



Members  
Board of Education of Carroll County  
Westminster, Maryland

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Board of Education of Carroll County (the Board), a component unit of Carroll County, Maryland as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and have issued our report thereon dated September 14, 2023. 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 April 21, 2023. 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 Board of Education of Carroll County are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

As described in Note 1, the Board changed accounting policies related to subscription-based information technology arrangements by adopting Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB Statement) No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, effective July 1, 2022. There was no material impact on the Board's net position/fund balance and changes in net position/fund balance as a result of the adoption of this accounting standard.

We noted no transactions entered into by the entity 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 the other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liability is based on computations performed by outside specialist, including actuarial computations and assumptions that were relied upon. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the net 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 outside specialists, including actuarial computations that were relied upon to establish the amount of claims liability under self-insurance programs. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimates 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 statements taken as a whole.
- Management's estimate of the County support for noncash transactions for the use of facilities is based on estimates of facility costs (including rent, utilities, insurance, and maintenance) provided by the County. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the County's support in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.
- Management's estimate of the net pension liability is based on computations performed by outside specialist, including actuarial computations and assumptions that were relied upon. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the net pension liability in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements 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. The attached schedule summarizes uncorrected misstatements of the financial statements. Management has determined that their effects are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

#### ***Corrected misstatements***

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

- We noted an instance where expenditures were incurred for goods and/or services received after June 30, 2023, and related to fiscal year 2024; however, recorded in fiscal year 2023. A journal entry, totaling \$1,000,000 was made to properly record the expenditures in fiscal year 2024 in the Capital Projects fund.

***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 include an emphasis of matter paragraph to highlight the changes in accounting principle related to the adoption of the new accounting guidance for subscription-based information technology arrangements as follows:

**Change in Accounting Principle**

As discussed in Note 1 to the financial statements, effective July 1, 2022, the Board adopted new accounting guidance for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs). The guidance requires lessees to recognize a right-to-use subscription asset and corresponding subscription liability for all subscription-based information technology arrangements with terms greater than twelve months. 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 14, 2023.

***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 entity'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 entity's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our engagement.

***Other audit findings or issues***

We have provided a separate communication to you dated September 14, 2023, communicating internal control related matters identified during the audit.

***Audits of group financial statements***

We noted no matters related to the group audit that we consider to be significant to the responsibilities of those charged with governance of the group.

**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.

\* \* \*

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "CliftonLarsonAllen LLP".

**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Baltimore, Maryland  
September 14, 2023

**SUMMARY OF UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS - AUDIT**

**Carroll County Board of Education**

**Aggregate Remaining**

**Year Ended June 30, 2023**

**UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS OF AMOUNTS**

**Effect of misstatements on:**

Description	Assets	Liabilities	Fund Balance / Net Assets	Net Expense/Revenue and Change in Net Assets / Fund Balance
Market value adjustment for 2 alternative investment 6/30/2023 balance was not made.	\$ (69,793)	\$ -	\$ 69,793	\$ 69,793
Net current year misstatements (Iron Curtain Method)	(69,793)	-	69,793	69,793
Net prior year misstatements	-	-		-
Combined current and prior year misstatements (Rollover Method)	\$ (69,793)	\$ -	\$ 69,793	\$ 69,793
Financial statement totals	<u>\$ 35,376,788</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 35,376,788</u>	<u>\$ 3,920,507</u>
Current year misstatement as a % of financial statement totals (Iron Curtain Method)	0%	0%	0%	2%
Current and prior year misstatement as a % of financial statement totals (Rollover Method)	0%	0%	0%	2%

**INADEQUATE DISCLOSURES OR UNCORRECTED MISSTATEMENTS OF DISCLOSURES**

Description	Amount (If Applicable)
None noted	



# Carroll County Public Schools

125 N. Court Street | Westminster, MD 21157

410-751-3000  
MD RELAY 711  
410-751-3030 FAX

Building the Future  
Cynthia McCabe, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

September 14, 2023

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 Carroll 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, 2023, 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 14, 2023, 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 April 21, 2023, 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. We have identified all accounting estimates that could be material to the financial statements, including the key factors and significant assumptions used in making those estimates, and we believe the estimates (including those measured at fair value) and the significant assumptions used in making those accounting estimates are reasonable.



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 or in the schedule of findings and questioned costs.
8. The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements for each opinion unit. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to the representation letter. 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, or which would affect federal award programs, and we have not consulted a lawyer concerning litigation, claims, or assessments.
10. Guarantees, whether written or oral, under which the entity 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 have been reduced to their estimated net realizable value.
13. We have no plans or intentions that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets, liabilities, or equity.
14. Participation in a public entity risk pool has been properly reported and disclosed in the financial statements.
15. 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.
16. We agree with the findings of specialist in evaluating the other post-employment benefits (OPEB) liabilities and costs and claims liabilities, including incurred but not reported claims for health, vision, and dental insurance and have adequately considered the qualifications of the specialist in determining the amounts and disclosures used in the financial statements and underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to the specialist with respect to the values or amounts derived

in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have an impact on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.

