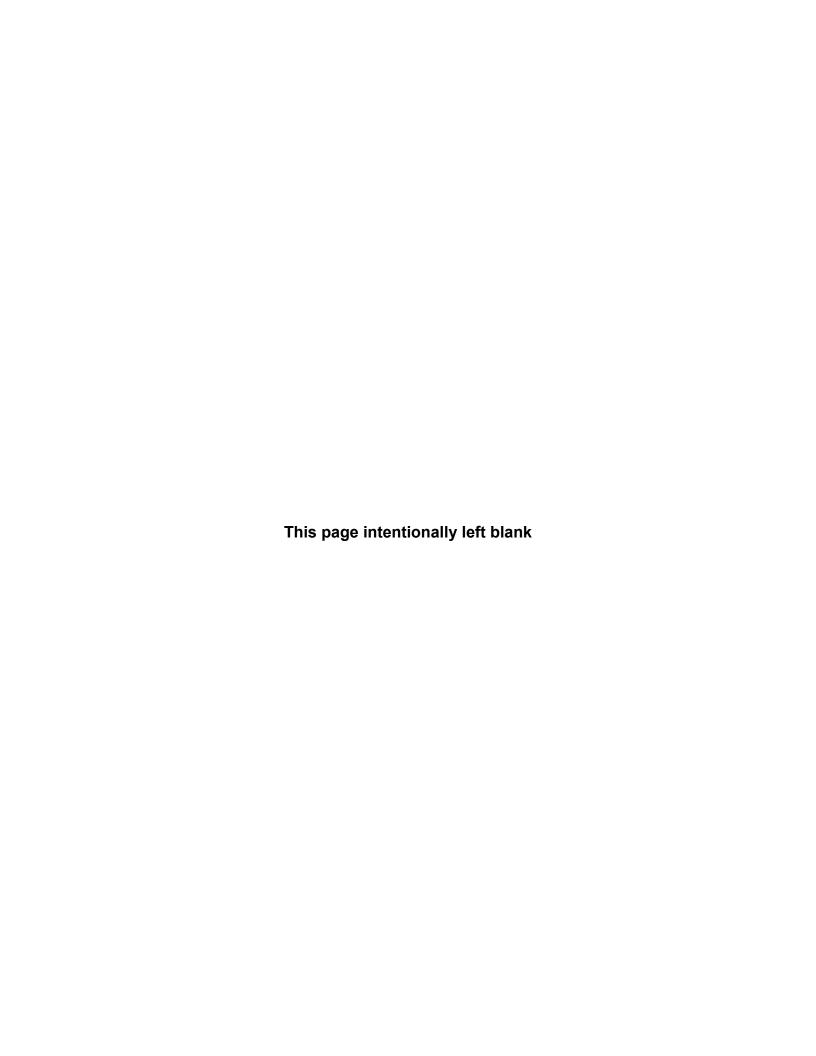




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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Educational Service Center Hancock County 1306 Cedar Street Fremont, Ohio 43420-1197

To the Governing Board:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Hancock County Educational Service Center (the Center) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2003, which collectively comprise the Center's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Center's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with 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. 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 financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Hancock County Educational Service Center, as of June 30, 2003, and the respective changes in financial position, thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the General and Title VI-B major special revenue fund for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As described in Note 3 to the financial statements, during fiscal year 2003 the Center reclassified a special revenue fund.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 26, 2004 on our consideration of the Center's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be read in conjunction with this report in considering the results of our audit.

One Government Center / Room 1420 / Toledo, OH 43604-2246
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www.auditor.state.oh.us

Educational Service Center Hancock County Independent Accountants' Report Page 2

Management's Discussion and Analysis is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information the Governmental Accounting Standards Board requires. We applied certain limited procedures, consisting principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. We did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

The accompanying federal awards receipts and expenditures schedule is presented for additional analysis as required by U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*, and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. We subjected this information to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements. In our opinion, it is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

Butty Montgomery

February 26, 2004

Management's Discussion and Analysis For Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003

The discussion and analysis of the Hancock County Educational Service Center's financial performance provides an overall review of our Educational Service Center's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the financial performance as a whole. Readers should also review the basic financial statements and notes to enhance their understanding of the Educational Service Center's financial performance.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for 2003 are as follows:

- In total, net assets increased \$36,014, which represents a 35 percent decrease from fiscal year 2002.
- Program specific revenues, in the form of charges for services and operating grants and contributions, accounted for \$3,384,501, or 87 percent of total revenues.
- The Educational Service Center had \$3,863,237 in total expenses; 87 percent of which of which were offset by program specific charges for services and operating grants and contributions.

Using the Basic Financial Statements

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. The statements are organized so the reader can understand Hancock County Educational Service Center's operations and activities as a whole, or as an entire operating entity.

The statement of net assets and the statement of activities provide information about the activities of the whole Educational Service Center, presenting both an aggregate view of the finances of the Educational Service Center and a longer-term view of those finances. Fund financial statements provide a greater level of detail. For governmental funds, these statements tell how services were financed in the short-term and the available funds for long-term future spending. The fund financial statements also look at the Educational Service Center's most significant funds with all other nonmajor funds presented in total in a single column. This level of detail is meant to enhance the financial statements.

Reporting the Hancock County Educational Service Center as a Whole

The statement of net assets and the statement of activities reflect how the Educational Service Center did financially during fiscal year 2003. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting similar to that which is used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting considers all of the current fiscal year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These statements report the Educational Service Center's net assets and changes in those assets. This change in net assets is important because it tells the reader whether the financial position of the Educational Service Center as a whole has increased or decreased from the prior fiscal year. Over time, these increases and/or decreases are one indicator of whether the financial position is improving or deteriorating. Causes for these changes may be the result of many factors. Factors can be financial or non-financial. Non-financial factors include mandated educational programs, as well as locally requested programs.

Management's Discussion and Analysis For Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

All of the Educational Service Center's programs and services provided are reported as governmental activities. These activities include: instruction, support services, and non-instructional services.

Reporting the Educational Service Center's Most Significant Funds

Fund financial statements provide detailed information about the Educational Service Center's major funds, the General Fund and the Title VI-B special revenue fund.

All of the Educational Service Center's activities are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how monies flow into and out of those funds and the balances left at fiscal year end for future periods. These funds are reported using modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Educational Service Center's operations and the basic services it provides.

The relationship, or differences, between governmental activities reported on the statement of net assets and the statement of activities and in the governmental funds is reconciled in the financial statements.

The Educational Service Center as a Whole

Table 1 is a comparison of governmental activities for fiscal years 2003 and 2002

Table 1 Net Assets

	Governmental Activities					
		2003		2002		
Assets						
Current and Other Assets	\$	584,855	\$	435,093		
Capital Assets, Net		55,391		69,167		
Total Assets		640,246		504,260		
Liabilities						
Current and Other Liabilities		370,575		267,480		
Long-Term Liabilities		129,644		132,767		
Total Liabilities		500,219		400,247		
		_		_		
Net Assets						
Invested in Capital Assets,						
Net of Related Debt		55,391		69,167		
Restricted		71,628		102,035		
Unrestricted (Deficit)		13,008		(67,189)		
Total Net Assets	\$	140,027	\$	104,013		

Total assets increased \$135,986, or 27 percent. This increase was recognized as equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents. In the prior fiscal year, the Educational Service Center had to pay for two years of retirement benefits within a single year due to a change in the collection process. As a result, cash balances were depleted in the prior fiscal year. By only paying for a single year's benefits in fiscal year 2003, cash balances were reestablished. Total liabilities increased \$99,972 or 25 percent. No one liability

Management's Discussion and Analysis For Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

account stands out as having the greatest effect on this increase. In general, there were simply more payables unpaid at fiscal year end than in the prior fiscal year. Total net assets increased \$36,014 or 35 percent. Included within this change, restricted net assets decreased primarily due to expenses exceeding revenues in the Title VI-B federal grant program. Conversely, greater revenues associated with General Fund activities resulted in the largest increase in unrestricted net assets.

