

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments  
Warren County  
Regular Audit  
For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2016 and 2015



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# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Board of Directors  
Southwest Ohio Council of Government  
1879 Deerfield Road  
Lebanon, Ohio 45036

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Southwest Ohio Council of Government, Warren County, prepared by Millhuff-Stang, CPA, Inc., for the audit period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost  
Auditor of State

March 30, 2017

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**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments**  
**Warren County**  
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**Independent Auditor's Report**

Board of Directors  
Southwest Ohio Council of Governments  
1879 Deerfield Road  
Lebanon, Ohio 45036

***Report on the Financial Statements***

We have audited the accompanying cash basis financial statements of the Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County, (the COG) as of and for the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the COG's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these financial statements in accordance with the cash accounting basis Note 2 describes. This responsibility includes determining that the cash accounting basis is acceptable for the circumstances. Management is also responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to opine on these financial statements based on our audit. We audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require us to plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit requires obtaining evidence about financial statement amounts and disclosures. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including assessing the risks of material financial statement misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In assessing those risks, we consider internal control relevant to the COG's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to the extent needed to opine on the effectiveness of the COG's internal control. Accordingly, we express no opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of the overall financial statement presentation.

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

***Opinion***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash financial position of the Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County, as of June 30, 2016 and 2015, and the changes in cash financial position and cash flows thereof for the years then ended in accordance with the accounting basis described in Note 2.

***Accounting Basis***

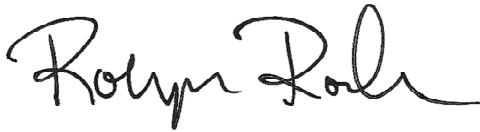
We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the accounting basis. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which differs from generally accepted accounting principles. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

***Emphasis of a Matter***

As discussed in Note 9 to the fiscal year 2015 notes to the basic financial statements, the COG adopted new accounting guidance in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27". We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 27, 2016, on our consideration of the COG's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the COG's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Robyn Roush, CPA, CITP  
Vice-President/Owner  
Millhuff-Stang, CPA, Inc.  
Chillicothe, Ohio

December 27, 2016

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County  
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis  
June 30, 2016

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	<u>Southwest Ohio Council of Governments</u>
Assets:	
Current Assets:	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$676,247</u>
Total Assets	<u>676,247</u>
Net Position:	
Unrestricted	<u>676,247</u>
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$676,247</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.



Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County  
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position - Cash Basis  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016

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	Southwest Ohio Council of Governments
Operating Revenues:	
Charges for Services	\$8,637,565
Total Operating Revenues	<u>8,637,565</u>
Operating Expenses:	
Salaries	6,299,454
Fringe Benefits	1,453,549
Purchased Services	284,239
Materials and Supplies	84
Other Expenses	<u>110,426</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>8,147,752</u>
Change in Net Position	489,813
Net Position - Beginning of Year	<u>186,434</u>
Net Position - End of Year	<u><u>\$676,247</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County  
Statement of Cash Flows - Cash Basis  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016

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	Southwest Ohio Council of Governments
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:	
Cash Received from Member Districts	\$8,637,565
Cash Payments to Employees	(6,299,454)
Cash Payments to Fringe Benefits	(1,453,549)
Cash Payments to Suppliers	(284,239)
Cash Payments for Materials and Supplies	(84)
Cash Payments for Other Expenses	(110,426)
	<hr/>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	489,813
	<hr/>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	489,813
	<hr/>
Cash and Cash Equivalents Beginning of Year	186,434
	<hr/>
Cash and Cash Equivalents End of Year	676,247
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Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	
Operating Income (Loss)	489,813
	<hr/>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	\$489,813
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See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

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**Note 1 - Description of the COG and Reporting Entity**

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**Description of the COG**

The Southwest Ohio Council of Governments (the "COG"), is a body Corporate and Politic established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 167, by agreement of its members. The COG is a collaborative of Warren County Educational Service Center. The COG is currently providing services for twenty-four member school districts and other entities in Warren County, principally providing substitute teachers and substitute classified personnel. Warren County Educational Service Center acts as a fiscal officer for the COG.

The governing authority of Southwest Ohio Council of Governments (COG) is the COG Board, which is comprised of two superintendents, two board members and one treasurer. All members are from The Warren County ESC. The Officer positions of the COG Board are President, Vice-President and Secretary. Currently, the Warren County ESC Superintendent is appointed President. All other officers serve until his/her successor is appointed.

**Reporting Entity**

A reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the COG consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the COG. For the COG, this is the general operation.

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

**Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

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These financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. The cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) 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 COG's accounting policies:

**Basis of Presentation**

The COG's basic financial statements consist of a statement of net position – cash basis, a statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position – cash basis, and a statement of cash flows – cash basis.

The COG uses a single enterprise presentation for its financial records. Enterprise reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position and financial position.

