

The Hinkle Annual Financial Data Reporting System (Hinkle System) is an Internet based application that allows certain financial statement, debt, and demographic data to be entered and transmitted to the Auditor of State (AOS) to satisfy the filing requirements prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) and the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). Select financial data is inputted into the Hinkle System and a PDF of the complete unaudited financial statements, including notes to the financial statements, is required to be uploaded into the Hinkle System.

Your entity's filing must be completed in the AOS' Hinkle Annual Financial Data Reporting System (Hinkle System) via the *entity-specific* link available by logging into your entity's <u>eServices</u> account. The Initial and Reminder Hinkle System Notices will include a link to the eServices website.

Important - The entity specific link is only available to the following roles in eServices: "Billing Contact," "Hinkle System Reporting" and "Hinkle System Reporting +eServices"

Click on the Login button (See Figure 1).

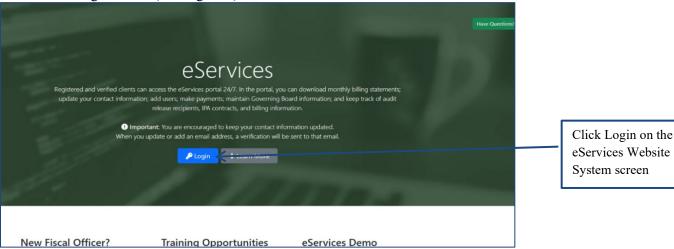


Figure 1

The Customer Log-in window will appear (See Figure 2). To access your entity's Hinkle System link, enter the email address and password for your entity's eServices account. Please note, if you have not accessed your eServices account since November 16, 2020, you will need to register as a new user to access eServices.

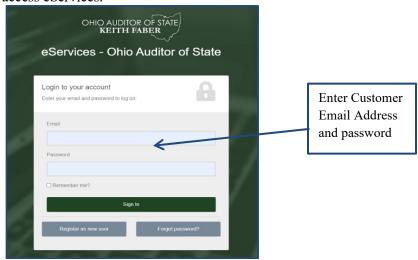


Figure 2



Once you have logged in, click the "Hinkle System" link on the left side of the page (See Figure 3).



Figure 3

To access your filing links, click the green **Begin Filing** under Filing Link column for the appropriate year-end (See Figure 4). This will take you into the Hinkle System to file. (Refer to Figure 6)

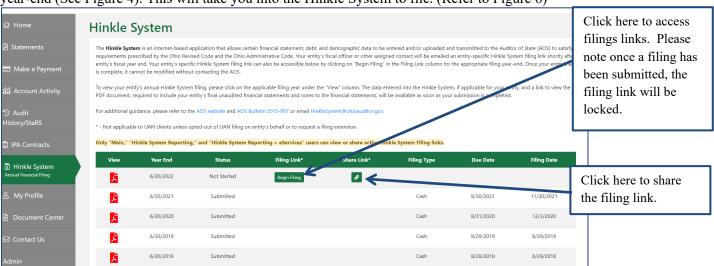


Figure 4

You can also share your link with another party, such as your financial statement compiler, from your eServices account. Once you click on **Share Link**, a window will pop up (See Figure 5). Enter the name and email address of the person you wish to send the filing link.

	Share Hinkle Filing Link	×
	Who would you like to share this with? Their name:	
et dit er :he	Their email:	
e c	Share	
e A	(Close

Figure 5

The following webpage (see Figure 6) will open when you click the green **Begin Filing button in eServices**.

Annual Financial Data Reporting These fields will be **Entity Name** populated when the County Hinkle System is Filing Year December 31, 2021 accessed. Welcome to the Hinkle Annual Financial Data Reporting System (Hinkle System). The Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 117.38 requires that local public offices file their annual financial reports with the Auditor of State's Office (AOS) Further, the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 117-2-03(B) requires that all counties, cities and school districts, including educational service centers and community schools, prepare their financial reports pursuant to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). ORC Section 1724.05 requires community improvement corporations established under this Code section to report annually on a GAAP basis and Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) 126:3-1-01(A)(2)(a) requires universities and colleges to report annually in accordance to GAAP. Entities filing on a GAAP basis have 150 days, except for community improvement corporations, who have 120 days, and universities and colleges who must file no later than October 31, following fiscal year-end to submit their annual financial reports to the AOS, while other entities have 60 days following fiscal year-end to complete their submission. Previously, various submission methods were permitted by the AOS to comply with Ohio law. These procedures have been modified with the development of the Hinkle System With the Hinkle System, governmental entities are required to submit their financial statements through the online internet application. These submissions satisfy the filing requirements as specified in the ORC and the OAC. This manner of submission will allow the financial information to be maintained in an electronic format, which will provide for more immediate access to the information Items Needed: The following are the items needed to complete the requirements of the Hinkle System: Governmental Entities (including Governmental Nonprofit Entities) filing GAAP, Cash or Modified Cash Basis: o Management's Discussion & Analysis (GAAP – Required, Cash & Modified Cash- Optional) Basic Financial Statements ■ Government-Wide Financial Statements Fund Financial Statements ■ Notes to the Basic Financial Statements Any Other Required Supplementary Information

