

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES****A. Financial Reporting Entity**

The accompanying government-wide financial statements present the State of North Carolina and its component units. The State of North Carolina, as primary government, consists of all organizations that make up its legal entity. All funds, organizations, agencies, boards, commissions, and authorities that are not legally separate are, for financial reporting purposes, part of the primary government. The primary government has a separately elected governing body (the General Assembly), and the primary government must be both legally separate and fiscally independent. Component units are legally separate entities for which the State is financially accountable. The State's financial accountability is normally determined in one of two ways. First, the State has substantive appointment of a majority of the organization's governing board plus the State is able to either impose its will upon the organization or there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on the State. Financial accountability also exists when an organization is fiscally dependent on the State and there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burdens on the State. The State's defined benefit pension plans, deferred compensation plans, and other employee benefit plans, being fiduciary in nature, were not evaluated as potential component units but instead are reported as fiduciary funds.

The State's component units are discretely presented. The "Component Units" column in the accompanying financial statements includes the financial data of the State's discretely presented component units. They are combined and reported in a separate column in the government-wide financial statements to emphasize their legal separateness from the State.

**Discretely Presented Component Units - Major****University of North Carolina System**

The Board of Governors of the consolidated University of North Carolina (UNC) System is a legally separate body, composed of 24 members elected by the General Assembly. The Board of Governors establishes system-wide administrative policies while budgetary decisions are exercised at the State level. Within the consolidated System are UNC System Office, which is the administrative arm of the Board of Governors; the 16 constituent universities; a joint research campus; a constituent high school; an arboretum; and the University of North Carolina Health Care System (UNCHCS). Each of the 16 universities, the joint research campus, and the high school, in turn, is governed by its own separate board of trustees that is responsible for the operations of that campus only. The arboretum and the UNCHCS are each governed by its own separate board of directors. Funding for the UNC System is accomplished by State appropriations, tuition and fees, sales and services, federal grants, state grants, and private donations and grants.

Also included in the System are the financial data of the universities' significant fund-raising foundations (and similar organizations). Although the universities do not control the timing or amount of receipts from their foundations, the majority of resources (or income thereon) that the foundations hold and invest are restricted to the activities of the respective universities by the donors. Because these restricted resources held by the foundations can only be used by, or for the benefit of, the specific universities, the foundations are considered component units of the universities and are included in the universities' financial statements. Certain foundations are private not-for-profits that report under Financial Accounting Standards Board pronouncements. As such, certain revenue recognition criteria and presentation features are different from that of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The financial statement formats of the private foundations were modified to make them compatible with the universities' financial statement formats.

The following constituent institutions comprise the UNC System for financial reporting purposes:

UNC System Office	University of North Carolina School of the Arts
Appalachian State University	Western Carolina University
East Carolina University	Winston-Salem State University
Elizabeth City State University	Gateway Research Park, Inc.
Fayetteville State University	North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics
North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University	North Carolina Arboretum
North Carolina Central University	University of North Carolina Health Care System
North Carolina State University	
University of North Carolina at Asheville	
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	
University of North Carolina at Charlotte	
University of North Carolina at Greensboro	
University of North Carolina at Pembroke	
University of North Carolina at Wilmington	

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****Community Colleges**

There are currently 58 community colleges located throughout the State of North Carolina. Each is a separate component unit of the reporting entity and is legally separate. The State does not appoint a voting majority of each community college board of trustees. However, the State is financially accountable for these institutions because the State Board of Community Colleges (the Board) approves the budgeting of state and federal funds, the associated budget revisions, and the selection of the chief administrative officer of each individual community college and because the State provides significant funding to these institutions. The Board is comprised of state officials or their appointees. Each community college is similar in nature and function to all of the others, and the operations of no single community college are considered major in relation to the operations of all community colleges in the system. Therefore, aggregated financial information is presented in this CAFR for all community colleges.

The aggregated financial information for community colleges also includes the financial data of the institutions' significant fund-raising foundations. Although the community colleges do not control the timing or amount of receipts from their foundations, the majority of resources (or income thereon) that the foundations hold and invest are restricted to the activities of the respective community colleges by the donors. Because these restricted resources held by the foundations can only be used by, or for the benefit of, the specific community colleges, the foundations are considered component units of the community colleges and are included in the community colleges' financial statements. Certain foundations are private not-for-profits that report under Financial Accounting Standards Board pronouncements. As such, certain revenue recognition criteria and presentation features are different from that of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The financial statement formats of the private foundations were modified to make them compatible with the community colleges' financial statement formats.