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

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**Measurement Focus**

The COG uses a cash basis of accounting for reporting purposes. Revenues are recognized when they are received, and expenses are recognized when they are paid.

**Basis of Accounting**

The COG's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the COG'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 the liability is incurred.

As a result of the cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue billed for provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities (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. If the COG utilized the basis of accounting recognized as generally accepted, the fund and all government-wide financial statements would be presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

To improve cash management, cash received by the COG is pooled. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through COG records. Each fund's interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents" on the financial statements.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Directors has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. No interest revenue was credited during Fiscal Year 2016.

**Capital Assets**

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. The financial statements do not report these assets.

**Net Position**

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the COG or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws, or regulations of other governments.

The COG applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

**Operating Revenues and Expenses**

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the primary activity of the COG. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the good or service that is the primary activity of the COG. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

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**Pensions**

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

**Note 3 - Deposits and Investments**

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State statutes classify monies held by the COG into three categories.

Active deposits are public deposits necessary to meet current demands on the treasury. Such monies must be maintained either as cash in the COG 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 the Board has identified as not required for use within the current five year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must be either 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 moneys. Interim moneys are those moneys 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 accounts including passbook accounts.

Public depositories must give security for all public funds on deposit. Protection of the COG's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, by surety company bonds deposited with the Fiscal officer by the financial institution, or by a single collateral pool established by the financial institution to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited with the institution.

Interim monies may be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury Notes, Bills, Bonds, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States.
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality, including but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities.
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above, provided that the fair value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to fair value daily, and that the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days.

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

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4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio.
5. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) of this section, 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 banker's acceptances and commercial paper notes for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days from the date of purchase in an amount not to exceed twenty-five percent of interim monies available for investment at any time.
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 COG, 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 Fiscal officer or qualified trustee or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

The following information classifies deposits by categories of risk as defined in GASB Statement No. 3, "Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments and Reverse Repurchase Agreements" and GASB Statement No. 40, "Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosures."

### **Deposits**

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of a bank failure, the COG's deposits may not be returned. All deposits are collateralized with eligible securities. Such collateral, as permitted by the Ohio Revised Code, is held in single financial institution collateral pools at Federal Reserve Banks, or at member banks of the federal reserve system, in the name of the respective depository bank and pledged as a pool of collateral against all of the public deposits it holds or as specific collateral held at the Federal Reserve Bank in the name of the COG.

At June 30, 2016, the carrying amount of all COG deposits was \$676,247. Based on the criteria described in GASB Statement No. 40, "Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosures", as of June 30, 2016, \$253,691 of the COG's bank balance of \$751,235 was covered by Federal Deposit Insurance. The remaining balance was collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool in the manner described above.

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

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**Investments**

As of June 30, 2016, the COG did not have any investments.

**Note 4 - Risk Management**

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The COG is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft of, damage to and destruction of assets, errors and omissions, injuries to employees and natural disasters. The COG carries insurance coverage with the following companies.

<u>COVERAGE</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>
Educators Legal Liability	The Argonaut Insurance Company
General Liability	The Argonaut Insurance Company

Limits and deductible amounts for the above policies vary accordingly.

<u>COVERAGE</u>	<u>LIMITS</u>	<u>DEDUCTIBLE</u>
Educators Legal Liability	\$1,000,000 each occurrence \$3,000,000 general aggregate	\$2,500 each wrongful act
General Liability	\$1,000,000 each occurrence \$3,000,000 general aggregate	

The COG pays the State of Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

Settled claims have not exceeded the commercial coverage in any of the past years. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from last year.

**Note 5 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

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Pensions are a component of exchange transactions—between an employer and its employees—of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions are provided to an employee—on a deferred-payment basis—as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period.

The net pension liability represents the COG's proportionate share of each pension plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension liability calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting this estimate annually.

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

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

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GASB 68 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires all funding to come from these employers. All contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). State statute requires the pension plans to amortize unfunded liabilities within 30 years. If the amortization period exceeds 30 years, each pension plan’s board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension liability. Resulting adjustments to the net pension liability would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable.

**Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)**

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

	Eligible to Retire on or before August 1, 2017 *	Eligible to Retire on or after August 1, 2017
Full Benefits	Any age with 30 years of service credit	Age 67 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 57 with 30 years of service credit
Actuarially Reduced Benefits	Age 60 with 5 years of service credit Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age 62 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 60 with 25 years of service credit

\* Members with 25 years of service credit as of August 1, 2017, will be included in this plan.

Annual retirement benefits are calculated based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service; 2.2 percent for the first thirty years of service and 2.5 percent for years of service credit over 30. Final average salary is the average of the highest three years of salary.

One year after an effective benefit date, a benefit recipient is entitled to a three percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). This same COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit.

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the COG 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, 2016, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.00 percent. None of the 14 percent employer contribution rate was allocated to the Health Care Fund.