Figure 6

After reading the instructions, click the blue **Begin Filing** button. The button appears as follows at the bottom of the webpage (see Figure 7).

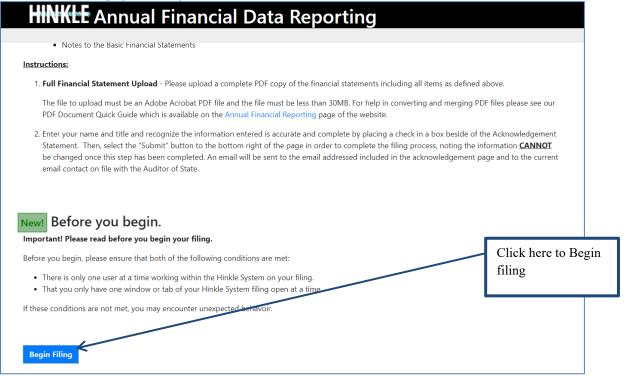


Figure 7



After clicking the blue **Begin Filing** button, a warning pop up window will appear (see Figure 8). Please ensure that you are the only user working within the Hinkle System on your filing and that you only have one tab/window of your Hinkle System filing open before you proceed. If both conditions are met, click "Continue" to proceed, otherwise click "Cancel".

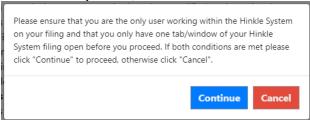


Figure 8

Once you click the **Continue** button, the following webpage will open (see Figure 9). Select the filing type of your annual financial report. The options are Regulatory Cash, Cash (OCBOA Cash), Modified Cash, (OCBOA Modified Cash) or GAAP. Please ensure you select the filing type which corresponds to the accounting basis of the financial statements that will be uploaded. After the filing type has been selected, click the **Begin Filing** button.

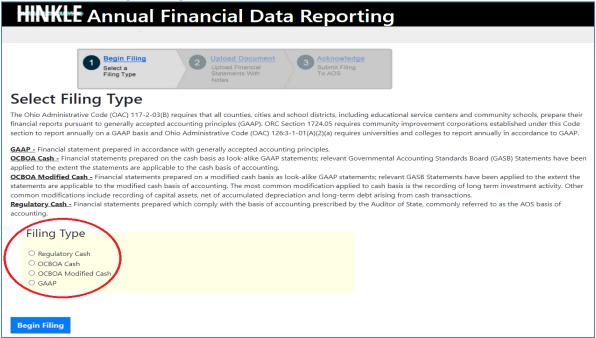


Figure 9

If the Regulatory Cash, OCBOA Cash, or OCBOA Modified Cash is selected (see Figure 9) and your entity is required to file financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), a warning message will appear (see Figure 10). The **Begin Filing** button will need to be clicked again in order to proceed with the current selection.

Warning: The basis of accounting chosen is not consistent with generally accepted accounting principles as required by ORC. This could subject your entity to a noncompliance citation and a monetary penalty assessed by the Auditor of State's Office.

Figure 10



If, after you have begun, you determine you have selected the wrong filing type, you can reset the filing type (Figure 11).

