

# **CONCORD AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

Annual Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2021

(With Independent Auditors' Report Thereon)

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors  
Concord Area Special Education Collaborative

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Concord Area Special Education Collaborative (the Collaborative), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Collaborative's basic financial statements as listed in the Table of Contents.

#### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

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

#### ***Auditors' 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 Audit 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 auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the

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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 financial position of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Concord Area Special Education Collaborative, as of June 30, 2021, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### ***Emphasis of Matter***

As discussed in Note 14 to the financial statements, in fiscal year 2021 the Collaborative adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

### ***Other Matters***

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

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that Management's Discussion and Analysis, the Budgetary Comparison of the General Fund, and certain Pension and OPEB schedules be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who consider it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with evidence sufficient to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

#### ***Other Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Collaborative's basic financial statements. The accompanying supplementary information appearing on pages 49 through 51 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying



accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 on our consideration of the Collaborative'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 solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Collaborative's 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 Collaborative's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanson".

Andover, Massachusetts  
December 3, 2021

## MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

As management of the Concord Area Special Education Collaborative (the Collaborative), we offer readers this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities of the Collaborative for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021.

### **Overview of the Financial Statements**

This discussion and analysis is intended to serve as an introduction to the basic financial statements. The basic financial statements comprise three components: (1) government-wide financial statements, (2) fund financial statements, and (3) notes to financial statements. This report also contains required and other supplementary information in addition to the basic financial statements themselves.

### ***Government-Wide Financial Statements***

The government-wide financial statements are designed to provide readers with a broad overview of our finances in a manner similar to a private-sector business.

The Statement of Net Position presents information on all assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows/inflows of resources with the difference reported as net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the financial position is improving or deteriorating.

The Statement of Activities presents information on how the Collaborative's net position changed during the most recent fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Thus, revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in future fiscal periods (e.g., uncollected tuition and fees and earned but unused vacation leave).

### ***Fund Financial Statements***

A fund is a grouping of related accounts that is used to maintain control over resources that have been segregated for specific activities or objectives. Fund accounting is used to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements. All of the funds can be divided into two categories: governmental funds and fiduciary funds.

### ***Governmental Funds***

Governmental funds are used to account for essentially the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. However, unlike the government-wide financial statements, governmental fund financial statements focus on near-term inflows and outflows of spendable resources, as well as on balances of spendable resources

available at the end of the fiscal year. Such information may be useful in evaluating the Collaborative's near-term financing requirements.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the long-term impact of the government's near-term financing decisions. Both the governmental fund Balance Sheet and the governmental fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances provide a reconciliation to facilitate this comparison between governmental funds and governmental activities.

### ***Fiduciary Funds***

Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are not available to support the Collaborative's own programs.

### ***Notes to Financial Statements***

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the government-wide and fund financial statements.

### ***Required/Other Supplementary Information***

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report also presents certain required supplementary information which is required to be disclosed by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and other supplementary information that is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

### **Financial Highlights**

- As of the close of the current fiscal year, net position in governmental activities was \$4,295,814, a change of \$1,594,801.
- As of the close of the current fiscal year, governmental funds reported combined ending fund balances of \$7,650,760, a change of \$1,375,440 in comparison to the prior year.
- At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance for the General Fund was \$4,767,427, a change of \$(621,618) in comparison to the prior year.

## Government-Wide Financial Analysis

The following is a summary of condensed government-wide financial data for the current and prior fiscal year.

### NET POSITION

	Governmental Activities	
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current and other assets	\$ 8,301,997	\$ 6,834,644
Capital assets	<u>1,304,531</u>	<u>1,162,273</u>
Total assets	9,606,528	7,996,917
Deferred outflows of resources	1,132,093	344,305
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Other liabilities	651,237	559,326
Long-term liabilities	<u>3,083,844</u>	<u>4,653,680</u>
Total liabilities	3,735,081	5,213,006
Deferred inflows of resources	2,707,726	427,203
<b>Net Position</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	1,304,531	1,162,273
Restricted	2,026,682	87,657
Unrestricted	<u>964,601</u>	<u>1,451,083</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 4,295,814</u>	<u>\$ 2,701,013</u>

As noted earlier, net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. At the close of the fiscal year, total net position was \$4,295,814, a change of \$1,594,801 in comparison to the prior year.

A portion of net position, \$1,304,531, reflects our investment in capital assets (e.g., transportation vehicles), less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. These capital assets are used to provide services to citizens; consequently, these assets are not available for future spending. Although the investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources needed to repay this debt must be provided from other sources, since the capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate these liabilities.

An additional portion of net position, \$2,026,682, represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The remaining balance of unrestricted net position, \$964,601, may be used to meet the Collaborative's ongoing obligations to non-member and member districts and creditors.

**CHANGES IN NET POSITION**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Program revenues:		
Charges for services	\$ 6,153,842	\$ 6,162,903
Operating grants and contributions	3,394,667	3,540,821
General revenues:		
School year program member tuition and fees	4,557,272	4,974,689
School year program non-member tuition and fees	3,059,064	2,882,209
Summer program tuition and fees	457,000	577,671
Investment income	5,042	46,932
Miscellaneous	<u>128,108</u>	<u>75,445</u>
Total revenues	17,754,995	18,260,670
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administration	1,164,220	737,278
Supervision	898,890	1,003,664
Instruction	8,388,197	8,728,599
Transportation	<u>5,708,887</u>	<u>7,093,646</u>
Total expenses	<u>16,160,194</u>	<u>17,563,187</u>
Change in net position	1,594,801	697,483
Net position - beginning of year	<u>2,701,013</u>	<u>2,003,530</u>
Net position - end of year	<u>\$ 4,295,814</u>	<u>\$ 2,701,013</u>

***Governmental Activities***

Governmental activities for the year resulted in a change in net position of \$1,594,801. Key elements of this change are as follows:

General Fund operations	\$ 1,375,519
Van purchases funded by current year revenue	559,038
Current year depreciation expense	(416,780)
Change in net OPEB liability, net of related deferrals	67,689
Other	<u>9,335</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,594,801</u>

## Financial Analysis of the Collaborative's Funds

As noted earlier, fund accounting is used to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

### **Governmental Funds**

The focus of governmental funds is to provide information on near-term inflows, outflows and balances of spendable resources. Such information is useful in assessing financing requirements. In particular, unassigned fund balance may serve as a useful measure of the Collaborative's net resources available for spending at the end of the fiscal year.

#### *General Fund*

The General Fund is the chief operating fund. At the end of the current fiscal year, unassigned fund balance of the General Fund was \$4,767,427, while total fund balance was \$7,630,575. As a measure of the General Fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare both unassigned fund balance and total fund balance to General Fund expenditures. Refer to the table below.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>June 30, 2021</u>	<u>June 30, 2020</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% of General Fund Expenditures*</u>
Unassigned fund balance	\$ 4,767,427	\$ 5,389,045	\$ (621,618)	36.7%
Total fund balance	\$ 7,630,575	\$ 6,255,056	\$ 1,375,519	58.8%

\*Expenditure amounts used to calculate the above percentages have been adjusted to exclude the on-behalf payments from the Commonwealth of the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement System of \$735,495 and from the Commonwealth of the Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System of \$553,151.

The total fund balance of the General Fund changed by \$1,375,519 during the current fiscal year. Key factors in this change are as follows:

Use of free cash (E&D) as a funding source	\$ (220,354)
Revenues less than budget	(35,322)
Expenditures less than budget	2,188,050
Change in encumbrances	<u>(556,855)</u>
Total	\$ <u>1,375,519</u>

#### *Nonmajor Governmental Funds*

The nonmajor funds balance changed by \$(79), primarily from timing differences between the receipt and disbursement of grants.

## General Fund Budgetary Highlights

There was no difference between the total original budget and the total final amended budget in fiscal year 2021. Additionally, there were several large variances between budgeted and actual expenditures in fiscal year 2021. Major reasons for these variances include:

- \$(686,827) Program Administration – this was primarily due to several new therapists that were hired during the fiscal year, as well as various additional expenditures for the sanitization of the classrooms throughout the fiscal year.
- \$282,594 Program Instruction – this was primarily due to several employees that were laid off during the fiscal year that were not replaced.
- \$276,104 Program Instructional Insurance and Benefits – this was primarily due to several employees that were laid off during the fiscal year that were not replaced.
- \$2,207,448 Transportation Operating – this was primarily due to the Collaborative not transporting students during the school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Capital Asset and Debt Administration

### *Capital Assets*

Total investment in capital assets for governmental activities at year-end amounted to \$1,304,531 (net of accumulated depreciation). This investment in capital assets represents transportation vehicles.

