

***EDUCATION STANDARDS
AND PRACTICES BOARD***

AUDIT REPORT

JUNE 30, 2015

EDUCATION STANDARDS AND PRACTICES BOARD

June 30, 2015

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors
Education Standards and Practices Board
Bismarck, North Dakota

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Education Standards and Practices Board, Bismarck, North Dakota, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Board's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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.

Auditor's Responsibility

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 involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosure in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Education Standards and Practices Board as of June 30, 2015 and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Emphasis of Matters

Adoption of New Accounting Standard

As described in Notes 1 and 12 to the financial statements, the Education Standards and Practices Board adopted the provisions of GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions, an amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*. As described in Notes 1 and 12 to the financial statements, the Education Standards and Practices Board has restated the previously reported net position to account for pension liabilities and expenses in accordance with this Statement. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis on pages 4 through 8, the Board's share of net pension liability and employer contributions on page 23, and the budgetary comparison information on pages 24 through 26 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. The management's discussion and analysis, the schedule of the Board's share of net pension liability, and schedule of employer contributions do not present comparative information in all areas due to the adoption of GASB Statement No. 68 as the restatement of the prior year was not practical and complete data for the schedules was not available for the prior year. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 29, 2016, on our consideration of the Education Standards and Practices Board's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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 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 Education Standards and Practices Board's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Mahlum Goodhart, PC
Mandan, North Dakota
September 29, 2016

Education Standards and Practices Board
Management's Discussion and Analysis
June 30, 2015

This section of the Education Standards and Practices Board's annual financial report presents our discussion and analysis of the Board's financial performance during the year ended June 30, 2015 and provides certain comparative data for the year ended June 30, 2014. The management's discussion and analysis does not present complete comparative schedules due to the adoption of GASB Statement No. 68 during the current year as the restatement of the prior year was not practical and the information for all comparatives amounts was not readily available. Please read it in conjunction with the Boards financial statements which follow this section.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The assets of Education Standards and Practices Board exceeded its liabilities at the close of the 2015 fiscal year by \$1,124,814 (*net position*). Of this amount, \$529,501 (*unrestricted net position*) may be used to meet the Board's ongoing obligations.
- As of the close of the 2015 fiscal year, Education Standards and Practices Board's governmental funds reported ending fund balances of \$1,449,935.
- Education Standards and Practices Board received a grant from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction to create a mentor and coaching program for teachers.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the Board's basic financial statements. The Board's basic financial statements are comprised of three components: 1) government-wide financial statements, 2) fund financial statements, and 3) notes to the financial statements. This report also contains supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of the Board. Because the Board is engaged in a single governmental program, the statements have been presented in a combined format.

- The *government-wide financial statements* provide both *long-term* and *short-term* information about the Board's overall finances. These statements are presented in the right column on pages 9 and 10 following the adjustments column.
- The *fund financial statements* focus on *individual parts* of the government, reporting the Board's operations in *more detail* than the government-wide financial statements. These statements are presented in the left column on pages 9 and 10 before the adjustments column. The *governmental funds* statements tell how *general government* services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending.

The financial statements also include notes that explain some of the information in the financial statements and provide more detailed data. The statements are followed by a section of *required supplementary information* that further explains and supports the information in the financial statements.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Management's Discussion and Analysis
June 30, 2015

Government-Wide Statements

The government-wide statements report information about the Board as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private sector companies. The statement of net position includes all of the government's assets and liabilities. The statement of activities includes all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The two government-wide statements report the Board's net position and how they have changed. Net position – the difference between the Board's assets and liabilities – are one way to measure the Board's financial health or position. Over time, increases or decreases in the Board's net position are an indicator of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating, respectively. But to assess the overall health of the Board, you also need to consider nonfinancial factors.

The governmental activities of the Board include supervising the licensure of teachers; setting standards for and approving teacher preparation programs; and issuing minor equivalency endorsements, developing and revising, consistent with state law, professional codes or standards relating to ethics, conduct, and professional performance and practices.

Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about the Board's most significant *funds* – not the Board as a whole. Funds are accounting devices that the Board uses to keep track of specific sources of funding and spending for particular purposes. The Board uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

The Board has only one type of funds:

- *Governmental funds* – Most of the Board's basic services are included in governmental funds, which focus on (1) how *cash and other financial assets* that can readily be converted to cash flow in and out and (2) the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental fund statements provide a detailed *short-term* view that helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Board's programs. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the government-wide statements, we provide a reconciliation at the bottom of each financial statement that explains the differences between the governmental funds total column and the government-wide statement column.

The Board adopts an annual budget for its governmental funds. Budgetary comparison statements have been provided for the general fund and the special revenue fund to demonstrate compliance with the budget.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

As stated earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. The Board's assets exceeded liabilities by \$1,124,814 at June 30, 2015 and by \$1,043,259 (as restated) at June 30, 2014. The net position increased by \$81,555 for the year ended June 30, 2015.

