

***QUESTAR III***  
***BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES***  
***RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES***

***FINANCIAL REPORT***

***JUNE 30, 2017***

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**

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*MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (UNAUDITED)*  
*JUNE 30, 2017*

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The following is a discussion and analysis of the Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties Board of Cooperative Educational Services (hereinafter referred to as "Questar III") financial performance for the year ended June 30, 2017. This section is a summary of Questar III's financial activities based on currently known facts, decisions, or conditions. It is also based on both the government-wide and fund-based financial statements. The results of the current year are discussed in comparison with the prior year, with an emphasis placed on the current year. This section is only an introduction and should be read in conjunction with Questar III's financial statements, which immediately follow this section.

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- Net position on an entity wide basis decreased by approximately \$4.7 million over the prior year, primarily as a result of the net impact of the postemployment benefit adjustment, the pension adjustment and the deposit with the Health Insurance Trust.
- Governmental revenues under the modified accrual basis of accounting decreased by 1.00% due to a net decrease in providing instructional services. The following is a five year revenue comparison (dollars in millions):

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Administration (001-002)	\$ 7.6	\$ 7.5	\$ 7.3	\$ 5.9	\$ 6.0
Career Education (100-199)	8.8	8.9	8.5	8.0	8.0
Instruction for Handicapped (200-299)	21.6	22.7	20.9	19.8	19.9
Itinerant Service (300-399)	2.0	2.1	2.2	1.8	1.9
General Instruction (400-499)	6.2	5.9	5.5	5.2	4.6
Instructional Support (500-599)	7.4	7.4	7.1	6.7	5.7
Other Services (600-699)	11.1	11.1	10.6	9.4	9.4
Special Aid Fund (800-999)	4.5	4.3	5.6	4.7	5.8
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 69.2</u>	<u>\$ 69.9</u>	<u>\$ 67.7</u>	<u>\$ 61.5</u>	<u>\$ 61.3</u>
% Increase (Decrease)	<u>(1.00%)</u>	<u>3.25%</u>	<u>10.08%</u>	<u>.32%</u>	<u>4.79%</u>

The majority of Questar III services are purchased by our 23 component school districts which accounted for approximately 78.3% of our total revenues (78.5% in the 2015-2016 year).

Expenditures decreased by 4.1% over the prior year. Salaries increased as a percentage of total expenditures to 39.3% for the current year from 37.0% in the prior year. The following is a five year expenditure comparison (dollars in millions) for salaries and benefits:

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**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (CONTINUED)**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Salaries & Wages	\$ 25.5	\$ 25.1	\$ 24.7	\$ 24.1	\$ 23.9
Salaries & Wages as % of Total Expenditures	39.3%	37.0%	39.0%	41.1%	41.6%
Fringe Benefits	\$ 15.1	\$ 15.7	\$ 13.7	\$ 12.1	\$ 11.7
Fringe Benefits as % of Total Expenditures	23.3%	23.0%	21.6%	20.6%	20.3%
Health Insurance	\$ 9.4	\$ 9.2	\$ 7.1	\$ 6.0	\$ 5.9
Health Insurance as % of Total Expenditures	14.5%	14.7%	11.2%	10.2%	10.2%
Total Expenditures	\$ 64.9	\$ 67.7	\$ 63.4	\$ 58.8	\$ 57.6

Questar III offers approximately 280 educational and district support services, while operating on a fiscally sound basis. Demand for Questar III educational programs is stable and we expect the trend to continue.

**OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

This annual report consists of three parts: MD&A (this section), the basic financial statements, and supplementary information. The basic financial statements include two kinds of statements that present different views of Questar III:

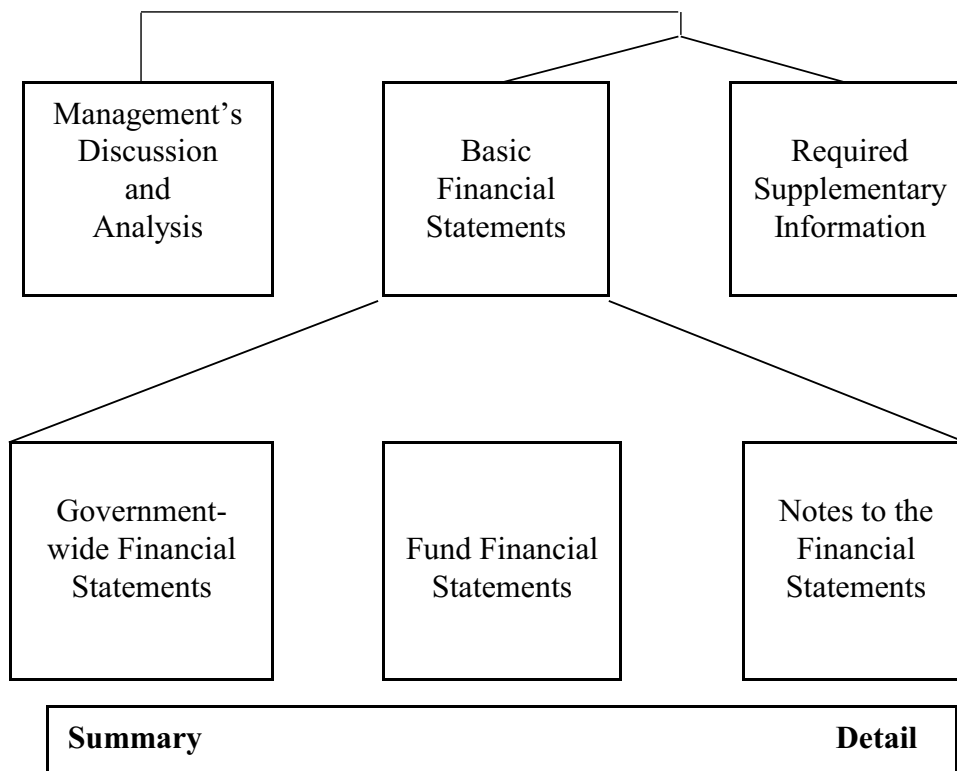
- The first two statements are ***government-wide financial statements*** that provide both *short-term* and *long-term* information about Questar III's *overall* financial status.
- The remaining statements are ***fund financial statements*** that focus on *individual parts* of Questar III, reporting the operations in *more detail* than the entity-wide statements.
- The ***governmental fund statements*** tell how basic services such as instruction and support functions were financed in the *short-term* as well as what remains for future spending.
- The ***fiduciary fund statements*** provide information about the financial relationships in which Questar III acts solely as a *trustee* or *agent* for the benefit of others.

The financial statements also include notes that provide additional information about the financial statements and the balances reported. The statements are followed by a section of required and other supplementary information that further explains and supports the financial statements with a comparison of Questar III's budget for the year and details as to amounts due from school districts and other BOCES. Table A-1 shows how the various parts of this annual report are arranged and related to one another.

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**Table A-1:** Organization of Questar III's Annual Financial Report



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Table A-2 Summarizes the major features of Questar III's financial statements, including the portion of Questar III's activities that they cover and the types of information that they contain. The remainder of this overview section of management's discussion and analysis highlights the structure and contents of each of the statements.

**Table A-2: Major Features of the Government-wide and Fund Financial Statements**

	Government-wide <u>Statements</u>	Fund Financial Statements	
		<u>Governmental</u>	<u>Fiduciary</u>
1. Scope	Entire governmental entity (except fiduciary funds)	The day-to-day operating activities of Questar III, such as education and district support services	Instances in which Questar III administers resources on behalf of others, such as scholarships
2. Required financial statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement of Net Position</li> <li>• Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Position</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance Sheet</li> <li>• Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statement of Fiduciary Net Position</li> <li>• Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position</li> </ul>
3. Accounting basis and measurement focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus	Modified accrual and current financial resources measurement focus	Accrual accounting and economic resources focus
4. Type of asset and liability information	All assets and liabilities, both financial and capital, short-term and long-term	Current assets and liabilities that come due during the year or soon thereafter; no capital assets or long-term liabilities included	All assets and liabilities, both financial and capital, short-term and long-term
5. Type of inflow and outflow information	All revenues and expenses during year; regardless of when cash is received or paid	Revenues for which cash is received during the year or soon thereafter; expenditures when goods or services have been received and the related liability is due and payable	All additions and deductions during the year, regardless of when cash is received or paid

## GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENTS

The government-wide statements report information about Questar III as a whole using accounting methods similar to those used by private-sector companies. The Statement of Net Position (Deficit) includes all of Questar III's assets and liabilities. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are accounted for in the Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Position (Deficit) regardless of when cash is received or paid.

The two district-wide statements report Questar III's *net position* and how they are changed. Net position, the difference between the assets and liabilities, is one way to measure the financial health or position of Questar III.

- Over time, increases and decreases in net position is an indicator of whether the financial position is improving or deteriorating, respectively.
- For assessment of the overall health of Questar III, additional non-financial factors such as changes in Questar III's component and non-component district's health and the condition of buildings and other facilities should be considered.

In the government-wide financial statements, Questar III's activities are shown as *Governmental Activities*: most of Questar III's basic services are included here, such as career and technical education, special education, support services, administration and substantially all these activities are financed through user charges.

## FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The fund financial statements provide more detailed information about Questar III's funds. Funds are accounting devices that Questar III uses to account for specific revenue sources and spending on particular programs. The funds have been established by the laws of the State of New York.

Questar III has two kinds of funds:

- ***Governmental funds***: Most of the basic services are included in governmental funds, which generally focus on (1) how cash and other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash flow and (2) the balances left at year-end that are available for spending. Consequently, the governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view that helps determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the programs of Questar III. Because this information does not encompass the additional long-term focus of the government-wide statements, additional information at the bottom of the governmental funds statements explains the relationship (or differences) between them. In summary, the governmental fund statements focus primarily on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources and often has a budgetary orientation. Included are the general, special revenue and capital project funds. Required statements are the Balance Sheet and the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances.



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**FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

- **Fiduciary funds:** Questar III is the trustee or fiduciary for assets that belong to others, such as scholarship funds and student activities funds. Questar III is responsible for ensuring that the assets reported in these funds are used only for their intended purposes and by those to whom the assets belong. Questar III excludes these activities from the entity-wide financial statements because it cannot use these assets to finance its operations. Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position.

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF QUESTAR III AS A WHOLE**

Questar III's net position decreased approximately \$4.7 million to a deficit of approximately \$70.3 million as detailed in Tables A-3 and A-4.

**Table A-3: Condensed Statement of Net Position (Deficit)**  
**(in millions)**

	<u><b>2017</b></u>	<u><b>2016</b></u>
Current Assets	\$ 19.2	\$ 17.2
Capital Assets, Net of Depreciation	7.7	7.9
Other Long-Term Assets	1.5	.9
Proportionate Share of Net Pension Assets	-	11.3
Deferred Outflows - Pension	13.1	6.4
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows	<u>\$ 41.5</u>	<u>\$ 43.7</u>
Current Liabilities	\$ 9.1	\$ 9.6
Noncurrent Liabilities	101.9	95.2
Deferred Inflows - Pension	.8	4.5
Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows	<u>\$ 111.8</u>	<u>\$ 109.3</u>
Net Position (Deficit)		
Investment in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	\$ 7.7	\$ 7.9
Unassigned Deficit	(78.0)	(73.5)
Total Net Position (Deficit)	<u>\$ (70.3)</u>	<u>\$ (65.6)</u>

**CHANGES IN NET POSITION (DEFICIT)**

Questar III's total year 2017 program revenues approximate \$68.5 million. (See Table A-4) Charges to components, non-components and others accounted for 94.9% (93.2% in 2016) of Questar III's revenue. Operating grants accounted for 4.1% (6.3% in 2016).

