



MANAGEMENT COUNCIL OF THE OHIO EDUCATION COMPUTER NETWORK FRANKLIN COUNTY JUNE 30, 2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

IIILE	PAGE
ndependent Auditor's Report	1
Prepared by Management:	
Management's Discussion and Analysis	5
Basic Financial Statements:	
Government-Wide Financial Statements: Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis	10
Statement of Activities – Cash Basis	11
Fund Financial Statements:	
Balance Sheet – Cash Basis – Governmental Funds	12
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Cash Basis – Governmental Funds	13
Statement of Fund Net Position – Cash Basis – Proprietary Funds	14
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Net Net Position – Cash Basis – Proprietary Funds	15
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements	16
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	37
Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	38
ndependent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by Government Auditing Standards	39
ndependent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements Applicable to the Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance	41
Schedule of Findings	45
Prepared by Management:	
Corrective Action Plan	10





88 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov (800) 282-0370

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network Franklin County 8050 North High Street, Suite 150 Columbus, Ohio 43235

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network, Franklin County, Ohio (the Council), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Council's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities, business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Council, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position and where applicable cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Council, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Emphasis of Matter - Accounting Basis

We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Efficient • Effective • Transparent

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network Franklin County Independent Auditor's Report Page 2

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 2, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Council 's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, we:

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to
 fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures
 include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial
 statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that
 raise substantial doubt about the Council's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable
 period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network Franklin County Independent Auditor's Report Page 3

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted to opine on the financial statements as a whole that collectively comprise the Council's basic financial statements.

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied to the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures 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 as a whole.

Other Information

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

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 22, 2024, on our consideration of the Council'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. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's 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 Council's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

February 22, 2024

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)

The discussion and analysis of the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network's (the "Council") financial performance provides an overall review of the Council's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the Council's performance as a whole; readers should also review the notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the Council's financial performance.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for fiscal year 2023 are as follows:

☐ In total, net position increased \$1,426,651, with a \$987,463 increase in business-type activities and a \$439,188 increase in governmental activities.

Using these Basic Financial Statements

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. The statements are organized so the reader can understand the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network as a whole entire operating entity. The statements then proceed to provide an increasingly detailed look at specific financial activities.

Basis of Accounting

The Council has elected to present its financial statements on the cash basis of accounting. This cash basis of accounting is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. The cash basis of accounting involves the measurement of cash and cash equivalents and changes in cash and cash equivalents resulting from cash receipt and disbursement transactions.

Essentially, the only assets reported on this strictly cash receipt and disbursement basis presentation in a Statement of Net Position will be cash and cash equivalents. The Statement of Activities reports cash receipts and disbursements, or in other words, the sources and uses of cash and cash equivalents. 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.

Reporting the Council as a Whole

Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities

While this document contains the large number of funds used by the Council to provide programs and activities, the view of the Council as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, "How did we do financially during fiscal year 2023?" The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities answer this question.

These two statements report the Council's *net position* and *changes in net position*. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader that, for the Council as a whole, the *financial position* of the Council has improved or diminished.

Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)

Reporting the Council's Most Significant Funds

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the Council's major funds. The Council uses many funds to account for financial transactions. However, these fund financial statements focus on the Council's most significant funds. The Council's major governmental funds include the General Fund and the ESSER Fund. The ERP Project Fund, the State Software Development Team Local Fund, the INFOhio Local Fund and the MCOECN Projects/Operational Support Fund are the Council's most significant business-type activities funds.

Governmental Funds - The governmental funds focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using the cash basis of accounting. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Council's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps determine whether there are more or less financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance educational programs.

Proprietary Fund – The Council maintains one type of proprietary fund. Enterprise funds are used to report the same functions presented as business-type activities in the government-wide financial statements.

The Council as a Whole

Table 1 provides a summary of the Council's net position for fiscal year 2023 compared to 2022.

(Table 1) Net Position - Cash Basis

	Go	vernmental Activ	rities	Business-Type Activities						
	2023	2023 2022 Change		2023	2022	Change				
Assets Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 6,547,128	\$ 6,107,940	\$ 439,188	\$ 5,459,918	\$ 4,472,455	\$ 987,463				
Net Position Restricted for: Other Purposes Unrestricted	6,547,128	23,157 6,084,783	(23,157) 462,345	5,459,918	4,472,455	987,463				
Total Net Position	\$ 6,547,128	\$ 6,107,940	\$ 439,188	\$ 5,459,918	\$ 4,472,455	\$ 987,463				

Net position of the governmental activities increased \$439,188 from fiscal year 2022. The net position of the business-type activities increased \$987,463 from fiscal year 2022. See following pages for detailed explanations causing these fluctuations.

The balance of the government-wide unrestricted net position of \$6,547,128 may be used to meet the Council's ongoing obligations.

Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for fiscal year 2023 compared to fiscal year 2022.