Unrestricted net position may be used to fund Board activities in the next fiscal year.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Management's Discussion and Analysis
June 30, 2015

	Governmental Activities 6/30/2015
Assets:	
Current and other assets	\$ 1,469,142
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>35,359</u>
Total Assets	1,504,501
Deferred Outflows of Resources	36,832
Liabilities:	
Current liabilities	19,207
Long-term liabilities	<u>342,474</u>
Total Liabilities	361,681
Deferred Inflows of Resources	54,838
Net Position:	
Invested in capital assets, net of related debt	35,359
Restricted for Teacher Support Program	559,954
Unrestricted	<u>529,501</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 1,124,814</u>

	Governmental Activities FYE 6/30/2015
Revenues:	
Program Revenues:	
Licensing Fees	\$ 612,775
Grants	1,200,000
Fingerprinting & Portfolio	77,321
Late Fees	29,200
Other Income	61,700
General Revenues:	
Investment Earnings	<u>6,364</u>
Total Revenues	1,987,360
Expenses:	
Licensing & Regulation	746,097
Teacher Support System Grant	1,152,745
Depreciation	<u>6,963</u>
Total Expenses	<u>1,905,805</u>
Change in Net Position	81,555
Net Position, Beginning of Year	1,341,632
Adjustment to Prior Period	<u>(298,373)</u>
Beginning of the Year, as Adjusted	<u>1,043,259</u>
Net Position, End of Year	<u>\$ 1,124,814</u>

Education Standards and Practices Board
Management's Discussion and Analysis
June 30, 2015

The Board's total revenues were \$1,987,360 and \$1,809,033, for the years ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Licensing fees were 31% and 32% and grant revenues were 60% and 61% of the Board's revenue for the fiscal years 2015 and 2014, respectively. The total cost of all programs and services was \$1,905,805 and \$1,829,127, for the years ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FUNDS

The Board uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. The focus of the Board's governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows, and balances of spendable resources. Unreserved fund balance may serve as a useful measure of a government's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

- Revenues from governmental fund types totaled \$1,987,360 and \$1,809,033, for the years ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.
- Expenditures totaled \$1,896,515 and \$1,819,955, for the years ended June 30, 2015 and 2014, respectively.
- Total fund balances increased by \$90,845 for the year ended June 30, 2015 and decreased by \$10,922 for the year ended June 30, 2014.

GOVERNMENTAL FUND BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

General Fund:

- The Board budget was not amended during the 2015 fiscal year.
- For the year ended June 30, 2015, actual revenues were \$160,023 more than budgeted.
- Actual expenditures were \$70,675 less than budgeted.

CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION

Capital Assets

At the end of fiscal year 2015, the Board's investment in capital assets was \$35,359 (net of accumulated depreciation). The investment in capital assets at the end of fiscal year 2014 was \$25,138. This investment includes furniture, fixtures and office equipment. Additional information on the Board's capital assets can be found in Note 3 of this report.

Long Term Debt

The Board has recorded a liability for compensated absences. The Board is liable for compensated absences in the event an employee leaves employment. The compensated absences recorded at June 30, 2015 and 2014 were \$61,546 and \$42,596. The board has also recorded a net pension liability due to the adoption of GASB Statement No. 68 for \$280,928 in 2015.

Additional information on the Board's long-term debt can be found in Note 4 of this report.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Management's Discussion and Analysis
June 30, 2015

ECONOMIC FACTORS AND NEXT YEAR'S BUDGETS AND RATES

For 2016,

- Revenues are budgeted at \$748,893 and transfers in at \$60,000.
- Expenditures are budgeted at \$835,484.

The Board has added no major new programs to the 2016 budget. If these estimates are realized, the Board will report a decrease in the general fund balance of \$26,591 by the close of the 2016 fiscal year.

CONTACTING THE BOARD'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, customers, and investors and creditors with a general overview of the Board's finances and to demonstrate the Board's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Education Standards and Practices Board, 2718 Gateway Avenue, Suite 204, Bismarck, ND 58503-0585.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Statement of Net Position and Governmental Funds Balance Sheet
June 30, 2015

Governmental Funds Balance Sheet					Statement of Net
	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Total	Adjustments	Position
ASSETS					
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 219,153	\$ 534,147	\$ 753,300	\$ -	\$ 753,300
Investments	677,950	-	677,950	-	677,950
Due from Teacher Support Fund	6,068	-	6,068	(6,068)	-
Prepaid Expenses	-	37,892	37,892	-	37,892
Furniture & Equipment, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	-	-	-	35,359	35,359
Total Assets	<u>\$ 903,171</u>	<u>\$ 572,039</u>	<u>\$ 1,475,210</u>	<u>29,291</u>	<u>1,504,501</u>
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
Derived from Pension				36,832	36,832
LIABILITIES					
Accounts Payable	\$ 5,118	\$ 3,417	\$ 8,535	-	8,535
Due to General Fund	-	6,068	6,068	(6,068)	-
Payroll Taxes Payable	8,072	2,600	10,672	-	10,672
Long-Term Liabilities:					
Due within One Year:					
Compensated Absences	-	-	-	61,546	61,546
Due after One Year:					
Net Pension Liability	-	-	-	280,928	280,928
Total Liabilities	<u>13,190</u>	<u>12,085</u>	<u>25,275</u>	<u>336,406</u>	<u>361,681</u>
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES					
Derived from Pension				54,838	54,838
FUND BALANCES/NET POSITION					
Fund Balances:					
Restricted for Grant	-	522,062	522,062	(522,062)	-
Nonspendable - Prepaid Expenses	-	37,892	37,892	(37,892)	-
Unassigned	889,981	-	889,981	(889,981)	-
Total Fund Balances	<u>889,981</u>	<u>559,954</u>	<u>1,449,935</u>	<u>(1,449,935)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 903,171</u>	<u>\$ 572,039</u>	<u>\$ 1,475,210</u>		
Net Position:					
Invested in Capital Assets				35,359	35,359
Restricted for Teacher Support Program				559,954	559,954
Unrestricted				529,501	529,501
Total Net Position				<u>\$ 1,124,814</u>	<u>\$ 1,124,814</u>