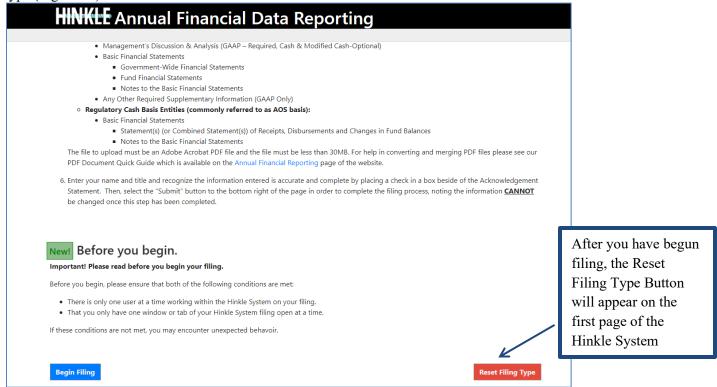


Figure 11

After you select the **Reset Filing Type** button, a warning screen will appear (Figure 12). Resetting your filing type will delete any files you have uploaded. Select only if you originally incorrectly selected the filing type for your entity. The **Reset** button will need to be selected to complete the reset. You will then be able to go back to the Select Filing Type page (Figure 9) and select the correct filing type.

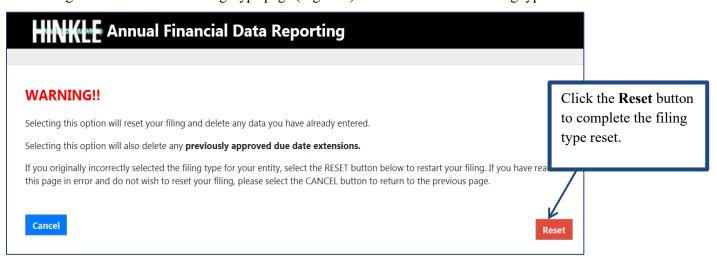


Figure 12



Entities will be required to upload a PDF document of their full unaudited financial statements. The required components of the PDF will vary by entity type and basis of accounting. Please refer to the descriptions below when compiling the PDF File.

PDF FILE REQUIRED COMPONENTS

- ♦ Governmental Entities (including Governmental Nonprofit Entities) filing GAAP, Cash or Modified Cash Basis:
 - Management's Discussion & Analysis (GAAP Required, Cash & Modified Cash-Optional, however include if prepared)
 - Basic Financial Statements
 - Government-Wide Financial Statements
 - Fund Financial Statements
 - Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
 - o Any Other Required Supplementary Information
- Nongovernmental Nonprofit Entities filing GAAP, Cash or Modified Cash Basis:
 - Basic Financial Statements
 - Statement of Financial Position
 - Statement of Activities (also known as Statement of Changes in Net Assets)
 - Statement of Functional Expenses required for voluntary health and welfare organization, optional for all other nonprofit organizations
 - Statement of Cash Flows (GAAP only)
 - Notes to the Financial Statements
 - o Any Other Required Supplementary Information
- Regulatory Cash Basis Entities (commonly referred to as AOS basis):
 - o Basic Financial Statements
 - Statement(s) (or Combined Statement(s)) of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances
 - Notes to the Basic Financial Statements



For entities filing on the **regulatory basis of accounting only**, we offer the option to upload two (2) separate PDF documents. Click the **Upload Only 1 PDF File** or **Upload 2 PDF Files** (see Figure 13).

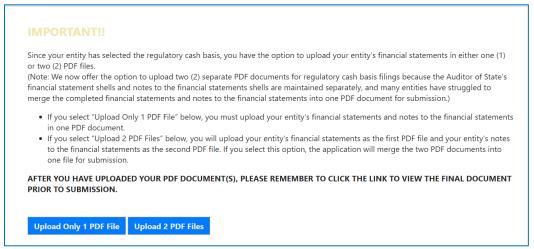


Figure 13

If **Upload 2 PDF files** is selected (see Figure 13), the following webpage will open (see Figure 14). This page will allow for the upload of two Adobe Acrobat PDF files – one file for the financial statements and one file for the notes to the financial statements. The combined size of the two PDF files together must total less than 30MB.

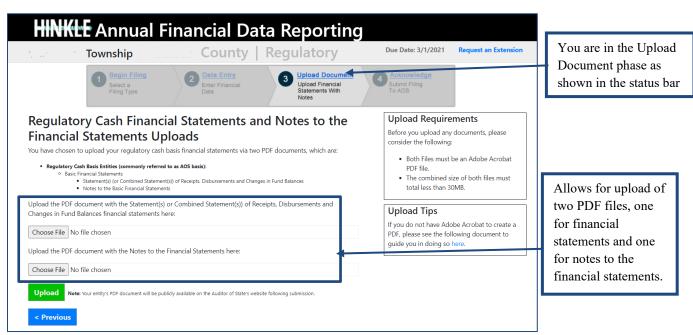


Figure 14

The following screens will demonstrate the upload using the Upload Only 1 PDF file. For regulatory basis filers using the Upload 2 pdf files, you will need to follow the prompts to upload two files.

