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AUDITOR OF STATE

STATE OF OHIO
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AUDITOR OF STATE BULLETIN

TO: ALL SCHOOL DISTRICT TREASURERS
ALL IPAS

SUBJECT: REVISED *DEROLPH* SCHOOL FUNDING NOTE TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Attached is a revised sample note describing the school funding decision as last rendered by the Ohio Supreme Court. You may find this sample useful in preparing your annual financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2002.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Local Government Services at 800-345-2519 or 614-466-4717.

Note NN - State School Funding Decision

On September 6, 2001, the Ohio Supreme Court issued its latest opinion regarding the State's school funding plan. The decision identified aspects of the current plan that require modification if the plan is to be considered constitutional, including:

- A change in the school districts that are used as the basis for determining the base cost support amount. Any change in the amount of funds distributed to school districts as a result of this change must be retroactive to July 1, 2001, although a time line for distribution is not specified.
- Fully funding parity aid no later than the beginning of fiscal year 2004 rather than fiscal year 2006.

The Supreme Court relinquished jurisdiction over the case based on anticipated compliance with its order.

The State of Ohio, in a motion filed September 17, 2001, asked the Court to reconsider and clarify the parts of the decision changing the school districts that are used as the basis for determining the base cost support amount and the requirement that changes be made retroactive to July 1, 2001. In November, 2001, the Court granted the request for reconsideration, but also ordered the parties to participate in a settlement conference with a court appointed mediator. On March 21, 2002, the mediator issued his final report indicating that the conference was unable to produce a settlement. The case is now under reconsideration by the Court.

The School District is currently unable to determine what effect, if any, this decision will have on its future State funding and on its financial operations.