**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

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The COG's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$188,671 for fiscal year 2016.

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

Plan Description – COG licensed teachers and other faculty members participate in STRS Ohio, a cost-sharing multiple-employer public employee retirement system administered by STRS. STRS provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. STRS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about STRS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by writing to STRS, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771, by calling (888) 227-7877, or by visiting the STRS Web site at [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org).

New members have a choice of three retirement plans; a Defined Benefit (DB) Plan, a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan and a Combined Plan. Benefits are established by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307. The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation was 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. With certain exceptions, the basic benefit is increased each year by two percent of the original base benefit. For members retiring August 1, 2013, or later, the first two percent is paid on the fifth anniversary of the retirement benefit. Members are eligible to retire at age 60 with five years of qualifying service credit, or age 55 with 25 years of service, or 30 years of service regardless of age. Age and service requirements for retirement increased effective August 1, 2015, and will continue to increase periodically until they reach age 60 with 35 years of service or age 65 with five year of service on August 1, 2026.

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 9.5 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. Investment allocation decisions are determined by the member. The remaining 4.5 percent of the 14 percent employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, member contributions are allocated among investment choices by the member, and employer contributions are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined Plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of services. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity at age 50.

New members who choose the DC plan or Combined Plan will have another opportunity to reselect a permanent plan during their fifth year of membership. Members may remain in the same plan or transfer to another STRS plan. The optional annuitization of a member's defined contribution account or the defined contribution portion of a member's Combined Plan account to a lifetime benefit results in STRS bearing the risk of investment gain or loss on the account. STRS has therefore included all three plan options as one defined benefit plan for GASB 68 reporting purposes.

A DB or Combined Plan member with five or more years of credited service who is determined to be disabled may qualify for a disability benefit. Eligible survivors of members who die before service

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

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retirement may qualify for monthly benefits. New members on or after July 1, 2013, must have at least ten years of qualifying service credit that apply for disability benefits. Members in the DC Plan who become disabled are entitled only to their account balance. If a member of the DC Plan dies before retirement benefits begin, the member’s designated beneficiary is entitled to receive the member’s account balance.

Funding Policy – Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The statutory maximum employee contribution rate was increased one percent July 1, 2015, and will increase one percent on July 1, 2016 when it reaches 14 percent. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, plan members were required to contribute 13 percent of their annual covered salary. The COG was required to contribute 14 percent; the entire 14 percent was the portion used to fund pension obligations. The fiscal year 2016 contribution rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates.

The COG’s contractually required contribution to STRS was \$669,630 for fiscal year 2016.

**Net Pension Liability**

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2015, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The COG's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the COG's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$1,831,269	\$12,615,521	\$14,446,790
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.0320932%	0.04564709%	

**Actuarial Assumptions - SERS**

SERS’ total pension liability was determined by their actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 67, as part of their annual actuarial valuation for each defined benefit retirement plan. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts (e.g., salaries, credited service) and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future (e.g., mortality, disabilities, retirements, employment termination). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

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incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations.

Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. For a newly hired employee, actuarial calculations will take into account the employee’s entire career with the employer and also take into consideration the benefits, if any, paid to the employee after termination of employment until the death of the employee and any applicable contingent annuitant. In many cases actuarial calculations reflect several decades of service with the employer and the payment of benefits after termination.

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2015, are presented below:

Wage Inflation	3.25 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	4 percent to 22 percent
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	3 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.75 percent net of investments expense, including inflation
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal

For post-retirement mortality, the table used in evaluating allowances to be paid is the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Table set back one year for both men and women. Special mortality tables are used for the period after disability retirement.

The most recent experience study was completed June 30, 2010.

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined 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 a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major assets class are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Cash	1.00 %	0.00 %
US Stocks	22.50	5.00
Non-US Stocks	22.50	5.50
Fixed Income	19.00	1.50
Private Equity	10.00	10.00
Real Assets	10.00	5.00
Multi-Asset Strategies	<u>15.00</u>	7.50
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

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**Discount Rate** The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.75 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earning were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.75 percent). Based on those assumptions, the plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

**Sensitivity of the COG's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate** Net pension liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact the following table presents the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.75 percent, as well as what each plan’s net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.75 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.75 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.75%)	Current Discount Rate (7.75%)	1% Increase (8.75%)
COG's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$2,539,312	\$1,831,269	\$1,235,038

**Actuarial Assumptions - STRS**

The total pension liability in the June 30, 2015, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.75 percent
Projected salary increases	2.75 percent at age 70 to 12.25 percent at age 20
Investment Rate of Return	7.75 percent, net of investment expenses
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	2 percent simple applied as follows: for members retiring before August 1, 2013, 2 percent per year; for members retiring August 1, 2013, or later, 2 percent COLA paid on fifth anniversary of retirement date.