(Table 2)

Changes in Net Position - Cash Basis

	Go	vernmental Activi	ties	Business-Type Activities					
	2023	2022	Change	2023	2022	Change			
Receipts									
Program Receipts									
Charges for Services and Sales	\$ 11,251,747	\$ 6,404,526	\$ 4,847,221	\$ 2,511,002	\$ 2,444,203	\$ 66,799			
Operating Grants, Contributions and Interest	17,487,210	10,292,756	7,194,454		8,306	(8,306)			
Total Program Receipts	28,738,957	16,697,282	12,041,675	2,511,002	2,452,509	58,493			
General Receipts									
Gifts and Donations	611	-	611	-	-	_			
Investment Earnings	252,166	24,330	227,836	112,971	-	112,971			
Miscellaneous	50,280	37,295	12,985	593,519	8	593,511			
Total General Receipts	303,057	61,625	241,432	706,490	8	706,482			
Total Receipts	29,042,014	16,758,907	12,283,107	3,217,492	2,452,517	764,975			
Program Disbursements									
Support Services:									
Fiscal	168,493	196,802	(28,309)	-	-	-			
Central	28,434,333	18,110,656	10,323,677	-	-	-			
INFOhio Local	-	-	-	1,151,298	1,611,073	(459,775)			
ERP Project	-	-	-	840,477	683,143	157,334			
State Software Development Team Local	-	-	-	232,148	284,643	(52,495)			
Ohio Distance Learning Association		_		6,106	525	5,581			
Total Program Disbursements	28,602,826	18,307,458	10,295,368	2,230,029	2,579,384	(349,355)			
Change in Net Position	439,188	(1,548,551)	1,987,739	987,463	(126,867)	1,114,330			
Net Position Beginning of Year	6,107,940	7,656,491	(1,548,551)	4,472,455	4,599,322	(126,867)			
Net Position End of Year	\$ 6,547,128	\$ 6,107,940	\$ 439,188	\$ 5,459,918	\$ 4,472,455	\$ 987,463			

The increase in receipts in governmental activities can be attributed primarily to continuation of activities in the Connectivity Champions Grant, the Extension Exchange Grant, the Mid-Mile Upgrade Grant, centralization of collecting payment for utilization of Final Forms for all schools statewide and increased interest received from deposited funds. The increase in disbursements for governmental activities can be attributed to the continuation of the Connectivity Champions Grant, the Extension Exchange Grant, the Mid-Mile Upgrade Grant and centralization of making payment for utilization of Final Forms for all schools statewide. The increase in receipts for business-type activities can be primarily attributed to repayment made to the INFOhio Local fund by the Extension Exchange Grant for purchases made in fiscal year 2022. The decrease in disbursements for business-type activities can be primarily attributed to purchases made in support of the Exchange Extension Grant in fiscal year 2022 not being repeated.

Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)

Business-Type Activities

Business-type activities include providing services to clients for the ERP Project, INFOhio Local, State Software Development Team Local, Ohio Distance Learning Association, and other special projects. The major source of revenue for these funds is charges for services.

The Council's Funds

The Council's governmental and enterprise funds are accounted for using the cash basis of accounting.

(Table 3) Changes in Fund Balances - Cash Basis

	Fur	nd Balance	Fu	nd Balance	Increase		
		2023		2022	(Decrease)		
General	\$	7,157,610	\$	7,247,544	\$	(89,934)	
ESSER fund		(110,717)		(910,258)		799,541	
Other Governmental Funds		(499,765)		(229,346)		(270,419)	
Total	\$	6,547,128	\$	6,107,940	\$	439,188	

The General Fund's fund balance decreased in fiscal year 2023. The decrease in fund balance can be attributed to staffing and services added to address initiatives of the Strategic Plan.

The ESSER fund balance increased in fiscal year 2023. The increase in fund balance is primarily due to the timing of grant disbursements versus grant receipts.

(Table 4) Changes in Net Position (Enterprise Funds) - Cash Basis

	No	et Position	N	et Position	I	ncrease
		2023		2022	<u>(</u> [Decrease)
ERP Project	\$	963,089	\$	1,020,670	\$	(57,581)
State Software Development Team Local		1,412,828		1,083,552		329,276
INFOhio Local		1,241,309		589,414		651,895
MCOECN Projects/Operational Support		1,822,287		1,754,578		67,709
Other Enterprise Fund		20,405		24,241		(3,836)
Total	\$	5,459,918	\$	4,472,455	\$	987,463

The ERP Project Fund had a decrease in net position during fiscal year 2023. The decrease is attributed to invoicing issues with the vendor which resulted in payments for services being made in fiscal year 2023 that were for fiscal year 2022 services.

Management's Discussion and Analysis For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)

The State Software Development Team Local Fund had an increase in net position during fiscal year 2023. The increase is attributed to lower than anticipated disbursements as staff are added to the project.

The INFOhio Local Fund had an increase in net position during fiscal year 2023. This increase is due to repayment being made from the Exchange Extension Grant for purchases made in fiscal year 2022.

The MCOECN Projects/Operational Support Fund had no significant changes in net position during fiscal year 2023.

Contacting the Council's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the Council's finances and to show the Council's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Greg Buddelmeyer, Chief Financial Officer of Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network, 8050 North High Street, Suite 150, Columbus, Ohio 43235 or buddelmeyer@mcoecn.org.

Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis June 30, 2023

	Govern Activ		siness-Type Activities	Total		
Assets Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 6,	547,128	\$ 5,459,918	\$	12,007,046	
Net Position Unrestricted	6,5	547,128	5,459,918		12,007,046	
Total Net Position	\$ 6,5	547,128	\$ 5,459,918	\$	12,007,046	

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network Franklin County, Ohio Statement of Activities - Cash Basis

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

		Program Ca	ash Receipts	Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position						
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants, Contributions and Interest	Governmental Activities	Business-Type Activities	Total				
Governmental Activities Fiscal Central	\$ 168,493 28,434,333	\$ - 11,251,747	\$ - 17,487,210	\$ (168,493) 304,624	\$ - -	\$ (168,493) 304,624				
Total Governmental Activities	28,602,826	11,251,747	17,487,210	136,131		136,131				
Business-Type Activities ERP Project State Software Development Team Local INFOhio Local Ohio Distance Learning Association Total Business-Type Activities Totals	840,477 232,148 1,151,298 6,106 2,230,029 \$ 30,832,855	782,896 561,424 1,164,412 2,270 2,511,002 \$ 13,762,749	- - - - - \$ 17,487,210	136,131	(57,581) 329,276 13,114 (3,836) 280,973	(57,581) 329,276 13,114 (3,836) 280,973				
	General Receipts Gifts and Donations Investment Earnings Miscellaneous			611 252,166 50,280	- 112,971 593,519	611 365,137 643,799				
	Total General Receip	pts		303,057	706,490	1,009,547				
	Change in Net Positi	on		439,188	987,463	1,426,651				
	Net Position Beginni	ing of Year		6,107,940	4,472,455	10,580,395				
	Net Position End of	Year		\$ 6,547,128	\$ 5,459,918	\$ 12,007,046				

Balance Sheet - Cash Basis Governmental Funds June 30, 2023

	 General	ESSER Fund	Go	Other vernmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds		
Assets Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 7,157,610	\$ (110,717)	\$	(499,765)	\$	6,547,128	
Fund Balances Assigned Unassigned	\$ 997,633 6,159,977	\$ (110,717)	\$	(499,765)	\$	997,633 5,549,495	
Total Fund Balances	\$ 7,157,610	\$ (110,717)	\$	(499,765)	\$	6,547,128	

Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances - Cash Basis - Governmental Funds For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	General	ESSER Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receipts				
Intergovernmental	\$ -	\$ 9,067,171	\$ 8,420,039	\$ 17,487,210
Investment Income	252,166	=	-	252,166
Gifts and Donations	611	-	-	611
Charges for Services	11,251,747	-	-	11,251,747
Miscellaneous	50,280			50,280
Total Receipts	11,554,804	9,067,171	8,420,039	29,042,014
Disbursements				
Current:				
Support Services:				
Fiscal	168,493	-	-	168,493
Central	11,476,245	8,267,630	8,690,458	28,434,333
Total Disbursements	11,644,738	8,267,630	8,690,458	28,602,826
Net Change in Fund Balances	(89,934)	799,541	(270,419)	439,188
Fund Balances Beginning of Year	7,247,544	(910,258)	(229,346)	6,107,940
Fund Balances End of Year	\$ 7,157,610	\$ (110,717)	\$ (499,765)	\$ 6,547,128

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network Franklin County, Ohio Statement of Fund Net Position - Cash Basis

Statement of Fund Net Position - Cash Basis Proprietary Funds June 30, 2023

	Enterprise Funds										
	 State Software						MCOECN Projects/ Other				
	 ERP Project	Development Team Local		INFOhio Local		Operational Support		Enterprise Fund			Total
Assets Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 963,089	\$	1,412,828	\$	1,241,309	\$	1,822,287	\$	20,405	\$	5,459,918
Net Position Unrestricted	 963,089		1,412,828		1,241,309		1,822,287		20,405		5,459,918
Total Net Position	\$ 963,089	\$	1,412,828	\$	1,241,309	\$	1,822,287	\$	20,405	\$	5,459,918

Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Net Position - Cash Basis
Proprietary Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

					Enterpri	se Fun	ds			
	ERP Project	De	State Software Development Team Local		INFOhio Local	MCOECN Projects/ Operational Support		Other Enterprise Fund		Total
Operating Receipts Charges for Services Other Operating Receipts	\$ 782,896 -	\$	561,424	\$	1,164,412 593,519	\$	- -	\$	2,270	\$ 2,511,002 593,519
Total Operating Receipts	 782,896		561,424		1,757,931				2,270	 3,104,521
Operating Disbursements Salaries Fringe Benefits Purchased Services Materials and Supplies Capital Outlay Other Operating Disbursements Total Operating Disbursements	 189,284 50,369 592,470 - 1,425 6,929 840,477		132,854 36,975 49,875 1,755 10,689 		450,086 129,302 106,186 460,908 4,816 - 1,151,298		- - - - - -		5,869 237 - - 6,106	 772,224 216,646 754,400 462,900 16,930 6,929 2,230,029
Operating Income (Loss)	 (37,381)		329,270	-	000,033				(3,830)	 874,492
Non-Operating Receipts Interest	 				45,262		67,709			 112,971
Total Non-Operating Receipts	 				45,262		67,709			 112,971
Change in Net Position	(57,581)		329,276		651,895		67,709		(3,836)	987,463
Net Position Beginning of Year	 1,020,670		1,083,552		589,414		1,754,578		24,241	 4,472,455
Net Position End of Year	\$ 963,089	\$	1,412,828	\$	1,241,309	\$	1,822,287	\$	20,405	\$ 5,459,918