Table 2 reflects the changes in net assets for fiscal year 2003 and 2002.

Table 2 Change in Net Assets

Change in Net		A .: :::		
	Governmental Activities			
	2003	2002		
Revenues				
Program Revenues:				
Charges for Services	\$ 1,789,705	\$ 1,589,891		
Operating Grants and Contributions	1,594,796	1,507,618		
General Revenues:				
Grants and Entitlements	482,627	498,881		
Interest	9,208	22,867		
Gifts and Donations	14,185	759		
Miscellaneous	8,730	2,994		
Total Revenues	3,899,251	3,623,010		
Program Expenses				
Instruction:				
Regular	167,598	311,919		
Special	586,585	717,237		
Support Services:				
Pupils	763,831	675,300		
Instructional Staff	1,302,429	1,190,745		
Board of Education	41,410	16,574		
Administration	216,969	210,510		
Fiscal	149,164	142,031		
Business	4,482	7,806		
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	8,053	9,884		
Pupil Transportation	2,000	1,535		
Central	9,883	17,110		
Non-Instructional Services	1,379	31,090		
Intergovernmental	609,454	330,141		
Total Expenses	3,863,237	3,661,882		
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 36,014	\$ (38,872)		

Total revenues increased \$276,241, or 8 percent. Interest revenue experienced the greatest percentage change, a 60 percent decrease; however, the dollar amount was generally insignificant to overall revenues. Program revenues have consistently accounted for in excess of 85 percent of total revenues for the last three fiscal years.

Management's Discussion and Analysis For Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

Total expenses increased approximately 5 percent and ate consistent with increases resulting from prior fiscal years. Intergovernmental expenses are those associated with pass through grant monies spent on behalf of the School District's served by the Educational Service Center.

Table 3 indicates the total cost of services and the net cost of services. The statement of activities reflects the cost of program services and the charges for services and operating grants and contributions offsetting those services.

Table 3
Cost of Services

	Total Cost of Net Cost of Total Cost of				١	let Cost of		
	Services			Services		Services		Services
		2003		2003 20		2002		2002
Instruction:								
Regular	\$	167,598	\$	(189,104)	\$	311,919	\$	86,962
Special		586,585		(1,712,463)		717,237		(1,113,659)
Support Services:								
Pupils		763,831		650,281		675,300		568,471
Instructional Staff		1,302,429		1,302,429		1,190,745		776,393
Board of Education		41,410		41,410		16,574		16,574
Administration		216,969		216,969		210,510		210,510
Fiscal		149,164		149,164		142,031		85,172
Business		4,482		4,482		7,806		7,806
Operation and Maintenance of Plant		8,053		2,011		9,884		3,757
Pupil Transportation		2,000		(8,566)		1,535		1,535
Central		9,883		7,185		17,110		2,043
Non-Instructional Services		1,379		970		31,090		(11,407)
Intergovernmental		609,454		13,968		330,141		(66,512)
Total Expenses	\$	3,863,237	\$	478,736	\$	3,661,882	\$	567,645

A review of Table 3 reflects the net cost of instructional services was (\$1,901,567). At first glance, this would indicate the Educational Service Center received resources well in excess of that needed to support the instruction program. However, further review reflects a deficiency in support services of \$2,365,365. These activities support the Educational Service Center's ability to provide instruction. Under the Educational Service Center's present method of recording program expenses, there is insufficient detail to allocate these expenses against the instruction program and the other activities of the Educational Service Center. The net cost of activities of \$478,736, or 12 percent of total expenses, was supported by general revenues.

The Educational Service Center's Funds

The Educational Service Center's governmental funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Total revenues were \$3,849,514 and expenditures were \$3,839,627, which indicates the Educational Service Center was able to meet current costs.

Management's Discussion and Analysis For Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

Budgeting Highlights

The Educational Service Center's budget is prepared according to the requirements of the State Department of Education, and is based on cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The Educational Service Center's most significant budgeted fund is the General Fund. The General Fund is budgeted at the function level. All other funds are budgeted at the fund level.

As services provided to the local school districts change during the fiscal year, adjustments are made from the original budget. One example of a need to increase the budget would be an increase in classroom students. Teacher Aides, which had not been budgeted for originally, would be added due to classroom enrollment factors. This type of request generally comes directly from the Superintendent of the school district where the classroom unit is housed. Additions to personnel are the primary cause for budget revisions and are approved by Educational Service Center's Board.

For the General Fund, original budgeted revenues, in the amount of \$3,227,096 were below the final budgeted revenues, in the amount of \$3,248,863. The change was less than 1 percent.

Expenditures were budgeted at \$3,287,084 while actual expenditures were \$3,031,815. Again this change was generally insignificant.

Capital Assets

At the end of fiscal year 2003, the Educational Service Center had \$55,391 invested in capital assets (net of accumulated depreciation). For further information regarding the Educational Service Center's capital assets see, Note 10 to the basic financial statements.

Debt

The Educational Service Center had no debt in fiscal year 2003. The only long-term obligations of the Educational Service Center are related to compensated absences. For further information regarding the Educational Service Center's long-term obligations, see Note 15 to the basic financial statements.

Current Issues

In prior years, Hancock County provided office space to the Educational Service Center at no cost; however, House Bill 94 now allows counties to charge a fee for rent. As such, Hancock County requested the Educational Service Center pay annual rent of \$94,000.

The Educational Service Center filed a lawsuit against the Hancock County Commissioners challenging the \$94,000 cost of rent for office space. The Court of Common Pleas of Hancock County issued a judgment on July 19, 2002, stating the cost of rent should be \$22,216 a year. This cost was to be phased in over a five year period. In 2002, the Commissioners appealed the decision. In January 2003, the Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the Educational Service Center. In March 2003, the County Commissioners and the Educational Service Center entered into an agreement on this issue. The Educational Service Center paid 20 percent of the estimated rental costs for fiscal year 2003, in the amount of \$4,443. Building rent charges for 2004 will be \$12,049. For fiscal year 2005, the Educational Service Center will pay 60 percent of the costs for gas, electric, water and janitorial services. For fiscal year 2006, the Educational Service Center will pay 80 percent of these costs. For fiscal year 2007 and thereafter, the Educational Service Center will be responsible for 100 percent of such costs.

Management's Discussion and Analysis For Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

Contacting the Educational Service Center's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide citizens, taxpayers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the Educational Service Center's finances and to reflect accountability for the monies it receives. Questions concerning any of the information in this report or requests for additional information should be directed to Sandy Knudson, Treasurer, Hancock County Educational Service Center, 7746 County Road 140, Findlay, Ohio, 45840.