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table (Projection 2022—Scale AA) for Males and Females. Males’ ages are set-back two years through age 89 and no set-back for age 90 and above. Females younger than age 80 are set back four years, one year set back from age 80 through 89 and not set back from age 90 and above.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2015, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study, effective July 1, 2012.

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

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The 10 year expected real rate of return on pension plan investments was determined by STRS' investment consultant by developing best estimates of expected future real rates of return for each major asset class. The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic Equity	31.00 %	8.00 %
International Equity	26.00	7.85
Alternatives	14.00	8.00
Fixed Income	18.00	3.75
Real Estate	10.00	6.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	3.00
Total	100.00 %	

**Discount Rate** The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.75 percent as of June 30, 2015. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with rate increases described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Projected employer contributions that are intended to fund the service costs of future plan members and their beneficiaries, as well as projected contributions from future plan members, are not included. Based on those assumptions, STRS' fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2015. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.75 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2015.

**Sensitivity of the COG's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate** The following table presents the COG's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.75 percent, as well as what the COG's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (6.75 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (8.75 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.75%)	Current Discount Rate (7.75%)	1% Increase (8.75%)
COG's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$17,523,910	\$12,615,521	\$8,464,745

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

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**Note 6 - Post Employment Benefits**

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**School Employees Retirement System of Ohio**

Plan Description

In addition to a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, the School Employees Retirement System of Ohio (SERS) administers a postemployment benefit plan.

Health Care Plan

ORC 3309.375 and 3309.69 permit SERS to offer health care benefits to eligible retirees and beneficiaries. SERS' Retirement Board reserves the right to change or discontinue any health plan or program. SERS offers several types of health plans from various vendors, including HMO's, PPO's, Medicare Advantage and traditional indemnity plans. A prescription drug program is also available to those who elect health coverage. SERS employs two third-party administrators and a pharmacy benefit manager to manage the self-insurance and prescription drug plans, respectively.

The ORC provides the statutory authority to fund SERS' postemployment benefits through employer contributions. Active members do not make contributions to the postemployment benefit plans.

The Health Care Fund was established under, and is administered in accordance with, Internal Revenue Code 105(e). Each year after the allocation for statutorily required benefits, the Retirement Board allocates the remainder of the employer 14% contribution to the Health Care Fund. At the year ended June 30, 2016, the health care allocation was 0.00%. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated according to service credit earned. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2% of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5% of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2016, the minimum compensation level was established at \$23,000. The surcharge, added to the unallocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The COG contributions assigned to health care for the years ended June 30, 2016, 2015 and 2014 were \$0, \$7,916, and \$962, respectively; 100% has been contributed for each year.

The SERS Retirement Board establishes 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.

The financial reports of SERS' Health Care and Medicare B plans are included in its *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*. The report can be obtained on SERS' website at [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org) under *Employers/Audit Resources*.

**State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio**

Plan Description

STRS Ohio administers a pension plan that is comprised of: a Defined Benefit Plan; a self-directed Defined Contribution Plan and a Combined Plan that is a hybrid of the Defined Benefit and the Defined Contribution Plan.

Ohio law authorized STRS Ohio to offer a cost-sharing, multiple-employer health care plan. STRS Ohio provides access to health care coverage to eligible retirees who participated in the Defined Benefit or

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016**

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Combined Plans. Coverage under the current program includes hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs and reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums.

Pursuant to 3307 of the Revised Code, the Retirement Board has discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the associated health care costs will be absorbed by STRS Ohio. All health care plan enrollees, for the most recent year, pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium.

STRS Ohio issues a stand-alone financial report. Interested parties can view the most recent *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* by visiting [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org) or by requesting a copy by calling toll-free 1-888-227-7877.

**Funding Policy**

Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions. Of the 14% employer contributions rate, 0% of covered payroll was allocated to post-employment health care for the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015, and 1% in 2014. The 14% employer contribution rate is the maximum rate established under Ohio law. The COG contributions for the years ended June 30, 2016, 2015 and 2014 were \$0, \$0, and \$46,597, 100% has been contributed for each fiscal year.

**Note 7 - Jointly Governed Organizations**

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**Southwestern Ohio Computer Association**

The Southwestern Ohio Computer Association (SWOCA) is a governmental jointly governed organization. SWOCA is an association of public school districts within the boundaries of Warren, Preble, and Butler counties and involves all cities that have school districts within these counties. The organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among member districts. SWOCA is governed by a board of directors consisting of one representative from each of the participating members. The COG paid SWOCA a fee for services provided during the year. Financial information may be obtained from Mike Crumley at the Butler County Joint Vocational School, 3603 Hamilton-Middletown Road, Hamilton, Ohio.

