

Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative

Regulatory Basis Financial Statements and Other Reports

June 30, 2025



ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
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Arkansas



Sen. Jim Petty
Senate Chair
Sen. Jim Dotson
Senate Vice Chair

Rep. Robin Lundstrum
House Chair
Rep. RJ Hawk
House Vice Chair

Kevin William White, CPA, JD
Legislative Auditor

LEGISLATIVE JOINT AUDITING COMMITTEE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative and Cooperative Board Members
Legislative Joint Auditing Committee

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of each major governmental fund of the Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative (the "Cooperative"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Cooperative's regulatory basis financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Unmodified Opinions on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective regulatory basis financial position of each major governmental fund of the Cooperative as of June 30, 2025, and the respective regulatory basis changes in financial position thereof and the respective regulatory basis budgetary comparison for the general and special revenue funds for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Ark. Code Ann. § 10-4-413(c) as provided in Act 2201 of 2005 described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the accompanying financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Cooperative as of June 30, 2025, or the changes in financial position for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Cooperative, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the Cooperative on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ark. Code Ann. § 10-4-413(c) as provided in Act 2201 of 2005, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, to meet the requirements of the State of Arkansas. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of Ark. Code Ann. § 10-4-413(c) as provided in Act 2201 of 2005, as described in Note 1, to meet the requirements of the State of Arkansas. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Cooperative's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Cooperative's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Cooperative's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplementary Information

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

Other Information

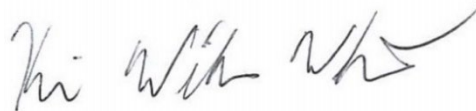
Management is responsible for the other information included in the report. The other information comprises the Schedule of Capital Assets and the Schedule of Selected Information for the Last Five Years – Regulatory Basis but does not include the regulatory basis financial statements, supplementary information, and our auditor’s report thereon. Our opinions on the regulatory basis financial statements do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the regulatory basis financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the regulatory basis financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 25, 2026 on our consideration of the Cooperative’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 Cooperative’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 Cooperative’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT



Kevin William White, CPA, JD
Legislative Auditor

Little Rock, Arkansas
February 25, 2026
EDSC01125

Arkansas

Sen. Jim Petty
Senate Chair
Sen. Jim Dotson
Senate Vice Chair



Rep. Robin Lundstrum
House Chair
Rep. RJ Hawk
House Vice Chair

Kevin William White, CPA, JD
Legislative Auditor

LEGISLATIVE JOINT AUDITING COMMITTEE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS
BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING
STANDARDS*

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative and Cooperative Board Members
Legislative Joint Auditing Committee

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 (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of each major governmental fund of the Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative (the "Cooperative"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Cooperative's regulatory basis financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated February 25, 2026. We issued an adverse opinion because the Cooperative prepared the financial statements on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Arkansas Code, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive. However, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the respective regulatory basis financial position of each major governmental fund of the Cooperative as of June 30, 2025, and the respective regulatory basis changes in financial position thereof and the respective regulatory basis budgetary comparison for the general and special revenue funds for the year then ended, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the regulatory basis financial statements, we considered the Cooperative'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 regulatory basis financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Cooperative's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Cooperative's internal control.

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

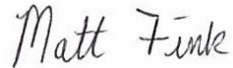
Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Cooperative's regulatory basis financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of the state constitution, state and federal laws and regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. 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.