Statement of Net Assets June 30, 2003

	Governmental Activities
Assets Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents Account Receivable Intergovernmental Receivable Receivable from External Parties Prepaid Items Depreciable Capital Assets, Net Total Assets	\$ 326,526 2,570 224,388 7,695 23,676 55,391 640,246
Liabilities Accounts Payable Accrued Wages and Benefits Payable Matured Compensated Absences Payable Intergovernmental Payable Long-Term Liabilities: Due Within One Year Due in More Than One Year Total Liabilities	66,342 250,868 1,846 51,519 48,712 80,932 500,219
Net Assets Invested in Capital Assets Restricted For Other Purposes Unrestricted Total Net Assets	55,391 71,628 13,008 \$ 140,027

Statement of Activities For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003

				Net (Expense)	
				Revenue	
				and Change in	
		Program	Revenues	Net Assets	
			Operating		
		Charges for	Grants and	Governmental	
	Expenses	Services	Contributions	Activities	
Governmental Activities					
Instruction:					
Regular	\$ 167,598	\$ 234,967	\$ 121,735	\$ 189,104	
Special	586,585	1,406,924	892,124	1,712,463	
Support Services:					
Pupils	763,831	108,677	4,873	(650,281)	
Instructional Staff	1,302,429	-	-	(1,302,429)	
Board of Education	41,410	-	-	(41,410)	
Administration	216,969	-	-	(216,969)	
Fiscal	149,164	-	-	(149,164)	
Business	4,482	-	-	(4,482)	
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	8,053	6,042	-	(2,011)	
Pupil Transportation	2,000	10,566	-	8,566	
Central	9,883	2,698	-	(7,185)	
Non-Instructional Services	1,379	409	-	(970)	
Intergovernmental	609,454	19,422	576,064	(13,968)	
Total Governmental Activities	\$ 3,863,237	\$ 1,789,705	\$ 1,594,796	(478,736)	
		titlements not R	estricted		
	to Specific Pro	ograms		482,627	
	Interest			9,208	
	Gifts and Dona	ations		14,185	
	Miscellaneous			8,730	
	Total General	Revenues	514,750		
		36,014			
	Net Assets Beginning of Year				
	Net Assets En	d of Year		\$ 140,027	

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Balance Sheet Governmental Funds June 30, 2003

		0	-	"". \ \ D	0	Other	0	Total
	(General Fund	I	itle VI-B Fund		ernmental Funds	GOV	/ernmental Funds
Assets		runu		ruiiu		rulius	-	runus
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	271,619	\$	14,780	\$	40,127	\$	326,526
Accounts Receivable	Ψ	2,570	Ψ	14,700	Ψ	40,127	Ψ	2,570
Intergovernmental Receivable		194.274		16,803		13,311		224,388
Receivable from External Parties		7,695		-		-		7,695
Prepaid Items		23,676		_		_		23,676
Total Assets	\$	499,834	\$	31,583	\$	53,438	\$	584,855
Liabilities and Fund Balances:								
Liabilities:								
Accounts Payable	\$	61,491	\$	1,714	\$	3,137	\$	66,342
Accrued Wages and Benefits Payable		245,849		-		5,019		250,868
Matured Compensated Absences Payable		1,846		-		-		1,846
Intergovernmental Payable		37,503		680		229		38,412
Deferred Revenue		43,012		16,803		13,311		73,126
Total Liabilities		389,701		19,197		21,696		430,594
Fund Balances:								
Reserved for Encumbrances		8,351		7,128		4,908		20,387
Unreserved, Reported in:								
General Fund		101,782		-		-		101,782
Special Revenue Funds				5,258		26,834		32,092
Total Fund Balances		110,133		12,386		31,742		154,261
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	\$	499,834	\$	31,583	\$	53,438	\$	584,855

Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to Net Assets of Governmental Activities June 30, 2003

Total Governmental Fund Balances		\$ 154,261
Amounts reported for governmental activities on the statement of net assets are different because of the following:		
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, not reported in the funds.		55,391
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, deferred in the funds: Accounts Receivable Intergovernmental Receivable	20 73,106	73,126
Intergovernmental payable includes contractually required pension contributions not expected to be paid with available expendable resources and, therefore, not reported in the funds		(13,107)
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, not reported in the funds: Compensated Absences Payable		(129,644)
Net Assets of Governmental Activities		\$ 140,027

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances Governmental Funds For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003

	General Fund	Title VI-B Fund	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues	Φ 4 04C 05C	Ф Б 44 СО 7	Ф 450.074	COMPAG
Intergovernmental Interest	\$ 1,346,856 9,208	\$ 541,687	\$ 156,671	\$ 2,045,214 9,208
Tuition and Fees	16,865	-	-	16,865
Customer Services	1,739,605	_	15,707	1,755,312
Gifts and Donations	14,185	_	13,707	14,185
Miscellaneous	7,205	_	1,525	8,730
Total Revenues	3,133,924	541,687	173,903	3,849,514
Expenditures Current: Instruction: Regular	97,867		64,848	162,715
Special	576,915	-	375	577,290
Support Services:	370,913	-	373	377,290
Pupils	758,320	_	11,911	770,231
Instructional Staff	1,199,838	15,350	68,777	1,283,965
Board of Education	41,410	-	-	41,410
Administration	212,383	_	_	212,383
Fiscal	151,157	-	5,225	156,382
Business	4,482	-	-	4,482
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	8,053	_	-	8,053
Pupil Transportation	2,000	_	-	2,000
Central	9,883	-	-	9,883
Non-Instructional Services	-	-	1,379	1,379
Intergovernmental	3,822	585,341	20,291	609,454
Total Expenditures	3,066,130	600,691	172,806	3,839,627
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	67,794	(59,004)	1,097	9,887
Other Financing Sources				
Sale of Capital Assets	150			150
Net Change in Fund Balances	67,944	(59,004)	1,097	10,037
-			•	
Fund Balances at Beginning of Year	42,189	71,390	30,645	144,224
Fund Balances at End of Year	\$ 110,133	\$ 12,386	\$ 31,742	\$ 154,261

Reconciliation of Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003

Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds		\$ 10,037
Amounts reported for governmental activities on the statement of activities are different because of the following:		
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, on the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which depreciation exceeded capital outlays in the current year: Capital Outlay - Depreciable Capital Assets Depreciation	20,834 (33,489)	(12,655)
The proceeds from the sale of capital assets are reported as other financing sources in the governmental funds. However, the cost of the capital assets is removed from the capital asset account on the statement of net assets and is offset against the proceeds from the sale of capital assets resulting in a loss on sale of capital assets on the statement of activities.		
Sale of Capital Assets Loss on Sale of Capital Assets	(150) (971)	(1,121)
Revenues on the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the governmental funds:		
Intergovernmental Tuition and Fees Customer Services	49,289 20 428	49,737
Some expenses reported on the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds:		
Intergovernmental Payable Compensated Absences Payable	(13,107) 3,123	 (9,984)
Change in Net Assets of Governmental Activities		\$ 36,014

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance Budget (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual Comparison General Fund For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003

				Variance with Final Budget
	Budgeted	Amounts		Over
	Original	Final	Actual	(Under)
Revenues				
Intergovernmental	\$ 1,425,000	\$ 1,348,890	\$ 1,348,890	\$ -
Interest	15,000	9,199	9,199	-
Tuition and Fees	16,100	16,865	16,865	-
Extracurricular Activities	250	-	-	-
Customer Services	1,769,846	1,853,620	1,686,416	(167,204)
Gifts and Donations	700	14,185	14,185	-
Miscellaneous	200	6,104	6,104	
Total Revenues	3,227,096	3,248,863	3,081,659	(167,204)
Expenditures				
Current:				
Instruction:	440.500	454.440	440 700	10.01=
Regular	142,506	154,116	110,799	43,317
Special	617,098	617,098	565,892	51,206
Support Services:	700.000	000 700	740 575	05.007
Pupils	799,282	808,782	743,575	65,207
Instructional Staff	1,254,322	1,248,622	1,183,234	65,388
Board of Education	25,200	56,300	42,324	13,976
Administration	209,416	215,116	212,410	2,706
Fiscal	153,375	153,375	150,771	2,604
Business	9,000	9,000	4,262	4,738
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	11,675	11,675	8,177	3,498
Pupil Transportation	3,000	3,000	2,238	762
Central	10,000	10,000	8,133	1,867
Total Expenditures	3,234,874	3,287,084	3,031,815	255,269
Excess of Revenues Over				
(Under) Expenditures	(7,778)	(38,221)	49,844	88,065
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Sale of Capital Assets	150	150	150	-
Refund of Prior Year Expenditures	2,118	3,219	3,219	-
Refund of Prior Year Receipts	, <u>-</u>	(150)	(150)	-
Advances Out	(7,850)	(7,850)	-	7,850
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(5,582)	(4,631)	3,219	7,850
Net Change in Fund Balance	(13,360)	(42,852)	53,063	95,915
Fund Balance at Beginning of Year	146,307	146,307	146,307	-
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	9,485	9,485	9,485	
Fund Balance at End of Year	\$ 142,432	\$ 112,940	\$ 208,855	\$ 95,915

