



**bhm cpa group, inc.**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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LAWRENCE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER  
LAWRENCE COUNTY

For the Year Ended June 30, 2019  
Fiscal Year Audited Under GAGAS: 2019

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
KEITH FABER



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Board of Education  
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, 2018 through June 30, 2019. 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

March 16, 2020

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**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**  
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*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*

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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, 2019, 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 the Lawrence County Educational Service Center, Lawrence County, Ohio, as of June 30, 2019, and the respective changes in cash financial position thereof 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 schedule is management's responsibility, and derives from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. We subjected this schedule 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 basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, this schedule is 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 them.



***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 24, 2020, 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.

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

BHM CPA Group, Inc.  
Piketon, Ohio  
January 24, 2020

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**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*  
*Unaudited*

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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, 2019. 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 2019 are as follows:

- Net position of governmental activities increased \$180,364.
- General cash receipts accounted for \$94,050 or 3.1 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 \$2,941,595 or 96.9 percent of total program specific and general cash receipts.
- The Educational Service Center had \$2,965,613 in cash disbursements; \$2,941,595 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, 2019*  
*Unaudited*

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***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 2019, 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, 2019*

*Unaudited*

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**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 2019 as compared to 2018.

Table 1  
Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	2019	2018
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets	\$ 1,701,032	\$ 1,520,668
Total Assets	<u>1,701,032</u>	<u>1,520,668</u>
<b>Net Position</b>		
Restricted	602,833	434,892
Unrestricted	1,098,199	1,085,776
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 1,701,032</u>	<u>\$ 1,520,668</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, 2019*  
*Unaudited*

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019 as compared to 2018.

Table 2  
Changes in Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	2019	2018
<b>Revenues</b>		
Program Cash Receipts		
Charges for Services	\$ 2,680,814	\$ 2,776,353
Operating Grants and Contributions	260,781	288,925
Total Program Cash Receipts	<u>2,941,595</u>	<u>3,065,278</u>
General Cash Receipts		
Grants and Entitlements, Not Restricted	20,632	28,753
Gifts and Donations, Not Restricted	-	2,400
Investment Earnings	29,123	2,933
Refund of Prior Year Expenditures	43,110	-
Miscellaneous	1,185	575
Total General Cash Receipts	<u>94,050</u>	<u>34,661</u>
Total Cash Receipts	<u>3,035,645</u>	<u>3,099,939</u>
<b>Program Disbursements</b>		
Instruction:		
Regular	132,982	130,603
Special	762,266	852,125
Other	37,770	29,025
Support Services:		
Pupils	580,742	692,124
Instructional Staff	278,469	365,853
Board of Education	103,556	108,556
Administration	433,502	383,912
Fiscal	157,626	194,128
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	97,524	130,038
Central	371,253	342,239
Capital Outlay	9,923	26,214
Refund of Prior Year Receipts	-	2,171
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>2,965,613</u>	<u>3,256,988</u>
Increase (Decrease) in Net Position Before Special Items	70,032	(157,049)
Special Item	110,332	200,591
Increase (Decrease) in Net Position	180,364	43,542
Net Position, Beginning of Year	1,520,668	1,477,126
Net Position, End of Year	<u>\$ 1,701,032</u>	<u>\$ 1,520,668</u>

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*  
*Unaudited*

**Governmental Activities**

The primary sources of revenue for governmental activities are derived from grants and charges for services. These revenue sources represent 96.9% of total governmental revenue. Revenue from charges for services decreased during fiscal year 2019. Charges for services decreased due to services provided to the Alternative School and local school districts.

