

**West Central Education District  
Sauk Centre, Minnesota**

**Communications Letter**

**June 30, 2017**



**West Central Education District  
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## **Report on Matters Identified as a Result of the Audit of the Financial Statements**

To the Governing Board and Management  
West Central Education District  
Sauk Centre, Minnesota

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities and General Fund of West Central Education District, Sauk Centre, Minnesota, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. In addition, because of inherent limitations in internal control, including the possibility of management override of controls, misstatements due to error, or fraud may occur and not be detected by such controls. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the District's financial statements will not be prevented or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. The material weaknesses identified are stated within this letter.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or 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.



The accompanying memorandum also includes financial analysis provided as a basis for discussion. The matters discussed herein were considered by us during our audit and they do not modify the opinion expressed in our Independent Auditor's Report dated October 6, 2017 on such statements.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the Governing Board, and others within the District and state oversight agencies and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

*Bergan KDV, Ltd.*

St. Cloud, Minnesota  
October 6, 2017

## **West Central Education District Material Weaknesses**

### **LACK OF SEGREGATION OF ACCOUNTING DUTIES**

The District had a lack of segregation of accounting duties in cash disbursements, cash receipts, and payroll processes due to a limited number of office employees. The lack of adequate segregation of accounting duties could adversely affect the District's ability to initiate, record, process, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. Although this meets the definition of a "material weakness", it may not be practical to correct since the costs of obtaining desirable segregation of accounting duties may exceed benefits that could be derived.

#### **Cash Disbursement Process**

- The District Secretary orders all purchases, receives purchases, and matches purchase orders to invoices.
- The District Bookkeeper enters invoices into the finance system, processes, prints and mails checks, and prepares the bank reconciliation.

#### **Cash Receipt Process**

- The District Secretary can receipt cash, enter receipt into the finance system, prepare deposit slips, and deposits receipts in the bank.

#### **Payroll Process**

- The Payroll Clerk reviews and inputs timesheets and also calculates and generates payroll. The Payroll Clerk prints and mails checks as well.
- It was also noted there was no review of the payroll after data entry.

Management is aware of this condition and will take certain steps to compensate for the lack of segregation but due to the number of staff needed to properly segregate all of the accounting duties, the cost of obtaining desirable segregation of accounting duties can often exceed benefits which could be derived. Due to this reason, management has determined a complete segregation of accounting duties is impractical to correct.

We recommend management, along with the Governing Board, remain aware of this situation, and continually monitor the accounting system including changes that occur.

## **West Central Education District Material Weaknesses**

### **PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

As a function of the audit process, auditors are required to gain an understanding of the District's internal control, including the financial reporting process.

The District does not have an internal control system designed to provide for the preparation of the financial statements and related note disclosures in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. As auditors, we were requested to draft the financial statements and accompanying notes to financial statements. This circumstance is not unusual in a district of your size.

This condition increases the risk that errors could occur which would not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. Even though all management decisions related to financial reporting are made by the District's management and approval of the financial statements and related note disclosures lies with management, 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.

## **West Central Education District Required Communication**

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities and the General Fund of the District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017. Professional standards require that we provide you with the following information related to our audit.

### **OUR RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*, AND THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE**

As stated in our engagement letter, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express opinions about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the District's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. We also considered internal control over compliance with requirements that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit. Also in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, we examined, on a test basis, evidence about the District's compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Compliance Supplement applicable to each of its major federal programs for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the District's compliance with those requirements. While our audit provided a reasonable basis for our opinion, it did not provide a legal determination on the District's compliance with those requirements.

Generally accepted accounting principles provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI) to supplement the basic financial statements. Our responsibility with respect to the RSI, which supplements the basic audit financial statements, is to apply certain limited procedures in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. However, the RSI was not audited and, because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

Our responsibility for the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, as described by professional standards, is to evaluate the presentation of the supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole and to report on whether the supplementary information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

## **West Central Education District Required Communication**

### **PLANNED SCOPE AND TIMING OF THE AUDIT**

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit involved judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested.

Our audit included obtaining an understanding of the District and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Material misstatements may result from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the District or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the District.

### **QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF ACCOUNTING PRACTICES**

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the District are described in the notes to financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year ended June 30, 2017. We noted no transactions entered into by the District during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

Depreciation – The District is currently depreciating its capital assets over their estimated useful lives, as determined by management, using the straight-line method.

Special Education Aid – This Aid is dependent on average daily membership (ADM) values which are not finalized until after the reporting deadline. In addition, this Aid is dependent on the availability of funds and complex formulas that are finalized after reporting deadlines.