Major capital asset events during the current fiscal year included the following:

Purchase of twelve new passenger vans	\$559,038
Current year depreciation expense	\$416,780

Additional information on capital assets can be found in the Notes to Financial Statements.

### *Long-Term Debt*

At the end of the current fiscal year, the Collaborative had no outstanding long-term bonded debt and no outstanding long-term capital leases.

Additional information on long-term debt can be found in the Notes to Financial Statements.

## Requests for Information

This financial report is designed to provide a general overview of the Concord Area Special Education Collaborative's finances for all those with an interest in the Collaborative's finances.

Questions concerning any of the information provided in this report or requests for additional financial information should be addressed to:

Sanchita Banerjee

Executive Director

Concord Area Special Education Collaborative

120 Meriam Road

Concord, Massachusetts 01742

**CONCORD AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

Statement of Net Position  
June 30, 2021

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
<b>Assets</b>	
Current:	
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 7,985,255
Accounts receivable	242,492
Other assets	<u>74,250</u>
Total Current Assets	8,301,997
Noncurrent:	
Capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation	<u>1,304,531</u>
Total Noncurrent Assets	1,304,531
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	
Related to OPEB	<u>1,132,093</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	1,132,093
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current:	
Warrants and accounts payable	120,517
Accrued liabilities	490,729
Due to other funds	30,000
Other liabilities	9,991
Current portion of long-term liabilities:	
Compensated absences	<u>3,266</u>
Total Current Liabilities	654,503
Noncurrent:	
Compensated absences, net of current portion	13,063
Net OPEB liability	<u>3,067,515</u>
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	3,080,578
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	
Related to OPEB	<u>2,707,726</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	2,707,726
<b>Net Position</b>	
Net investment in capital assets	1,304,531
Restricted for:	
Grants and other	1,952,432
Nonspendable for security deposit	74,250
Unrestricted	<u>964,601</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 4,295,814</u>

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

**CONCORD AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2021

		<u>Program Revenues</u>		<u>Net (Expenses) Revenues and Changes in Net Position</u>
	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Operating Grants and Contributions</u>	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
<b>Governmental Activities</b>				
Administration	\$ 1,164,220	\$ -	\$ 207,691	\$ (956,529)
Supervision	898,890	-	40,121	(858,769)
Instruction	8,388,197	-	1,677,225	(6,710,972)
Transportation	<u>5,708,887</u>	<u>6,153,842</u>	<u>1,469,630</u>	<u>1,914,585</u>
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$ 16,160,194</u>	<u>\$ 6,153,842</u>	<u>\$ 3,394,667</u>	(6,611,685)
		<b>General Revenues and Contributions</b>		
				4,557,272
				3,059,064
				457,000
				5,042
				<u>128,108</u>
		Total General Revenues and Contributions		<u>8,206,486</u>
			Change in Net Position	1,594,801
		<b>Net Position</b>		
			Beginning of year	<u>2,701,013</u>
			End of year	<u>\$ 4,295,814</u>

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

**CONCORD AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

Governmental Funds  
Balance Sheet  
June 30, 2021

	General <u>Fund</u>	Nonmajor Governmental <u>Funds</u>	Total Governmental <u>Funds</u>
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and short-term investments	\$ 7,965,070	\$ 20,185	\$ 7,985,255
Accounts receivable	242,492	-	242,492
Other assets	<u>74,250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,250</u>
Total Assets	\$ <u>8,281,812</u>	\$ <u>20,185</u>	\$ <u>8,301,997</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Warrants and accounts payable	\$ 120,517	\$ -	\$ 120,517
Accrued liabilities	490,729	-	490,729
Due to other funds	30,000	-	30,000
Other liabilities	<u>9,991</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,991</u>
Total Liabilities	651,237	-	651,237
<b>Fund Balances</b>			
Nonspendable	74,250	-	74,250
Restricted	1,939,103	13,329	1,952,432
Committed	-	6,856	6,856
Assigned	849,795	-	849,795
Unassigned	<u>4,767,427</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,767,427</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>7,630,575</u>	<u>20,185</u>	<u>7,650,760</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances	\$ <u>8,281,812</u>	\$ <u>20,185</u>	\$ <u>8,301,997</u>

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

**CONCORD AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances  
to Net Position of Governmental Activities  
in the Statement of Net Position  
June 30, 2021

<b>Total governmental fund balances</b>	\$ 7,650,760
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds.	1,304,531
Deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB to be recognized in OPEB expense in future periods.	1,132,093
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the governmental funds:	
Net OPEB liability	(3,067,515)
Compensated absences	(16,329)
Deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB to be recognized in OPEB expense in future periods.	<u>(2,707,726)</u>
<b>Net position of governmental activities</b>	<u>\$ 4,295,814</u>

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

**CONCORD AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

Governmental Funds  
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2021

	General <u>Fund</u>	Nonmajor Governmental <u>Funds</u>	Total Governmental <u>Funds</u>
<b>Revenues</b>			
School year program member tuition and fees	\$ 4,557,272	\$ -	\$ 4,557,272
School year program non-member tuition and fees	3,059,064	-	3,059,064
Summer program tuition and fees	457,000	-	457,000
Transportation assessments	6,087,508	-	6,087,508
Intergovernmental	1,288,646	834	1,289,480
Investment income	5,039	2	5,041
Miscellaneous	<u>194,441</u>	<u>7,100</u>	<u>201,541</u>
Total Revenues	15,648,970	7,936	15,656,906
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Program:			
Administration	821,979	-	821,979
Supervision	790,813	-	790,813
Instruction	5,699,841	8,015	5,707,856
Instructional rent	529,299	-	529,299
Instructional insurance and benefits	1,553,889	-	1,553,889
Transportation operating	4,318,592	-	4,318,592
Transportation capital outlay	<u>559,038</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>559,038</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>14,273,451</u>	<u>8,015</u>	<u>14,281,466</u>
Change in fund balance	1,375,519	(79)	1,375,440
Fund Balances, at Beginning of Year	<u>6,255,056</u>	<u>20,264</u>	<u>6,275,320</u>
Fund Balances, at End of Year	\$ <u>7,630,575</u>	\$ <u>20,185</u>	\$ <u>7,650,760</u>

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

**CONCORD AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes  
In Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2021

<b>Net changes in fund balances - total governmental funds</b>	\$ 1,375,440
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense:</li></ul>	
Capital outlay	559,038
Depreciation	(416,780)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in the governmental funds:</li></ul>	
Change in net OPEB liability and related deferred outflows and inflows	67,689
Change in compensated absences	<u>9,414</u>
<b>Change in net position of governmental activities</b>	<u><u>\$ 1,594,801</u></u>

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

**CONCORD AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

Fiduciary Funds  
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position  
June 30, 2021

	<u>OPEB Trust Fund</u>	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and short-term investments	\$ -	\$ 307
Investments:		
External investment pool	<u>4,866,930</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Investments	4,866,930	-
Due from other funds	<u>30,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Assets	4,896,930	307
<b>Net Position</b>		
Restricted for OPEB purposes	4,896,930	-
Restricted for student activities	<u>-</u>	<u>307</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 4,896,930</u>	<u>\$ 307</u>

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

**CONCORD AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

Fiduciary Funds  
 Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position  
 For the Year Ended June 30, 2021

	<u>OPEB Trust Fund</u>	<u>Custodial Funds</u>
<b>Additions</b>		
Investment income	\$ 1,112,649	\$ -
Contributions from employer	393,544	-
Fees collected for students	<u>-</u>	<u>89</u>
Total additions	1,506,193	89
<b>Deductions</b>		
Benefit payments to plan members, beneficiaries and other systems	380,344	-
Payments on behalf of students	<u>-</u>	<u>89</u>
Total deductions	<u>380,344</u>	<u>89</u>
Net increase	1,125,849	-
<b>Net position restricted for OPEB and other purposes</b>		
Beginning of year	<u>3,771,081</u>	<u>307</u>
End of year	<u>\$ 4,896,930</u>	<u>\$ 307</u>

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

# CONCORD AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

## Notes to Financial Statements

### 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies of the Concord Area Special Education Collaborative (the Collaborative) conform to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applicable to governmental units. The following is a summary of the significant policies:

#### ***Reporting Entity***

The Collaborative is a municipal corporation governed by an appointed Board of Directors. As required by GAAP, these financial statements present the Collaborative and applicable component units for which the Collaborative is considered to be financially accountable. In fiscal year 2021, it was determined that no entities met the required GASB 14 (as amended) criteria of component units.