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance Budget (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual Comparison Title VI-B Special Revenue Fund For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003

	Budgeted Amounts				Variance with Final Budget Over			
D		Original		Final		Actual		(Under)
Revenues	•	07.070	•	000 450	•	000 055	•	(40,000)
Intergovernmental	\$	67,678	\$	626,158	_\$_	609,355	\$	(16,803)
Expenditures Current: Instruction:								
Special		7,595		225,133		217,413		7,720
Support Services:		,		•		,		,
Pupils		57,259		133,009		133,009		_
Instructional Staff		18,671		273,793		258,756		15,037
Administration		14,815		14,815		14,815		-
Total Expenditures		98,340		646,750		623,993		22,757
rotar Exportantiared		00,010		010,100		020,000		22,707
Excess of Expenditures Over Revenues		(30,662)		(20,592)		(14,638)		5,954
Other Financing Sources								
Other Financing Sources Advances In		7,850						
Net Change in Fund Balance		(22,812)		(20,592)		(14,638)		5,954
Fund Balance at Beginning of Year		20,592		20,592		20,592		
Fund Balance (Deficit) at End of Year	\$	(2,220)	\$		\$	5,954	\$	5,954

Statement of Net Assets Fiduciary Funds June 30, 2003

	Investment Trust			Agency
Assets Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	418,739	\$	167,664
Liabilities Undistributed Assets Due to Students Payable to External Parties Total Liabilities		- - - -	\$ 	158,849 1,120 7,695 167,664
Net Assets Held in Trust for External Pool Participants	\$	418,739		

Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Assets Fiduciary Fund For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003

	Investment Trust		
Additions Interest	\$	1,620	
Deductions Distributions to Participants Capital Transactions Total Deductions		1,620 63,026 64,646	
Change in Net Assets		(63,026)	
Net Assets at Beginning of Year		481,765	
Net Assets at End of Year	\$	418,739	

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003

NOTE 1 - REPORTING ENTITY

The Hancock County Educational Service Center (the Educational Service Center) is located in Findlay, Ohio, the county seat. The Educational Service Center supplies supervisory, special education, administrative, and other services to the Arcadia, Arlington, Cory Rawson, Liberty Benton, McComb, Van Buren, and Vanlue Local School Districts and the Findlay City School District. The Educational Service Center furnishes these services to strengthen the school districts in areas they are unable to finance or staff independently.

The Educational Service Center operates under a locally-elected Governing Board consisting of five members elected at-large for staggered four year terms. The Educational Service Center has two administrators, fifty-one classified employees, and forty-six certified teaching personnel that provide services to 5,314 students from the local and city school districts.

A reporting entity is composed of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to insure the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the Educational Service Center consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the Educational Service Center. For Hancock County Educational Service Center, this includes general operations and student-related activities.

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

The Educational Service Center participates in three jointly governed organizations and three insurance pools. These organizations are the Millstream Cooperative Vocational Career Center, Hancock County Local Professional Development Committee, West Central Regional Professional Development Center, Ohio Schools Risk Sharing Authority, NOACSC Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan, and the Hancock County Schools Health Benefit Fund and Trust. Information about these organizations is presented in Notes 16 and 17 to the basic financial statements.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of Hancock County Educational 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 body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The Educational Service Center also applies Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) statements and interpretations issued on or before November 30, 1989, to its governmental activities provided they do not conflict with or contradict GASB pronouncements. Following are the more significant of the Educational Service Center's accounting policies.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

A. Basis of Presentation

The Educational Service Center's basic financial statements consist of government-wide financial statements, including a statement of net assets and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The statement of net assets and the statement of activities display information about the Educational Service Center as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds.

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

Fund Financial Statements

During the fiscal year, the Educational Service Center segregates transactions related to certain Educational Service Center functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the Educational Service Center at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. Fiduciary funds are reported by type.

B. Fund Accounting

The Educational Service Center uses funds to maintain its financial records during the fiscal year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. There are two categories of funds utilized by the Educational Service Center, governmental and fiduciary.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions of the Educational Service Center are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses, and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between governmental fund assets and liabilities is reported as fund balance. The Educational Service Center has two major governmental funds:

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

<u>General Fund</u> - The General Fund 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 Educational Service Center for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the laws of Ohio.

<u>Title VI-B Special Revenue Fund</u> - The Title VI-B special revenue fund is used to account for federal funds provided to assist schools in the identification of handicapped children and the provision of full education opportunities to them.

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

Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net assets and changes in net assets. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds, and agency funds. Trust funds are used to account for assets held by the Educational Service Center under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments and are not available to support the Educational Service Center's own programs. The Educational Service Center's only trust fund is an investment trust fund which accounts for the activity of the external investment pool participant, the Regional Planning Development Center of Northwest Ohio. Agency funds are custodial in nature (assets equal liabilities) and do not involve measurement of results of operations. The Educational Service Center's agency funds account for various student managed activities and resources held for other organizations.

C. Measurement Focus

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are prepared using a flow of economic resources measurement focus. All assets and liabilities associated with the operation of the Educational Service Center are included on the statement of net assets. The statement of activities presents increases (e.g., revenues) and decreases (e.g., expenses) in total net assets.

Fund Financial Statements

All governmental funds 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 balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances reflects the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements, therefore, include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the fund financial statements for governmental funds.

The investment trust fund is accounted for using a flow of economic resources measurement focus.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

D. Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. Government-wide financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting; the fiduciary funds use the accrual basis of accounting. Differences in the accrual and modified accrual bases of accounting arise in the recognition of revenue, the recording of deferred revenue, and in the presentation of expenses versus expenditures.

Revenues - Exchange and Nonexchange Transactions

Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place. On the modified accrual basis, revenue is recorded in the fiscal year in which the resources are measurable and become available. Available means the resources will be collected within the current fiscal year or are expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current fiscal year. For the Educational Service Center, available means expected to be received within sixty days of fiscal year end.

Nonexchange transactions, in which the Educational Service Center receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlements, and donations. On the accrual basis, revenue from grants, entitlements, and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the fiscal year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted; matching requirements, in which the Educational Service Center must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose; and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Educational Service Center on a reimbursement basis. On the modified accrual basis, revenue from nonexchange transactions must also be available before it can be recognized.

Under the modified accrual basis, the following revenue sources are considered both measurable and available at fiscal year end: grants, interest, tuition, fees, and customer services.

Deferred Revenues

Deferred revenues arise when assets are recognized before revenue recognition criteria have been satisfied. Grants and entitlements received before the eligibility requirements are met are recorded as deferred revenue.

On governmental fund financial statements, receivables that will not be collected within the available period are reported as deferred revenue.

Expenses/Expenditures

On the accrual basis, expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred.

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. Allocations of cost, such as depreciation and amortization, are not recognized in governmental funds.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process

The Educational Service Center adopts its budget for all funds, other than agency funds. The budget includes the estimated resources and expenditures for each fund and consists of three parts; Part (A) includes entitlement funding from the State, Part (B) includes the cost of all other lawful expenditures of the Educational Service Center (which are apportioned by the State Department of Education to each local board of education under the supervision of the Educational Service Center), and Part (C) includes the adopted appropriation resolution.

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

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

F. Cash and Investments

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

During fiscal year 2003, investments were limited to STAR Ohio. STAR Ohio is an investment pool, managed by the State Treasurer's Office, which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but does operate in a manner consistent with Rule 2a7 of the Investment Company Act of 1940. Investments in STAR Ohio are valued at STAR Ohio's share price, which is the price the investment could be sold for on June 30, 2003.