Total disbursements decreased from 2018 to 2019. The largest disbursements of the Educational Service Center are for support services, which totaled \$2,022,672 or 68.2% 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

	Total Cost of Services	Net Cost of Services	Total Cost of Services	Net Cost of Services
	2019	2019	2018	2018
Program Disbursements				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$ 132,982	\$ (10,301)	\$ 130,603	\$ (12,894)
Special	762,266	(291,626)	852,125	(280,889)
Other	37,770	8,620	29,025	8,147
Support Services:				
Pupils	580,742	125,307	692,124	169,719
Instructional Staff	278,469	63,490	365,853	104,653
Board of Education	103,556	23,394	108,556	31,567
Administration	433,502	60,182	383,912	68,885
Fiscal	157,626	30,682	194,128	48,569
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	97,524	8,190	130,038	21,385
Central	371,253	(3,843)	342,239	4,183
Capital Outlay	9,923	9,923	26,214	26,214
Refund of Prior Year Receipts	-	-	2,171	2,171
Totals	<u>\$ 2,965,613</u>	<u>\$ 24,018</u>	<u>\$ 3,256,988</u>	<u>\$ 191,710</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 \$1,550,853 in cash receipts and other financing sources and \$1,648,762 in cash disbursements and other financing uses. The net change in fund balance for the General Fund was an increase of \$12,423. The Special Ed Cooperative fund and the Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative funds had increases in fund balance of \$60,663 and \$109,691, while the Alternative School fund had a decrease in fund balance in the amount of \$2,136.

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*  
*Unaudited*

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**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 \$9,923 in capital outlay disbursements during fiscal year 2019.

**DEBT**

The Educational Service Center did not have any debt outstanding as of June 30, 2019.

**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. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Ironton, Ohio 45638.



**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**

*Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis*

*As of June 30, 2019*

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	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
<b>Assets</b>	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 1,701,032</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>1,701,032</u>
<b>Net Position</b>	
Restricted for:	
Other Purposes	602,833
Unrestricted	<u>1,098,199</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u><u>\$ 1,701,032</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**  
*Statement of Activities - Cash Basis*  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019

	Program Cash Receipts			Net (Cash Disbursements)
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Cash Receipts and Changes in Net Position
			Governmental Activities	
<b>Governmental Activities:</b>				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$ 132,982	\$ 140,759	\$ 2,524	\$ 10,301
Special	762,266	804,967	248,925	291,626
Other	37,770	29,150	-	(8,620)
Support Services:				
Pupils	580,742	455,093	342	(125,307)
Instructional Staff	278,469	214,979	-	(63,490)
Board of Education	103,556	80,162	-	(23,394)
Administration	433,502	370,980	2,340	(60,182)
Fiscal	157,626	126,655	289	(30,682)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	97,524	88,467	867	(8,190)
Central	371,253	369,602	5,494	3,843
Capital Outlay	9,923	-	-	(9,923)
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 2,965,613</b>	<b>\$ 2,680,814</b>	<b>\$ 260,781</b>	<b>(24,018)</b>
<b>General Cash Receipts</b>				
Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs				20,632
Investment Earnings				29,123
Refund of Prior Year Expenditures				43,110
Miscellaneous				1,185
<i>Total General Cash Receipts</i>				<u>94,050</u>
Special Item - Incentive Repayment				<u>110,332</u>
<i>Change in Net Position</i>				180,364
<i>Net Position at Beginning of Year</i>				<u>1,520,668</u>
<i>Net Position at End of Year</i>				<u><u>\$ 1,701,032</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**  
*Statement of Assets and Fund Balances - Cash Basis*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*As of June 30, 2019*

	General Fund	Special Ed Cooperative	Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative	Alternative School	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Assets</b>						
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,098,199	\$ 147,414	\$ 202,516	\$ 250,499	\$ 2,404	\$ 1,701,032
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$ 1,098,199</u>	<u>\$ 147,414</u>	<u>\$202,516</u>	<u>\$250,499</u>	<u>\$ 2,404</u>	<u>\$ 1,701,032</u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>						
Restricted	-	147,414	202,516	250,499	2,404	602,833
Committed	5,118	-	-	-	-	5,118
Assigned	81,891	-	-	-	-	81,891
Unassigned	1,011,190	-	-	-	-	1,011,190
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$ 1,098,199</u>	<u>\$ 147,414</u>	<u>\$ 202,516</u>	<u>\$ 250,499</u>	<u>\$ 2,404</u>	<u>\$ 1,701,032</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic 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, 2019*

