

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS WITH INDEPENDENT  
AUDITORS' REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR THEN ENDED  
JUNE 30, 2023**

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
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# CAHILL BAUER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND CONSULTANTS

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S 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**

To the Board of Directors  
Northwest Area Schools  
Multi-District/Educational Cooperative

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial statement 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 Northwest Area Schools Multi-District/Educational Cooperative, South Dakota, Cooperative, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Cooperative's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated September 29, 2023.

### **Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Northwest Area Schools Multi-District/Educational Cooperative's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing 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 Cooperative's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Cooperative's internal control.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of control deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Cooperative's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses and therefore, there can be no assurance that all deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses have been identified. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying Schedule of Current Audit Findings and Questioned Costs as items 2023-001, 2023-002, and 2023-003 to be material weaknesses.

*Jason W. Bauer, CPA, CGMA, PFS • [bauer@cahillbauer.com](mailto:bauer@cahillbauer.com)*

## **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Northwest Area Schools Multi-District/Educational Cooperative's financial statements are free of 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. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

## **Cooperative's Responses to Findings**

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Cooperative's response to the findings identified in our audit. The Cooperative's response to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying Schedule of Current Audit Findings and Questioned Costs. The Cooperative's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

## **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 Cooperative'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. As required by South Dakota Codified Law 4-11-11, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.



Cahill Bauer & Associates, LLC

Mobridge, South Dakota  
September 29, 2023



# CAHILL BAUER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND CONSULTANTS

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

To the Board of Directors  
Northwest Area Schools  
Multi-District/Educational Cooperative

### **Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program**

#### ***Opinion on Each Major Federal Program***

We have audited the Northwest Area Schools Multi-District/Educational Cooperative's, South Dakota (Cooperative) compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Compliance Supplement that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Cooperative's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2023. The Cooperative's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying Schedule of Current Audit Findings and Questioned Costs.

In our opinion, the Northwest Area Schools Multi-District/Educational Cooperative complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2023.

#### ***Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program***

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of *Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the Cooperative and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with 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 opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Cooperative's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for Compliance***

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to Cooperative's federal programs.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Cooperative's compliance based on our audit. 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, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the Cooperative's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

1. exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
2. identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, 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 Cooperative's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
3. obtain an understanding of Cooperative's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Cooperative's internal control over compliance.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

### **Report on Internal Control Over Compliance**

*A deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

**Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purposes. As required by South Dakota Codified Law 4-11-11, this report and our report on compliance for each major federal program are matters of public record and their distribution is not limited.

*Caillie Bauer*

Mobridge, South Dakota  
September 29, 2023

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS  
AS OF JUNE 30, 2023 AND FOR THE YEAR THEN ENDED**

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**PRIOR FEDERAL AUDIT FINDINGS**

No prior year federal audit findings were reported.

**PRIOR OTHER AUDIT FINDINGS**

**Finding Number 2022-001**

*Initial Fiscal Year Finding Occurred: 2008*

*Finding Summary:* The Cooperative does not have an internal control system designed for the proper segregation of duties.

*Status:* Ongoing. This finding has not been corrected and is retated as finding 2023-001 due to cost considerations, the Cooperative has determined it is not cost efficient to employ additional staff to adequately segregate duties. The Cooperative will implement compensating controls where practical.

**Finding Number 2022-002**

*Initial Fiscal Year Finding Occurred: 2008*

*Finding Summary:* The Cooperative does not have an internal control system designed for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

*Status:* Ongoing. This finding has not been corrected and is retated as finding 2023-002 due to cost considerations, the Cooperative accepts the risks associated with the auditors preparing the financial statements. The cooperative will implement compensating controls where practical.



**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
SCHEDULE OF CURRENT AUDIT FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS  
AS OF JUNE 30, 2023 AND FOR THE YEAR THEN ENDED**

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**SECTION 1 - SUMMARY OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S RESULTS**

***Financial Statements***

- a. An unmodified opinion was issued on the financial statements of each opinion unit.
- b. A material weakness was disclosed by our audit of the financial statements for a lack of segregation of duties as discussed in finding number 2023-001. A material weakness was disclosed by our audit of the financial statements for the preparation of the financial statements by the auditor as discussed in finding number 2023-002. A material weakness was disclosed by our audit of the financial statements for control deficiency not identifying payroll item setup incorrectly as discussed in finding number 2023-003.
- c. Our audit did not disclose any noncompliance which was material to the financial statements.

***Federal Awards***

- d. An unmodified opinion was issued on compliance with the requirements applicable to major programs.
- e. Our audit did not disclose any audit findings that need to be disclosed in accordance with the 2 CFR 200.516(a).
- f. The federal awards tested as major programs were:
  - 1. Special Education - Preschool Grants - CFDA No. 84.173**
  - 2. Special Education - Grants to States - CFDA No. 84.027**
  - 3. Multi-Tier System of Support - CFDA No. 84.027A**
- g. The dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B federal award programs was \$750,000.
- h. Northwest Area Schools did not qualify as a low-risk auditee.

**CURRENT FEDERAL AUDIT FINDINGS**

There are no written current federal compliance audit findings to report.

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
SCHEDULE OF CURRENT AUDIT FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS  
AS OF JUNE 30, 2023 AND FOR THE YEAR THEN ENDED**

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**SECTION II - FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS**

***Internal Control-Related Findings: Material Weaknesses***

**Finding 2023-001**

***Criteria***

To obtain adequate internal control over cash management, the duties of collecting and handling of cash must be segregated from the recording of the cash transaction. The duties of preparing, mailing or otherwise distributing checks should be segregated from the recording process.

***Statement of Condition***

A lack of proper segregation of duties existed for the revenue function resulting in decreased reliability of reported financial data and increased potential for the loss of public assets. The business manager processed all revenue transactions from beginning to end. The business manager received money, issued receipts, recorded receipts, posted receipts in the accounting records, prepared bank deposits, reconciled bank statements and prepared financial statements. As a result, an inadequate segregation of duties existed for the revenue function of the Cooperative.

***Cause and Effect***

Inaccurate financial statement and/or misappropriations of funds could result from a lack of segregation of duties.

***Identification as a repeat finding:*** Yes, prior year finding from 2008.

***Recommendation***

We recommend that Cooperative's officials be cognizant of this lack of segregation of duties for revenues and attempt to provide compensating internal controls whenever, and wherever possible and practical.

**Finding 2023-002**

***Criteria***

An organization's internal control structure should provide for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
SCHEDULE OF CURRENT AUDIT FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS  
AS OF JUNE 30, 2023 AND FOR THE YEAR THEN ENDED**

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***Statement of Condition***

The Cooperative does not have an internal control system designed to provide for the preparation of the annual financial statements including required footnotes and disclosures, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. As auditors, we were requested to draft the financial statements and accompanying notes to the financial statements.

***Cause and Effect***

This condition may affect the Cooperative's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements.

***Identification as a repeat finding:*** Yes, prior year finding from 2008.

***Recommendation***

This circumstance is not unusual in an organization of this size. It is the responsibility of management and those charged with governance to make the decision whether to accept the degree of risk associated with this condition because of cost or other considerations.

**Finding 2023-003**

***Criteria***

An organization's internal control structure should provide for the correct setup of all payroll deductions.

***Statement of Condition***

While conducting our audit, we identified payroll deductions that were setup incorrectly causing SDRS retirement contributions to be calculated incorrectly.

***Cause and Effect***

This condition may affect the Cooperative's ability to process and record payroll transactions appropriately.