Explanation of adjustments between the governmental funds balance sheet and the government-wide statement of net position:	
Total Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	\$ 1,449,935
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds. The cost of the assets is \$150,857 and the accumulated depreciation is \$115,498.	35,359
Compensated absences are not due and payable until an employee terminates employment, therefore, is not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet.	(61,546)
Deferred outflows of resources are not a financial resource available in the current period and , therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet.	36,832
The net pension liability is not due and payable in the current period and, therefore is not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet.	(280,928)
Deferred inflows of resources are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet.	(54,838)
Net Position - Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 1,124,814</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Statement of Activities and
Governmental Fund Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Governmental Fund Revenues Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances			Adjustments	Statement of Activities
	General Fund	Special Revenue Fund	Total		
Expenditures/Expenses:					
Licensing & Regulation	\$ 743,770	\$ -	\$ 743,770	\$ 9,290	\$ 753,060
Teacher Support System	-	1,152,745	1,152,745	-	1,152,745
Total Expenditures/Expenses	<u>743,770</u>	<u>1,152,745</u>	<u>1,896,515</u>	<u>9,290</u>	<u>1,905,805</u>
Program Revenues:					
Licensing Fees	612,775	-	612,775	-	612,775
Teacher Support System Grant	-	1,200,000	1,200,000	-	1,200,000
Fingerprinting & Portfolio	77,321	-	77,321	-	77,321
Late Fees	29,200	-	29,200	-	29,200
Other Income	61,700	-	61,700	-	61,700
Total Program Revenues	<u>780,996</u>	<u>1,200,000</u>	<u>1,980,996</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,980,996</u>
Net Program Revenue					<u>75,191</u>
General Revenues:					
Investment Earnings	6,027	337	6,364	-	6,364
Interfund Transfers	57,637	(57,637)	-	-	-
Total General Revenues and Transfers	<u>63,664</u>	<u>(57,300)</u>	<u>6,364</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,364</u>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	100,890	(10,045)	90,845	(90,845)	-
Change in Net Position	-	-	-	81,555	81,555
Fund Balance/Net Position:					
Beginning of the Year	789,091	569,999	1,359,090	(17,458)	1,341,632
Adjustment to Prior Period	-	-	-	(298,373)	(298,373)
Beginning of the Year, as Adjusted	<u>789,091</u>	<u>569,999</u>	<u>1,359,090</u>	<u>(315,831)</u>	<u>1,043,259</u>
End of the Year	<u>\$ 889,981</u>	<u>\$ 559,954</u>	<u>\$ 1,449,935</u>	<u>\$ (325,121)</u>	<u>\$ 1,124,814</u>

Explanation of the adjustments between the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances and the government-wide statement of activities:

Governmental Funds - Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$ 90,845
Depreciation expense on capital assets is reported in the government-wide statement of activities, but it does not require the use of current financial resources. Therefore, depreciation expense is not reported as an expenditure in governmental funds.	(7,274)
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. The cost of new capital assets for the year is \$17,495.	17,495
The increase in accrued leave payable does not provide current financial resources; therefore is not reported as an expenditure in the governmental funds.	(18,950)
Governmental funds report the pension expense as accrued for actual salaries paid in the expenditures. However in the statement of activities, the pension expense is an actuarial calculation of the cost of the plan accounting for projected future benefits, plan earnings, and contributions.	(561)
Statement of Activities - Change in Net Position	<u>\$ 81,555</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Entity

In 1995, the North Dakota Legislature created the Education Standards and Practices Board. The Board had previously functioned as an administrative division of the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. The Board became an autonomous entity on July 1, 1997.

The Education Standards and Practices Board is a governmental organization. The ten-member Board of Directors, which is appointed by the Governor of North Dakota, must include four classroom teachers from public schools, two school board members, one non-public classroom teacher, two school administrators and one dean or chair of a college of education. Members are appointed to three-year terms and may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

The Board supervises the licensure of teachers; sets standards for and approves teacher preparation programs; issues minor equivalency endorsements, develops and revises, consistent with state law, professional codes or standards relating to ethics, conduct, and professional performance and practices; and provides recommendations for in-service education of persons engaged in the profession of teaching in public schools.

Reporting Entity

Generally accepted accounting principles require that the reporting entity include (1) the primary government, (2) organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable and (3) other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete. The criteria provided in Government Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 14 have been considered and there are no agencies or entities which should be presented with the Education Standards and Practices Board as a reporting entity.

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying financial statements are presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

Pursuant to the provisions of GASB Statement No. 34, *Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments*, during the Board's year ended June 30, 2015, the full scope of the Board's activities is considered to be a governmental activity.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Governmental Funds

General Fund – The general fund is the principal operating fund of the Board. It is used to account for all financial resources which are not accounted for in other funds.

Special Revenue Fund – This fund carries out the functions of the Teacher Support System Grant.

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Basis of Accounting

The government-wide statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of cash flows.

Governmental fund statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recognized when they become susceptible to accrual; generally, when they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collected within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period, generally within 30 days of year-end. The revenues that are determined to be susceptible to accrual are fees, fines and interest.

Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, expenditures related to compensated absences and claims and judgments are recorded only when payment is due and collectible.

Budgets

Budgets for revenues and expenditures are adopted on a basis consistent with generally accepted accounting principles. The Board is required to adopt a budget for the General Fund and each Special Revenue Fund. Each year the Board estimates and itemizes all administrative expenses and obligations of the Board, including expenses of directors, management fees, legal and other related expense. Revenues expected to be generated from the renewal of licenses, registration and certification of new licenses, and other related revenues are also estimated.

Net Position/Fund Balance

The difference between fund assets and liabilities is “Net Position” on the government-wide statements and “Fund Balance” on the governmental fund statements.

