

**AUDIT REPORT
OF THE
LEARNING COMMUNITY OF
DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES**

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2016

**This document is an official public record of the State of Nebraska, issued by
the Auditor of Public Accounts.**

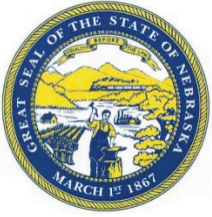
**Modification of this document may change the accuracy of the original
document and may be prohibited by law.**

Issued on April 20, 2017

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Financial Section	
Independent Auditor's Report	1 - 2
Management's Discussion and Analysis	3 - 7
Basic Financial Statements:	
Government-Wide Financial Statements:	
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis	8
Statement of Activities - Cash Basis	9
Fund Financial Statements:	
Balance Sheet - Governmental Funds - Cash Basis	10
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds - Cash Basis	11
Notes to Financial Statements	12 - 19
Other Information:	
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - General Fund	20
Budgetary Comparison Schedule - Elementary Learning Centers Fund	21
Notes to Other Information	22
Government Auditing Standards Section	
Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	23 - 24



NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Charlie Janssen
State Auditor

Charlie.Janssen@nebraska.gov
PO Box 98917
State Capitol, Suite 2303
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
402-471-2111, FAX 402-471-3301
www.auditors.nebraska.gov

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Learning Community Coordinating Council
Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties
Omaha, Nebraska

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties (Learning Community), as of and for the year ended August 31, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Learning Community's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 1. This includes determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Learning Community's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the

Learning Community's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used, and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made, by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Learning Community as of August 31, 2016, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position for the year then ended in conformity with the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

Other Matters

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements as a whole that collectively comprise the Learning Community's basic financial statements. The Management's Discussion and Analysis and Budgetary Comparison information are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

Management's Discussion and Analysis and Budgetary Comparison information have 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 such information.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 19, 2017, on our consideration of the Learning Community's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Learning Community's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Mark Avery, CPA
Audit Manager

April 19, 2017

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties (Learning Community) presents this Management's Discussion and Analysis of its financial statements to provide a narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities as of and for the fiscal years ended August 31, 2016 and 2015. Please read it in conjunction with the Learning Community's financial statements, which begin on page 8.

Financial Highlights

- General Fund receipts decreased for the years ended August 31, 2016 and 2015, with receipts of \$503,546 and \$727,523, respectively. General Fund disbursements decreased from \$796,967 in fiscal year 2015 to \$609,104 in fiscal year 2016. The Learning Community's General Fund balance decreased from \$526,178 at the end of fiscal year 2015 to \$420,620 at the end of fiscal year 2016.
- Elementary Learning Centers Fund receipts increased for the year ended August 31, 2016, compared to the year ended August 31, 2015, with receipts of \$8,246,498 and \$5,483,795, respectively, primarily from increases in property tax receipts due to increased property valuations for 2016. The increase in Elementary Learning Centers Fund disbursements is due to continued expansion of programming offerings including the first full year of operations of the Learning Community Center of North Omaha, which was established in January 2015, and the establishment of the family learning programs at Gateway elementary and Educare of Omaha facility near Indian Hills elementary.

Using This Annual Report

The annual report consists of a series of financial statements and other information, as follows:

- Management's Discussion and Analysis introduces the basic financial statements and provides an analytical overview of the Learning Community's financial activities.
- The Government-Wide financial statements consist of a Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis and a Statement of Activities – Cash Basis. These statements provide information about the activities of the Learning Community as a whole and present an overall view of the Learning Community's finances.
- The Fund financial statements tell how governmental services were financed in the short term as well as what remains for future spending. Fund financial statements report the Learning Community's operations in more detail than the Government-Wide financial statements by providing information about the most significant funds. The Fund financial statements of the Learning Community only include governmental activities. The Learning Community has no business type (proprietary) or fiduciary funds.
- Notes to the financial statements provide additional information essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the basic financial statements.
- The budgetary information further explains and supports the financial statements with a comparison of the Learning Community's budget for the year.