***Identification as a repeat finding:*** This is not a repeat finding.

***Recommendation***

It is the responsibility of management and those charged with governance to make the decision whether to accept the degree of risk associated with this condition because of cost and other considerations.

# Northwest Area Schools

## Multi-District/Educational Cooperative

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### CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

#### Finding Number 2023-001

Internal control over financial reporting and compliance is not adequate.

#### Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions:

Quinn Lenk, is the contact at this entity responsible for the corrective action plan for this comment. Due to staff size, it is not deemed feasible to adequately segregate duties. However, we are aware of this internal control weakness and intend to provide continuous monitoring in an effort to prevent, detect, or correct any matters that may result.

#### Finding Number 2023-002

The Cooperative does not have an internal control system designed to provide for the preparation of the financial statements including required footnotes and disclosures, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

#### Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions:

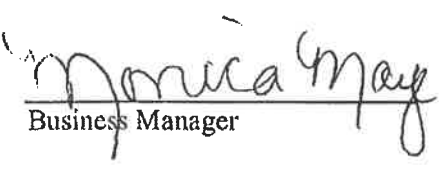
Quinn Lenk, is the contact at this entity responsible for the corrective action plan for this comment. Both the Board of Directors and management are aware of this process and have expressed their confidence in that the information is accurate and they are willing to accept this risk.

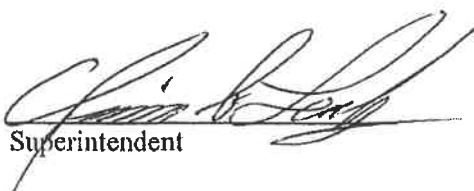
#### Finding Number 2023-003

The Cooperative does not have an internal control system designed to ensure that all payroll deductions are calculated correctly.

#### Views of responsible officials and planned corrective actions:

Quinn Lenk, is the contact at this entity responsible for the corrective action plan for this comment. Both the Board of Directors and management are aware of this process and have expressed their confidence in that the information will be corrected in future years.

  
Business Manager

  
Superintendent



# CAHILL BAUER & ASSOCIATES, LLC

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND CONSULTANTS  
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors  
Northwest Area Schools  
Multi-District/Educational Cooperative

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

### ***Opinions***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Northwest Area Schools Multi-District/Educational Cooperative, as of June 30, 2023 and for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Cooperative's basic financial statements as listed in the Table of Contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying 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 Northwest Area Schools Multi-District/Educational Cooperative as of June 30, 2023, 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.

### ***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 (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 Cooperative 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.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and 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 Cooperative'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 *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:

1. exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
2. 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.
3. 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 Cooperative's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
4. 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.
5. conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Cooperative'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.

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Budgetary Comparison Schedules, the Schedule of the Cooperative Contributions, and the Schedule of the Cooperative's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability (Asset) be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, 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. 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.

The Cooperative has omitted the Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing 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. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

### ***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Cooperative's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards, which as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

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

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated September 29, 2023 on our consideration of the Cooperative's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, 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 the 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 Cooperative's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Caull Bann*

Mobridge, South Dakota  
September 29, 2023



**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITIONS  
JUNE 30, 2023**

	Primary Government Governmental Activities
<b>ASSETS:</b>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 482,460
Investments	349,000
Accounts Receivable	191,858
Due from Government	260,800
Net Pension Asset	3,744
Capital Assets:	
Other Capital Assets, Net of Depreciation	738,874
<b>TOTAL ASSETS:</b>	<b>2,026,736</b>
<b>DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES:</b>	
Pension Related Deferred Outflows	386,520
<b>TOTAL DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES:</b>	<b>386,520</b>
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>	
Accounts Payable	15,009
Other Current Liabilities	171,200
Noncurrent Liabilities:	
Due in More Than One Year	23,715
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES:</b>	<b>209,924</b>
<b>DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES:</b>	
Pension Related Deferred Inflows	221,667
<b>TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES:</b>	<b>221,667</b>
<b>NET POSITION:</b>	
Net Invested in Capital Assets	738,874
Restricted for SDRS Pension Purposes	168,597
Restricted for Special Education	425,483
Unrestricted	648,711
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION:</b>	<b>\$ 1,981,665</b>

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

Functions/Programs	Program Revenues		Net (Expenses) Revenue and Changes in Net Position	
	Expenses	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Primary Government
Primary Government:				Total Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities				
Instruction	\$ 683,007	\$ 428,553	\$ 181,209	\$ (73,245)
Support Services	1,314,522	426,604	768,264	(119,654)
Total Governmental Activities	1,997,529	855,157	949,473	(192,899)
Total Primary Government	\$ 1,997,529	\$ 855,157	\$ 949,473	(192,899)
General Revenues:				
Revenue from State Sources-State Aid			2,297	2,297
Unrestricted Investment Earnings			8,489	8,489
Other General Revenues			71,989	71,989
Total General Revenues			82,775	82,775
Change in Net Position			(110,124)	(110,124)
Net Position - Beginning			2,091,789	2,091,789
Net Position - Ending			\$ 1,981,665	\$ 1,981,665

The accompanying notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
BALANCE SHEET  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
JUNE 30, 2023**

	General Fund	Special Education Fund	Total Governmental Funds
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 482,460	\$ -	\$ 482,460
Investments	130,000	200,000	330,000
Accounts Receivable	2,501	189,357	191,858
Due from Government	126,955	133,845	260,800
Due from Special Education Fund	15,501	-	15,501
Restricted Investments	9,500	9,500	19,000
Total Assets	<u>766,917</u>	<u>532,702</u>	<u>1,299,619</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>			
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Accounts Payable	9,569	5,440	15,009
Contracts Payable	73,844	76,454	150,298
Due to General Fund	-	15,501	15,501
Amounts Held for Others	1,214	-	1,214
Payroll Deductions and Withholdings Payable and Employer Matching Payable	9,864	9,824	19,688
Total Liabilities	<u>94,491</u>	<u>107,219</u>	<u>201,710</u>
<b>Fund Balances:</b>			
Restricted			
Special Education	-	419,483	419,483
Assigned			
Unemployment	6,000	6,000	12,000
Unassigned	666,426	-	666,426
Total Fund Balances	<u>672,426</u>	<u>425,483</u>	<u>1,097,909</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>\$ 766,917</u>	<u>\$ 532,702</u>	<u>\$ 1,299,619</u>

The accompanying notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
BALANCE SHEET TO THE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2023**

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Total fund balances - government funds	\$ 1,097,909
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because:	
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported as assets in governmental funds. The capitalized cost of the assets is \$1,422,648 and the accumulated depreciation is (\$683,774) for a net amount of \$738,874.	738,874
Net pension asset reported in governmental activities is not an available financial resource and therefore is not reported in the funds.	3,744
Pension related deferred outflows are components of pension (liability) asset and therefore are not reported in the funds.	386,520
Pension related deferred inflows are components of pension (liability) asset and therefore are not reported in the funds.	(221,667)
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.	
Accrued Leave	<u>(23,715)</u>
Total Net Position - Governmental Activities	<u><u>\$ 1,981,665</u></u>

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE  
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	General Fund	Special Education Fund	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES			
Earnings on Investments and Deposits	\$ 7,216	\$ 1,273	\$ 8,489
Other Revenue from Local Sources			
Service Provided Other LEAs	575,090	282,832	857,922
Other	57,813	1,693	59,506
Total Revenue from Local Sources	640,119	285,798	925,917
Revenue from State Sources			
Grants-in-Aid			
Restricted Grants-in-Aid	2,297	-	2,297
Total Revenue from State Sources	2,297	-	2,297
Revenue from Federal Sources			
Restricted Grants-in-Aid Received from			
Federal Government Through State	225,883	720,825	946,708
Total Revenue from Federal Sources	225,883	720,825	946,708
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 868,299	\$ 1,006,623	\$ 1,874,922

