



bhm cpa group, inc.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

LAWRENCE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
LAWRENCE COUNTY

REGULAR AUDIT

For the Year Ended June 30, 2018
Fiscal Year Audited Under GAGAS: 2018

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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Columbus, Ohio 43215
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(800) 282-0370

Governing Board
Lawrence County Educational Service Center
304 North Second Street
Ironton, Ohio 45638

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Lawrence County Educational Service Center, Lawrence County, prepared by BHM CPA Group, Inc., for the audit period July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Lawrence County Educational Service Center is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Keith Faber'.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

August 6, 2019

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**LAWRENCE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
LAWRENCE COUNTY, OHIO
TABLE OF CONTENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2018**

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditor’s Report	1
Management’s Discussion and Analysis	4
Financial Statements:	
<i>Government-wide Financial Statements:</i>	
Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis.....	10
Statement of Activities – Cash Basis.....	11
<i>Fund Financial Statements:</i>	
Statement of Assets and Fund Balances – Cash Basis - Governmental Funds	12
Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances – Cash Basis - Governmental Funds.....	13
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position – Agency Funds	14
Notes to the Financial Statements.....	15
Supplementary Information	
Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget (Budget Basis) and Actual	
General Fund.....	39
Special Ed Cooperative Fund	40
Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative Fund	41
Alternative School Fund.....	42
Notes to the Supplementary Information	43
Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	44
Schedule of Audit Finding and Response	46
Schedule of Prior Audit Findings	47

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Independent Auditor's Report

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
Lawrence County
304 North Second Street
Ironton, Ohio 45638

To the Governing Board:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Lawrence County Educational Service Center, Lawrence County, Ohio (the Center), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the 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 2A 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 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 Center's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

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

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, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Lawrence County Educational Service Center, Lawrence County, Ohio, as of June 30, 2018, and the respective changes in cash financial position for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting basis described in Note 2A.

Accounting Basis

Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the 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 2A 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

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted to opine on the financial statements taken as a whole.

The budgetary schedules included in the report present additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements.

The schedules are management's responsibility and derives from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. We subjected the schedules to the auditing procedures we applied to the basic financial statements. We also applied certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling this schedule directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, these schedules are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

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 June 25, 2019, on our consideration of the 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 Center's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "BHM CPA Group". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

BHM CPA Group Inc.
Piketon, Ohio
June 25, 2019

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018
Unaudited

As management of the Lawrence County Educational Service Center, we offer the readers of the Educational Service Center's financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here in conjunction with the additional information that we have provided in the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the Educational Service Center's performance.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Key financial highlights for the fiscal year 2018 are as follows:

- Net position of governmental activities increased \$43,542.
- General cash receipts accounted for \$34,661 or 1.1 percent of all program specific and general cash receipts. Program specific cash receipts in the form of charges for services, sales, grants, and contributions accounted for \$3,065,278 or 98.9 percent of total program specific and general cash receipts.
- The Educational Service Center had \$3,256,988 in cash disbursements; \$3,065,278 of these cash disbursements were offset by program specific charges for services, sales, grants and contributions.

USING THIS ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

This annual report is presented in a format consistent with the presentation requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 34, as applicable to the Educational Service Center's cash basis of accounting.

Report Components

The *Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis* and *Statement of Activities- Cash Basis* provide information about the activities of the Educational Service Center as a whole.

Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. Funds are created and maintained on the financial records of the Educational Service Center as a way to segregate money whose use is restricted to a particular purpose. These statements present financial information by fund, presenting funds with the largest balances or most activity in separate columns.

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of the government-wide and fund financial statements and provide expanded explanation and detail regarding the information reported in the basic financial statements.

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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Under the Educational Service Center's cash basis of accounting, receipts and disbursements are recorded when cash is received or paid.

As a result of using the 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 the limitations resulting from the use of the cash basis of accounting.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018
Unaudited

Reporting the Educational Service Center as a Whole

Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities

The statement of net position and the statement of activities reflect how the Educational Service Center did financially during 2018, within the limitations of the cash basis of accounting. The statement of net position presents the cash balances and investments of the governmental activities of the Educational Service Center at year end. The statement of activities compares cash disbursements with program receipts for each governmental program. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services and grants restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts. The comparison of cash disbursements with program receipts identifies how each governmental function draws from the Educational Service Center's general receipts.

These statements report the Educational Service Center's cash position and the changes in cash position. It is important to note that fiduciary funds are not included in these statements. Keeping in mind the limitations of the cash basis of accounting, you can think of these changes as one way to measure the Educational Service Center's financial health. Over time, increases or decreases in the Educational Service Center's cash position is one indicator of whether the Educational Service Center's financial health is improving or deteriorating. When evaluating the Educational Service Center's financial condition, you should also consider other non-financial factors as well such as the condition of the Educational Service Center's capital assets and infrastructure, the extent of the Educational Service Center's debt obligations, the reliance on non-local financial resources for operations and the need for continued growth in the major revenue sources.

In the statement of net position and the statement of activities, the Educational Service Center has one type of activity: governmental.

Reporting the Educational Service Center's Most Significant Funds

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial statements provide detailed information about the Educational Service Center's major funds, not the Educational Service Center as a whole. The Educational Service Center uses a number of 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 funds are the General Fund, the Special Ed Cooperative fund, the Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative fund, and the Alternative School 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 the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 and services. Since the Educational Service Center is reporting on the cash basis of accounting, there are no differences in the net position and fund cash balances or changes in net position and changes in fund cash balances. Therefore, no reconciliation is necessary between such financial statements. See Note 2 to the basic financial statements for more information.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Management's Discussion and Analysis

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

Unaudited

Fiduciary Funds. Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds, and agency funds. The Educational Service Center's fiduciary funds include an agency fund which is used to maintain financial activity of the governments in which the Education Service Center is their fiscal agent. Agency funds are custodial in nature (assets equal net position) and do not involve measurement of results of operations. In accordance with GASB 34, fiduciary funds are not included in the government-wide statements.

THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER AS A WHOLE

Recall that the statement of net position 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 2018 as compared to 2017.

Table 1
Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	2018	2017
Assets		
Current Assets	\$ 1,520,668	\$ 1,477,126
Total Assets	<u>1,520,668</u>	<u>1,477,126</u>
Net Position		
Restricted	434,892	112,090
Unrestricted	1,085,776	1,365,036
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 1,520,668</u>	<u>\$ 1,477,126</u>

Over time, net position can serve as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. Current assets increased due to increases to cash on hand at year end due to cash receipts exceeding cash disbursements.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018
Unaudited

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018 as compared to 2017.