Please note uploading subsequent PDF files will override the previous file uploads and only the last uploaded file will be transmitted to the AOS. The Upload Tips provide access to a How to Create/Merge a PDF Document quick guide that may aid you in converting and/or merging your files to a PDF format.



After clicking the **Begin Filing** (see Figure 7) button, the full financial statement upload page will open. (see Figure 15). The page provides information and access to upload your financial statements including notes to the financial statements.

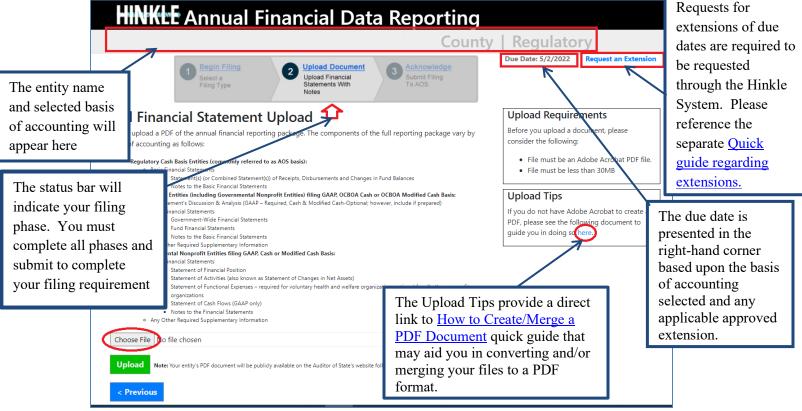


Figure 15

Click the **Choose File** button (see Figure 15), Navigate to the directory with the PDF file you will upload into the system (See Figure 16).

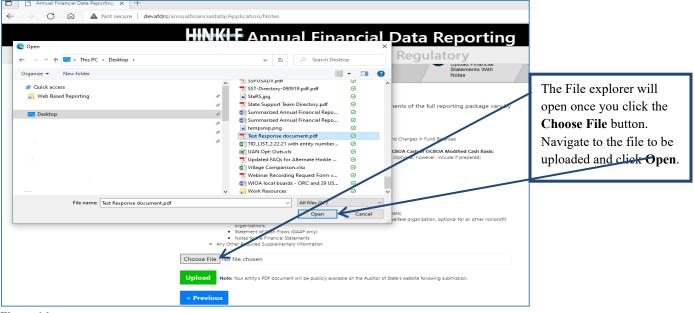


Figure 16



Once you have selected the file, the directory and file will appear in the upload field. (See Figure 17). If the file selection is correct, click the green **Upload** button (See Figure 17) to upload the file into the Hinkle System.

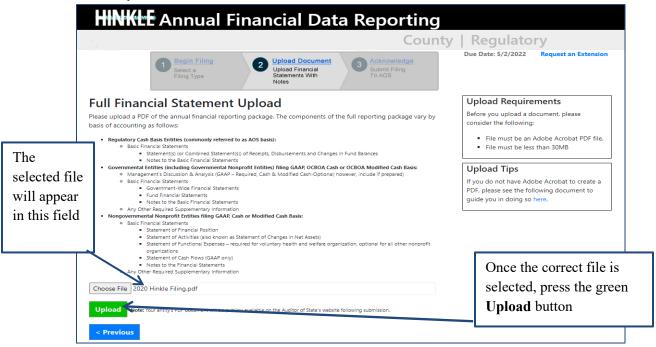


Figure 17

The following message will appear if your file has been successfully uploaded (See Figure 18). Please view your uploaded file to verify the correct file was used. Once you have viewed your file, click **Next** button (See Figure 18).

