



**SANDUSKY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
SANDUSKY COUNTY**

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1999



JIM PETRO
AUDITOR OF STATE

STATE OF OHIO

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

Sandusky Educational Service Center
Sandusky County
500 West State Street
Fremont, Ohio 43420-2579

To the Governing Board:

We have audited the accompanying general-purpose financial statements of the Sandusky County Educational Service Center (the Service Center) as of and for the year ended June 30, 1999, as listed in the table of contents. These general-purpose financial statements are the responsibility of the Service Center's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these general-purpose financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the general-purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Service Center, as of June 30, 1999, and the results of its operations for the year then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 23, 1999 on our consideration of the Service Center's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants.

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

December 23, 1999

Sandusky County Educational Service Center
Combined Balance Sheet
All Fund Types and Account Groups
As of June 30, 1999

	Governmental Fund Types		Account Groups		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	General	Special Revenue	General Fixed Assets	General Long-Term Obligations	
<u>Assets and other debits:</u>					
<u>Assets:</u>					
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	\$ 499,392	\$ 106,565	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 605,957
Receivables:					
Accounts	15,166	-	-	-	15,166
Intergovernmental	446,545	35,000	-	-	481,545
Fixed assets (net, where applicable, of accumulated depreciation)	-	-	436,966	-	436,966
<u>Other debits:</u>					
Amount to be provided from general government resources	-	-	-	118,554	118,554
Total assets and other debits	\$ 961,103	\$ 141,565	\$ 436,966	\$ 118,554	\$ 1,658,188
<u>Liabilities, fund equity and other credits:</u>					
<u>Liabilities:</u>					
Accounts payable	\$ 1,545	\$ 4,111	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,656
Accrued wages	315,304	3,432	-	-	318,736
Compensated absences payable	9,987	-	-	98,198	108,185
Intergovernmental payable	44,816	353	-	20,356	65,525
Total liabilities	371,652	7,896	-	118,554	498,102
<u>Fund equity and other credits:</u>					
Investment in general fixed assets	-	-	436,966	-	436,966
Fund balance:					
Reserved for encumbrances	303	36,657	-	-	36,960
Unreserved, undesignated	589,148	97,012	-	-	686,160
Total fund equity and other credits	589,451	133,669	436,966	-	1,160,086
Total liabilities, fund equity and other credits	\$ 961,103	\$ 141,565	\$ 436,966	\$ 118,554	\$ 1,658,188

See accompanying notes to the general purpose financial statements

Sandusky County Educational Service Center
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
and Changes in Fund Balances
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1999

	<u>Governmental Fund Types</u>		Totals (Memorandum Only)
	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Revenue</u>	
<u>Revenues:</u>			
Intergovernmental	\$ 4,002,039	\$ 319,870	\$ 4,321,909
Interest	32,428	-	32,428
Tuition and fees	5,550	1,875	7,425
Miscellaneous	51,266	-	51,266
Total revenues	<u>4,091,283</u>	<u>321,745</u>	<u>4,413,028</u>
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Current:			
Instruction:			
Regular	76,642	-	76,642
Special	2,268,421	3,716	2,272,137
Vocational	-	42,630	42,630
Support services:			
Pupils	898,171	50,932	949,103
Instructional staff	455,545	184,877	640,422
Board of education	18,403	-	18,403
Administration	188,162	-	188,162
Fiscal	82,567	7,090	89,657
Pupil transportation	4,092	-	4,092
Central	-	7,348	7,348
Total expenditures	<u>3,992,003</u>	<u>296,593</u>	<u>4,288,596</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	<u>99,280</u>	<u>25,152</u>	<u>124,432</u>
<u>Other financing sources:</u>			
Refund of prior year expenditures	10,066	-	10,066
Total other financing sources	<u>10,066</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,066</u>
Excess of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures	109,346	25,152	134,498
Fund balances at beginning of year	480,105	108,517	588,622
Fund balances at end of year	<u>\$ 589,451</u>	<u>\$ 133,669</u>	<u>\$ 723,120</u>

See accompanying notes to the general purpose financial statements

Sandusky Educational Service Center
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures
and Changes in Fund Balances - Budget and Actual
All Governmental Fund Types
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1999