Table 2
Changes in Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	2018	2017
Revenues		
Program Cash Receipts		
Charges for Services	\$ 2,776,353	\$ 2,541,926
Operating Grants and Contributions	288,925	308,716
Total Program Cash Receipts	<u>3,065,278</u>	<u>2,850,642</u>
General Cash Receipts		
Grants and Entitlements, Not Restricted	28,753	47,769
Gifts and Donations, Not Restricted	2,400	-
Investment Earnings	2,933	1,128
Refund of Prior Year Expenditures	-	929
Miscellaneous	575	722
Total General Cash Receipts	<u>34,661</u>	<u>50,548</u>
Total Cash Receipts	<u>3,099,939</u>	<u>2,901,190</u>
Program Disbursements		
Instruction:		
Regular	130,603	147,843
Special	852,125	687,372
Other	29,025	26,011
Support Services:		
Pupils	692,124	719,199
Instructional Staff	365,853	468,650
Board of Education	108,556	180,238
Administration	383,912	383,302
Fiscal	194,128	253,410
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	130,038	50,946
Central	342,239	171,054
Capital Outlay	26,214	11,535
Refund of Prior Year Receipts	2,171	-
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>3,256,988</u>	<u>3,099,560</u>
Decrease in Net Position Before Special Items	<u>(157,049)</u>	<u>(198,370)</u>
Special Item	200,591	-
Increase (Decrease) in Net Position	43,542	(198,370)
Net Position, Beginning of Year	<u>1,477,126</u>	<u>1,675,496</u>
Net Position, End of Year	<u>\$ 1,520,668</u>	<u>\$ 1,477,126</u>

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018
Unaudited

Governmental Activities

The primary sources of revenue for governmental activities are derived from grants and charges for services. These revenue sources represent 98.9% of total governmental revenue. Revenue from charges for services increased during fiscal year 2018. Charges for services and special instruction increased due to additional services provided thru the Special Ed Cooperative and the Joint Cooperative programs.

Total disbursements increased from 2017 to 2018. The largest disbursements of the Educational Service Center are for support services, which totaled \$2,216,850 or 68.1% of total governmental disbursements for the year. Fluctuations of disbursements between years are directly related to the needs of the Educational Service Center's member School Districts.

The statement of activities shows the cost of program services and the charges for services, operating grants and contributions offsetting those services. Table 3 shows the total cost of services and the net cost of services. That is, it identifies the cost of those services supported by fees charged for services provided and operating grants and contributions.

Table 3
Governmental Activities

	<u>Total Cost of Services</u>	<u>Net Cost of Services</u>	<u>Total Cost of Services</u>	<u>Net Cost of Services</u>
	2018	2018	2017	2017
Program Disbursements				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$ 130,603	\$ (12,894)	\$ 147,843	\$ (20,091)
Special	852,125	(280,889)	687,372	(124,453)
Other	29,025	8,147	26,011	4,349
Support Services:				
Pupils	692,124	169,719	719,199	124,059
Instructional Staff	365,853	104,653	468,650	80,158
Board of Education	108,556	31,567	180,238	31,013
Administration	383,912	68,885	383,302	65,596
Fiscal	194,128	48,569	253,410	41,589
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	130,038	21,385	50,946	6,114
Central	342,239	4,183	171,054	29,049
Capital Outlay	26,214	26,214	11,535	11,535
Refund of Prior Year Receipts	2,171	2,171	-	-
Totals	<u>\$ 3,256,988</u>	<u>\$ 191,710</u>	<u>\$ 3,099,560</u>	<u>\$ 248,918</u>

THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER'S FUNDS

The Educational Service Center has four major funds which are the General Fund, the Special Ed Cooperative fund, the Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative fund, and the Alternative School fund.

The General Fund had \$1,575,645 in cash receipts and other financing sources and \$1,854,905 in cash disbursements and other financing uses. The net change in fund balance for the General Fund was a decrease of \$279,260. The Special Ed Cooperative fund, the Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative fund, and the Alternative School fund had increased in fund balance of \$86,751, \$92,825, and \$141,229, respectively.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018
Unaudited

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

CAPITAL ASSETS

The Educational Service Center does not record capital assets in the accompanying basic financial statements, but records payments for capital assets as disbursements. The Educational Service Center had \$26,214 in capital outlay disbursements during fiscal year 2018.

DEBT

The Educational Service Center did not have any debt outstanding as of June 30, 2018.

CONTACTING THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, 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, contact Brenda Hill, Treasurer at Lawrence County Educational Service Center, 304 N. 2nd Street, Ironton, Ohio 45638.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis
As of June 30, 2018

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 1,520,668</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>1,520,668</u>
Net Position	
Restricted for:	
Other Purposes	434,892
Unrestricted	<u>1,085,776</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u><u>\$ 1,520,668</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
Statement of Activities - Cash Basis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

	Program Cash Receipts			Net (Cash Disbursements)
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Cash Receipts and Changes in Net Position
			Governmental Activities	
Governmental Activities:				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$ 130,603	\$ 138,317	\$ 5,180	\$ 12,894
Special	852,125	868,997	264,017	280,889
Other	29,025	20,878	-	(8,147)
Support Services:				
Pupils	692,124	519,374	3,031	(169,719)
Instructional Staff	365,853	261,145	55	(104,653)
Board of Education	108,556	76,989	-	(31,567)
Administration	383,912	310,674	4,353	(68,885)
Fiscal	194,128	144,732	827	(48,569)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	130,038	106,945	1,708	(21,385)
Central	342,239	328,302	9,754	(4,183)
Capital Outlay	26,214	-	-	(26,214)
Refund of Prior Year Receipts	2,171	-	-	(2,171)
Totals	\$ 3,256,988	\$ 2,776,353	\$ 288,925	(191,710)
General Cash Receipts				
Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs				28,753
Investment Earnings				2,933
Gifts and Donations not Restricted to Specific Programs				2,400
Miscellaneous				575
<i>Total General Cash Receipts</i>				<u>34,661</u>
Special Item - Lawrence Academy				<u>200,591</u>
<i>Change in Net Position</i>				43,542
<i>Net Position at Beginning of Year</i>				<u>1,477,126</u>
<i>Net Position at End of Year</i>				<u><u>\$ 1,520,668</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
Statement of Assets and Fund Balances - Cash Basis
Governmental Funds
As of June 30, 2018

	General Fund	Special Ed Cooperative	Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative	Alternative School	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets						
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,085,776	\$ 86,751	\$ 92,825	\$ 252,635	\$ 2,681	\$ 1,520,668
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$ 1,085,776</u>	<u>\$ 86,751</u>	<u>\$92,825</u>	<u>\$252,635</u>	<u>\$ 2,681</u>	<u>\$ 1,520,668</u>
Fund Balances						
Restricted	-	86,751	92,825	252,635	2,681	434,892
Committed	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000
Assigned	256,858	-	-	-	-	256,858
Unassigned	778,918	-	-	-	-	778,918
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$ 1,085,776</u>	<u>\$ 86,751</u>	<u>\$ 92,825</u>	<u>\$ 252,635</u>	<u>\$ 2,681</u>	<u>\$ 1,520,668</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances - Cash Basis
Governmental Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