Net Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Obligation – This balance is based on an actuarial study using estimates of future obligations of the District for post employment benefits.

Net Pension Liability, Deferred Outflows of Resources Relating to Pension Activity, and Deferred Inflows of Resources relating to Pension Activity – These balances are based on an allocation by the pension plans using estimates based on contributions.



**West Central Education District  
Required Communication**

**QUALITATIVE ASPECTS OF ACCOUNTING PRACTICES (CONTINUED)**

We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the accounting estimates in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

**DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN PERFORMING THE AUDIT**

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

**CORRECTED AND UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS**

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. We identified the following uncorrected misstatement of the financial statements. Management has determined its effects are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

- State aid receivable and revenue were understated.

In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

**DISAGREEMENTS WITH MANAGEMENT**

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

**MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIONS**

We requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter.

**MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER ACCOUNTANTS**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the District's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

**West Central Education District  
Required Communication**

**OTHER AUDIT FINDINGS OR ISSUES**

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the District's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

**OTHER MATTERS**

We applied certain limited procedures to the RSI that supplements the basic financial statements. Our procedures consisted of inquiries of management regarding 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 did not audit the RSI and do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

We were not engaged to report on the other information accompanying the financial statements, but are not RSI. Such information has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on it.

**West Central Education District  
Financial Analysis**

The following pages provide graphic representation of select data pertaining to the financial position and operations of the District for the past five years. Our analysis of each graph is presented to provide a basis for discussion of past performance and how implementing certain changes may enhance future performance. We suggest you view each graph and document if our analysis is consistent with yours.

**GENERAL FUND SOURCES OF REVENUE**

General Fund sources of revenue are summarized as follows:

Year Ended June 30,	Other Local and County Sources		State Sources		Federal Sources		Total
2013	\$ 956,853	40.1%	\$ 421,210	17.7%	\$ 1,007,384	42.2%	\$ 2,385,447
2014	1,343,383	44.6%	741,926	24.6%	927,777	30.8%	3,013,086
2015	1,334,638	43.6%	667,384	21.8%	1,060,912	34.6%	3,062,934
2016	1,547,539	41.3%	832,093	22.2%	1,364,060	36.5%	3,743,692
2017	1,576,160	43.0%	877,068	23.9%	1,215,047	33.1%	3,668,275

Total revenues in the General Fund decreased for the first time over the past five years. Other local and county revenues represented 43.0% of total revenue, which is consistent with the other years presented. Other local and county revenues, which consists primarily of revenues collected from member districts, stayed consistent with the prior year, increasing only 1.8%, or \$28,621. Revenues from state sources increased \$44,975 as a result of additional special education funding. Revenue from federal sources decreased \$149,013 as a result of a decrease in federal spending. This was primarily due the District projecting less available federal funds.

**GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS**

The following table presents five years of comparative operating results for the District's General Fund:

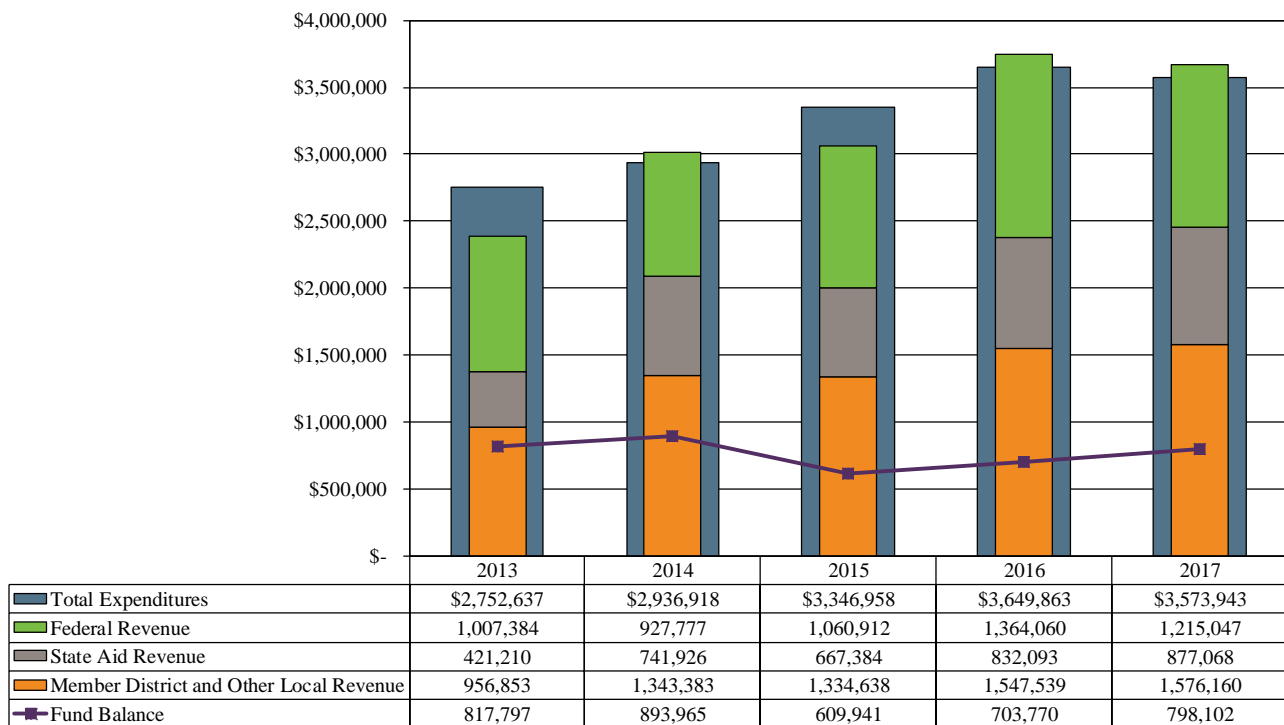
For the Years Ended June 30,	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Revenues	\$ 2,385,447	\$ 3,013,086	\$ 3,062,934	\$ 3,743,692	\$ 3,668,275
Expenditures	<u>2,752,637</u>	<u>2,936,918</u>	<u>3,346,958</u>	<u>3,649,863</u>	<u>3,573,943</u>
Excess of revenues over (under) expenditures	(367,190)	76,168	(284,024)	93,829	94,332
Fund balance, July 1	1,184,987	817,797	893,965	609,941	703,770
<b>Fund Balance, June 30</b>	<b>\$ 817,797</b>	<b>\$ 893,965</b>	<b>\$ 609,941</b>	<b>\$ 703,770</b>	<b>\$ 798,102</b>

## West Central Education District Financial Analysis

### GENERAL FUND OPERATIONS (CONTINUED)

Overall, General Fund revenues decreased 2.0% from the prior year due to a decrease in federal revenues sources as noted on the previous page. General Fund expenditures decreased \$75,590, or 2.1%, from the prior year. The decrease was in special education expenditures, primarily due to a cut back in special education spending due to a projected decrease in federal entitlement.

**Financial Position**



The above graph depicts the financial position of the District over the past five years. As shown above, expenditures have increased steadily for 2013 through 2016 with a slight drop in 2017. Federal revenues stayed relatively consistent from 2013 through 2015 with a slight drop in revenues in 2014. In 2016, revenues increased due to the increase in federal expenditures. This amount decreased in 2017 due to less federal expenditures as mentioned on the previous page. State aid revenues have fluctuated over the five years presented, increasing to its highest point in 2017. Revenues from member districts have increased as total expenditures have increased.

The District's fund balance has decreased \$19,695 from 2013 and decreased \$95,863 from 2014, the highest point in the five years presented. The decrease was a planned spend down relating to the Beacon project improvements in 2015. Positive operations in both 2016 and 2017 have resulted in increases to the fund balance.

**West Central Education District  
Financial Analysis**

**GENERAL FUND BUDGET TO ACTUAL**

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance With Final Budget - Over (under)
	Original	Final		
<b>Revenues</b>				
Other local and county revenues	\$ 1,537,716	\$ 1,551,283	\$ 1,576,160	\$ 24,877
Revenue from state sources	643,936	855,783	877,068	21,285
Revenue from federal sources	1,283,760	1,265,290	1,215,047	(50,243)
Total revenues	3,465,412	3,672,356	3,668,275	(4,081)
<b>Expenditures</b>				
<b>Current</b>				
Administration	30,000	30,000	26,350	(3,650)
District support services	39,450	39,450	40,516	1,066
Elementary and secondary regular instruction	328,818	344,960	349,533	4,573
Special education instruction	3,145,453	3,219,039	3,148,858	(70,181)
Pupil support services	2,300	2,300	1,338	(962)
Fiscal and other fixed cost programs	7,800	7,800	7,348	(452)
Total expenditures	3,553,821	3,643,549	3,573,943	(69,606)
Net change in fund balances	\$ (88,409)	\$ 28,807	\$ 94,332	\$ 65,525

In 2017, the District's total revenues were \$4,081, or 0.1%, under budget. Revenues from federal sources were \$50,243 under budget, this was a result of not spending all funds allocated to allow for some carryover funds.