Cash, Cash Equivalents, and Investments

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, demand deposits, and certificates of deposit with terms of less than three months.

Investments consist of certificates of deposit carried at cost with a term of more than three months and investments held by brokers. The certificates of deposit had interest rates of 0.50 – 1.45 percent and terms of 12 to 60 months at June 30, 2015. Investments held by brokers consisted of mutual funds.

Capital Assets and Depreciation

Capital assets are reported at cost less accumulated depreciation. Equipment with an original cost of \$100 or more and an estimated useful life in excess of one year are capitalized and reported in the government-wide financial statements. Depreciation is computed on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the assets, generally five years for equipment and seven years for furniture.

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Compensated Absences

Annual and sick leave are part of permanent employees' compensation. In general, accrued annual leave cannot exceed 30 days at year-end while sick leave is not limited. Employees earn annual leave at a variable rate based on years of employment, within a range from a minimum of one working day, to a maximum of two working days per month, established by the rules and regulations adopted by the employing unit. Employees are paid for all unused annual leave upon termination or retirement. Employees vest in sick leave at ten years of credible service, at which time the employer is liable for 10% of the accumulated unused sick leave.

The government-wide financial statements present the cost of compensated absences as a liability. The governmental fund financial statements recognize compensated absences when the liability is incurred and payable from available expendable resources.

Fund Balance Classifications

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report aggregate amounts for five classifications of fund balances based on the constraints imposed on the use of these resources. The non-spendable fund balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form – inventories; or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.

The spendable portion of the fund balance comprises the remaining four classifications: restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

Restricted – This classification reflects the constraints imposed on resources either (a) externally by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed – These amounts can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal resolutions or ordinances of the Board – the highest level of decision making authority. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board removed the specified use by taking the same type of action imposing the commitment. This classification also includes contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

Assigned – This classification reflects the amounts constrained by the Board's "intent" to be used for special purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. Assigned fund balances include all remaining amounts (except negative balances) that are reported in governmental funds, other than the General Fund, that are not classified as non-spendable and are neither restricted nor committed.

Unassigned – This fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund. It is also used to report negative fund balances in other governmental funds.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, the Board's preference is to first use restricted resources, then unrestricted resources – committed, assigned, and unassigned – in order as needed.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2015

NOTE 1 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Deferred Inflows/Outflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section of deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows or resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. See Note 11 for additional information.

Pensions

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (NDPERS) and additions to/deductions from NDPERS's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by NDPERS. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. Investments are reported at fair value.

New GAAP Implementation

Beginning in fiscal year 2015, the Board implemented GASB Statement No. 68 – *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*, which provides information about financial support for pensions. This statement requires net pension liability to be reported on the face of the financial statements. A prior period adjustment of (\$298,373) was made to unrestricted net position to account for these items. Notes 12 and 13 contain additional information on this adjustment.

NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

In accordance with North Dakota statutes, the Board maintains deposits at depository banks designated by the governing board. All depositories are members of the Federal Reserve System. North Dakota laws require all public deposits to be protected by insurance, surety bond or collateral. The market value of collateral pledged must equal 110% of the deposits not covered by insurance or bonds.

At June 30, 2015, the carrying amount of deposits was \$1,278,865, and the bank balances were \$1,361,051. The deposits of the Board can be categorized to indicate the level of risk assumed. Category 1 includes bank balances that are insured or collateralized by insured or registered securities held by the government sponsored investment pool or its agent in the pool's name. Category 2 includes bank balances collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the Board's name. Category 3 includes bank balances collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution, or its trust department or agent, but not in the Board's name. At June 30, 2015, category 1 deposits were \$1,275,565 and category 3 deposits were \$85,486.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2015

NOTE 2 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

The board has not adopted a deposit policy limiting the Board’s deposits with any one depositor.

The table below summarizes the Board’s cash and cash equivalents and investments by type as of June 30, 2015:

	Maturities	Fair Value
Deposits with financial institutions	-	\$ 753,300
Certificates of Deposit	12-60 months	525,565
Edward Jones Mutual Funds	-	89,495
Securian Mutual Funds	-	62,890
		\$ 1,431,250

As reported in the Statement of Net Position:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 753,300
Investments	677,950
Total	\$ 1,431,250

The mutual funds are bond funds which are generally not allowed by state law. The brokers holding these funds are members of the Securities Investment Protection Corporation therefore are not subject to custodial credit risk.

NOTE 3 – CAPITAL FIXED ASSETS

Following is a summary of capital assets for the year ended June 30, 2015:

	Capital Assets	Accumulated Depreciation	Net
Balance 6/30/14	\$ 133,362	\$ 108,224	\$ 25,138
Increases	17,495	7,274	10,221
Balance 6/30/15	\$ 150,857	\$ 115,498	\$ 35,359

Depreciation expense for the year ended June 30, 2015 was \$7,274.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2015

NOTE 4 – LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

A summary of changes in general long-term liabilities for the year ended June 30, 2015 is as follows:

	Compensated Absences	Current Portion
Balance 6/30/14	\$ 42,596	\$ 42,596
Net Increase*	<u>18,950</u>	<u>18,950</u>
Balance 6/30/15	<u>\$ 61,546</u>	<u>\$ 61,546</u>

*The change in compensated absences is shown as a net change because changes in salary prohibit exact calculations of additions and reductions at a reasonable cost. All reported as current as employees may terminate at anytime and be owed the accrued leave immediately.

