

# **AUDIT COMMUNICATIONS**

Education Article, Section 5-109

**Anne Arundel County Public Schools**

October 2025



Members of the Board  
of Education of Anne Arundel County  
Annapolis, Maryland

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County, Maryland (the Board), a component unit of Anne Arundel County, Maryland as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and have issued our report thereon dated September 26, 2025. We have previously communicated to you information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards*, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit in our Statement of Work dated May 27, 2025. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

### **Significant audit findings or issues**

#### ***Qualitative aspects of accounting practices***

##### Accounting policies

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the school are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

As described in Note 1, the Board changed accounting policies related to compensated absences by adopting Statement of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB Statement) No. 101, *Compensated Absences*, effective for fiscal year 2025. There was no material impact on the Board's beginning net position as a result of the adoption of this accounting standard.

We noted no transactions entered into by the school during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

##### Accounting estimates

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

- Management's estimate of other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liability is based on computations performed by an outside specialist, including actuarial computations and assumptions that were relied upon. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the total OPEB liability in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- Management's estimate of incurred but not reported claims is based on computations performed by an outside specialist, including actuarial computations that were relied upon to establish the amount of claims liabilities under self-insurance programs. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate for claims liabilities including incurred but not reported claims for health, vision and dental insurance, in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statement taken as a whole.

**Financial statement disclosures**

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. There were no particularly sensitive financial statement disclosures.

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

***Significant unusual transactions***

We identified no significant unusual transactions.

***Difficulties encountered in performing the audit***

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

***Uncorrected misstatements***

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management did not identify and we did not notify them of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements.

***Corrected misstatements***

The following material misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures were corrected by management:

- During fiscal year 2025, the Board determined that the OPEB Trust Fund was improperly classified as a fiduciary fund of the Board's financial statements. The correction of the error to remove the OPEB Trust resulted in adjustments to and restatements of beginning net position totaling approximately \$19.3 million.

***Disagreements with management***

For purposes of this communication, a disagreement with management is a disagreement on a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. No such disagreements arose during our audit.

***Circumstances that affect the form and content of the auditors' report***

As previously communicated to you, the report was modified to add an emphasis of matter paragraph to highlight the change in accounting principle and adjustment related to prior periods as follows:

***Emphasis of Matter***

***Change in Accounting Principle***

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Board adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

***Adjustments Related to Prior Periods***

As discussed in Note 18 to the financial statements, the Board restated beginning balances in order to properly remove the OPEB trust as a fiduciary fund. Our opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

***Management representations***

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the attached management representation letter dated September 26, 2025.

***Management consultations with other independent accountants***

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

***Significant issues discussed with management prior to engagement***

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

***Required supplementary information***

With respect to the required supplementary information (RSI) accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the RSI, including whether the RSI has been measured and presented in accordance with prescribed guidelines, whether the methods of measurement and preparation have been changed from the prior period and the reasons for any such changes, and whether there were any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement or presentation of the RSI. We compared the RSI for consistency with management's responses to the foregoing inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge obtained during the audit of the basic financial statements. Because these limited procedures do not provide sufficient evidence, we did not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the RSI.

**Supplementary information in relation to the financial statements as a whole**

With respect to the the combining fund statements and schedules of revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance (collectively, the supplementary information) accompanying the financial statements, on which we were engaged to report in relation to the financial statements as a whole, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period or the reasons for such changes, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves. We have issued our report thereon dated September 26, 2025.

**Other information included in annual reports**

Other information (financial or nonfinancial information other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon) is being included in your annual report and is comprised of the introductory section and statistical tables. Our responsibility for other information included in your annual report does not extend beyond the financial information identified in our opinion on the financial statements. We have no responsibility for determining whether such other information is properly stated and do not have an obligation to perform any procedures to corroborate other information contained in your annual report. We are required by professional standards to read the other information included in your annual report and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statements because the credibility of the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon may be undermined by material inconsistencies between the audited financial statements and other information. 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. Our auditors' report on the financial statements includes a separate section, "Other Information," which states we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance on the other information included in the annual report. We did not identify any material inconsistencies between the other information and the audited financial statements.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of the Members of the Board and management of the school and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.