	General Fund	Special Ed Cooperative	Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative	Alternative School	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Cash Receipts						
Intergovernmental	\$ 262,571	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,364	\$ 45,743	\$ 317,678
Interest	2,933	-	-	-	-	2,933
Charges for Services	306,778	-	273,562	280,237	-	860,577
Contract Services	995,520	917,661	-	-	-	1,913,181
Rent	2,595	-	-	-	-	2,595
Gifts and Donations	2,400	-	-	-	-	2,400
Miscellaneous	575	-	-	-	-	575
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>1,573,372</u>	<u>917,661</u>	<u>273,562</u>	<u>289,601</u>	<u>45,743</u>	<u>3,099,939</u>
Cash Disbursements						
Current:						
Instruction:						
Regular	-	-	-	130,603	-	130,603
Special	87,867	686,425	76,033	-	1,800	852,125
Other	29,025	-	-	-	-	29,025
Support Services:						
Pupils	614,906	18,132	-	9,000	50,086	692,124
Instructional Staff	364,668	-	-	-	1,185	365,853
Board of Education	108,556	-	-	-	-	108,556
Administration	273,244	54,982	55,686	-	-	383,912
Fiscal	172,785	1,000	19,989	354	-	194,128
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	86,579	33,130	4,667	5,662	-	130,038
Central	95,870	23,587	222,782	-	-	342,239
Capital Outlay	12,080	13,654	0	480	-	26,214
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>1,845,580</u>	<u>830,910</u>	<u>379,157</u>	<u>146,099</u>	<u>53,071</u>	<u>3,254,817</u>
<i>Excess of Cash Receipts Over (Under) Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>(272,208)</u>	<u>86,751</u>	<u>(105,595)</u>	<u>143,502</u>	<u>(7,328)</u>	<u>(154,878)</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)						
Advances In	2,273	-	-	-	9,325	11,598
Refund of Prior Year Receipts	-	-	(2,171)	-	-	(2,171)
Advances Out	(9,325)	-	-	(2,273)	-	(11,598)
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(7,052)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,171)</u>	<u>(2,273)</u>	<u>9,325</u>	<u>(2,171)</u>
Special Item						
Lawrence County Academy	-	-	200,591	-	-	200,591
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	<u>(279,260)</u>	<u>86,751</u>	<u>92,825</u>	<u>141,229</u>	<u>1,997</u>	<u>43,542</u>
<i>Fund Balances at Beginning of Year</i>	<u>1,365,036</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>111,406</u>	<u>684</u>	<u>1,477,126</u>
<i>Fund Balances at End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 1,085,776</u>	<u>\$ 86,751</u>	<u>\$92,825</u>	<u>\$252,635</u>	<u>\$ 2,681</u>	<u>\$1,520,668</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis
Agency Funds
June 30, 2018

	<u>Lawrence County School Council of Governments</u>
ASSETS:	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 2,599,176</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u><u>\$ 2,599,176</u></u>
NET POSITION:	
Unrestricted	<u>\$ 2,599,176</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u><u>\$ 2,599,176</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 1 - REPORTING ENTITY

The Lawrence County Educational Service Center (the “Educational Service Center”) is located in Ironton, Ohio, the county seat. The Educational Service Center provides supervisory, special education, administrative, and other services to Dawson-Bryant, Fairland, Rock Hill, South Point, and Symmes Valley Local School Districts, Ironton City School District, Chesapeake-Union Exempted Village School District, as well as the Collins Career Center. 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 Lawrence 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 16 support staff employees and 33 certified administrators that provide services to the school districts.

A reporting entity is composed of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the Educational Service Center consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the Educational Service Center. For the Lawrence County Educational Service Center, this includes instructional and support services.

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 entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; 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 for the organization. The Educational Service Center has no component units.

The Educational Service Center participates in three organizations which are defined as jointly governed organizations. These are the South Central Ohio Computer Association Regional Council of Governments, the Metropolitan Educational Technology Association (META Solutions), and the Collins Career Center. Information about these organizations is presented in Note 9 to the basic financial statements.

The Educational Service Center serves as the fiscal agent for the Lawrence County Schools Council of Governments Health Benefits Program. Accordingly, this organization is presented as a fiduciary fund within the Center's financial statements.

The Educational Service Center participates in three organizations of which two are defined as insurance purchasing pools and one as a shared risk pool: the Sheakley Workers' Comp and Safety Group Retrospective Rating Plan, the Ohio School Plan and the Lawrence County Schools Council of Governments Health Benefits Program. Information about these organizations is presented in Note 10 to the basic financial statements.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Basis of Accounting

Although required by Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(B) to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), the Educational Service Center chooses to prepare its financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary disbursements when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved). These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, in accordance with the basis of accounting described above.

As a result of the use of the 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 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. Therefore, when reviewing the financial information and discussion within this annual report, the reader should keep in mind the limitations resulting from the use of the cash basis of accounting.

B. Fund Accounting

The Educational Service Center uses funds to maintain its financial records during the fiscal year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The Educational Service Center's funds are classified as governmental and fiduciary.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are those through which all governmental functions of the Educational Service Center are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses, and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. The Educational Service Center has the following major governmental funds:

General Fund

The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Educational Service Center and is used to account for all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The General Fund is available to the Educational Service Center for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the school laws of Ohio.

Special Ed Cooperative Fund

The Special Ed Cooperative Fund is used to account for monies received from the Educational Service Center's member districts from their respective foundation program aid for the purpose of providing special education services.

Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative Fund

The Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative Fund is used to account for monies received from the Educational Service Center's member districts for the purpose of providing joint program educational services.

Alternative School Grant Fund

The Alternative School Grant fund is used to account for alternative educational programs for existing and new at-risk and delinquent youth. Programs shall be focused on youth in one or more of the following categories: those who have been expelled or suspended, those who have dropped out of school or who are at risk of dropping out of school, those who are habitually truant or disruptive, or those on probation or on parole from a Department of Youth Services facility.

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

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Fiduciary Fund Type

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private-purpose trust funds, and agency funds. Trust funds are used to account for assets held by the Educational Service Center under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments and are therefore not available to support the Educational Service Center's own programs. Agency funds are custodial in nature (assets equal net position) and do not involve measurement of results of operations. The Educational Service Center has an agency fund used to account for the activity of the Lawrence County Schools Council of Governments Health Benefits Program.

C. Basis of Presentation

The Educational Service Center uses the provisions of GASB 34 for financial reporting on a cash basis, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and GASB 38, for certain financial statement note disclosures. 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 that 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, except for fiduciary funds.

The statement of net position-cash basis presents the cash basis financial condition of governmental activities of the Educational Service Center at year-end. The statement of activities-cash basis presents a comparison between direct cash disbursements and program cash receipts for each program or function of the Educational Service Center's governmental activities. Direct cash disbursements are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program cash receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Cash receipts which are not classified as program cash receipts are presented as general cash receipts of the Educational Service Center. The comparison of direct cash disbursements with program cash receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general cash receipts of the Educational Service Center.

Fund Financial Statements During the 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 fund financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type. The major funds are presented in a separate column. Non-major funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. Fiduciary funds are reported by fund type.

Cash Receipts – Exchange and Non-exchange Transactions

Cash receipts resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the cash basis when the exchange takes place. On a cash basis, receipts are recorded in the year in which the resources are received.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the Educational Service Center receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlements and donations. On a cash basis, receipts from grants, entitlements and donations are recognized in the year in which the monies have been received.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Cash Disbursements

On the cash basis of accounting, disbursements are recognized at the time payments are made.

D. Cash and Cash Equivalents

To improve cash management, cash received by the Educational Service Center is pooled. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through the Educational Service Center's records. Each fund's interest in the pool is presented as "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents" on the financial statements.

For presentation on the financial statements, investments of the cash management pool and investments with original maturities of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the Educational Service Center are considered to be cash equivalents. As of June 30, 2018, the Educational Service Center had no investments.

E. Capital Assets and Depreciation

Capital assets acquired or constructed for the Educational Service Center are recorded as disbursements at the time of acquisition. However, under the cash basis of accounting, capital assets and the related depreciation are not reported separately on the financial statements.