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**CHANGES IN NET POSITION (DEFICIT) (CONTINUED)**

Questar III's total year 2017 program expenses approximate \$70.3 million. (See Table A-4) Of these expenses 90.7% related to instruction, instructional support and other district services (90.4% in 2016) and 9.3% related to administrative and business activities (9.6% in 2016).

**Table A-4: Changes in Net Position (Deficit) from Operating Results**  
(in millions)

	<u>2017</u>		<u>2016</u>	
<b>Revenues</b>				
Program Revenues				
Charges for Services	\$ 65.0	94.9%	\$ 64.0	93.2%
Operating Grants	2.8	4.1%	4.3	6.3%
Other Revenues	<u>.7</u>	<u>1.0%</u>	<u>.4</u>	<u>.5%</u>
Total Revenues	<u>68.5</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>68.7</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Administration	6.6	9.3%	6.6	9.6%
Career Education	9.6	13.7%	10.2	14.9%
Instruction of Handicapped	24.3	34.6%	23.5	34.3%
Itinerant Services	2.3	3.3%	2.2	3.2%
General Instruction	6.6	9.4%	6.4	9.4%
Instructional Support	9.3	13.2%	9.0	13.1%
Other Services	<u>11.6</u>	<u>16.5%</u>	<u>10.6</u>	<u>15.5%</u>
	<u>70.3</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>68.5</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
<b>Revenues in Excess of</b>				
<b>Expenses before Return</b>				
<b>of Surplus</b>				
	(1.8)		.2	
Return of Surplus	(3.9)		(3.1)	
Other	<u>1.0</u>		<u>(.2)</u>	
Change in Net Position	<u>\$ (4.7)</u>		<u>\$ (3.1)</u>	

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## FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF QUESTAR III'S FUNDS

Variances between years for the governmental fund financial statements are not the same as variances between years for the government-wide financial statements. Questar III's governmental funds are presented on the **modified accrual basis of accounting**, which has a current financial resources measurement focus. Based on this presentation, governmental funds do not include long-term debt liabilities and capital assets. Governmental funds will include the current payments for capital assets, and the current payments for capital leases.

## BUDGETARY HIGHLIGHTS

Over the course of the year, Questar III revised its budget several times in order to comply with the changes of component's and other's needs for additional services pursuant to its mandate. These budget amendments fall into two categories:

- Amendments and supplemental appropriations approved shortly after the beginning of the year to reflect the actual beginning account balances and encumbrances carried-over from the prior year.
- Changes made to account for projected increases or decreases in purchased services from component, noncomponent and other BOCES.

Questar III had a number of significant budget amendments during the year ended June 30, 2017 primarily to provide additional services as requested by components and others.

	<u>Original Budget</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Encumbrances</u>	<u>Unencumbered (Overexpended) Balance</u>
Administration (001-002)	\$ 7,563,106	\$ 7,801,355	\$ 7,282,197	\$ 363,454	\$ 155,704
Career Education (100-199)	8,867,196	9,176,217	7,889,385	1,130,516	156,316
Instruction for Handicapped (200-299)	20,389,505	21,935,240	20,479,089	457,672	998,479
Itinerant Service (300-399)	1,993,029	1,976,859	1,983,795	24,040	(30,976)
General Instruction (400-499)	5,265,168	6,211,174	5,985,578	58,661	166,935
Instructional Support (500-599)	7,193,610	7,825,774	7,461,353	368,809	(4,388)
Other Services (600-699)	10,412,480	11,968,004	9,769,350	1,150,113	1,048,541
	<u>\$ 61,684,094</u>	<u>\$ 66,894,623</u>	<u>\$ 60,850,747</u>	<u>\$ 3,553,265</u>	<u>\$ 2,490,611</u>

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**CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION**

**Capital Assets**

The following table reflects the total cumulative cost before depreciation of various building renovations and additions, technology and equipment expenditures through the end of year 2017:

**Table A-5: Capital Assets**

<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>2017</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>
Land	\$ 463,533	\$ 463,533
Buildings	10,381,579	10,381,579
Equipment	2,531,301	2,405,835
Vehicles	653,077	668,478
Construction in Progress	96,744	-
Total	<u>\$ 14,126,234</u>	<u>\$ 13,919,425</u>

**Long-Term Debt**

At year-end 2017 Questar III had \$1,899,549 in installment purchase debt outstanding of which \$1,091,691 is long-term. Installment purchase debt consists of various leases incurred for the purchase of equipment which is then leased by Questar III under similar terms to component districts. The contracts generally mature up to five years.

**FACTORS BEARING ON QUESTAR III'S FUTURE**

At the time these financial statements were prepared and audited, Questar III was aware of the following existing circumstances that could significantly affect its financial health in the future:

For the last several years, the national and statewide fiscal crises has resulted in districts looking for ways to maximize the value attained by their limited resources. Questar III is a vehicle being utilized to achieve this objective. Despite New York State's improved financial picture, the 2% tax cap legislation continues to have an adverse impact on component districts and Questar III's revenue streams. Negotiated collective bargaining agreements for salary increases as well as the rising cost of employee benefits such as health insurance continues to make budgeting challenging. Currently, three of the four collective bargaining agreements have expired and negotiations have commenced and are ongoing.

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**FACTORS BEARING ON QUESTAR III'S FUTURE (CONTINUED)**

The Questar III component school districts continue to experience annual declines in enrollment. For the fiscal years 2005-2006 to 2015-2016, the Resident Weighted Average Daily Attendance (RWADA) has declined by 16% or 6,404 students from 39,279 to 32,875. This decline can have an impact on enrollment in BOCES programs, however there are many other factors that play roles in those trends such as student needs, economic conditions and societal impacts.

Questar III has implemented a plan for goal-setting, innovation and growth called The Leading Edge. Through this framework the following organizational goals were developed: (1) Build the capacity of our employees through ongoing targeted professional learning and other resources to enable us to lead our region with innovative, high quality, and cost-effective programs and services; (2) Develop new programs and services to assist school districts to creatively address fiscal and programmatic challenges, and evolve teaching and learning so all students are prepared for their future. The Leading Edge will guide Questar III into the future to expand our revenue base, while being mindful of cost structures to continue to provide good value for our services. Questar III strives to be the program of choice through its commitment to excellence, commitment to leadership and service and commitment to innovation.

**Career and Technical Education (CTE):** Despite a New Vison Medical course being added, CTE student numbers decreased for the 2016-2017 school year with the discontinuation of the satellite Media Communication program at Catskill High School and withdrawal from Aviation Flight in Schenectady. However, student numbers are looking to rise in 2017-2018 school year despite the transition of the Electrical and Green Energy Technologies program to the Rensselaer City School District, the discontinuation of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) @ SUNY Polytechnic Institute, and the phrasing out of the Aviation Maintenance program. A concerted effort is being made to increase enrollment to maximize the capacity of our programs and meet the needs of as many students as possible. We are continuing to research potential new programs in the areas of health care and heavy equipment operations and maintenance.

During the 2016-2017 school year, we analyzed all of the CTE programs as part of our program review. We have already started implementing many of the recommendations and will continue to move forward with instructional and programmatic recommendations for the 2017-2018 school year. We have also focused on analyzing our programs, equipment, and space usage at the Rensselaer Educational Center. In an effort to maintain programs that are up-to-date with industry standards and workforce needs, equipment and supply needs are always a consideration.

Questar III was awarded a grant for the 2017-2018 school year to work on "Removing Barriers for Students with Disabilities" in Career Studies and CTE programs. The focus on this grant, which will also help guide future programmatic decisions to increase access and opportunities for Students with Disabilities, is as follows.

1. Decrease barriers for students with disabilities (SWDs) related to academic credit attainment and low literacy and numeracy skills by increasing the academic credits they can receive in English language arts (ELA) and building the rigor of the ELA and math curriculum.

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**FACTORS BEARING ON QUESTAR III'S FUTURE (CONTINUED)**

2. Increase access to programs of interest by increasing opportunities for SWDs in existing programs and by adding additional Career Studies program offerings that are of interest to females, as well as offering that address careers in high demand.
3. Complete a thorough and dynamic needs assessment across the component districts to be used as a planning tool to determine the CTE/Career Studies programs that need to be added, changed, expanded or improved in order to provide all students, especially SWDs, access and opportunities for success to prepare for careers in high-needs areas.

The following chart summarizes CTE student enrollment and revenues over the last five years (\$ in millions):

<u>Career &amp; Technical Education</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Number of students	692	723	725	674	656
% change from prior year	(4.3%)	(0.2%)	7.6%	2.7%	2.5%
Revenue in millions	\$ 8.8	\$ 8.9	\$ 8.5	\$ 8.0	\$ 8.0
% change from prior year	(1.1%)	4.7%	6.3%	0%	(1.2%)

**Instruction of Students with Disabilities:** Questar III continues to receive referrals for students with disabilities and we are beginning the 2017-2018 school year with over 300 students enrolled in programs. White Catskill Academy had capacity for two additional classes in 2016-2017, in 2017-2018 there is only space for one additional class. A Therapeutic Youth Program (TYP) class for high school students was added to Catskill this year. George Washington School began the year with ten classes, which includes the addition of a K-1 class to meet the needs of the districts. At the start of the school year, many of our classes are fully enrolled and there is limited capacity for additional students in all programs. The number of restrictive (4:1:2) classrooms has continued to decrease as students are moving to the least restrictive programs. Currently, there are three 4:1:2 classes for the 2017-2018 school year.

Approximately 22.6% of our students with disabilities are from non-component school districts (21.0% in 2015-2016).

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**FACTORS BEARING ON QUESTAR III'S FUTURE (CONTINUED)**

The following chart summarizes the Student with Disabilities student enrollment and revenues over the last five years (\$ in millions):

<u>Students with Disabilities</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Number of students	287	295	275	270	281
% change from prior year	(2.7%)	7.3%	1.9%	(3.9%)	0%
Revenue in millions	\$ 21.6	\$ 22.7	\$ 20.9	\$ 19.7	\$ 19.9
% change from prior year	(4.8%)	8.6%	6.1%	(1.0%)	4.2%

**Itinerant Service:** Generally, the itinerant services have remained stable. One exception is, with the retirement of our Deaf/Hard of Hearing teacher last June, we have had difficulty recruiting for the position. Districts are aware that we continue to seek an appropriately certified teacher for this position. The NYS Education Department is closely monitoring the scope of BOCES itinerant services. We believe that in the long run the scope of BOCES itinerant services will be reduced.

