

SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF
SALEM COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES

**COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL
FINANCIAL REPORT**

of the

Salem County Special Services Board of Education

Salem County, New Jersey

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017

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Prepared by

John Bolil

School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

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OF THE SALEM COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
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INTRODUCTORY SECTION

SALEM COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT

John R. Swain
Superintendent

Phone (856)769-0101 Fax (856) 769-3602

John Bolil

Business Administrator

Phone (856) 358-7091 ext. 4313 Fax (856) 358-6748

November 7, 2017

Honorable President and
Members of the Board of Education
Salem County Special Services School District
PO Box 126
Woodstown, New Jersey 08098

The comprehensive annual financial report of the Salem County Special Services School District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, is hereby submitted. Responsibility for both the accuracy of the data and completeness and fairness of the presentation, including all disclosures, rests with the management of the Board of Education (Board). To the best of our knowledge and belief, the data presented in this report is accurate in all material respects and is reported in a manner designed to present fairly the final position and results of operations of the various funds and the account groups of the District. All disclosures necessary to enable the reader to gain an understanding of the District's financial activities have been included.

The comprehensive annual financial report is presented in four sections: introductory, financial, statistical and single audit information. The introductory section includes this transmittal letter, the District's organizational chart and a list of principal officials. The financial section includes the basic financial statements and schedules, as well as the auditor's report thereon. The statistical section includes selected financial and demographic information, generally presented on a multi-year basis. The District is required to undergo an annual single audit in conformity with the provisions of Title 2 CFR 200- Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations" and state Treasury Circular Letter 15-08 OMB. "Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants and State Aid". Information related to this single audit, including the auditor's report on internal control and compliance with applicable laws and regulations and findings and recommendations, is included in the single audit section of this report.

- 1. REPORTING ENTITY AND ITS SERVICES:** Salem County Special Services School District is an independent reporting entity within the criteria adopted by the GASB as established by Statement No. 14. All funds of the District are included in this report. The Salem County Special Services Board of Education and all its schools constitutes the District's reporting entity.

The District provides a full range of special educational services for children from birth to age 21. The following programs during the 2016-2017 school year included, alternative high and middle schools, behavior disabilities, transitional career programs, Pre-school, multiply-disabilities, cognitive, autistic, and deaf and hearing impaired. The following details the changes in the student enrollment of the last five years. This includes an increase of one students in the 2016-17 school year.

Average Daily Enrollment		
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Student Enrollment</u>	<u>Percent Change</u>
2016-17	263.0	0.38%
2015-16	262.0	-11.19%
2014-15	295.0	3.15%
2013-14	286.0	84.99%
2012-13	154.6	-4.09%

2. **ECONOMIC CONDITION AND OUTLOOK:** The Salem County Special Services School District is located in a beautiful rural and agricultural county in southwestern New Jersey and conveniently located near Wilmington, Delaware and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The county is home to many small businesses, farms, and some industry. Major employers are PSEG, Dupont, the hospitals, County Government and the school districts. The county is rich in historical and cultural heritage. It is a small county with approximately 65,400 residents. Because of its small size, the need for community-based services is great. Opportunity abounds for creating such services, especially for the under age 18 populations, which comprises approximately 26 percent of the populations. The District has also expanded to serve neighboring Cumberland County, which is larger and much more populous. There are unlimited opportunities to serve the communities and school districts of Cumberland County. Even with its larger size and much greater student populations, Cumberland County has neither a special services school district nor an educational services commission. Therefore, the District is uniquely positioned to foster collaborative relationships with the school districts of that county. The district does receive some support from the Freeholders of both counties.

3. **MAJOR INITIATIVES:** The mission of the Salem County special services school district is to provide a thorough and efficient education for students with mild to severe disabilities. It is currently a regional educational service agency that provides high-quality and cost-effective programs and services to the schools and districts of Salem and Cumberland Counties. The on-going mission is accomplished through the efforts of administrators and staff who are dedicated to meeting the cognitive, emotional, and social needs of each student, and to seeing that each student reaches their fullest potential. In addition, Salem County Special Services School District embraces the concept of shared services for the purpose of maximizing efficiencies and minimizing cost. Among current services provided through a series of inter-local agreement our child study teams, related services, business administrator/board secretary, and the superintendent. Finally, the Salem County special services school district continuously monitors the emergent needs of districts in and around Salem and Cumberland County and provides leadership and strategies to address those needs in a manner consistent with the goals and objectives of the entire regional educational community.