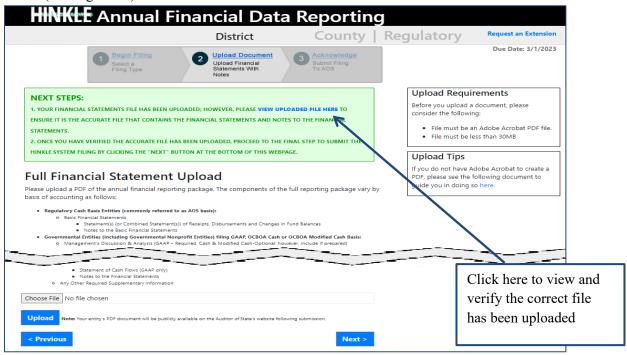


Figure 18



The following Acknowledgement and Submission web page will open (see Figure 19). Enter the name, title and email of the individual completing the submission process. Click the box to acknowledge the information entered is complete and accurate for the reporting year and basis of accounting selected. Then click the **Submit** button

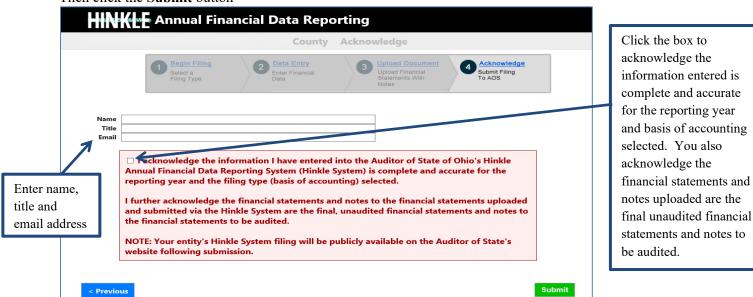


Figure 19

Once you have clicked the Submit button, a pop up box will appear (See Figure 20). The following message is included in the pop up box. Click **Yes** to submit your filing or click **Cancel** if you need to go back and make changes.

VERY IMPORTANT!

Upon submission, your Hinkle System filing link will lock and no changes can be made.

The uploaded financial statements, including notes to the financial statements, will be subject to audit upon submission. However, the content of your Hinkle System filing will not generally be reviewed until the audit commences.

Prior to submitting, please ensure you have selected the appropriate filing type (basis of accounting) **and** viewed the uploaded document to ensure it is the proper file with the final, unaudited financial statements that has been reviewed for accuracy and completeness.

Once submitted, your entity's unaudited financial statements and keyed data (if applicable) will be publicly available on the Auditor of State's website.

By clicking "Yes" below, you are affirming the accuracy and completeness of the entity's Hinkle System filing and transmitting the filing to the Ohio Auditor of State's Office.

This message also reminds you the filed information will be publically available on the Auditor of State's website after submission. Click the Cancel button to go back for further review of your filing. Click the OK button to complete the submission. NOTE: The data entered into the Hinkle System cannot be modified once the Submit button has been clicked. Please ensure the final data to be reported is entered prior to submitting.



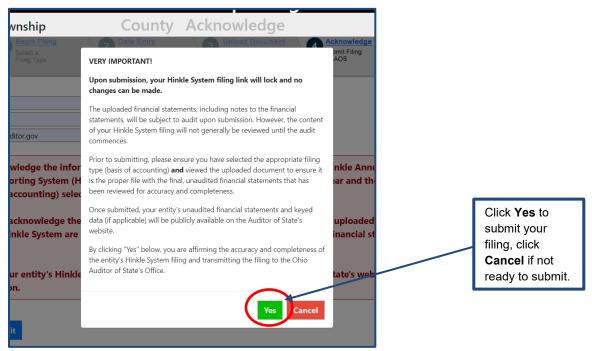


Figure 20

When you click **Yes** to submit (see Figure 20), the button will change to indicate **Please Wait** (See Figure 21). Please do not close the window or log off until the Thank you for filing message appears (See Figure 22). The submission progress may take a few moments depending on how large your file upload is and how many other entities are using the system.

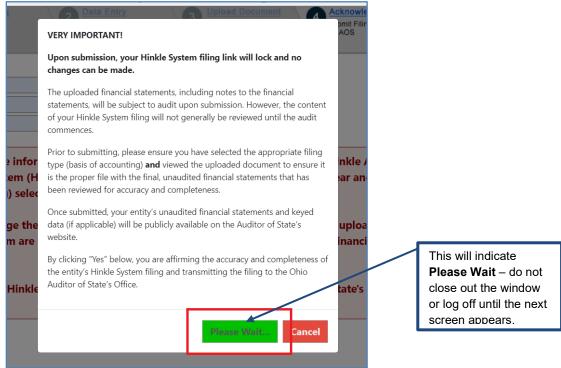


Figure 21



The following message (see Figure 22) will appear if the reporting requirements were submitted timely, as specified by Ohio law, and under a required basis of accounting, if applicable.