**General Instruction:** Questar III continues to operate a relatively small Alternative Learning Program (ALP) at both the Columbia-Greene Educational Center (CGEC) and at Greenville High School. All students enrolled in ALP at the CGEC also participate in a ½ day CTE program. The academic success of the students that attend the ALP program is a testament to the small size and focused, individualized academic instruction that the students receive. ALP enrollment at the CGEC decreased in 2016-2017, which necessitated a reduction in staffing. We are continuing to work with our districts to examine need and potential changes in the area of alternative learning.

**School District Support Services:** The demand for district support services is stable. It is expected that the demand for these services will remain stable as districts seek to find economies in the services offered.

**School Improvement Services:** School Improvement Services continue to grow with the demand for staff development remaining strong. With the release of the Next Generation Learning Standards for ELA, Math and the Arts, the School Improvement Team will continue to innovate and work with participating districts to make the transition successful. Two new services include Academic Program Reviews and Behavioral Coaching and Consulting, both of which continue to move the department in a forward direction. The School Improvement Services will continue to enhance communications with districts and support districts with new regulations from the State Education Department.

**FACTORS BEARING ON QUESTAR III'S FUTURE (CONTINUED)**

**Other Services:** All Financial Services continue to grow in the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The GASB 45 service gained 30 new clients during the year and now service 169 districts and BOCES. The Fixed Asset Inventory service gained ten clients and new services 49 districts and BOCES. The Central Business Office continued to serve five component districts through the 2016-2017 fiscal year while expecting to add a non-component district during the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The Internal Audit and Administrative, Management and Planning services added two and one new clients, respectively. The significant growth of the Financial Services Department provides evidence of the important and valuable work that the entire team delivers.

The State Aid and Financial Planning Service currently serves 650 school districts and 33 BOCES. The service continues to provide much needed technical support to school districts across the state. The increased use of teleconferencing technology, allows the staff to provide updates and information in real time. In addition, the STAC (System to Track and Account for Children) and Special Education Aid Reporting service increased the number of participating districts by five and are now serving 36 districts statewide. Both services provide much needed support for school administrators as they navigate through the complexity of school aid and the school business management system.

The Health and Safety Service continues to support its clients with new and existing regulation compliance as well as by working with local law enforcement to share best practices in school safety with all schools within our catchment area. For the 2017-2018 school year, the Health and Safety Service has begun to offer a visitor management system service for school districts. In addition, the Fire System Maintenance division has added fire sprinkler inspection to its offering of maintenance inspections, as well as the installation of access control and video surveillance systems to assist schools in updating antiquated systems.

**Special Aid Fund:** During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, Questar III experienced a 4.8% increase in revenues in the Special Aid Fund. This is primarily attributed to the CDOS (Career Development Occupational Studies) grant being fully implemented in its second year and a peak in student enrollment in the Summer Special Education program. Grant funding levels for 2017-2018 are expected to remain constant. Questar III has been awarded a one-year grant contract with "PRHYLI" (The Angelo Del Toro Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute) and the following new grants: "TPS" (Teaching with Primary Sources), "Removing Barriers to CTE Programs" and "911 Remote Access". Some of the existing grants expired at the end of the 2016-2017 fiscal year or will be expiring at the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year, however, Questar III plans to reapply when funds become available. In addition, Questar III continues to be proactive in seeking new funding opportunities.



**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS (UNAUDITED) (CONTINUED)*  
*JUNE 30, 2017*

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**CONTACTING QUESTAR III'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

This financial report is designed to provide citizens, taxpayers, customers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the finances of Questar III and to demonstrate our accountability with the money we receive. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact:

Questar III  
Board of Cooperative Educational Services  
Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties  
Attention: Treasurer  
10 Empire State Boulevard  
Castleton, New York 12033  
(518) 477-8771

**CUSACK & COMPANY**  
**Certified Public Accountants LLC**  
7 AIRPORT PARK BOULEVARD  
LATHAM, NEW YORK 12110  
(518) 786-3550  
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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

MEMBERS OF:  
NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Questar III  
Board of Cooperative Educational Services  
Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties

**Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities of Questar III-Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties ("Questar III"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Questar III'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 an opinion 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the 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 presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

***Opinion***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities of Questar III, as of June 30, 2017, and the changes in its financial position 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, the schedules of funding progress - other postemployment benefit plans, proportionate share of net pension asset/liability and contributions - pension plans on pages 1-14 and 44-47 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.

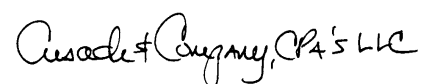
### ***Other Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise Questar III's basic financial statements. The supplemental information on pages 48-50 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. The schedule of expenditures of federal awards on page 55 is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements, for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance), and is also not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The supplemental information on pages 48-50 and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards on page 55 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 supplemental information and the schedule of expenditures of federal awards are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 6, 2017 on our consideration of Questar III'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 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 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 Questar III's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



**CUSACK & COMPANY, CPA'S LLC**

Latham, New York  
December 6, 2017

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*STATEMENT OF NET POSITION (DEFICIT)*  
*JUNE 30, 2017*

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**ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES:**

Current Assets:

Cash	\$ 12,212,285
Due from School Districts and Other BOCES	5,537,686
State and Federal Aid Receivable	1,289,833
Other Receivables, Net	111,119
Due from Other funds	29,272
Prepaid Expenses	<u>40,175</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>19,220,370</u>

Noncurrent Assets:

Due from Health Insurance Trust	1,464,814
Capital Assets, Net	<u>7,685,730</u>
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>9,150,544</u>

Deferred Outflows - Pension	<u>13,134,901</u>
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Total Assets and Deferred Outflows	<u><u>\$ 41,505,815</u></u>
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**LIABILITIES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES:**

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	\$ 2,189,289
Accrued Expenses	579,254
Postemployment Benefit Liability	2,987,624
Unearned Revenues	53,865
Capital Leases Payable	807,858
Due to Retirement Systems	<u>2,424,325</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>9,042,215</u>

Noncurrent Liabilities:

Capital Leases Payable	1,091,691
Postemployment Benefit Liability	97,080,436
Proportionate Share of Net Pension Liability	<u>3,744,309</u>
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>101,916,436</u>

Deferred Inflows - Pension	<u>832,205</u>
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Total Liabilities and Deferred Inflows	<u>111,790,856</u>
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**NET POSITION (DEFICIT):**

Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	7,685,730
Unassigned Deficit	<u>(77,970,771)</u>
Total Net Position (Deficit)	<u>(70,285,041)</u>

Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows and Net Position (Deficit)	<u><u>\$ 41,505,815</u></u>
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**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION (DEFICIT)*  
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017*

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		<u>Program Revenues</u>		<u>Net Revenues (Expenses) and Changes in Net Position</u>
	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Charges for Services</u>	<u>Operating Grants and Contributions</u>	
<u>Functions/Programs:</u>				
Administration	\$ 6,578,011	\$ 7,123,746	\$ -	\$ 545,735
Career Education	9,614,014	8,861,633	651,275	(101,106)
Instruction of Handicapped	24,301,934	22,826,794	619,699	(855,441)
Itinerant Services	2,272,710	1,997,065	-	(275,645)
General Instruction	6,597,491	6,195,314	352,999	(49,178)
Instructional Support	9,322,170	7,382,641	1,187,677	(751,852)
Other Services	<u>11,662,067</u>	<u>11,255,242</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(406,825)</u>
Total Functions/Programs	<u>\$ 70,348,397</u>	<u>\$ 65,642,435</u>	<u>\$ 2,811,650</u>	(1,894,312)
Return of Surplus				<u>(3,892,367)</u>
Change in Net Position				(5,786,679)
General Fund Encumbrances, Beginning of Year				(2,486,370)
General Fund Encumbrances, End of Year				3,553,265
Increase in Reserve for Prepaid Expenses				14,250
Net Position (Deficit), Beginning of Year				<u>(65,579,507)</u>
Net Position (Deficit), End of Year				<u>\$ (70,285,041)</u>

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
 COMBINED BALANCE SHEET  
 GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
 JUNE 30, 2017

	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Aid</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Assets:</b>				
Cash	\$ 7,749,033	\$ 2,372,800	\$ 2,090,452	\$ 12,212,285
Due from School Districts and Other BOCES	3,638,137	-	-	3,638,137
State and Federal Aid Receivable	-	1,289,833	-	1,289,833
Other Receivables, Net	69,721	41,398	-	111,119
Due from Other Funds	187,111	-	-	187,111
Prepaid Expenses	<u>40,175</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>40,175</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 11,684,177</u>	<u>\$ 3,704,031</u>	<u>\$ 2,090,452</u>	<u>\$ 17,478,660</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Liabilities:</b>				
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,111,304	\$ 39,268	\$ 38,717	\$ 2,189,289
Accrued Expenses	567,484	11,770	-	579,254
Postemployment Benefit Liability	2,987,624	-	-	2,987,624
Due to Other Funds	-	157,839	-	157,839
Due to Retirement Systems	2,424,325	-	-	2,424,325
Unearned Revenue	<u>-</u>	<u>53,865</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53,865</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>8,090,737</u>	<u>262,742</u>	<u>38,717</u>	<u>8,392,196</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>				
<b>Fund Balance:</b>				
Nonspendable	40,175	-	-	40,175
Assigned	<u>3,553,265</u>	<u>3,441,289</u>	<u>2,051,735</u>	<u>9,046,289</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>3,593,440</u>	<u>3,441,289</u>	<u>2,051,735</u>	<u>9,086,464</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	<u>\$ 11,684,177</u>	<u>\$ 3,704,031</u>	<u>\$ 2,090,452</u>	<u>\$ 17,478,660</u>
<b>Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to Net Position (Deficit) of Governmental Activities:</b>				
Total Fund Balances for Governmental Funds				\$ 9,086,464
Due from Health Insurance Trust				1,464,814
Capital Assets				7,685,730
Installment Debt Receivables				1,899,549
Installment Debt Payable				(1,899,549)
Postemployment Benefit Obligation				(97,080,436)
Pension Adjustment - Net				<u>8,558,387</u>
Net Position (Deficit) of Governmental Activities				<u>\$ (70,285,041)</u>

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
 COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND  
 CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