	General Fund	Special Ed Cooperative	Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative	Alternative School	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Cash Receipts</b>						
Intergovernmental	\$ 255,126	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 26,156	\$ 281,282
Interest	29,123	-	-	-	-	29,123
Charges for Services	339,841	-	416,544	145,184	-	901,569
Contract Services	873,162	904,513	-	-	-	1,777,675
Rent	1,570	-	-	-	-	1,570
Gifts and Donations	-	131	-	-	-	131
Miscellaneous	785	-	400	-	-	1,185
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<u>1,499,607</u>	<u>904,644</u>	<u>416,944</u>	<u>145,184</u>	<u>26,156</u>	<u>2,992,535</u>
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>						
Current:						
Instruction:						
Regular	-	-	-	132,982	-	132,982
Special	-	711,529	48,937	-	1,800	762,266
Other	37,770	-	-	-	-	37,770
Support Services:						
Pupils	563,175	-	-	9,000	8,567	580,742
Instructional Staff	278,469	-	-	-	-	278,469
Board of Education	103,556	-	-	-	-	103,556
Administration	310,004	61,079	62,419	-	-	433,502
Fiscal	142,084	8,479	6,185	878	-	157,626
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	51,901	35,307	4,667	5,649	-	97,524
Central	82,138	26,472	255,902	-	6,741	371,253
Capital Outlay	7,665	1,115	1,143	-	-	9,923
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>1,576,762</u>	<u>843,981</u>	<u>379,253</u>	<u>148,509</u>	<u>17,108</u>	<u>2,965,613</u>
<i>Excess of Cash Receipts Over (Under) Cash Disbursements</i>	<u>(77,155)</u>	<u>60,663</u>	<u>37,691</u>	<u>(3,325)</u>	<u>9,048</u>	<u>26,922</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>						
Advances In	9,325	-	72,000	-	-	81,325
Refund of Prior Year Receipts	41,921	-	-	1,189	-	43,110
Advances Out	(72,000)	-	-	-	(9,325)	(81,325)
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(20,754)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,000</u>	<u>1,189</u>	<u>(9,325)</u>	<u>43,110</u>
<b>Special Item</b>						
Incentive Repayment	110,332	-	-	-	-	110,332
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	<u>12,423</u>	<u>60,663</u>	<u>109,691</u>	<u>(2,136)</u>	<u>(277)</u>	<u>180,364</u>
<i>Fund Balances at Beginning 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>
<i>Fund Balances at End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 1,098,199</u>	<u>\$ 147,414</u>	<u>\$202,516</u>	<u>\$250,499</u>	<u>\$ 2,404</u>	<u>\$1,701,032</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**  
*Statement of Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*Agency Funds*  
*June 30, 2019*

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	<u>Lawrence County School Council of Governments</u>
ASSETS:	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 4,306,475</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u><u>\$ 4,306,475</u></u>
NET POSITION:	
Unrestricted	<u>\$ 4,306,475</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u><u>\$ 4,306,475</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*

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**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 24 support staff employees and 20 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 two organizations which are defined as jointly governed organizations. These are 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, 2019*

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**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, 2019*

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**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, 2019*

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**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, 2019, 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, 2019, 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, 2019*

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**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/OPEB plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the pension/OPEB 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/OPEB 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.

**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, 2019*

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**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, \$5,582,541 of the Educational Service Center's bank balance of \$6,082,541 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, 2019*

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**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, 2019*

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**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 2019, 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, 2019*

**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](http://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, 2019, 13.5% was designated to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B. There was 0.5% allocated to the Health Care Fund for fiscal year 2019.