F. Compensated Absences

Vacation and sick leave benefits are not accrued under the cash basis of accounting as previously described. All leave will either be absorbed by time off from work, or within certain limitations, be paid to the employees.

G. Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligations

In general, bonds and capital leases are not accrued, but rather are recorded as cash disbursements in the basic financial statements when paid. The Educational Service Center also does not record premiums and accretion of capital appreciation bonds as assets or liabilities in the accompanying financial statements.

H. Net Position

Net cash position represents the cash assets held by the Educational Service Center at year end. 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. Restricted for Other Purposes is comprised of net position restricted for state and federal programs. The Educational Service Center applies restricted resources when a cash disbursement is made for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available. As of June 30, 2018, the Educational Service Center had no net position restricted by enabling legislation.

I. 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 the governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable The nonspendable fund balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in the spendable form, or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Restricted 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.

Committed The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the Educational Service Center Board. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Educational Service Center Board 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 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. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the Educational Service Center Board.

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 a deficit balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

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 amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

J. Pensions and Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability and the net OPEB 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.

Under the cash basis of accounting, net pension liabilities, net OPEB liabilities, and associated deferred inflows and outflows of resources are not reported in the accompanying financial statements.

K. Special Item

The Educational Service Center received monies from the Lawrence County Academy upon its closure as of June 30, 2017; however, these monies were not received until fiscal year 2018. These monies have been recorded as a special item in the accompanying financial statements.

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

State statutes classify monies held by the Educational Service Center into three categories.

Active deposits are public deposits necessary to meet current demands on the treasury. Such 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.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (continued)

Inactive deposits are public deposits that the Educational Service Center 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.

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 monies 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 other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligation or security 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, and Government National Mortgage Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and with certain limitations bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio;
5. Time certificates of deposit 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) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio);
8. Certain bankers' acceptances and commercial paper notes for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time 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. An investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the Educational Service Center, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the Treasurer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

Deposits: Custodial credit risk 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 year end, \$3,771,187 of the Educational Service Center's bank balance of \$4,271,187 was exposed to custodial credit risk because those deposits were uninsured and uncollateralized. Although all statutory requirements for the deposit of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the Educational Service Center to a successful claim by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (continued)

The Educational Service Center does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or be protected by:

Eligible securities pledged to the Educational Service Center and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured; or

Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

NOTE 4 - STATE FUNDING

The Educational Service Center is funded by the State Department of Education for the cost of Part (A) of their budget. This funding is provided from State resources.

Part (B) of the budget is provided by the school districts to which the Educational Service Center provides services and by the State Department of Education. Each school district's portion is determined by multiplying the average daily membership of the school district (the total number of students enrolled) by \$6.50. This amount is deducted by the State Department of Education from that school district's resources provided under the State's Foundation Program. The Department of Education's portion is determined by multiplying the sum of the average daily memberships of all of the school districts served by the Educational Service Center by \$26. This amount is provided from State resources.

If additional funding is needed for the Educational Service Center, and if a majority of the Boards of Education of the school districts served by the Educational Service Center approve, the cost of Part (B) of the budget can be increased.

The portion that is in excess of the original funding calculation is shared by all of the school districts served by the Educational Service Center through additional reductions in their resources provided through the State Foundation Program. The State Board of Education initiates and supervises the procedure under which the school districts approve or disapprove the additional apportionment.

NOTE 5 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Educational Service Center is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters.

The Educational Service Center joined together with other school districts and educational service centers in Ohio to participate in the Ohio School Plan (OSP), a public entity insurance purchasing pool. Each individual school district or educational service center 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 10).

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

General Liability:	
Each Occurrence	\$3,000,000
Aggregate Limit	5,000,000
Products – Complete Operations Aggregate Limit	3,000,000
Fire Legal Liability	500,000
Medical Expense Limit – per person/accident	10,000
Employers Liability – Stop Gap:	
Per Accident	3,000,000

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 5 - RISK MANAGEMENT (continued)

Per Disease Each Employee	3,000,000
Per Disease Policy Limit	3,000,000
Employee Benefits Liability:	
Per Claim	3,000,000
Aggregate Limit	5,000,000

Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years. There has not been a significant reduction in coverage from the prior year.

For fiscal year 2018, the Educational Service Center participated in the Sheakley Workers' Comp and Safety Group Retrospective Rating Plan (GRP), an insurance purchasing pool (Note 10). The intent of the GRP is to improve safety, accident prevention, and claims handling for the Educational Service Center. Participation in the GRP is limited to those school districts and educational service centers that can meet the GRP's selection criteria. The firm of Sheakley Uniservice provides administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the GRP.

The Educational Service Center participates in the Lawrence County Schools Council of Governmental Health Benefits Program (Council), a public entity shared risk pool (Note 10), consisting of government entities within the County offering medical insurance to their employees. Monthly premiums are paid to the Lawrence County Educational Service Center as fiscal agent, who in turns pays the claims on the government entity's behalf. The Council is responsible for the management and operations of the program. Upon termination of the Council, for any reason, the Council shall have no obligation under the plan beyond paying the difference between the claims incurred (even though later filed) and expenses of the Plan due up to the date of termination plus extended benefits, if any, provided under the Plan. Such claims and expenses shall be paid from the fund of the Council.

NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

Net Pension Liability

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.

The 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.

Since the Educational Service Center is using the cash basis of accounting, there is no accrued pension liability or related deferred inflows or outflows of resources reported in the accompanying financial statements.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)

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.

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, 2018, 13.5% was designated to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B. There was 0.5% allocated to the Health Care Fund for fiscal year 2018.

The Educational Service Center’s contractually required contribution to SERS was \$63,050 for fiscal year 2018.

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.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) (continued)

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 was 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. Members are eligible to retire at age 60 with five years of qualifying service credit, or at age 55 with 26 years of service, or 31 years of service regardless of age. Eligibility changes will be phased in until Aug. 1, 2026, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit and at least age 60.

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 9.5% of the 14% employer contributions into an investment account. Investment allocation decisions are determined by the member. The remaining 4.5% of the 14% 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, 12% of the 14% member rate goes to the DC Plan and the remaining 2% is applied to the DB Plan. Member contributions to the DC Plan are allocated among investment choices by the member, and contributions to the DB Plan from the employer and the member are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined Plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of service. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity after termination of employment at age 50 or later.

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 Ohio 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 Ohio bearing the risk of investment gain or loss on the account. STRS Ohio therefore has included all three plan options in the GASB 68 schedules of employer allocations and pension amounts by employer.

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 10 years of qualifying service credit to apply for disability benefits. Members in the DC Plan who become disabled are entitled only to their account balance. 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 Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The statutory employer rate is 14% and the statutory member rate is 14% of covered payroll effective July 1, 2016. The Educational Service Center was required to contribute 14 percent; the entire 14 percent was the portion used to fund pension obligations. The fiscal year 2018 contribution rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates.