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNCIL

The Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network (the "Council") is a body politic and corporate established for the purpose of exercising the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The Council is a 17 entity consortium organized under Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code as a not-for-profit Council of Governments and is directed by a 17 member Board of Trustees. The Council is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, and more specifically, to plan, promote, and facilitate effective and efficient information technology services for Ohio schools.

Reporting Entity

A reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to insure the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the Council consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the Council. For Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network, this includes general operations of the Council.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the Council is financially accountable. The Council is financially accountable for an organization if the Council appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board; and (1) the Council is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the Council is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the Council is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the Council is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organization for which the Council authorizes the issuance of debt or the levying of taxes or determines the budget if there is also the potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on the Council. The Council has no component units.

The Council's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the Council is financially accountable.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As discussed further in the Basis of Accounting section of this note, these financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. This cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Generally accepted accounting principles include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. Following are the more significant of the Council's accounting policies.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Basis of Presentation

The Council's basic financial statements consist of government-wide financial statements, including a Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis and a Statement of Activities – Cash Basis, and fund financial statements which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

Government-Wide Financial Statements - The Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis and the Statement of Activities – Cash Basis display information about the Council as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government.

These statements distinguish between those activities of the Council that are governmental in nature and those that are considered business-type activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through intergovernmental receipts or other nonexchange transactions. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for goods or services.

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

Fund Financial Statements - During the fiscal year, the Council segregates transactions related to certain Council 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 Council at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental and enterprise fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column.

Proprietary fund statements distinguish operating transactions from nonoperating transactions. Operating receipts generally result from exchange transactions such as charges for services directly relating to the fund's principal services. Operating disbursements include costs of sales and services and administrative costs. The fund statements report all other receipts and disbursements as nonoperating.

Fund Accounting

The Council 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 funds of the Council are divided into two categories, governmental and proprietary.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Governmental Funds - The Council classifies funds financed primarily from intergovernmental receipts (e.g. grants) and other nonexchange transactions as governmental funds. The following are the Council's major governmental funds:

General Fund - The General Fund is the operating fund of the Council and is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The General Fund balance is available to the Council for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

ESSER Fund - This special revenue fund is used to provide emergency relief grants to the Council related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Restrictions include, but are not limited to, providing for coordination of preparedness and response efforts, training and professional development of staff, planning and coordination during long-term closure, and purchasing technology for students.

The other non-major governmental funds account for grants and other resources to which the Council is bound to observe constraints imposed internally or externally.

Enterprise Funds - These funds account for operations that are similar to private business enterprises where management intends that the significant cost of providing certain goods or services will be recovered through user charges. The Council had the following significant enterprise funds:

ERP Project Fund - This fund accounts for the activity of providing Efinance PLUS services and support to information technology centers.

State Software Development Team Local Fund - This fund accounts for the activity of providing services to administer the development, maintenance and support of fiscal software for Ohio public schools.

INFOhio Local Fund - This fund accounts for the activity of providing support and services to clients by INFOhio staff.

MCOECN Projects/Operational Support Fund - This fund accounts for activity to support special projects for MCOECN.

The other non-major enterprise fund is used to account for Ohio Distance Learning Association.

Basis of Accounting

The Council's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the Council's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned, and disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

As a result of the use of this cash basis of accounting, certain assets and deferred outflows and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and deferred inflows of resources 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.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Budgetary Process

The Council is not bound by the budgetary laws prescribed by the Ohio Revised Code. The Board annually approves the budget for the Council. The budget includes an estimate of amounts expected to be received and expended (appropriations) by the Council during the fiscal year. Budget amendments are approved by the Board of Trustees during the year as required. The Council reserves (encumbers) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at fiscal year end are carried over, and need not be reappropriated.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

To improve cash management, cash received by the Council is pooled and invested. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through Council records. Interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents."

Investments of the Council's cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the Council are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months that were not purchased from the pool are reported as investments.

Investments are reported as assets. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements, and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or negative receipts (contra revenue), respectively. Nonparticipating investment contracts, such as certificates of deposit are recorded at cost.

During the year 2023, the Council invested in STAR Ohio and negotiable certificates of deposit. STAR Ohio (the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio), is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Statement No. 79, Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants. The Council measures their investment in STAR Ohio at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

For the fiscal year 2023, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, notice must be given 24 hours in advance of all deposits and withdrawals exceeding \$100 million. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$250 million, requiring the excess amount to be transacted the following business day(s), but only to the \$250 million limit. All accounts of the participant will be combined for these purposes.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Trustees has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest receipts credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2023 were \$252,166, which includes \$40,727 assigned from other Council funds.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Inventory and Prepaid Items

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

Capital Assets

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

Interfund Receivables/Payables

The Council reports advances-in and advances-out for interfund loans. These items are not reflected as assets and liabilities in the accompanying basic financial statements.