	Governmental Fund Types		
	General Fund		Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
	Revised Budget	Actual	
<u>Revenues:</u>			
Intergovernmental	\$ 3,186,125	\$ 4,086,592	\$ 900,467
Interest	27,000	32,620	5,620
Tuition and fees	5,000	5,550	550
Miscellaneous	892,264	36,276	(855,988)
Total revenues	4,110,389	4,161,038	50,649
<u>Expenditures:</u>			
Current:			
Instruction:			
Regular	88,121	75,402	12,719
Special	2,324,439	2,255,807	68,632
Vocational	-	-	-
Support services:			
Pupils	928,494	875,853	52,641
Instructional staff	490,247	458,638	31,609
Board of education	19,543	18,403	1,140
Administration	204,651	193,920	10,731
Fiscal	93,568	80,282	13,286
Pupil transportation	5,327	4,076	1,251
Central	-	-	-
Total expenditures	4,154,390	3,962,381	192,009
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	(44,001)	198,657	242,658
<u>Other financing sources:</u>			
Other financing sources	6,800	10,066	3,266
Total other financing sources	6,800	10,066	3,266
Excess of revenues and other financing sources over (under) expenditures	(37,201)	208,723	245,924
Fund balances at beginning of year	287,043	287,043	-
Prior year encumbrances appropriated	1,778	1,778	-
Fund balances at end of year	\$ 251,620	\$ 497,544	\$ 245,924

See accompanying notes to the general purpose financial statements

Governmental Fund Types			Totals (Memorandum Only)		
Special Revenue Funds					
Revised Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Revised Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
\$ 681,751	\$ 284,907	\$ (396,844)	\$ 3,867,876	\$ 4,371,499	\$ 503,623
-	-	-	27,000	32,620	5,620
1,875	1,875	-	6,875	7,425	550
-	-	-	892,264	36,276	(855,988)
<u>683,626</u>	<u>286,782</u>	<u>(396,844)</u>	<u>4,794,015</u>	<u>4,447,820</u>	<u>(346,195)</u>
-	-	-	88,121	75,402	12,719
39,257	38,814	443	2,363,696	2,294,621	69,075
49,763	42,630	7,133	49,763	42,630	7,133
57,888	51,893	5,995	986,382	927,746	58,636
282,879	185,026	97,853	773,126	643,664	129,462
-	-	-	19,543	18,403	1,140
-	-	-	204,651	193,920	10,731
7,590	7,590	-	101,158	87,872	13,286
-	-	-	5,327	4,076	1,251
10,830	7,439	3,391	10,830	7,439	3,391
<u>448,207</u>	<u>333,392</u>	<u>114,815</u>	<u>4,602,597</u>	<u>4,295,773</u>	<u>306,824</u>
<u>235,419</u>	<u>(46,610)</u>	<u>(282,029)</u>	<u>191,418</u>	<u>152,047</u>	<u>(39,371)</u>
-	-	-	6,800	10,066	3,266
-	-	-	6,800	10,066	3,266
235,419	(46,610)	(282,029)	198,218	162,113	(36,105)
112,055	112,055	-	399,098	399,098	-
359	359	-	2,137	2,137	-
<u>\$ 347,833</u>	<u>\$ 65,804</u>	<u>\$ (282,029)</u>	<u>\$ 599,453</u>	<u>\$ 563,348</u>	<u>\$ (36,105)</u>

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Notes to the General Purpose Financial Statements

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SERVICE CENTER

The Sandusky County Educational Service Center (the "Service Center") is a body politic and corporate established for the purpose of exercising the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio.

The Service Center is a County Educational Service Center as defined by Section 3313.01 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Service Center operates under an elected Board of Governors (5 members). Board members must be residents of the local school systems located in Sandusky County. The Service Center provides educational services to the local school systems in Sandusky County as well as city school districts which have a contractual relationship with the Service Center. The Service Center employed fifty-six certificated employees and twenty-nine non-certificated employees at year end.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the Service Center have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting entity for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The Service Center's significant accounting policies are described below.

A. Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is composed of the primary government, component units and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements of the Service Center are not misleading. The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards and agencies that are not legally separate from the Service Center. For the Service Center, this includes only the general operations of the Service Center.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the Service Center is financially accountable. The Service Center is financially accountable for an organization if the Service Center appoints a voting majority of the organizations' governing board and (1) the Service Center is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the Service Center is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organizations' resources; the Service Center is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the Service Center is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the Service Center in that the Service Center approves the budget, the issuance of debt or the levying of taxes.

The Service Center is associated with the Northern Ohio Educational Computer Association, which is defined as a jointly governed organization. A jointly governed organization is governed by representatives from each of the governments that create the organization, but there is no ongoing financial interest or responsibility by the participating governments. Information regarding this organization is presented in Note 11.

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Notes to the General Purpose Financial Statements

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

B. Basis of Presentation - Fund Accounting

The Service Center uses funds and account groups to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain Service Center functions or activities.

A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts recording cash and other financial resources, together with all related liabilities and residual equities or balances, and changes therein, which are segregated for the purpose of carrying on specific activities or attaining certain objectives in accordance with special restrictions or limitations. An account group is a financial reporting device designed to provide accountability for certain assets and liabilities not recorded in the funds because they do not directly affect net expendable available financial resources.

For financial statement presentation purposes, the various funds of the Service Center are grouped into the generic fund types under the broad governmental fund category.

Governmental Fund Types

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions of the Service Center are financed. The acquisition, use, and balances of the Service Center's expendable financial resources and the related current liabilities are accounted for through governmental funds. The following are the Service Center's governmental fund types:

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

Special Revenue Funds: The special revenue funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted to expenditure for specified purposes.

Account Groups

To make a clear distinction between fixed assets related to a specific fund and those of general government, and between long-term liabilities related to specific funds and those of a general nature, the following account groups are used:

General Fixed Assets Account Group: This account group is established to account for all fixed assets of the Service Center.

General Long-term Obligations Account Group: This account group is established to account for all long-term obligations of the Service Center.

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Notes to the General Purpose Financial Statements

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All governmental fund types are accounted for using a flow of current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on the combined balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds present increases (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) in net current assets.

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures or expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made.

The modified accrual basis of accounting is followed for the governmental funds. Under this basis, revenues are recognized in the accounting period when they become both measurable and available. "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current fiscal year or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current fiscal year. The available period for the Service Center is sixty days after year end.

In applying the susceptible to accrual concept under the modified accrual basis, the following revenue sources are deemed both measurable and available: investment earnings, customer services, grants and entitlements, and fees.

The Service Center reports deferred revenues on its combined balance sheet. Deferred revenues arise when a potential revenue does not meet both the measurable and available criteria for recognition in the current period. In the subsequent period, when both revenue recognition criteria are met, the liability for deferred revenue is removed from the combined balance sheet and revenue is recognized.

The measurement focus of governmental fund accounting is on decreases in net financial resources (expenditures) rather than expenses. Expenditures are generally recognized in the accounting period in which the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable. The costs of accumulated unpaid vacation and sick leave are reported as fund liabilities in the period in which they will be liquidated with available financial resources rather than in the period earned by employees. Allocations of cost, such as depreciation and amortization, are not recognized in the governmental funds.

D. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

The budgetary process is prescribed by provisions of the Ohio Revised Code and entails the preparation of budgetary documents within an established timetable. The major document prepared is the appropriation resolution which is prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The appropriations resolution is subject to amendment throughout the year with the legal restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources. All funds are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The primary level of budgetary control is at the object level within each function. Any budgetary modifications at this level may only be made by resolution of the Governing Board of the Service Center.

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Notes to the General Purpose Financial Statements

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

Appropriations:

The Governing Board of the Service Center must submit an annual appropriation of operating expenses to the State Board of Education for approval in accordance with ORC Section 3317.11. Part of the Service Center's operating expenses are apportioned among the member districts under the basis of the total number of pupils in each district and deducted from funds allocated to local districts under the State's School Foundation Program. Prior to the passage of the Annual Appropriation Resolution, the Board may pass a temporary resolution to meet the ordinary expenses of the Service Center. Appropriations by fund must be within the estimated resources and the total expenditures and encumbrances may not exceed the appropriation at any level of control. Any revisions that alter the total of any fund appropriation or alter total function appropriations within a fund, or alter object appropriations within functions, must be approved by the Service Center.