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT



Matt Fink, CPA
Deputy Legislative Auditor

Little Rock, Arkansas
February 25, 2026

Arkansas

Sen. Jim Petty
Senate Chair
Sen. Jim Dotson
Senate Vice Chair



Rep. Robin Lundstrum
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Kevin William White, CPA, JD
Legislative Auditor

LEGISLATIVE JOINT AUDITING COMMITTEE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative and Cooperative Board Members
Legislative Joint Auditing Committee

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative's (the "Cooperative") compliance with the compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Cooperative's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2025. The Cooperative's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the Cooperative complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

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

We are required to be independent of the Cooperative and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Cooperative's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

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

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the Cooperative's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of the Cooperative's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Cooperative's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

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

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

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

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE AUDIT



Matt Fink, CPA
Deputy Legislative Auditor

Little Rock, Arkansas
February 25, 2026

ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
BALANCE SHEET - REGULATORY BASIS
JUNE 30, 2025

Exhibit A

	Governmental Funds	
	Major	
	General	Special Revenue
ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 2,740,999	
Accounts receivable	29,739	\$ 520,003
Due from other funds	82,947	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,853,685	\$ 520,003
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 66,127	\$ 352,395
Due to other funds		82,947
Total Liabilities	66,127	435,342
Fund Balances:		
Restricted	1,859,267	84,661
Assigned	723,421	
Unassigned	204,870	
Total Fund Balances	2,787,558	84,661
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	\$ 2,853,685	\$ 520,003

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

ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES -
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS - REGULATORY BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Exhibit B

	Major	
	General	Special Revenue
REVENUES		
State assistance	\$ 4,182,312	
Federal assistance		\$ 1,773,674
Investment income	887	
Other revenues	4,827,045	
 TOTAL REVENUES	9,010,244	1,773,674
 EXPENDITURES		
Regular programs	1,501,904	167,326
Special education	540,164	6,151
Career education programs		307,444
Compensatory education programs		119,119
Other instructional programs	1,783,598	
Student support services	543,940	213,548
Instructional staff support services	1,950,636	448,574
General administration support services	802,155	
Central services support services	520,607	119,695
Operation and maintenance of plant services	114,628	
Other support services	2,683	
Community services operations	1,415,753	361,561
Facilities acquisition and construction services	16,972	
Non-programmed costs	356,090	61,540
 TOTAL EXPENDITURES	9,549,130	1,804,958
 EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(538,886)	(31,284)
 OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)		
Refund to grantor	(1,654)	
Federal grant revenue passed through to school districts		(180,993)
 TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	(1,654)	(180,993)
 EXCESS OF REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES	(540,540)	(212,277)
 FUND BALANCES - JULY 1	3,328,098	296,938
 FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30	\$ 2,787,558	\$ 84,661

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

ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES -
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS - REGULATORY BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Exhibit C

	General			Special Revenue		
	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
REVENUES						
State assistance	\$ 3,073,124	\$ 4,182,312	\$ 1,109,188			
Federal assistance				\$ 1,125,849	\$ 1,773,674	\$ 647,825
Investment income	5,000	887	(4,113)			
Other revenues	4,669,654	4,827,045	157,391			
TOTAL REVENUES	7,747,778	9,010,244	1,262,466	1,125,849	1,773,674	647,825
EXPENDITURES						
Regular programs	1,565,673	1,501,904	63,769	114,213	167,326	(53,113)
Special education	749,090	540,164	208,926	11,000	6,151	4,849
Career education programs				241,674	307,444	(65,770)
Compensatory education programs				70,990	119,119	(48,129)
Other instructional programs	1,573,018	1,783,598	(210,580)			
Student support services	605,747	543,940	61,807	239,494	213,548	25,946
Instructional staff support services	729,402	1,950,636	(1,221,234)	35,239	448,574	(413,335)
General administration support services	558,654	802,155	(243,501)			
School administration support services	149,175		149,175			
Central services support services		520,607	(520,607)		119,695	(119,695)
Operation and maintenance of plant services	209,133	114,628	94,505			
Other support services	10,000	2,683	7,317			
Community services operations	1,579,978	1,415,753	164,225	399,750	361,561	38,189
Facilities acquisition and construction services		16,972	(16,972)			
Non-programmed costs	322,057	356,090	(34,033)	13,489	61,540	(48,051)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	8,051,927	9,549,130	(1,497,203)	1,125,849	1,804,958	(679,109)
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES	(304,149)	(538,886)	(234,737)		(31,284)	(31,284)
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)						
Transfers in	335,546		(335,546)			
Refund to grantor		(1,654)	(1,654)			
Federal grant revenue passed through to school districts					(180,993)	(180,993)
TOTAL OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES)	335,546	(1,654)	(337,200)		(180,993)	(180,993)

ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES -
BUDGET AND ACTUAL - GENERAL AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS - REGULATORY BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Exhibit C

	General			Special Revenue		
	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
EXCESS OF REVENUES AND OTHER SOURCES OVER (UNDER) EXPENDITURES AND OTHER USES	\$ 31,397	\$ (540,540)	\$ (571,937)		\$ (212,277)	\$ (212,277)
FUND BALANCES - JULY 1	<u>3,164,086</u>	<u>3,328,098</u>	<u>164,012</u>	<u>249,308</u>	<u>296,938</u>	<u>47,630</u>
FUND BALANCES - JUNE 30	<u>\$ 3,195,483</u>	<u>\$ 2,787,558</u>	<u>\$ (407,925)</u>	<u>\$ 249,308</u>	<u>\$ 84,661</u>	<u>\$ (164,647)</u>

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

ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025

1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A. Reporting Entity

The Board of Education, an eight member group, is the level of government, which has responsibilities over all activities within the jurisdiction of the Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative (Cooperative). There are no component units.

B. Description of Funds

Major governmental funds (per the regulatory basis of accounting) are defined as General and Special Revenue.

General Fund – The General Fund is used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund.

Special Revenue Fund – The Special Revenue Fund is used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service. The Special Revenue Fund includes federal revenues and related expenditures, restricted for specific educational programs or projects. If applicable, the Special Revenue Fund also includes required matching for those federal programs, program income required to be used to further the objectives of those programs, and transfers from the general fund to supplement such programs.

C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with a regulatory basis of accounting (RBA). This basis of accounting is prescribed by Ark. Code Ann. § 10-4-413(c) and requires that financial statements be presented on a fund basis with, as a minimum, the general fund and special revenue fund presented separately and all other funds included in the audit presented in the aggregate. The law also stipulates that the financial statements consist of a balance sheet; a statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances; a comparison of the final adopted budget to the actual expenditures for the general fund and special revenue funds of the entity; notes to financial statements; and a supplemental schedule of capital assets, including land, buildings, and equipment. The law further stipulates that the State Board of Education shall promulgate the rules necessary to administer the regulatory basis of presentation.

The RBA is not in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). GAAP require that basic financial statements present government-wide financial statements. Additionally, GAAP require the following major concepts: Management's Discussion and Analysis, accrual basis of accounting for government-wide financial statements, including depreciation expense, modified accrual basis of accounting for fund financial statements, separate financial statements for fiduciary fund types and other requirements for fiduciary fund types, separate identification of special and extraordinary items, inclusion of capital assets, leases, and debt in the financial statements, inclusion of compensated absences and the net pension liability in the financial statements, specific procedures for the identification of major governmental funds, and applicable note disclosures. The RBA does not require government-wide financial statements or the previously identified concepts.

The accompanying financial statements are presented on a fund basis. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts, which are segregated for purposes of recording specific activities or attaining certain objectives. Major governmental funds are defined as general and special revenue, and such funds are presented separately in the financial statements. All other governmental funds are presented in the aggregate. Fiduciary fund types are presented in a separate column in the Balance Sheet – Regulatory Basis. Revenues are reported by major sources and expenditures are reported by major function. Other transactions, which are not reported as revenues or expenditures, are reported as other financing sources and uses. Transactions related to the recording of installment contracts and financed purchases are reported as other financing sources. Changes in private-purpose funds will be reflected in the notes to the financial statements.

D. Revenue Recognition Policies

Revenues are recognized when they become susceptible to accrual in accordance with the RBA.

ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025

1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

E. Capital Assets

Information on capital assets and related depreciation is reported at Schedule 1. Capital assets are capitalized at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual data is not available. Capital assets purchased are recorded as expenditures in the applicable fund at the time of purchase. Donated capital assets are reported at acquisition value when received. The Cooperative maintains a threshold level of \$1,000 for capitalizing equipment. Library holdings are not capitalized.

No salvage value is taken into consideration for depreciation purposes. All capital assets, other than land and construction in progress, are depreciated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Asset Class	Estimated Useful Life in Years
Buildings	50
Equipment	3-25

F. Interfund Receivables and Payables

Interfund receivables and payables result from services rendered from one fund to another or from interfund loans.

G. Fund Balance Classifications

1. Restricted fund balance – represents amounts that are restricted to specific purposes when constraints placed on the use of resources are either (a) externally imposed by creditors (such as through bond covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
2. Assigned fund balances – represents amounts that are constrained by the Cooperative’s *intent* to be used for specific purposes but are neither restricted nor committed.
3. Unassigned fund balance – represents amounts that have not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed, or assigned to specific purposes within the general fund. This classification can also include negative amounts in other governmental funds, if expenditures incurred for specific purposes exceeded the amounts restricted, committed, or assigned to those purposes.

H. Fund Balance Classification Policies and Procedures

The Director, in conjunction with other management and accounting personnel, is authorized to assign amounts to a specific purpose. The Cooperative’s Board of Education has not adopted a formal policy addressing this authorization.

The Cooperative revenues, expenditures, and fund balances are tracked in the accounting system by numerous sources of funds. The fund balances of these sources of funds are combined to derive the Cooperative’s total fund balances by fund. It is uncommon for an individual source of funds to contain restricted and unrestricted (committed, assigned, or unassigned) funds. The Cooperative does not have a policy addressing whether it considers restricted or unrestricted amounts to have been spent when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted amounts are available. Cooperative personnel decide which resources (source of funds) to use at the time expenditures are incurred. For classification of fund balance amounts, restricted resources are considered spent before unrestricted. The Cooperative does not have a policy addressing which resources to use within the unrestricted fund balance when committed, assigned, or unassigned fund balances are available. When expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used, committed amounts are reduced first, followed by assigned amounts, and then unassigned amounts.

ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025

1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

I. Stabilization Arrangements

The Cooperative's Board of Education has not formally set aside amounts for use in emergency situations or when revenue shortages or budgetary imbalances arise.

J. Minimum Fund Balance Policies

The Cooperative's Board of Education has not formally adopted a minimum fund balance policy.

K. Budget and Budgetary Accounting

The Cooperative is required by state law to prepare an annual budget. The annual budget is prepared on a fiscal year basis. The Cooperative does not prepare and submit amended budgets during the fiscal year. The State Department of Education's regulations allow for the cash basis or the modified accrual basis. However, the majority of the cooperatives employ the cash basis method.

The Cooperative budgets intra-fund transfers. Significant variances may result in the comparison of transfers at the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Budget and Actual – General and Special Revenue Funds – Regulatory Basis because only interfund transfers are reported at the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds – Regulatory Basis. Additionally, the Cooperative routinely budgets restricted federal programs as part of the special revenue fund.

Budgetary perspective differences are not considered to be significant, because the structure of the information utilized in preparing the budget and the applicable fund financial statements is essentially the same.

L. Encumbrances

The Cooperative does not utilize encumbrance accounting.

2: CASH DEPOSITS WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Cash deposits are carried at cost (carrying value). The Cooperative's cash deposits at June 30, 2025, were as follows:

	Bank Balance
Insured (FDIC)	\$ 500,000
Collateralized:	
Collateral held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent in the Cooperative's name	2,461,134
Total Deposits	\$ 2,961,134

The above total deposits do not include cash on hand of \$200.

ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025

3: ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Accounts receivable at June 30, 2025, were comprised of the following:

Description	Governmental Funds	
	Major	
	General	Special Revenue
State assistance	\$ 13,805	
Federal assistance		\$ 520,003
Other	15,934	
Totals	<u>\$ 29,739</u>	<u>\$ 520,003</u>

4: ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES

Accounts payable and accrued liabilities at June 30, 2025, were comprised of the following:

Description	Governmental Funds	
	Major	
	General	Special Revenue
Vendor payables	\$ 34,266	\$ 352,395
Payroll withholdings and matching	31,861	
Totals	<u>\$ 66,127</u>	<u>\$ 352,395</u>

5: RETIREMENT PLAN

Arkansas Teacher Retirement System

Plan Description

The Cooperative contributes to the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System (ATRS), a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan that covers all Arkansas public school employees and education-related agencies, except certain non-teaching school employees. ATRS, administered by a Board of Trustees, provides retirement and disability benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Benefit provisions are established by State law and can be amended only by the Arkansas General Assembly. The Arkansas Teacher Retirement System issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for ATRS. That report may be obtained by writing to Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, 1400 West Third Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, by calling 501-682-1517, or by visiting the ATRS website at www.artrs.gov.

ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025

5: RETIREMENT PLAN (Continued)

Funding Policy

ATRS has contributory and noncontributory plans. Contributory members are required by State law to contribute 7% of their salaries. Each participating employer is required by State law to contribute at a rate determined by the Board of Trustees, based on the annual actuarial valuation. The current employer rate is 15% of covered salaries. The employer contribution was paid by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education from the Public School Fund, except for those employees paid from federal funding. Employer contributions for those employees were paid by the Cooperative. The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education's contributions to ATRS for the Cooperative during the year ended June 30, 2025, were \$852,419, equal to the required contributions. The Cooperative's contributions to ATRS for the year ended June 30, 2025, were \$56,191, equal to the required contributions.

Net Pension Liability

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education has stipulated that, under the regulatory basis of accounting, the requirements of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement no. 68 would be limited to disclosure of the Cooperative's proportionate share of the collective net pension liability. The Cooperative's proportionate share of the collective net pension liability at June 30, 2024, (actuarial valuation date and measurement date) was \$6,959,747.

6: RISK MANAGEMENT

The Cooperative is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters.

The Cooperative carries commercial insurance for educator's legal liability and business trip accidental death and dismemberment coverage.

The Cooperative participates in the Arkansas School Boards Association – Worker's Compensation Trust (the Trust), a self-insurance trust voluntarily established on July 1, 1994, pursuant to state law. The Trust is responsible for obtaining and administering workers' compensation insurance coverage for its members, as well as obtaining reinsurance coverage for those claims that exceed the standard policy limits. In its administrative capacity, the Trust is responsible for monitoring, negotiating, and settling claims that have been filed on behalf of and against member entities. The Cooperative contributes annually to this program.

Additionally, the Cooperative participates in the Arkansas School Boards Association – Risk Management Program (the Association), a self-insurance program voluntarily established on February 1, 1984, pursuant to state law. The Association is responsible for obtaining and administering insurance coverage for property and vehicles for its members, as well as obtaining and reinsurance coverage for those claims that exceed the standard policy limits. In its administrative capacity, the Association is responsible for monitoring, negotiating, and settling claims that have been filed against member entities. The Cooperative pays an annual premium for its buildings and contents.

The Cooperative participates in the Arkansas Fidelity Bond Trust Fund administered by the Governmental Bonding Board. This program provides coverage for actual losses sustained by its members through fraudulent or dishonest acts committed by officials or employees. Each loss is limited to \$300,000 with a \$2,500 deductible. Premiums for coverage are paid by the Chief Fiscal Officer of the State of Arkansas from funds withheld from the Public School Fund.

Settled claims have not exceeded coverage in any of the past three fiscal years. There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the prior year in the major categories of risk.

7: ON-BEHALF PAYMENTS

The allocation of the health insurance premiums paid by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to the Employee Benefits Division, on-behalf of the Cooperative's employees, totaled \$212,926 for the year ended June 30, 2025.

ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JUNE 30, 2025

8: DETAILS OF GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATIONS DISPLAYED IN THE AGGREGATE

Description	Governmental Funds	
	Major	
	General	Special Revenue
Fund Balances:		
Restricted for:		
Digital projects	\$ 102,276	
Arkansas better chance	1,107,335	
Executive administrative services	281,948	
K-8 virtual consortium	241,655	
Child nutrition programs		\$ 4,914
Medical services		76,389
Special education programs	1,834	
Education stabilization fund (COVID-19)		37
Other purposes	124,219	3,321
Total Restricted	1,859,267	84,661
Assigned to:		
Building projects	318,027	
Preschool programs	396,533	
Other purposes	8,861	
Total Assigned	723,421	
Unassigned	204,870	
Totals	\$2,787,558	\$ 84,661

9: CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS

Construction in progress totaling \$604,460, reported on Schedule 1, consisted of phase 1 costs for a building renovation project. There were no outstanding commitments pertaining to this project as of June 30, 2025.

ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
 SCHEDULE OF CAPITAL ASSETS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025
 (Unaudited)

Schedule 1

	Balance June 30, 2025
Nondepreciable capital assets:	
Land	\$ 297,888
Construction in progress	604,460
Total nondepreciable capital assets	902,348
Depreciable capital assets:	
Buildings	1,372,526
Equipment	711,926
Total depreciable capital assets	2,084,452
Less accumulated depreciation for:	
Buildings	788,904
Equipment	493,363
Total accumulated depreciation	1,282,267
Total depreciable capital assets, net	802,185
Capital assets, net	\$ 1,704,533

ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Schedule 2

Federal Grantor/Pass-Through Grantor/Program or Cluster Title	Federal Assistance Listing Number	Pass-Through Entity Identifying Number	Provided to Subrecipients	Total Federal Expenditures
OTHER PROGRAMS				
<u>U. S. Department of Education</u>				
Arkansas Department of Education - Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	3520		\$ 338,250
Arkansas Department of Career Education - Career and Technical Education - Basic Grants to States	84.048A	3520		338,671
Arkansas Department of Education - COVID-19 - American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425U	3520		110,931
Total Education Stabilization Fund				<u>110,931</u>
Total U. S. Department of Education				<u>787,852</u>
<u>U. S. Department of Health and Human Services</u>				
Arkansas Children's Hospital - Every Student Succeeds Act/Preschool Development Grants	93.434	not available		217,486
Arkansas Children's Hospital - Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Grant Program	93.870	not available		311,401
Total U. S. Department of Health and Human Services				<u>528,887</u>
TOTAL OTHER PROGRAMS				<u>1,316,739</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS			<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 1,316,739</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

- Note 1: Basis of Presentation - The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the "Schedule") includes the federal award activity of Arkansas River Education Service Cooperative (Cooperative) under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2025. The information in this Schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the Cooperative, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in financial position of the Cooperative.
- Note 2: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the regulatory basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.
- Note 3: The Cooperative has elected not to use the 10% or 15% de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.
- Note 4: During the year ended June 30, 2025, the Cooperative received Medicaid funding of \$12,930 from the Arkansas Department of Human Services. Such payments are not considered Federal awards expended, and therefore, are not included in the above Schedule.

ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
 SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Schedule 3

SECTION I - SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Types of auditor's reports issued on whether the financial statements audited were prepared in accordance with:

Generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) - adverse
 Regulatory basis - unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

- Material weakness(es) identified? yes no
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified? yes none reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted? yes no

FEDERAL AWARDS

Internal control over major federal programs:

- Material weakness(es) identified? yes no
- Significant deficiency(ies) identified? yes none reported

Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major federal programs: unmodified

Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)? yes no

Identification of major federal programs:

AL Number(s)	Name of Federal Program or Cluster
84.010A	Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies
84.048A	Career and Technical Education - Basic Grants to States

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between type A and type B programs: \$ 750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee? yes no

SECTION II - FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

No matters were reported.