	<u>General</u>	<u>Special Aid</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
<b>REVENUES:</b>				
Charges to Components	\$ 54,230,028	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 54,230,028
Charges to Non-Components	8,688,049	-	-	8,688,049
Charges for Services	20,266	1,663,856	-	1,684,122
Interest and Earnings	15,222	-	1,774	16,996
Miscellaneous	714,923	-	-	714,923
Sales	149,690	-	-	149,690
Interfund Revenues	924,936	-	-	924,936
State and Local Sources	-	1,687,156	-	1,687,156
Federal Sources	-	1,124,494	-	1,124,494
Total Revenues	<u>64,743,114</u>	<u>4,475,506</u>	<u>1,774</u>	<u>69,220,394</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES:</b>				
Administration	6,782,197	315,291	-	7,097,488
Career Education	7,889,385	685,061	-	8,574,446
Instruction for Handicapped	20,479,089	1,911,486	-	22,390,575
Itinerant Services	1,983,795	-	-	1,983,795
General Instruction	5,985,578	352,999	-	6,338,577
Instructional Support	7,461,353	1,187,738	-	8,649,091
Other Services	9,769,350	-	96,744	9,866,094
Total Expenditures	<u>60,350,747</u>	<u>4,452,575</u>	<u>96,744</u>	<u>64,900,066</u>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>4,392,367</u>	<u>22,931</u>	<u>(94,970)</u>	<u>4,320,328</u>
<b>OTHER SOURCES AND (USES):</b>				
Return of Surplus	(3,892,367)	-	-	(3,892,367)
Transfer to Capital Projects	(500,000)	-	-	(500,000)
Transfer from General Fund	-	-	500,000	500,000
Total Other Sources (Uses)	<u>(4,392,367)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>(3,892,367)</u>
Change in Fund Balance	-	22,931	405,030	427,961
Encumbrances, Beginning of Year	(2,486,370)	-	-	(2,486,370)
Encumbrances, End of Year	3,553,265	-	-	3,553,265
Increase in Reserve for Prepaids	14,250	-	-	14,250
Fund Balance, Beginning of Year	2,512,295	3,418,358	1,646,705	7,577,358
Fund Balance, End of Year	<u>\$ 3,593,440</u>	<u>\$ 3,441,289</u>	<u>\$ 2,051,735</u>	<u>\$ 9,086,464</u>

**RECONCILIATION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS  
 COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES  
 AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES TO THE STATEMENT  
 OF ACTIVITIES:**

Total Net Changes in Fund Balances - Governmental Funds	\$ 427,961
Health Insurance Trust Deposit	1,464,814
Capital Assets Acquired	308,695
Depreciation	(568,725)
Loss on Disposal of Asset	(1,583)
Postemployment Benefit Obligation	(7,035,610)
Pension Adjustment	(382,231)
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	<u>\$ (5,786,679)</u>

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION AND CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION*  
*AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017*

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**Statement of Fiduciary Net Position**

	<b><u>Private-purpose Trusts</u></b>	<b><u>Agency Funds</u></b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 99,887	\$ 8,061,678
Accounts Receivable	-	21,772
Total Assets	<u>\$ 99,887</u>	<u>\$ 8,083,450</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Due to Student Activities	\$ -	\$ 30,967
Due to Other Funds	-	29,272
Due to Components and Non-Components	-	8,023,211
Total Liabilities	<u>-</u>	<u>\$ 8,083,450</u>
<b>NET POSITION</b>		
Restricted for Scholarships	<u>99,887</u>	
Total Liabilities and Net Position	<u>\$ 99,887</u>	

**Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position**

Contributions	\$ 9,954
Interest	<u>70</u>
Total Income	10,024
Scholarships and Other Expense	<u>(11,600)</u>
Change in Net Position	(1,576)
Net Position, Beginning of Year	<u>101,463</u>
Net Position, End of Year	<u>\$ 99,887</u>



**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

JUNE 30, 2017

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**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements of the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties ("Questar III") have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to government units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of Questar III's accounting policies are described below.

*Reporting Entity*

Questar III is governed by the Education Law and other laws of the State of New York. The governing body is the Board of Cooperative Educational Services. The scope of activities included within the accompanying financial statements are those transactions which comprise Questar III operations, and are governed by, or significantly influenced by, this Board.

Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) were established by New York State legislation in 1948 to enable school districts to offer more breadth in their educational programs to provide vocational and special education. BOCES is a voluntary, cooperative association for school districts in a geographic area that share planning, services and programs to provide educational and support activities more economically, efficiently and equitably than could be provided locally. Questar III provides instructional and support programs and services to the following 23 school districts in New York's Rensselaer, Columbia and Greene counties:

Averill Park	Hoosic Valley
Berkshire Union Free	Hoosick Falls
Berlin	Hudson City
Brittonkill/Brunswick	Ichabod Crane/Kinderhook
Cairo-Durham	Lansingburgh
Catskill	New Lebanon
Chatham	North Greenbush Common
Copake-Taconic Hills	Rensselaer City
Coxsackie-Athens	Schodack
East Greenbush	Troy City
Germantown	Wynantskill Union Free
Greenville	

Questar III's programs and services include career technical education, instruction of students with disabilities, academic and alternative programs, summer school, staff development, itinerant and school district support services.

The financial reporting entity consists of the following, as originally defined by GASB Statement 14, "*The Financial Reporting Entity*" and updated by GASB 61.

1. The primary government which is Questar III;
2. Organizations for which the primary government is financially accountable.

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)*  
*JUNE 30, 2017*

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**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

*Reporting Entity (continued)*

3. Other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

The decision to include a potential component unit in the reporting entity is based on the criteria set forth in GASB Statement 61, including legal standing, fiscal dependency and financial accountability. Based on the application of these criteria, the following activity is included in the reporting entity:

The Extraclassroom Activity Funds

The extraclassroom activity funds of Questar III represents funds of the students of Questar III. The Board exercises general oversight of these funds. The extraclassroom activity funds are independent of Questar III with respect to its financial transactions, and the designation of student management and the cash balances are reported in the agency fund of Questar III. Separate audited financial statements (cash basis) of the extraclassroom activity funds are presented on pages 59 to 63.

The Questar III Education Foundation

The Questar III Education Foundation was formed primarily to solicit contributions and bequests to support scholarships for students of Questar III or its component school districts. The Foundation's activities are independent of Questar III with respect to its financial transactions and separate Board of Directors and the cash balances are reported in the agency fund of Questar III.

Intermunicipal Sharing Agreement

Questar III has entered into an intermunicipal sharing agreement with Capital Region BOCES to operate the Tech Valley Regional Technology Institute, also known as Tech Valley High School ("TVHS"). As the TVHS board is appointed equally by Questar III and Capital Region BOCES and it is anticipated that any excess costs will be shared equally, in accordance with GASB Statement 61 TVHS' operating results are not included in these financial statements.

*Basis of Presentation*

Questar III's financial statements are presented on a government-wide, governmental fund and fiduciary fund basis in accordance with GASB Statement 34 - Basic Financial Statements and Management's Discussion and Analysis for State and Local Governments. As a result, these financial statements include a management discussion and analysis of Questar III's overall financial position and results of operations and financial statements prepared using full accrual accounting for all of Questar III's activities.

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)*  
*JUNE 30, 2017*

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**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

Government-wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements present aggregated information for the overall government, excluding activities reported in fiduciary funds, on a full accrual, economic resources basis. This government-wide focus is more on the sustainability of Questar III as an entity and the change in Questar III's net position resulting from the current year's activities. Internal fund transactions, including, but not limited to, operating transfers, receivables and payables have been eliminated. Government-wide financial statements include a statement of net position (deficit) and a statement of activities.

The statement of net position (deficit) recognizes all current and non-current assets including capital assets as well as long-term debt and obligations. Questar III's net position (deficit) are reported in three parts invested in capital assets, net of related debt and accumulated depreciation; restricted net assets due to legal limitations imposed on their use by legislation or external restrictions by other governments; and unrestricted net position (deficit).

The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses (including depreciation) and related program revenues for each function of Questar III's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and are therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Indirect expenses for centralized services are allocated among the programs and functions using appropriate allocation methods such as payroll costs and square footage. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipient for the goods or services offered by the programs and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Questar III's primary program revenues are fees charged for services.

Basic Financial Statements - Fund Financial Statements

The fund financial statements provide information about Questar III's funds. The operations of each fund are accounted for within a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balances, revenues and expenditures. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type with each major fund presented in a separate column. The following funds are used by Questar III:

- a. General - is the general operating fund and is used to account for all financial transactions except those required to be accounted for in another fund.
- b. Special Aid - is used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources such as Federal and State grants, that are legally restricted to expenditures for specified purposes and other activities whose funds are restricted as to use, other than expendable trusts or major capital projects. These legal restrictions may be imposed by either the governments that provide the funds or outside parties.
- c. Capital Projects - is used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of facilities, renovations and improvements.

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**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

Fiduciary Fund Financial Statements

The fiduciary fund financial statements include a statement of fiduciary net position and a statement of changes in fiduciary net position. Fiduciary funds are used to report assets held in a trustee or agency capacity for others and, therefore, are not available to support Questar III's programs. Questar III has the following fiduciary funds:

Private-purpose trusts - established to account primarily for the assets of scholarship programs.

Agency - established to account for assets held in trust by Questar III.

**Basis of Accounting/Measurement Focus**

**1. Government-wide and Fiduciary Fund Financial Statements**

The government-wide and fiduciary fund financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time the liabilities are incurred regardless of when the related cash flows take place. This approach differs from the manner in which governmental fund financial statements are prepared. The governmental fund financial statements are reconciled to the government-wide financial statements on the combined balance sheet and on the combined statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in funds balances for governmental funds.

Capital Assets and Depreciation

Capital assets are reported at actual or estimated historical cost. Contributed assets are reported at estimated fair market values at the time received.

Capital assets with a minimum depreciable base of \$5,000 are depreciated in the government-wide financial statements using the straight-line method with capital assets below this threshold being expensed in the year acquired. Estimated useful lives of the various classes of depreciable assets are as follows: buildings - 15 to 50 years, machinery and equipment - 7 to 15 years and vehicles - 8 years.

Long-Term Debt

Long-term debt includes Questar III's installment purchase debt.

Compensated Absences

Vacation leave is recorded as an expenditure when earned and the estimated liability is reported. Employees accrue vacation leave based on years of service.

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**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Basis of Accounting/Measurement Focus (Continued)**

**1. Government-wide and Fiduciary Fund Financial Statements (Continued)**

**Postemployment Benefits**

In addition to providing pension benefits, Questar III provides health insurance coverage for retired employees and their survivors. Substantially all of Questar III's employees may become eligible for these benefits if they reach normal retirement age and provide a minimum of 10 to 15 years of service (depending on when hired) while working for Questar III. Health care benefits are provided through plans whose premiums are based on the benefits paid during the year. The cost of providing postemployment benefits is primarily borne by Questar III.

Beginning with the year ended June 30, 2015, Questar III adopted a policy of providing a current liability for the estimated amount of postemployment benefits to be paid in the next fiscal year as that estimate is expected to be liquidated with expendable available resources.

**2. Governmental Fund Financial Statements**

The basis of accounting determines when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements, regardless of the measurement focus applied. Measurement focus is the determination of what is measured. The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All governmental funds are accounted for using a current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets, current liabilities and interfund balances are included in the fund types on the balance sheet. Operating statements of these fund types present increases (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) in fund equity.

**Modified Accrual Basis** - Generally accepted accounting principles and the New York State Uniform System of Accounts require that Questar III use the modified accrual basis of accounting for recording transactions in its governmental fund types and expendable trust and agency funds as applicable. Under this basis of accounting, revenues are recorded when measurable and available. Available means collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current period. A one-year availability period is used for recognition for governmental fund revenues. Material revenues that are susceptible to accrual include charges for services, intergovernmental revenues and operating transfers. If expenditures are the prime factor for determining eligibility, revenues from Federal and State grants are accrued when the expenditure is made. Expenditures are recorded when the fund liability is incurred except that:

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**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Basis of Accounting/Measurement Focus (Continued)**

**2. Governmental Fund Financial Statements (Continued)**

- a. Expenditures for prepaid items are recognized at the time of disbursement when Questar III is liable for payment.
- b. Principal and interest on long-term debt are recognized as an expenditure when due.
- c. Unfunded compensated absences for vacation leave and other compensated absences with similar characteristics and additional salary-related payments are recognized as a liability as the benefits are earned by the employees, based on the rendering of past service and the probability that the employees will be compensated for the benefits through paid time off or some other means. This includes vacation leave and other compensated absences with similar characteristics that were earned but not used during the current or prior periods and for which employees can receive compensation in a future period. Amounts do not include leave expected to lapse and leave that new employees will eventually qualify for.