#### ***Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements***

##### *Government-Wide Financial Statements*

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the primary government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or segment are offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function or segment. Program revenues include (1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or segment and (2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or segment. Member and non-member tuition and assessments and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

##### *Fund Financial Statements*

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds and fiduciary funds, even though the latter are excluded from the government-wide financial statements. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

#### ***Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting, and Financial Statement Presentation***

##### *Government-Wide Financial Statements*

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recorded when earned

and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met. As a general rule, the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements.

Amounts reported as *program revenues* include (1) charges to customers or applicants for goods, services, or privileges provided, and (2) operating grants and contributions. Internally dedicated resources are reported as *general revenues* rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all member and non-member program tuitions/fees and transportation assessments.

#### *Fund Financial Statements*

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be available when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. In general, revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the government. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, certain expenditures such as debt service, claims and judgments, compensated absences, OPEB, and pension are recorded only when payment is due.

The Collaborative reports the following major governmental funds:

- The *General Fund* is the Collaborative's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those required to be accounted for in another fund.

The fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recorded when liabilities are incurred.

The Collaborative reports the following fiduciary funds:

- The *Other Post-Employment Benefits Trust Fund* accounts for resources the Collaborative is accumulating for future other post-employment health insurance benefits to be provided to eligible retirees.
- The *Custodial Funds* account for fiduciary assets held by the Collaborative in a custodial capacity as an agent on behalf of others and are not required to be reported elsewhere on the financial statements. Custodial funds include fees collected on behalf of students.

***Cash and Investments***

Cash balances from all funds, except those required to be segregated by law, are combined to form a consolidation of cash. Cash balances are invested to the extent available, and interest earnings are recognized in the General Fund. Certain special revenue and fiduciary funds segregate cash, and investment earnings become a part of those funds.

Deposits with financial institutions consist primarily of demand deposits, certificates of deposits, and money market accounts. Generally, a cash and investment pool is maintained that is available for use by all funds. Each fund's portion of this pool is reflected on the combined financial statements under the caption "cash and short-term investments".

The Collaborative's invests in the Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust (MMDT) Cash Portfolio, an external investment pool overseen by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This cash portfolio meets the requirements of GASB Statement No. 79, Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants. All investments are valued at amortized cost, which approximates the net asset value of \$1 per share.

Investments are carried at fair value.

***Interfund Receivables and Payables***

Transactions between funds that are representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as "due from/to other funds" (i.e., the current portion of interfund loans).

***Capital Assets***

Capital assets, which include property, plant, and equipment, are reported in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the Collaborative as assets with an initial individual cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of three years. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

Major outlays for capital assets and improvements are capitalized as projects are acquired or constructed.

Capital assets are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Years</u>
Buildings	40
Building improvements	20
Infrastructure	30 - 75
Vehicles	5
Office equipment	5
Computer equipment	5

### ***Compensated Absences***

It is the Collaborative's policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused vacation pay benefits. All vested vacation pay is accrued when incurred in the government-wide financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements.

### ***Long-Term Obligations***

In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the governmental activities Statement of Net Position.

### ***Fund Equity***

Fund equity at the governmental fund financial reporting level is classified as "fund balance". Fund equity for all other reporting is classified as "net position".

### ***Fund Balance***

Generally, fund balance represents the difference between the current assets/deferred outflows and current liabilities/deferred inflows. The Collaborative reserves those portions of fund balance that are legally segregated for a specific future use or which do not represent available, spendable resources and therefore, are not available for appropriation or expenditure. Unassigned fund balance indicates that portion of fund balance that is available for appropriation in future periods. The General Fund is the only fund that reports a positive unassigned fund balance.

When an expenditure is incurred that would qualify for payment from multiple fund balance types, the Collaborative uses the following order to liquidate liabilities: restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned.

### ***Net Position***

Net position represents the difference between assets/deferred outflows of resources and liabilities/deferred inflows of resources. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net

position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use either through enabling legislation adopted by the Collaborative or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. The remaining net position is reported as unrestricted.

### ***Use of Estimates***

The preparation of basic financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosures for contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the basic financial statements, and the reported amounts of the revenues and expenditures/expenses during the fiscal year. Actual results could vary from estimates that were used.

## **2. Stewardship, Compliance and Accountability**

### ***Budgetary Information***

The Collaborative's Board of Directors approves the annual school year program, summer program, and transportation budgets. School year and summer program budgets are based on anticipated enrollment and are funded by annually approved per pupil tuition rates for member and non-member entities. The transportation budget consists of estimated operating and capital costs, and is funded by assessments based on the weighted average number of students transported two years previously in the month of June (i.e., fiscal year 2021 transportation assessments are based on the weighted average number of pupils transported in June 2019).

At year end, appropriation balances lapse, except for certain unexpended capital items and encumbrances which will be honored during the subsequent fiscal year.

## **3. Deposits and Investments**

### ***Custodial Credit Risk – Deposits***

Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the Collaborative's deposits may not be returned. Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 55, limits the Collaborative's deposits "in a bank or trust company or banking company to an amount not exceeding 60% of the capital and surplus of such bank or trust company or banking company, unless satisfactory security is given to it by such bank or trust company or banking company for such excess." The Collaborative does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk.

As of June 30, 2021, \$5,742,770 of the Collaborative's bank balance of \$5,997,851 was exposed to custodial credit risk as uninsured, uncollateralized, and/or collateral held by pledging bank's trust department not in the Collaborative's name. Additionally, \$2,691,733 was invested in a state pool, which is not subject to this disclosure.

### *Investment Summary*

The following is a summary of the Collaborative's investments (in thousands) as of June 30, 2021:

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
External investment pool	\$ <u>4,867</u>
Total investments	\$ <u><u>4,867</u></u>

### ***Credit Risk***

Generally, credit risk is the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. For short-term investments that were purchased using surplus revenues, Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 44, Section 55, limits the Collaborative's investments to the top rating issued by at least one nationally recognized statistical rating organization (NRSROs).

Presented below (in thousands) is the actual rating as of year-end for each investment type of the Collaborative:

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>	Rating as of <u>Year End</u>
External investment pool	\$ <u>4,867</u>	\$ <u>4,867</u>
Total	\$ <u><u>4,867</u></u>	\$ <u><u>4,867</u></u>

### ***Custodial Credit Risk***

The custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty (e.g., broker-dealer) to a transaction, a government will not be able to recover the value of its investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of another party. The Collaborative does not have formal investment policies related to custodial credit risk.

As of June 30, 2021, none of the Collaborative's investments were subject to custodial credit risk.

### ***Concentration of Credit Risk***

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributable to the magnitude of the Collaborative's investment in a single issuer. The Collaborative places no limit on the amount they may invest in any one issuer. The Collaborative does not have formal investment policies related to concentration of credit risk exposure.

As of June 30, 2021, the Collaborative's investments are held in the Pension Reserves Investment Trust Fund, a state investment pool which is not subject to this disclosure.

***Interest Rate Risk***

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in market interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. Generally, the longer the maturity of an investment, the greater the sensitivity of its fair value to changes in market interest rates. The Collaborative does not have formal investment policies limiting investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates. As of June 30, 2021, the Collaborative's investments are held in the Pension Reserves Investment Trust Fund, a state investment pool.

***Foreign Currency Risk***

Foreign currency risk is the risk that changes in foreign exchange rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The Collaborative does not have formal investment policies related to foreign currency risk.

***Fair Value***

The Collaborative categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 72 *Fair Value Measurement and Application* (GASB 72).

The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset and give the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3 measurements). The hierarchy categorizes the inputs to valuation techniques used for fair value measurement into three levels as follows:

- Level 1 – inputs that reflect quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the fund has the ability to access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for an asset or liability either directly or indirectly, including inputs in markets that are not considered to be active. Because they must often be priced on the basis of transactions involving similar but not identical securities or do not trade with sufficient frequency, certain directly held securities are categorized as level 2.
- Level 3 – unobservable inputs based on the best information available, using assumptions in determining the fair value of investments and derivative instruments.

The net asset value (NAV) per share is the amount of net assets attributable to each share of capital stock outstanding at the close of the period. Investments measured at the NAV for fair value are not subject to level classification.

In instances where inputs used to measure fair value fall into different levels in the fair value hierarchy, fair value measurements in their entirety are categorized based on the lowest level input that is significant to the valuation.