**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Baltimore, Maryland  
September 26, 2025



CliftonLarsonAllen LLP  
1966 Greenspring Drive, Suite 300  
Timonium, Maryland 21093

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County (the Board), which comprise the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, for the purpose of expressing opinions on whether the financial statements are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to misstatements that are material. Misstatements, including omissions, 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.

We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, as of September 26, 2025, the following representations made to you during your audit.

#### **Financial Statements**

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, as set out in the terms of the audit engagement agreement dated May 27, 2025, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The financial statements include all properly classified funds and other financial information of the primary government and all component units required by generally accepted accounting principles to be included in the financial reporting entity.
2. We acknowledge and have fulfilled our responsibility 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.
3. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud.
4. Methods, data, and significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates and their related disclosures, are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement, or disclosure that is reasonable in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
5. Significant estimates have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of U.S. GAAP. Significant estimates are estimates at the financial statement date that could change materially within the next year.
6. Related party relationships and transactions, including, but not limited to, revenues, expenditures/expenses, loans, transfers, leasing arrangements, and guarantees, and amounts receivable

from or payable to related parties have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of U.S. GAAP.

7. No events, including instances of noncompliance, have occurred subsequent to the financial statement date and through the date of this letter that would require adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial statements.
8. We have not identified or been notified of any uncorrected financial statement misstatements. In addition, you have proposed adjusting journal entries that have been posted to the Board's accounts. We have reviewed and approved those adjusting journal entries and understand the nature of the changes and their impact on the financial statements. We are in agreement with those adjustments and accept responsibility for them.
9. We are not aware of any pending or threatened litigation, claims, or assessments or unasserted claims or assessments that are required to be accrued or disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and we have not consulted a lawyer concerning litigation, claims, or assessments.
10. Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the Board is contingently liable, if any, have been properly recorded or disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
11. Arrangements with financial institutions involving repurchase, reverse repurchase, or securities lending agreements, compensating balances, or other arrangements involving restrictions on cash balances and line-of-credit or similar arrangements, have been properly recorded or disclosed in the financial statements.
12. Receivables recorded in the financial statements represent valid claims against debtors for transactions arising on or before the financial statement date, and the carrying amounts of those receivables and related allowances are determined in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
13. The methods and significant assumptions used result in a measure of fair value appropriate for financial statement measurement and disclosure purposes.
14. We have no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, or equity.
15. Participation in a public entity risk pool has been properly reported and disclosed in the financial statements.
16. We believe that the actuarial assumptions and methods used to measure pension and other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liabilities and costs for financial accounting purposes are appropriate in the circumstances.
17. We do not plan to make frequent amendments to our pension or other postretirement benefit plans.
18. Accounting changes and error corrections are appropriately presented and disclosed in the financial statements.

19. We have properly identified the various types of leave and have recorded a liability for compensated absences in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 101, *Compensated Absences*.
20. We have appropriately identified and disclosed concentrations or constraints that exist in accordance with the requirements of GASB Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*.
21. We are not aware of any concentrations or constraints that would require disclosure in accordance with GASB Statement No. 102, *Certain Risk Disclosures*.

#### **Information Provided**

1. We have provided you with:
  - a. Access to all information, of which we are aware, that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements such as records (including information obtained from within and outside of the general and subsidiary ledgers), documentation, and other matters.
  - b. Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit.
  - c. Unrestricted access to persons within the Board from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
  - d. Complete minutes of the meetings of the governing board and related committees, or summaries of actions of recent meetings for which minutes have not yet been prepared.
  - e. All communications from regulatory agencies, grantors, lenders, and other funding sources concerning noncompliance with, or deficiencies in, financial reporting practices.
  - f. All communications from regulatory agencies, grantors, lenders, and other funding sources concerning noncompliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements.
  - g. Access to all audit or relevant monitoring reports, if any, received from funding sources.
2. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.
3. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
4. We have no knowledge of any fraud or suspected fraud that affects the Board and involves:
  - a. Management;
  - b. Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
  - c. Others when the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