Accumulated Leave

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

Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

The Council recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 6 and 7, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for postretirement health care benefits.

Pensions and Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

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

Leases

The Council is the lessor/lessee in various leases related to buildings, vehicles and other equipment under noncancelable leases. Lease receivables/payables are not reflected under the Council's modified cash basis of accounting. Lease revenue/disbursements are recognized when they are received/paid.

Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA)

For fiscal year 2023, GASB Statement No. 96, Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA) was effective. This GASB pronouncement had no effect on beginning net position/fund balance. The Council is party to various SBITAs; however, liabilities are not reflected under the Council's cash basis of accounting. SBITA disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Long-Term Obligations

The Council's cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for bonds and other long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received and principal and interest payments are reported when paid. Since recording a capital asset (including the intangible right to use) when entering into a lease, SBITA or financed purchase transaction is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay disbursement is reported at inception. Lease, SBITA and financed purchase payments are reported when paid.

Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes include resources restricted for Federal and State grants restricted to disbursements for specific purposes.

The Council's policy is to first apply restricted resources when a cash disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted resources are available.

Extraordinary and Special Items

Extraordinary items are transactions or events that are both unusual in the nature and infrequent in occurrence. Special items are transactions or events that are within the control of the Board of Trustees and that are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence. There were no extraordinary or special items during the fiscal year.

Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Council 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 category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

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.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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 Council. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Council 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 Council 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 Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees has by resolution authorized the Treasurer to assign fund balance.

Unassigned - Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

The Council applies restricted resources first when disbursements 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 disbursements are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

Monies held by the Council are classified by State statute into three categories.

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

Inactive deposits are public deposits that Council has identified as not required for use within the current two-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 deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts, including passbook accounts.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Protection of the Council's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, or by the financial institutions 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.

Interim monies held by the Council can be deposited or invested in the following securities:

- 1. United States Treasury bills, notes, bonds, or any other obligations 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 other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality;
- 3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided that the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least 2 percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed 30 days;
- 4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio;
- 5. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in item (1) or (2) above and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
- 6. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio);
- 7. Certain bankers acceptances for a period not to exceed one hundred and eighty days and commercial papers not to exceed two hundred seventy days from the purchase date in any amount not to exceed 40% of the interim monies available for investment at any one time; and
- 8. Under limited circumstances, corporate debt interests rated in either of the two highest rating classifications by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies.

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 Council, 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.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Deposits

At year-end, \$280,298 of the Council's deposits were insured by the FDIC.

Custodial Credit Risk Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Council will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party.

The Council has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or protected by:

- Eligible securities pledged to the Council 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 required 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.

Investments

		Investment						
Rating by	Measurement/ Measurement		l easurement	Maturities in Years			Percent	
S & P	Investment Type	Amount			(<1)	(1-3)		of Total
	Net Asset Value (NAV):							
AAAm	STAROhio	\$	10,132,800	\$	10,132,800	\$	-	85.52%
	Cost:							
N/A	Negotiable CD's		1,715,000		1,715,000			14.48%
		\$	11,847,800	\$	11,847,800	\$	-	100.00%
				_				

Interest Rate Risk

The Ohio Revised Code generally limits security purchases to those that mature within five years of the settlement date. The Council's policy indicates that the investments must mature within five years, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the Council.

Custodial Credit Risk

For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Council will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The Council has no investment policy dealing with investment custodial risk beyond the requirement in state statute that prohibits payment for investments prior to the delivery of the securities representing such investments to the Treasurer or qualified trustee.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Concentration of Credit Risk

The Council places no limit on the amount it may invest in any one issuer; however state statute limits investments in commercial paper and bankers' acceptances to 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time.

STAR Ohio is an investment pool operated by the Ohio State Treasurer. It is unclassified since it is not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form. Ohio law requires STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. The weighted average of maturity of the portfolio held by STAR Ohio as of June 30, 2023, is 39 days.

NOTE 4 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Council 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. During fiscal year 2023 the Council contracted with Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA) for general liability insurance and contracted with Risksource for addition cyber insurance. Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years, and there has been no significant reduction in insurance coverage from the prior fiscal year.

NOTE 5 - FUND BALANCE

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

		Other	Total
General	ESSER	Governmental	Governmental
\$ 773,550	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 773,550
224,083	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	224,083
997,633			997,633
6,159,977	(110,717)	(499,765)	5,549,495
\$ 7,157,610	\$ (110,717)	\$ (499,765)	\$ 6,547,128
	\$ 773,550 224,083 997,633 6,159,977	\$ 773,550 \$ - 224,083 - 997,633 - 6,159,977 (110,717)	General ESSER Governmental \$ 773,550 \$ - \$ - 224,083 - - 997,633 - - 6,159,977 (110,717) (499,765)

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

At June 30, 2023, the following funds had deficit fund balances. This deficit fund balance was created as a result of the timing of disbursements and drawdowns for grant expenditures.