Annual Financial Data Reporting

Thank you for filing County's 2021 annual financial report as required by the Ohio Revised Code (ORC) §117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) §117-2-03(B) via the Auditor of State's (AOS) Hinkle System. The completeness and accuracy of the filing will be evaluated at the time the audit is performed.

Once submitted, the information is locked and cannot be modified. . If you have questions, please contact the AOS using the inquiry form.

The Auditor of State's office provides a method to upload documents via your <u>AOS eServices account</u> in preparation for the audit of your entity's financial statements. Documents normally requested at the beginning of an audit are listed within the "Audits" tab under the Document Center tab. Certain documents can be uploaded at any time after the reporting year has ended rather than waiting for the audit to commence. In addition, auditors can request any entity contact person within eServices to submit other documents in preparation for or during the audit. #

Uniform Accounting Network (UAN) clients: As part of the UAN year end procedures, UAN clients were given an option to provide additional UAN generated reports to audit staff in preparation for audit. If you authorized UAN to file the additional audit reports, those documents were uploaded as part of the year end filing and can be viewed via your AOS eServices account within the "Audits tab under the Documents Center tab. UAN cannot submit documents on behalf of a client who has been opted-out.

Your entity's Hinkle System filings and preliminary Financial Health Indicators report, if applicable*, will be available using your entity's eServices account here. Once logged in, click the "HINKLE SYSTEM" tab on the screen. This link will also provide the status of your entity's Hinkle System filing and access to view/print/save the data/document which has been keyed/uploaded into the system.

Note: If applicable, it is still necessary for your entity to publish notice in a newspaper circulated in your political subdivision or taxing district indicating the full financial report has been completed and is available for public inspection at your entity's office, as required by ORC 117.38.

*Financial Health Indicator (FHI) reports are ONLY generated for cities and counties, and will be posted publicly on the Auditor of State's website 14 days from the date of this email. Prior to that posting, we encourage you to review your entity's preliminary FHI report for any errors and if you choose, prepare a response to the FHI results to post on your entity's website. Questions related to your entity's preliminary FHI report should be directed to FHIndicators@ohioauditor.gov.

The AOS eServices account audit document upload in currently not available for the follow entity types: Hospital, Universities/Colleges/Tech, Retirement Systems and those classified as Other

Figure 22

Entities subject to filing requirements under 1724.05 are required to report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Ohio Administrative Code 126:3-1-01(A)(2)(a) requires universities and colleges to prepare their financial statements in accordance with GAAP. Additionally, Ohio Administrative Code §117-2-03(B) requires government insurance pools to report in accordance to GAAP. If GAAP financial statements were **not** submitted to the Auditor of State as required, irrespective of the date submitted, the following message will appear (see Figure 23) after clicking the **Submit** button (see Figure 19).

OAC \$117-2-03(B) requires all counties, cities, school districts, including educational service centers and community schools, and government insurance pools; ORC §1724.02 requires all community improvement corporations, including economic development corporations and county land reutilization corporations; ORC §1726.11 requires all development corporations and OAC \$126:3-1-01(A)(2)(a) requires all universities and colleges - to prepare their financial statements pursuant to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

Your entity did not file GAAP basis financial statements.

Since your entity did not file within the parameters described above, it may be subject to the penalties prescribed in ORC §117.38.

Figure 23

If financial statements were submitted to the Auditor of State as required but **not** in accordance with the timing requirements, including any approved extension, the following message will appear (see Figure 24) after clicking the **Submit** button (see Figure 19).

ORC §117.38 requires entities filing on a generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) basis (other than universities/colleges, community improvement corporations, including economic development corporations and county land reutilization corporations) to submit their financial reports to the AOS within 150 days of their fiscal year-end.

ORC §1724.05 requires community improvement corporations, including economic development corporations and county land reutilization corporations, to submit their annual reports to the AOS within 120 days of their fiscal year-end.

OAC §126:3-1-01(2)(a) requires universities and colleges to submit their financial statements to the AOS no later than October thirty-first (31st) of each year.

All other entities with a statutory filing requirement under ORC §117.38 must submit their financial statements to the AOS within 60 days of their fiscal year-end.

The AOS may, in limited circumstances, approve an extension to the statutory due date.

Your entity did not file by the statutory or extended due date.

Since your entity did not file within the parameters described above, it may be subject to the penalties prescribed in ORC §117.38.