NOTE 5 – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Organization consisted of the following individuals at June 30, 2015:

Tim Tausend	Chairperson/School Board Representative
Mary Eldredge-Sandbo	Vice-Chairperson/Teacher Representative
Laura Mihalick	School Board Representative
Paul Stremick	Administrative Representative
Kimberly Belgarde	Teacher Representative
Karen Christensen	Teacher Representative
Amy Mann	Private School Teacher Representative
Mike McNeff	Teacher Representative
Gary Thompson	Teacher Representative
Loni Miller	Teacher Representative

NOTE 6 – OPERATING LEASE

The Board has a lease for operating space. The original two-year lease was for \$1,200 per month through June 30, 2015. In May 2015, the Board moved to a larger office space in the same building at \$1,920 per month and a new lease was signed through June 30, 2017. Rent paid for the year ending June 30, 2015 was \$15,840. The rent increases to \$2,080 per month on July 1, 2015. Future payments required under this lease are \$24,960 for each year ending June 30, 2016 and 2017.

NOTE 7 – DESIGNATED FUNDS

The Board has designated funds for unemployment insurance at June 30, 2015 in the amount of:

Unemployment Insurance	<u>\$ 30,774</u>
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Education Standards and Practices Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2015

NOTE 8 – INTERFUND TRANSFERS

At June 30, 2015, fund transfers consisted of the following:

Fund	In	Out	Purpose
General Fund	\$ 57,637	\$ -	<i>Grant funds for administrative costs</i>
Special Revenue Fund	-	57,637	<i>Grant funds for administrative costs</i>
	<u>\$ 57,637</u>	<u>\$ 57,637</u>	

NOTE 9 – INTERFUND BALANCES

At June 30, 2015, interfund balances consisted of the following:

Fund	Due To	Due From	Purpose
General Fund	\$ 6,068	\$ -	<i>Due for administrative costs</i>
Special Revenue Fund	-	6,068	<i>Due for administrative costs</i>
	<u>\$ 6,068</u>	<u>\$ 6,068</u>	

NOTE 10 – RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The following are funds/pools established by the State for risk management issues:

Management believes the current coverage is adequate. The errors and omissions insurance is provided through the State of North Dakota Risk Management Fund.

The Board participates in the North Dakota Worker’s Compensation Bureau, an Enterprise Fund of the State of North Dakota. The Bureau is a state insurance fund and a “no fault” insurance system covering the State’s employers and employees financed by premiums assessed to employers. The premiums are available for the payment of claims to employees injured in the course of employment.

There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the prior year and settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2015

NOTE 11 – DEFERRED OUTFLOWS AND INFLOWS OF RESOURCES (PENSION)

Details of the Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources on the face of the financial statements as of June 30, 2015 are as follows:

Deferred Outflows of Resources	
Derived from pension - NDPERS	<u>\$ 36,832</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	
Derived from pension - NDPERS	<u>\$ 54,838</u>

Note 13 of the financial statements contains detail of the pension plan.

NOTE 12 – RESTATEMENT OF NET POSITION

The beginning net position has been restated to reflect the implementation of GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions*. The effect on beginning net position is as follows:

Net Position - Beginning of Year, as previously reported	\$1,341,632
Restatement of accounting for pensions	<u>(298,373)</u>
Net Position - Beginning of Year, as restated	<u>\$1,043,259</u>

NOTE 13 – PENSION PLAN

North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (Main System)

The following brief description of NDPERS is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to NDCC Chapter 54-52 for more complete information.

NDPERS is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that covers substantially all employees of the State of North Dakota, its agencies and various participating political subdivisions. NDPERS provides for pension, death and disability benefits. The cost to administer the plan is financed through the contributions and investment earnings of the plan.

Responsibility for administration of the NDPERS defined benefit pension plan is assigned to a Board comprised of seven members. The Board consists of a Chairman, who is appointed by the Governor; one member appointed by the Attorney General; one member appointed by the State Health Officer; three members elected by the active membership of the NDPERS system; and one member elected by the retired public employees.

Pension Benefits

Benefits are set by statute. NDPERS has no provision or policies with respect to automatic and ad hoc post-retirement benefit increases. Members of the Main System are entitled to unreduced monthly pension benefits beginning when the sum of age and years of credited service equal or exceed 85 (Rule of 85), or at normal retirement age (65). The annual pension benefit is equal to 2.00% of their average monthly salary, using the highest 36 months out of the last 180 months of service, for each year of service. The plan permits early retirement at ages 55-64 with three or more years of service.

NOTE 13 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Members may elect to receive the pension benefits in the form of a single life, joint and survivor, term-certain annuity, or partial lump sum with ongoing annuity. Members may elect to receive the value of their accumulated contributions, plus interest, as a lump sum distribution upon retirement or termination, or they may elect to receive their benefits in the form of an annuity. For each member electing an annuity, total payment will not be less than the members' accumulated contributions plus interest.

Death and Disability Benefits

Death and disability benefits are set by statute. If an active member dies with less than three years of service for the Main System, a death benefit equal to the value of the member's accumulated contributions, plus interest, is paid to the member's beneficiary. If the member has earned more than three years of credited service for the Main System, the surviving spouse will be entitled to a single payment refund, life-time monthly payments in an amount equal to 50% of the member's accrued normal retirement benefit, or monthly payments in an amount equal to the member's accrued 100% Joint and Survivor retirement benefit if the member had reached normal retirement age prior to date of death. If the surviving spouse dies before the member's accumulated pension benefits are paid, the balance will be payable to the surviving spouse's designated beneficiary.

Eligible members who become totally disabled after a minimum of 180 days of service, receive monthly disability benefits equal to 25% of their final average salary with a minimum benefit of \$100. To qualify under this section, the member has to become disabled during the period of eligible employment and apply for benefits within one year of termination. The definition of disabled is set by the NDPERS in the North Dakota Administrative Code.