The Board may pass supplemental fund appropriations so long as the total appropriations by fund do not exceed estimated resources. During the year, an annual and final appropriation measure was legally enacted; however, none of these changes were significant.

The budget figures, which appear in the statements of budgetary comparisons, represent the final appropriation amounts, including all amendments and modifications. Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year for all funds, other than agency funds, consistent with statutory provisions. Under Ohio law advances are not required to be budgeted.

Encumbrances:

As part of formal budgetary control, purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded as the equivalent of expenditures on the non-GAAP budgetary basis in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation and to determine and maintain legal compliance. Expenditures plus encumbrances may not legally exceed appropriations. On the GAAP basis, encumbrances outstanding at fiscal year end are reported as a reservation of fund balance for subsequent-year expenditures for governmental funds.

Lapsing of Appropriations:

At the close of each fiscal year, the unencumbered balance of each appropriation reverts to the respective fund from which it was appropriated and becomes subject to future appropriations. The encumbered appropriation balance is carried forward to the succeeding fiscal year and need not be reappropriated.

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Notes to the General Purpose Financial Statements

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

E. Cash and Investments

To improve cash management, all cash received by the Service Center is pooled in a central bank account. Monies for all funds are maintained in this account or temporarily used to purchase short term investments. Individual fund integrity is maintained through Service Center records. Each fund's interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents" on the balance sheet. During the fiscal year, investments were limited to overnight repurchase agreements which are reported at fair value. Under existing Ohio statutes, all investment earnings accrue to the General Fund except those specifically related to certain trust funds, unless the Board specifically allows the interest to be recorded in other funds.

For purposes of the presentation on the combined balance sheet, investments of the cash management pool and investments with original maturities of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the Service Center are considered to be cash equivalents. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months are reported as investments.

F. Fixed Assets and Depreciation

General fixed assets are not capitalized in the funds used to acquire or construct them. Instead, capital acquisition and construction costs are reflected as expenditures in governmental funds, and related assets are reported in the general fixed assets account group. All fixed assets are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the year. Donated fixed assets are recorded at their fair market values as of the date received. The Service Center capitalizes assets with an original cost of at least one hundred fifty dollars and an estimated useful life of five to twenty years. The Service Center does not possess any infrastructure.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend an asset's life are not capitalized. Improvements are capitalized. Assets in the general fixed assets account group are not depreciated. The Service Center's policy is not to capitalize interest costs associated with construction.

G. Intergovernmental Revenues

For governmental funds, intergovernmental revenues, such as grants awarded on a non-reimbursement basis and entitlements, are recorded at the time of receipt or earlier if the susceptible to accrual criteria are met. Reimbursement type grants are recorded as receivables and revenues when the related expenditures are incurred and all other grant requirements have been met.

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Notes to the General Purpose Financial Statements

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

The Service Center currently participates in several State and Federal programs, categorized as follows:

Entitlements

General Fund

State Foundation Program

Non-Reimbursable Grants

Special Revenue Funds

Drug Free Schools

School-to-Work

Entry Year

Parent Mentor

Learning with Technology

Watch Them Grow

Nutrition Education

Postponing Sexual Involvement

Children's Trust Fund

Preschool Disabilities

Arts Start Artist

H. Compensated Absences

Vacation benefits are accrued as a liability as the benefits are earned if the employee's rights to receive compensation are attributable to services already rendered and it is probable that the Service Center will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means. Sick leave benefits are accrued as a liability using the vesting method. An accrual for earned sick leave is made to the extent it is probable that benefits will result in termination payments. The liability is an estimate based on Service Center employees who are considered eligible or potentially eligible to retire.

Accumulated vacation and sick leave of employees paid from governmental funds has been recorded in the appropriate governmental funds as a current liability to the extent that the amounts are expected to be paid using expendable available financial resources. The balance of the liability is recorded in the general long-term obligations account group.