The Educational Service Center's contractually required contribution to STRS Ohio was \$173,559 for fiscal year 2018.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)

Net Pension Liability

The net pension liability disclosed as current year below was measured as of June 30, 2017, 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 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:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability - Current Year	0.0150734%	0.01275459%	
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability - Prior Year	0.0187749%	0.01323116%	
Change from Prior Year	-0.00370150%	-0.00047657%	
 Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	 \$900,602	 \$3,029,880	 \$3,930,482

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, 2017, are presented below:

Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.50 percent to 18.20 percent
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.50 percent
Inflation	3.00 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.50 percent net of investments expense, including inflation
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS (continued)

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five year age set-back for both males and females. Mortality among service retired members, and beneficiaries were based upon the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120% of male rates, and 110% of female rates. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90% for male rates and 100% for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement. The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended June 30, 2015.

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined by using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in the 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 nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating an arithmetic weighted average 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 asset class are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	1.00 %	0.50 %
US Stocks	22.50	4.75
Non-US Stocks	22.50	7.00
Fixed Income	19.00	1.50
Private Equity	10.00	8.00
Real Estate	15.00	5.00
Multi-Asset Strategy	10.00	3.00
Total	100.00 %	

Discount Rate The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.50 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 (7.50 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 7.50 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 (6.50 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.50 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.50%)	Current Discount Rate (7.50%)	1% Increase (8.50%)
Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$1,249,802	\$900,602	\$608,076

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

The total pension liability in the July 1, 2017 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.50 percent
Projected salary increases	12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65
Investment Rate of Return	7.45 percent, net of investment expenses
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0% effective July 1, 2017
Payroll Increases	3.00%

Post-retirement mortality rates for healthy retirees are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50% of rates through age 69, 70% of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90% of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100% of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on the RP- 2014 Disabled Mortality Table with 90% of rates for males and 100% of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

Actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2017 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016.

STRS Ohio's investment consultant develops an estimate range for the investment return assumption based on the target allocation adopted by the Retirement Board. The target allocation and long-term expected rate of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Rate of Return*</u>
Domestic Equity	28.00 %	7.35 %
International Equity	23.00	7.55 %
Alternatives	17.00	7.09 %
Fixed Income	21.00	3.00 %
Real Estate	10.00	6.00 %
Liquidity Reserves	<u>1.00</u>	<u>2.25 %</u>
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

* 10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25% and does not include investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS Ohio's investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS (continued)

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.45% as of June 30, 2017. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with the rates described previously. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS Ohio’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2017. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.45% was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2017.

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 7.45 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 (6.45 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (8.45 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.45%)	Current Discount Rate (7.45%)	1% Increase (8.45%)
Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$4,343,230	\$3,029,880	\$1,923,580

Social Security System

Effective July 1, 1991, all employees not otherwise covered by the School Employees Retirement System or the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio have an option to choose Social Security or the School Employees Retirement System. As of June 30, 2018, none of the Educational Service Center’s members of the Board of Education has elected Social Security. The contribution rate is 6.2 percent of wages.

NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

Net Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability

The net OPEB liability reported on the statement of net position represents a liability to employees for OPEB. OPEB is a component of exchange transactions—between an employer and its employees—of salaries and benefits for employee services. OPEB 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 obligation to sacrifice resources for OPEB is a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that already have occurred.

The net OPEB liability represents the Educational Service Center’s proportionate share of each OPEB plan’s collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each OPEB plan’s fiduciary net position. The net OPEB 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 these estimates 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 OPEB are financed; however, the Educational Service Center does receive the benefit of employees’ services in exchange for compensation including OPEB.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (continued)

Net Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability (continued)

GASB 75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because they benefit from employee services. OPEB contributions come from these employers and health care plan enrollees which pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. The Ohio revised Code permits, but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients. Any change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net OPEB liability. Resulting adjustments to the net OPEB liability would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits.

The Educational Service Center reports on the cash basis of accounting, so there is no net OPEB liability or related deferred inflows and outflows of resources recorded in the accompanying financial statements.

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

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2018, .5 percent of covered payroll was made to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, prorated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2018, this amount was \$23,700. 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 2018, the Educational Service Center's surcharge obligation was \$5,185.

The surcharge, added to the allocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The Educational Service Center's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$7,519 for fiscal year 2018.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (continued)

State Teachers Retirement System

Plan Description – The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) administers a cost-sharing Health Plan administered for eligible retirees who participated in the defined benefit or combined pension plans offered by STRS. Ohio law authorizes STRS to offer this plan. Benefits include hospitalization, physicians’ fees, prescription drugs and partial reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued effective January 1, 2020. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting www.strsoh.org or by calling (888) 227-7877.

Funding Policy – Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. Nearly all health care plan enrollees, for the most recent year, pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14 percent of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

Net Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability

The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2017, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Educational Service Center’s proportion of the net OPEB liability was based on the Educational Service Center’s share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

	<u>STRS</u>	<u>SERS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability Current Measurement Date	0.01275459%	0.01495690%	
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$497,637	\$401,404	\$899,041

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

The total OPEB liability is determined by SERS’ actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 74, as part of their annual actuarial valuation for each 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 terminations). 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.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (continued)

Actuarial Assumptions – SERS (continued)

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2017 are presented below:

Wage Inflation	3.00 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.50 percent to 18.20 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.50 percent net of investments expense, including inflation
Municipal Bond Index Rate:	
Measurement Date	3.56 percent
Prior Measurement Date	2.92 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation	
Measurement Date	3.63 percent
Prior Measurement Date	2.98 percent
Medical Trend Assumption	
Medicare	5.50 to 5.00 percent
Pre-Medicare	7.50 to 5.00 percent

Mortality Assumptions - Mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and Scale BB, 120% of male rates and 110% of female rates. RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table with 90% for male rates and 100% for female rates set back five years.

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial five-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2010 through 2015, and was adopted by the Board on April 21, 2016. Several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.50%, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The capital market assumptions developed by the investment consultant are intended for use over a 10-year horizon and may not be useful in setting the long-term rate of return for funding pension plans which covers a longer timeframe. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class, as used in the June 30, 2015 five-year experience study, are summarized as follows:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	1.00 %	0.50 %
US Stocks	22.50	4.75
Non-US Stocks	22.50	7.00
Fixed Income	19.00	1.50
Private Equity	10.00	8.00
Real Estate	15.00	5.00
Multi-Asset Strategy	10.00	3.00
Total	100.00 %	

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (continued)

Actuarial Assumptions – SERS (continued)

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2017 was 3.63%. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2017 was 2.98%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the state statute contribution rate of 2.00% of projected covered employee payroll each year, which includes a 1.50% payroll surcharge and 0.50% of contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to become insufficient to make future benefit payments during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan assets was used to present value the projected benefit payments through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 and the Fidelity General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index rate of 3.56%, as of June 30, 2017 (i.e. municipal bond rate), was used to present value the projected benefit payments for the remaining years in the projection. The total present value of projected benefit payments from all years was then used to determine the single rate of return that was used as the discount rate. The projection of future benefit payments for all current plan members was until the benefit payments ran out.

The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability of SERS, what SERS' net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (2.63%) and higher (4.63%) than the current discount rate (3.63%).

	1% Decrease (2.63%)	Current Discount Rate (3.63%)	1% Increase (4.63%)
Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$484,746	\$401,404	\$335,375

The following table presents the OPEB liability of SERS, what SERS' net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (6.5% decreasing to 4.0%) and higher (8.5% decreasing to 6.0%) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.5% decreasing to 4.0%)	Current Trend Rate (7.5% decreasing to 5.0%)	1% Increase (8.5% decreasing to 6.0%)
Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$325,709	\$401,404	\$501,587

Assumption Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date – The discount rate was changed from 2.98% to 3.63%.