INFOhio Grants	\$ 89,728
State Software Development Grant	303,265
ESSER	110,717
Disaster Recovery	23,214
EMIS Support	25,381
Help Desk	17,696
KRA Grant	20,707
Other Grants	17,250
KRA/ELA	2,524
	\$ 610,482

NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

The Statewide retirement systems provide both pension benefits and other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability

Pensions and OPEB are a component of exchange transactions—between an employer and its employees—of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions/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 net pension/OPEB liability represents the Council's proportionate share of each pension/OPEB 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/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 this estimate annually.

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

GASB 68/75 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/OPEB liability. Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio revised Code permits, but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients.

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 7 for the required OPEB disclosures.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description – Council non-teaching employees participate in SERS, a statewide, cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by SERS. SERS provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits, to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3309. SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about SERS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by visiting the SERS website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

	Eligible to	Eligible to
	Retire on or before	Retire after
	August 1, 2017 *	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	Age 60 with 5 years of service credit	Age 62 with 10 years of service credit; or
Benefits	Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age 60 with 25 years of service credit

^{*} Members with 25 years of service credit as of August 1, 2017, may 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 30 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.

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. New benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. The COLA is indexed to the percentage increase in the CPIW, not to exceed 2.5 percent and with a floor of 0 percent. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for calendar years 2018, 2019, and 2020. SERS approved a 2.5 percent COLA for calendar year 2023.

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the Council 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, 2023, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.0 percent. SERS did not allocate employer contributions to the Health Care Fund for fiscal year 2023.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

The Council's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$1,093,035 for fiscal year 2023.

Pension Liabilities

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an independent actuarial valuation as of that date. The Council's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the employer's share of employer contributions in the pension plan relative to the total employer contributions of all participating employers. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:	
Current Measurement Date	0.1919630%
Prior Measurement Date	 0.1835540%
Change in Proportionate Share	 0.0084090%
Proportionate Share of the Net	
Pension Liability	\$ 10,382,831

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 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. Future benefits for all current plan members were projected through 2132.

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, 2022 and June 30, 2021, are presented below:

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percentage of Payroll, Closed)
Inflation	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expense, including inflation
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.00 percent, on and after April 1, 2018, COLA's for future
	retirees will be delayed for three years following
	commencement

For 2022 and 2021, Mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward two years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward five years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward three years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five year period ended June 30, 2020.

The long-term return expectation for the investments has been determined by using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS' *Statement of Investment Policy*. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected 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 asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

	Target	Long-Term Expected
Asset Class	Allocation	Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00 %	(0.45) %
US Equity	24.75	5.37
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	6.22
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	8.22
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	1.20
Private Equity	11.00	10.05
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00	4.87
Multi-Asset Strategies	4.00	3.39
Private Debt/Private Credit	3.00	5.38
Total	100.00 %	

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Discount Rate Total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The discount rate determination does not use a municipal bond rate. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employers would contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate of projected compensation over the remaining 23-year amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.00 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 investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability. The annual money-weighted rate of return, calculated as the internal rate of return on pension plan investments was negative 1.93 percent.

Sensitivity of the Council'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 Council's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent, as well as what the Council's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current rate.

		Current					
	_1% Decrease		Di	Discount Rate		1% Increase	
Council's Proportionate Share							
of the Net Pension Liability	\$	15,283,063	\$	10,382,831	\$	6,254,491	

NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

See Note 6 for a description of the net OPEB liability.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description - The Council 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 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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 the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, SERS did not allocate any employer contributions to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2023, this amount was \$25,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2.0 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 2023, the Council's surcharge obligation was \$2,760.

OPEB Liability

The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Council's proportion of the net OPEB liability was based on the Council'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
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability:	 _
Current Measurement Date	0.174538%
Prior Measurement Date	 0.167199%
Change in Proportionate Share	0.007339%
Proportionate Share of the Net	
OPEB Liability	\$ 2,450,528

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.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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 OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2022, are presented below:

Inflation 2.40 percent

Salary Increases, including inflation 3.25 percent to 13.58 percent

Investment Rate of Return 7.00 percent net of investment expense, including inflation

Municipal Bond Index Rate

Measurement Date 1.92 percent Prior Measurement Date 3.69 percent

Single Equivalent Interest Rate

Measurement Date 2.27 percent, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation
Prior Measurement Date 4.08 percent, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation

Health Care Cost Trend Rate

Medicare 7.00 percent - 4.40 percent

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2021, are presented below:

Inflation 2.40 percent

Salary Increases, including inflation 3.25 percent to 13.58 percent

Investment Rate of Return 7.00 percent net of investment expense, including inflation

Municipal Bond Index Rate

Measurement Date 1.92 percent Prior Measurement Date 2.45 percent

Single Equivalent Interest Rate

Measurement Date 2.27 percent, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation Prior Measurement Date 2.63 percent, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation

Health Care Cost Trend Rate

Pre-Medicare 6.750 percent - 4.40 percent Medicare 5.125 percent - 4.40 percent

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network Franklin County, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

For 2022 and 2021, mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward two years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward five years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward three years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five year period ended June 30, 2020.