The Educational Service Center’s contractually required contribution to SERS was \$33,156 for fiscal year 2019.

**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](http://www.strsoh.org).

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*

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**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 2019 contribution rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates.

The Educational Service Center's contractually required contribution to STRS Ohio was \$144,689 for fiscal year 2019.

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*

**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, 2018, 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:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability - Current Year	0.0145119%	0.01090491%	
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability - Prior Year	<u>0.0150734%</u>	<u>0.01275459%</u>	
Change from Prior Year	<u>-0.00056150%</u>	<u>-0.00184968%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$831,123	\$2,397,745	\$3,228,868

**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, 2018, 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, 2019*

**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	\$1,170,700	\$831,123	\$546,411

**Assumptions and Benefit Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date** - There were no changes in assumptions or benefit terms since the prior measurement date of June 30, 2017.

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*

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**NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**Actuarial Assumptions - STRS**

The total pension liability in the July 1, 2018 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
Payroll Increases	3.0%
Investment Rate of Return	7.45 percent, net of investment expenses
Discount Rate of Return	7.45%
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0%

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. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table, 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.

Actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2018 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	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, 2019

**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, 2018. 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, 2018. 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, 2018.

**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	\$3,501,591	\$2,397,745	\$1,463,489

**Assumptions and Benefit Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date** - There were no changes in assumptions or benefit terms since the prior measurement date of June 30, 2017.

**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, 2019, 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, 2019*

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**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](http://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 2019, .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 2019, this amount was \$21,600. 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 2019, the ESC's surcharge obligation was \$4,890.

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 ESC's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$7,291 for fiscal year 2019.

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*

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**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](http://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, 2019, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

**Net Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Liability**

The net OPEB (asset) liability was measured as of June 30, 2018, and the total OPEB (asset) liability used to calculate the net OPEB (asset) liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The ESC’s proportion of the net OPEB (asset) liability was based on the ESC's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability - Current Year	0.0141665%	0.01090491%	
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability - Prior Year	0.0149569%	0.01275459%	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.0007904%</u>	<u>-0.00184968%</u>	
Proportion of the Net OPEB (Asset) Liability	\$393,017	(\$175,231)	\$217,786

**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, 2019*

**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 are presented below:

Valuation Date	June 30, 2018
Actuarial Assumptions Experience Study Date	5 year period ended June 30, 2015
Investment Rate of Return	7.50 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Price Inflation	3.00%
Salary increases, including price inflation	3.50% - 18.20%
Municipal Bond Index Rate	
Prior Measurement Date	3.56%
Measurement Date	3.62%
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation	
Prior Measurement Date	3.63%
Measurement Date	3.70%
Medical Trend Assumption	
Pre-Medicare	7.25% - 4.75%
Medicare	5.375% - 4.75%

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:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
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	<u>100.00 %</u>	

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*

**NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (continued)**

**Actuarial Assumptions – SERS (continued)**

**Discount Rate** The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2018 was 3.70%. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2018 was 3.63%. 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 3.62%, as of June 30, 2018 (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.

**Sensitivity of the ESC's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates** 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 (2.70%) and higher (4.70%) than the current discount rate (3.70%).

	1% Decrease (2.70%)	Current Discount Rate (3.70%)	1% Increase (4.70%)
ESC's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$476,895	\$393,017	\$326,601

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 (6.25% decreasing to 3.75%) and higher (8.25% decreasing to 5.75%) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.25% decreasing to 3.75%)	Current Trend Rate (7.25% decreasing to 4.75%)	1% Increase (8.25% decreasing to 5.75%)
ESC's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$317,093	\$393,017	\$493,554

**Assumptions and Benefit Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date** - The discount rate was changed from 3.63% to 3.70% and the health care trend rates were updated. There were no changes in benefit terms since the prior measurement date of June 30, 2017.

**Actuarial Assumptions - STRS**

The net OPEB (asset) liability of (\$1,606,898) for STRS as a whole was measured as of June 30, 2018 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, 2018.