The Collaborative has the following fair value measurements (in thousands) as of June 30, 2021:

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Investments measured at the net asset value (NAV):	
External investment pools	\$ <u>4,867</u>
Total	\$ <u><u>4,867</u></u>

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Amount</u>	Redemption Frequency (If currently eligible)	Redemption Notice Period
External investment pools	\$ 4,867	Monthly	30 Days

#### 4. Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable represents tuition due from member and non-member communities for services rendered in fiscal year 2021.

#### 5. Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the year ended June 30, 2021 was as follows (in thousands):

	Balance <u>7/1/20</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decreases</u>	Balance <u>6/30/21</u>
<b>Governmental Activities</b>				
Capital assets, being depreciated:				
Vehicles	\$ <u>4,010</u>	\$ <u>559</u>	\$ <u>(561)</u>	\$ <u>4,008</u>
Total capital assets, being depreciated	4,010	559	(561)	4,008
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Vehicles	<u>(2,848)</u>	<u>(417)</u>	<u>561</u>	<u>(2,704)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation	<u>(2,848)</u>	<u>(417)</u>	<u>561</u>	<u>(2,704)</u>
Governmental activities capital assets, net	\$ <u><u>1,162</u></u>	\$ <u><u>142</u></u>	\$ <u><u>-</u></u>	\$ <u><u>1,304</u></u>

Depreciation expense for the year ended June 30, 2021 was charged to functions of the Collaborative as follows (in thousands):

Governmental Activities	
Transportation	\$ <u>417</u>
Total depreciation expense	\$ <u><u>417</u></u>

**6. Deferred Outflows of Resources**

Deferred outflows of resources represent the consumption of net position by the Collaborative that is applicable to future reporting periods. Deferred outflows of resources have a positive effect on net position, similar to assets. Deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB, in accordance with GASB 75, are more fully discussed in the corresponding OPEB note.

**7. Accrued Liabilities**

Accrued liabilities represent accrued payroll totaling \$490,729 as of June 30, 2021.

**8. Long-Term Liabilities**

During the year ended June 30, 2021, the following changes occurred in long-term liabilities (in thousands):

	Beginning <u>Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	Ending <u>Balance</u>	Less <u>Current Portion</u>	Equals <u>Long-Term Portion</u>
<b>Governmental Activities</b>						
Compensated absences	\$ 26	\$ 2	\$ (12)	\$ 16	\$ (3)	\$ 13
Net OPEB liability	<u>4,628</u>	<u>(1,561)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,067</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,067</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 4,654</u>	<u>\$ (1,559)</u>	<u>\$ (12)</u>	<u>\$ 3,083</u>	<u>\$ (3)</u>	<u>\$ 3,080</u>

**9. Deferred Inflows of Resources**

Deferred inflows of resources are the acquisition of net position by the Collaborative that are applicable to future reporting periods. Deferred inflows of resources have a negative effect on net position, similar to liabilities. Deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized as expense in future years and is more fully described in the corresponding OPEB note.

## 10. Governmental Funds – Balances

Fund balances are segregated to account for resources that are either not available for expenditure in the future or are legally set aside for a specific future use.

The Collaborative has implemented *GASB Statement No. 54 (GASB 54), Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, which enhances the usefulness of fund balance information by providing clearer fund balance classifications that can be more consistently applied and by clarifying existing governmental fund type definitions.

The following types of fund balances are reported at June 30, 2021:

### ***Nonspendable***

Represents amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. This fund balance classification includes general fund reserves for security deposits.

### ***Restricted***

Represents amounts that are restricted to specific purposes by constraints imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or constraints imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. This fund balance classification includes unexpended donations that are accounted for in the Collaborative's special revenue funds, as well as the fiscal year 2020 cumulative surplus that has not been returned to the member districts.

### ***Committed***

Represents amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the Collaborative's highest level of decision-making authority (i.e., Board of Directors). This fund balance classification includes professional development resources that are accounted for in the Collaborative's special revenue funds.

### ***Assigned***

Represents amounts that are constrained by the Collaborative's intent to use these resources for a specific purpose. This fund balance classification includes general fund encumbrances that have been established by various Collaborative departments for the expenditure of current year budgetary financial resources upon vendor performance in the subsequent budgetary period, and general fund surplus fund balance that has been approved as a funding source for the subsequent fiscal period.

### ***Unassigned***

Represents amounts that are available to spend in future periods. This fund balance classification includes program and transportation fund surplus balances.

Following is a breakdown of the Collaborative's fund balances at June 30, 2021:

	General Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Nonspendable			
Security deposit	\$ 74,250	\$ -	\$ 74,250
Total Nonspendable	74,250	-	74,250
Restricted			
Donation fund	-	13,329	13,329
Unreturned cumulative surplus	1,939,103	-	1,939,103
Total Restricted	1,939,103	13,329	1,952,432
Committed			
Professional development	-	6,856	6,856
Total Committed	-	6,856	6,856
Assigned			
Encumbrances:			
School Program	3,339	-	3,339
Transportation	1,907	-	1,907
Summer Program	110	-	110
Reserved for expenditures:			
Transportation budget	844,439	-	844,439
Total Assigned	849,795	-	849,795
Unassigned			
General fund	4,767,427	-	4,767,427
Total Unassigned	4,767,427	-	4,767,427
Total Fund Balance	\$ 7,630,575	\$ 20,185	\$ 7,650,760

## 11. Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System (MSERS)

### ***Plan Description***

The Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System (MSERS) is a public employee retirement system (PERS) that administers a cost-sharing, multi-employer, defined benefit plan as defined by Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans*. MSERS covers substantially all employees of the Commonwealth and certain employees of the independent authorities and agencies. The former Massachusetts Turnpike Authority (MTA) employees and retirees became members of MSERS upon the creation of MassDOT. Other employees who transferred to MassDOT had been, and remain, members of MSERS. The assets and liabilities of the former MTA have been transferred to MSERS. MSERS is part of the Commonwealth's reporting entity and does not issue a stand-alone audited financial report.

Management of MSERS is vested in the Massachusetts State Retirement Board (the MSRB), which consists of five members—two elected by current and active MSERS members, one by the remaining members of the MSRB, one who is appointed by the State Treasurer and the State Treasurer, who serves as ex-officio and is the Chair of the MSRB.

*Participant Retirement Benefits*

MSERS provides retirement, disability, survivor, and death benefits to members and their beneficiaries. Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) establishes uniform benefit and contribution requirements for all contributory PERS. These requirements provide for superannuation retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a member’s highest 3-year average annual rate of regular compensation. For employees hired after April 1, 2012, retirement allowances are calculated on the basis of the last 5 years or any 5 consecutive years, whichever is greater in terms of compensation. Benefit payments are based upon a member’s age, length of creditable service, group creditable service, and group classification. The authority for amending these provisions rests with the Legislature.

Members become vested after ten years of creditable service. A superannuation retirement allowance may be received upon the completion of 20 years of creditable service or upon reaching the age of 55 with 10 years of service. Normal retirement for most employees occurs at age 65; for certain hazardous duty and public safety positions, normal retirement is at age 55. Most employees who joined the system after April 1, 2012 cannot retire prior to age 60.

MSERS’ funding policies have been established by Chapter 32 of the MGL and the State Legislature has the authority to amend these policies. The annuity portion of the MSERS retirement allowance is funded by employees, who contribute a percentage of their regular compensation. Costs of administering the plan are funded out of plan assets.

*Participants’ Contributions*

Member contributions for MSERS vary depending on the most recent date of membership:

<u>Membership Date</u>	<u>% of Compensation</u>
Prior to 1975	5% of regular compensation
1975 to 1983	7% of regular compensation
1984 to 6/30/1996	8% of regular compensation
7/1/1996 to present	9% of regular compensation except for State Police which is 12% of regular compensation
1979 to present	An additional 2% of regular compensation in excess of \$30,000

### **Actuarial Assumptions**

The total pension liability is measured as of June 30, 2020 and was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2019 rolled forward to June 30, 2020. This valuation used the following assumptions:

- (a) 7.15% investment rate of return, (b) 3.50% interest rate credited to the annuity savings fund and (c) 3.00% cost of living increase on the first \$13,000 per year.
- Salary increases are based on analyses of past experience but range from 4.00% to 9.00% depending on group and length of service.
- Mortality rates were as follows:
  - Pre-retirement – reflects RP-2014 Blue Collar Employees table projected generationally with Scale MP-2016, set forward 1 year for females
  - Post-retirement – reflects RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant table projected generationally with Scale MP-2016, set forward 1 year for females
  - Disability – the mortality rate reflects RP-2014 Blue Collar Healthy Annuitant table projected generationally with Scale MP-2016, set forward 1 year.
- Experience studies were performed as follows:
  - Dated February 27, 2014 and encompasses the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2011, updated to reflect actual experience from 2012 through 2016 for post-retirement mortality.