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

The net OPEB liability of \$3,901,631,000 for STRS as a whole was measured as of June 30, 2017 and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was determined by an independent actuarial valuation as of that date. Each respective employer allocation percentage of the net OPEB liability is based on the employer's share of employer contributions in the pension plan relative to the total employer contributions of all participating STRS Ohio employers. Employer contributions were determined based on the 14% employer rate and total member contributions from employer payroll reports for the year ended June 30, 2017.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (continued)

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS (continued)

The total OPEB liability in the June 30, 2017 actuarial valuation was determined using the following assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.50%
Salary increases	12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65
Payroll increases	3.00%
Blended Discount Rate of Return	4.13%
Investment Rate of Return	7.45 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Health Care Cost Trends	6% - 11% initial, 4.50% ultimate
Cost-of-living Adjustments	0% effective July 1, 2017

Mortality Rates — For healthy retirees the mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50% of rates through age 69, 70% of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90% of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100% of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Table with 90% of rates for males and 100% of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

Experience Studies — Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2017 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016.

Investment Return Assumptions — STRS Ohio’s investment consultant develops an estimate range for the investment return assumption based on the target allocation adopted by the Retirement Board. The target allocation and long-term expected rate of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Rate of Return*</u>
Domestic Equity	28.00 %	7.35 %
International Equity	23.00	7.55 %
Alternatives	17.00	7.09 %
Fixed Income	21.00	3.00 %
Real Estate	10.00	6.00 %
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	2.25 %
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

* 10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25% and does not include investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS Ohio’s investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (continued)

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS (continued)

Discount Rate — The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 4.13 percent as of June 30, 2017. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes STRS Ohio continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan’s fiduciary net position was not projected to be sufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. The OPEB plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to become insufficient to make future benefit payments during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2037. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan assets was used to determine the present value of the projected benefit payments through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2036 and the Bond Buyer 20-year municipal bond rate of 3.58 percent as of June 30, 2017 (i.e. municipal bond rate), was used to determine the present value of the projected benefit payments for the remaining years in the projection. The total present value of projected benefit payments from all years was then used to determine the single rate of return that was used as the discount rate. The blended discount rate of 4.13 percent, which represents the long-term expected rate of return of 7.45 percent for the funded benefit payments and the Bond Buyer 20-year municipal bond rate of 3.58 percent for the unfunded benefit payments, was used to measure the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2017. A blended discount rate of 3.26 percent which represents the long term expected rate of return of 7.75 percent for the funded benefit payments and the Bond Buyer 20-year municipal bond rate of 2.85 percent for the unfunded benefit payments was used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2016.

The following table represents the net OPEB liability as of June 30, 2017, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 4.13%, as well as what the net OEPB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (3.13%) or one percentage point higher (5.13%) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB liability as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	<u>1% Decrease in Discount Rate (3.13%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (4.13%)</u>	<u>1% Increase in Discount Rate (5.13%)</u>
Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$668,070	\$497,637	\$362,940
	<u>1% Decrease in Trend Rates</u>	<u>Current Trend Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase in Trend Rates</u>
Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$345,737	\$497,637	\$697,555

NOTE 8 - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

A. Compensated Absences

The criteria for determining vacation and sick leave benefits are derived from negotiated agreements and State laws. Employees are awarded up to twenty days of vacation per contract year depending on the contract type.

Employees earn sick leave at the rate of fifteen days per year. Sick leave may be accumulated up to a maximum of 225 days for all personnel. Upon retirement, payment is made for one-half of accrued but unused sick leave credit to a maximum of 90 days.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 8 - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS (continued)

B. Health Care Benefits

The Educational Service Center provides health and major medical insurance for all eligible employees through the Lawrence County Schools Council of Governments Health Benefits Program. The Educational Service Center pays seventy-five percent of monthly premiums, or \$1,617.35, for family coverage and seventy-five percent of monthly premiums, or \$654.80 for individual coverage. Premiums are paid from the same funds that pay the employees' salaries. The Educational Service Center also provides prescription drug insurance to its employees through the same insurance carrier.

NOTE 9 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

South Central Ohio Computer Association Regional Council of Governments - The Educational Service Center is a participant in the South Central Ohio Computer Association Regional Council of Governments (SCOCARCoG), which is organized under ORC Code Chapter 167 as a council of governments. SCOCARCoG is an association of public school districts within the boundaries of Pickaway, Gallia, Adams, Brown, Highland, Pike, Ross, Scioto, Vinton, Jackson, and Lawrence Counties. 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 school districts. The governing board of SCOCARCoG consists of two representatives from each county in the SCOCARCoG service region designated by the Ohio Department of Education and two representatives of the school treasurers. The Board exercises total control over the operations of SCOCARCoG including budgeting, appropriating, contracting and designating management. Each School District's degree of control is limited to its representation on the Board.

During fiscal year 2016, SCOCARCoG entered into a merger agreement with Metropolitan Educational Technology Association ("META"). Pursuant to an addendum to the agreement, certain liabilities will remain the sole responsibility of SCOCARCoG, and once these remaining liabilities are satisfied, SCOCARCoG will be dissolved and the member districts will become members of META. SCOCARCoG entered into a subcontract agreement with META to provide services to SCOCARCoG, and on behalf of SCOCARCoG, to the member districts. Consistent with the merger agreement and updated bylaws, SCOCARCoG is currently governed by a four person executive governing board. The Educational Service Center paid SCOCARCoG \$19,362 for services provided during the fiscal year.

Metropolitan Educational Technology Association - META is an educational solutions partner providing services across Ohio. META provides cost-effective fiscal, network, technology and student services, a purchasing cooperative, and other individual services based on each client's needs.

The governing board of META consists of a president, vice president and six board members who represent the members of META. The board works with META's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Financial Officer to manage operations and ensure the continued progress of the organization's mission, vision, and values. The Board exercises total control over the operations of the Council including budgeting, appropriating, contracting and designating management. Each member's degree of control is limited to its representation on the Board. The Educational Service Center paid META \$10,194 for services provided during the fiscal year. Financial information can be obtained from David Varda, who serves as Chief Financial Officer, at 100 Executive Drive, Marion, Ohio 43302.

Collins Career Center - The Collins Career Center is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio operated under the direction of a Board, consisting of one representative from Chesapeake Union Exempted Village School District, two from the Ironton City School District, and two from the Lawrence County Educational Service Center, which possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. To obtain financial information write to the Collins Career Center, 11627 State Route 243, Chesapeake, Ohio 45619. The Educational Service Center made no payments to the Collins Career Center in fiscal year 2018.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 10 - INSURANCE PURCHASING POOLS

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 fifteen member Board of Directors consisting of school district superintendents and treasurers, as well as the president of Harcum-Hyre Insurance Agency, Inc. and a partner of the Hylant Group, Inc. Hylant Group, Inc. is the Administrator of the OSP and is responsible for processing claims. Harcum-Hyre Insurance Agency, Inc. is the sales and marketing representative, which establishes agreements between OSP and member schools.

The Educational Service Center participates in the Sheakley Workers' Comp and Safety Group Retrospective Rating Plan (GRP), an insurance purchasing pool. Each year, the participating school districts and educational service centers pay an enrollment fee to the GRP to cover the costs of administering the program.