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 2016 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board on April 15, 2021. 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 (expected return, net of investment expense and inflation) were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.00 percent, 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 time frame. 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, 2020 five-year experience study, are summarized as follows:

	Target	Long-Term Expected
Asset Class	Allocation	Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00 %	(0.45) %
US Equity	24.75	5.37
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	6.22
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	8.22
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	1.20
Private Equity	11.00	10.05
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00	4.87
Multi-Asset Strategies	4.00	3.39
Private Debt/Private Credit	3.00	5.38
Total	100.00 %	

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2022, was 4.08 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2022 was 2.27 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the plan at the contribution rate of 1.50 percent of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to become insufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current System members by SERS actuaries. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is used in the determination of the SEIR for both the June 30, 2022 and the June 30, 2021 total

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network Franklin County, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is 3.69 percent at June 30, 2022 and 1.92 percent at June 30, 2021.

Sensitivity of the Council'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 and what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (3.08 percent) and higher (5.08 percent) than the current discount rate (4.08 percent). Also shown is what the net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower (6.00 percent decreasing to 3.40 percent) and higher (8.00 percent decreasing to 5.40 percent) than the current rate (7.00 percent decreasing to 4.40 percent).

	1%	Decrease		Current scount Rate	19	√ Increase
Council's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$	3,043,597	\$	2,450,528	\$	1,971,767
	1%	Decrease	T	Current rend Rate	1%	% Increase
Council's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$	1,889,800	\$	2,450,528	\$	3,182,939

NOTE 8 – CONTINGENCIES AND SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENTS

Grants

The Council 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, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material adverse effect on the overall financial position of the Council at June 30, 2023.

Litigation

The Council is not party to any claims or lawsuits that would, in the Council's opinion, have a material effect of the basic financial statements.

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network Franklin County, Ohio

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Other Commitments

The Council utilizes encumbrance accounting as part of its budgetary controls. Encumbrances outstanding at year end may be reported as part of restricted, committed or assigned classifications of fund balance. At fiscal year end, the Council's commitments for encumbrances in the governmental funds were as follows:

Fund		Amount		
General	\$	773,550		
ESSER Fund		3,695,727		
Nonmajor Governmental		472,046		
	\$	4,941,323		

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

FEDERAL GRANTOR	Federal	Provided	
Pass Through Grantor	AL	to	Total Federal
Program / Cluster Title	Number	Subrecipients	Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION			
Passed Through Ohio Department of Education			
Special Education Cluster (IDEA)			
Special Education Preschool Grants	84.173A	\$ -	\$ 54,824
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund	84.425D	3,658,031	6,739,004
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund	84.425U	-	1,528,626
Passed Through Ohio Department of Higher Education:			
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund	84.425C	-	125,780
Total COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund		3,658,031	8,393,410
TOTAL U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		3,658,031	8,448,234
TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS		\$ 3,658,031	\$ 8,448,234

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS 2 CFR 200.510(b)(6) FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE A - BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network (the Council) under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2023. The information on this Schedule is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the Council, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, or changes in net position.

NOTE B - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the cash basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained Uniform Guidance wherein certain types of expenditures may or may not be allowable or may be limited as to reimbursement.

NOTE C - INDIRECT COST RATE

The Council has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE D - SUBRECIPIENTS

The Council passes certain federal awards received from the Ohio Department of Education to other governments or not-for-profit agencies (subrecipients). As Note B describes, the Council reports expenditures of Federal awards to subrecipients when paid in cash.

As a pass-through entity, the Council has certain compliance responsibilities, such as monitoring its subrecipients to help assure they use these subawards as authorized by laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and that subrecipients achieve the award's performance goals.



88 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov (800) 282-0370

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

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network Franklin County 8050 North High Street, Suite 150 Columbus. Ohio 43235

To the Board of Trustees:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network, Franklin County, (the Council) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Council's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated February 22, 2024, wherein we noted the Council uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Council's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Council's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. 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 deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Efficient • Effective • Transparent

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network Franklin County Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by *Government Auditing Standards* Page 2

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Council's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Council's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

February 22, 2024



88 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215 ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov (800) 282-0370

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network Franklin County 8050 North High Street, Suite 150 Columbus. Ohio 43235

To the Board of Trustees:

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network's, Franklin County, (Council) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network's major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2023. The Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network's major federal program is identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

Qualified Opinion on the Education Stabilization Fund

In our opinion, except for the noncompliance described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on the Education Stabilization Fund for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

Efficient • Effective • Transparent

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network
Franklin County
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements
Applicable to the Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance
Required by the Uniform Guidance
Page 2

We are required to be independent of the Council and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion on compliance for the major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Council's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Matter Giving Rise to Qualified Opinion on the Education Stabilization Fund

As described in finding 2023-001 in the accompanying schedule of findings, the Council did not comply with requirements regarding Subrecipient Monitoring applicable to its AL #84.425 COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund major federal program.