Investment assets of the MSERS are with the Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT) Fund. The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage. Best estimates of geometric rates of return for each major asset class included in the PRIT Fund's target asset allocation as of June 30, 2020 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Global equity	39.00%	4.80%
Core fixed income	15.00%	0.70%
Private equity	13.00%	8.20%
Portfolio completion strategies	11.00%	3.20%
Real estate	10.00%	3.50%
Value added fixed income	8.00%	4.20%
Timber/natural resources	4.00%	4.10%
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

**Discount Rate**

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.15%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rates and the Commonwealth’s contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rates. Based on those assumptions, the net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

**Sensitivity Analysis**

The following illustrates the sensitivity of the collective net pension liability to changes in the discount rate. In particular, the table presents the Collaborative’s share of the MSERS collective net pension liability assuming it was calculated using a single discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower or one-percentage-point higher than the current discount rate:

1% Decrease to 6.15%	Current Discount Rate 7.15%	1% Increase to 8.15%
\$ 17,775,358	\$ 13,491,119	\$ 9,969,774

**Special Funding Situation – Educational Collaboratives**

Educational collaboratives contribute amounts equal to the normal cost of employees’ benefits at a rate established by the Public Employees’ Retirement Commission (PERAC), currently 6.1% of covered payroll. Legally, the collaboratives are only responsible for contributing the annual normal cost of their employees’ benefits (i.e., the present value of the benefits earned by those employees in any given year) and are not legally responsible for the past service cost attributable to those employees or previously retired employees of the collaboratives. The Commonwealth, as a nonemployer contributing entity, is legally responsible for the entire past service cost related to the collaboratives and therefore has a 100% special funding situation, as defined by GASB Statement No. 68.

For entities considered to be in a 100% special funding situation, there is no net pension liability recognized.

**Collaborative Proportions**

In fiscal year 2020 (the most recent measurement period), the Commonwealth’s total proportionate share of the net pension liability associated with the Collaborative was \$13,491,119 based on a proportionate share of 0.07863%. As required by GASB 68, the Collaborative has recognized its portion of the collective pension expense of approximately \$553,151 as both revenue and expenditure in the General Fund, and its portion of the collection pension expense of approximately \$1,164,291 as both revenue and expense in the governmental activities.

## 12. **Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System (MTRS)**

### ***Plan Description***

The Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System (MTRS) is a public employee retirement system (PERS) that administers a cost-sharing, multi-employer, defined benefit plan, as defined in Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 67, *Financial Reporting for Pension Plans*. MTRS is managed by the Commonwealth on behalf of municipal teachers and municipal teacher retirees. The Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributor and is responsible for all contributions and future benefit requirements of the MTRS. The MTRS covers certified teachers in cities (except Boston), towns, regional school districts, charter schools, educational collaboratives, and Quincy College. The MTRS is part of the Commonwealth's reporting entity and does not issue a stand-alone audited financial report.

Management of MTRS is vested in the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement Board (MTRB), which consists of seven members—two elected by the MTRS members, one who is chosen by the six other MTRB members, the State Treasurer (or their designee), the State Auditor (or their designee), a member appointed by the Governor, and the Commissioner of Education (or their designee), who serves ex-officio as the Chairman of the MTRB.

### ***Benefits Provided***

MTRS provides retirement, disability, survivor, and death benefits to members and their beneficiaries. Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) establishes uniform benefit and contribution requirements for all contributory PERS. These requirements provide for superannuation retirement allowance benefits up to a maximum of 80% of a member's highest 3-year average annual rate of regular compensation. For employees hired after April 1, 2012, retirement allowances are calculated on the basis of the last 5 years or any 5 consecutive years, whichever is greater in terms of compensation. Benefit payments are based upon a member's age, length of creditable service, and group creditable service, and group classification. The authority for amending these provisions rests with the State Legislature.

Members become vested after 10 years of creditable service. A superannuation retirement allowance may be received upon the completion of 20 years of creditable service or upon reaching the age of 55 with 10 years of service. Normal retirement for most employees occurs at age 65. Most employees who joined the system after April 1, 2012 cannot retire prior to age 60.

MTRS funding policies have been established by Chapter 32 of the MGL. The State Legislature has the authority to amend these policies. The annuity portion of the MTRS retirement allowance is funded by employees, who contribute a percentage of their regular compensation. Costs of administering the plan are funded out of plan assets.

### **Contributions**

Member contributions for MTRS vary depending on the most recent date of membership:

<u>Membership Date</u>	<u>% of Compensation</u>
Prior to 1975	5% of regular compensation
1975 to 1983	7% of regular compensation
1984 to 6/30/1996	8% of regular compensation
7/1/1996 to present	9% of regular compensation
7/1/2001 to present	11% of regular compensation (for teachers hired after 7/1/01 and those accepting provisions of Chapter 114 of the Acts of 2000)
1979 to present	An additional 2% of regular compensation in excess of \$30,000

### **Actuarial Assumptions**

The total pension liability for the June 30, 2020 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2019 rolled forward to June 30, 2020. This valuation used the following assumptions:

- (a) 7.15% (changed from 7.25%) investment rate of return, (b) 3.50% interest rate credited to the annuity savings fund and (c) 3.00% cost of living increase on the first \$13,000 per year.
- Salary increases are based on analyses of past experience but range from 4.00% to 7.50% depending on length of service.
- Experience study is dated July 21, 2014 and encompasses the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2011, updated to reflect post-retirement mortality through January 1, 2017.
- Mortality rates were as follows:
  - Pre-retirement – reflects Pub-2010 Teachers Employees mortality table (headcount weighted) projected generationally with Scale MP-2018 (gender distinct).
  - Post-retirement – reflects Pub-2010 Teachers Retirees mortality table (headcount weighted) projected generationally with Scale MP-2018 (gender distinct).
  - Disability – assumed to be in accordance with the Pub-2010 Teachers Retirees Mortality Table (headcount weighted) projected generationally with Scale MP-2018 (gender distinct).

### **Target Allocations**

Investment assets of the MTRS are with the Pension Reserves Investment Trust (PRIT) Fund. The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future rates of return are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the

long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage. Best estimates of geometric rates of return for each major asset class included in the PRIT Fund’s target asset allocation as of June 30, 2020 are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Global equity	39.00%	4.80%
Core fixed income	15.00%	0.70%
Private equity	13.00%	8.20%
Portfolio completion strategies	11.00%	3.20%
Real estate	10.00%	3.50%
Value added fixed income	8.00%	4.20%
Timber/natural resources	<u>4.00%</u>	4.10%
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

***Discount Rate***

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.15%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rates and the Commonwealth’s contributions will be made at rates equal to the difference between actuarially determined contribution rates and the member rates. Based on those assumptions, the net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

***Sensitivity Analysis***

The following illustrates the sensitivity of the collective net pension liability to changes in the discount rate. In particular, the table presents the MTRS collective net pension liability assuming it was calculated using a single discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower or one-percentage-point higher than the current discount rate (amounts in thousands):

1% Decrease <u>to 6.15%</u>	Current Discount <u>Rate 7.15%</u>	1% Increase <u>to 8.15%</u>
\$ 35,411,955	\$ 28,544,844	\$ 22,908,510

### ***Special Funding Situation***

The Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributor and is required by statute to make all actuarially determined employer contributions on behalf of the member employers. Therefore, these employers are considered to be in a special funding situation as defined by GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions (GASB 68)* and the Commonwealth is a nonemployer contributing entity in MTRS. Since the employers do not contribute directly to MTRS, there is no net pension liability to recognize for each employer.

### ***Collaborative Proportions***

In fiscal year 2020 (the most recent measurement period), the Collaborative's proportionate share of the MTRS' collective net pension liability was \$13,514,959 based on a proportionate share of 0.047346%. As required by GASB 68, the Collaborative has recognized its portion of the Commonwealth's contribution of approximately \$735,495 as both a revenue and expenditure in the general fund, and its portion of the collective pension expense of approximately \$933,796 as both a revenue and expense in the governmental activities.