I. Accrued Liabilities and Long-term Obligations

In general, governmental fund payables and accrued liabilities are reported as obligations of the funds regardless of whether they will be liquidated with current resources. However, claims and judgments, compensated absences, contractually required pension contributions, and special termination benefits that will be paid from governmental funds are reported as a liability in the general long-term obligations account group to the extent that they will not be paid with current available expendable financial resources.

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Notes to the General Purpose Financial Statements

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

J. Interfund Transactions

Quasi-external transactions are accounted for as revenues, expenditures or expenses. Transactions that constitute reimbursements to a fund for expenditures/expenses initially made from it that are properly applicable to another fund are recorded as expenditures/expenses in the reimbursing fund and as reductions of expenditures/expenses in the fund that is reimbursed.

Nonrecurring or nonroutine permanent transfers of equity are reported as residual equity transfers. All other interfund transfers are reported as operating transfers.

K. Fund Equity

The Service Center records reservations for portions of fund equity which are legally segregated for specific future use or which do not represent available expendable resources and therefore are not available for appropriations for expenditures. Unreserved fund balance indicates that portion of fund equity, which is available for appropriation, in future periods. Fund equity reserves are established for encumbrances.

L. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

M. Memorandum Only - Total Columns on General Purpose Financial Statements

Total columns on the general purpose financial statements are captioned "Total Memorandum Only" to indicate that they are presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in these columns do not present financial position, results of operations, or cash flows in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation. Interfund eliminations have not been made in the aggregation of this data.

NOTE 3 - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

While reporting financial position, results of operations and changes in fund balance on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the budgetary basis as provided by law and described above is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts and disbursements.

The Combined Statement of Revenue, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances, Budget and Actual, All Governmental Fund Types is presented on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The major differences between the budget basis and the GAAP basis are that:

- (a) Revenues are recorded when received in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP basis).

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Notes to the General Purpose Financial Statements

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

(b) Expenditures/expenses are recorded when paid in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when the liability is incurred (GAAP basis).

(c) Encumbrances are treated as expenditures/expenses for all funds (budget basis) rather than as a reservation of fund balance for governmental fund types (GAAP basis).

Adjustments necessary to convert the results of operations at the end of the year on the Budget Basis to the GAAP basis are as follows:

	<i>Excess of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over (Under)</i>	
	<i>Expenditures and Other Financing Uses</i>	
	<i>General</i>	<i>Special</i>
	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Revenue</i>
<i>GAAP Basis</i>	\$ 109,346	\$ 25,152
<i>Revenue Accruals</i>	69,755	(34,963)
<i>Expenditure Accruals</i>	31,470	3,962
<i>Encumbrances (Budget Basis)</i>		
<i>Outstanding at year end</i>	<u>(1,848)</u>	<u>(40,761)</u>
<i>Budget Basis</i>	<u>\$ 208,723</u>	<u>\$ (46,610)</u>

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

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

Active deposits are public deposits necessary to meet current demands on the treasury. Such monies must be maintained either as cash in the Service Center 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 of Governors has identified as not required for use within the current two year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

Interim deposits are deposits of interim 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 or deposit accounts including pass book accounts. Interim moneys may be invested in the following obligations provided they mature or are redeemable within five years from the date of settlement:

1. United States treasury bills, notes, bonds, or any other obligations or security issued by the United States treasury or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Notes to the General Purpose Financial Statements

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements for a period not to exceed thirty days in securities listed above that mature within five years from the date of settlement;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio;
5. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in item (1) or (2) above and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
6. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio); and
7. Certain bankers' acceptances and commercial paper notes in an amount not to exceed twenty-five percent of the interim moneys available for investment at any one time and for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days.

Protection of the Service Center's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, by surety company bonds deposited with the Treasurer by the financial institution or by a single collateral pool established by the financial institution to secure the repayment of all public moneys deposited with the institution.

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

Deposits: The carrying value of the Service Center's deposits was \$405,957 and the bank balances of the deposits totaled \$507,072. Of the bank balance, \$100,000 was covered by federal depository insurance. \$407,072 was collateralized with securities held by the pledging institution's trust department or agent but not in the Service Center's name.