The District's expenditures were \$69,606 under budget. Special education instruction expenditures were \$70,181 under budget, a large component of this related to funds that were budgeted to flow through to member districts, due to cuts in federal spending, these monies did not flow through.

## **West Central Education District Legislative Summary**

The following is a brief summary of current legislative changes and issues affecting the funding of Minnesota school districts. More detailed and extensive summaries are available from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

### **STATE AID APPROPRIATIONS**

The formula allowance for 2017 General Education Aid was increased \$119 (2%) to \$6,067. For 2018, the formula allowance is set at \$6,188, which is also an increase of 2%.

### **COMPENSATORY REVENUE**

The compensatory pilot grants have been added permanently to regular compensatory revenue at the 2017 level. A percentage of the total compensatory revenue must be used for extended time activities. These percentages are 1.7% for 2018, 3.5% for 2019, and for 2020 and later it will be 3.5% plus the percentage change in the formula from 2019.

### **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LEVY**

The Student Achievement Levy is reduced from \$20 million to \$10 million for 2018 and eliminated for 2019.

### **LEAD IN SCHOOL DRINKING WATER**

By July 1, 2018, districts will be required to begin testing school water for lead. Testing must be completed for all schools within five years. School districts and charter schools must adopt a plan to test school water for lead at least every five years. Lead test results must be made available to the public and parents must be notified when this information is available.

The testing may be included in the ten year facilities plans and districts can use long-term facilities maintenance revenue for lead testing and remediation costs.

### **PAYMENTS TO NONOPERATING FUNDS**

The payment schedule for nonoperating fund aids is moving to six monthly installments from July through December rather than 12 monthly installments.

### **SCHOOL BUILDING BOND AGRICULTURAL CREDIT**

Effective for taxes payable in 2018, there will be a property tax credit on all property classified as agricultural. The credit will be equal to 40% of the tax on the property attributable to school district bonded debt levies. Total amounts available will be \$34.8 million in 2019, \$45.2 million in 2020, and \$52.5 million in 2021.

## **West Central Education District Legislative Summary**

### **LONG-TERM FACILITIES MAINTENANCE REVENUE**

Beginning in 2017, deferred maintenance, health and safety and alternative facilities revenues were rolled into a new long-term facilities maintenance revenue program. This new revenue equals the sum of the product of:

- 1) \$193/APU for 2017, \$292 for 2018, and \$380 for 2019 and later, and
- 2) The lesser of 1 or the ratio of the district's average building age to 35 years
- 3) The approved cost of indoor air quality, fire alarm and suppression and asbestos abatement projects with a cost per site of \$100,000 or more

The 25 large districts currently eligible for alternative facilities revenue continue to be eligible based on approved project costs without a state-imposed per pupil limit.

Districts may choose to issue bonds for the program, levy on a pay as you go basis, or a combination of the two.

Districts are guaranteed to receive at least as much revenue and state aid as they would have received under existing law.

### **EQUITY REVENUE**

For 2017 through 2019, nonmetro school district are eligible for a 16% increase in the sliding portion of their equity revenue. The seven county metro area schools continue to receive a 25% increase over their initial calculation for revenue.

Beginning in 2020, all districts will receive the same 25% increase over the initial calculation for revenue.

For 2017 all revenue increases will be paid out as additional state aid.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

An adjustment to the prior year data and the fiscal year 2016 old formula revenue base used to calculate the hold harmless and group cap will be necessary for closed or restructured programs.

Although there was a change in Federal law removing student awaiting foster care from the definition of "homeless", these students will still be included in the special education funding calculations.

### **NONPUBLIC PUPIL AID**

The definition of "textbook" has been modified to include the on-line books with annual subscription costs. The definition of "software or other educational technology" has been modified to include registration fees for online advanced placement courses.

## **West Central Education District Legislative Summary**

### **VOLUNTARY PREKINDERGARTEN/SCHOOL READINESS PLUS**

A new school readiness plus program has been created for 2018 and 2019 only. This program changes the voluntary preK cap from a limit on the total state aid entitlement to a limit on the number of participants. For 2018 this cap will be 6,160 for voluntary preK and school readiness plus and will be 7,160 for 2019. The cap of 6,160 for 2018 covers the 3,160 2017 voluntary preK participants that have renewed their applications for 2018 plus 3,000 new participants. After 2019 the school readiness plus will be eliminated and the cap for voluntary preK will be 3,160 participants.

### **HOME VISITING REVENUE**

Effective for 2018, on the Pay 2017 levy, the formula for home visiting revenue is increased from \$1.60 to \$3.00 times the population under age 5 residing in the District on September 1 of the last school year.