Refunds of Member Account Balance

Upon termination, if a member of the Main System is not vested (is not 65 or does not have three years of service), they will receive the accumulated member contributions and vested employer contributions, plus interest, or may elect to receive this amount at a later date. If the member has vested, they have the option of applying for a refund or can remain as a terminated vested participant. If a member terminated and withdrew their accumulated member contribution and is subsequently reemployed, they have the option of repurchasing their previous service.

The member's account balance includes the vested employer contributions equal to the member's contributions to an eligible deferred compensation plan. The minimum member contribution is \$25 and the maximum may not exceed the following:

- 1 to 12 months of service – Greater of one percent of monthly salary or \$25
- 13 to 24 months of service – Greater of two percent of monthly salary or \$25
- 25 to 36 months of service – Greater of three percent of monthly salary or \$25
- Longer than 36 months of service – Greater of four percent of monthly salary or \$25

Member and Employer Contributions

Member and employer contributions paid to NDPERS are set by statute and are established as a percent of covered compensation. Member contribution rates are 7% and employer contribution rates are 7.12% of covered compensation.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2015

NOTE 13 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

At June 30, 2015, the Board reported a liability of \$280,928 for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability was measured as of July 1, 2014 and total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Board's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Board's share of covered payroll in the Main System pension plan relative to the covered payroll of all participating Main System employers. At July 1, 2014, the Board's proportion was 0.044260 percent.

For the year ended June 30, 2015, the Board recognized pension expense of \$27,796. At June 30, 2015, the Board reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	Deferred Outflows of Resources	Deferred Inflows of Resources
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 9,108	\$ -
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	54,838
Employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date (see below)	27,724	-
Total	\$ 36,832	\$ 54,838

\$27,724 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pensions resulting from Board's contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ended June 30, 2016.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows or resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

	For the year ended June 30,
2016	\$(11,772)
2017	(11,772)
2018	(11,772)
2019	(11,772)
2020	1,358
Thereafter	-

Education Standards and Practices Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2015

NOTE 13 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Actuarial Assumptions

The total pension liability in the July 1, 2014 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	3.50%
Salary Increases	3.85% per annum for four years, then 4.50% per annum
Investment rate of return	8.00%, net of investment expenses
Cost-of-living adjustments	None

For active members, inactive members and healthy retirees, mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Healthy Mortality Table with ages set back three years. For disabled retirees, mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Disabled Retiree Mortality Table with ages set back one year for males (not set back for females).

The actuarial assumptions used were based on the resulted of an actuarial experience study completed in 2010. They are the same as the assumptions used in the July 1, 2014, funding actuarial valuation for NDPERS.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the Fund's target asset allocation are summarized in the following table:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic Equity	31%	6.90%
International Equity	21%	7.55%
Private Equity	5%	11.30%
Domestic Fixed Income	17%	1.55%
International Fixed Income	5%	0.90%
Global Real Assets	20%	5.38%
Cash Equivalents	1%	0.00%

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 8 percent as of June 30, 2014. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at rates equal to those based on the July 1, 2014, Actuarial Valuation Report. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Projected employer contributions that are intended to fund the service costs of future plan members and their beneficiaries, as well as projected contributions from future plan members, are not included. Based on those assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments for current plan members as of June 30, 2014. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2014.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Notes to the Financial Statements
June 30, 2015

NOTE 13 – PENSION PLAN (CONTINUED)

Sensitivity of the Employer’s proportionate share of the net pension liability to changes in the discount rate

The following presents the Board’s proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 8 percent, as well as what the Board’s proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (7 percent) or 1-percentage-point higher (9 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (7%)	Current Discount Rate (8%)	1% Increase (9%)
Employer's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 433,273	\$ 280,928	\$ 153,546

Pension plan fiduciary net position

Detailed information about the pension plan’s fiduciary net position is available in the separately issued NDPERS financial report. That report may be obtained by writing to NDPERS; 400 East Broadway, Suite 505; PO Box 1657; Bismarck, ND 58502-1657.

***REQUIRED
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION***

Education Standards and Practices Board
 Required Supplementary Information
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

Schedule of Employer's Share of Net Pension Liability
 ND Public Employees Retirement System
 Last 10 Fiscal Years *

	2015
Employer's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	0.044260%
Employer's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset)	\$ 280,928
Employer's covered-employee payroll	\$ 372,838
Employer's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	75.35%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	77.70%

* Complete data for this schedule is not available prior to 2015.

Schedule of Employer Contributions
 ND Public Employees Retirement System
 Last 10 Fiscal Years *

	2015
Statutorily required contribution	\$ 26,546
Contributions in relation to the statutorily required contribution	\$ (26,546)
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -
Employer's covered-employee payroll	\$ 372,838
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	7.12%