SECTION III - FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

No matters were reported.



Schedule 4

ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

There were no findings in the prior audit.

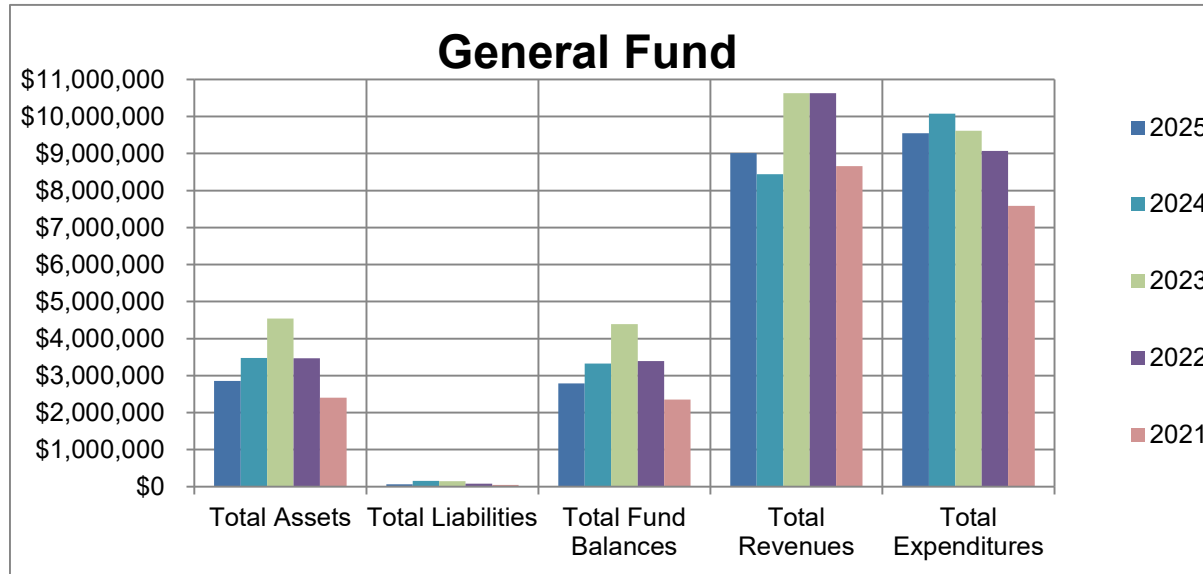
FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

There were no findings in the prior audit.

ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
 SCHEDULE OF SELECTED INFORMATION FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS - REGULATORY BASIS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025
 (Unaudited)

Schedule 5

General Fund	Year Ended June 30,				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Total Assets	\$ 2,853,685	\$ 3,480,910	\$ 4,539,318	\$ 3,469,343	\$ 2,400,151
Total Liabilities	66,127	152,812	147,105	80,066	45,646
Total Fund Balances	2,787,558	3,328,098	4,392,213	3,389,277	2,354,505
Total Revenues	9,010,244	8,437,908	10,626,838	10,628,360	8,661,983
Total Expenditures	9,549,130	10,075,975	9,613,952	9,067,240	7,581,168
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(1,654)	573,952	(9,950)	(526,348)	(503,615)



ARKANSAS RIVER EDUCATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE
 SCHEDULE OF SELECTED INFORMATION FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS - REGULATORY BASIS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025
 (Unaudited)

Schedule 5

Special Revenue Fund	Year Ended June 30,				
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Total Assets	\$ 520,003	\$ 597,999	\$ 348,588	\$ 307,057	\$ 452,919
Total Liabilities	435,342	301,061	440	25,830	345,894
Total Fund Balances	84,661	296,938	348,148	281,227	107,025
Total Revenues	1,773,674	1,480,504	11,746,267	2,175,963	1,807,310
Total Expenditures	1,804,958	1,531,714	11,679,346	1,496,065	1,724,973
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(180,993)			(505,696)	(8,832)