The Educational Service Center allocates interest according to State statues. Interest revenue credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2003 was \$9,208, which includes \$5,582 assigned from other Educational Service Center funds.

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

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

G. Prepaid Items

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond June 30, 2003, are recorded as prepaid items using the consumption method. A current asset for the prepaid amount is recorded at the time of purchase and an expenditure/expense is reported in the year in which services are consumed.

H. Capital Assets

All of the Educational Service Center's capital assets are general capital assets. These assets generally result from expenditures in the governmental funds. These assets are reported in the governmental activities column on the government-wide statement of net assets but are not reported on the fund financial statements.

All capital assets are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and reductions during the fiscal year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their fair market value on the date donated. The Educational Service Center maintains a capitalization threshold of seven hundred fifty dollars. The Educational Service Center does not have any infrastructure. Improvements are capitalized.

All capital assets are depreciated. Improvements are depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Description	Useful Lives
Buildings	5 years
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment	5 years

I. Compensated Absences

Vacation benefits are accrued as a liability as the benefits are earned if the employees' rights to receive compensation are attributable to services already rendered and it is probable the Educational Service Center will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means. The Educational Service Center records a liability for accumulated unused vacation time when earned for all employees with more than one year of service.

Sick leave benefits are accrued as a liability using the vesting method. The liability includes the employees who are currently eligible to receive termination benefits and those the Educational Service Center has identified as probable of receiving payment in the future. The amount is based on accumulated sick leave and employees' wage rates at fiscal year end, taking into consideration any limits specified in the Educational Service Center's termination policy. The Educational Service Center records a liability for accumulated unused sick leave for all employees after ten years of service.

J. Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligations

All payables, accrued liabilities, and long-term obligations are reported on the government-wide financial statements.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

In general, governmental fund payables and accrued liabilities that, once incurred, are paid in a timely manner and in full from current financial resources are reported as obligations of the funds. However, contractually required pension obligations and compensated absences that are paid from governmental funds are reported as liabilities on the fund financial statements only to the extent that they are due for payment during the current year.

K. Net Assets

Net assets represent the difference between assets and liabilities. Net assets invested in capital assets consist of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation. Net assets are reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the Educational Service Center or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Net assets restricted for other purposes include activities for federal and state grants restricted to expenditure for specified purposes.

The Educational Service Center's policy is to first apply restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available.

L. Fund Balance Reserves

The Educational Service Center reserves those portions of fund balance which are legally segregated for a specific future use or which do not represent available expendable resources and, therefore, are not available for appropriation or expenditure. Unreserved fund balance indicates that portion which is available for appropriation in future periods. A fund balance reserve has been established for encumbrances.

M. Interfund Transactions

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as revenues in the seller funds and as expenditures/expenses in the purchaser funds. Flows of cash or goods from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular expenditures/expenses to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented on the financial statements.

N. Extraordinary and Special Items

Extraordinary items are transactions or events that are both unusual in nature and infrequent in occurrence. Special items are transactions or events that are within the control of management and are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence.

O. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles 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.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

NOTE 3- CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES AND RESTATEMENT OF FUND BALANCE

A. Change in Accounting Principle

For fiscal year 2003, the Educational Service Center has implemented GASB statement No. 41, "Budgetary Comparison Schedules – Perspective Differences". GASB Statement No. 41 allows the presentation of budgetary schedules as required supplementary information based on the fund, organization, or program structure that the Educational Service Center uses for its legally adopted budget when significant budgetary perspective differences result in the Educational Service Center not being able to present budgetary comparisons for the General Fund and each major special revenue fund. The implementation of this statement did not have any effect on the Educational Service Center's financial statements for fiscal year 2003.

B. Restatement of Fund Balances

In prior years the Educational Service Center recorded a special revenue fund that should have been recorded as an agency fund. The change in fund structure had the following effect on governmental fund balances of the Educational Service Center as previously reported.

This change had the following affect on the previously stated net assets/fund balance:

	Total
	Governmental
	Activities
Fund Balances June 30, 2002	\$149,612
Change in Fund Structure	(5,388)
Adjusted Fund Balance	\$144,224

The change from governmental fund balance to net assets of governmental activities is also presented.

	Total Governmental Activities
Net Assets June 30, 2002 Change in Fund Structure	\$123,130 (19,117)
Governmental Activities Net Assets at June 30, 2002	\$104,013

NOTE 4 – ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

A. Accountability

At June 30, 2003, the Early Childhood Preschool special revenue fund had a deficit balance of \$25, resulting from adjustments for accrued liabilities. The General Fund provides transfers to cover deficit balances; however, this is done when cash is needed rather than when accruals occur.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

B. Compliance

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003, the Title VI-B special revenue fund had appropriations in excess of estimated resources plus available balances, in the amount of \$2,220, for original appropriations. The Educational Service Center will review original appropriations more closely to avoid this in future fiscal years.

NOTE 5 - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

While the Educational Service Center is reporting financial position, results of operations, and changes in fund balances on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual presented for the General Fund and Title VI-B special revenue fund are 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 as follows:

- 1. Revenues are recorded when received in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP basis).
- 2. Expenditures are recorded when paid in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when the liability is incurred (GAAP basis).
- 3. Encumbrances are treated as expenditures (budget basis) rather than as a reservation of fund balance (GAAP basis).

The adjustments necessary to reconcile the GAAP and budgetary basis statements are as follows:

Net Change in Fund Balance						
		General	Т	itle VI-B		
GAAP Basis	\$	67,944	\$	(59,004)		
Increase (Decrease) Due to:						
Revenue Accruals:						
Accrued FY 2002, Received in Cash FY 2003		112,490		67,668		
Accrued FY 2003, Not Yet Received in Cash		(161,527)				
Expenditure Accruals:						
Accrued FY 2002, Paid in Cash FY 2003		(246,511)		(16,870)		
Accrued FY 2003, Not Yet Paid in Cash		346,689		2,394		
Cash Adjustments:						
Unrecorded Activity FY 2002		27				
Unrecorded Activity FY 2003		(36)				
Prepaid Items		(3,285)				
Encumbrances Outstanding						
at Fiscal Year End (Budget Basis)		(62,728)		(8,826)		
Budget Basis	\$	53,063	\$	(14,638)		

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

NOTE 6 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

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

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

Inactive deposits are public deposits the Governing Board has identified as not required for use within the current five year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those monies which are not needed for immediate use but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit, or by savings or deposit accounts, including passbook accounts.

Protection of the Educational Service Center'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 Treasurer 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:

- United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
- Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligation or security issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
- Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least 2 percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
- 4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio;
- 5. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions; and
- 6. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio).

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements, and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage, and short selling are also prohibited. An investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the Educational Service Center, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

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

The following information classifies deposits and investments by categories of risk as defined in GASB Statement No. 3, "Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments (including Repurchase Agreements), and Reverse Repurchase Agreements".

At fiscal year end, the carrying amount of the Educational Service Center's deposits was \$253,130 and the bank balance was \$448,011. Of the bank balance, \$100,000 was covered by federal depository insurance and \$348,011 was uninsured and uncollateralized. Of this amount, \$318,011 was not collateralized as required by Ohio Revised Code Section 135.18. Non-compliance with federal requirements could potentially subject the Educational Service Center to a successful claim by the FDIC.

The Educational Service Center's investments are categorized to give an indication of the level of risk assumed by the Educational Service Center at fiscal year end. Category 1 includes investments that are insured or registered for which the securities are held by the Educational Service Center or its agent in the Educational 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 Educational Service Center's name. Category 3 includes uninsured and unregistered investments for which the securities are held by the counterparty, or by its trust department or agent but not in the Educational Service Center's name. The Educational Service Center's investment in STAR Ohio is unclassified since it is not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form. At June 30, 2003, the fair value of funds on deposit with STAR Ohio was \$659,799.