Compliance with such requirement is necessary, in our opinion, for the Council to comply with requirements applicable to that program.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

The Council's Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the Council's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Council's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, Government Auditing Standards, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Council's compliance with the requirements of the major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, Government Auditing Standards, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design
 and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a
 test basis, evidence regarding the Council's compliance with the compliance requirements referred
 to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of the Council's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in
 order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report
 on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the
 purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control over
 compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network
Franklin County
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements
Applicable to the Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance
Required by the Uniform Guidance
Page 3

Other Matters

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Council's response to the noncompliance finding identified in our compliance audit described in the accompanying corrective action plan. The Council's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we did identify a certain deficiency in internal control over compliance that we consider to be a material weakness.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A material weakness in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiency in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2023-001 to be a material weakness.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Council's response to the internal control over compliance finding identified in our audit described in the accompanying corrective action plan. The Council's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of this testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

February 22, 2024

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS 2 CFR § 200.515 JUNE 30, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?	Yes
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(v)	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Qualified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?	Yes
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Programs (list):	Education Stabilization Fund (84.425)
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A\B Programs	Type A: > \$ 750,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR § 200.520?	No

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

None noted.

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS 2 CFR § 200.515 JUNE 30, 2023 (Continued)

3. FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

Subrecipients

Finding Number: 2023-001

Assistance Listing Number and Title: AL # 84.425 Education Stabilization Fund

Federal Award Identification Number / Year: 2022, 2023

Federal Agency: U.S. Department of Education

Compliance Requirement: Subrecipient Monitoring

Pass-Through Entity: Ohio Department of Education

Repeat Finding from Prior Audit? No

Noncompliance & Material Weakness

2 C.F.R. § 3474.1 gives regulatory effect to the Department of Education for **2 C.F.R. § 200.332(a)** which provides that all pass-through entities must ensure that every subaward is clearly identified to the subrecipient as a subaward and includes the following information at the time of the subaward and if any of these data elements change, include the changes in subsequent subaward modification. Required information includes:

- Federal award identification;
- All requirements imposed by the pass-through entity on the subrecipient so that the Federal award is used in accordance with Federal statutes, regulations and the terms and conditions of the Federal award;
- Any additional requirements that the pass-through entity imposes on the subrecipient in order for the pass-through entity to meet its own responsibility to the Federal awarding agency including identification of any required financial and performance reports;
- An approved federally recognized indirect cost rate negotiated between the subrecipient and the Federal Government. If no approved rate exists, the pass-through entity must determine the appropriate rate in collaboration with the subrecipient;
- A requirement that the subrecipient permit the pass-through entity and auditors to have access to
 the subrecipient's records and financial statements as necessary for the pass-through entity to
 meet the requirements of this part; and
- Appropriate terms and conditions concerning closeout of the subaward.

Additionally, **2 C.F.R. § 200.332(b) and (d)** provide that pass-through entities must 1) evaluate each subrecipient's risk of noncompliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward for purposes of determining the appropriate subrecipient monitoring and 2) monitor the activities of the subrecipient as necessary to ensure that the subaward is used for authorized purposes, in compliance with Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward; and that subaward performance goals are achieved.

During fiscal year 2023, the Council did not identify subawards for the Middle Mile ITC Upgrade award to their subrecipients, evaluate each subrecipients' risk of noncompliance, nor sufficiently monitor the activity of subrecipients. Additionally, the Council did not have sufficient policies and/or procedures over subrecipients.

Without adequate policies and/or procedures in place over subrecipients, there is an increased risk subrecipients may misuse subaward funds for unauthorized purposes. This could lead to fines, penalties, or repayment of program funding being imposed by the federal grantor agency.

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS 2 CFR § 200.515 JUNE 30, 2023 (Continued)

3. FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS (Continued)

The Council should evaluate its current control procedures and processes over subrecipients and update them as necessary to reasonably ensure compliance with 2 C.F.R. §200.332. The Council should ensure that subrecipients are properly notified of the subaward along with the requirements imposed by the pass-through entity. The Council should also perform monitoring procedures over subrecipient activity to ensure that the grant requirements are being met.

Officials' Response- See Corrective Action Plan.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



Geoff Andrews
Chief Executive Officer
andrews@managementcouncil.org

Greg Buddelmeyer Chief Financial Officer buddelmeyer@managementcouncil.org

8050 North High Street | Suite 150 | Columbus, Ohio 43235 614.840.9810 | mcoecn.org

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN 2 CFR § 200.511(c) June 30, 2023

Finding Number: 2023-001

Planned Corrective Action: The Management Council will implement the following corrective

actions:

 Procedures will be put in place to analyze federal awards to properly determine whether expected disbursements should be categorized as subawards.

 Policies and procedures will be put in place to properly administer the subawards and monitor the subrecipients activity to ensure that grant requirements are being met.

Anticipated Completion Date: 6/1/2024

Responsible Contact Person: Greg Buddelmeyer, Chief Financial Officer







MANAGEMENT COUNCIL OF OHIO EDUCATION COMPUTER NETWORK (MCOECN)

FRANKLIN COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 3/21/2024

88 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370