Investments: GASB Statement No. 3 "Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments and Reverse Repurchase Agreements" requires that the Service Center's investments be classified in categories of risk. Category 1 includes investments that are insured or registered or for which the securities are held by the Service Center or its agent in the Service Center's name. Category 2 includes uninsured and unregistered investments for which the securities are held by the counterparty's trust department or agent in the Service Center's name. Category 3 includes investments for which the securities are held by the counterparty, or by its trust department or agent but not in the Service Center's name.

All interest is legally required to be placed in the General fund. Due to these provisions, the General fund received \$32,620. If these provisions were not in effect, this fund would have only been allocated approximately \$27,026, based on a distribution proportionate to an average fund balance.

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Notes to the General Purpose Financial Statements

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

The only Service Center investment at year end was a repurchase agreement. It is a Category 3 investment, with a carrying value and a fair value of \$200,000.

NOTE 5 - RECEIVABLES

Receivables at year end consisted of accounts (tuition and excess costs), interfund and intergovernmental grants and entitlements. All receivables are considered collectible in full due to the stable condition of State programs, and the current year guarantee of federal funds. The general and special revenue funds' intergovernmental receivable at year end consisted of \$446,545 and \$35,000, respectively.

NOTE 6 - FIXED ASSETS

General Fixed Assets: Changes in general fixed assets during the fiscal year were as follows:

	<i>Balance</i>		<i>Balance</i>
	<i>July 1</i>	<i>Additions</i>	<i>June 30</i>
<i>Furniture, fixtures, and equipment</i>	\$ 421,496	\$ 16,247	\$ 436,966

NOTE 7 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Service Center is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft or damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. These risks are covered by commercial insurance purchased from independent third parties. There have been no settlements paid in excess of insurance nor has insurance coverage been significantly reduced in the past three years.

The Service Center provides life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance to its employees.

The Service Center has contracted with the Ohio Mid Eastern Regional Educational Service Agency (OME-RESA) to provide medical/surgical and dental for its employees and their covered dependents. The OME-RESA is a shared risk pool comprised of multiple entities. The Service Center pays monthly contributions that are placed in a fund from which eligible claims are paid for employees and their covered dependents. Claims are paid for all participants regardless of claims flow. In the event of termination, all participating entities' claims would be paid without regard to their individual account balances. The OME-RESA Board of Directors has authority to return monies to an exiting entity subsequent to the settlement of all claims and expenses.

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

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Notes to the General Purpose Financial Statements

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

NOTE 8 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

A. School Employees Retirement System

The Service Center contributes to the School Employees Retirement System of Ohio (SERS), a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan. SERS provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by state statute per Chapter 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained by writing to the School Employees Retirement System, 45 North Fourth Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3634.

Plan members are required to contribute nine percent of their annual covered salary and the Service Center is required to contribute an actuarially determined rate of fourtenn percent of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended, up to the statutory maximum amounts, by the SERS Retirement Board. The Service Center's required contributions for pension obligations to SERS for the fiscal years ended June 30, 1999, 1998, and 1997 were \$122,530, \$109,564, and \$91,540, respectively; seventy-five percent has been contributed for fiscal year 1999 and 100 percent for the fiscal years 1998 and 1997. \$26,605 representing the unpaid contribution for fiscal year 1999, is recorded as a liability within the respective funds and the general long-term obligations account group.

B. State Teachers Retirement System

The Service Center contributes to the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS), a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan. STRS provides basic retirement benefits, disability, survivor, and health care benefits based on eligible service credit to members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by state statute per Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. STRS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained by writing to the State Teachers Retirement System, 275 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3771.

Plan members are required to contribute 9.3 percent of their annual covered salary and the Service Center is required to contribute an actuarilly determined rate of fourteen percent of annual covered payroll. Contribution rates are established by STRS, upon recommendation of its consulting actuary, not to exceed statutory maximum rates of ten percent for members and fourteen percent for employers. The Service Center's required contributions for pension obligations to STRS for the fiscal years ended June 30, 1999, 1998, and 1997 were \$309,609, \$286,887, and \$295,485, respectively; eighty-five percent has been contributed for fiscal year 1999 and 100 percent for the fiscal years 1998 and 1997. \$46,117 representing the unpaid contribution for fiscal year 1999 is recorded as a liability within the respective funds.

