**THIS OPINION LETTER MUST BE USED FOR 12-31-21 & SUBSEQUENT FYEs.[[1]](#endnote-1)**

Click [here](https://ohioauditor.gov/ocs/2021/Instruction%20on%20how%20to%20Fill%20in%20Entity%20Specific%20Parameters%20within%20Word.docx) for instructions on how to fill in entity specific parameters within this document

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT[[2]](#footnote-1)**

Entity Name

County Name

Street Address

City, Ohio Zip Code

To the Governing Body Type:

***Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements***

***Unmodified and Adverse Opinions***

We have audited the financial statements of the Entity Name, County Name, Ohio (the District), which comprises the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each fund as of and for the years ended December 31, 20EE and 20BB, and the related notes to the financial statements.

***Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting[[3]](#endnote-2)***

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each fund as of and for the years ended December 31, 20EE and 20BB, and the related notes to the financial statements, in accordance with the financial reporting provisions the Ohio Department of Agriculture permits, described in Note X.

***Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles***

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District, as of December 31, 20EE and 20BB, or the changes in financial positionthereof for the years then ended.

***Basis for Opinions***

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

***Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles*** [[4]](#endnote-3)

As described in Note X of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the District on the accounting basis permitted by the financial reporting provisions of the Ohio Department of Agriculture, which is an accounting basis other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), to satisfy these requirements. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note X and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions the Ohio Department of Agriculture permits. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

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

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

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

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

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated Report Date, on our consideration of the District’s internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Auditor Signature

City, State

Report Date

1. ***Blue, italicized***text is guidance from CFAE which should be replaced or removed (as necessary) when the letter is prepared.

   Items highlighted in gray should be replaced with the necessary information. Click [here](https://ohioauditor.gov/ocs/2021/Instruction%20on%20how%20to%20Fill%20in%20Entity%20Specific%20Parameters%20within%20Word.docx) for instructions on how to fill in entity specific parameters within this document.

   Yellow highlight relates only to Single audits. Omit if not a Single audit. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Updated November 2023 for formatting changes (changes not marked) ~~Updated June 2022 for SAS 134 – SAS 140~~ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. Referring to Opinion Modifications

   The first ¶ of the GAGAS report must briefly describe any departure from the standard financial statement opinion (e.g., qualified or adverse opinions, disclaimer of opinion, and /or explanatory paragraphs (such as “going concerns,” accounting changes, reference to other auditors, implementation of new accounting standard, etc.)).

   Since Ohio Department of Agriculture prescribes reporting modify the GAGAS opening paragraph as follows:

   We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States’ Government Auditing Standards, the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each fund of the Entity Name, County Name, (the District) as of and for the years ended December 31, 20EE and 20BB and the related notes to the financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated Report Date, wherein we noted the District followed financial reporting provisions the Ohio Department of Agriculture prescribes or permits. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
4. See guidance from AU-C 705.A1 for determining additional opinion modifications.

   Examples of opinion modifications are included in “Opinion AOS OCBOA basis” as needed. These examples are for AOS basis reporting and require additional modification if government issues OCBOA or other regulatory basis statements.

   [↑](#endnote-ref-3)