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*

**NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (continued)**

**Actuarial Assumptions – STRS (continued)**

The total OPEB liability in the June 30, 2018 actuarial valuation was determined using the following assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Salary increases	12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65	
Payroll increases	3.00%	
Investment Rate of Return	7.45 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation	
Discount Rate of Return	7.45%	
Health Care Cost Trends	Initial	Ultimate
Medical		
Pre-Medicare	6.00%	4.00%
Medicare	5.00%	4.00%
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	8.00%	4.00%
Medicare	-5.23%	4.00%

**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, 2018 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	<u>1.00</u>	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, 2019*

**NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS (continued)**

**Actuarial Assumptions – STRS (continued)**

Discount Rate — The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.45% as of June 30, 2018. 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 projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care plan investments of 7.45% was used to measure the total OPEB (asset) liability as of June 30, 2018.

***Sensitivity of the ESC's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset) Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates*** The following table represents the net OPEB liability as of June 30, 2018, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.45%, as well as what the net OPEB (asset) liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.45%) or one percentage point higher (8.45%) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB (asset) 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.

	1% Decrease in Discount Rate (6.45%)	Current Discount Rate (7.45%)	1% Increase in Discount Rate (8.45%)
ESC's proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset) liability	(\$150,189)	(\$175,231)	(\$196,277)
	1% Decrease in Trend Rates	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase in Trend Rates
ESC's proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset) liability	(\$195,089)	(\$175,231)	(\$155,063)

**Assumption Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date** - The discount rate was increased from the blended rate of 4.13% to the long-term expected rate of return of 7.45% based on the methodology defined under GASB Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB). Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated.

**Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date** - The subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was increased from 1.9% to 1.944% per year of service effective January 1, 2019. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2019 and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 1, 2020.

**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, 2019*

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**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 \$2,214.34, for family coverage and seventy-five percent of monthly premiums, or \$896.49 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**

*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 \$21,065 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 2019.

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*

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**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, 2019, 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 one of these legal proceedings has the potential to have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the Educational Service Center. No determination regarding any potential liability, if any, can be made at the present time.

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*

**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 funds 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
<b>Restricted for</b>						
Other Purposes	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,404	\$2,404
Special Education	0	147,414	0	0	0	147,414
Joint Programs	0	0	202,516	0	0	202,516
Alternative School Grant	0	0	0	250,499	0	250,499
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>147,414</b>	<b>202,516</b>	<b>250,499</b>	<b>2,404</b>	<b>602,833</b>
<b>Committed to</b>						
Retirement Severance Benefits	5,118	0	0	0	0	5,118
<b>Assigned to</b>						
Other Purposes	81,891	0	0	0	0	81,891
<b>Unassigned</b>						
	1,011,190	0	0	0	0	1,011,190
<b>Total Fund Balances</b>	<b>\$1,098,199</b>	<b>\$147,414</b>	<b>\$202,516</b>	<b>\$250,499</b>	<b>\$2,404</b>	<b>\$1,701,032</b>

**NOTE 13 – INTERFUND ACTIVITY**

During the year, the Educational Service Center’s General Fund made advances in the amount of \$72,000 to the Lawrence County Joint Coop Fund in anticipation of charges for services. These advances are expected to be repaid during fiscal year 2020. The Intern Psychologist Grant Fund and the Title I Fund returned advances from the prior year to the General Fund in the amount of \$8,825 and \$500, respectively.

**NOTE 14 – NEW ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES**

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019, the ESC has implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 83, *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations* and Statement No. 88, *Certain Disclosures Related to Debt, including Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements*.

GASB Statement No. 83 establishes criteria for determining the timing and pattern of recognition of a liability and a corresponding deferred outflow of resources for certain asset retirement obligations (AROs). The implementation of GASB Statement No. 83 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the ESC.