Figure 24

In addition to the completed message (Figures 22, 23 or 24) an email (Figure 25) will be sent to the email address entered on the acknowledgement page (Figure 19) and the primary contact on file with the Auditor of State's office (if different from the email entered on the acknowledgement page).

HINKEE

Annual Financial Data Reporting

Thank you for completing the requirements for filing State's (AOS) Hinkle System.

201 annual financial report within the parameters of Ohio law via the Auditor of

Once submitted, the information is locked and cannot be modified. If, under certain limited circumstances, a modification may be necessary, the fiscal office must contact the AOS via HinkleSystem@ohioauditor.gov; however, if the data is modified and the annual financial information is re-filed, the filing date will be recorded as the most recent submission date, which may result in non-compliance with ORC Section 117.38, if applicable.

Your entity can view your Hinkle System filings and preliminary Financial Health Indicators report, if applicable*, using your entity's eServices account here. Once logged in, click the "HINKLE SYSTEM" link at the top of the screen. This link will also provide the status of your entity's Hinkle System filing and access to view/print/save the data/document which has been keyed/uploaded into the system.

Note: If your entity is subject to ORC Section 117.38, it is still necessary for you to publish notice in a newspaper circulated in your political subdivision or taxing district that the financial report has been completed and is available for public inspection at your office.

Figure 25



Your entity can view your Hinkle System filings, using your entity's eServices account here. Click on the eServices Website button (See Figure 1). Once you have logged in, click the "Hinkle System" link on the left side of the page (See Figure 3). To view your submitted filings, click the View column for the appropriate year end date (See Figure 26).

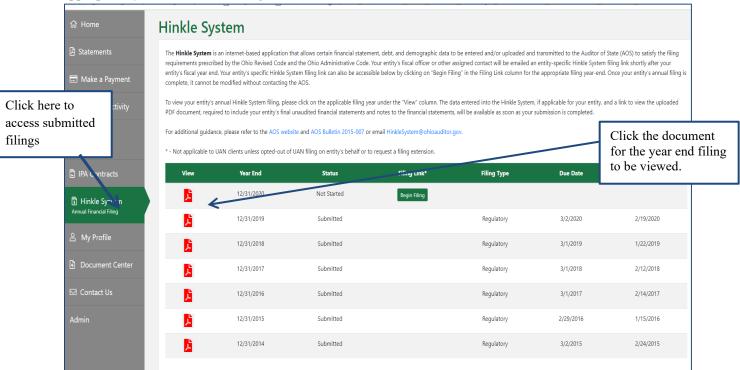


Figure 26

Once you click on the desired year end in the Year End column, the Hinkle Annual Financial Data Viewer for the selected filing opens. (See Figure 27). The Viewer provides filing details including access to the keyed data which can be exported to excel and to the PDF file uploaded. To access the PDF file click on the **View All Details** link.

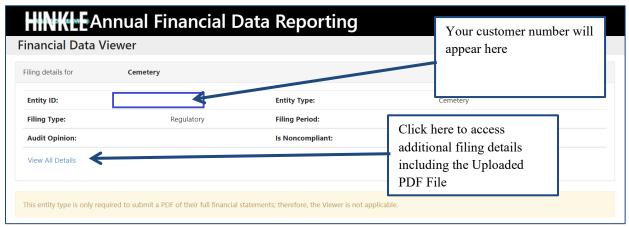


Figure 27



Once you click on **View All Details** the following window opens (See Figure 28). This window provides details of the filing history for this year end, including the Name, Title and email address of the filer. The document uploaded into the Hinkle System is available for viewing, printing or saving from this screen. This screen will also provide a history of access to the filing link for the selected period, extension requests and any notes added by the Hinkle System Managers.

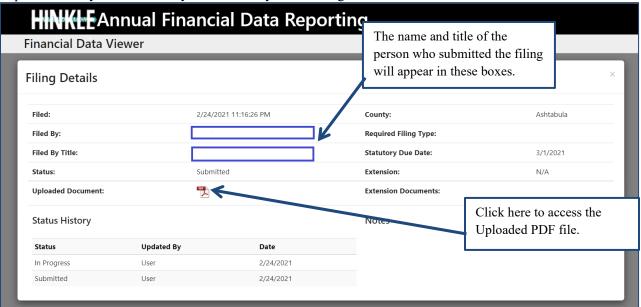


Figure 28

Please Note: The pdf file uploaded into the system will also be publicly available on the Auditor of State's website a day after submission. A link to the pdf uploaded financial statements and notes is available as part of the Unaudited Annual Report Filing Status spreadsheet. This spreadsheet provides a summary of the Due Dates, Filed Dates and links to the PDF filed for each entity type with a requirement to file annual financial statements and notes with the Auditor of State. The Unaudited Annual Report Filing Status are available at this link.