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE**  
**GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	General Fund	Special Education Fund	Total Governmental Funds
EXPENDITURES			
Instruction			
Regular Programs			
High School	\$ 522,749	\$ -	\$ 522,749
Special Programs			
Gifted & Talented	16,339	-	16,339
Programs for special education	-	88,076	88,076
Total Instruction	539,088	88,076	627,164
Support Services			
Pupils:			
Guidance			
Psychological	-	113,959	113,959
Speech Pathology	-	394,864	394,864
Student Therapy Services	-	17,864	17,864
Instructional Staff:			
Improvement of Instruction	155,154	222,289	377,443
Educational Media	220	-	220
General Administration			
Board of Education	36,289	25,989	62,278
Executive Administration	80,833	86,365	167,198
Business			
Fiscal Services	51,479	63,105	114,584
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	71,057	220	71,277
Special Education:			
Administrative Costs	-	2,844	2,844
Other	-	1,440	1,440
Total Support Services	395,032	928,939	1,323,971
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	934,120	1,017,015	1,951,135
Excess of Revenue Over (Under) Expenditures	(65,821)	(10,392)	(76,213)
Other Financing Sources			
Compensation or Loss of General Capital Asset	16,105	-	16,105
Total Other Financing Sources	16,105	-	16,105
Net Change in Fund Balances	(49,716)	(10,392)	(60,108)
Fund Balance - Beginning	722,142	435,875	1,158,017
Fund Balance - Ending	\$ 672,426	\$ 425,483	\$ 1,097,909

The accompanying notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS STATEMENT  
OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES  
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES  
JUNE 30, 2023**

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Total net change in fund balances - government funds	\$ (60,108)
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:	
Capital outlays are reported in governmental funds as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over the estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which depreciation expense exceeds capital outlay.	(69,290)
In the statement of activities loss on disposal of capital assets are reported, whereas in the governmental funds, the proceeds from the disposal of capital assets is reflected, regardless of whether or not gain or loss is realized.	(3,622)
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in the funds. e.g., reduction in pension expense \$22,304 and accrued leave \$592.	<u>22,896</u>
Total Change in Net Position - Governmental Activities	<u>\$ (110,124)</u>

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

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**NOTE 1 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The accounting policies of the Cooperative conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*a. Reporting Entity*

The reporting entity of the Northwest Area Schools Multi-District/Educational Cooperative, consists of the primary government (which includes all of the funds, organizations, institutions, agencies, departments, and offices that make up the legal entity, plus those funds for which the primary government has a fiduciary responsibility, even though those fiduciary funds may represent organizations that do not meet the criteria for inclusion in the financial reporting entity); those organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable; and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that their exclusion would cause the financial reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

*b. Basis of Presentation*

**Government-wide Financial Statements**

The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities display information about the reporting entity as a whole. They include all funds of the reporting entity except for fiduciary funds. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange transactions.

The Statement of Net Position reports all financial and capital resources, in a net position form (assets minus liabilities, equal net position). Net Positions are displayed in three components, as applicable, net invested in capital assets, restricted (distinguishing between major categories of restrictions), and unrestricted.

The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the Cooperative's governmental activities. Direct expenses and those that are specifically associated with a program or function and, therefore, are clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include (a) charges paid by recipients of goods and services offered by the programs and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues.



**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Page 2**  
**(See Independent Auditors' Report)**

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*Fund Financial Statements*

Fund financial statements of the reporting entity are organized into funds, each of which is considered to be a separate accounting entity. Each fund is accounted for by providing a separate set of self-balancing accounts that constitute its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures/expenses. Funds are organized into three major categories. A fund is considered major if its primary operating fund of the Cooperative or it meets the following criteria:

1. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 10 percent of the corresponding total for all funds of that category or type, and
2. Total assets, liabilities, revenues, or expenditures/expenses of the individual governmental or enterprise fund are at least 5 percent of the corresponding total for all governmental and enterprise funds combined, or
3. Management has elected to classify one or more governmental or enterprise funds as major for consistency in reporting from year to year, or because of public interest in the fund's operations.

The funds of the Cooperative financial reporting entity are described below within their respective fund types:

**Governmental Funds**

General Fund - A fund established by South Dakota Codified Laws (SDCL) 13-16-3 to meet all the general operational costs of the Cooperative, excluding capital outlay fund and special education fund expenditures. The General Fund is always a major fund.

Special Education Fund - A fund established by SDCL 13-37-16 to pay the costs for the special education of all children in need of special assistance and prolonged assistance who reside within the Cooperative. This fund is financed by grants and programs. This is a major fund.

*c. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting*

Measurement focus is a term used to describe "how" transactions are recorded within the various financial statements. Basis of accounting refers to "when" revenues and expenditures or expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements, regardless of the measurement focus.

**Measurement Focus**

*Government-wide Financial Statements*

In the government-wide Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities, the governmental activities are presented using the economic resources measurement focus, applied on the accrual basis of accounting.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Page 3**  
**(See Independent Auditors' Report)**

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*Fund Financial Statements*

In the fund financial statements, the "current financial resources" measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting are applied to government funds.

**Basis of Accounting**

*Government-wide Financial Statements*

In the government-wide Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities, governmental activities are presented using the accrual basis of accounting. Under the accrual basis of accounting, revenues and related assets generally are recorded when earned (usually when the right to receive cash vests); and, expenses and related liabilities are recorded when an obligation is incurred (usually when the obligation to pay cash in the future vests).

*Fund Financial Statements*

All governmental funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Their revenues, including property taxes, generally are recognized when they become measurable and available. "Available" means resources are collected or to be collected soon enough after the end of the fiscal year that they can be used to pay the bills of the current period. The accrual period does not exceed one bill-paying cycle, and for the Northwest Area Schools Multi-District/Educational Cooperative, the length of that cycle is 60 days.

Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, receivables may be measurable but not available. Available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. Unavailable revenues, where asset recognition criteria have been met, but for which revenue recognition criteria have not been met, are reported as deferred inflow of resources.

Expenditures generally are recognized when the related fund liability is incurred. Exceptions to this general rule include principal and interest on the general long-term debt which are recognized when they are incurred.

*d. Interfund Eliminations and Reclassifications*

**Government-wide Financial Statements**

1. In order to minimize the grossing-up effect on assets and liabilities within the governmental activities columns of the primary government, amounts reported as interfund receivables and payables have been eliminated in the governmental activity column.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Page 4**  
**(See Independent Auditors' Report)**

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*e. Deposits and Investments*

For the purpose of financial reporting, "cash and cash equivalents" including all demand and savings accounts and certificates of deposit of short-term investments with a term to maturity at date of acquisition of three months or less. Investments in open-end mutual fund shares, or similar investments in external investment pools, are also considered to be cash equivalents.

Investments classified in the financial statements consist entirely of certificates of deposit whose term to maturity at date of acquisition exceeds three months, and/or those types of investment authorized by South Dakota Codified Law (SDCL) 4-5-6.

*f. Capital Assets*

Capital assets include land, buildings, machinery and equipment, and all other tangible or intangible assets that are used in operations and that have initial useful lives extending beyond a single reporting period.