**Unearned Revenues and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources**

Unearned revenue arises when resources are received before BOCES has a legal claim to them, as when grant monies are received prior to the incurrence of qualifying expenditures. In subsequent periods, or when BOCES has legal claim to the resources, the liability is removed and revenue is recognized.

In addition to assets, the Statement of Net Position (Deficit) will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. There are generally three items that qualify for reporting in this category. First is the deferred charge on refunding reported in the government-wide Statement of Net Position. A deferred charge on refunding results from the difference in the carrying value of refunded debt and its reacquisition price. This amount is deferred and amortized over the shorter of the life of the refunded or refunding debt. The second item is related to pensions reported in the district-wide Statement of Net Position. This represents the effect of the net change in BOCES' proportion of the collective net pension asset or liability and differences during the measurement period between BOCES' contributions and its proportionate share of total contributions to the pension systems not included in pension expense. Lastly, BOCES' contributions to the pension systems (TRS and ERS Systems) made subsequent to the measurement date.

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**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Basis of Accounting/Measurement Focus (Continued)**

**2. Governmental Fund Financial Statements (Continued)**

**Unearned Revenues and Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources (Continued)**

In addition to liabilities, the Statement of Net Position (Deficit) will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflows of resources (revenue) until that time. There are generally two items that qualify for reporting in this category. First arises only under a modified accrual basis of accounting and is reported as unavailable revenue. The second item is related to pensions reported in the district-wide Statement of Net Position. This represents the effect of the net change in BOCES' proportion of the collective net pension liability (TRS and ERS Systems) and differences during the measurement periods between BOCES' contributions and its proportionate share of total contributions to the pension system not included in pension expense.

**Fund Balance**

Questar III has implemented GASB 54 "Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions."

GASB 54 defines five categories of fund balances as follows:

- **Nonspendable** fund balance includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. Questar III's non-spendable fund balance consists of \$40,175 in prepaid expense recorded in the general fund at June 30, 2017.
- **Restricted** fund balance includes amounts restricted when constraints placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- **Committed** fund balance includes amounts that can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of Questar III's Board and contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements such as the award of a bid by Questar III's Board.
- **Assigned** fund balance includes amounts that are constrained by Questar III's intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. Assigned fund balances include funds that are legally mandated to be accounted for separately as well as amounts that have been contractually obligated by Questar III or designated by Questar III for the ensuing year's budget. Assigned fund balance includes \$3,553,265 recorded in the general fund at June 30, 2017 for encumbrances. The special aid and capital projects funds had assigned fund balances for their programs and expenditures amounting to \$3,441,289 and \$2,051,735, respectively at June 30, 2017. The special aid assigned fund balance includes \$2,318,337 designated by the Board of Cooperative Educational Services for other postemployment benefits (Note 7).

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**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Basis of Accounting/Measurement Focus (Continued)**

**2. Governmental Fund Financial Statements (Continued)**

**Fund Balance (Continued)**

- **Unassigned** fund balance represents fund balance that has not been assigned to other funds and that has not been restricted, committed or assigned to specific purposes within the fund.

Questar III's policy is to apply expenditures against nonspendable fund balance, restricted fund balance, committed fund balance, assigned fund balance and unassigned fund balance at the end of the fiscal year by adjusting journal entries.

**Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported revenue and expenditures during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. Estimates and assumptions are made in a variety of areas, including computation of compensated absences, potential contingent liabilities and useful lives of long-term assets.

**Budgetary Procedures and Budgetary Accounting**

**1. Budget Policies**

The budget policies are as follows:

- a. Section 1950 §4(b) of the Education Law requires adoption of a final budget by no later than May 15 for the ensuing year.
- b. Questar III administration prepares a proposed administrative, capital and program budget, as applicable, for approval by members of Questar III board for the general fund.
- c. Appropriations for educational services are adopted at the program level and lapse at the end of each fiscal year.
- d. A tentative administrative budget is provided to the component districts for adoption by resolution. Approval of the tentative administrative budget requires the approval of a majority of the component school boards actually voting. During the current year, the administrative budget was approved by a majority of its voting component school boards.



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**1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Budgetary Procedures and Budgetary Accounting (Continued)**

**2. Budget Basis of Accounting**

Budgets are adopted annually on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Appropriations authorized for the current year are increased by the amount of encumbrances carried forward from the prior year.

Questar III's Board can approve budget revisions based upon a request for additional services and available surplus revenues to pay for these items.

**Future Changes in Accounting Standards**

GASB has issued Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions*, effective for the year ending June 30, 2018. This Statement replaces the requirements of Statements No. 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, as amended, and No. 57, *OPEB Measurements by Agent Employers and Agent Multiple-Employer Plans*, for OPEB. Statement No. 74, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*, established new accounting and financial reporting requirements for OPEB plans.

BOCES will evaluate the impact each of these pronouncements may have on its financial statements and will implement them as applicable and when material.

**Subsequent Events**

Management has evaluated subsequent events or transactions as to potential material impact on operations or financial position occurring through December 6, 2017, the date the financial statements were available to be issued. No such events or transactions were identified.

**2. CASH AND INVESTMENTS**

Questar III's investment policies are governed by state statutes. In addition, Questar III has its own written investment policy. Questar III monies must be deposited in FDIC insured commercial banks or trust companies located within the state. The Deputy Superintendent for Business and Financial Services and the Treasurer are authorized to use demand accounts and certificates of deposit. Permissible investments include obligations of the U.S. Treasury and U.S. Agencies, obligations of New York State or its localities, obligations of states other than New York rated in the three highest ranking categories and zero coupon obligations of the U.S. Treasury.

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**2. CASH AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

Collateral is required for demand deposits and certificates of deposit not covered by Federal Deposit Insurance. Obligations that may be pledged as collateral are obligations of the United States and its agencies, including agency guaranteed debt and obligations of New York State or its localities.

Available deposits at year end were entirely covered by Federal Deposit Insurance or by collateral held by a bank in Questar III's name.

**3. CAPITAL ASSETS**

A summary of capital assets for the year ended June 30, 2017 is as follows:

	<b><u>Beginning Balance</u></b>	<b><u>Additions</u></b>	<b><u>Deletions</u></b>	<b><u>Ending Balance</u></b>
Land	\$ 463,533	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 463,533
Buildings	10,381,579	-	-	10,381,579
Equipment	2,405,835	144,405	(18,939)	2,531,301
Vehicles	668,478	67,546	(82,947)	653,077
Construction in Progress	-	96,744	-	96,744
	<u>13,919,425</u>	<u>308,695</u>	<u>(101,886)</u>	<u>14,126,234</u>

Less Accumulated Depreciation:

Buildings	3,955,651	324,610	-	4,280,261
Equipment	1,586,659	195,679	(17,356)	1,764,982
Vehicles	429,772	48,436	(82,947)	395,261
	<u>5,972,082</u>	<u>568,725</u>	<u>(100,303)</u>	<u>6,440,504</u>

Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$ 7,947,343</u>	<u>\$ (260,030)</u>	<u>\$ (1,583)</u>	<u>\$ 7,685,730</u>
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Depreciation expense was \$568,725 for the year ended June 30, 2017.

**4. INSTALLMENT PURCHASE DEBT**

Installment purchase debt consists of various leases incurred for the purchase of equipment which is then leased by Questar III under similar terms to its component districts. All installment purchase debts are collateralized by various equipment.

Installment purchase debt activity for the year ended June 30, 2017 is as follows:

Installment Purchase Debt, Beginning Balance	\$ 1,740,922
New Leases	1,386,627
Repayments	<u>(1,228,000)</u>
Installment Purchase Debt, Ending Balance	<u>\$ 1,899,549</u>

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**4. INSTALLMENT PURCHASE DEBT (CONTINUED)**

Current maturities of installment purchase debt are as follows:

2018	\$ 807,858
2019	617,752
2020	348,975
2021	99,084
2022	25,880
	<u>\$ 1,899,549</u>

**5. PENSION PLANS**

***General Information***

Questar III participates in the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System ("ERS"), and the New York State Teachers' Retirement System ("TRS"). These Systems are cost sharing multiple-employer, public employee retirement systems. The Systems offer a wide range of plans and benefits which are related to years of service and final average salary, vesting of retirement benefits, death and disability.

**Plan Description and Benefits Provided - TRS.** The TRS is administered by the New York State Teachers' Retirement Board. The System provides benefits to plan members and beneficiaries as authorized by Article 11 of the New York State Education Law. The New York State TRS issues a publicly available financial report that contains financial statements and required supplementary information for the System. The report may be obtained by writing the New York State Teachers' Retirement System, 10 Corporate Woods, Albany, NY 12211-2395, or by referring to the System's website at [www.nystrs.org](http://www.nystrs.org).

**Plan Description and Benefits Provided - ERS.** ERS provides retirement benefits as well as death and disability benefits. The net position of the System is held in the New York State Common Retirement Fund, which was established to hold all net assets and record changes in plan net position allocated to the System. The Comptroller of the State of New York (the "Comptroller") serves as sole trustee and administrative head of the System. System benefits are established under provisions of the New York State Retirement and Social Security Laws ("NYSRSSL"). Once a public employer elects to participate in the System, the election is irrevocable. The New York State Constitution provides that pension membership is a contractual relationship and plan benefits cannot be diminished or impaired. Benefits can be changed for future members only by enactment of a State statute. The System issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained by writing to the New York State and Local Retirement System, 110 State Street, Albany, NY 12244, or by referring to [www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/publications/index.php](http://www.osc.state.ny.us/retire/publications/index.php).

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**5. PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**TRS Contributions.** Pursuant to Article 11 of the New York State Education Law, employers are required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate applicable to member salaries and adopted annually by the Retirement Board. Tier 3 and 4 members who have less than 10 years of service or membership are required by law to contribute 3% of salary to the System. Tier 5 members are required by law to contribute 3.5% of salary throughout their active membership. Tier 6 members are required by law to contribute between 3% and 6% of salary throughout their active membership in accordance with a schedule based upon salary earned. Pursuant to Article 14 and Article 15 of the Retirement and Social Security Law, those member contributions are used to help fund the benefits provided by the System. However, if a member dies or leaves covered employment with less than 5 years of credited service for Tiers 3 and 4, or 10 years of credited service for Tiers 5 and 6, the member contributions with interest calculated at 5% per annum are refunded to the employee or designated beneficiary. Eligible Tier 1 and Tier 2 members may make member contributions under certain conditions pursuant to the provisions of Article 11 of the Education Law and Article 11 of the Retirement and Social Security Law. Upon termination of membership, such accumulated member contributions are refunded. At retirement, such accumulated member contributions can be withdrawn or are paid as a life annuity.