GASB Statement No. 88 establishes criteria to improve the information that is disclosed in notes to government financial statements related to debt, including direct borrowings and direct placements. It also clarifies which liabilities governments should include when disclosing information related to debt. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 88 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the ESC.

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*

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**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, 2019*

	Budget Amounts		Actual	Variance With Final Budget Over/(Under)
	Original	Final		
<b>Cash Receipts</b>				
Intergovernmental	\$ 258,885	\$ 255,126	\$ 255,126	\$ -
Interest	2,573	27,795	29,123	1,328
Rent	2,595	1,570	1,570	-
Charges for Services	255,059	192,891	194,766	1,875
Contract Services	873,162	873,162	873,162	-
Miscellaneous	94,430	145,860	145,860	-
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	1,486,704	1,496,404	1,499,607	3,203
<b>Cash Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Special	88,637	1,824	1,824	-
Other	29,024	38,502	38,502	-
Support Services:				
Pupils	615,038	568,319	568,319	-
Instructional Staff	367,246	263,825	281,151	(17,326)
Board of Education	141,091	131,637	131,582	55
Administration	274,295	200,400	200,400	-
Fiscal	265,429	181,895	181,896	(1)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant Central	100,206	59,228	59,227	1
	105,475	84,872	84,872	-
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	1,986,441	1,530,502	1,547,773	(17,271)
<i>Excess of Cash Receipts Over (Under) Cash Disbursements</i>	(499,737)	(34,098)	(48,166)	(14,068)
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>				
Transfers In	50,315	50,315	50,315	-
Advances In	4,733	9,325	9,325	-
Refund of Prior Year Expenditures	41,921	41,921	41,921	-
Advances Out	(11,785)	(72,000)	(72,000)	-
Transfers Out	(73,002)	(50,315)	(50,315)	-
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	12,182	(20,754)	(20,754)	-
<b>Special Item</b>				
Special Item - Incentive Repayment	-	110,332	110,332	-
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	(487,555)	55,480	41,412	(14,068)
<i>Fund Balance at Beginning of Year</i>	828,916	828,916	828,916	-
<i>Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated</i>	140,860	140,860	140,860	-
<i>Fund Balance at End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 482,221</u>	<u>\$ 1,025,256</u>	<u>\$ 1,011,188</u>	<u>\$ (14,068)</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  
Special Ed Cooperative Fund  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*

	Budget Amounts		Actual	Variance With Final Budget Over/(Under)
	Original	Final		
<b>Revenues</b>				
Contract Services	\$ 917,595	\$ 904,513	\$ 904,513	\$ -
Gifts and Donations	66	131	131	-
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>917,661</u>	<u>904,644</u>	<u>904,644</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Special	705,452	713,630	713,631	(1)
Support Services:				
Pupils	18,132	-	-	-
Administration	55,000	61,098	61,098	-
Fiscal	2,000	11,319	11,319	-
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	33,133	35,310	35,310	-
Central	24,788	26,472	26,472	-
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>838,505</u>	<u>847,829</u>	<u>847,830</u>	<u>(1)</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	79,156	56,815	56,814	(1)
<i>Fund Balance at Beginning of Year</i>	79,155	79,155	79,155	-
<i>Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated</i>	<u>7,596</u>	<u>7,596</u>	<u>7,596</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Fund Balance at End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 165,907</u>	<u>\$ 143,566</u>	<u>\$ 143,565</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  
Lawrence Co Joint Cooperative Fund  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019*