The accounting treatment over capital assets depends on whether the assets are reported in the government-wide or fund financial statements.

*Government-Wide Statements*

All capital assets are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual historical cost is not available. Donated capital assets are valued at their acquisition value on the date donated. Reported cost values include ancillary charges necessary to place the asset into its intended location and condition for use. Subsequent to initial capitalization, improvements or betterments that are significant and which extend the useful life of a capital asset are also capitalized.

For governmental activities, Capital Assets, construction-period interest is not capitalized, in accordance with USGAAP.

Essentially none of the total June 30, 2023 balance of capital assets for governmental activities were determined by estimates of the original costs.

Depreciation/amortization of all exhaustible capital assets is recorded as an allocated expense in the government-wide Statement of Activities with net capital assets reflected in the Statement of Net Position. Accumulated depreciation/amortization is reported on the government-wide Statement of Net Position.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Page 5**  
**(See Independent Auditors' Report)**

Capitalization thresholds (the dollar values above which asset acquisitions are added to the capital asset accounts), depreciation/amortization methods, and estimated useful lives of capital assets reported in the government-wide statements are as follows:

	Capitalization Threshold	Depreciation/ Amortization Method	Estimated Useful Life
Land	All	N/A	N/A
Improvements	\$ 5,000	Straight-line	15-25 years
Buildings	\$ 5,000	Straight-line	50-100 years
Machinery and Equipment	\$ 5,000	Straight-line	5-20 years
Intangible lease assets	\$ 5,000	Straight-line	5-10 years
Intangible subscription assets	\$ 5,000	Straight-line	3-20 years

The Cooperative does not own any land, if they did it would be considered an inexhaustible capital asset and would not be depreciated.

*Fund Financial Statements*

In the fund financial statements, capital assets used in governmental fund operations are accounted for as capital expenditures of the appropriate governmental fund upon acquisition. Capital assets used in government-wide statements are accounted for on the accrual basis.

*g. Long-Term Liabilities*

The accounting treatment of long-term liabilities depends on whether they are reported in the government-wide or fund financial statements.

All long-term liabilities to be repaid from governmental resources are reported as liabilities in the government-wide statements. The long-term liabilities consist of compensated absences.

In the fund financial statements, debt proceeds are reported as revenues (other financing sources), while payments of principal and interest are reported as expenditures when they become due.

*h. Program Revenues*

In the Government-wide Statement of Activities, reported program revenues derive directly from the program itself or from parties other than the Cooperative's taxpayers or citizenry, as a whole. Program revenues are classified into three categories, as follows:

a: Charges for services - These arise from charges to customers, applicants, or others who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided, or otherwise directly affected by the services.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Page 6**  
**(See Independent Auditors' Report)**

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b: Program-specific operating grants and contributions - These arise from mandatory and voluntary non-exchange transactions with other governments, organizations, or individuals that are restricted for use in a particular program.

c: Program-specific capital grants and contributions - These arise from mandatory and voluntary non-exchange transactions with other governments, organizations, or individuals that are restricted for the acquisition of capital assets for use in a particular program.

*i. Deferred Inflows and Deferred Outflows of Resources*

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position reports a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent consumption of net position that applies to a future period or periods. These items will not be recognized as an outflow of resources until the applicable future period.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position reports a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent acquisitions of net position that applies to a future period or periods. These items will not be recognized as an inflow of resources until the applicable future period.

*j. Equity Classifications*

*Government-wide Statements*

Equity is classified as Net Position and is displayed in three components:

a: Net Investment in Capital Assets - Consists of capital assets, including restricted capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and reduced by the outstanding balances of any bonds, mortgages, notes, or other borrowings that are attributable to the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets.

b: Restricted Net Position - Consists of net position with constraints placed on their use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments; or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

c: Unrestricted Net Position - All other net assets that do not meet the definition of "restricted" or "net investment in capital assets."

*Fund Financial Statements*

Governmental fund equity is classified as fund balance, and may distinguish between Nonspendable, Restricted, Committed, Assigned or Unassigned components.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Page 7**  
**(See Independent Auditors' Report)**

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*k. Application of Net Position*

It is the Cooperative's policy to first use restricted net position, prior to the use of unrestricted net position, when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

*l. Fund Balance Classification Policies and Procedures*

In accordance with Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) No. 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions, the Cooperative classifies governmental fund balances as follows:

Nonspendable - includes fund balance amounts that cannot be spent either because it is not in spendable form or because of legal or contractual constraints.

Restricted - includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes which are externally imposed by providers, such as creditors or amounts constrained due to constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed - includes fund balance amounts that are constrained for specific purposes that are internally imposed by the government through formal action of the highest level of decision-making authority and does not lapse at year-end.

Assigned - includes fund balance amounts that are intended to be used for specific purposes that are neither considered restricted or committed. Fund Balance may be assigned by the Cooperative Board.

Unassigned - includes positive fund balance within the General Fund which has not been classified within the above mentioned categories and negative fund balances in other governmental funds.

The Cooperative uses restricted/committed amounts first when both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available unless there are legal documents or contracts that prohibit doing this, such as a grant agreement requiring dollar for dollar spending. Additionally, the Government would first use committed, then assigned, and lastly unassigned amounts of unrestricted fund balance when expenditures are made.

The Government does not have a formal minimum fund balance policy.

*m. Pensions*

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability (asset), deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions, and pension expense (revenue), information about the fiduciary net position of the South Dakota Retirement System (SDRS) and additions to/deletions from SDRS's fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by SDRS. Cooperative contributions and net pension liability (asset) are recognized on an accrual basis of accounting.

**NOTE 2 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

The Cooperative follows the practice of aggregating the cash assets of various funds in some instances to maximize cash management efficiency and returns. Various restrictions on deposits and investments are imposed by statutes. These restrictions are summarized below:

**Deposits** - The Cooperative's deposits are made in qualified public depositories as defined by SDCL 4-6A-1, 13-16-15, 13-16-15.1 and 13-16-18.1. Qualified depositories are required by SDCL 4-6A-3 to maintain at all times, segregated from their other assets, eligible collateral having a value equal to at least 100 percent of the public deposit accounts which exceed deposit insurance such as the FDIC and NCUA. In lieu of pledging eligible securities, a qualified public depository may furnish irrevocable standby letters of credit issued by federal home loan banks accompanied by written evidence of that bank's public debt rating which may not be less than "AA" or a qualified public depository may furnish a corporate surety bond of a corporation authorized to do business in South Dakota. Deposits are reported at cost, plus interest, if the account is of the add-on type.

**Investments** - In general, SDCL 4-5-6 permits cooperative funds to be invested only in (a) securities of the United States and securities guaranteed by the United States Government either directly or indirectly; or (b) repurchase agreements fully collateralized by securities described in (a) above; or in shares of an open-end, no-load fund administered by an investment company whose investments are in securities described in (a) above and repurchase agreements described in (b) above. Also, SDCL 4-5-9 requires that investments shall be in the physical custody of the political subdivision or may be deposited in a safekeeping account with any bank or trust company designated by the political subdivision as its fiscal agent.

As of June 30, 2023, the Cooperative the investments reported in the financial statements consist of only certificates of deposit.

**Credit Risk** - State law limits eligible investments for the Cooperative, as discussed above. The Cooperative has no investment policy that would further limit its investment choices.