**ERS Contributions.** The System is noncontributory except for the employees who joined the System after July 27, 1976 who contribute 3% of their salary, for the first ten years of membership and employees who joined on or after January 1, 2010 who generally must contribute 3% of their salary for their entire length of service. Under the authority of the NYSRSSL, the Comptroller annually certifies the actuarially determined rates expressly used in computing the employers' contributions based on salaries paid during the Systems' fiscal year ending March 31.

Contributions for the current year and two preceding years were equal to 100% of the contributions required as follows:

	<b>ERS</b>		<b>TRS</b>	
	<u><b>Amount</b></u>	<u><b>Rate</b></u>	<u><b>Amount</b></u>	<u><b>Rate</b></u>
2017	\$ 1,071,623	14.73%	\$ 1,981,191	11.72%
2016	\$ 1,258,095	19.16%	\$ 2,210,429	13.26%
2015	\$ 1,133,339	18.64%	\$ 2,873,792	17.53%

Chapter 260 of the laws of 2014 of the State of New York allows local employers to bond or amortize a portion (limitations established by fiscal year) of their retirement bill up to 10 years for fiscal years ending March 31, 2005 through 2008. Chapter 57 of the laws of 2010 of the State of New York allows local employers to amortize a portion (limitations established by fiscal year) of their retirement bill for 10 years for fiscal years ending March 31, 2011 and forward. These laws require participating employers to make payments on a current basis, while bonding or amortizing existing unpaid amounts. Questar III has not bonded or amortized any portion of their retirement obligations.

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**5. PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Pension Assets, Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Inflows and Outflows of Resources Related to Pensions**

At June 30, 2017, Questar III reported a liability of \$1,157,032 (TRS) and a liability of \$2,587,277 (ERS) for its proportionate share of the net pension liability. The net pension liability (TRS) was measured as of June 30, 2016, and the net pension (ERS) was measured as of March 31, 2017, and the total pension asset/liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of those dates. Questar III's proportion of the net pension liability was based on a projection of the Questar III's long-term share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating members, actuarially determined.

At June 30, 2017, Questar III's proportion was .108% percent TRS and .028% ERS.

For the year ended June 30, 2017, Questar III recognized pension expense of \$1,936,055 for TRS and \$1,481,917 for ERS.

At June 30, 2017, Questar III reported deferred outflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u>TRS</u>	<u>ERS</u>	<u>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ 64,835	\$ 64,835
Changes of assumptions	6,591,189	883,909	7,475,098
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	2,601,616	516,784	3,118,400
Changes in proportionate share	151,204	91,507	242,711
Contributions after the measurement date	<u>1,981,191</u>	<u>252,666</u>	<u>2,233,857</u>
	<u>\$ 11,325,200</u>	<u>\$ 1,809,701</u>	<u>\$ 13,134,901</u>

At June 30, 2017, Questar III reported deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u>TRS</u>	<u>ERS</u>	<u>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 375,869	\$ 392,893	\$ 768,762
Changes in proportion and differences between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>-</u>	<u>63,443</u>	<u>63,443</u>
	<u>\$ 375,869</u>	<u>\$ 456,336</u>	<u>\$ 832,205</u>

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**5. PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Pension Assets, Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Inflows and Outflows of Resources Related to Pensions (Continued)**

The net amount of the employer's balances of deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

June 30, 2017	\$ 3,550,397
June 30, 2018	1,316,540
June 30, 2019	3,314,536
June 30, 2020	1,873,244
June 30, 2021	1,029,636
June 30, 2022	<u>1,218,343</u>
	<u>\$ 12,302,696</u>

**TRS Actuarial Assumptions**

The total pension liability for the June 30, 2017 measurement date was determined by an actuarial valuation as of June 30, 2015, with update procedures used to roll forward the total pension liability to June 30, 2016. The actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions:

Inflation	2.5%
Projected salary increases	Rates of increase differ based on service. They have been calculated based upon recent NYSTRS member experience.

<u>Service</u>	<u>Rate</u>
5	4.72%
15	3.46%
25	2.37%
35	1.90%

Projected COLAs	1.5% compounded annually
Investment rate of return	7.5% compounded annually, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation

Annuitant mortality rates are based on plan member experience, with adjustments for mortality improvements based on Society of Actuaries Scale MP 2014, applied on a generational basis. Active members mortality rates are based on plan member experience.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2016 valuation was based on the expense period July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2014.

**ERS Actuarial Assumptions**

The total pension liability at June 30, 2017 was determined by using an actuarial valuation as of April 1, 2016, with update procedures used to roll forward the total pension liability to March 31, 2017. The actuarial valuation used the following actuarial assumptions.

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**5. PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**ERS Actuarial Assumptions (Continued)**

Significant actuarial assumptions used in the April 1, 2016 valuation were as follows:

Inflation rate	2.5%
Salary increase	3.8%
Projected Cola	1.3%
Investment Rate of Return	7.0%

Annuitant mortality rates are based on April 1, 2010 - March 31, 2015 System's experience with adjustments for mortality improvements based on MP-2014.

The actuarial assumptions used in the April 1, 2016 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period April 1, 2010 - March 31, 2015.

**Long Term Expected Rate of Return**

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

Best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class included in the target asset allocation for TRS and ERS are as follows:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>TRS</u>	<u>ERS</u>
Domestic equity	6.1%	4.6%
International equity	7.3%	6.4%
Real estate	5.4%	5.8%
Mortgages	3.1%	1.3%
Cash	.1%	(.25%)
Domestic fixed income securities	1.0%	.0%
Global fixed income securities	.8%	.0%
Private equity	9.2%	7.8%
Absolute return strategies	.0%	4.0%
Opportunistic portfolio	.0%	5.9%
Real assets	.0%	5.5%
Inflation based bonds	.0%	1.5%

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)*  
JUNE 30, 2017

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**5. PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Discount Rate**

The discount rate used to calculate the total pension asset was 7.5% for TRS and the total pension liability was 7% for ERS. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that contributions from plan members will be made at the current contribution rates and that contributions from employers will be made at statutorily required rates, actuarially. Based upon the assumptions, the System's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore the long term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

**Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Assets/Liability to the Discount Rate Assumption**

The following presents the Questar III's proportionate share of the net pension asset/liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.5% and 7.0%, as well as what Questar III's proportionate share of the net pension asset/liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower or 1 percentage point higher than the current rate:

	<u>1%</u> <u>Decrease</u>	<u>Current</u> <u>Assumption</u>	<u>1%</u> <u>Increase</u>
<b><u>TRS</u></b>			
Employers' proportionate share of the net pension asset (liability)	\$ (15,096,109)	\$ (1,157,032)	\$ 10,534,335
<b><u>ERS</u></b>			
Employers' proportionate share of the net pension asset (liability)	\$ (8,263,250)	\$ (2,587,277)	\$ 2,211,748

**Pension Plan Fiduciary Net Position**

The components of the net pension asset (TRS) and liability (ERS) of the employer as of June 30, 2016 and March 31, 2017, respectively, were as follows (in thousands):

	<u>TRS</u>	<u>ERS</u>
Employers' total pension liability	\$ (108,577,184)	\$ (177,400,586)
Fiduciary net position	107,506,142	168,004,363
Employers' net pension liability	<u>\$ (1,071,042)</u>	<u>\$ (9,396,223)</u>
Ratio of fiduciary net position to the employers' total pension liability	<u>99.0%</u>	<u>94.7%</u>



**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)*  
*JUNE 30, 2017*

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**6. OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

Questar III provides postemployment (health insurance) coverage to retired employees in accordance with the provisions of various employment contracts. The benefit levels, employee contributions and employer contributions are governed by Questar III's contractual agreements. Questar III implemented GASB Statement 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions (OPEB)*, within the required implementation time-line. This required Questar III to calculate and record a net other postemployment benefit obligation at year end. The net other postemployment benefit obligation is basically the cumulative difference between the actuarially required contribution and the actual contributions made.

It is Questar III's adopted policy to provide a current liability for the estimated amount of postemployment benefits to be paid in the next fiscal year as that estimate is expected to be liquidated with expendable available resources. For the current year and two preceding years, Questar III recognized for its share of insurance premiums for currently enrolled retirees the following:

2017	\$ 2,987,624
2016	\$ 2,994,316
2015	\$ 2,675,000

Questar III has obtained an actuarial valuation report as of June 30, 2017 which indicates that the total liability for other postemployment benefits is \$100,068,060, which is reflected in the Statement of Net Position.

**Funding Policy:** The annual contributions are established by the Board of Education. Required annual insurance premiums are budgeted as approved by the Board of Education.

**Annual OPEB Cost and Net OPEB Obligation:** Questar III's annual other postemployment benefit (OPEB) cost (expense) is calculated based on the Annual Required Contribution of the Employer (ARC), an amount actuarially determined in accordance with the parameters of GASB Statement 45. The ARC represents a level of funding that, if paid on an ongoing basis, is projected to cover normal cost each year and amortize any unfunded actuarial liabilities (or funding excess) over a period not to exceed thirty years. The following table shows the components of Questar III's annual OPEB cost for the year, the amount actually contributed to the plan, and changes in Questar III's net OPEB obligation:

Annual required contribution	\$ 12,028,052
Interest	2,325,979
Less: ARC adjustment	<u>(4,337,489)</u>
Annual OPEB cost	10,016,542
Contributions made	<u>(2,987,624)</u>
Increase in net OPEB obligation	7,028,918
Net OPEB obligation, beginning of year	<u>93,039,142</u>
Net OPEB obligation, end of year	<u><u>\$ 100,068,060</u></u>

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)*  
*JUNE 30, 2017*

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**6. OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)**

Questar III's annual OPEB cost, the percentage of annual OPEB cost contributed to the plan, and the net OPEB obligation for the current and two proceeding years are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year End</u>	<u>Annual OPEB Cost</u>	<u>Contribution</u>	<u>Percentage of Annual OPEB Cost Contributed</u>	<u>Net OPEB Obligation</u>
6/30/15	\$ 9,080,409	\$ 2,629,064	29%	\$ 86,948,786
6/30/16	\$ 9,084,672	\$ 2,994,316	33%	\$ 93,039,142
6/30/17	\$ 10,016,542	\$ 2,987,624	30%	\$ 100,068,060

Funded Status and Funding Progress: As of July 1, 2015, the most recent actuarial valuation date, the plan was 0% funded. The actuarial accrued liability for benefits was \$116,522,969, and the actuarial value of assets was \$0, resulting in an unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) of \$116,522,969. The covered payroll (annual payroll of active employees covered by the plan) was \$23,569,220, and the ratio of the UAAL to the covered payroll was 494%. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and the healthcare cost trend. Amounts determined regarding the funded status of the plan and the annual required contributions of the employer are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions: Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employer and the plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The actual methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations.

In the June 30, 2017 actuarial valuation, the projected unit credit cost method was used. The actuarial assumptions included a 2.5% investment rate of return and an annual healthcare cost trend rate of 8%, reduced by decrements to an ultimate rate of 5% in 2021. The UAAL is amortized each year over a constant 30 year period, as a level dollar amount.