### **PUPIL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING**

Beginning in 2018, sparsity revenue will increase by 18.2% of the difference between the lesser of the district's actual regular and excess transportation costs, including bus depreciation for the previous year or 105% of the district's cost for the second previous year, and the sum of 4.66% of the district's basic revenue, transportation sparsity revenue and charter school transportation adjustment from the previous year.

### **REVIEW AND COMMENT**

The commissioner will now include comments from district residents in the review and comment on capital projects.

School boards must now hold a public meeting to review the commissioner's review and comment on a proposal before the bond election.

### **NEW FINANCE CODES**

Starting in 2018, there are multiple new finance codes for tracking revenue. Finance code 175 will be used to track revenue related to Title VII – Impact Aid. This finance code will close to balance sheet code 475, Restricted for Title VII Impact Aid. Finance code 185 will be used to track revenue from private sources. This finance code will close to balance sheet 485, restricted for private sources. Finance code 176 will be used to track revenue from payments in lieu of taxes (PILT). This finance code will close to balance sheet 476, restricted for payments in lieu of taxes.

### **SPECIAL ELECTIONS**

District's no longer have the ability to choose any date for special elections. Special elections must now be held on the second Tuesday in February, April, May, August or election day.



## West Central Education District Emerging Issues

### Executive Summary

The following is an executive summary of financial related updates to assist you in staying current on emerging issues in accounting and finance. This summary will give you a preview of the new standards that have been recently issued and what is on the horizon for the near future. The most recent and significant updates include:

- **Accounting Standard Update – GASB Statement No. 75 - Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions** – GASB has issued GASB statement 75 relating to accounting and financial reporting for postemployment benefits other than pensions. The new statement requires governments in all types of OPEB plans to present more extensive note disclosures and required supplementary information (RSI) about their OPEB liabilities.

The following is an extensive summary of the current update. As your continued business partner, we are committed to keeping you informed of new and emerging issues. We are happy to discuss this issue with you further and their applicability to your District.

### **ACCOUNTING STANDARD UPDATE – GASB STATEMENT NO. 75 - ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS**

The primary objective of this Statement is to improve accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for postemployment benefits other than pensions (other postemployment benefits or OPEB). It also improves information provided by state and local governmental employers about financial support for OPEB that is provided by other entities. This Statement results from a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of existing standards of accounting and financial reporting for all postemployment benefits (pensions and OPEB) with regard to providing decision-useful information, supporting assessments of accountability and interperiod equity, and creating additional transparency.

This Statement replaces the requirements of Statements No. 45, *Accounting, and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, as amended, and No. 57, *OPEB Measurements by Agent Employers and Agent Multiple-Employer Plans*, for OPEB. Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*, establishes new accounting and financial reporting requirements for OPEB plans.

GASB Statement 75 requires governments to report a liability on the face of the financial statements for the OPEB that they provide:

- Governments that are responsible only for OPEB liabilities related to their own employees and that provide OPEB through a defined benefit OPEB plan administered through a trust that meets specified criteria will report a *net OPEB liability*—the difference between the total OPEB liability and assets accumulated in the trust and restricted to making benefit payments.
- Governments that participate in a cost-sharing OPEB plan that is administered through a trust that meets the specified criteria will report a liability equal to their *proportionate share of the collective OPEB liability* for all entities participating in the cost-sharing plan.

**West Central Education District  
Emerging Issues**

**ACCOUNTING STANDARD UPDATE – GASB STATEMENT NO. 75 - ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS OTHER THAN PENSIONS (CONTINUED)**

- Governments that do not provide OPEB through a trust that meets specified criteria will report the *total OPEB liability* related to their employees.

GASB Statement 75 carries forward from Statement 45 the option to use a specified alternative measurement method in place of an actuarial valuation for purposes of determining the total OPEB liability for benefits provided through OPEB plans in which there are fewer than 100 plan members (active and inactive). This option was retained in order to reduce costs for smaller governments.

GASB Statement 75 requires governments in all types of OPEB plans to present more extensive note disclosures and required supplementary information (RSI) about their OPEB liabilities. Among the new note disclosures is a description of the effect on the reported OPEB liability of using a discount rate and a healthcare cost trend rate that are one percentage point higher and one percentage point lower than assumed by the government. The new RSI includes a schedule showing the causes of increases and decreases in the OPEB liability and a schedule comparing a government's actual OPEB contributions to its contribution requirements.

Information provided above was obtained from [www.gasb.org](http://www.gasb.org).