**Concentration of Credit Risk** - The Cooperative places no limit on the amount that may be invested in any one issuer.

**Interest Rate Risk** - The Cooperative does not have a formal investment policy that limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Page 9**  
**(See Independent Auditors' Report)**

Assignment of Investment Income - State law allows income from deposits and investments to be credited to either the General Fund or the fund making the investment. The Cooperative's policy is to credit all income from investments to the fund making the investment.

**NOTE 3 - RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES**

The Cooperative does not aggregate receivables and payables in the financial statements. Detail of the significant components are as follows:

Receivables at June 30, 2023, were as follows:

	<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>Due from other Governments</b>	<b>Total Receivables</b>
Governmental Activities:			
General Fund	\$ 2,501	\$ 126,955	\$ 129,456
Special Education Fund	189,357	133,845	323,202
Total - Gov't Activities	<u>\$ 191,858</u>	<u>\$ 260,800</u>	<u>\$ 452,658</u>
The portion of above amounts not scheduled for collection during the subsequent year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Payables at June 30, 2023, were as follows:

	<b>Accounts Payable</b>	<b>Accrued Wages</b>	<b>Payroll Deductions</b>	<b>Total Payables</b>
Governmental Activities:				
General Fund	\$ 9,569	\$ 73,844	\$ 9,864	\$ 93,277
Special Education Fund	5,440	76,454	9,824	91,718
Total - Gov't Activities	<u>\$ 15,009</u>	<u>\$ 150,298</u>	<u>\$ 19,688</u>	<u>\$ 184,995</u>



**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Page 10**  
**(See Independent Auditors' Report)**

**NOTE 4 - CHANGES IN CAPITAL ASSETS**

	Balance 7/1/2022	Increases	Decreases	Balance 6/30/2023
Governmental activities:				
Capital assets, being depreciated:				
Buildings	\$ 987,671	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 987,671
Machinery and Equipment	447,052	-	(12,075)	434,977
Total, being depreciated	<u>\$ 1,434,723</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (12,075)</u>	<u>\$ 1,422,648</u>
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Buildings	371,459	33,697	-	405,156
Machinery and Equipment	251,478	35,593	(8,453)	278,618
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>\$ 622,937</u>	<u>\$ 69,290</u>	<u>\$ (8,453)</u>	<u>\$ 683,774</u>
Govt activity capital assets, net	<u>\$ 811,786</u>	<u>\$ (69,290)</u>	<u>\$ (3,622)</u>	<u>\$ 738,874</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to functions as follows:

Governmental activities:

Instruction	64,615
Support Services	4,675
Total depreciation expense - governmental activities	<u>\$ 69,290</u>

**NOTE 5 - LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

A summary of changes in long-term liabilities follows:

Primary Government

Governmental Activities:

	Balance 7/1/2022	Increases	Decreases	Balance 6/30/2023
Compensated Absences	\$ 24,307	\$ 4,398	\$ (4,990)	\$ 23,715
Total	<u>\$ 24,307</u>	<u>\$ 4,398</u>	<u>\$ (4,990)</u>	<u>\$ 23,715</u>

Compensated absences for governmental activities typically have been liquidated from the General Fund and Special Education Fund.

Long-term liabilities at June 30, 2023 are comprised of the following:

Governmental Activities:

Compensated absences payable from General Fund and Special Education Fund	\$ 23,715
Total	<u>\$ 23,715</u>

**NOTE 6 - PENSION PLAN**

**Plan Information:**

All permanent employees working twenty or more hours per week participate in the South Dakota Retirement System (SDRS), a cost-sharing, multiple employer public employee retirement system established to provide retirement benefits for employees of the State of South Dakota and its political subdivisions. The SDRS provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits. The right to receive retirement benefits vests after three years of credited service. Authority for establishing, administering and amending plan provisions are found in South Dakota Codified Law 3-12. The SDRS issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained by writing to the SDRS, PO Box 1098, Pierre, SD 57501-1098 or by calling (605) 773-3731.

**Benefits Provided:**

SDRS has four classes of members: Class A general members, Class B public safety and judicial members, and Class C Cement Plant Retirement Fund members, and Class D Department of Labor and Regulation members.

Members that were hired before July 1, 2017, are Foundation members. Class A Foundation members and Class B Foundation members who retire after age 65 with three years of contributory service are entitled to an unreduced annual retirement benefit. An unreduced annual retirement benefit is also available after age 55 for Class A Foundation members where the sum of age and credited service is equal to or greater than 85 or after age 55 for Class B Foundation judicial members where the sum of age and credited service is equal to or greater than 80. Class B Foundation public safety members can retire with an unreduced annual retirement benefit after age 55 with three years of contributory service. An unreduced annual retirement benefit is also available after age 45 for Class B Foundation public safety members where the sum of age and credited service is equal to or greater than 75. All Foundation retirements that do not meet the above criteria may be payable at a reduced level.

Members that were hired on/after July 1, 2017, are Generational members. Class A Generational members and Class B Generational judicial members who retire after age 67 with three years of contributory service are entitled to an unreduced annual retirement benefit. Class B Generational public safety members can retire with an unreduced annual retirement benefit after age 57 with three years of contributory service. At retirement, married Generational members may elect a single-life benefit, a 60 percent joint and survivor benefit, or a 100 percent joint and survivor benefit. All Generational retirement benefits that do not meet the above criteria may be payable at a reduced level. Generational members will also have a variable retirement account (VRA) established, in which they will receive up to 1.5 percent of compensation funded by part of the employer contribution. VRAs will receive investment earnings based on investment returns.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Page 12**  
**(See Independent Auditors' Report)**

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Legislation enacted in 2017 established the current COLA process. At each valuation date:

Baseline actuarial accrued liabilities will be calculated assuming the COLA is equal to long-term inflation assumption of 2.25%.

If the fair value of assets is greater or equal to the baseline actuarial accrued liabilities, the COLA will be:  
The increase in the 3rd quarter CPI-W, no less than 0.5% and no greater than 3.5%.

If the fair value of assets is less than the baseline actuarial accrued liabilities, the COLA will be:  
The increase in the 3rd quarter CPI-W, no less than 0.5% and no greater than a restricted maximum such that, that if the restricted maximum is assumed for future COLAs, the fair value of assets will be greater or equal to the accrued liabilities.

Legislation enacted in 2021 reduced the minimum COLA from 0.5 percent to 0.0 percent.

All benefits except those depending on the Member's Accumulated Contributions are annually increased by the Cost-of-Living Adjustment.

**Contributions:**

Per SDCL 3-12, contribution requirements of the active employees and the participating employers are established and may be amended by the SDRS Board. Covered employees are required by state statute to contribute the following percentages of their salary to the plan; Class A Members, 6% of salary; Class B Judiciary Members, 9.0% of salary; and Class B Public Safety Members, 8.0% of salary. State statute also requires the employer to contribute an amount equal to the employee's contribution. The Cooperative's share of contributions to the SDRS for the years ended June 30, 2023, 2022, and 2021 were \$66,393, \$56,755, and \$51,630, respectively, equal to the required contributions each year.

**Pension Liabilities (Assets), Pension Expense (Revenue), and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources to Pensions:**

At June 30, 2022, SDRS is 100.1% funded and accordingly has a net pension asset. The proportionate shares of the components of the net pension asset of South Dakota Retirement System, for the Cooperative as of the measurement period ending June 30, 2022 and reported by the Cooperative as of June 30, 2023 are as follows:

Proportionate share of total pension liability	\$ 5,592,157
Less proportionate share of net position restricted for pension benefits	5,595,901
Proportionate share of net pension asset	<u><u>\$ (3,744)</u></u>

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Page 13**  
**(See Independent Auditors' Report)**

At June 30, 2023, the Cooperative reported an asset of \$3,744 for its proportionate share of the net pension asset. The net pension asset was measured as of June 30, 2022 and the total pension asset used to calculate the net pension asset was based on a projection of the Cooperative's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. At June 30, 2022, the Cooperative's proportion was .0396140%, which is a decrease of .0041549% from its proportion measured as of June 30, 2021.