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
(Continued)

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE LEARNING COMMUNITY

Net Position

The Learning Community's net position reported in the Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis represents the financial position of the Learning Community. The Learning Community's net position at August 31, 2016 and 2015 amounted to \$7,065,815 and \$6,560,351, respectively. The increase in the financial position primarily resulted from an increase in property tax receipts in the Elementary Learning Centers Fund to fund future operations of the expanding program offerings.

Governmental Activities

A summary of the governmental activities of the Learning Community are as follows:

	Fiscal year ended <u>August 31, 2016</u>	Fiscal year ended <u>August 31, 2015</u>	Change from Prior Year <u></u>
Receipts:			
Property and other taxes	\$ 8,212,604	\$ 4,939,063	\$ 3,273,541
State appropriations	1,154,383	1,265,237	(110,854)
Investment earnings	3,932	14,546	(10,614)
Other	<u>2,520</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>2,520</u>
Total receipts	<u>9,373,439</u>	<u>6,218,846</u>	<u>3,154,593</u>
Disbursements:			
Elementary learning centers	8,258,871	7,031,880	1,226,991
Diversity	7,095	17,740	(10,645)
Coordinating Council	11,251	18,616	(7,365)
Administration	<u>590,758</u>	<u>760,611</u>	<u>(169,853)</u>
Total disbursements	<u>8,867,975</u>	<u>7,828,847</u>	<u>1,039,128</u>
Change in net position	<u>\$ 505,464</u>	<u>\$ (1,610,001)</u>	<u>\$ (2,115,465)</u>

The increase in governmental disbursements was primarily due to the increase in amounts expended for elementary learning center program activities.

Individual Fund Analysis

As mentioned previously, the Fund financial statements report the Learning Community's activities in more detail than the Government-Wide statements by providing information about the most significant funds. The Fund financial statements of the Learning Community only include governmental activities – the General Fund, Capital Projects Fund, and the Elementary Learning Centers Fund.

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

(Continued)

General Fund – The General Fund is funded by appropriations from the State of Nebraska. The General Fund fund balance amounted to \$420,620 at August 31, 2016, a decrease of \$105,558 from the fund balance at August 31, 2015, primarily due to the reduction of appropriations from the State of Nebraska from \$725,000 for 2015 to \$500,000 for 2016. General Fund disbursements were less than total budgeted disbursements in the amount of \$204,457. Excess amounts are being carried over to the 2016-2017 fiscal year to fund future programs and ongoing operations of the Learning Community.

Capital Projects Fund – The Capital Projects Fund consists of unspent tax levies restricted by State statute for capital projects and lease or leasehold improvements. The Capital Projects Fund fund balance amounted to \$787,337 at August 31, 2016, a decrease of \$112,500 from the fund balance at August 31, 2015. In 2016, \$735,895 was expended for purposes of leases and leasehold improvements for elementary learning centers.

Elementary Learning Centers Fund – The Elementary Learning Centers Fund is funded through taxes and other receipts restricted for purposes of supporting elementary learning center program activities. The Elementary Learning Centers Fund fund balance amounted to \$5,857,858 as of August 31, 2016. Disbursements of \$7,522,976 were less than budgeted disbursements of \$9,835,927 as programs for elementary learning centers continue to be more established. Excess amounts are being carried over to fund program activities in future years.

Economic Factors Bearing on the Learning Community's Future

At the time these financial statements were prepared, the Learning Community was aware of several circumstances that impact the future activities of the Learning Community:

- The taxable property valuation for the Learning Community for 2016/2017 increased by 3.88% from the prior year property valuation.
- The General Fund Common Levy Fund tax levy rate for 2017 is consistent with the 2016 levy rate at \$0.95 per \$100 of assessed valuation.
- The Elementary Learning Centers Fund tax levy rate for 2017 was approved at \$0.014 per \$100 of assessed valuation, compared with the 2016 levy rate at \$0.015 per \$100 of assessed valuation.
- The Capital Projects Fund tax levy rate for 2017 is consistent with the 2016 levy rate at \$0.00125 per \$100 of assessed valuation.
- There was no tax levy approved for 2016 for the Special Building Fund Common Levy.
- General Fund monies, which are received through State appropriations, are subject to modification by the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature.

