1, 2012.

The 10 year expected real rate of return on pension plan investments was determined by STRS’ investment consultant by developing best estimates of expected future real rates of return for each major asset class. The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic Equity	31.00 %	8.00 %
International Equity	26.00	7.85
Alternatives	14.00	8.00
Fixed Income	18.00	3.75
Real Estate	10.00	6.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	3.00
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.75 percent as of June 30, 2014. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with rate increases described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Projected employer contributions that are intended to fund the service costs of future plan members and their beneficiaries, as well as projected contributions from future plan members, are not included. Based on those assumptions, STRS’ fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2014. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.75 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2014.

Sensitivity of the Educational Service Center’s Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate The following table presents the Educational Service Center’s proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.75 percent, as well as what the Educational Service Center’s proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (6.75 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (8.75 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.75%)	Current Discount Rate (7.75%)	1% Increase (8.75%)
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$10,901,730	\$7,615,019	\$4,835,567

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

NOTE 7 – POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

School Employees Retirement System

Health Care Plan Description - The Educational Service Center contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 45 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. The Health Care Plan includes hospitalization and physicians' fees through several types of plans including HMO's, PPO's, Medicare Advantage, and traditional indemnity plans as well as a prescription drug program. 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. Health care is financed through a combination of employer contributions and retiree premiums, copays and deductibles on covered health care expenses, investment returns, and any funds received as a result of SERS' participation in Medicare programs. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. Retirees and their beneficiaries are required to pay a health care premium that varies depending on the plan selected, the number of 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 basic benefits, the Retirement Board allocates the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund. For fiscal year 2015, 0.82 percent of covered payroll was allocated to health care. In addition, employers pay a surcharge for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated according to service credit earned. For fiscal year 2015, this amount was \$20,450. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 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. For fiscal year 2015, the Educational Service Center paid \$29,136 in surcharge.

The Educational Service Center's contributions for health care for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2015, 2014, and 2013 were \$47,921, \$32,086, and \$40,940, respectively. For fiscal year 2015, 26.46 percent has been contributed by fiscal year-end. The full amount has been contributed for fiscal years 2014 and 2013.

State Teachers Retirement System

Plan Description – The School District participates in the cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit Health Plan administered by the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) 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 reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting www.strsoh.org or by calling (888) 227-7877.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Funding Policy – Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS Ohio to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board 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. All benefit recipients, for the most recent year, pay a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions. For fiscal year 2015, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care. The School District's contributions for health care for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2015, 2014, and 2013 were \$0, \$31,353, and \$38,603 respectively. The full amount has been contributed for fiscal years 2015, 2014 and 2013.

NOTE 8 - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

A. Compensated Absences

The criteria for determining vacation and sick leave benefits are derived from negotiated agreements and State laws. Classified employees and administration employees earn ten to twenty-five days of vacation per fiscal year, depending upon length of service. Accumulated, unused vacation time is paid to classified employees and administrators upon termination of employment. Teachers do not earn vacation time.

Teachers, administrators, and classified employees earn sick leave at the rate of one and one-fourth days per month. Sick leave may be accumulated up to 200 days for all personnel. Upon retirement, payment is made for one-fourth of accrued, but unused sick leave credit to a maximum of 50 days.

B. Insurance Benefits

The Educational Service Center provides health and major medical insurance for all eligible employees through Medical Mutual of Ohio. The Educational Service Center pays medical and drug monthly premiums of up to \$1,337.12 maximum per person. Premiums are paid from the same funds that pay the employees' salaries. The Educational Service Center also provides dental and prescription drug insurance to its employees through the same insurance carrier. The Educational Service Center pays a dental premium of up to \$61.43 monthly maximum per person for family coverage. The Educational Service Center also provides life insurance in the amount of \$50,000 through the Metropolitan Educational Technology Association at a cost of \$5.00 per employee per month.