**7. DUE TO COMPONENTS AND NON-COMPONENTS**

Prior to July 1, 2015, Questar III had charged components, non-components and grantors for postemployment healthcare costs and accumulated those funds for several years in anticipation of partially funding the liability. As legislation was never passed that allowed for the funding of postemployment healthcare costs, the New York State Comptroller's Office required the funds be liquidated. A plan to liquidate the funds was approved by the Questar III Board, the State Education Department and the participating districts. The plan required that funds collected from components and non-components of \$15,692,282 be liquidated via providing credits to the districts over a five year period. Additionally, funds collected from grantors of \$2,318,337 will be retained in the Special Aid fund and Questar III will seek guidance from the New York State Education Department concerning how to address these funds. Lastly, a one year estimate for retiree healthcare costs will remain in the general fund as a current liability, in accordance with GASB Statement No. 45 "Other postemployment benefit expenditures from governmental funds should be recognized on the modified accrual basis. The amount recognized should be equal to the amount contributed to the plan or expected to be liquidated with expendable available financial resources."

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)*  
*JUNE 30, 2017*

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**7. DUE TO COMPONENTS AND NON-COMPONENTS (CONTINUED)**

The liquidation of the liability to components and non-components, based on the most recent estimates, is scheduled as follows:

2018	\$ 3,379,514
2019	2,396,747
2020	<u>2,246,950</u>
	<u><u>\$ 8,023,211</u></u>

**8. DEFERRED OUTFLOWS AND INFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

In addition to assets, the Statement of Net Position (Deficit) will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. Questar III has five items totaling \$13,134,901 relating to pensions reported as deferred outflows.

In addition to liabilities, the Statement of Net Position (Deficit) will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, deferred inflows of resources, represents an acquisition of net position (deficit) that applies to a future periods(s) and so will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenues) until that time. Questar III has two items totaling \$832,205 related to pensions reported as deferred inflows.

**9. JOINT VENTURES**

*Tech Valley Regional Technology Institute*

Chapter 757 of the laws of 2005 established the Tech Valley Regional Technology Institute, a high school course of instruction for grades nine through twelve dedicated to providing expanded learning opportunities to students residing in the Capital Region BOCES and Questar III BOCES in the areas of technology as well as the core academic areas required for the issuance of high school diplomas in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the Board of Regents.

During the 2016-2017 school year, the School had an annualized full-time enrollment of approximately 118 students.

The venture operates under the terms of an agreement dated June 6, 2008. The agreement is for a period of five years and automatically renews for another five years unless either party provides notice of a desire not to renew.

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)*  
*JUNE 30, 2017*

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**9. JOINT VENTURES (CONTINUED)**

*Tech Valley Regional Technology Institute (Continued)*

1. The venture is governed by a 10 member operating board, 5 of which are appointed by Capital Region BOCES and 5 of which are appointed by Questar III BOCES.
2. Operating costs are allocated to Capital Region BOCES and Questar III based on the percentage of each party's component and non-component districts participation. (24.1% Capital Region BOCES and 75.9% Questar III for the year ended June 30, 2017).
3. Rent and capital costs are allocated equally to Capital Region BOCES and Questar III.
4. The governing body has established charges at rates intended to be self-sustaining to cover all operating costs. Any shortfall in revenues produced by such charges is to be provided in the same manner as operating costs.

The following is a summary of the audited governmental funds financial information included in financial statements issued for the joint venture as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017:

Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,087,580</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 309,452</u>
Joint Venture Equity	<u>\$ 778,128</u>
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 3,394,162</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 3,367,948</u>

*RCG Group Health Insurance Trust*

Questar III is also a member in RCG Group Health Insurance Trust (the "Trust"). The Trust is considered a public entity risk pool which is defined as a cooperative group of governmental entities joining together to finance an exposure, liability or risk, and is tax-exempt under Section 511(c)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Trust includes New York public school districts located in Rensselaer, Columbia and Greene Counties. The Trust was formed July 1, 1985, to allow member schools to obtain health insurance and prescription drug benefits at lower cost through a pooled purchasing arrangement. The Trust procures group insurance contracts with insurance carriers for medical, prescription drug and dental benefits, in which the Trust is not liable for any medical, dental or prescription drug claims. However, the Trust also maintains a self-insured prescription drug plan for which the individual Trust members are liable for any claims in excess of the balances maintained by the Trust. As of June 30, 2017, the Questar III's prescription drug plan account balance maintained by the Trust is \$964,381 of which \$400,000 approximates the outstanding estimated liability for the self-insured prescription plan. Additionally, the Trust has declared a distribution of \$900,433 to Questar III Payable in 2019 and 2020. Due from Health Insurance Trust on the statement of net position consist of prescription drug plan account balance (\$964,381) in excess of estimated liability (\$400,000) or \$564,381 plus the declared dividend distribution of \$900,433 for a total of \$1,464,814.

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)*  
*JUNE 30, 2017*

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**10. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES**

*Other Contingencies*

Questar III has received grants which are subject to audit by agencies of the state and federal governments. Such audits may result in disallowances and a request for a return of funds to the federal and state governments. Questar III believes disallowances, if any, will be immaterial.

*Leases*

Questar III was committed to operating lease arrangements attributable to classrooms to Questar III's main office and classrooms for Tech Valley Regional Technology Institute at June 30, 2017. The term of the leases vary from one to twenty years.

The following table summarizes Questar III future payment requirements as of June 30, 2017 under noncancellable operating leases:

<b>Year Ending</b>	
2018	\$ 1,363,027
2019	1,141,074
2020	1,041,479
2021	735,904
2022	321,476
Thereafter	<u>3,884,502</u>
	<u><u>\$ 8,487,462</u></u>

*Worker's Compensation Self-Insurance Plan*

Questar III participates in a self-insurance plan for worker's compensation called The Rensselaer Columbia-Greene (RCG) Counties Worker's Compensation Consortium ("Consortium"). The Plan is a claims-servicing public entity risk pool which began operations in July, 1985. The Consortium was formed by participating school districts and Questar III. The purpose of the Consortium is to operate a plan to provide the employees of the participants with worker's compensation benefits and the participants with centralized administration and insurance covering job-connected disabilities and including the cost of medical treatment. The Consortium was accepted as a self-insurer by the State of New York Worker's Compensation Board effective July 1, 1985. The Consortium has a stop loss policy to protect participants from unusually high claims.

The Consortium is governed by a Plan Agreement administered by a Board of Directors, consisting of one Director for each member. As of June 30, 2017 there were 19 participating members from Rensselaer, Columbia and Greene Counties in New York State, including Questar III. The amount held by the Plan on behalf of Questar III at June 30, 2017 was \$2,006,315, which approximates the outstanding estimated liability for self-insured workers' compensation claims at June 30, 2017. Payments made to the Consortium for the year ended June 30, 2017 were \$1,236,219.

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)*  
*JUNE 30, 2017*

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**10. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (CONTINUED)**

*Dental Self-Insurance*

Questar III is self-insured for dental insurance. Dental claims expense for the year ended June 30, 2017 was \$318,345. There is no annual maximum, no deductible and the plan covers employee's dependents.

*Union Contracts*

Questar III employees are represented by collective bargaining agents. Those agents which represent them and the dates of expiration of their agreements are as follows:

<b><u>Bargaining Unit</u></b>	<b><u>Contract Expiration Date</u></b>
Teachers' Association	June 30, 2017
Assistant Unit	June 30, 2017
Support Services	June 30, 2017
Administrators' Association	June 30, 2018

*Litigation*

Questar III is a defendant in various legal actions which are pending litigation. Legal counsel has reviewed the contingent liability to Questar III for each of these lawsuits. Legal counsel is of the opinion that the outcome of this litigation will not materially affect the financial position of Questar III.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
 BUDGETARY COMPARISON STATEMENT - GENERAL FUND  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

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**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE #1**

	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Over (Under) Amended Budget</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Administration (001-002)	\$ 7,563,106	\$ 7,801,355	\$ 7,606,748	\$ (194,607)
Career Education (100-199)	8,867,196	9,176,217	8,828,593	(347,624)
Instruction for Handicapped (200-299)	20,389,505	21,935,240	21,568,298	(366,942)
Itinerant (300-399)	1,993,029	1,976,859	1,997,065	20,206
General Instruction (400-499)	5,265,168	6,211,174	6,195,314	(15,860)
Instructional Support (500-599)	7,193,610	7,825,774	7,393,041	(432,733)
Other (600-699)	<u>10,412,480</u>	<u>11,968,004</u>	<u>11,154,055</u>	<u>(813,949)</u>
	<u>\$ 61,684,094</u>	<u>\$ 66,894,623</u>	<u>\$ 64,743,114</u>	<u>\$ (2,151,509)</u>

	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Encumbrances</b>	<b>Unencumbered (Overexpended) Balance</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Administration (001-002)	\$ 7,563,106	\$ 7,801,355	\$ 7,282,197	\$ 363,454	\$ 155,704
Career Education (100-199)	8,867,196	9,176,217	7,889,385	1,130,516	156,316
Instruction for Handicapped (200-299)	20,389,505	21,935,240	20,479,089	457,672	998,479
Itinerant (300-399)	1,993,029	1,976,859	1,983,795	24,040	(30,976)
General Instruction (400-499)	5,265,168	6,211,174	5,985,578	58,661	166,935
Instructional Support (500-599)	7,193,610	7,825,774	7,461,353	368,809	(4,388)
Other (600-699)	<u>10,412,480</u>	<u>11,968,004</u>	<u>9,769,350</u>	<u>1,150,113</u>	<u>1,048,541</u>
	<u>\$ 61,684,094</u>	<u>\$ 66,894,623</u>	<u>\$ 60,850,747</u>	<u>\$ 3,553,265</u>	<u>\$ 2,490,611</u>



**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS - OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PLANS*  
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017*

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**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE #2**

<b>Actuarial Valuation Date</b>		<b>Actuarial Value of Assets (a)</b>	<b>Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) (b)</b>	<b>Unfunded AAL (UAAL) (b-a)</b>	<b>Funded Ratio (a/b)</b>	<b>Covered Payroll (c)</b>	<b>UAAL as a percentage of covered payroll (b-a)/c)</b>
July 1, 2010	\$	-	\$ 132,426,991	\$ 132,426,991	N/A	\$ 23,052,538	574%
July 1, 2011	\$	-	\$ 143,212,888	\$ 143,212,888	N/A	\$ 19,963,960	717%
July 1, 2012	\$	-	\$ 153,945,108	\$ 153,945,108	N/A	\$ 23,097,020	666%
July 1, 2014	\$	-	\$ 106,910,845	\$ 106,910,845	N/A	\$ 19,636,601	544%
July 1, 2015	\$	-	\$ 116,522,969	\$ 116,522,969	N/A	\$ 23,569,220	494%

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*SCHEDULE OF PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF NET PENSION ASSET/LIABILITY*  
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017*

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**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE #3**

<b><u>TRS</u></b>	<b><u>June 30, 2016</u></b>	<b><u>June 30, 2015</u></b>	<b><u>June 30, 2014</u></b>
Proportionate share of net pension assets (liability)	\$ (1,157,032)	\$ 11,335,652	\$ 12,473.692
Covered payroll	\$ 17,646,050	\$ 17,226,673	\$ 17,296,119
Proportionate share of net pension asset as a percentage of covered payroll	6.6%	65.8%	72.1%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of total pension asset	99.0%	110.5%	111.5%
<b><u>ERS</u></b>	<b><u>March 31, 2017</u></b>	<b><u>March 31, 2016</u></b>	<b><u>March 31, 2015</u></b>
Proportionate share of net pension liability	\$ 2,587,277	\$ 4,320,516	\$ 870,003
Covered payroll	\$ 8,751,349	\$ 9,020,039	\$ 8,218,496
Proportionate share of net pension liability as a percentage of covered payroll	29.6%	47.9%	10.6%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of total pension liability	94.7%	90.6%	97.9%

Note: Information for the years prior to implementation of GASB 68 is unavailable and will be completed each year going forward as it becomes available.