**Note 8 – Contingencies**

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**Litigation**

The COG is not currently party to legal proceedings.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County  
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis  
June 30, 2015

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	<u>Southwest Ohio Council of Governments</u>
Assets:	
Current Assets:	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$186,434</u>
Total Assets	<u>186,434</u>
Net Position:	
Unrestricted	<u>186,434</u>
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$186,434</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.



Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County  
 Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position - Cash Basis  
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

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	Southwest Ohio Council of Governments
Operating Revenues:	
Charges for Services	\$7,346,851
Total Operating Revenues	7,346,851
Operating Expenses:	
Salaries	5,818,773
Fringe Benefits	1,273,211
Purchased Services	88,057
Materials and Supplies	114
Other Expenses	10,446
Total Operating Expenses	7,190,601
Change in Net Position	156,250
Net Position - Beginning of Year	30,184
Net Position - End of Year	\$186,434

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County  
Statement of Cash Flows - Cash Basis  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

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	Southwest Ohio Council of Governments
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:	
Cash Received from Member Districts	\$7,346,851
Cash Payments to Employees	(5,818,773)
Cash Payments to Fringe Benefits	(1,273,211)
Cash Payments to Suppliers	(88,057)
Cash Payments for Materials and Supplies	(114)
Cash Payments for Other Expenses	(10,446)
	<hr/>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	156,250
	<hr/>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	156,250
	<hr/>
Cash and Cash Equivalents Beginning of Year	30,184
	<hr/>
Cash and Cash Equivalents End of Year	186,434
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Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	
Operating Income (Loss)	156,250
	<hr/>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	\$156,250
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See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

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**Note 1 - Description of the COG and Reporting Entity**

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**Description of the COG**

The Southwest Ohio Council of Governments (the "COG"), is a body Corporate and Politic established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 167, by agreement of its members. The COG is a collaborative of Warren County Educational Service Center. The COG is currently providing services for twenty-four member school districts and other entities in Warren County, principally providing substitute teachers and substitute classified personnel. Warren County Educational Service Center acts as a fiscal officer for the COG.

The governing authority of Southwest Ohio Council of Governments (COG) is the COG Board, which is comprised of two superintendents, two board members and one treasurer. All members are from The Warren County ESC. The Officer positions of the COG Board are President, Vice-President and Secretary. Currently, the Warren County ESC Superintendent is appointed President. All other officers serve until his/her successor is appointed.

**Reporting Entity**

A reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the COG consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the COG. For the COG, this is the general operation.

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

**Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

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These financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. The cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) 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 COG's accounting policies:

**Basis of Presentation**

The COG's basic financial statements consist of a statement of net position – cash basis, a statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position – cash basis, and a statement of cash flows – cash basis.

The COG uses a single enterprise presentation for its financial records. Enterprise reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position and financial position.

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

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**Measurement Focus**

The COG uses a cash basis of accounting for reporting purposes. Revenues are recognized when they are received, and expenses are recognized when they are paid.

**Basis of Accounting**

The COG's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the COG'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 the liability is incurred.

As a result of the cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue billed for provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities (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. If the COG utilized the basis of accounting recognized as generally accepted, the fund and all government-wide financial statements would be presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

To improve cash management, cash received by the COG is pooled. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through COG records. Each fund's interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents" on the financial statements.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Directors has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. No interest revenue was credited during Fiscal Year 2015.

**Capital Assets**

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. The financial statements do not report these assets.

**Net Position**

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the COG or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws, or regulations of other governments.

The COG applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

**Operating Revenues and Expenses**

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the primary activity of the COG. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the good or service that is the primary activity of the COG. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

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**Pensions**

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

**Note 3 - Deposits and Investments**

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State statutes classify monies held by the COG into three categories.

Active deposits are public deposits necessary to meet current demands on the treasury. Such monies must be maintained either as cash in the COG 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 the Board has identified as not required for use within the current five year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must be either 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 moneys. Interim moneys are those moneys 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 accounts including passbook accounts.

Public depositories must give security for all public funds on deposit. Protection of the COG's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, by surety company bonds deposited with the Fiscal officer by the financial institution, or by a single collateral pool established by the financial institution to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited with the institution.

Interim monies may be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury Notes, Bills, Bonds, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States.
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality, including but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities.
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above, provided that the fair value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to fair value daily, and that the term of the

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

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agreement must not exceed thirty days.

4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio.
5. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) of this section, 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 banker's acceptances and commercial paper notes for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days from the date of purchase in an amount not to exceed twenty-five percent of interim monies available for investment at any time.
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 COG, 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 Fiscal officer or qualified trustee or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

The following information classifies deposits by categories of risk as defined in GASB Statement No. 3, "Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments and Reverse Repurchase Agreements" and GASB Statement No. 40, "Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosures."