NOTE 9 - CAPITAL LEASES - LESSEE DISCLOSURE

In the current and prior fiscal years, the Educational Service Center has entered into capital lease agreements for copier equipment. These leases meet the criteria of a capital lease which is as defined as a lease which transfers benefits and risks of ownership to the lessee.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

The agreement provides for minimum annual lease payments as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30,</u>	<u>Total</u>
2016	\$9,849
2017	6,593
2018	5,437
2019	5,438
2020	1,360
Total minimum lease payments	<u>28,677</u>
Less: Amount representing interest	<u>(2,781)</u>
Present value of minimum lease	<u><u>\$25,896</u></u>

Principal payments in fiscal year 2015 totaled \$18,399 in the governmental funds. Principal and interest payments for capital leases for fiscal year 2015 are shown in the financial statements in the function from which the Educational Service Center made the payment.

NOTE 10 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

A. Licking Area Computer Association

The Educational Service Center is a participant in the Licking Area Computer Association (LACA) which is a computer consortium. LACA is an association which services over thirty entities within the boundaries of Licking, Fairfield, Perry, Muskingum, Knox, and Medina Counties. These entities consist of public school districts, private schools, and educational service centers. The organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among member schools and educational service centers. The governing board of LACA consists of the superintendents from all participating school districts. The continued existence of LACA is not dependent on the Educational Service Center's continued participation and no equity interest exists.

The LACA constitution states that any school or educational service center withdrawing from the Association prior to dissolution forfeits their claim to the Association's capital assets. The Board exercises total control over the operations of LACA including budgeting, appropriating, contracting, and designating management. The Educational Service Center's payments to LACA for computer services for fiscal year 2015 were \$27,586. Financial statements for LACA can be obtained from their fiscal agent - the Career and Technology Education Centers of Licking County, 150 Price Road, Newark, OH 43055.

B. Career and Technology Education Centers of Licking County

The Career and Technology Education Centers of Licking County is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio operated under the direction of a Board consisting of three board members from the Licking County Educational Service Center, two from the Newark City School District, one from the Heath City School District, and one from the Granville Exempted Village School District, which possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. The Board exercises total control over the operations of the Career and Technology Education Center including budgeting, appropriating, contracting, and designating management. The Educational Service Center's payments to the Career and Technology Education Centers of Licking County for services for fiscal year 2015 were \$5,120. To obtain financial information write to the Career and Technology Education Centers of Licking County, Benjamin Streby, who serves

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

as Treasurer, at 150 Price Road, Newark, Ohio 43055.

C. Metropolitan Educational Technology Association

The Educational Service Center participates in the Metropolitan Educational Technology Association (META), a jointly governed organization created as a regional council of governments pursuant to Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code. META operates as, and has all the powers of, a data acquisition site/information technology center pursuant to applicable provisions of the Ohio Revised Code. The organization was formed for the purpose of identifying, developing, and providing to members and non-members innovative educational and technological services and products, as well as expanded opportunities for cooperative purchasing. The General Assembly of META consists of one delegate from every member school district. The delegate is the superintendent of the school district or the superintendent's designee. The degree of control exercised by any participating school district is limited to its representation on the General Assembly. The General Assembly exercises total control over the operation of META including budgeting, appropriating, contracting, and designating management. The Educational Service Center's membership payment to META for fiscal year 2015 was \$300. Financial information can be obtained from David Varda, CFO, Metropolitan Educational Technology Association at 2100 Citygate Drive, Columbus, OH 43219.

D. Licking County Children and Families First Council

The Licking County Children and Families First Council (Council) is a jointly governed organization created under Ohio Revised Code Section 121.37. The Council is made up of the following members: Director of the Licking Knox County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, Director of the Licking County Alcoholism Prevention Program, Health Commissioner of the Licking County Health Department, Health Commissioner of the City of Newark, Director of Licking County Human Services, Director of Family and Health Services, Director of Moundbuilders Guidance Center, Director of Family Counseling Services, Director of Licking County Coalition for Housing, Superintendent of the Licking County Board of Developmental Disabilities, Licking County Juvenile Court Judge, Superintendent of the Licking County Educational Services Center, the Superintendent of Newark City Schools, a representative of the City of Newark, a representative of the Licking Economic Action Development Study, a representative of the Licking County United Way, a representative from Family and Consumer Services, a representative of the County's Early Intervention Network, a representative of the Licking County Commissioners Office, the East District Family and Children First Coordinator and at least three individuals representing the interests of families of the County. When possible, the number of members representing families shall be equal to twenty percent of the Council's remaining membership. The governing board exercises total control over the operations of the Council including budgeting, appropriating, contracting, and designating management. In fiscal year 2015, the Educational Service Center paid a membership fee of \$2,000.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