## **13. Other Post-Employment Benefits (GASB 74 and GASB 75)**

GASB Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB)*, replaces the requirements of *Statement No. 43, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*. This applies if a trust fund has been established to fund future OPEB costs. In fiscal year 2010, the Collaborative established a single employer defined benefit OPEB Trust Fund to provide funding for future employee health care costs. The OPEB Trust Fund does not issue a stand-alone financial report.

GASB Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, replaces the requirements of *Statement No. 45, Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*. The Statement establishes standards for recognizing and measuring liabilities, deferred outflows of resources, deferred inflows of resources, and expense/expenditures. This Statement identifies the methods and assumptions that are required to be used to project benefit payments, discounted projected benefit payments to their actuarial present value, and attribute that present value to periods of employee service.

All the following OPEB disclosures are based on a measurement date of June 30, 2021 and was determined by an actuarial valuation dated July 1, 2020 rolled forward to June 30, 2020.

**General Information about the OPEB Plan**

*Plan Description*

The Collaborative provides post-employment healthcare benefits for retired employees through the Collaborative’s plan. The Collaborative provides health insurance coverage through Fallon Direct Care, Fallon Select Care, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care, and Tufts Health Plan. The benefits, benefit levels, employee contributions, and employer contributions are governed by Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

*Benefits Provided*

The Collaborative provides medical and prescription drug insurance to retirees and their covered dependents. All active employees who retire from the Collaborative and meet the eligibility criteria will receive these benefits.

*Funding Policy*

The Collaborative’s funding policy includes financing the implicit subsidy on a pay-as-you-go basis, as required by statute. Additional contributions are based on annual budget limitations/authorizations.

*Plan Membership*

At June 30, 2021, the following employees were covered by the benefit terms:

Inactive employees or beneficiaries	
currently receiving benefit payments	61
Active employees	<u>144</u>
Total	<u><u>205</u></u>

**Investments**

The OPEB trust fund assets are invested with a State Investment Pool.

*Rate of return.* For the year ended June 30, 2021, the annual money-weighted rate of return on investments, net of investment expense, was 29.41%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

### ***Actuarial Assumptions and Other Inputs***

The net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of July 1, 2020, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement, unless otherwise specified:

Inflation	2.50% as of June 30, 2021 and for future periods
Salary increases	3.00% annually as of June 30, 2021 and for future periods
Investment rate of return	6.77%, net of OPEB plan investment expense, including inflation
Municipal bond rate	2.18% as of June 30, 2020 (source: S&P Municipal Bond 20-Year-High Grade Index)
Discount rate	6.75%, net of OPEB plan investment expense, including inflation
Healthcare cost trend rates	4.50% per year
Retirees' share of benefit-related costs	50%
Participation rate	80% of eligible employees

Pre-retirement mortality reflects RP-2014 Mortality Table for Blue Collar Employees projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females, set forward 1 year for females. Post-retirement mortality reflects RP-2014 Mortality Table for Blue Collar Employees projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females, set forward 1 year for females. Disabled mortality reflects RP-2014 Mortality Table for Blue Collar Healthy Annuitants projected generationally with scale MP-2016 for males and females, set forward 1 year.

The actuarial assumptions used in the valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience studies of the Massachusetts PERAC issued in 2014 and their most recent analysis of retiree mortality during 2015 and 2016.

### ***Target Allocations***

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

return for each major asset class included in the target asset allocation as of June 30, 2021 are summarized in the following table.

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Asset Allocation</u>	<u>Long-term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Domestic Equity - Large Cap	14.50%	4.90%
Domestic Equity - Small/Mid Cap	3.50%	5.40%
International Equity - Developed Market	16.00%	5.32%
International Equity - Emerging Market	6.00%	6.26%
Domestic Fixed Income	20.00%	1.40%
International Fixed Income	3.00%	1.30%
Alternatives	23.00%	6.32%
Real Estate	<u>14.00%</u>	6.25%
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

#### ***Contributions***

In addition to the implicit subsidy contribution, the Collaborative's policy is to contribute the ADC or amounts provided annually by the budget.

#### ***Discount Rate***

The discount rate used to measure the net OPEB liability was 6.75%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rate.

Based on those assumptions, the OPEB plan fiduciary net position is projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members.

#### ***Net OPEB Liability***

The components of the net OPEB liability, measured as of June 30, 2021, were as follows:

Total OPEB liability	\$ 7,964,445
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>4,896,930</u>
Net OPEB liability	<u>\$ 3,067,515</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	61.48%

The fiduciary net position has been determined on the same basis used by the OPEB Plan. For this purpose, the Plan recognizes benefit payments when due and payable.

**Changes in the Net OPEB Liability**

The following summarizes the changes in the net OPEB liability for the past year:

	Increase (Decrease)		
	Total OPEB Liability (a)	Plan Fiduciary Net Position (b)	Net OPEB Liability (a) - (b)
Balances, beginning of year	\$ 8,399,020	\$ 3,771,081	\$ 4,627,939
Changes for the year:			
Service cost	347,433	-	347,433
Interest	599,743	-	599,743
Contributions - employer	-	376,744	(376,744)
Net investment income	-	1,112,649	(1,112,649)
Differences between expected and actual experience	(2,236,911)	-	(2,236,911)
Changes in assumptions	1,218,704	-	1,218,704
Benefit payments	<u>(363,544)</u>	<u>(363,544)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Changes	<u>(434,575)</u>	<u>1,125,849</u>	<u>(1,560,424)</u>
Balances, end of year	<u>\$ 7,964,445</u>	<u>\$ 4,896,930</u>	<u>\$ 3,067,515</u>

**Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate**

The following presents the net OPEB liability, as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current discount rate:

1% <u>Decrease</u> (5.75%)	Current Discount Rate (6.75%)	1% <u>Increase</u> (7.75%)
\$ 4,208,382	\$ 3,067,515	\$ 2,131,946

***Sensitivity of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Healthcare Cost Trend Rates***

The following presents the net OPEB liability, as well as what the net OPEB liability would be if it as calculated using healthcare cost trend rates that are one percentage-point lower or one percentage-point higher than the current healthcare cost trend rates:

1% <u>Decrease</u> (3.50%)	Current Healthcare Cost Trend <u>Rates</u> (4.50%)	1% <u>Increase</u> (5.50%)
\$ 2,033,875	\$ 3,067,515	\$ 4,335,631

***OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB***

For the year ended June 30, 2021, the Collaborative recognized an OPEB expense of \$67,689. At June 30, 2021, the Collaborative reported deferred outflows and inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>	<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 124,602	\$ 1,854,119
Change in assumptions	1,007,491	267,239
Net difference between projected and actual OPEB investment earnings	<u>-</u>	<u>586,368</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,132,093</u>	<u>\$ 2,707,726</u>

Amounts reported as deferred outflows and (inflows) of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

<u>Year Ended June 30:</u>	
2022	\$ (382,379)
2023	(350,911)
2024	(357,450)
2025	(349,016)
2026	<u>(135,877)</u>
Total	<u>\$ (1,575,633)</u>

**14. Change in Accounting Principle**

During fiscal year 2021, the Collaborative adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 84, *Fiduciary Activities*. No restatement of beginning net position/fund balance was required.

**15. Subsequent Events**

Management has evaluated subsequent events through December 3, 2021, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

**16. Commitments and Contingencies**

***COVID-19***

The COVID-19 outbreak in the United States (and across the globe) has resulted in economic uncertainties. There is considerable uncertainty around the duration and scope of the economic disruption. The extent of the impact of COVID-19 on our operational and financial performance will depend on certain developments, including the duration and spread of the outbreak, impact on individuals served by the Collaborative, employees, and vendors, all of which may impact our financial condition or results of operation is uncertain.

***Outstanding Lawsuits***

Management is not aware of any pending lawsuits.

***Grants***

Amounts received or receivable from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by grantor agencies, principally the federal government. Any disallowed claims, including amounts already collected, may constitute a liability of the applicable funds.

***Encumbrances***

At year-end, the Collaborative's General Fund has \$5,356 in encumbrances that will be honored in the next fiscal year.

**17. New Pronouncements**

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) has issued Statement No. 87, *Leases*, effective for the Collaborative beginning with its fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. This statement establishes new reporting and disclosure requirements, including the recording of various operating leases in the financial statements. Management has not evaluated the effect this standard will have on the financial statements.