### **Deposits**

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of a bank failure, the COG's deposits may not be returned. All deposits are collateralized with eligible securities. Such collateral, as permitted by the Ohio Revised Code, is held in single financial institution collateral pools at Federal Reserve Banks, or at member banks of the federal reserve system, in the name of the respective depository bank and pledged as a pool of collateral against all of the public deposits it holds or as specific collateral held at the Federal Reserve Bank in the name of the COG.

At June 30, 2015, the carrying amount of all COG deposits was \$186,434. Based on the criteria described in GASB Statement No. 40, "Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosures", as of June 30, 2015, \$250,061 of the COG's bank balance of \$758,779 was covered by Federal Deposit Insurance. The remaining balance was collateralized by the financial institution's public entity deposit pool in the manner described above.

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

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**Investments**

As of June 30, 2015, the COG did not have any investments.

**Note 4 - Risk Management**

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The COG is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft of, damage to and destruction of assets, errors and omissions, injuries to employees and natural disasters. The COG carries insurance coverage with the following companies.

<u>COVERAGE</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>
Educators Legal Liability	The Argonaut Insurance Company
General Liability	The Argonaut Insurance Company

Limits and deductible amounts for the above policies vary accordingly.

<u>COVERAGE</u>	<u>LIMITS</u>	<u>DEDUCTIBLE</u>
Educators Legal Liability	\$1,000,000 each occurrence \$3,000,000 general aggregate	\$2,500 each wrongful act
General Liability	\$1,000,000 each occurrence \$3,000,000 general aggregate	

The COG pays the State of Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

Settled claims have not exceeded the commercial coverage in any of the past years. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from last year.

**Note 5 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

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For fiscal year 2015, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions—an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27" and GASB Statement No. 71, "Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date—an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 68" were effective. These GASB pronouncements had no effect on beginning net position as reported June 30, 2014, as the net pension liability is not reported in the accompanying financial statements. The net pension liability has been disclosed below.

Pensions are a component of exchange transactions—between an employer and its employees—of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions are provided to an employee—on a deferred-payment basis—as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period.

The net pension liability represents the COG's proportionate share of each pension plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension liability calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

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adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting this estimate annually.

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

GASB 68 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires all funding to come from these employers. All contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). State statute requires the pension plans to amortize unfunded liabilities within 30 years. If the amortization period exceeds 30 years, each pension plan’s board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension liability. Resulting adjustments to the net pension liability would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable.

**Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)**

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

	Eligible to Retire on or before August 1, 2017 *	Eligible to Retire on or after August 1, 2017
Full Benefits	Any age with 30 years of service credit	Age 67 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 57 with 30 years of service credit
Actuarially Reduced Benefits	Age 60 with 5 years of service credit Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age 62 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 60 with 25 years of service credit

\* Members with 25 years of service credit as of August 1, 2017, will be included in this plan.

Annual retirement benefits are calculated based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service; 2.2 percent for the first thirty years of service and 2.5 percent for years of service credit over 30. Final average salary is the average of the highest three years of salary.

One year after an effective benefit date, a benefit recipient is entitled to a three percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). This same COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit.

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the COG is required to contribute 14 percent of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements



**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

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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, 2015, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 13.18 percent. The remaining 0.82 percent of the 14 percent employer contribution rate was allocated to the Health Care Fund.

The COG's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$127,241 for fiscal year 2015.

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

Plan Description – COG licensed teachers and other faculty members participate in STRS Ohio, a cost-sharing multiple-employer public employee retirement system administered by STRS. STRS provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. STRS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about STRS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by writing to STRS, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771, by calling (888) 227-7877, or by visiting the STRS Web site at [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org).

New members have a choice of three retirement plans; a Defined Benefit (DB) Plan, a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan and a Combined Plan. Benefits are established by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307. The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation will be 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. With certain exceptions, the basic benefit is increased each year by two percent of the original base benefit. For members retiring August 1, 2013, or later, the first two percent is paid on the fifth anniversary of the retirement benefit. Members are eligible to retire at age 60 with five years of qualifying service credit, or age 55 with 25 years of service, or 30 years of service regardless of age. Age and service requirements for retirement will increase effective August 1, 2015, and will continue to increase periodically until they reach age 60 with 35 years of service or age 65 with five year of service on August 1, 2026.

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 9.5 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. Investment allocation decisions are determined by the member. The remaining 4.5 percent of the 14 percent employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, member contributions are allocated among investment choices by the member, and employer contributions are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined Plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of services. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity at age 50.

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

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New members who choose the DC plan or Combined Plan will have another opportunity to reselect a permanent plan during their fifth year of membership. Members may remain in the same plan or transfer to another STRS plan. The optional annuitization of a member’s defined contribution account or the defined contribution portion of a member’s Combined Plan account to a lifetime benefit results in STRS bearing the risk of investment gain or loss on the account. STRS has therefore included all three plan options as one defined benefit plan for GASB 68 reporting purposes.