NOTE 11 - INSURANCE PURCHASING POOLS

A. Ohio School Comp Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Program

The Ohio School Comp Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Program (Program) is a shared risk pool among school districts in Ohio. Section 4123.29, Ohio Revised Code, permits the establishment of employer group retrospective rating plans for workers' compensation rating purposes. The Program is governed by the Ohio School Board Association (OSBA) Executive Committee that consists of seven members as follows: the president of OSBA, Immediate Past President of OSBA, and five representatives elected from the participating school districts.

The Program, a Bureau of Workers' Compensation certified sponsor, established the program based upon guidelines set forth by the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC). The Program created a group of school districts that will practice effective workplace safety and claims management to achieve lower premiums for workers compensation coverage than they would individually. The participating school districts continue to pay their own premiums and have the opportunity to receive retrospective premium adjustments based upon the combined performance of the group. Depending upon that performance, the participating school districts can receive either a premium refund or premium assessment. The Program's third party administrator (TPA), Comp Management, Inc., provides administrative, cost control, and actuarial services to the Program. The cost of the TPA will be paid by each school district in proportion to its payroll to the total payroll of the group. The Educational Service Center paid \$2,175 in enrollment fees to the Program during fiscal year 2015.

B. Ohio School Plan

The Educational Service Center participates in the Ohio School Plan (OSP), an insurance purchasing pool. The Ohio School Plan (OSP) is created and organized pursuant to and as authorized by Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code. The OSP is an unincorporated, non-profit association of its members and an instrumentality for each member for the purpose of enabling members of the Plan to provide for a formalized, joint insurance purchasing program to maintain adequate insurance protection, risk management programs and other administrative services. The OSP's business and affairs are conducted by a twelve member Board of directors consisting of school district superintendents and treasurers. Hylant Administrative Services, LLC is the Administrator of the OSP and is responsible for providing underwriting, claims management, risk management, accounting, system support services, sales and marketing.

C. Ohio School Benefits Cooperative

The Educational Service Center participates in the Ohio School Benefits Cooperative, a claims servicing and group purchasing pool comprised of fifteen members. The Ohio School Benefits Cooperative (OSBC) is created and organized pursuant to and as authorized by Section 9.833 of the Ohio Revised Code. OSBC is governed by a nine member Board of Directors, all of whom must be Educational Service Center and/or educational service center administrators. The Muskingum Valley Educational Service Center serves as the fiscal agent for OSBC. OSBC is an unincorporated, non-profit association of its members and an instrumentality for each member for the purpose of enabling members of the Plan to maximize benefits and/or reduce costs of medical, prescription drug, vision, dental, life and/or other group insurance coverages for their employees, and the eligible dependents and designated beneficiaries of such employees, and propose to have certain other eligible Educational Service Center or groups of Educational Service Centers join them for the same purposes. Participants pay a \$500 membership fee to OSBC. OSBC offers two options to participants.

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Participants may enroll in the joint insurance purchasing program for medical, prescription drug, vision dental and/or life insurance. A second option is available for self-insured participants that provides for the purchase of stop loss insurance coverage through OSBC's third party administrator. The OSBC's business and affairs are conducted by a nine member Board of Directors consisting of Educational Service Center superintendents elected by the members of the OSBC. Medical Mutual/Antares is the Administrator of the OSBC. On July 1, 2006, the Educational Service Center elected to participate in the joint insurance purchasing program for medical, prescription drug, and dental coverage.

NOTE 12 - CONTINGENCIES

A. Grants

The Educational Service Center received financial assistance from federal and State agencies in the form of grants. The expenditure 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 adverse effect on the overall financial position of the Educational Service Center at June 30, 2015.