17. We are not aware of any pollution remediation obligations which would require an adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial statements in accordance with GASB 49, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pollution Remediation Obligations*.
18. We are not aware of any intangible assets which would require an adjustment to, or disclosure in, the financial statements in accordance with GASB 51, *Accounting and Reporting for Intangible Assets*.
19. We have properly included all of the applicable disclosures and required supplementary information for the Board's OPEB plans under GASB 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans* in the financial statements.
20. We have implemented GASB Statement No. 96, Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs), during the audit period. We have implemented the new accounting standard in accordance with the guidance prescribed in the statement. We have sufficient and appropriate documentation supporting all estimates and judgments underlying the amounts recorded and disclosed in the financial statements. We have analyzed all SBITAs and have considered and recorded material embedded SBITAs contained within other contracts in accordance with GASB Statement No. 96.

#### **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 entity 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 and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.



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 entity 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 entity'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 provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, or waste or abuse whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.
7. We have disclosed to you all known actual or possible litigation, claims, and assessments whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
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 entity's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware, including any side agreements.
10. The entity has satisfactory title to all owned assets, and there are no liens or encumbrances on such assets, nor has any asset been pledged as collateral, except as made known to you and disclosed in the financial statements.
11. We have a process to track the status of audit findings and recommendations.
12. We have identified to you any previous audits, attestation engagements, and other studies related to the audit objectives and whether related recommendations have been implemented.
13. We are responsible for compliance with the laws, regulations, and provisions of contracts and grant agreements applicable to Board of Education of Carroll County, 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.
14. 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.

15. The entity 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.
16. We have followed all applicable laws and regulations in adopting, approving, and amending budgets.
17. The financial statements properly classify all funds and activities.
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 equity amounts are properly classified and, if applicable, approved.
20. Fund balance classifications for governmental funds are properly recorded in accordance with GASB 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*.
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 entity'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 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.
28. In regards to the nonattest services performed by you, we have:
  - a. Made all management judgments and decisions and assumed all management responsibilities.
  - b. Designated an individual who possesses suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to understand and oversee the services.

- c. Evaluated the adequacy and results of the services performed.
- d. Accepted responsibility for the results of the services.



---

Cynthia McCabe, Superintendent of Schools



---

Robert Burk, Chief Financial Officer



---

Kenneth Keith, Supervisor of Finance





**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' 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**

Members

Board of Education of Carroll County  
Westminster, Maryland

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Board of Education of Carroll County, Maryland (the Board), a component unit of Carroll County, Maryland as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Board's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 14, 2023.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Board's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Board's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Board's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination 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 and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified a deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings and responses as item 2023-001 that we consider to be a significant deficiency.



## **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

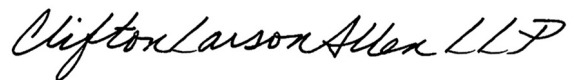
As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Board's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect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

## ***The Board's Response to Findings***

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Board's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. The Board's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

## ***Purpose of This Report***

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "CliftonLarsonAllen LLP".

**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Baltimore, Maryland  
September 14, 2023

**The Board of Education of Carroll County, Maryland**  
**Schedule of Findings and Responses**  
**June 30, 2023**

**Finding 2023-001: Subsequent Disbursements**

**Type of Finding: Significant Deficiency in Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

**Condition**

The Board's procedures for reviewing subsequent payments after year end to ensure completeness of accounts payable at the balance sheet date did not identify an invoice related to the capital projects fund that was recorded in fiscal year 2023. The invoice should have been recorded in fiscal year 2024.

**Criteria**

Generally accepted accounting principles require expenditures to be recorded when incurred (i.e., goods and/or services are received). Internal controls need to be appropriately designed to identify and record expenditures in the correct accounting period.

**Cause**

The Board did not adequately review the invoice to ensure expenditures were recorded in the proper accounting period.

**Effect**

An adjusting journal entry to the financial statements was required to be made to the capital projects fund to adjust the accounts payable and expense accounts at year end.

**Recommendation**

We recommend that management review the existing policies and procedures related to recording of payables at year end and make the necessary modifications to ensure adequate recording of accounts payable at year end.

**Views of Responsible Officials**

Management agrees with the accrual correction to properly record Capital Improvement Project (CIP) expenditures in the appropriate fiscal year. In this instance, the CIP expenditure occurred immediately after fiscal year end and should not have been accrued back to FY 23. Unfortunately, this accrual was not discovered during the year-end review process. In the future, invoices will be closely reviewed for date of service delivery in order to record in the proper fiscal year.