* Complete data for this schedule is not available prior to 2015.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Comparison to Budget - General Fund
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Budget (Original & Final)	Actual	Favorable (Unfavorable) Variance
Revenues:			
Licensing Fees	\$ 523,000	\$ 612,775	\$ 89,775
Fingerprinting	65,000	77,321	12,321
Fines	-	1,450	1,450
Late Fees	-	29,200	29,200
National Board PTS	25,000	59,975	34,975
Investment Earnings	10,000	6,027	(3,973)
Miscellaneous	4,000	275	(3,725)
Total Revenues	<u>627,000</u>	<u>787,023</u>	<u>160,023</u>
Expenditures:			
Board Expenses	29,000	31,833	(2,833)
Credit Card Fees	14,100	17,147	(3,047)
Consulting Services	5,000	4,086	914
CPU Usage	15,000	11,131	3,869
Dues & Memberships	12,000	11,850	150
Educational Supplies	500	100	400
Fingerprinting Expense	65,000	76,781	(11,781)
Legal Fees	5,000	4,453	547
Moving Expense	-	12,214	(12,214)
National Board PTS	25,000	26,450	(1,450)
Office Equipment & Maintenance	3,400	9,371	(5,971)
Office Supplies	13,000	11,154	1,846
Online Application Program	20,000	15,458	4,542
Postage	10,000	11,018	(1,018)
Program Approval	10,000	30,681	(20,681)
Property & Liability Insurance	1,700	1,468	232
Rent	12,600	13,596	(996)
Salaries, Payroll Taxes, and Benefits	557,545	443,053	114,492
Staff Education & Training	1,500	1,314	186
Staff Travel & Expenses	7,300	6,598	702
Telephone	5,000	4,014	986
Unemployment Reserve	1,800	-	1,800
Total Expenditures	<u>814,445</u>	<u>743,770</u>	<u>70,675</u>
Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures	(187,445)	43,253	230,698
Other Financing Sources (Uses)			
Transfers In (Out)	<u>60,000</u>	<u>57,637</u>	<u>(2,363)</u>
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>60,000</u>	<u>57,637</u>	<u>(2,363)</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	(127,445)	100,890	228,335
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	<u>789,091</u>	<u>789,091</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance - End of Year	<u>\$ 661,646</u>	<u>\$ 889,981</u>	<u>\$ 228,335</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Comparison to Budget - Special Revenue Fund
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

	Budget (Original & Final)	Actual	Favorable (Unfavorable) Variance
Revenues:			
Grant Revenue	\$ 1,700,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ (500,000)
Investment Earnings	<u>-</u>	<u>337</u>	<u>337</u>
Total Revenues	<u>1,700,000</u>	<u>1,200,337</u>	<u>(499,663)</u>
Expenditures:			
Coordinator Travel	8,000	8,253	(253)
Coaches Academy	30,000	37,690	(7,690)
Manual Training & Course Responders	23,000	19,485	3,515
New Teacher Center	-	63,170	(63,170)
Mentor Stipends	520,000	547,443	(27,443)
Mentor Training	160,000	99,965	60,035
Miscellaneous Expense	70,000	41,552	28,448
Office Equipment & Maintenance	4,000	9,874	(5,874)
Rent	1,800	2,244	(444)
Salaries and Benefits	210,757	185,026	25,731
Seminars	8,000	12,292	(4,292)
Special Projects (Beginning Teacher Networks)	50,000	51,243	(1,243)
Sub Reimbursement	162,000	66,406	95,594
Advanced Coach Training	<u>7,000</u>	<u>8,102</u>	<u>(1,102)</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>1,254,557</u>	<u>1,152,745</u>	<u>101,812</u>
Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures	445,443	47,592	(397,851)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)			
Transfers In (Out)	<u>(55,000)</u>	<u>(57,637)</u>	<u>(2,637)</u>
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(55,000)</u>	<u>(57,637)</u>	<u>(2,637)</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	390,443	(10,045)	(400,488)
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	<u>569,999</u>	<u>569,999</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance - End of Year	<u>\$ 960,442</u>	<u>\$ 559,954</u>	<u>\$ (400,488)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Notes to Required Supplementary Information
June 30, 2015

NOTE 1 STEWARDSHIP, COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Budgetary Information

The Board adopts an annual budget consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States for the general fund and the special revenue fund. The following procedures are used in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

- The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and means of financing them.
- Each budget is controlled by the Board at the revenue and expenditure function/object level.
- The current budget may be amended during the year for any revenues and appropriations not anticipated at the time the budget was prepared.
- All appropriations lapse at year-end.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON
COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Board of Directors
Education Standards and Practices Board
Bismarck, North Dakota

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Education Standards and Practices Board, Bismarck, North Dakota, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Education Standards and Practices Board's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated September 29, 2016.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Education Standards and Practices Board's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Education Standards and Practices Board's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Education Standards and Practices Board's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as described in the accompanying schedule of findings, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying schedule of findings 2015-001, 2015-002, and 2015-003 to be material weaknesses.

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON
COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Education Standards and Practices Board's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2015-004 and 2015-005.

Education Standards and Practices Board's Response to Findings

Education Standards and Practices Board's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying schedule of findings. Education Standards and Practices Board's responses were not subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

Purpose of this Report

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



Mahlum Goodhart, PC
Mandan, North Dakota
September 29, 2016

Education Standards and Practices Board
Schedule of Findings
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

Section I - Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued: Governmental Activities & Major Funds	Unmodified
Internal control over financial reporting: Material weaknesses identified?	Yes
Control deficiencies identified not considered to be material weaknesses?	No
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	Yes

Section II - Financial Statement Findings

Finding 2015-001: Segregation of Duties

Condition – The entity has a lack of segregation of duties in certain areas due to a limited number of individuals involved.

Criteria – A good system of internal control contemplates an adequate segregation of duties so that no individual has control of a transaction from inception to completion.

Cause – There is a limited number of staff members available for these duties.

Effect – There is limited segregation of duties due to the small number of employees being responsible to collect monies, deposit monies, issue checks, send checks to vendors, record receipts and disbursements in journals, maintain the general ledger, and prepare financial statements. Due to the size of the entity, it is not feasible to obtain proper separation of duties and the degree of internal control is severely limited.