B. Litigation

As of June 30, 2015, the Educational Service Center was not a party to any lawsuits.

NOTE 13 – NONCOMPLIANCE

Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code 117-2-03(B) provides that the Educational Service Center shall prepare its annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. However, the Educational Service Center prepares its financial statements in accordance with standards established by the cash basis of accounting. The accompanying financial statements and notes omit assets, liabilities, fund equities and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38, the Educational Service Center can be fined and various other administrative remedies for its failure to file the required financial report.

NOTE 14 – FUND BALANCES

Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the Educational Service Center is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in governmental funds. The constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental fund and all other governmental funds are presented as follows:

Licking County Educational Service Center, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Fund Balances	General Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total
<i>Restricted for:</i>			
Advisory Services	\$0	\$24,733	\$24,733
Entry Year Services	0	3,720	3,720
Special Education - Early Childhood	0	781	781
Preschool	0	23,352	23,352
<i>Total Restricted</i>	<u>0</u>	<u>52,586</u>	<u>52,586</u>
<i>Committed to:</i>			
Purchases on Order	7,345	0	7,345
<i>Total Committed</i>	<u>7,345</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>7,345</u>
<i>Assigned to:</i>			
Preschool Program	75,434	0	75,434
Purchases on Order	29,032	0	29,032
<i>Total Assigned</i>	<u>104,466</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>104,466</u>
Unassigned:	1,064,072	0	1,064,072
<i>Total Fund Balance</i>	<u>\$1,175,883</u>	<u>\$52,586</u>	<u>\$1,228,469</u>

NOTE 15 - INTERFUND BALANCES

Unpaid interfund cash advances at June 30, 2015, were as follows:

	Receivables	Payables
General Fund	<u>\$1,023</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Nonmajor Special Revenue Fund:		
Miscellaneous State Grants	<u>0</u>	<u>1,023</u>
Total All Funds	<u>\$1,023</u>	<u>\$1,023</u>

The interfund balances result from the provision of cash flow resources from the General Fund until the receipt of grant monies by the grant funds.



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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*

Licking County Educational Service Center
Licking County
145 North Quentin Road
Newark, Ohio 43055

To the Board of Education:

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 cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Licking County Educational Service Center, Licking County, Ohio (the Educational Service Center) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Educational Service Center's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated February 2, 2017, wherein we noted the Educational Service Center uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the Educational Service Center's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the 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 Educational Service Center'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 Educational Service Center'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 Educational Service Center'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, 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 an instance of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2015-001.

Educational Service Center's Response to Finding

The Educational Service Center's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of findings. We did not audit the Educational Service Center's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

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 Educational Service Center's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Educational Service Center's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Dave Yost
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

February 2, 2017

LICKING COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
LICKING COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
JUNE 30, 2015

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

FINDING NUMBER 2015-001

Annual Financial Report - Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 provides that each public office shall file a financial report for each fiscal year. The Auditor of State may prescribe forms by rule or may issue guidelines, or both, for such reports. If the Auditor of State has not prescribed a rule regarding the form for the report, the public office shall submit its report on the form utilized by the public office. Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03 further clarifies the requirements of Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38.

Ohio Admin. Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the Educational Service Center to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. However, the Educational Service Center prepared its financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting in a report format similar to the requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments*. This presentation differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

The accompanying financial statements and notes omitted assets, liabilities, deferred inflows/outflows, fund equities, and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time. Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 the Educational Service Center may be fined for its failure to file the required financial report.

We recommend the Educational Service Center prepare its financial statements in accordance with GAAP.

Officials' Response: The Board of Education voted February 2013 to not report GAAP for an estimated savings of \$3,000. Given the size of our district, the cost to report on GAAP exceeds the benefits.

LICKING COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
LICKING COUNTY

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
JUNE 30, 2015

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2014-001	Annual Financial Report	Reissued as finding 2015-001	See Officials' Response



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LICKING COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

LICKING 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
FEBRUARY 28, 2017