For the year ended June 30, 2023, the Cooperative recognized reduction of pension expense of \$22,356. At June 30, 2023, the Cooperative 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
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 71,265	\$ 243
Changes in assumption	237,943	208,525
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	8,972
Changes in proportion and difference between Cooperative contributions and proportionate share of contributions	10,919	3,927
Cooperative contributions subsequent to the measurement date	66,393	-
Total	<u>\$ 386,520</u>	<u>\$ 221,667</u>

\$66,393 reported as deferred outflow of resources related to pensions resulting from Cooperative contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending June 30, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense (revenue) as follows:

Year Ended June 30:	
2024	30,721
2025	53,969
2026	(60,098)
2027	73,868
TOTAL	<u>\$ 98,460</u>

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Page 14**  
**(See Independent Auditors' Report)**

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**Actuarial Assumptions:**

The total pension liability (asset) in the June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.25%
Salary Increases	Graded by years of service, from 7.66% at entry to 3.15% after 25 years of service
Discount Rate	6.5% net of pension plan investment expense. This is composed of an average inflation rate of 2.50% and real returns of 4.00%
Future COLAs	2.10%
Mortality Rates	

All mortality rates based on Pub-2010 amount-weighted mortality tables, projected generationally with improvement scale

Active and Terminated Vested Members:

Teachers, Certified Regents, and Judicial: PubT-2010

Other Class A Members: PubG-2010

Public Safety Members: PubS-2010

Retired Members:

Teachers, Certified Regents, and Judicial Retirees: PubT-2010, 108% of rates above age 65

Other Class A Retirees: PubG-2010, 93% of rates through age 74, increasing by 2% per year until 111% of

Public Safety Retirees: PubS-2010, 102% of rates at all ages

Beneficiaries:

PubG-2010 contingent survivor mortality table

Disabled Members:

Public Safety: PubS-2010 disabled member mortality table

Others: PubG-2010 disabled member mortality table

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2021.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Page 15**  
**(See Independent Auditors' Report)**

Investment portfolio management is the statutory responsibility of the South Dakota Investment Council (SDIC), which may utilize the services of external money managers for management of a portion of the portfolio. SDIC is governed by the Prudent Man Rule (i.e., the council should use the same degree of care as a prudent man). Current SDIC investment policies dictate limits on the percentage of assets invested in various types of vehicles (equities, fixed income securities, real estate, cash, private equity, etc.). The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a 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 weighing the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of real rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2022 (see the discussion of the pension plan's investment policy) are summarized in the following table using geometric means:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Global Equity	58.00%	3.70%
Fixed Income	30.00%	1.10%
Real Estate	10.00%	2.60%
Cash	2.00%	0.40%
Total	100.00%	2.70%

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability (asset) was 6.5%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employee contributions will be made at the current contribution rate and that matching employer contributions from will be made at rates equal to the member rate. Based on these assumptions, the pension plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability (asset).

**Sensitivity of liability (asset) to changes in discount rate:**

The following presents the Cooperative's proportionate share of net pension liability (asset) calculated using the discount rate of 6.5%, as well as what the Cooperative's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage point lower (5.50%) or 1-percentage point higher (7.50%) than the current rate:

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Page 16**  
**(See Independent Auditors' Report)**

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	<u>1% Increase</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate</u>	<u>1% Decrease</u>
Cooperative's proportionate share of the net pension liability/(asset)	\$ 777,360	\$ (3,744)	\$ (642,112)

**Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position**

Detailed information about the plan's fiduciary net position is available in the seperately issued SDRS financial report.

**NOTE 7 - POSTEMPLOYMENT HEALTHCARE PLAN**

The Cooperative is a member of the Associated School Boards of South Dakota. The ASBSD has set up, for its members, a retiree pool, to house the health plans of the Cooperative's retiree participants. This method excludes retirees experience from being included in the rating process for the current employees. Rating in this manner, creates no impact on the insurance rates of the current employees. There is no future liability as the Cooperative is not paying higher rates with regards to it's participating retirees.

**NOTE 8 - LITIGATION**

At June 30, 2023 the Cooperative was not involved in any litigation.

**NOTE 9 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Management has evaluated subsequent events through the date of the independent auditor's report, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

**NOTE 10 - RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Cooperative 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 the period ended June 30, 2023, the Cooperative managed its risks as follows:

*Employee Health Insurance*

The Cooperative joined the South Dakota School District Benefits Fund. This is a public entity risk pool currently operating as a common risk management and insurance program for South Dakota local government entities. The Cooperative pays a monthly premium to the pool to provide health insurance coverage for its employees. The Pool purchases reinsurance coverage with the premiums it receives from the members. The Cooperative does not carry additional health insurance coverage to pay claims in the excess of the upper limit provided for with this coverage. Settled claims resulting from these risks have never exceeded the liability coverage.

*Liability Insurance*

The Cooperative joined the Associated School Boards of South Dakota Property Liability Fund, a public entity risk pool currently operating as a common risk management and insurance program for South Dakota school districts. The Cooperative pays an annual premium to the pool to provide coverage for various types of liability insurance coverages. The agreement with the Associated School Boards of South Dakota Property Liability Fund provides that coverages will be provided to various limits for the different types of coverage. Member premiums are used by the pool for payment of claims and to pay for reinsurance for claims in excess of \$100,000 to the upper limit. The Cooperative has various deductibles for differing types of insurance coverage. The Cooperative does not carry additional insurance to cover claims in excess of the upper limit. Settled claims resulting from these risks have never exceeded the liability coverage.

*Workmen's Compensation*

The Cooperative participates, with several other educational units and related organizations in South Dakota, in the Associated School Boards of South Dakota Workers' Compensation Fund Pool which provided workers' compensation insurance coverage for participating members of the pool. The objective of the Fund is to formulate, develop, and administer, on behalf of the member organizations, a program of worker's compensation coverage, to obtain lower costs for that coverage, and to develop a comprehensive loss control program. The Cooperative's responsibility is to initiate and maintain a safety program to give its employees safe and sanitary working conditions and to promptly report to and cooperate with the Fund to resolve any worker's compensation claims. The Cooperative pays an annual premium, to provide worker's compensation coverage for its employees, under a retrospectively rated policy and the premiums are accrued based on the ultimate cost of the experience to date of the Fund members. The Cooperative may also be responsible for additional assessments in the event the pool is determined by its board of trustees to have inadequate reserves to satisfy current obligations or judgments. Additional assessments, if any, are to be determined on a prorated basis based upon each participant's percentage of contribution in relation to the total contributions to the pool of all participants for the year in which the shortfall occurs. The pool provides loss coverage to all participants through pool retained risk retention and through insurance coverage purchased by the pool in excess of the retained risk. The pool pays the first \$500,000 of any claim per individual. The pool has reinsurance which covers up to \$1,000,000 per individual per incident.

The Cooperative does not carry additional insurance to cover claims in excess of the upper limit. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded the liability coverage over the past three years.