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

(Continued)

- The passage of Legislative Bill 1067 (2016), which was signed into law on April 20, 2016, brought about the following changes for the Learning Community beginning in the 2016/2017 fiscal year as follows:
 - Beginning January 5, 2017, the Learning Community Coordinating Council (Council) consists only of the twelve elected council members, two per subcouncil, until their terms expire. The six council members appointed by the school districts' board(s) no longer serve on the Council.
 - Beginning September 1, 2017, the General Fund Common Levy (between \$0.00 and \$0.95 within the \$1.05 levy limit per \$100 of assessed valuation) tax receipts for member school districts will be discontinued. Additionally, levy authority for the Special Building Fund Common Levy for member school districts (between \$0.00 and \$0.02 per \$100 of assessed valuation) is discontinued.
 - Effective for the 2017-2018 school year, all learning community school districts will return to the option enrollment program established pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-234 (Cum. Supp. 2016). A student enrolled in a learning community school district school for any part of school year 2016-2017 (unless having graduated or been expelled) as an open enrollment student pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2110 (Cum. Supp. 2016) will continue as an open enrollment student until departure from said school building. Effective for the 2017-2018 school year, therefore, the Learning Community will no longer be involved in the administration of an open enrollment program.
 - The Learning Community will no longer be involved in the submission of any member school district's plans for reorganization.
 - Learning Community member school districts will participate in the community achievement plan for the Learning Community. Based upon a formula, community achievement plan aid will be paid to each school district that participates in a community achievement plan. The Council will submit a community achievement plan to the State Board of Education for approval. The plan will be developed, implemented, and evaluated with the Learning Community and member school districts. Also participating in that process will be the Student Achievement Coordinator appointed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the Educational Services Units (ESU 3 & 19).
 - As administered by the NDE, transition aid will be payable for school fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.
 - The Council will be required to select two members to meet at least twice annually with the Superintendent Advisory Committee.
 - The Council will no longer be required to approve or disapprove the poverty plans and limited English proficiency plans for the member school districts.

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

(Concluded)

Contacting the Learning Community's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide the citizens, taxpayers, legislators, and member school districts with a general overview of the Learning Community's finances and to demonstrate the Learning Community's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties, 1612 N. 24th Street, Omaha NE, 68110.

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis
August 31, 2016

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
ASSETS	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,640,252
Cash held by County Treasurer	<u>425,563</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 7,065,815</u>
NET POSITION	
Restricted for:	
Leases and leasehold improvements	787,337
Research and evaluation	418,163
Elementary learning centers	5,518,201
Unrestricted	<u>342,114</u>
Total net position	<u>7,065,815</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

Statement of Activities – Cash Basis
For the Year Ended August 31, 2016

	FUNCTION				
	Governmental Activities Total	Administration	Coordinating Council	Elementary Learning Centers	Diversity
DISBURSEMENTS					
Personnel services	\$ 554,122	319,124	--	234,998	--
Contracted/purchased services	7,414,365	150,836	11,031	7,245,403	7,095
Supplies and materials	67,596	25,021	--	42,575	--
Occupancy	741,174	5,279	--	735,895	--
Other	90,718	90,498	220	--	--
Total disbursements	<u>8,867,975</u>	<u>590,758</u>	<u>11,251</u>	<u>8,258,871</u>	<u>7,095</u>
RECEIPTS					
Property and other taxes	8,212,604				
State appropriations	1,154,383				
Investment earnings	3,932				
Other	2,520				
Total receipts	<u>9,373,439</u>				
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	505,464				
NET POSITION, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>6,560,351</u>				
NET POSITION, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 7,065,815</u>				

