

METROPOLITAN REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

SMYRNA, GEORGIA

FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2020
(Including Independent Auditor's Report)

METROPOLITAN REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

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FINANCIAL REPORT

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DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

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GREG S. GRIFFIN
STATE AUDITOR
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Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Brian P. Kemp, Governor of Georgia
Members of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia
Members of the State Board of Education
and
Executive Director and Members of the
Metropolitan Regional Educational Service Agency Board of Control

Report on the Financial Statement

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance and the related notes (financial statement) of the Metropolitan Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2020.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statement based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement.

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

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

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Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the respective changes in fund balance of the general fund, for the year ended June 30, 2020 in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 2 to the financial statement, the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance was prepared for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the RESA and Georgia Department of Education and is not intended to be a complete presentation of the RESA's assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses nor does it constitute a complete set of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Restriction on Use

Our report is intended solely for the information and use of the RESA's management, the Board of Control, and the Georgia Department of Education and is not intended to be and should not be used by any other parties.

Respectfully submitted,



Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

June 24, 2021

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METROPOLITAN REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

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METROPOLITAN REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
GOVERNMENTAL FUND
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

	GENERAL FUND
REVENUES	
State Funds	$ 7,548,761.61
Federal Funds	2,992,734.37
Investment Earnings	54.63
Miscellaneous	2,359,794.71
Total Revenues	12,901,345.32
EXPENDITURES	
Current	
Instruction	2,448,340.05
Support Services	
Pupil Services	1,717,983.09
Improvement of Instructional Services	6,427,526.59
General Administration	552,428.17
School Administration	875,761.05
Business Administration	318,077.70
Maintenance and Operation of Plant	76,624.77
Student Transportation Services	63.33
Central Support Services	45,669.14
Other Support Services	80,903.14
Total Expenditures	12,543,377.03
Net Change in Fund Balance	357,968.29
Fund Balance - Beginning	2,213,384.51
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 2,571,352.80

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

NOTE 1: DESCRIPTION OF REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AGENCY

REPORTING ENTITY

The Metropolitan Regional Educational Service Agency (Metro RESA) was created by the General Assembly to provide shared services to improve the effectiveness of educational programs and services of local school systems, to provide instructional programs directly to selected local school systems, and to provide Georgia Learning Resources System services.

RESAs are neither county nor independent school systems. Rather, they are service agencies, partly funded by the state, created to provide educational and support services to a group of school systems. Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) §20-2-270.1 and §20-2-271 enumerates the specific kinds of assistance RESAs must provide to member school systems. Each RESA is governed by a board of control composed of the school superintendent of each member school system, the president or highest administrator of each member postsecondary institution, and a local public or regional library director appointed by the director of the Office of Public Library Services of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. RESAs are subject to the rules of the State Board of Education that govern local school systems except where explicitly stated otherwise.

RESAs may acquire, lease, purchase, lease purchase, or dispose of real or personal property and may incur debts for those purposes subject to the approval of the board of control. The property will be held in the name of the RESA. RESAs may sell or provide at a reasonable cost goods to Georgia private schools. RESAs also may provide services relating to non-educational areas such as sales and service of audio-visual equipment, sales of office supplies and consumable educational materials. RESAs have latitude to identify and provide within their available resources other non-educational services to member school systems.

NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance of the RESA has been prepared for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the RESA and Georgia Department of Education. The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance is not intended to be a complete presentation of the RESA's assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses nor does it constitute a complete set of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The more significant of the RESA's accounting policies are described below.

BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The RESA reports one major governmental fund, the general fund, which is the RESA's primary operating fund. It accounts for and reports all financial resources.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The basis of accounting determines when transactions are reported on the financial statement. The RESA uses funds to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain governmental functions or activities. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts.

Governmental funds are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when measurable and available. The RESA considers all revenues reported in the governmental funds to be available if they are collected within sixty days after year-end. Interest is considered to be susceptible to accrual. Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred. Capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. Acquisitions under capital leases are reported as other financing sources.

The RESA funds certain programs by a combination of specific cost-reimbursement grants, categorical grants, and general revenues. Thus, when program costs are incurred, there are both restricted and unrestricted resources available to finance the program. It is the RESA's policy to first apply grant resources to such programs, followed by cost-reimbursement grants, then general revenues.

NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

In fiscal year 2020, the RESA adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 95, *Postponement of the Effective Dates of Certain Authoritative Guidance*. The primary objective of this statement is to provide temporary relief to governments and other stakeholders in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. That objective is accomplished by postponing the effective dates of certain provisions in statements and Implementation Guides that first became effective or are scheduled to become effective for period beginning after June 15, 2018, and later.

In fiscal year 2020, the RESA early adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 90, *Majority Equity Interests*. It defines a majority equity interest and specifies that majority equity interest in a legal separate organization should be reported as an investment. A majority equity interest that meets the definition of an investment should be measured using the equity method, unless it is held by a special-purpose government engaged only in fiduciary activities, a fiduciary fund, or an endowment (including permanent and term endowments) or permanent fund. Those governments and funds should measure the majority equity interest at fair value. The adoption of this statement did not have an impact on the RESA's financial statement.

DEPRECIATION EXPENSE

Depreciation is computed using the straight-line for all assets, except land, and is used to allocate the actual or estimated historical cost of capital assets over estimated useful lives. Depreciation expense for the year ended June 30, 2020 was $25,893.02 and was charged to maintenance and operation of plant. Capitalization thresholds and estimated useful lives of capital assets are as follows:

	Capitalization Policy	Estimated Useful Life
Land	Any Amount	N/A
Land Improvements	$ 5,000.00	20 years
Buildings and Improvements	$ 5,000.00	50 years
Computer Equipment	$ 5,000.00	7 years
Other Office Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	$ 5,000.00	7 years
Intangible Assets:		
Easements	$ 5,000.00	50 years
Software	$ 5,000.00	10 years
Other Intangibles	$ 5,000.00	20 years

USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of the financial statement in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statement and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

NOTE 3: LEASES

OPERATING LEASES

The RESA leases copiers and computers under the provisions of one or more long-term lease agreements classified as operating leases for accounting purposes. Rental expenditures under the terms of the operating leases totaled $57,417.49 for the general fund for the year ended June 30, 2020. The following future minimum lease payments were required under operating leases at June 30, 2020:

Year Ending		
2021	$	57,417.49
2022		39,570.84
2023		12,318.56
2024		7,380.81
Total	$	116,687.70

NOTE 4: OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

GEORGIA SCHOOL PERSONNEL POST-EMPLOYMENT HEALTH BENEFIT FUND

Plan Description: Certified teachers and non-certified public school employees of the RESA as defined in §20-2-875 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.) are provided OPEB through the School OPEB Fund - a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit postemployment healthcare plan, reported as an employee trust fund and administered by a Board of Community Health (Board). Title 20 of the O.C.G.A. assigns the authority to establish and amend the benefit terms of the group health plan to the Board.

Benefits Provided: The School OPEB Fund provides healthcare benefits for retirees and their dependents due under the group health plan for public school teachers, including librarians, other certified employees of public schools, regional educational service agencies and non-certified public school employees. Retiree medical eligibility is attained when an employee retires and is immediately eligible to draw a retirement annuity from Employees' Retirement System (ERS), Georgia Judicial Retirement System (JRS), Legislative Retirement System (LRS), Teachers Retirement System (TRS) or Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS). If elected, dependent coverage starts on the same day as retiree coverage. Medicare-eligible retirees are offered Standard and Premium Medicare Advantage plan options. Non-Medicare eligible retiree plan options include Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA), Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) and a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP). The School OPEB Fund also pays for administrative expenses of the fund. By law, no other use of the assets of the School OPEB Fund is permitted.

Contributions: As established by the Board, the School OPEB Fund is substantially funded on a pay-as-you-go basis; that is, annual cost of providing benefits will be financed in the same year as claims occur. Contributions to the School OPEB Fund from the RESA were $158,001.00 for the year ended June 30, 2020. Active employees are not required to contribute to the School OPEB Fund.

NOTE 5: RETIREMENT PLANS

The RESA participates in various retirement plans administered by the State of Georgia, as further explained below and on the following page.

TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF GEORGIA (TRS)

Plan Description: All teachers of the RESA as defined in O.C.G.A §47-3-60 and certain other support personnel as defined by O.C.G.A. §47-3-63 are provided a pension through the Teachers Retirement System of Georgia (TRS). TRS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan, is administered by the TRS Board of Trustees (TRS Board). Title 47 of the O.C.G.A. assigns the authority to establish and amend the benefit provisions to the State Legislature. The Teachers Retirement System of Georgia issues a publicly available separate financial report that can be obtained at www.trsga.com/publications.

Benefits Provided: TRS provides service retirement, disability retirement, and death benefits. Normal retirement benefits are determined as 2% of the average of the employee's two highest paid consecutive years of service, multiplied by the number of years of creditable service up to 40 years. An employee is eligible for normal service retirement after 30 years of creditable service, regardless of age, or after 10 years of service and attainment of age 60. Ten years of service is required for disability and death benefits eligibility. Disability benefits are based on the employee's creditable service and compensation up to the time of disability. Death benefits equal the amount that would be payable to the employee's beneficiary had the employee retired on the date of death. Death benefits are based on the employee's creditable service and compensation up to the date of death.

Contributions: Per Title 47 of the O.C.G.A., contribution requirements of active employees and participating employers, as actuarially determined, are established and may be amended by the TRS Board. Contributions are expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability. Employees were required to contribute 6.00% of their annual pay during fiscal year 2020. The RESA's contractually required contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2020 was 21.14% of annual RESA payroll. For the current fiscal year, employer contributions to the pension plan were $1,351,038.17 from the RESA.

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Plan Description: The Employees' Retirement System of Georgia (ERS) is a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan established by the Georgia General Assembly during the 1949 Legislative Session for the purpose of providing retirement allowances for employees of the State of Georgia and its political subdivisions. ERS is directed by a Board of Trustees. Title 47 of the O.C.G.A. assigns the authority to establish and amend the benefit provisions to the State Legislature. ERS issues a publicly available financial report that can be obtained at www.ers.ga.gov/formspubs/formspubs.

Benefits Provided: The ERS Plan supports three benefit tiers: Old Plan, New Plan, and Georgia State Employees' Pension and Savings Plan (GSEPS). Employees under the old plan started membership prior to July 1, 1982 and are subject to plan provisions in effect prior to July 1, 1982. Members hired on or after July 1, 1982 but prior to January 1, 2009 are new plan members subject to modified plan provisions. Effective January 1, 2009, new state employees and rehired state employees who did not retain membership rights under the Old or New Plans are members of GSEPS. ERS members hired prior to January 1, 2009 also have the option to irrevocably change their membership to GSEPS.

Under the old plan, the new plan, and GSEPS, a member may retire and receive normal retirement benefits after completion of 10 years of creditable service and attainment of age 60 or 30 years of creditable service regardless of age. Additionally, there are some provisions allowing for early retirement after 25 years of creditable service for members under age 60.

Retirement benefits paid to members are based upon the monthly average of the member's highest 24 consecutive calendar months, multiplied by the number of years of creditable service, multiplied by the applicable benefit factor. Annually, postretirement cost-of-living adjustments may also be made to members' benefits, provided the members were hired prior to July 1, 2009. The

normal retirement pension is payable monthly for life; however, options are available for distribution of the member's monthly pension, at reduced rates, to a designated beneficiary upon the member's death. Death and disability benefits are also available through ERS.

Contributions: Member contributions under the old plan are 4% of annual compensation, up to $4,200.00, plus 6% of annual compensation in excess of $4,200.00. Under the old plan, the state pays member contributions in excess of 1.25% of annual compensation. Under the old plan, these state contributions are included in the members' accounts for refund purposes and are used in the computation of the members' earnable compensation for the purpose of computing retirement benefits. Member contributions under the new plan and GSEPS are 1.25% of annual compensation. The RESA's required contribution rate for the year ended June 30, 2020 was 24.66% of annual covered payroll for old and new plan members and 21.64% for GSEPS members. Contributions are expected to finance the costs of benefits earned by employees during the year, with an additional amount to finance any unfunded accrued liability. Employer contributions to the pension plan were $23,525.69 for the current fiscal year.