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Notes to the General Purpose Financial Statements

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

NOTE 9 – POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Comprehensive health care benefits are provided to retired teachers and their dependents through the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS). Benefits include hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs and reimbursement of monthly Medicare premiums. All benefit recipients and sponsored dependents are eligible for health care coverage. Benefit provisions and the obligations to contribute are established by the STRS based on authority granted by State statute. Most benefit recipients are required to pay a portion of the health care cost in the form of a monthly premium.

By Ohio law, the cost of coverage paid from STRS funds shall be included in the employer contribution rate, currently fourteen percent of covered payroll. The retirement board currently allocates employer contributions equal to eight percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Reserve Fund from which payments for health care benefits are paid. For the Service Center this amount equaled \$178,469 during the 1999 fiscal year. The balance in the Health Care Reserve Fund for the STRS was \$2,156 million at June 30, 1998, (latest information available). For the year ended June 30, 1998, the net health care costs paid by the STRS were \$219,224,000 and eligible benefit recipients totaled 91,999.

For the School Employees Retirement System (SERS), coverage is made available to service retirees with ten or more years of qualifying service credit, disability and survivor benefit recipients. Members retiring on or after August 1, 1989, with less than twenty-five years of service credit must pay a portion of their premium for health care. The portion is based on years of service up to a maximum of seventy-five percent of the premium. For this fiscal year, employer contributions to fund health care benefits were 4.98 percent of covered payroll. In addition, SERS levies a surcharge to fund health care benefits equal to fourteen percent of the difference between a minimum pay and the member's pay, pro-rated for partial service credit. For fiscal year 1998, the minimum pay has been established at \$12,400. The surcharge, added to the unallocated portion of the fourteen percent contribution rate, provides for maintenance of the asset target level for the health care fund. For the Service Center, the amount of employer contributions used to fund health care equaled \$37,298, which includes a surcharge of \$20,356 during the 1999 fiscal year.

Health care benefits are financed on a pay-as-you-go basis. The target level for the health care reserve is 125% of annual health care expenses. Expenses for health care at June 30, 1998, (latest information available) were \$111,900,575 and the target level was \$139.9 million. At June 30, 1998, the SERS's net assets available for payment of health care benefits was \$160.3 million, at cost. The number of participants receiving health care benefits was approximately 50,000.

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Notes to the General Purpose Financial Statements

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

NOTE 10 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

Changes in long-term obligations of the Service Center during the fiscal year were as follows:

	<i>Balance July 1</i>	<i>Additions</i>	<i>Deletions</i>	<i>Balance June 30</i>
<u>General Long-Term Obligations</u>				
<i>Compensated absences</i>	\$ 108,431	\$ -	\$ 10,233	\$ 98,198
<i>Employer pension obligations</i>	<u>18,021</u>	<u>20,356</u>	<u>18,021</u>	<u>20,356</u>
<i>Total General Long-Term Obligation.</i>	<u>\$ 126,452</u>	<u>\$ 20,356</u>	<u>\$ 28,254</u>	<u>\$ 118,554</u>

Compensated absences: Sick leave benefits will be paid from the fund from which the person is paid. Additions and deletions of accrued vacation and sick leave are shown net since it is impractical for the Service Center to determine these amounts separately.

Employer pension obligations: Employer pension due to the School Employees Retirement System will be paid from the fund from which the person is paid.

NOTE 11 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

Northern Ohio Educational Computer Association (NOECA) is the computer service organization or Data Acquisition Site (DAS) used by the Service Center. NOECA is an association of thirty-seven public school districts and five county educational service centers in a geographic area determined by the Ohio Department of Education. The purpose of the consortium is to develop and employ a computer system efficiently and effectively for the needs of the members. All service centers and school districts in the consortium are required to pay fees, charges, and assessments as charged.

A board made up of superintendents from all of the participating districts and service centers governs NOECA. An elected Executive Board consisting of five members of the governing board is the managerial body of the consortium and meets on a monthly basis. The Service Center does not maintain an ongoing financial interest or an ongoing financial responsibility. Payments to NOECA are made from the General Fund. During fiscal year 1999, the Service Center contributed \$632 to NOECA. Financial information can be obtained from Betty Schwiefert, who serves as Controller, 2900 South Columbus Avenue, Sandusky, Ohio 44870.