A DB or Combined Plan member with five or more years of credited service who is determined to be disabled may qualify for a disability benefit. Eligible survivors of members who die before service retirement may qualify for monthly benefits. New members on or after July 1, 2013, must have at least ten years of qualifying service credit that apply for disability benefits. Members in the DC Plan who become disabled are entitled only to their account balance. If a member of the DC Plan dies before retirement benefits begin, the member’s designated beneficiary is entitled to receive the member’s account balance.

Funding Policy – Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The statutory maximum employee contribution rate was increased one percent July 1, 2014, and will be increased one percent each year until it reaches 14 percent on July 1, 2016. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, plan members were required to contribute 12 percent of their annual covered salary. The COG was required to contribute 14 percent; the entire 14 percent was the portion used to fund pension obligations. The fiscal year 2015 contribution rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates.

The COG’s contractually required contribution to STRS was \$666,796 for fiscal year 2015.

**Net Pension Liability**

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2014, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The COG's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the COG's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$1,128,034	\$11,175,263	\$12,303,297
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.0222890%	0.04594438%	

**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.,

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
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mortality, disabilities, retirements, employment termination). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations.

Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. For a newly hired employee, actuarial calculations will take into account the employee’s entire career with the employer and also take into consideration the benefits, if any, paid to the employee after termination of employment until the death of the employee and any applicable contingent annuitant. In many cases actuarial calculations reflect several decades of service with the employer and the payment of benefits after termination.

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2014, are presented below:

Wage Inflation	3.25 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	4 percent to 22 percent
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	3 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.75 percent net of investments expense, including inflation
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal

For post-retirement mortality, the table used in evaluating allowances to be paid is the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Table set back one year for both men and women. Special mortality tables are used for the period after disability retirement.

The most recent experience study was completed June 30, 2010.

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined 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 a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major assets class are summarized in the following table:

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<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Cash	1.00 %	0.00 %
US Stocks	22.50	5.00
Non-US Stocks	22.50	5.50
Fixed Income	19.00	1.50
Private Equity	10.00	10.00
Real Assets	10.00	5.00
Multi-Asset Strategies	<u>15.00</u>	7.50
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

**Discount Rate** The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.75 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earning were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.75 percent). Based on those assumptions, the plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

**Sensitivity of the COG's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate** Net pension liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact the following table presents the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.75 percent, as well as what each plan’s net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.75 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.75 percent) than the current rate.

	<u>1% Decrease (6.75%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (7.75%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (8.75%)</u>
COG's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$1,609,369	\$1,128,034	\$723,189

**Actuarial Assumptions - STRS**

The total pension liability in the June 30, 2014, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
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Inflation	2.75 percent
Projected salary increases	2.75 percent at age 70 to 12.25 percent at age 20
Investment Rate of Return	7.75 percent, net of investment expenses
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	2 percent simple applied as follows: for members retiring before August 1, 2013, 2 percent per year; for members retiring August 1, 2013, or later, 2 percent COLA paid on fifth anniversary of retirement date.

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table (Projection 2022—Scale AA) for Males and Females. Males’ ages are set-back two years through age 89 and no set-back for age 90 and above. Females younger than age 80 are set back four years, one year set back from age 80 through 89 and not set back from age 90 and above.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2014, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study, effective July 1, 2012.

The 10 year expected real rate of return on pension plan investments was determined by STRS’ investment consultant by developing best estimates of expected future real rates of return for each major asset class. The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Domestic Equity	31.00 %	8.00 %
International Equity	26.00	7.85
Alternatives	14.00	8.00
Fixed Income	18.00	3.75
Real Estate	10.00	6.75
Liquidity Reserves	<u>1.00</u>	3.00
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

**Discount Rate** The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.75 percent as of June 30, 2014. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with rate increases described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Projected employer contributions that are intended to fund the service costs of future plan members and their beneficiaries, as well as projected contributions from future plan members, are not included. Based on those assumptions, STRS’ fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2014. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.75 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2014.

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
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***Sensitivity of the COG's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate*** The following table presents the COG's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.75 percent, as well as what the COG's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (6.75 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (8.75 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.75%)	Current Discount Rate (7.75%)	1% Increase (8.75%)
COG's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$15,998,608	\$11,175,263	\$7,096,337

**Note 6- Post Employment Benefits**

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**School Employees Retirement System of Ohio**

Plan Description

In addition to a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, the School Employees Retirement System of Ohio (SERS) administers a postemployment benefit plan.

Health Care Plan

ORC 3309.375 and 3309.69 permit SERS to offer health care benefits to eligible retirees and beneficiaries. SERS' Retirement Board reserves the right to change or discontinue any health plan or program. SERS offers several types of health plans from various vendors, including HMO's, PPO's, Medicare Advantage and traditional indemnity plans. A prescription drug program is also available to those who elect health coverage. SERS employs two third-party administrators and a pharmacy benefit manager to manage the self-insurance and prescription drug plans, respectively.