2016-2017 continue to see instruction and resources be the primary focus of the district. The district continues to enhance instruction through the training of staff regarding the Unique Learning System, Creative Curriculum, Letter People, and PEC's. These resources have allowed our teachers to complement content standards and achieve the objectives and goals that are set forth for our students. The district continues to upgrade the technology infrastructure to aid in the ability of our staff to instruct, interact, and reinforce the appropriate instruction based on the learners needs. The district continues to upgrade and hands its technological capabilities that has included now assistive devices.

2016-2017 the district completed the final transitioning for the programs within the district. The Cumberland Campus now houses all medically fragile, medically disabled, low functioning ASD, and cognitive severe students. The Regional Day School/Salem Campus now host the higher functioning ASD students that participate in the transitional career program.

Child study team and related services continue to explore different business models to remain competitive and provide quality service to the district they serve. It is hope that this new approach continues to allow for growth in the future. The district has explored and is now implementing transportation options for the 2017-2018 in order to reduce the cost to the district. The Alternative School continues to thrive as we continue to have strong relationships in Cumberland and Salem County which allows our district to continue to grow and plan for the future as the program continues to be hosted at the Salem Community College.

In closing, Salem County special services appears to be stable. The district will be continuing to monitor and evaluate programs in the future to ensure viability and financial responsibility.

4. **INTERNAL ACCOUNTING CONTROLS:** Management of the District is responsible for establishing and maintaining internal control designed to ensure that the assets of the District are protected from loss, theft or misuse and to ensure that adequate accounting data are compiled to allow for the preparation of financial statements in conformity with the generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). Internal control is designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that these objectives are met. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that: (1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived; and (2) the valuation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgements by management.

As a recipient of federal awards and state financial assistance, the District also is responsible for ensuring that adequate internal controls are in place to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations related to those programs. This internal control process is also subject to periodic evaluation by the District's management.

As part of the District's single audit described earlier, tests are made to determine the adequacy of internal control, including that portion related to federal awards and state financial assistance programs, as well as to determine that the District has complied with applicable laws and regulations.

5. **BUDGETARY CONTROLS:** In addition to internal accounting controls, the District maintains budgetary controls. The objective of these budgetary controls is to ensure compliance with legal provisions embodied in the annual appropriated budget approved by the Board of School Estimates. Annual appropriated budgets are adopted for the general fund and the special revenue fund; there is no debt service fund. The final budget amount as amended for fiscal year 2017 is reflected in the financial section.

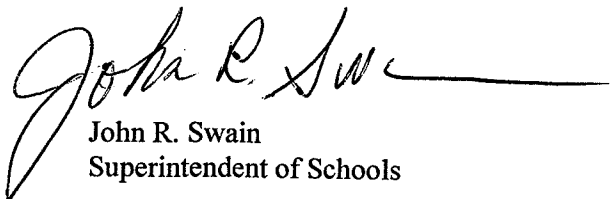
An encumbrance accounting system is used to record outstanding purchase commitments on a line item basis. Open encumbrances at year end are either cancelled or are included as reappropriation of fund balance in the subsequent year. Those amounts to be reappropriated are reported as reservations of fund balance at June 30, 2017.

6. **ACCOUNTING SYSTEM AND REPORTS:** The District's accounting records reflect generally accepted accounting principles, as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board

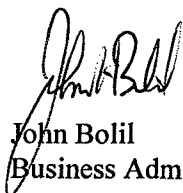
(GASB). The accounting system of the District is organized on the basis of funds and account groups. These funds and account groups are explained in "Notes to Financial Statements", Note 2.