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds – Cash Basis
 For the Year Ended August 31, 2016

	Major Funds			Total Governmental Funds
	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Elementary Learning Centers Fund	
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 420,620	754,558	5,465,074	6,640,252
Cash held by County Treasurer	--	32,779	392,784	425,563
Total assets	<u>\$ 420,620</u>	<u>787,337</u>	<u>5,857,858</u>	<u>7,065,815</u>
FUND BALANCES				
Restricted for leases and leasehold improvements	--	787,337	--	787,337
Restricted for research and evaluation	78,506	--	339,657	418,163
Restricted for elementary learning centers use	--	--	5,518,201	5,518,201
Unassigned	<u>342,114</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>342,114</u>
Total fund balances	<u>420,620</u>	<u>787,337</u>	<u>5,857,858</u>	<u>7,065,815</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

**Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances –
Governmental Funds – Cash Basis**
For the Year Ended August 31, 2016

	Major Funds			Total Governmental Funds
	General Fund	Capital Projects Fund	Elementary Learning Centers Fund	
RECEIPTS				
Property and other taxes	\$ --	622,835	7,589,769	8,212,604
State appropriations	500,000	--	654,383	1,154,383
Investment earnings	1,026	560	2,346	3,932
Other	2,520	--	--	2,520
Total receipts	<u>503,546</u>	<u>623,395</u>	<u>8,246,498</u>	<u>9,373,439</u>
DISBURSEMENTS				
Elementary learning centers	--	735,895	7,522,976	8,258,871
Diversity	7,095	--	--	7,095
Coordinating Council	11,251	--	--	11,251
Administration	590,758	--	--	590,758
Total disbursements	<u>609,104</u>	<u>735,895</u>	<u>7,522,976</u>	<u>8,867,975</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	(105,558)	(112,500)	723,522	505,464
FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>526,178</u>	<u>899,837</u>	<u>5,134,336</u>	<u>6,560,351</u>
FUND BALANCES, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 420,620</u>	<u>787,337</u>	<u>5,857,858</u>	<u>7,065,815</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies of the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties (Learning Community) consistently applied in the preparation of the accompanying financial statements. The Learning Community's financial statements are presented on the cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

A. Reporting Entity

The Learning Community is a tax-exempt political subdivision in the state of Nebraska organized under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2102 (Reissue 2014). The geographic area served by the Learning Community consists of the metropolitan area surrounding Omaha, Nebraska generally located within Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington Counties and includes the geographic territory of the 11 school districts headquartered in Douglas and Sarpy Counties. The Learning Community is governed by the Learning Community Coordinating Council (Council), and, with regard to each of its six Subcouncil Districts, an Achievement Subcouncil composed of the Learning Community Coordinating Council's members who represent the Subcouncil District.

Effective January 5, 2017, under Legislative Bill 1067 (2016), the Council consists only of the twelve elected council members, two per subcouncil, until their term expires. The six council members appointed by the member school districts' board(s) no longer serve on the Council.

The Learning Community's financial statements are presented as the primary government and include all the funds and activities for which the Learning Community is financially accountable.

B. Basis of Presentation

Government-Wide Financial Statements. The government-wide financial statements include the Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis and the Statement of Activities – Cash Basis, which present information about the Learning Community as a whole. The statements present the Learning Community's financial statements as governmental activities. The Learning Community has no business type or fiduciary activities. Governmental activities are generally financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange transactions.

Fund Financial Statements. Fund financial statements report information about the Learning Community's funds. The Learning Community consists of five funds, the General Fund Common Levy Fund, the Special Building Fund Common Levy Fund, the General Fund, the Capital Projects Fund, and the Elementary Learning Centers Fund. Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-1073 (Cum. Supp. 2016) and § 79-1073.01 (Cum. Supp. 2016), General Fund Common Levy tax receipts and Special Building Fund Common

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Continued)

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Levy tax receipts are distributed directly by county treasurers to member school districts rather than deposited in a Learning Community depository account and distributed by the Learning Community. The activities of the General Fund Common Levy and Special Building Fund Common Levy funds are not included in the financial statements of the Learning Community because no activity is recorded to the Learning Community's funds.