Lawrence County Schools Council of Governments Health Benefits Program - The Educational Service Center is a member of the Lawrence County School Council of Governments Health Benefits Program, a shared risk pool created pursuant to State statute for the purpose of administering health care benefits. The Council is governed by a Board of Directors, which consist of the superintendent from each participating member. The Council elects officers for one-year terms to serve on the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors exercises control over the operation of the council. All Council revenues are generated from charges for services received from the participating member, based on the established premiums for the insurance plans. The Lawrence County Educational Service Center is the fiscal agent of the council.

NOTE 11 - 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 are 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, the effect of any such disallowed claims on the overall financial position of the Educational Service Center at June 30, 2018, if applicable, cannot be determined at this time.

B. Litigation

The Educational Service Center is currently party to legal proceedings. Although the outcome of these lawsuits is not presently determinable, it is of the opinion of the Educational Service Center that resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the Educational Service Center.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 12 – 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 the governmental funds. The constraints placed on the fund balance for the major governmental fund and all other governmental funds are presented below:

Fund Balances	General Fund	Special Ed Cooperative	Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative	Alternative School	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Restricted for						
Other Purposes	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,681	\$2,681
Special Education	0	86,751	92,825	0	0	179,576
Joint Programs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Alternative School Grant	0	0	0	252,635	0	252,635
Total Restricted	<u>0</u>	<u>86,751</u>	<u>92,825</u>	<u>252,635</u>	<u>2,681</u>	<u>434,892</u>
Committed to						
Retirement Severance Benefits	<u>50,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Assigned to						
Other Purposes	<u>256,858</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>256,858</u>
Unassigned						
	<u>778,918</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>778,918</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$1,085,776</u>	<u>\$86,751</u>	<u>\$92,825</u>	<u>\$252,635</u>	<u>\$2,681</u>	<u>\$1,520,668</u>

NOTE 13 – INTERFUND ACTIVITY

During the year, the Educational Service Center’s General Fund made advances in the amount of \$8,825 to the Intern Psychologist Grant Fund and \$500 to the Title I Fund in anticipation of grant receipts. These advances are expected to be repaid during fiscal year 2019. The Alternative School Grant Fund returned an advance from the prior year to the General Fund in the amount of \$2,273.

NOTE 14 – NEW ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, the Educational Service Center has implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, Statement No. 82, *Pension Issues-An Amendment of GASB Statements No. 67, No. 68, and No. 73*, and GASB Statement No. 85, *Omnibus 2017*.

GASB Statement No. 75 (GASB 75) establishes accounting and financial reporting requirements for governmental employers who have other post-employment benefits (OPEB) plans. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 75 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the Educational Service Center as the Educational Service Center reports on the cash basis of accounting and the net OPEB is not recorded in the accompanying financial statements; however, certain additional disclosures have been made in the notes to the basic financial statements.

GASB Statement No. 82 addresses certain issues that have been raised with respect to Statements No. 67, Financial Reporting for Pension Plans, No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions, and No. 73, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions and Related Assets That Are Not within the Scope of GASB Statement 68, and Amendments to Certain Provisions of GASB Statements 67 and 68. GASB Statement No. 82 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the Educational Service Center.

GASB Statement No. 85 addresses a variety of topics including issues related to blending component units, goodwill, fair value measurement and application, and postemployment benefits (pensions and other postemployment benefits [OPEB]). GASB Statement No. 85 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the Educational Service Center.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 15 – COMPLIANCE

Although required by Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(B) to prepare its financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), the Educational Service Center chooses to prepare its financial statements and notes in accordance with the cash basis of accounting. This is not in compliance with Ohio law.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
*Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget (Budget Basis) and Actual
General Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018*

	Budget Amounts			Variance With Final Budget Over/(Under)
	Original	Final	Actual	
Cash Receipts				
Intergovernmental	\$ 269,206	\$ 258,885	\$ 258,885	\$ -
Interest	1,168	2,573	2,933	360
Rent	3,050	2,595	2,595	-
Gifts and Donations	-	2,400	2,400	-
Charges for Services	1,299,409	182,939	184,014	1,075
Contract Services	995,520	995,520	995,520	-
Miscellaneous	797,712	127,025	127,025	-
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	3,366,065	1,571,937	1,573,372	1,435
Cash Disbursements				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	39,749	88,642	88,642	-
Special	695,165	-	-	-
Other	27,637	29,025	29,025	-
Support Services:				
Pupils	714,613	615,038	615,035	3
Instructional Staff	491,351	367,246	367,244	2
Board of Education	222,228	141,090	141,090	-
Administration	386,956	274,297	274,296	1
Fiscal	296,861	265,427	265,426	1
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	73,560	100,206	100,207	(1)
Pupil Transportation	83	-	-	-
Central	697,890	105,476	105,475	1
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	3,646,093	1,986,447	1,986,440	7
<i>Excess of Cash Receipts Over (Under) Cash Disbursements</i>	(280,028)	(414,510)	(413,068)	1,442
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers In	1,005,603	7,002	7,002	-
Advances In	16,506	4,733	4,733	-
Refund of Prior Year Expenditures	929	-	-	-
Advances Out	(4,733)	(11,785)	(11,785)	-
Transfers Out	(1,053,143)	(73,002)	(73,002)	-
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	(34,838)	(73,052)	(73,052)	-
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	(314,866)	(487,562)	(486,120)	1,442
<i>Fund Balance at Beginning of Year</i>	1,166,437	1,166,437	1,166,437	-
<i>Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated</i>	148,599	148,599	148,599	-
<i>Fund Balance at End of Year</i>	\$ 1,000,170	\$ 827,474	\$ 828,916	\$ 1,442

See accompanying notes to the supplementary information.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
*Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget (Budget Basis) and Actual
Special Ed Cooperative Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018*

	Budget Amounts		Actual	Variance With Final Budget Over/(Under)
	Original	Final		
Revenues				
Contract Services	\$ 917,661	\$ 917,661	\$ 917,661	\$ -
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>917,661</u>	<u>917,661</u>	<u>917,661</u>	<u>-</u>
Expenditures				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Special	705,452	705,452	705,453	(1)
Support Services:				
Pupils	18,132	18,132	18,132	-
Administration	55,001	55,001	55,001	-
Fiscal	2,000	2,000	2,000	-
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	33,134	33,134	33,133	1
Central	24,787	24,787	24,787	-
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>838,506</u>	<u>838,506</u>	<u>838,506</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	79,155	79,155	79,155	-
<i>Fund Balance at Beginning of Year</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Fund Balance at End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 79,155</u>	<u>\$ 79,155</u>	<u>\$ 79,155</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

See accompanying notes to the supplementary information.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
*Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget (Budget Basis) and Actual
Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018*