Recommendation – This is not unusual in organizations of this size, but the board should constantly be aware of this condition and realize that the concentration of duties and responsibilities in a limited number of individuals is not desirable from a control point of view. Under these conditions, the most effective controls lie in the board's knowledge of matters relating to the organization's operations.

Management Response – We are aware of the condition, but it is not feasible to add staff.

Finding 2015-002: Preparation of Financial Statements and Audit Notes

Condition – The financial statements and related notes are prepared by the entity's auditors.

Criteria – An appropriate system of internal controls requires that the entity must make a determination that the financial statements are properly stated according to GAAP requirements. This requires the entity to maintain knowledge of current accounting principles and required financial statement disclosures.

Cause – Ongoing changes in the reporting and disclosure requirements make it difficult to maintain knowledge of current accounting standards with limited time available to the accounting department.

Effect – An appropriate system of internal controls is not present to make a determination that financial statements are properly stated in compliance with GAAP requirements.

Recommendation – Compensating controls over financial statement disclosure requirements could be provided by the use of current disclosure checklists or the outsourcing of the financial statement preparation or review function.

Management Response – We are aware of the condition and will review the statements and notes prepared.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Schedule of Findings
For the Year Ended June 30, 2015

Finding 2015-003: Journal Entries

Condition – Significant journal entries were required to be made during the audit to present accurate financial statements.

Criteria – The entity is required to establish internal controls and procedures which allow it to determine that the general ledger accounts are properly reflected according to generally accepted accounting principles.

Cause – Staff was not recording accounts receivable, accounts payable, or prepaid expenses at year end.

Effect – The amount of journal entries made has a material effect on the financial statements.

Recommendation – Management should review all accounts throughout the year and verify that all general ledger accounts are properly reconciled and adjusted for accruals at year-end.

Management Response – We are aware of the condition and will more accurately monitor the monthly and non-monthly investment income and all regular investment accounts. We will monitor our year-end transactions and make sure to account for necessary items and make journal entries before the fiscal year ends.

Finding 2015-004: Noncompliance - Investments

Condition – The Board invests funds with two brokers in mutual funds.

Criteria – North Dakota state law restricts professional boards to only invest their money with a bank, the Bank of North Dakota, or a private bank (where deposits should be insured or covered by collateral). Mutual funds or other investments with brokers are not normally allowed by state law.

Cause – The Board was not aware of the limitations on investment of funds.

Effect – Funds in the amount of \$152,385 are invested in mutual funds which do not comply with state law.

Recommendation – The Board should transfer the mutual funds to appropriate depositories.

Management Response – We are aware of the condition and have knowledge and documentation that Janet Welk worked with the Attorney General’s office to receive guidance on reinvesting the inappropriate funds. The inappropriate funds were moved into CD’s to comply with the Attorney General’s guidance.

Finding 2015-005: Noncompliance - Deposits

Condition – Bank balances exceeded insurance coverage by \$85,486 at June 30, 2015.

Criteria – State law requires all public deposits to be protected by insurance, surety bond, or collateral.

Cause – The bank balances were unusually high at June 30, 2015 and staff was not aware of the need to request additional insurance to protect deposits.

Effect – All bank balances were not protected by insurance, surety bond, or collateral as of June 30, 2015.

Recommendation – Management should monitor bank balances to ensure they do not exceed the insurance provided.

Management Response – We are now aware of the requirement and will monitor balances on a monthly basis and if necessary request additional insurance.

Education Standards and Practices Board
Auditor's Specific Comments Requested by the North Dakota
Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee
June 30, 2015

The Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee require that certain items be addressed by independent certified public accountants performing audits of state agencies. The items and our responses are as follows:

Audit Report Communications:

1. *What type of opinion was issued on the financial statements?*
Unqualified opinion.
2. *Was there compliance with statutes, laws, rules, and regulations under which the agency was created and is functioning?*
Noncompliance with investments in mutual funds and uncollateralized deposits.
3. *Was internal control adequate and functioning effectively?*
Limited due to inadequate segregation of duties.
4. *Were there any indications of lack of efficiency in financial operations and management of the agency?*
No.
5. *Has action been taken on findings and recommendations included in prior audit reports?*
No action was required on findings in prior reports.
6. *Was a management letter issued? If so, provide a summary below, including any recommendations and management responses.*
No.

Audit Committee Communications:

1. *Identify any significant changes in accounting policies, any management conflicts of interest, any contingent liabilities, or any significant unusual transactions.*

There were no significant changes in accounting policies.
No management conflicts of interest were noted.
No contingent liabilities were identified.
There were no significant or unusual transactions.

2. *Identify any significant accounting estimates, the process used by management to formulate the accounting estimates, and the basis for the auditor's conclusions regarding the reasonableness of those estimates.*

The Education Standards and Practices Board's financial statements do not include any significant accounting estimates.

3. *Identify any significant audit adjustments.*

Accrual adjustments and reclassifications due to posting errors were required for accurate financial reporting.

4. *Identify any disagreements with management, whether or not resolved to the auditor's satisfaction relating to a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter that could be significant to the financial statements.*

None.

5. *Identify any serious difficulties encountered in performing the audit.*

None.

6. *Identify any major issues discussed with management prior to retention.*

None.

7. *Identify any management consultations with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters.*

None.

8. *Identify any high-risk information technology systems critical to operations based on the auditor's overall assessment of the importance of the system to the agency and its mission, or whether any exceptions identified in the six audit report questions to be addressed by the auditors are directly related to the operations of an information technology system.*

None.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Legislative Audit and Fiscal Review Committee, Education Standards and Practices Board, management, and other state officials and legislative committees and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



Mahlum Goodhart, PC
Mandan, North Dakota
September 29, 2016