The classification of cash and cash equivalents and investments on the basic financial statements is based on criteria set forth in GASB Statement No. 9, "Reporting Cash Flows of Proprietary and Non-Expendable Trust Funds and Governmental Entities That Use Proprietary Fund Accounting". A reconciliation between the classification of cash and cash equivalents and investments on the basic financial statements and the classification of deposits and investments according to GASB Statement No. 3 is as follows:

Cach and Cach

Cas	sii aliu Casii		
E			
	Deposits	_lnν	estments
\$	912,929	\$	-
	(659,799)		659,799
\$	253,130	\$	659,799
	E	(659,799)	Equivalents/

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

NOTE 7 - INVESTMENT POOL

The Educational Service Center serves as fiscal agent for the Regional Planning Development Center of Northwest Ohio, a legally separate entity. The Educational Service Center pools the monies of this entity with the Educational Service Center's for investment purposes. The Educational Service Center cannot allocate its investments between internal and external investment pools. The investment pool is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an investment company. The fair value of investments is determined annually. The pool does not issue shares. Each participant is allocated a pro rata share of each investment at fair value along with a pro rata share of the interest that it earns. The carrying amount and fair value for both the internal and external portion of the investment pool are disclosed in Note 6 - Deposits and Investments. Condensed financial information for the investment pool follows:

Statement of Net Assets

June 30, 2003		
Assets Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	912,929
	<u> </u>	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
Net Assets Held in Trust for Pool Participants Internal Portion	\$	494.190
External Portion	Ψ	418,739
Total Net Assets Held in Trust for Pool Participants	\$	912,929

Statement of Changes in Net Assets For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003

Tot the Fiscal Teal Efface build 60, 2000	
Additions	
Interest	\$ 10,828
Deductions	
Distributions to Participants	10,819
Capital Transactions	(87,602)
Total Deductions	(76,783)
	, ,
Change in Net Assets	87,611
Net Assets Beginning of Year	825,318
Net Assets End of Year	\$ 912,929

NOTE 8 - STATE FUNDING

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

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

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

of Education's portion is determined by multiplying the sum of the average daily memberships of all of the local school districts served by the Educational Service Center by \$37. This amount is provided from State resources.

If additional funding is needed by the Educational Service Center, and if a majority of the Boards of Education of the local school districts served by the Educational Service Center approve, the cost of Part (B) of the budget can be increased. The portion that is in excess of the original funding calculation is shared by all of the local school districts served by the Educational Service Center through additional reductions in their resources provided through the School Foundation Program. The State Board of Education initiates and supervises the procedure under which the local school districts approve or disapprove the additional apportionment.

NOTE 9 - RECEIVABLES

Receivables at June 30, 2003, consisted of accounts, intergovernmental receivables and amounts due from external parties. All receivables are considered collectible within one year and in full.

A summary of the principal items of intergovernmental receivables follows:

	 Amount
Governmental Activities	
General Fund	\$ 194,274
Title VI-B	16,803
Other Governmental Funds	
Ohio Reads	9,991
Alternative School	 3,320
Total Intergovernmental Receivables	\$ 224,388

NOTE 10 - CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003, was as follows:

	alance at						alance at
	 6/30/02	A	dditions	Reductions		6/30/03	
Governmental Activities	 		_				_
Depreciable Capital Assets							
Buildings	\$ 36,837	\$	-	\$	-	\$	36,837
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment	225,889		20,834		43,149		203,574
Total Depreciable Capital Assets	 262,726		20,834		43,149		240,411
Less Accumulated Depreciation							
Buildings	(26,399)		(7,368)				(33,767)
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment	 (167,160)		(26,121)		42,028		(151,253)
Total Accumulated Depreciation	(193,559)		(33,489)		42,028		(185,020)
Depreciable Capital Assets, Net	\$ 69,167	\$	(12,655)	\$	(1,121)	\$	55,391

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

The Educational Service Center's buildings consist of a modular classroom that is used by the local school districts served by the Educational Service Center.

Depreciation expense was charged to governmental functions as follows:

Instruction:	
Regular	\$ 1,642
Special	12,582
Support Services:	
Pupils	5,145
Instructional Staff	5,180
Administration	7,823
Fiscal	1,117
Total Depreciation Expense	\$ 33,489

NOTE 11 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Educational Service Center is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During fiscal year 2003, the Educational Service Center contracted for the following insurance coverage:

Coverage provided by the Ohio Schools Risk Sharing Authority:	
Commercial Property Contents - replacement cost (\$1000 deductible)	\$ 186,846
General Liability	
Per Occurrence	1,000,000
Total Per Year	3,000,000
Errors and Omissions (\$5000 deductible)	1,000,000

Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years, and there has been no significant reduction in insurance coverage from the prior fiscal year.

For fiscal year 2003, the Educational Service Center participated in the Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (ORSA), an insurance purchasing pool. Each participant enters into an individual agreement with the ORSA for insurance coverage and pays annual premiums to the ORSA based on the types and limits or coverage and deductibles selected by the participant.

For fiscal year 2003, the Educational Service Center participated in the NOACSC Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (Plan), an insurance purchasing pool. The Plan in intended to achieve the benefit of a reduced premium for the Educational Service Center by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the Plan. The workers' compensation experience of the participating members is calculated as one experience and a common premium rate is applied to all members in the Plan. Each member pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the Plan rather than its individual rate. Participation in the Plan is limited to members that can meet the Plan's selection criteria. The members apply for participation each year. The firm of Acordia Workers' Compensation Services provides administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the Plan. Each year, the Educational Service Center pays an enrollment fee to the Plan to cover the costs of administering the program.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

The Educational Service Center participates in the Hancock County Schools Health Benefit Fund and Trust (Trust), a public entity shared risk pool consisting of seven local school districts, the Hancock County Educational Service Center, and the Blanchard Valley Board of Mental Retardation/ Developmental Disabilities. The Educational Service Center pays monthly premiums to the Trust for employee medical, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits. The Trust is responsible for the management and operation of the program. Upon withdrawal from the Trust, a participant is responsible for the payment of all Trust liabilities to its employees, dependents, and designated beneficiaries accruing as a result of withdrawal.

NOTE 12 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

A. State Teachers Retirement System

The Educational Service Center contributes to the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS), a cost-sharing multiple employer public employee retirement system administered by the State Teachers Retirement Board. STRS provides basic retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. Benefits are established by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. STRS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. The report may be obtained by writing to the State Teachers Retirement System, 275 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3771.

New members have a choice of three retirement plans, a Defined Benefit Plan (DBP), a Defined Contribution Plan (DCP) and a Combined Plan (CP). The DBP offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service or on an allowance based on member contributions and earned interest matched by STRS funds multiplied by an actuarially determined annuity factor. The DCP allows members to place all their member contributions and employer contributions equal to 10.5 percent of earned compensation into an investment account. Investment decisions are made by the member. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age fifty and termination of employment. The CP offers features of both the DBP and the DCP. In the CP, member contributions are invested by the member and employer contributions are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DBP. DCP and CP members will transfer to the DBP during their fifth year of membership unless they permanently select the DCP or CP. Existing members with less than five years of service credit as of June 30, 2001, were given the option of making a one time irrevocable decision to transfer their account balances from the existing DBP into the DCP or CP. This option expired on December 31, 2001.