The ORC provides the statutory authority to fund SERS' postemployment benefits through employer contributions. Active members do not make contributions to the postemployment benefit plans.

The Health Care Fund was established under, and is administered in accordance with, Internal Revenue Code 105(e). Each year after the allocation for statutorily required benefits, the Retirement Board allocates the remainder of the employer 14% contribution to the Health Care Fund. At June 30, 2015, the health care allocation was .82%. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated according to service credit earned. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2% of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5% of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2015, the minimum compensation level was established at \$20,250. The surcharge, added to the unallocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The COG contributions assigned to health care for the years ended June 30, 2015, 2014 and 2013 were \$7,916, \$962 and \$506 respectively; 100% has been contributed for each year.

The SERS Retirement Board establishes 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.

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

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The financial reports of SERS' Health Care and Medicare B plans are included in its *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*. The report can be obtained on SERS' website at [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org) under *Employers/Audit Resources*.

**State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio**

Plan Description

STRS Ohio administers a pension plan that is comprised of: a Defined Benefit Plan; a self-directed Defined Contribution Plan and a Combined Plan that is a hybrid of the Defined Benefit and the Defined Contribution Plan.

Ohio law authorized STRS Ohio to offer a cost-sharing, multiple-employer health care plan. STRS Ohio provides access to health care coverage to eligible retirees who participated in the Defined Benefit or Combined Plans. Coverage under the current program includes hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs and reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums.

Pursuant to 3307 of the Revised Code, the Retirement Board has discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the associated health care costs will be absorbed by STRS Ohio. All health care plan enrollees, for the most recent year, pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium.

STRS Ohio issues a stand-alone financial report. Interested parties can view the most recent *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* by visiting [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org) or by requesting a copy by calling toll-free 1-888-227-7877.

Funding Policy

Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions. Of the 14% employer contributions rate, 0% of covered payroll was allocated to post-employment health care for the year ended June 30, 2015. Of the 14% employer contributions rate, 1% of covered payroll was allocated to post-employment health care for the years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013. The 14% employer contribution rate is the maximum rate established under Ohio law. The COG contributions for the years ended June 30, 2015, 2014 and 2013 were \$0, \$46,597 and \$32,084, 100% has been contributed for each fiscal year.

**Note 7 - Jointly Governed Organizations**

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Southwestern Ohio Computer Association

The Southwestern Ohio Computer Association (SWOCA) is a governmental jointly governed organization. SWOCA is an association of public school districts within the boundaries of Warren, Preble, and Butler counties and involves all cities that have school districts within these counties. The organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among member districts. SWOCA is governed by a board of directors consisting of one representative from each of the participating members. The COG paid SWOCA a fee for services provided during the year. Financial information may be obtained from Mike Crumley at the Butler County Joint Vocational School, 3603 Hamilton-Middletown Road, Hamilton, Ohio.

**Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County**  
**Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015**

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**Note 8 – Contingencies**

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**Litigation**

The COG is not currently party to legal proceedings.

**Note 9 – Change in Accounting Principles**

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For fiscal year 2015, the COG implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions-an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27."

GASB Statement No. 68 replaces the requirements of GASB Statements No. 27 and 50 related to pension plans administered through trusts or similar arrangements. This Statement requires governments providing defined benefit pensions to recognize their long-term obligation for pension benefits as a liability, and to more comprehensively and comparably measure the annual costs of pension benefits. This Statement also adds revised and new note disclosures and required supplementary information. Since the COG presents its financial statements on the cash accounting basis, no liability or related deferred inflows/outflows of resources are recognized. However, the COG did modify disclosures with the implementation of this Statement.

This pronouncement had no effect on beginning net position as reported at June 30, 2014.



**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards***

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Directors  
Southwest Ohio Council of Governments  
1879 Deerfield Road  
Lebanon, Ohio 45036

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County, (the COG) as of and for the years ended June 30, 2016 and 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the COG's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 27, 2016, wherein we noted the COG follows the cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Furthermore, we noted the COG adopted new accounting guidance in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27".

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the COG's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the COG's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the COG'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 entity'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 may exist that have not been identified.

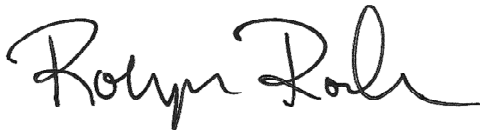


### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the COG'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 determination of financial statement amounts. 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 entity'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 entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Robyn Roush CPA, CITP  
Vice-President/Owner  
Millhuff-Stang, CPA, Inc.  
Chillicothe, Ohio

December 27, 2016



# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**SOUTHWEST OHIO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**WARREN COUNTY**

**CLERK'S CERTIFICATION**

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

*Susan Babbitt*

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU**

**CERTIFIED  
MAY 4, 2017**