Separate columns are presented for each major governmental fund in the fund financial statements.

The Learning Community has three governmental funds in the fund financial statements, described below:

General Fund – The General Fund is the operating fund of the Learning Community. It is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in other funds.

Capital Projects Fund – The Capital Projects Fund is used to account for taxes levied and other receipts used to acquire or improve sites and/or erect, alter or improve buildings, and to finance facility lease payments and any leasehold improvements.

Elementary Learning Centers Fund – The Elementary Learning Centers Fund is use to account for taxes levied and other receipts used to support elementary learning center program activities.

C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The Government-Wide and Fund financial statements are presented using a cash basis measurement focus. The reported net position and fund balances are considered a measurement of “available cash and investments”. The activities reported focus on cash received and cash disbursed.

Under the cash basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when cash is received by the Learning Community, and expenditures are recognized when paid.

D. Budget Process

The Learning Community is required by State law to adopt annual operating budgets at the fund level for its five funds. Budgets are prepared and presented on the cash basis of accounting, which is consistent with the basis of accounting used in presenting the basic financial statements and with the requirements of the State of Nebraska Budget Act.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Continued)

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Public hearings are held to obtain taxpayer comments regarding the proposed budget, and the budget is legally adopted by the Learning Community Coordinating Council on or before September 1 through passage of a resolution in accordance with State statutes. Total disbursements cannot legally exceed the adopted budget. Any revisions for increases in the budget must be approved by the Learning Community Coordinating Council following a hearing to obtain taxpayer comments.

E. Property Taxes and Common Levies

Under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2104 (Cum. Supp. 2016), the Learning Community Coordinating Council has the authority to levy the following property taxes:

- General Fund Common Levy (between \$0.00 and \$0.95 within the \$1.05 levy limit as noted in Neb. Rev. Stat § 77-3442 (Cum. Supp. 2016) per \$100 of assessed valuation). General Fund Common Levy tax receipts are distributed by county treasurers directly to member school districts based upon the amount which the Learning Community Coordinating Council certifies for each member school district in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-1073 (Cum. Supp. 2016).

Effective September 1, 2017, under Legislative Bill 1067 (2016), the General Fund Common Levy tax receipts for member school districts are discontinued.

- Special Building Fund Common Levy (between \$0.00 and \$0.02 within the \$1.05 levy limit as noted in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-3442 (Cum. Supp. 2016) per \$100 of assessed valuation). Special Building Fund Common Levy tax receipts are distributed by county treasurers directly to member school districts based upon the amount which the Learning Community Coordinating Council certifies for each member school district in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-1073.01 (Cum. Supp. 2016).

Effective September 1, 2017, under Legislative Bill 1067 (2016), the levy authority for the Special Building Common Levy for member school districts (between \$0.00 and \$0.02 per \$100 of assessed valuation) is discontinued.

- Capital Projects Levy (between \$0.00 and \$0.005, as noted in Neb Rev. Stat § 77-3442 (Cum. Supp. 2016), per \$100 of assessed valuation) to be used by the Learning Community for capital projects related to elementary learning centers or new focus schools or programs.
- Elementary Learning Center Levy (between \$0.00 and \$0.015, as noted in Neb Rev. Stat § 77-3442 (Cum. Supp. 2016), per \$100 of assessed valuation) for elementary learning center operations, pilot projects and employees.