	Budget Amounts		Actual	Variance With Final Budget Over/(Under)
	Original	Final		
Revenues				
Charges for Services	\$ 273,562	\$ 273,562	\$ 273,562	\$ -
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>273,562</u>	<u>273,562</u>	<u>273,562</u>	<u>-</u>
Expenditures				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Special	76,033	76,033	76,033	-
Support Services:				
Administration	80,688	80,688	80,688	-
Fiscal	62,625	62,625	62,626	(1)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	4,667	4,667	4,667	-
Central	225,396	225,396	225,396	-
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>449,409</u>	<u>449,409</u>	<u>449,410</u>	<u>(1)</u>
<i>Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures</i>	<u>(175,847)</u>	<u>(175,847)</u>	<u>(175,848)</u>	<u>(1)</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Refund of Prior Year Receipts	(2,171)	(2,171)	(2,171)	-
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(2,171)</u>	<u>(2,171)</u>	<u>(2,171)</u>	<u>-</u>
Special Item				
Lawrence County Academy	200,591	200,591	200,591	-
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	22,573	22,573	22,572	(1)
<i>Fund Balance at Beginning of Year</i>	-	-	-	-
<i>Fund Balance at End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 22,573</u>	<u>\$ 22,573</u>	<u>\$ 22,572</u>	<u>\$ (1)</u>

See accompanying notes to the supplementary information.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
*Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in
Fund Balance - Budget (Budget Basis) and Actual
Alternative School Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018*

	Budget Amounts		Actual	Variance With Final Budget Over/(Under)
	Original	Final		
Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$ 61,003	\$ 7,893	\$ 7,893	\$ -
Charges for Services	135,066	280,237	280,237	-
Miscellaneous	-	1,471	1,471	-
<i>Total Revenues</i>	196,069	289,601	289,601	-
Expenditures				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	150,638	131,112	131,110	2
Support Services:				
Pupils	9,000	9,000	9,000	-
Fiscal	10,999	999	1,000	(1)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	5,504	5,662	5,662	-
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	176,141	146,773	146,772	1
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	19,928	142,828	142,829	1
Other Financing Sources				
Transfers In	-	66,430	66,430	-
Advances In	2,273	-	-	-
Advances Out	(16,506)	(2,273)	(2,273)	-
Transfers Out	-	(66,430)	(66,430)	-
<i>Total Other Financing Sources</i>	(14,233)	(2,273)	(2,273)	-
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	5,695	140,555	140,556	1
<i>Fund Balance at Beginning of Year</i>	110,168	110,168	110,168	-
<i>Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated</i>	1,238	1,238	1,238	-
<i>Fund Balance at End of Year</i>	\$ 117,101	\$ 251,961	\$ 251,962	\$ 1

See accompanying notes to the supplementary information.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center

Notes to the Supplementary Information

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2018

NOTE 1 - BUDGETARY PROCESS

The Educational Service Center is no longer required under State statute to file budgetary information with the State Department of Education. However, the Educational Service Center's Board does follow the budgetary process for control purposes.

The Educational Service Center's Board budgets for resources estimated to be received during the fiscal year. The estimated revenues may be amended during the fiscal year if projected increases or decreases in revenue are identified by the Treasurer. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts on the budgetary schedules reflect the amounts of estimated revenues when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary schedules reflect the amounts of the estimated revenues in effect at the time final appropriations were passed by the Board.

The Educational Service Center's Board adopts an annual appropriation resolution, which is the Board's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on expenditures plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Board. The level of control has been established by the Board at the fund level for all funds. The Treasurer has been authorized to allocate appropriations to the function and object level within all funds.

Throughout the fiscal year, appropriations may be amended or supplemented as circumstances warrant. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts on the budgetary schedules reflect the amounts on the first appropriation resolution for that fund that covered the entire fiscal year, including amounts automatically carried forward from prior fiscal years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary schedules represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the Board during the fiscal year.

NOTE 2 - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

While the Educational Service Center is reporting financial position, results of operations, and changes in fund balances on the cash basis of accounting which is not in accordance with the basis of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the budgetary basis is based upon the accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The schedule of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance – budget (budget basis) and actual – for the General Fund, the Special Ed Cooperative fund, the Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative fund, and the Alternative School fund are presented on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. Budgetary revenues and expenditures of the Termination Benefits Fund are reclassified to the General Fund for cash basis reporting.

The following table summarizes the adjustments necessary to reconcile the cash basis financial statements and budgetary basis schedules for the General Fund.

	Net Changes in Fund Balances			
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Ed Cooperative</u>	<u>Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative</u>	<u>Alternative School</u>
Cash Basis	\$ (279,260)	\$ 86,751	\$ 92,825	\$ 141,229
Perspective Difference:				
Activity of Funds Reclassified for Cash Reporting Purposes	(66,000)	-	-	-
Encumbrances	<u>(140,860)</u>	<u>(7,596)</u>	<u>(70,253)</u>	<u>(673)</u>
Budget Basis	<u>\$ (486,120)</u>	<u>\$ 79,155</u>	<u>\$ 22,572</u>	<u>\$ 140,556</u>

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**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance
and on Other Matters Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
Lawrence County, Ohio
304 North Second Street
Ironton, Ohio 45638

To the Governing Board:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Lawrence County Educational Service Center, Lawrence County, Ohio (the Center) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2018, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Center's financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 25, 2019.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the 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 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 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 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 matter we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of finding and Response as item number 2018-001.

Center's Response to Findings

The Center's response to the finding identified in our audit is described in the accompanying schedule of finding and response. We did not subject the Center's response to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on them.

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

Very truly yours,



BHM CPA Group Inc.
Piketon, Ohio
June 25, 2019

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
Lawrence County, Ohio
Schedule of Audit Finding and Response
June 30, 2018

Finding Related to the Financial Statements Required To be Reported in Accordance with GAGAS

FINDING NUMBER 2018-001

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. Also, the report shall be certified by the proper officer or board and filed with the Auditor of State within sixty days after the close of the fiscal year, except that public offices reporting pursuant to generally accepted accounting principles shall file their reports within one hundred fifty days after the close of the fiscal year. The Auditor of State may extend the deadline for filing a financial report and establish terms and conditions for any such extension.

Ohio Admin. Code § 117-2-03(B), which further clarifies the requirements of Ohio Revised Code §117.38, requires the Center to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

We identified the following noncompliance:

- The Center prepared financial statements that, although formatted similar to financial statements prescribed by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, report on the basis of cash receipts and cash disbursements, rather than GAAP. The accompanying financial statements and notes omit certain assets, liabilities, deferred inflows/outflows of resources, fund equities/net position, and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time;

- Because the Center filed 2018 financial statements prepared in accordance with the cash basis of accounting, their financial statements should have been filed within sixty days after the close of the fiscal year end; however, the Center did not file their cash basis financial statements until February 4, 2019 which was after the filing extension due date of October 29, 2018.

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 the Center may be fined and subject to various other administrative remedies for its failure to file the required financial report. Failure to report on a GAAP basis compromises the Center’s ability to evaluate and monitor the overall financial condition of the Center. To help provide the users with more meaningful financial statements, the Center should prepare its annual financial statements according to generally accepted accounting principles and complete and file their annual financial statements with the Auditor of State by the required date

Officials Response:

The Center will work to be timely.

Lawrence County Educational Service Center
Lawrence County, Ohio
 Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
 June 30, 2018

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; Explain:
2017-001	Noncompliance and Internal Control Deficiency – Accounting System and Records	Yes	Corrective Action Taken
2017-002	Noncompliance – Annual Financial Report Filed Late and not in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles	No	Not Corrected - See Finding Number 2018-001
2017-003	Noncompliance - Public Records Training	Yes	Corrective Action Taken

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



LAWRENCE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

LAWRENCE 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
AUGUST 20, 2019**