5. We have no knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Board's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others.
6. We have no knowledge of any instances of noncompliance or suspected noncompliance with laws and regulations and provisions of contracts and grant agreements, or waste or abuse whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
7. We are not aware of any pending or threatened litigation, claims, or assessments, or unasserted claims or assessments, that are required to be accrued or disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and we have not consulted a lawyer concerning litigation, claims, or assessments.
8. There are no other material liabilities or gain or loss contingencies that are required to be accrued or disclosed in accordance with U.S. GAAP.
9. We have disclosed to you the identity of all the Board's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware, including any side agreements.
10. We are responsible for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to the Board, including tax or debt limits and debt contracts; and we have identified and disclosed to you all laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements that we believe have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts or other financial data significant to the audit objectives, including legal and contractual provisions for reporting specific activities in separate funds.
11. There are no violations or possible violations of budget ordinances, laws and regulations (including those pertaining to adopting, approving, and amending budgets), provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements, or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, or for reporting on noncompliance.
12. The Board has complied with all aspects of contractual or grant agreements that would have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of noncompliance.
13. There are no violations or possible violations of budget ordinances, laws and regulations (including those pertaining to adopting, approving, and amending budgets), provisions of contracts and grant agreements, tax or debt limits, and any related debt covenants whose effects should be considered for disclosure in the financial statements, or as a basis for recording a loss contingency, or for reporting on compliance.
14. We have followed all applicable laws and regulations in adopting, approving, and amending budgets.
15. The financial statements include all component units as well as joint ventures with an equity interest, and properly disclose all other joint ventures, jointly governed organizations, and other related organizations.
16. The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities.

17. All funds that meet the quantitative criteria in GASB Statement Nos. 34 and 37 for presentation as major are identified and presented as such and all other funds that are presented as major are particularly important to financial statement users.
18. All funds that meet the quantitative criteria in GASB Statement Nos. 34 and 37 for presentation as major are identified and presented as such and all other funds that are presented as major are particularly important to financial statement users.
19. Components of net position (net investment in capital assets; restricted; and unrestricted) and classifications of fund balance (nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned) are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
20. Investments, derivative instruments, and land and other real estate held by endowments are properly valued.
21. Expenses have been appropriately classified in or allocated to functions and programs in the statement of activities, and allocations have been made on a reasonable basis.
22. Revenues are appropriately classified in the statement of activities within program revenues, general revenues, contributions to term or permanent endowments, or contributions to permanent fund principal.
23. Interfund, internal, and intra-entity activity and balances have been appropriately classified and reported.
24. Deposits and investment securities and derivative instruments are properly classified as to risk and are properly valued and disclosed.
25. Capital assets, including infrastructure and intangible assets, are properly capitalized, reported, and, if applicable, depreciated.
26. We have appropriately disclosed the Board's policy regarding whether to first apply restricted or unrestricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available and have determined that net position is properly recognized under the policy.
27. We have appropriately disclosed the Board's accounting policy regarding which resources (that is, restricted, committed, assigned, or unassigned) are considered to be spent first for expenditures for which more than one resource classification is available. That policy determines the fund balance classifications for financial reporting purposes.
28. We acknowledge our responsibility for the required supplementary information (RSI). The RSI is measured and presented within prescribed guidelines and the methods of measurement and presentation have not changed from those used in the prior period. We have disclosed to you any significant assumptions and interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the RSI.

29. We acknowledge our responsibility for presenting the combining statements and schedules (the supplementary information) in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and we believe the supplementary information, including its form and content, is fairly presented in accordance with U.S. GAAP. The methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information have not changed from those used in the prior period, and we have disclosed to you any significant assumptions or interpretations underlying the measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. If the supplementary information is not presented with the audited financial statements, we will make the audited financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date we issue the supplementary information and the auditors' report thereon.

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Mark T. Bedell, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew Stanski, Chief Financial Officer