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Continued)

1. **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies** (Continued)

The property tax requirement resulting from the budgeting process is utilized to establish the tax levy in accordance with State statutes, which attaches as an enforceable lien on the property within the Learning Community as of December 31. Taxes are due as of that date. One half of the real estate taxes become delinquent after the following April 1 and the second one half is delinquent after August 1. The combined tax levy of the Learning Community for the year ended August 31, 2016 per \$100 of assessed valuation was as follows:

	<u>Levy Rate</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General Fund Common Levy	\$ 0.95	\$ 491,626,282
Special Building Fund Common Levy	0.00	--
Capital Projects Levy	0.00125	646,877
Elementary Learning Center Levy	0.015	7,762,520

Total receipts by county treasurers and distributions to the member school districts under the common levies for the year ended August 31, 2016 are as follows:

	<u>General Fund Common Levy</u>	<u>Special Building Fund Common Levy</u>
Cash held by county treasurers, August 31, 2015	\$ 7,756,919	\$ (112)
Total collections, net of 1% county treasurer commission	500,333,803	220
Less distributions to member school districts	(499,031,450)	(117)
Cash held by county treasurers, August 31, 2016	<u>\$ 9,059,272</u>	<u>\$ (9)</u>

F. Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Learning Community's cash and cash equivalents are considered to be cash and short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

G. Net Position

Net position of the Learning Community is classified in two components:

- *Restricted net position* is noncapital net position that must be used for a particular purpose, as specified by creditors, grantors, contributors or laws or regulations external to the Learning Community.
- *Unrestricted net position* is remaining net position that does not meet the definition of *restricted*.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Continued)

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

H. Fund Balances

In the governmental fund financial statements, fund balances are classified as follows:

Nonspendable – This component of fund balance consists of amounts that are not in a spendable form or are required to be maintained intact. At August 31, 2016, the Learning Community had no nonspendable fund balances.

Restricted – This component of fund balance consists of amounts that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by external resource providers, constitutionally, or through enabling legislation. Effectively, restrictions may be changed or lifted only with the consent of resource providers. At August 31, 2016, the Learning Community had restricted fund balances of \$6,723,701.

Committed – This component of fund balance consist of amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes determined by a formal action by the Learning Community Coordinating Council. Commitments may be changed or lifted only by the District taking the same formal action that imposed the constraint originally. At August 31, 2016, the Learning Community had no committed fund balances.

Assigned – This component of fund balance consists of amounts intended to be used by the Learning Community for specific purposes as intended by the Learning Community Coordinating Council. At August 31, 2016, the Learning Community had no assigned fund balances.

Unassigned – This component of fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes all amounts not contained in the other classifications. Unassigned amounts are technically available for any purpose.

The Learning Community first applies restricted resources when a disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted resources are available.

I. Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with the cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of receipts and disbursements during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Continued)

1. **Summary of Significant Accounting Policies** (Concluded)

J. Subsequent Events

The Learning Community considered events occurring through April 19, 2017 for recognition or disclosure in the financial statements as subsequent events. That date is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

2. **Deposits**

Neb. Rev. Stat. § 77-2341 (Reissue 2009) provides that the Learning Community Coordinating Council may invest in the following:

[C]ertificates of deposit, in time deposits, and in any securities in which the state investment officer is authorized to invest pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act and as provided in the authorized investment guidelines of the Nebraska Investment Council in effect on the date the investment is made.

Deposits

As of August 31, 2016, the carrying amount of the Learning Community's deposits was \$6,640,252 and the bank balance was \$7,058,021. The deposits were fully collateralized at August 31, 2016.

Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in event of a bank failure, the Learning Community's deposits may not be returned. The Learning Community does not have a formal deposit policy for custodial credit risk beyond requirements set forth by the State statutes. At August 31, 2016, the Learning Community has no deposits exposed to custodial credit risk.

3. **Funds Held by County Treasurer**

Funds in the amount of \$323,398, \$99,635, and \$2,530 were held by the Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington County Treasurers, respectively, for the Elementary Learning Centers Fund and the Capital Projects Fund of the Learning Community as of August 31, 2016. These amounts are remitted to the Learning Community subsequent to year end.

4. **Operating Lease Commitments**

The Learning Community leases office space under various operating lease agreements, which have non-cancelable lease terms in excess of one year. Rental expenditures relating to these leases for the year ending August 31, 2016 amounted to \$735,895.