eServices Document Center

The Auditor of State's office provides a method to upload documents via your <u>AOS eServices account</u> in preparation for the audit of your entity's financial statements. Documents normally requested at the beginning of an audit are listed within the "Audits" tab under the Document Center tab (see Figure 29). Certain documents can be uploaded at any time after the reporting year has ended rather than waiting for the audit to commence. In addition, auditors can request any entity contact person within eServices to submit other documents in preparation for or during the audit.

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Once you log in to eServices, click on the Document Center tab (see Figure 29). The Document Center will open and list Project numbers related to your entity. If the year end for the project has passed, a **View Project Documents** button will be available. Click the **View Projects Documents** to access the list of requested documents (see Figure 30).



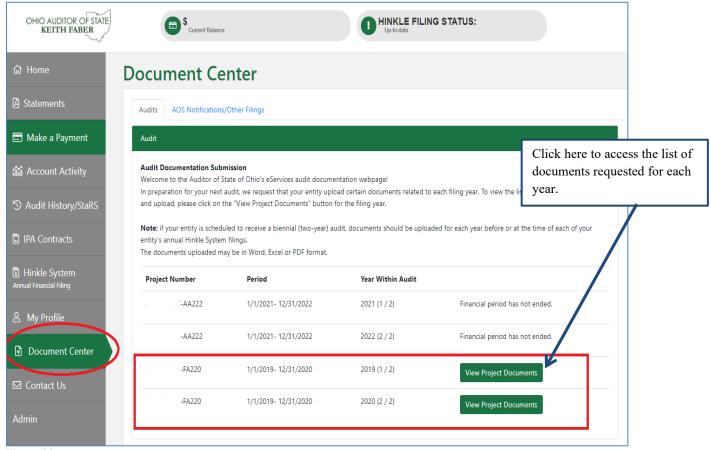


Figure 29

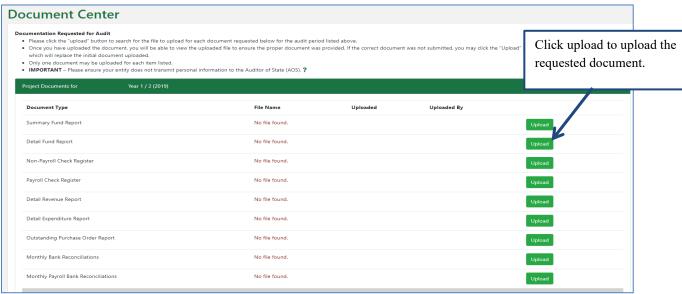


Figure 30

Once you click **Upload** (see Figure 30), the following window will open. Click **Choose File**, the file explorer will open. Navigate to the file to be uploaded and click **Open**. The file name will now be listed in the window. Click **Submit** to upload the file (see Figure 31). Repeat for each document type requested.



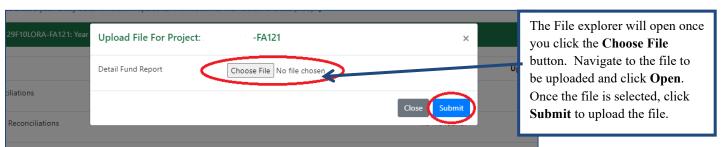


Figure 31

The document center also includes a list of other documents to be gathered for an audit (see Figure 32).

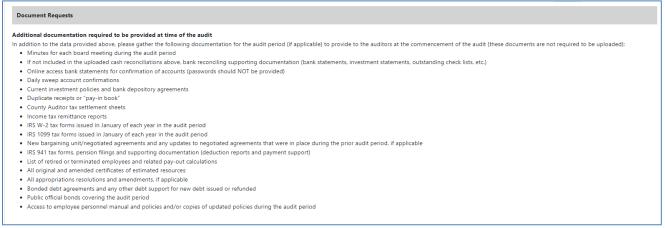


Figure 32

If additional questions arise that are not addressed within the <u>Frequently Asked Questions</u> or this Quick Guide, please contact the Auditor of State's Office using the <u>audit inquiry application</u> for assistance.