A DBP or CP member with five or more years credited service who becomes disabled may qualify for a disability benefit. Eligible spouses and dependents of these active members who die before retirement may qualify for survivor benefits. Members in the DCP who become disabled are entitled only to their account balance. If a member dies before retirement benefits begin, the member's designated beneficiary is entitled to receive the member's account balance.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003, plan members are required to contribute 9.3 percent of their annual covered salary and the Educational Service Center is required to contribute 14 percent; 13 percent was the portion used to fund pension obligations. Contribution rates are established by STRS, upon recommendation of its consulting actuary, not to exceed statutory maximum rates of 10 percent for members and 14 percent for employers.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

The Educational Service Center's required contribution for pension obligations for the DBP for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2003, 2002, and 2001, were \$272,288, \$179,321, and \$165,211, respectively; 92 percent has been contributed for fiscal year 2003 and 100 percent for fiscal years 2002 and 2001. Contributions for the DCP and CP for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003, were \$44 made by the Educational Service Center and \$4,339 made by plan members.

B. School Employees Retirement System

The Educational Service Center contributes to the School Employees Retirement System of Ohio (SERS), a cost-sharing multiple employer defined benefit pension plan administered by the School Employees Retirement Board. SERS provides retirement and disability plan benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits provided by Chapter 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. SERS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. The report may be obtained by writing to the School Employees Retirement System, 300 East Broad Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3746.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003, plan members are required to contribute 9 percent of their annual covered salary and the Educational Service Center was required to contribute an actuarially determined rate. The rate for fiscal year 2003 was 14 percent of annual covered payroll; 8.17 percent was the portion used to fund pension obligations. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended, up to statutory maximum amounts, by the SERS Retirement Board. The Educational Service Center's required contribution for pension obligations to SERS for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2003, 2002, and 2001 were \$70,508, \$42,742, and \$25,114, respectively; 87 percent has been contributed for fiscal year 2003 and 100 percent for fiscal years 2002 and 2001.

C. Social Security System

Effective July 1, 1991, all employees not otherwise covered by the State Teachers Retirement System or the School Employees Retirement System have an option to choose Social Security or the State Teachers Retirement System/School Employees Retirement System. As of June 30, 2003, two of the Governing Board members have elected Social Security. The Board's liability is 6.2 percent of wages paid.

13. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The Educational Service Center provides comprehensive health care benefits to retired teachers and their dependents through the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS), and to retired classified employees and their dependents through the School Employees Retirement System (SERS). Benefits include hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs, and partial reimbursement of monthly Medicare premiums. Benefit provisions and the obligations to contribute are established by the Systems based on authority granted by State statute. Both Systems are funded on a pay-as-you-qo-basis.

The State Teachers Retirement Board has statutory authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Most benefit recipients pay a portion of the health care cost in the form of a monthly premium. By law, the cost of coverage paid from STRS funds shall be included in the employer contribution rate, currently 14 percent of covered payroll. For fiscal year

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

2003, the Board allocated employer contributions equal to 1 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Reserve fund. For the Educational Service Center, this amount was \$20,949.

STRS pays health care benefits from the Health Care Reserve fund. The balance in the Health Care Reserve fund was \$3,011 million at June 30, 2002 (the latest information available). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2002, net health care costs paid by STRS were \$354,697,000 and STRS had 105,300 eligible benefit recipients.

For SERS, coverage is made available to service retirees with ten or more years of qualifying service credit, and 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 75 percent of the premium.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2003, employer contributions to fund health care benefits were 5.83 percent of covered payroll. In addition, SERS levies a surcharge to fund health care benefits equal to 14 percent of the difference between a minimum pay and the member's pay, pro-rated for partial service credit. For fiscal year 2003, the minimum pay has been established at \$14,500. For the Educational Service Center, the amount to fund health care benefits, including the surcharge, was \$63,796 for fiscal year 2003.

The surcharge, added to the unallocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate, provides for maintenance of the asset target level for the health care fund. The target level for the health care reserve is 150 percent of annual health care expenses. Expenses for health care at June 30, 2002 (the latest information available), were \$182,946,777 and the target level was \$274.4 million. At June 30, 2002, SERS had net assets available for payment of health care benefits of \$335.2 million. SERS had approximately 50,000 participants receiving health care benefits.

NOTE 14 - OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

A. Compensated Absences

The criteria for determining vacation and sick leave benefits are derived from negotiated agreements and State laws. Classified employees earn ten to twenty days of vacation per year, depending upon length of service. Accumulated unused vacation time is paid to classified employees and administrators upon termination of employment. Teachers do not earn vacation time.

Teachers, administrators, and classified employees earn sick leave at a rate of one and one-fourth days per month. Sick leave may be accumulated up to a maximum of two hundred days for eligible personnel. Upon retirement, payment is made for one-fourth of accrued, but unused sick leave credit to a maximum of thirty days. After the thirty day maximum is achieved, employees are paid one additional day for each year of service with the Educational Service Center, up to a total maximum of forty-eight days. An employees' severance pay is pro-rated if they have not served five years with the Educational Service Center.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

B. Health Care Benefits

The Educational Service Center provides medical, dental, vision, and life insurance to all employees through the Hancock County Schools Health Benefit Fund and Trust. Depending upon the plan chosen, the employees share the cost of the monthly premium with the Board. The premium varies with employee depending on the terms of the union contract.

NOTE 15 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

Changes in the Educational Service Center's long-term obligations during fiscal year 2003 were as follows:

	Balance at 6/30/02	Additions	Reductions	Balance at 6/30/03	Amounts Due Within One Year
Governmental Activities Compensated Absences	\$ 132,767	\$ -	\$ 3,123	\$ 129,644	\$ 48,712

Compensated absences will be paid from the General Fund.

NOTE 16 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

A. Millstream Cooperative Vocational Career Center

The Millstream Cooperative Vocational Career Center is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio established under Section 3313.90. The Career Center provides vocational instruction to students. The Career Center operates under the direction of an Advisory Council consisting of the superintendent of each participating school district and one additional representative from the Findlay City School District. Financial information can be obtained from the Findlay City School District, Pam Barber, who serves as treasurer, 227 South West Street, Findlay, Ohio 45840-3377.

B. Hancock County Local Professional Development Committee

The Hancock County Local Professional Development Committee (HCLPDC) was established in 1999 to plan, promote, and facilitate effective and efficient professional educator license renewal standards and staff development activities. The HCLPDC is organized under Ohio laws as a regional council of governments pursuant to a written agreement entered into by its members. The HCLPDC is governed by a thirteen member Executive Board. Financial information can be obtained from Hancock County Educational Service Center, who serves as fiscal agent, 7746 County Road 140, Findlay, Ohio 45840.

C. West Central Regional Professional Development Center

The West Central Regional Professional Development Center (Center) is a jointly governed organization among the school districts in Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties. The organization was formed to establish an articulate regional structure for professional development in which school districts, the business community, higher education, and other groups cooperatively plan and implement effective professional development activities that are tied directly to school improvement, and in particular, to improvements in instructional programs.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

The Center is governed by a fifty-two member board made up of representatives from the participating school districts, the business community, and two institutions of higher learning. The degree of control exercised by any participating school district is limited to its representation on the Board. Financial information can be obtained from Sandy Knudson, Hancock County Educational Service Center, 7746 County Road 140, Findlay, Ohio 45840

NOTE 17 - INSURANCE POOLS

A. Ohio Risk Sharing Authority

The Educational Service Center participates in the Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (ORSA), an insurance purchasing pool established under Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code. ORSA is an unincorporated nonprofit association of its members which enables the participants to provide for a formalized joint insurance purchasing program for maintaining adequate insurance protection and provides risk management programs and other administrative services. The ORSA's business and affairs are conducted by a board consisting of nine superintendents and treasurers, as well as an attorney, accountant, and four representatives from the pool's administrator, Willis Pooling. Willis Pooling is responsible for processing claims and establishes agreements between ORSA and its members. Financial information can be obtained from Willis Pooling, 655 Metro Place South, Dublin, Ohio 43017.

B. NOACSC Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan

The Educational Service Center participates in a group rating plan for workers' compensation as established under Section 4123.29 of the Ohio Revised Code. The NOACSC Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (Plan) was established through the Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative (NOACSC) as an insurance purchasing pool.