**CONCORD AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

Required Supplemental Information  
General Fund

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures and Other Financing Sources (Uses) – Budget and Actual  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2021

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original Budget	Final Budget		
<b>Revenues</b>				
School year program member tuition and fees	\$ 4,734,901	\$ 4,690,401	\$ 4,557,272	\$ (133,129)
School year program non-member tuition and fees	3,033,323	2,994,123	3,059,064	64,941
Summer program tuition and fees	535,500	535,500	457,000	(78,500)
Transportation assessments	6,087,508	6,087,508	6,087,508	-
Investment income	-	-	5,039	5,039
Miscellaneous	4,414	88,114	194,441	106,327
Total Revenues	<u>14,395,646</u>	<u>14,395,646</u>	<u>14,360,324</u>	<u>(35,322)</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Program:				
Administration	1,971,166	1,971,166	2,657,993	(686,827)
Supervision	726,861	726,861	770,166	(43,305)
Instruction	4,015,999	4,015,999	3,733,405	282,594
Instructional rent	497,573	497,573	529,299	(31,726)
Instructional insurance and benefits	1,096,539	1,096,539	820,435	276,104
Transportation operating	6,019,862	6,019,862	3,812,414	2,207,448
Transportation capital outlay	288,000	288,000	104,238	183,762
Total Expenditures	<u>14,616,000</u>	<u>14,616,000</u>	<u>12,427,950</u>	<u>2,188,050</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	(220,354)	(220,354)	1,932,374	2,152,728
<b>Other Financing Sources</b>				
Use of fund balance (Transportation E&D)	<u>220,354</u>	<u>220,354</u>	<u>220,354</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Other Financing Sources	<u>220,354</u>	<u>220,354</u>	<u>220,354</u>	<u>-</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,152,728</u>	<u>2,152,728</u>
Budgetary basis adjustments:				
Use of fund balance (Transportation E&D)				(220,354)
Expenditures of prior year encumbrances				(562,211)
Current year encumbrances				5,356
Change in fund balance				<u>\$ 1,375,519</u>

See Independent Auditors' Report and notes to the required Supplementary Information.

**Notes to the Required Supplemental Information  
For General Fund Budget**

**Budgetary Basis**

The General Fund final appropriation appearing on the previous page represents the final amended budget after all reserve fund transfers and supplemental appropriations.

**Budget/GAAP Reconciliation**

The budgetary data for the General Fund is based upon accounting principles that differ from generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Therefore, in addition to the GAAP basis financial statements, the results of operations of the General Fund are presented in accordance with budgetary accounting principles to provide a meaningful comparison to budgetary data.

The following is a summary of adjustments made to the actual revenues, expenditures and other financing sources (uses), to conform to the budgetary basis of accounting.

<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</u>
GAAP Basis	\$ 15,648,970	\$ 14,273,451	\$ -
Reverse beginning of year appropriation carryforwards from expenditures	-	(562,211)	-
Add end-of-year appropriation carryforwards from expenditures	-	5,356	-
Recognize use of fund balance (E&D) as funding source	-	-	220,354
Reverse MSERS and MTRS on-behalf contributions	<u>(1,288,646)</u>	<u>(1,288,646)</u>	<u>-</u>
Budgetary Basis	<u>\$ 14,360,324</u>	<u>\$ 12,427,950</u>	<u>\$ 220,354</u>

**CONCORD AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

Required Supplementary Information  
Schedule of Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability  
(Unaudited)

Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System

Fiscal Year	Measurement Date	Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Total Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability Associated with the Collaborative	Total Net Pension Liability Associated with the Collaborative	Covered Payroll	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020	0.07863%	\$ -	\$ 13,491,119	\$ 13,491,119	\$ 4,818,848	-	62.48%
June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	0.08755%	\$ -	\$ 12,812,898	\$ 12,812,898	\$ 5,216,730	-	66.28%
June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018	0.09592%	\$ -	\$ 12,690,024	\$ 12,690,024	\$ 5,513,967	-	67.91%
June 30, 2018	June 30, 2017	0.10150%	\$ -	\$ 13,017,348	\$ 13,017,348	\$ 5,795,679	-	67.21%
June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016	0.10506%	\$ -	\$ 14,486,536	\$ 14,486,536	\$ 5,851,807	-	63.48%
June 30, 2016	June 30, 2015	0.10303%	\$ -	\$ 11,727,901	\$ 11,727,901	\$ 5,750,125	-	67.87%
June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014	0.10431%	\$ -	\$ 7,744,418	\$ 7,744,418	\$ 5,536,159	-	76.32%

Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System

Fiscal Year	Measurement Date	Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Total Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability Associated with the Collaborative	Total Net Pension Liability Associated with the Collaborative	Covered Payroll	Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020	0.047346%	\$ -	\$ 13,514,959	\$ 13,514,959	\$ 3,587,327	-	50.67%
June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	0.056981%	\$ -	\$ 14,367,222	\$ 14,367,222	\$ 4,146,598	-	53.95%
June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018	0.065278%	\$ -	\$ 15,478,182	\$ 15,478,182	\$ 4,584,365	-	54.84%
June 30, 2018	June 30, 2017	0.065285%	\$ -	\$ 14,940,804	\$ 14,940,804	\$ 4,433,479	-	54.25%
June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016	0.069674%	\$ -	\$ 15,577,621	\$ 15,577,621	\$ 4,582,903	-	52.73%
June 30, 2016	June 30, 2015	0.070960%	\$ -	\$ 14,539,513	\$ 14,539,513	\$ 4,498,094	-	55.38%
June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014	0.072876%	\$ -	\$ 11,584,563	\$ 11,584,563	\$ 4,444,985	-	61.64%

*Schedules are intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.*

See notes to the Collaborative's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See Independent Auditors' Report.

**CONCORD AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

Required Supplementary Information  
Schedule of Pension Contributions  
(Unaudited)

Massachusetts State Employees' Retirement System

Fiscal Year	Measurement Date	Contributions in Relation to the			Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
		Actuarially Determined Contribution	Actuarially Determined Contribution	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)		
June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020	\$ 251,458	\$ 251,458	\$ -	\$ 4,122,264	6.10%
June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	\$ 293,950	\$ 293,950	\$ -	\$ 4,818,848	6.10%
June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018	\$ 318,221	\$ 318,221	\$ -	\$ 5,216,730	6.10%
June 30, 2018	June 30, 2017	\$ 336,352	\$ 336,352	\$ -	\$ 5,513,967	6.10%
June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016	\$ 324,558	\$ 324,558	\$ -	\$ 5,795,679	5.60%
June 30, 2016	June 30, 2015	\$ 326,736	\$ 326,736	\$ -	\$ 5,851,807	5.60%
June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014	\$ 321,059	\$ 321,059	\$ -	\$ 5,750,125	5.60%

Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System

Fiscal Year	Measurement Date	Contributions in Relation to the			Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
		Actuarially Determined Contribution Provided by Commonwealth	Actuarially Determined Contribution	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)		
June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020	\$ 735,495	\$ 735,495	\$ -	\$ 3,397,762	21.60%
June 30, 2020	June 30, 2019	\$ 822,642	\$ 822,642	\$ -	\$ 3,587,327	22.90%
June 30, 2019	June 30, 2018	\$ 858,260	\$ 858,260	\$ -	\$ 4,146,598	20.70%
June 30, 2018	June 30, 2017	\$ 806,610	\$ 806,610	\$ -	\$ 4,584,365	17.60%
June 30, 2017	June 30, 2016	\$ 783,540	\$ 783,540	\$ -	\$ 4,433,479	17.70%
June 30, 2016	June 30, 2015	\$ 725,165	\$ 725,165	\$ -	\$ 4,582,903	15.80%
June 30, 2015	June 30, 2014	\$ 683,121	\$ 683,121	\$ -	\$ 4,498,094	15.20%

*Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.*

See notes to the Collaborative's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See Independent Auditors' Report.