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS - PENSION PLANS*  
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017*

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**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE #4**

<b><u>TRS</u></b>	<b><u>June 30, 2017</u></b>	<b><u>June 30, 2016</u></b>	<b><u>June 30, 2015</u></b>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 2,210,429	\$ 2,873,792	\$ 2,687,904
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>2,210,429</u>	<u>2,873,792</u>	<u>2,687,904</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
 District's covered-employee payroll	 \$ 17,646,050	 \$ 17,226,673	 \$ 17,296,119
 Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	 12.5%	 16.7%	 15.5%

<b><u>ERS</u></b>	<b><u>June 30, 2017</u></b>	<b><u>June 30, 2016</u></b>	<b><u>June 30, 2015</u></b>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 1,071,623	\$ 1,258,095	\$ 1,133,339
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>1,071,623</u>	<u>1,258,095</u>	<u>1,133,339</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
 District's covered-employee payroll	 \$ 8,751,349	 \$ 9,020,039	 \$ 8,218,496
 Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	 12.2%	 13.9%	 13.8%

Note: Information for the years prior to implementation of GASB 68 is unavailable and will be completed each year going forward as it becomes available.

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*ANALYSIS OF ACCOUNT A431-SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND OTHER BOCES*  
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017*

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**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE #5**

July 1, 2016 - Debit Balance	\$ 7,061,112
Debits:	
Billings to School Districts and Other BOCES	62,918,077
Prior Year Refund of Balances Due School Districts	3,275,516
Encumbrances - Beginning of Year	<u>2,486,370</u>
Total Debits	<u>68,679,963</u>
Total	<u>75,741,075</u>
Credits:	
Collections from School Districts and Other BOCES	64,603,677
Adjustment - Credits to School BOCES - Revenues in Excess of	
Expenditures	3,892,368
Adjustment - OPEB Credits Issued	53,628
Encumbrances - End of Year	<u>3,553,265</u>
Total Credits	<u>72,109,938</u>
June 30, 2017 - Debit Balance	<u><u>\$ 3,638,137</u></u>

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*SCHEDULE OF PROJECT EXPENDITURES*  
*CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND*  
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017*

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**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE #6**

	<b>Original Appropriation</b>	<b>Revised Appropriation</b>	<b><u>Expenditures to Date</u></b>		<b><u>Balance</u></b>
			<b><u>Prior Years'</u></b>	<b><u>Current Year</u></b>	
Sackett Education Center/CGEC	\$ 848,000	\$ 1,529,154	\$ 1,529,154	\$ -	\$ -
Columbia-Greene Education Center	600,000	823,595	-	74,421	749,174
Sackett Education Center	200,000	175,362	-	22,323	153,039
Columbia-Greene Education Center - Interior Redesign	846,705	1,149,522	-	-	1,149,522
	<u>\$ 2,494,705</u>	<u>\$ 3,677,633</u>	<u>\$ 1,529,154</u>	<u>\$ 96,744</u>	<u>\$ 2,051,735</u>

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS, NET OF RELATED DEBT*  
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017*

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**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE #7**

Capital Assets, Net and Net Investment in Capital Assets	<u>\$ 7,685,730</u>
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## **FEDERAL PROGRAM AWARD INFORMATION**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S 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 of the Board  
Questar III - Board of Cooperative Educational Services  
Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties

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 of Questar III - Board of Cooperative Education Services, Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties (Questar III) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise Questar III basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 6, 2017.

**Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered Questar III's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Questar III's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Questar III'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 over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.



## **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether Questar III's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

## **Purpose of this Report**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cusack & Company, CPA's LLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**CUSACK & COMPANY, CPA'S LLC**

Latham, New York  
December 6, 2017

**CUSACK & COMPANY**  
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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR  
EACH MAJOR PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER  
COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE**

Members of the Board  
Questar III - Board of Cooperative Educational Services  
Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties

**Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program**

We have audited Questar III - Board of Cooperative Educational Services Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties' ("Questar III") compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Questar III's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2017. Questar III's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

***Management's Responsibility***

Management is responsible for compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of its federal awards, applicable to its federal programs.

***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for each of Questar III's major federal programs based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and the audit 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). Those standards and the Uniform Guidance require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about Questar III's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination on Questar III's compliance.

***Opinion on Each Major Federal Program***

In our opinion, Questar III complied, in all material respects, with the types of 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, 2017.

## Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

Management of Questar III is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered Questar III's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major federal program to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on compliance for each major federal program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of Questar III's 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 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 first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

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.



CUSACK & COMPANY, CPA'S LLC

Latham, New York  
December 6, 2017

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS*  
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017*

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<u>Federal Projects</u>	<u>Federal Catalog Number</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
<b>U.S. Department of Education</b>		
<b>Passed Through NYS Department of Education</b>		
Workforce Investment Act, Title II ("WIA")	84.002	\$ 240,464
Special Education ("RSE-TASC")	84.027	383,604
Special Education ("CDOS/IDEA Part B")	84.027	236,095
Career and Technical Education ("Perkins IV")	84.048	259,279
Dislocated Worker Formula Grants ("CFA-CNA Program")	17.278	<u>5,052</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education and Total Expenditures of Federal Awards		<u>\$ 1,124,494</u>

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS*  
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017*

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**1. BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards presents expenditures under federal financial assistance programs administered by Questar III - Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties and is presented on the modified accrual basis of accounting. 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).

**2. INDIRECT COSTS**

Questar III - Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties has not elected to use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance. The indirect cost rate is established by the New York State Education Department.

**QUESTAR III**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**  
*SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS*  
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017*

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**Section I - Summary of Auditor's Results**

Financial Statements

Type of Auditor's Report Issued: Unmodified

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| • "Going Concern" explanatory paragraph included in audit report? | No |
| • Significant deficiency(ies) disclosed                           | No |
| • Significant deficiency(ies) reported as a material weakness?    | No |
| • Material noncompliance disclosed?                               | No |

Federal Awards

Internal Control Over Major Programs

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| • Significant deficiency(ies) disclosed for any major programs?                       | No |
| • Significant deficiency(ies) reported for any major programs as a material weakness? | No |
| • Any known questioned costs reported?  | No |

Type of Auditor's Report Issued on Compliance for Major Programs: Unmodified

Audit Findings Disclosed That Are Required to be Reported in Accordance with Section 200.516 of the Uniform Guidance: No

Major Program:	<b><u>CFDA Number</u></b>
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Workforce Investment Act, Title II ("WIA")	84.002
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Dollar Threshold to Determine Type A and Type B Programs \$750,000

Auditee Qualified as Low-Risk Auditee: Yes

***QUESTAR III***  
***BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES***  
***RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES***  
***SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS (CONTINUED)***  
***FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017***

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**Section II - Financial Statement Findings**

None

**Section III - Federal Award Findings and Questioned Costs**

None

**EXTRAClassroom Activity Funds**



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MEMBERS OF:  
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CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Members of the Board  
Questar III  
Board of Cooperative Educational Services  
Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Questar III - Board of Cooperative Educational Services of Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties Extraclassroom Activity Funds ("Questar III Extraclassroom Activity Funds"), which comprise the statement of assets and fund balance-cash basis as of June 30, 2017, and the related statement of cash receipts and disbursements-cash basis for the year then ended, and the related note to the financial statements.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1; this includes determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. 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.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion 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. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the 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 presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

## **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the assets, and fund balance - cash basis of Questar III Extraclassroom Activity Fund as of June 30, 2017, and its cash receipts and disbursements - cash basis for the year then ended in accordance with the cash basis of accounting as described in Note 1.

## **Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to that matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cusack & Company, CPA's LLC". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**CUSACK & COMPANY, CPA'S LLC**

Latham, New York  
December 6, 2017

***QUESTAR III - BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES***  
***RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES***  
*EXTRACLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS*  
*STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND FUND BALANCE - CASH BASIS*  
*JUNE 30, 2017*

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Assets

Cash	<u>\$ 30,967</u>
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Fund Balance	<u>\$ 30,967</u>
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**QUESTAR III - BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**

*EXTRACLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS*  
*STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS - CASH BASIS*  
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017*

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	<b><u>Balances</u></b> <b><u>June 30, 2016</u></b>	<b><u>Receipts</u></b>	<b><u>Disbursements</u></b>	<b><u>Balances</u></b> <b><u>June 30, 2017</u></b>
Skills - Columbia-Greene	\$ 5,707	\$ 11,153	\$ 8,700	\$ 8,160
Skills - Rensselaer	6,267	6,843	8,021	5,089
Autistic/Goff	3,776	3,030	3,008	3,798
New Visions Visual Arts	9	239	248	-
Sackett Student Council	1,113	786	1,242	657
Pro Start - Columbia-Greene	1,390	1,864	1,430	1,824
Pro Start - Rensselaer	9,780	394	1,314	8,860
Food Service	361	2,118	2,006	473
Rensselaer Academy Student Council	1,235	839	-	2,074
Maple Hill Student Council	92	-	91	1
Catskill Academy School Council	25	121	115	31
Sackett Social Studies	<u>-</u>	<u>620</u>	<u>620</u>	<u>-</u>
	<b><u>\$ 29,755</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 28,007</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 26,795</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 30,967</u></b>

**QUESTAR III - BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
**RENSSELAER-COLUMBIA-GREENE COUNTIES**

*EXTRACLASSROOM ACTIVITY FUNDS*

*NOTE TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS*

*JUNE 30, 2017*

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**1. DESCRIPTION OF ORGANIZATION AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The extraclassroom activity funds are used to account for those organizations within Questar III - Board of Cooperative Educational Services, Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene Counties (Questar III) whose activities are conducted by students and whose financial support is raised other than by taxation, fees or through charges of Questar III.

**A. Reporting Entity**

The transactions of the Extraclassroom Activity Funds are considered part of the reporting entity of Questar III. Consequently, such transactions are included in Questar III's financial statements.

The extraclassroom activity funds of Questar III represents funds of the students of Questar III. The Board exercises general oversight of these funds. The extraclassroom activity funds are independent of Questar III with respect to its financial transactions and the designation of student management.

**B. Basis of Accounting**

The books and records of Questar III's Extraclassroom Activity Funds are maintained on the cash basis of accounting. Under this basis of accounting revenues are recognized when cash is received and expenditures recognized when cash is disbursed.