The Safety Coordinator of NOACSC or his designee serves as coordinator of the Plan. Each year, the participating members pay an enrollment fee to the Plan to cover the costs of administering the program.

C. Hancock County Schools Health Benefit Fund and Trust

The Hancock County Schools Health Benefit Fund and Trust (Trust) is a public entity shared risk pool consisting of seven local school districts, the Hancock County Educational Service Center, and the Blanchard Valley Board of Mental Retardation/Developmental Disabilities. The Trust is a Voluntary Employee Benefit Association under Section 501(c)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code and provides medical, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits to participants. The Administrative Committee of the Trust consists of the superintendent from each participating member. The Administrative Committee advises the trustee, Sky Bank, concerning aspects of the administration of the Trust.

Each member decides which plans offered by the Administrative Committee that will be extended to its employees. Participation in the Trust is by written application subject to acceptance by the Administrative Committee and payment of the monthly premiums. Financial information can be obtained from Tim Smith, Ohio Benefits Group, 545 Pearl Street, Bowling Green, Ohio 43402.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003 (Continued)

NOTE 18 - STATE SCHOOL FUNDING DECISION

On December 11, 2002, the Ohio Supreme Court issued its latest opinion regarding the State's school funding plan. The decision reaffirmed earlier decisions that Ohio's current school-funding plan is unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court relinquished jurisdiction over the case and directed "...the Ohio General Assembly to enact a school-funding scheme that is thorough and efficient...."

The Educational Service Center is currently unable to determine what effect, if any, this decision will have on its future State funding and its financial operations.

NOTES 19 - CONTINGENCIES

A. Grants

The Educational Service Center received financial assistance from federal and state agencies in the form of grants. The expenditure of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and is subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the General Fund or other applicable funds. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material adverse effect on the overall financial position of the Educational Service Center at June 30, 2003.

B. Litigation

There are currently no matters in litigation with the Educational Service Center as defendant.

Schedule of Federal Awards Receipts and Expenditures For the Year Ended June 30, 2003

FEDERAL GRANTOR Pass Through Grantor	Pass Through Entity	Federal CFDA					
Program Title	Number	Number	Receipts [Disb	Disbursements	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Passed Through Ohio Department of Education:							
National School Lunch Program Special Milk Program	LL-P4-2002 LL-P4-2003	10.555 10.555	\$	241 1,407	\$	241 1,407	
Total National School Lunch Program				1,648		1,648	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION Passed Through Ohio Department of Education:							
Special Education Cluster:							
Special Education Grants to States	6B-SD-2003P 6B-SF-2002P	84.027 84.027		33,197 77,748		18,417 98,339	
Total Special Education Grant to States	6B-SF-2003P	84.027		498,410 609,355		498,410 615,166	
Special Education - Preschool Grant	PG-S1-2002P PG-S1-2003P	84.173 84.173		17,574		2,184 17,574	
Total Special Education - Preschool Grants				17,574		19,758	
Total Special Education Cluster				626,929		634,924	
Safe and Drug Free Schools Community Service Grant	T4S1-2003	84.184C		3,459		3,459	
Eisenhower Professional Development State Grants	MS-SI-2000	84.281				550	
Total U.S. Department of Education				630,388		638,933	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Passed Through Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities:							
Medical Assistance Program	3200253	93.778		58,305		58,305	
Totals			\$	690,341	\$	698,886	

Notes to Schedule of Federal Awards Receipts and Expenditures For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2003

NOTE A - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying Schedule of Federal Awards Expenditures (the Schedule) summarizes activity of the Center's federal award programs. The schedule has been prepared on the cash basis of accounting.

NOTE B - OTHER FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

The Educational Service Center serves as fiscal agent for the Hancock County Family and Children First Council (Council) and the Regional Planning Development Center of Northwest Ohio (RPDC), legally separate entities. The Educational Service Center receives and disburses federal funds on behalf of the Council and RPDC. These funds have been appropriately excluded from the accompanying schedule.



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

Educational Service Center Hancock County 7746 County Road 140, Suite A Findlay, Ohio 45840-1978

To the Governing Board:

We have audited the financial statements of the Hancock County Educational Service Center (the Center) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2003, and have issued our report thereon dated February 26, 2004, in which we disclosed the Center reclassified a special revenue fund. We conducted our audit in accordance with 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.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the 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 an instance of noncompliance that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*, which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2003-001. We also noted a certain immaterial instance of noncompliance that we have reported to management of the Center in a separate letter dated February 26, 2004.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the 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 Center in a separate letter dated February 26, 2004.

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Educational Service Center
Hancock County
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance and on Internal Control
Required by Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

This report is intended for the information and use of the finance and audit committee, management, the Governing Board, and federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

Butty Montgomeny

February 26, 2004



INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OMB CIRCULAR A-133

Educational Service Center Hancock County 7746 County Road 140, Suite A Findlay, Ohio 45840-1978

To the Governing Board:

Compliance

We have audited the compliance of the Hancock County Educational Service Center (the Center) with the types of compliance requirements described in the *U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-133, Compliance Supplement* that are applicable to its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2003. The Center's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings. Compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts and grants applicable to its major federal programs are the responsibility of the Center's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Center's compliance based on our audit.

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-133 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance occurred with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the Center's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion. Our audit does not provide a legal determination on the Center's compliance with those requirements.

In our opinion, the Center complied, in all material respects, with the requirements referred to above that are applicable to its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2003.

One Government Center / Room 1420 / Toledo, OH 43604-2246 Telephone: (419) 245-2811 (800) 443-9276 Fax: (419) 245-2484 Educational Service Center
Hancock County
Independent Accountants' Report on Compliance with Requirements
Applicable to Major Federal Programs and Internal Control Over
Compliance in Accordance with OMB Circular A-133
Page 2

Internal Control over Compliance

The management of the Center is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with requirements of laws, regulations, contracts and grants applicable to federal programs. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Center's internal control over compliance with requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with OMB Circular A-133.

Our consideration of the internal control over compliance would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control 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 noncompliance with applicable requirements of laws, regulations, contracts and grants that would be material in relation to a major federal program 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 compliance and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

This report is intended for the information and use of the finance and audit committee, management, the Governing Board, federal awarding agencies, and pass-through entities, and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Betty Montgomery Auditor of State

Betty Montgomeny

February 26, 2004

Schedule of Findings

OMB Circular A -133 § .505

June 30, 2003

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unqualified
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any material control weakness conditions reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any other reportable control weakness conditions reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	Yes
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any material internal control weakness conditions reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any other reportable internal control weakness conditions reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(v)	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unqualified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under §.510?	No
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Programs (list):	Special Education Cluster: Special Education Grants to States CFDA #84.027 Special Education - Preschool Grant CFDA# 84.173
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A\B Programs	Type A: > \$300,000 Type B: All Others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee?	Yes

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

Finding Number 2003-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Revised Code § 135.18 requires the treasurer before making a deposit in a public depository to require the institution to pledge eligible securities, as collateral, to adequately protect the public money deposited. Such collateral is to be deposited with the treasurer or with a qualified third party trustee.

Educational Service Center Hancock County Schedule of Findings Page 2

Finding Number 2003-001 (Continued)

The ESC had deposits at June 30, 2003 which exceeded the amount of FDIC and collateral pledged by \$318,011. The ESC should regularly monitor its deposits and the amount of collateral pledged or pooled by its banks to ensure all deposits are protected.

3. FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None.

Schedule of Prior Audit Findings *OMB Circular A -133* § .315 (b) June 30, 2003

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Fully Corrected?	Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; <i>Explain</i> :
2002-001	ORC § 5705.41(D) expenditures not certified	No	Improvement was made reducing this to a management letter comment.





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HANCOCK COUNTY HANCOCK 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.

CLERK OF THE BUREAU

Susan Babbitt

CERTIFIED MARCH 18, 2004