NOTE 12 - CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Service Center has received federal and state grants for specific purposes that are subject to review and audit by the grantor agencies or their designee. These audits could lead to a request for reimbursement to the grantor agency for expenditures disallowed under the terms of the grant. Based on prior experience, the Service Center's management believes such disallowance, if any, will be immaterial.

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Notes to the General Purpose Financial Statements

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

On March 24, 1997, the Ohio Supreme Court rendered a decision declaring certain portions of the Ohio school funding plan unconstitutional. The Court stayed the effect of its ruling for one year to allow the State's legislature to design a plan to remedy the perceived defects in the system. Declared unconstitutional was the State's "school foundation program", which provides significant amounts of monetary support to this Service Center. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999, the Service Center received \$1,284,304 of school foundation support for its general fund.

Since the Supreme Court ruling, numerous pieces of legislation have been passed by the State legislature in an attempt to address the issues identified by the Court. The Court of Common Pleas in Perry County has reviewed the new laws and, in a decision issued on February 26, 1999, determined they are not sufficiently responsive to the constitutional issues raised under the "thorough and efficient" clause of the Ohio Constitution. The State has appealed the decision made by the Court of Common Pleas to the Ohio Supreme Court. As of the opinion date of these financial statements, the Ohio Supreme Court has not rendered an opinion on this issue. The decision of the Court of Common Pleas in Perry County has been stayed by the Ohio Supreme Court. As such, school districts, including this Service Center, are still operating under the laws that the Common Pleas Court declared unconstitutional.

As of the date of these financial statements, the Service Center is unable to determine what effect, if any, this decision will have on its future state funding under this Program.

NOTE 13 – THE YEAR 2000 ISSUES

The year 2000 is the result of shortcomings in many electronic data processing systems and other equipment that may adversely affect the School District's operations as early as fiscal 1999.

The Service Center has completed an inventory of computer systems and other equipment necessary to conducting Service Center operations and has identified such systems as being financial reporting, payroll and employee benefits, equipment inventory and education management information reporting.

The Service Center uses the State of Ohio Uniform School Accounting System (USAS) for financial reporting, the Uniform Staff Payroll System (USPS) for payroll and employee benefits, the Equipment Inventory System (EIS) for equipment and vehicle inventory and the Education Management and Information System (EMIS) for educational statistics reporting. The State of Ohio distributes a substantial sum of money to the Service Center in the form of "Foundation" and federal and state grant payments. Further, the State processes a significant amount of financial and non-financial information about the Service Center through EMIS. The State is responsible for remediating these systems.

The State is solely responsible for any costs associated with the Foundation processing and EMIS systems.

Because of the unprecedented nature of the Year 2000 issue, its effects and the success of related remediation efforts will not be fully determinable until the year 2000 and thereafter. Management cannot assure that the Service Center is or will be Year 2000 ready, that the Service Center's remediation efforts will be successful in whole or in part, or that parties with whom the Service Center does business will be year 2000 ready.

SANDUSKY COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

Notes to the General Purpose Financial Statements

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999

NOTE 14 – FUND DEFICITS

As of June 30, 1999, one fund had a deficit fund balance. This deficit was caused by the application of generally accepted accounting principles. The general fund provides transfers to cover deficit balances in other funds; however, this is done when cash is needed rather than when accruals occur. The Children's Trust special revenue fund had a deficit at year-end of \$239.



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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS ON COMPLIANCE AND ON
INTERNAL CONTROL REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Sandusky Educational Service Center
Sandusky County
500 West State Street
Fremont, Ohio 43420-2579

To the Governing Board:

We have audited the financial statements of the Sandusky County Educational Service Center (the Service Center) as of and for the year ended June 30, 1999, and have issued our report thereon dated December 23, 1999. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Service Center's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, 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 that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Service Center's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we noted other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting that do not require inclusion in this report, that we have reported to management of the Service Center in a separate letter dated December 23, 1999.

This report is intended for the information and use of management and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Jim Petro
Auditor of State

December 23, 1999



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SANDUSKY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

SANDUSKY 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
JANUARY 25, 2000**