The following is a schedule by year of future minimum lease payments under operating leases as of August 31, 2016 that have initial or remaining lease terms in excess of one year:

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
(Continued)

4. **Operating Lease Commitments** (Concluded)

<u>Year Ended August 31,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2017	\$ 654,637
2018	656,813
2019	659,032
2020	693,783
2021	702,590
2022-2025	2,094,599

5. **Contingencies**

The Learning Community is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft; damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Learning Community carries commercial insurance for risks of loss including workers' compensation. The Learning Community assumes liability for any deductibles and claims in excess of coverage limitations. Settled claims resulting from these risks have not exceeded commercial insurance coverage since its inception in January 2009. Significant coverage includes:

	<u>Maximum Coverage</u>
General Liability Claim	\$ 2,000,000
Workers' Compensation Claim	\$ 500,000
Crime/Employee Dishonesty Claim	\$ 1,000,000
Auto Claim	\$ 1,000,000
Umbrella Policy	\$ 3,000,000
School Leader Risk Protector	\$ 3,000,000

6. **Subsequent Events**

The passage of Legislative Bill 1067 (2016), which was signed into law by the Governor on April 20, 2016, will bring about the following changes for the Learning Community commencing with the 2016/2017 fiscal year:

- Beginning January 5, 2017, the Learning Community Coordinating Council (Council) will consist only of the twelve elected council members, two per subcouncil, until their terms expire. The six council members appointed by the school districts' board(s) will no longer serve on the Council.
- Beginning September 1, 2017, the General Fund Common Levy (between \$0.00 and \$0.95 within the \$1.05 levy limit per \$100 of assessed valuation) tax receipts for member school districts will be discontinued. Additionally, levy authority for the Special Building Fund Common Levy for member school districts (between \$0.00 and \$0.02 per \$100 of assessed valuation) will be discontinued.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Concluded)

6. Subsequent Events (Concluded)

- Effective for the 2017-2018 school year, all learning community school districts will return to the option enrollment program established pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-234 (Cum. Supp. 2016). A student enrolled in a learning community school district school for any part of school year 2016-2017 (unless having graduated or been expelled) as an open enrollment student pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2110 (Cum. Supp. 2016) will continue as an open enrollment student until departure from said school building. Effective for the 2017-2018 school year, therefore, the Learning Community will no longer be involved in the administration of an open enrollment program.
- The Learning Community will no longer be involved in the submission of any member school districts' plan for reorganization.
- Learning Community member school districts will participate in the community achievement plan for the Learning Community. Based upon a formula, community achievement plan aid will be paid to each school district that participates in a community achievement plan. The Council will submit a community achievement plan to the State Board of Education for approval. The plan will be developed, implemented, and evaluated with the Learning Community and member school districts. Also participating in that process will be the Student Achievement Coordinator appointed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) and the Educational Services Units (ESU 3 & 19).
- As administered by the NDE, transition aid will be payable for school fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.
- The Council will be required to select two members to meet at least twice annually with the Superintendent Advisory Committee.
- The Council will no longer be required to approve or disapprove the poverty plans and limited English proficiency plans for the member school districts.

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

**Other Information –
Budgetary Comparison Schedule – General Fund
For the Year Ended August 31, 2016**

	BUDGETED AMOUNTS		ACTUAL AMOUNTS	VARIANCE WITH FINAL BUDGET - POSITIVE (NEGATIVE)
	ORIGINAL	FINAL		
RECEIPTS				
State appropriations	\$ 500,000	500,000	500,000	--
Investment earnings	3,000	3,000	1,026	(1,974)
Other	--	--	2,520	2,520
Total receipts	<u>503,000</u>	<u>503,000</u>	<u>503,546</u>	<u>546</u>
DISBURSEMENTS				
Diversity	92,601	92,601	7,095	85,506
Coordinating Council	17,500	17,500	11,251	6,249
Administration	703,460	703,460	590,758	112,702
Total disbursements	<u>813,561</u>	<u>813,561</u>	<u>609,104</u>	<u>204,457</u>
DEFICIENCY OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	(310,561)	(310,561)	(105,558)	205,003
FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>528,264</u>	<u>528,264</u>	<u>526,178</u>	<u>(2,086)</u>
FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 217,703</u>	<u>217,703</u>	<u>420,620</u>	<u>202,917</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