**CONCORD AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

Required Supplementary Information  
Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)  
Schedule of Changes in Net OPEB Liability  
(Unaudited)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Total OPEB Liability</b>					
Service cost	\$ 347,433	\$ 331,581	\$ 308,602	\$ 430,236	\$ 418,048
Interest	599,743	560,665	486,400	484,858	407,624
Differences between expected and actual experience	(2,236,911)	(7,367)	251,742	(533,893)	-
Changes of assumptions	1,218,704	-	(539,930)	-	-
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	<u>(363,544)</u>	<u>(322,117)</u>	<u>(284,391)</u>	<u>(186,874)</u>	<u>(152,312)</u>
Net change in total OPEB liability	(434,575)	562,762	222,423	194,327	673,360
Total OPEB liability - beginning	<u>8,399,020</u>	<u>7,836,258</u>	<u>7,613,835</u>	<u>7,419,508</u>	<u>6,746,148</u>
Total OPEB liability - ending (a)	7,964,445	8,399,020	7,836,258	7,613,835	7,419,508
<b>Plan Fiduciary Net Position</b>					
Contributions - employer	376,744	342,117	304,391	206,874	182,312
Net investment income	1,112,649	72,367	196,142	299,430	352,722
Benefit payments, including refunds of member contributions	<u>(363,544)</u>	<u>(322,117)</u>	<u>(284,391)</u>	<u>(186,874)</u>	<u>(152,312)</u>
Net change in plan fiduciary net position	1,125,849	92,367	216,142	319,430	382,722
Plan fiduciary net position - beginning	<u>3,771,081</u>	<u>3,678,714</u>	<u>3,462,572</u>	<u>3,143,142</u>	<u>2,760,420</u>
Plan fiduciary net position - ending (b)	<u>4,896,930</u>	<u>3,771,081</u>	<u>3,678,714</u>	<u>3,462,572</u>	<u>3,143,142</u>
Net OPEB liability (asset) - ending (a-b)	\$ <u>3,067,515</u>	\$ <u>4,627,939</u>	\$ <u>4,157,544</u>	\$ <u>4,151,263</u>	\$ <u>4,276,366</u>

*Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.*

See notes to the Collaborative's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See Independent Auditors' Report.

**CONCORD AREA SPECIAL EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE**

Required Supplementary Information  
Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)  
Schedules of Net OPEB Liability, Contributions, and Investment Returns  
(Unaudited)

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Schedule of Net OPEB Liability</b>					
Total OPEB liability	\$ 7,964,445	\$ 8,399,020	\$ 7,836,258	\$ 7,613,835	\$ 7,419,508
Plan fiduciary net position	<u>4,896,930</u>	<u>3,771,081</u>	<u>3,678,714</u>	<u>3,462,572</u>	<u>3,143,142</u>
Net OPEB liability (asset)	\$ <u>3,067,515</u>	\$ <u>4,627,939</u>	\$ <u>4,157,544</u>	\$ <u>4,151,263</u>	\$ <u>4,276,366</u>
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	61.48%	44.90%	46.94%	45.48%	42.36%
Covered employee payroll	\$ 7,184,878	\$ 10,414,874	\$ 10,111,528	\$ 11,612,861	\$ 11,360,179
Net OPEB liability as a percentage of covered employee payroll	42.69%	44.44%	41.12%	35.75%	37.64%
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Schedule of Contributions</b>					
Actuarially determined contribution	\$ 511,210	\$ 680,131	\$ 621,725	\$ 730,499	\$ 684,578
Contributions in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	<u>376,744</u>	<u>342,117</u>	<u>304,391</u>	<u>206,874</u>	<u>182,312</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ <u>134,466</u>	\$ <u>338,014</u>	\$ <u>317,334</u>	\$ <u>523,625</u>	\$ <u>502,266</u>
Covered employee payroll	\$ 7,184,878	\$ 10,414,874	\$ 10,111,528	\$ 11,612,861	\$ 11,360,179
Contributions as a percentage of covered employee payroll	5.24%	3.28%	3.01%	1.78%	1.60%
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Schedule of Investment Returns</b>					
Annual money weighted rate of return, net of investment expense	29.41%	1.97%	5.64%	8.89%	12.78%

*Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years. Additional years will be displayed as they become available.*

See notes to the Collaborative's financial statements for summary of significant actuarial methods and assumptions.

See Independent Auditors' Report.

**Supplementary Information**  
**Required Disclosures per Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 4E**

Chapter 40, Section 4E of the Massachusetts General Laws requires an education collaborative to present certain disclosures as part of the audited financial statements, including: (1) the names, duties and total compensation of the five most highly compensated employees; (2) transactions between the educational collaborative and any related for-profit or non-profit organization; (3) the amounts expended on services for individuals with disabilities, age 22 and older; (4) the amounts expended on administration and overhead; (5) any accounts held by the collaborative that may be spent at the discretion of another person or entity; (6) transactions or contracts related to the purchase, sale, rental, or lease of real property; and (7) annual determination and disclosure of cumulative surplus.

Accordingly, the Collaborative discloses the following:

***Names, Duties, and Total Compensation of the Five Most Highly Compensated Employees***

In fiscal year 2021, the names, duties, and total compensation of the Collaborative’s five most highly compensated employees are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Duties</u>	<u>Total Compensation</u>
1) Sanchita Banerjee	Administration - Executive Director	\$ 168,007
2) Gwendolyn Bertrand	Instruction - Teacher	\$ 124,183
3) Marcia Berkowitz	Administration - Assistant Executive Director	\$ 120,840
4) Therese Adams	Instruction - Occupational Therapist	\$ 111,031
5) Martin Finnegan	Transportation - Manager	\$ 107,646

***Transactions Between the Collaborative and Any Related For-Profit or Non-Profit Organization***

In fiscal year 2021, there were no transactions between the Collaborative and any related for-profit or non-profit organizations.

***Amounts Expended on Services for Individuals Aged 22 Years and Older***

In fiscal year 2021, the Collaborative did not expend any monies on services for individuals aged 22 years and older.

### **Amounts Expended on Administration and Overhead**

In fiscal year 2021, the Collaborative had the following administration and overhead expenditures:

	<u>Administration</u>	<u>Overhead</u>	<u>Direct Costs</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Current:				
Program:				
Administration	\$ 821,979	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 821,979
Supervision	-	-	790,813	790,813
Instruction	-	-	5,707,856	5,707,856
Instructional rent	-	506,372	22,927	529,299
Instructional insurance and benefits	-	-	1,553,889	1,553,889
Transportation operating	223,009	115,136	3,980,447	4,318,592
Transportation capital outlay	-	-	559,038	559,038
Total Expenditures	<u>\$ 1,044,988</u>	<u>\$ 621,508</u>	<u>\$ 12,614,970</u>	<u>\$ 14,281,466</u>

### **Accounts Held by the Collaborative That May Be Spent at the Discretion of Another Person or Entity**

In fiscal year 2021, the Collaborative did not hold any accounts that may be spent at the discretion of another person or entity.

### **Transactions or Contracts Related to the Purchase, Sale, Rental, or Lease of Real Property**

In fiscal year 2021, there were no transactions or contracts related to the purchase or sale of real property. Transactions related to the rental or lease of real property are summarized in the paragraphs below.

The Collaborative rents administrative, classroom, and transportation facilities from its member communities. These expenditures are transacted as rent credits, which reduce the gross program tuitions and transportation assessments of the applicable member communities. In fiscal year 2021, the Collaborative recorded administrative, program supervision, and instructional rent credits of \$7,500 per room for a total of \$120,000.

The Collaborative leases various spaces for additional administrative, classroom, and transportation facilities. In fiscal year 2021, the Collaborative paid a total of \$434,702 to Peter Central LLC for rental fees.

The Collaborative also leases transportation facilities from a private vendor. In fiscal year 2021, the Collaborative paid a total of \$66,740 to Wedgewood Realty Trust for rental fees and contracted maintenance charges for these transportation facilities.

Administration, program supervision, instruction and transportation tuition and assessment credits, as well as direct transportation facility rental expenditures are classified as overhead costs in the table of Administration and Overhead Expenditures on page 50.

**Annual Determination and Disclosure of Cumulative Surplus**

In fiscal year 2021, the Collaborative cumulative surplus was calculated as follows:

		<b>Financial Statements</b>
Voted Cumulative Surplus Calculation as of 6/30/20	\$ 5,389,044	Page 8
Amount of 6/30/20 cumulative surplus used to support the FY21 budget	(220,354)	Page 43
Unexpended FY21 General Funds	<u>(401,263)</u>	
Cumulative Surplus as of 6/30/21	<u>\$ 4,767,427</u>	Page 13
FY21 Total General Fund Expenditures	\$ 14,273,451	Page 15
FY21 MTRS on-behalf payment	(735,495)	
FY21 MSERS on-behalf payment	<u>(553,151)</u>	
Total expenditures subject to cumulative surplus percentage	<u>\$ 12,984,805</u>	
Cumulative Surplus Percentage	37%	



**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 AUDITORS' REPORT**

To the Board of Directors  
Concord Area Special Education Collaborative

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Concord Area Special Education Collaborative, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Collaborative's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 3, 2021.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Collaborative'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 opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Collaborative's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Collaborative'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 a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination

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Merrimack, New Hampshire  
Andover, Massachusetts  
Greenfield, Massachusetts  
Ellsworth, Maine



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 Collaborative'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 entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melanson".

Andover, Massachusetts  
December 3, 2021