**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - Page 18**  
**(Sec Independent Auditors' Report)**

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*Unemployment Benefits*

The Cooperative has elected to be self-insured and retain all risk for liabilities resulting from claims for unemployment benefits. As of June 30, 2023 the Cooperative had assigned fund balance designations in the General Fund in the amount of \$6,000 and, in the Special Education Fund (reported as a special revenue fund) in the amount of \$6,000 for the payment of future unemployment benefits. During the year ended June 30, 2023 no claims were paid relating to unemployment benefits. As of June 30, 2023, no claims are anticipated in the next fiscal year.

**NOTE 11 - RESTRICTED NET POSITION**

Restricted Net Position for the year ended was as follows:

<b>Major Purposes</b>	<b>Restricted By</b>	<b>6/30/2023</b>
Special Education Purposes	Law	\$ 425,483
SDRS Pension Purposes	Law	\$ 168,597

**NOTE 12 - RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE**

Northwest Area Schools Multi-District/Educational Cooperative is in a joint venture with the following School Districts: Harding County, Faith, Dupree, Timber Lake, McLaughlin, McIntosh, Smea, Tiospaye Topa, and Bison. The board members of Northwest Area Schools are also board members of the member districts. This could cause a conflict of interest when making decisions on behalf of these entities.

## **REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGETARY BASIS  
GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final	Actual Amounts (Budgetary Basis)	Positive (Negative)
REVENUES:				
Revenue from Local Sources:				
Earnings on Investments and Deposits	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 7,216	\$ 4,216
Other Revenue from Local Sources:				
Services Provided Other LEAs	574,400	574,400	575,090	690
Other	52,000	52,000	57,813	5,813
Revenue from State Sources:				
Grants-in-Aid:				
Restricted Grants-in-Aid	-	-	2,297	2,297
Revenue from Federal Sources:				
Grants-in-Aid:				
Restricted Grants-in-Aid Received from the Federal Government Through the State	271,358	297,158	225,883	(71,275)
Total Revenue	\$ 900,758	\$ 926,558	\$ 868,299	\$ (58,259)

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGETARY BASIS  
GENERAL FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
EXPENDITURES:				
Instruction:				
Regular Programs:				
High School	\$ 615,319	\$ 615,319	\$ 522,749	\$ 92,570
Gifted and Talented	17,400	17,400	16,339	1,061
Support Services:				
Support Services-Instructional Staff:				
Improvement of Instruction	161,375	187,775	155,154	32,621
Education Media	1,500	1,500	220	1,280
Support Services-General Administration:				
Board of Education	51,317	51,317	36,289	15,028
Executive Administration	88,994	88,994	80,833	8,161
Support Services-Business:				
Fiscal Services	52,400	52,400	51,479	921
Operation & Maintenance of Plant	158,185	158,185	71,057	87,128
Contingencies	8,000	8,000	-	8,000
Total Expenditures	\$ 1,154,490	\$ 1,180,890	\$ 934,120	\$ 246,770
Excess Revenue Over/Under Expenditures	\$ (253,732)	\$ (254,332)	\$ (65,821)	\$ 188,511
Other Financing Sources				
Compensation for Loss on General Assets	-	-	16,105	16,105
Total Other Financing Sources	-	-	16,105	16,105
Net Change in Fund Balances	(253,732)	(254,332)	(49,716)	204,616
Fund Balance - Beginning	722,142	722,142	722,142	-
Fund Balance - Ending	\$ 468,410	\$ 467,810	\$ 672,426	\$ 204,616

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGETARY BASIS  
SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>(Budgetary Basis)</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>
				<u>Positive (Negative)</u>
REVENUES:				
Revenue from Local Sources:				
Earnings on Investments and Deposits	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,273	\$ (227)
Other Revenue from Local Sources:				
Services Provided Other LEAs	376,246	376,246	282,832	(93,414)
Other	-	-	1,693	1,693
Revenue from State Sources:				
Grants-in-Aid:				
Restricted Grants-in-Aid				
Received from the				
Federal Government				
Through the State	696,309	815,789	720,825	(94,964)
Total Revenue	\$ 1,074,055	\$ 1,193,535	\$ 1,006,623	\$ (186,912)

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - BUDGETARY BASIS  
SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
EXPENDITURES:				
Instruction:				
Special Programs:				
Programs for special education	\$ 91,564	\$ 92,417	\$ 88,076	\$ 4,341
Support Services:				
Pupils:				
Psychological	118,667	125,486	113,959	11,527
Speech Pathology	439,917	439,917	394,864	45,053
Student Therapy Services	4,964	116,652	17,864	98,788
Support Services-Instructional Staff:				
Improvement of Instruction	254,665	254,665	222,289	32,376
Support Services-General Administration:				
Board of Education	34,577	34,577	25,989	8,588
Executive Administration	94,254	94,254	86,365	7,889
Support Services-Business:				
Fiscal Services	78,804	78,804	63,105	15,699
Operation & Maintenance of Plant	1,988	1,988	220	1,768
Support Services-Special Education:				
Administrative Costs	2,724	2,844	2,844	-
Other Special Education Costs	1,440	1,440	1,440	-
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 1,123,564</u>	<u>\$ 1,243,044</u>	<u>\$ 1,017,015</u>	<u>\$ 226,029</u>
Excess Revenue Over (Under)				
Expenditures	<u>\$ (49,509)</u>	<u>\$ (49,509)</u>	<u>\$ (10,392)</u>	<u>\$ 39,117</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	<u>(49,509)</u>	<u>(49,509)</u>	<u>(10,392)</u>	<u>39,117</u>
Fund Balance - Beginning	<u>435,875</u>	<u>435,875</u>	<u>435,875</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance - Ending	<u><u>\$ 386,366</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 386,366</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 425,483</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 39,117</u></u>

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

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Schedules of Budgetary Comparisons for the General Fund and for each major Special Revenue Fund with a legally required budget.

**NOTE 1 - BUDGETS AND BUDGETARY ACCOUNTING**

The Cooperative followed these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in the financial statements:

1. Prior to the Board meeting in June of each year, the Cooperative causes to be prepared a proposed budget for the next fiscal year according to the budgetary standards prescribed by the Auditor General. The proposed budget is considered by the Board at the first regular meeting held in the month of June of each year. The proposed budget is published for public review no later than July 15 each year. Before October 1 of each year, the Board must approve the budget for the ensuing fiscal year for each fund, except trust and agency funds.
2. After adoption by the Board, the operating budget is legally binding and actual expenditures of each fund cannot exceed the amounts budgeted, except as indicated in number 4.
3. A line item for contingencies may be included in the annual budget. Such a line item may not exceed five percent of the total Cooperative budget and may be transferred by resolution of the Board to any other budget category.
4. If it is determined during the year that sufficient amounts have not been budgeted, state statute allows adoption of supplemental budgets when moneys are available to increase legal spending authority.
5. Unexpended appropriations lapse at year-end unless encumbered by resolution of the Board. No encumbrances were outstanding at June 30, 2023.
6. Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year for the General Fund and Special Education Fund.
7. Budgets for the General Fund and the Special Education Fund are adopted on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

**NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - Page 2**  
**(See Accountants' Compilation Report)**

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**NOTE 2 - GAAP/BUDGETARY ACCOUNTING BASIS DIFFERENCES**

The financial statements prepared in conformity with USGAAP present capital outlay expenditure information in a separate category of expenditures. Under the budgetary basis of accounting, capital outlay expenditures are reported within the function to which they relate. For example, the purchase of a new car would be reported as a capital outlay expenditure on the Governmental Funds Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances, however in the Budgetary RSI Schedule, the purchase of a car would be reported as an expenditure of the Support Services-Operating & Maintenance of Plant function of government, along with all other current Operations & Maintenance project related expenditures.



NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
SCHEDULE OF REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF COOPERATIVE'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF  
THE NET PENSION LIABILITY (ASSET)  
SOUTH DAKOTA RETIREMENT SYSTEM

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Cooperative's proportion of the net pension liability (asset)	0.0396140%	0.0379190%	0.0437689%	0.0612516%	0.0579945%	0.0598125%	0.0539334%	0.0581516%	0.0563358%
Cooperative's proportionate share of net pension liability (asset)	\$ (3,744)	\$ (290,395)	\$ (1,901)	\$ (6,491)	\$ (1,353)	\$ (5,428)	\$ 182,182	\$ (246,638)	\$ (405,876)
Cooperative's covered-employee payroll	\$ 945,918	\$ 860,494	\$ 960,595	\$ 1,302,335	\$ 1,205,645	\$ 1,215,274	\$ 1,028,504	\$ 1,061,679	\$ 985,159
Cooperative's proportionate share of the net pension liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	-0.40%	-33.75%	-0.20%	-0.50%	-0.11%	-0.45%	17.71%	-23.23%	-41.20%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability (asset)	100.10%	105.52%	100.04%	100.09%	100.02%	100.10%	96.89%	104.10%	107.29%

\* The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date of the collective net pension liability (asset) which is 6/30 of previous fiscal year.

NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
SCHEDULE OF REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
SCHEDULE OF COOPERATIVES CONTRIBUTIONS  
SOUTH DAKOTA RETIREMENT SYSTEM

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Contractually required contribution	\$ 66,393	\$ 56,755	\$ 51,630	\$ 57,636	\$ 78,140	\$ 72,339	\$ 72,916	\$ 61,710	\$ 63,701
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	\$ 66,393	\$ 56,755	\$ 51,630	\$ 57,636	\$ 78,140	\$ 72,339	\$ 72,916	\$ 61,710	\$ 63,701
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cooperative's covered-employee payroll	\$1,106,556	\$ 945,818	\$ 860,494	\$ 960,595	\$1,302,335	\$1,205,645	\$1,215,274	\$1,028,504	\$1,061,679
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%	6.00%

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023  
SCHEDULE OF THE PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION  
LIABILITY (ASSET) AND SCHEDULE OF PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS**

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**Changes from prior valuation**

The June 30, 2022 Actuarial Valuation reflects numerous changes to the actuarial assumptions as a result of an experience analysis completed since the June 30, 2021 Actuarial Valuation. In addition, two changes in actuarial methods have been implemented since the prior valuation.

The details of the changes since the last valuation are as follows:

**Benefit Provision Changes**

During the 2022 Legislative Session no significant SDRS benefit changes were made and gaming enforcement agents became Class B Public Safety Members.

**Actuarial Assumption Changes**

As a result of an experience analysis covering the period from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2021 and presented to the SDRS Board of Trustees in April and June, 2022, significant changes to the actuarial assumptions were recommended by the SDRS Senior Actuary and adopted by the Board of Trustees first effective for this June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation.

The changes to economic assumptions included increasing the price inflation to 2.50% and increasing the wage inflation to 3.15%. The current assumed investment return assumption of 6.50% was retained, lowering the assumed real investment return to 4.00%. The baseline COLA assumption of 2.25% was also retained. Salary increase assumptions were modified to reflect the increase in assumed wage inflation and recent experience. The assumed interest on accumulated contributions was decreased to 2.25%.

The demographic assumptions were also reviewed and revised. The mortality assumption was changed to the Pub-2010 amount-weighted tables using separate tables for teachers, general, and public safety retirees, with assumptions for retirees adjusted based on credible experience. The mortality assumption for active and terminated vested members was changed to the unadjusted amount-weighted Pub-2010 tables, again by member classification and the assumption for beneficiaries was changed to the amount-weighted Pub-2010 general contingent survivor table. Adjustments based on experience were also made to the assumptions regarding retirement, termination, disability, age of spouses for married Foundation members, percentage of terminated vested members electing a refund, and benefit commencement age for terminated vested Public Safety members with 15 or more years of service.

The SDRS COLA equals the percentage increase in the most recent third calendar quarter CPI-W over the prior year, no less than 0% (0.5% prior to 2021) and no greater than 3.5%. However, if the FVFR assuming the long-term COLA is equal to the baseline COLA assumption (currently 2.25%) is less than 100%, the maximum COLA payable will be limited to the increase that if assumed on a long-term basis, results in a FVFR equal to or exceeding 100%.

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION - Page 2  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023  
SCHEDULE OF THE PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION  
LIABILITY (ASSET) AND SCHEDULE OF PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS**

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As of June 30, 2021, the FVFR assuming the long-term COLA is equal to the baseline COLA assumption (2.25%) was greater than 100% and the full 0% to 3.5% COLA range was payable. For the June 30, 2021 Actuarial Valuation, future COLAs were assumed to equal the baseline COLA assumption of 2.25%.

As of June 30, 2022, the FVFR assuming future COLAs equal to the baseline COLA assumption of 2.25% is less than 100% and the July 2023 SDRS COLA is limited to a restricted maximum of 2.10%. The July 2023 SDRS COLA will equal inflation, between 0% and 2.10%. For this June 30, 2022 Actuarial Valuation, future COLAs were assumed to equal the restricted maximum COLA of 2.10%.

Actuarial assumptions are reviewed for reasonability annually and reviewed in depth periodically, with the next experience analysis anticipated before the June 30, 2027 Actuarial Valuation and any recommended 7 changes approved by the Board of Trustees are anticipated to be first implemented in the June 30, 2027 Actuarial Valuation.

**Actuarial Method Changes**

Actuarial method changes with minor impact were implemented for this valuation after recommendation by Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting as part of their reviews of prior valuations. As a result, liabilities and normal costs for refund benefits and the Generational Variable Retirement Account are now calculated using the entry age normal cost method with normal costs based on the expected value of these accounts rather than the actual balance.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**NORTHWEST AREA SCHOOLS  
MULTI-DISTRICT/EDUCATIONAL COOPERATIVE  
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

<b>Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor Program or Cluster Title</b>	<b>Federal CFDA Number</b>	<b>Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number</b>	<b>Expenditures For The Year Ended June 30, 2023</b>
<b>US Department of Education:</b>			
Pass-Through the SD Department of Education:			
Special Education Cluster			
Special Education - Grants to States	84.027	N/A	\$692,240
Special Education - Preschool Grants	84.173	N/A	28,585
Total for Special Education Cluster			\$720,825
Career and Technical Education - Basic Grants to States	84.048	N/A	\$11,493
Multi-Tiered System of Support (Note 3)	84.027A	N/A	\$168,701
State Personnel Grants Program	84.323A	N/A	\$25,600
Total US Department of Education:			\$926,619
<b>US Department of Health &amp; Human Service:</b>			
Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grants	93.590	N/A	\$21,120
Total US Department of Health & Human Service:			\$21,120
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>\$947,739</b>

NOTE 1: BASIS OF PRESENTATION: The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards includes the federal grant activity of the Cooperative under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2023. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the Cooperative, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of the Cooperative.

NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES: Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the modified accrual basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement. Negative amounts shown on the Schedule represent adjustments or credits made in the normal course of business to amounts reported as expenditures in prior years. The Cooperative has elected to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE 3: FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT: Federal reimbursements are not based upon specific expenditures. Therefore, the amounts reported here represent cash received rather than federal expenditures.