7. **CASH MANAGEMENT:** The investment procedure of the District is guided in large part by state statute as detailed in "Notes to the Financial Statement", Note 3. The District has adopted a cash management plan which requires it to deposit public funds in public depositories protected from loss under the provisions of the Governmental Unit Deposit Protection Act ("GUDPA"). GUDPA was enacted in 1970 to protect governmental units from a loss of funds on deposit with a failed banking institution in New Jersey. The law requires governmental units to deposit public funds only in public depositories located in New Jersey, where the funds are secured in accordance with the Act.
8. **RISK MANAGEMENT:** The Board carries various forms of insurance, including but not limited to general liability, hazard and theft insurance on property and contents and fidelity bonds.
9. **OTHER INFORMATION: Independent Audit** - State statutes require an annual audit by independent certified public accountants or registered municipal accountants. The accounting firm of Nightlinger, Colavita and Volpa, Pa. was appointed by the Board. In addition to meeting the requirements set forth in State statutes, the audit also was designed to meet the requirements of the Title 2 CFR 200-Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance), and State of New Jersey Treasury Circular 15-08 OMB, Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants and State Aid. The auditor's report on the basic financial statements and combining and individual fund statements and schedules are included in the financial section of this report. The auditor's report related specifically to the single audit are included in the single audit section of this report.
10. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** We would like to express our appreciation to the members of the Salem County Special Services District Board of Education for their concern in providing fiscal accountability to the citizens and taxpayers of the school district and thereby continuing their full support to the development and maintenance of our financial operation. The presentation of this report could not have been accomplished without the efficient and dedicated services of our financial and accounting staff.

Respectfully submitted,



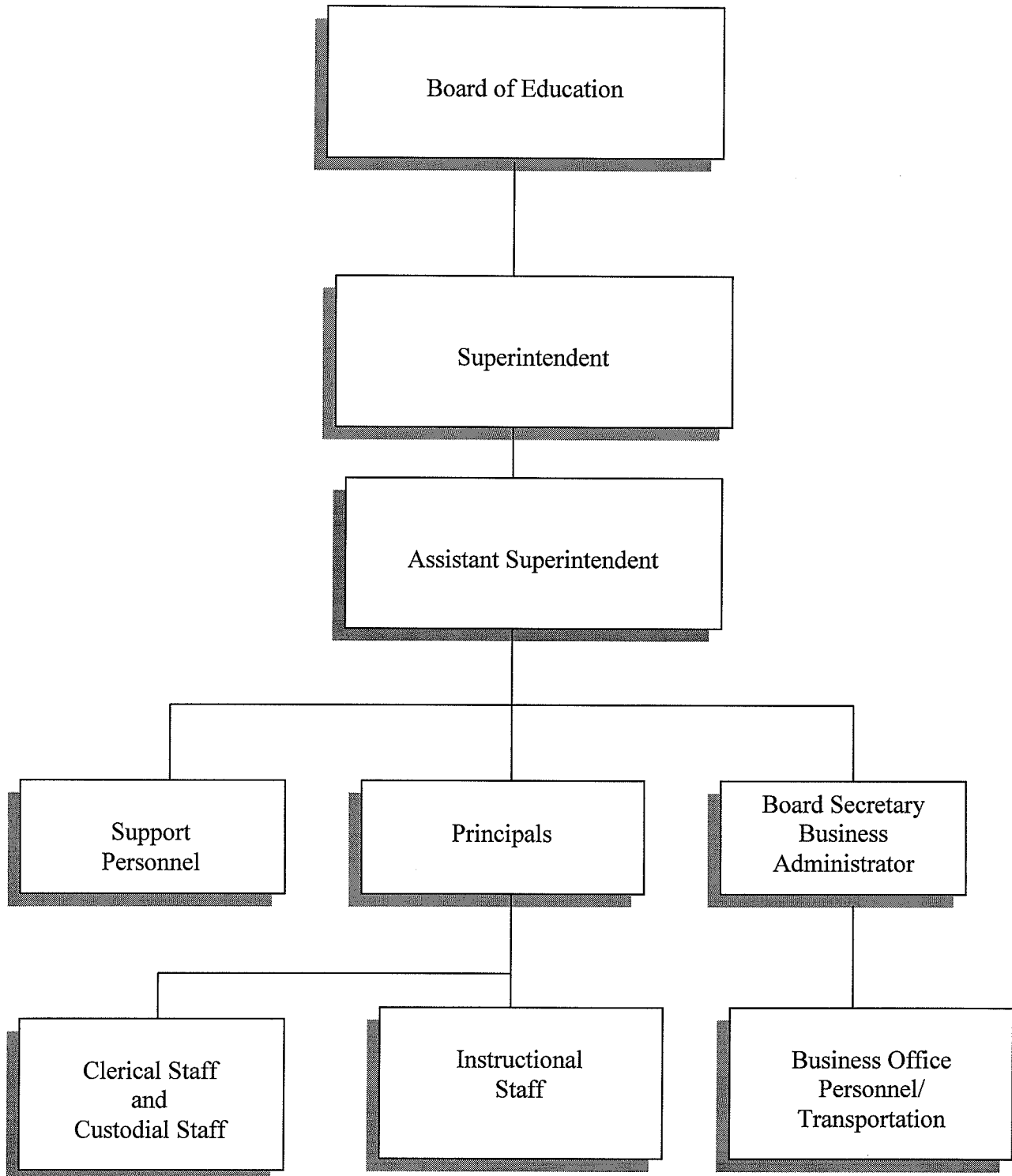
John R. Swain
Superintendent of Schools



John Bolil
Business Administrator

SALEM COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES BOARD OF EDUCATION