**Other Information –
Budgetary Comparison Schedule – Elementary Learning Centers Fund
For the Year Ended August 31, 2016**

	<u>BUDGETED AMOUNTS</u>			VARIANCE WITH FINAL BUDGET - POSITIVE (NEGATIVE)
	<u>ORIGINAL</u>	<u>FINAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL AMOUNTS</u>	
RECEIPTS				
Property taxes	\$ 7,684,895	7,684,895	7,589,769	(95,126)
State appropriations	654,383	654,383	654,383	--
Investment earnings	4,500	4,500	2,346	(2,154)
Total receipts	<u>8,343,778</u>	<u>8,343,778</u>	<u>8,246,498</u>	<u>(97,280)</u>
DISBURSEMENTS				
Elementary learning centers	<u>9,835,927</u>	<u>9,835,927</u>	<u>7,522,976</u>	<u>2,312,951</u>
Total disbursements	<u>9,835,927</u>	<u>9,835,927</u>	<u>7,522,976</u>	<u>2,312,951</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF RECEIPTS OVER DISBURSEMENTS	(1,492,149)	(1,492,149)	723,522	2,215,671
FUND BALANCE, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>5,098,566</u>	<u>5,098,566</u>	<u>5,134,336</u>	<u>35,770</u>
FUND BALANCE, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 3,606,417</u>	<u>3,606,417</u>	<u>5,857,858</u>	<u>2,251,441</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES

NOTES TO OTHER INFORMATION

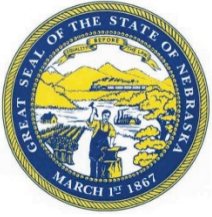
For the Year Ended August 31, 2016

BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE

The Learning Community has provided budgetary comparison schedules for the General Fund and for each major special revenue fund that has a legally adopted annual budget. The budgetary comparison schedules include the original budget and final budget amounts. The original budget is the first complete appropriated budget adjusted by reserves, transfers, and other legally authorized changes before the beginning of the fiscal year. The original budget would also include amounts automatically carried over from prior years when required by law. The final budget is the original budget adjusted by all reserves, transfers, and other legally authorized changes applicable to the fiscal year as approved by the Learning Community Coordinating Council or otherwise legally authorized.

The Learning Community is required by State law to adopt annual operating budgets at the fund level for its five funds. Budgets are prepared and presented on the cash basis of accounting, which is consistent with the basis of accounting used in presenting the basic financial statements and with the requirements of the State of Nebraska Budget Act.

Public hearings are held to obtain taxpayer comments regarding the proposed budget, and the budget is legally adopted by the Learning Community Coordinating Council on or before September 1 through passage of a resolution in accordance with State statutes. Total disbursements cannot legally exceed the adopted budget. Any revisions for increases in the budget must be approved by the Learning Community Coordinating Council following a hearing to obtain taxpayer comments.



NEBRASKA AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Charlie Janssen
State Auditor

Charlie.Janssen@nebraska.gov
PO Box 98917
State Capitol, Suite 2303
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
402-471-2111, FAX 402-471-3301
www.auditors.nebraska.gov

**LEARNING COMMUNITY OF DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES
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***

Independent Auditor's Report

Learning Community Coordinating Council
Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties
Omaha, Nebraska

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Learning Community of Douglas and Sarpy Counties (Learning Community) as of and for the year ended August 31, 2016, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Learning Community's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated April 19, 2017. The report notes the financial statements were prepared on the cash basis of accounting.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Learning Community's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Learning Community's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Learning Community'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 deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Learning Community'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 first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Learning Community’s financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

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



Mark Avery, CPA
Audit Manager

April 19, 2017