	Budget Amounts		Actual	Variance With Final Budget Over/(Under)
	Original	Final		
<b>Revenues</b>				
Charges for Services	\$ 404,153	\$ 416,544	\$ 416,544	\$ -
Miscellaenous	-	400	400	-
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>404,153</u>	<u>416,944</u>	<u>416,944</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Special	76,033	60,035	60,034	1
Support Services:				
Administration	80,689	74,709	74,708	1
Fiscal	62,626	14,925	14,926	(1)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	4,667	4,667	4,667	-
Central	225,396	255,902	255,902	-
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>449,411</u>	<u>410,238</u>	<u>410,237</u>	<u>1</u>
<i>Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures</i>	<u>(45,258)</u>	<u>6,706</u>	<u>6,707</u>	<u>1</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>				
Advances In	70,000	72,000	72,000	-
Refund of Prior Year Receipts	(2,170)	-	-	-
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>67,830</u>	<u>72,000</u>	<u>72,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	22,572	78,706	78,707	1
<i>Fund Balance at Beginning of Year</i>	22,572	22,572	22,572	-
<i>Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated</i>	<u>70,253</u>	<u>70,253</u>	<u>70,253</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Fund Balance at End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 115,397</u>	<u>\$ 171,531</u>	<u>\$ 171,532</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, 2019*

	Budget Amounts		Actual	Variance With Final Budget Over/(Under)
	Original	Final		
<b>Revenues</b>				
Charges for Services	\$ 294,847	\$ 145,184	\$ 145,184	\$ -
<i>Total Revenues</i>	294,847	145,184	145,184	-
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	131,109	136,674	136,673	1
Support Services:				
Pupils	9,000	9,000	9,000	-
Fiscal	999	1,162	1,162	-
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	5,662	5,649	5,649	-
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	146,770	152,485	152,484	1
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	148,077	(7,301)	(7,300)	1
<b>Other Financing Sources</b>				
Transfers In	61,185	61,185	61,185	-
Refund of Prior Year Expenditures	-	1,189	1,189	-
Advances Out	(2,273)	-	-	-
Transfers Out	(66,430)	(61,185)	(61,185)	-
<i>Total Other Financing Sources</i>	(7,518)	1,189	1,189	-
<i>Net Change in Fund Balance</i>	140,559	(6,112)	(6,111)	1
<i>Fund Balance at Beginning of Year</i>	251,962	251,962	251,962	-
<i>Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated</i>	673	673	673	-
<i>Fund Balance at End of Year</i>	\$ 393,194	\$ 246,523	\$ 246,524	\$ 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, 2019*

**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	\$ 12,423	\$ 60,663	\$ 109,691	\$ (2,136)
Perspective Difference:				
Activity of Funds Reclassified for Cash Reporting Purposes	110,880	-	-	-
Encumbrances	<u>(81,891)</u>	<u>(3,849)</u>	<u>(30,984)</u>	<u>(3,975)</u>
Budget Basis	<u>\$ 41,412</u>	<u>\$ 56,814</u>	<u>\$ 78,707</u>	<u>\$ (6,111)</u>



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER  
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS  
REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Lawrence County Educational Service Center  
Lawrence County  
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 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, (the Center) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Center's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated January 24, 2020, wherein we noted the Center uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

***Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the 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 opinion 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 matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2019-001.

***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 report is not suitable for any other purpose.

*BHM CPA Group*

BHM CPA Group, Inc.  
Piketon, Ohio  
January 24, 2020

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center  
Lawrence County**

**Schedule of Findings  
June 30, 2019**

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

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**FINDING NUMBER 2019-001**

**Noncompliance Citation**

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

Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the District to file annual financial reports which are prepared using generally accepted accounting principles. However, the District prepared its financial statements in accordance with the cash accounting basis which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. The accompanying financial statements and note omit assets, liabilities, fund equities, and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time.

The District should prepare its statement in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United State of America.

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

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

**Lawrence County Educational Service Center  
Lawrence County  
Schedule of Prior Audit Findings  
June 30, 2019**

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<b>Finding Number</b>	<b>Finding Summary</b>	<b>Fully Corrected?</b>	<b>Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; Explain:</b>
2018-001	Material Non-Compliance: OAC 117-2-03(B) – failed to prepare financial statement using generally accepted accounting principals	No	Not Corrected. Reissued as finding 2019-001

# 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  
MARCH 26, 2020