Organizational Chart (Unit Control)



SALEM COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

ROSTER OF OFFICIALS

JUNE 30, 2017

<u>MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
David Moffett, President	2018
Earl Ransome, Vice President	2018
James Davis	2020
Daryl Halter, Ex Officio	2020
Linwood Donelson III	2019
Julie Smith	2019
Margaret Nicolosi - Executive County Superintendent of Schools	
<u>OTHER OFFICIALS</u>	<u>Surety Bonds</u>
John R. Swain, Superintendent	
John Bolil, Board Secretary/Business Administrator	\$ 10,000
Treasurer	150,000

SALEM COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
SALEM COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

CONSULTANTS AND ADVISORS

ARCHITECT

Garrison Architects
14000F Commerce Parkway
Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054

AUDIT FIRM

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FINANCIAL SECTION

NIGHTLINGER, COLAVITA & VOLPA

A Professional Association

Certified Public Accountants

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November 7, 2017

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Honorable President and
Members of the Board of Education
Salem County Special Services School District
County of Salem, New Jersey

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Board of Education of the Salem County Special Services School District in the County of Salem, State of New Jersey, as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Salem County Special Services School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with 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.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the 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 reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

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, business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Salem County Special Services Board of Education in the County of Salem, State of New Jersey, as of June 30, 2017, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, budgetary comparison information and schedules related to accounting and reporting for pensions 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 considers 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 sufficient evidence 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 Salem County Special Services School Board of Education's basic financial statements. The introductory section, combining and individual non-major fund financial statements, and statistical section are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by the Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) and New Jersey OMB's Circular 15-08, Single Audit Policy for Recipients of Federal Grants, State Grants and State Aid, and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The combining and individual non-major fund financial statements and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the combining and individual non-major fund financial statements and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards and state financial assistance are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.


The introductory and statistical sections have not been subject to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements, and accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated November 7, 2017 on our consideration of the Salem County Special Services Board of Education's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Governments Auditing Standards* in considering Salem County Special Services School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

NIGHTLINGER, COLAVITA & VOLPA, P.A.



Raymond Colavita, C.P.A., R.M.A.
Licensed Public School Accountant
No. 915

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION – PART I

SALEM COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHOOL DISTRICT
SALEM COUNTY SPECIAL SERVICES

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

UNAUDITED

The discussion and analysis of Salem County Special Services School District's financial performance provides an overall review of the School District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the School District's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the notes to the basic financial statements and financial statements to enhance their understanding of the School District's financial performance. The Salem County Special Services District is considered a Component Unit of Salem County.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for 2017 are as follows:

- ❖ General revenues accounted for \$7,858,796 in revenue or 41.7% percent of all revenues. Program specific revenues in the form of charges for services, operating grants and contributions, and capital grants and contributions accounted for \$11,026,482 or 58.3% percent to total revenues of \$18,885,278.
- ❖ Net position of governmental activities decreased by \$1,042,155, comprised primarily of increases in pension expenses.
- ❖ The School District had \$19,351,381 in expenses. Of these expenses, \$11,026,482 was offset by program specific charges for services, grants or contributions. General revenues (primarily tuition charges) were adequate to provide for these programs.
- ❖ The General Fund had \$9,096,022 in revenues, \$9,288,469 in expenditures and \$472,748 in other financing sources. The General Fund balance increased by \$280,301 over 2016, which included a transfer in of net position resulting from the closeout of the Summer Program Enterprise Fund. This increase was anticipated by the Board of Education.

Using this Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. These statements are organized so the reader can understand Salem County Special Services School District as a financial whole, an entire operating entity. The statements then proceed to provide an increasingly detailed look at specific financial activities.

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the whole School District, presenting both an aggregate view of the School district's finances and a longer-term view of those finances. Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. For governmental funds, these statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. In the case of Salem County Special Services School District, the General Fund is the most significant fund.