The following are the State's 58 community colleges:

Alamance Community College	Martin Community College
Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College	Mayland Community College
Beaufort County Community College	McDowell Technical Community College
Bladen Community College	Mitchell Community College
Blue Ridge Community College	Montgomery Community College
Brunswick Community College	Nash Community College
Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute	Pamlico Community College
Cape Fear Community College	Piedmont Community College
Carteret Community College	Pitt Community College
Catawba Valley Community College	Randolph Community College
Central Carolina Community College	Richmond Community College
Central Piedmont Community College	Roanoke-Chowan Community College
Cleveland Community College	Robeson Community College
Coastal Carolina Community College	Rockingham Community College
College of The Albemarle	Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
Craven Community College	Sampson Community College
Davidson County Community College	Sandhills Community College
Durham Technical Community College	South Piedmont Community College
Edgecombe Community College	Southeastern Community College
Fayetteville Technical Community College	Southwestern Community College
Forsyth Technical Community College	Stanly Community College
Gaston College	Surry Community College
Guilford Technical Community College	Tri-County Community College
Halifax Community College	Vance-Granville Community College
Haywood Community College	Wake Technical Community College
Isothermal Community College	Wayne Community College
James Sprunt Community College	Western Piedmont Community College
Johnston Community College	Wilkes Community College
Lenoir Community College	Wilson Community College

**State Health Plan**

The State Health Plan (Plan) is a legally separate organization established to provide medical and pharmacy benefits to employees and retirees of the State, most of its component units, and local boards of education that are not part of the reporting entity. The Plan is governed by a ten-member board of trustees including the State Treasurer, an ex officio member who serves as chair and votes only in the event of a tie; the Director of the Office of State Budget and Management, a non-voting, ex officio member; two members appointed by the Governor; two members appointed by the State Treasurer; and four members appointed by the General Assembly. Health benefit programs and premium rates are recommended by the State Treasurer and approved by the board of trustees. The State of North Carolina makes significant contributions to the Plan as an employer.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****Discretely Presented Component Units - Other****The Golden LEAF (Long-term Economic Advancement Foundation), Inc.**

The Golden LEAF, Inc. (Foundation) is a legally separate not-for-profit corporation ordered to be created by the Consent Decree and Final Judgment in the State of North Carolina vs. Philip Morris, et al. The Foundation was established to receive and distribute 50% of the tobacco settlement funds allocated to North Carolina, such funds to be used to provide economic impact assistance to economically affected or tobacco-dependent regions of North Carolina. The 2013 General Assembly enacted legislation repealing the requirement for 50% of tobacco settlement funds to be allocated to the Foundation. In fiscal years 2014 and 2015, these funds were distributed to the State's General Fund rather than the Foundation. The 2015 General Assembly enacted legislation providing for the appropriation of \$10 million of tobacco settlement funds to the Foundation each year. The 2017 General Assembly enacted legislation increasing the annual appropriation to \$17.5 million. The Foundation is governed by a 15-member board, all of whom are appointed by either the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, or the Speaker of the House. The Foundation provides grants to State agencies and component units, creating a financial benefit/burden relationship.

**North Carolina Housing Finance Agency**

The North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (Agency) is a legally separate organization established to administer programs to finance housing opportunities for low and moderate income individuals. The Agency has a 13-member board of directors, with 12 appointed by either the Governor or the General Assembly. The 13th member is elected by the other 12. The Agency's mission is defined in its authorizing statute, which is modified or expanded from time to time by the General Assembly. The General Assembly also appropriates funds that assist the Agency in its mission to finance housing for very low income individuals and those with special needs; therefore, a financial benefit/burden relationship exists between the State and the Agency.

**State Education Assistance Authority**

The State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) is a legally separate authority created to provide a system of financial assistance, consisting of grants, loans, work-study or other employment, and other aids, to qualified students to obtain an education by attending public or private educational institutions. The Authority is governed by a nine-member board of directors, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor and two of whom serve ex officio by virtue of their positions with the North Carolina Community College System and the University of North Carolina System. The State provides program subsidies to the Authority; therefore, a financial benefit/burden relationship exists between the State and the Authority.

**North Carolina Global TransPark Authority**

The North Carolina Global TransPark Authority (Authority) is a legally separate authority created to administer the development of the North Carolina Global TransPark. Of the 20-member governing board, 19 are voting members. Six of the voting members are appointed by the Governor and six are appointed by the General Assembly. The State has obligated itself to provide significant funding to the Authority; therefore, a financial benefit/burden relationship exists between the State and the Authority. Effective July 2011, the General Assembly enacted legislation that made the Authority subject to the direction and supervision of the North Carolina Secretary of Transportation. Also included in the Authority is the financial data of its discretely presented component unit, the North Carolina Global TransPark Foundation.

**North Carolina State Ports Authority**

The North Carolina State Ports Authority (Authority) is a legally separate authority established to operate the State's port facilities in Wilmington and Morehead City and an inland terminal in Charlotte. It is governed by an 11-member board, all of whom are appointed by either the Governor or the General Assembly. The State has obligated itself to provide significant funding to the Authority; therefore, a financial benefit/burden relationship exists between the State and the Authority. Effective July 2011, the General Assembly enacted legislation that made the Authority subject to and under the direct supervision of the North Carolina Secretary of Transportation.

**North Carolina Railroad Company**

The North Carolina Railroad Company (Railroad) is a legally separate, for-profit corporation owned by the State for the purpose of promoting trade, industry, and transportation within North Carolina and advancing the economic interests of the State. The Railroad is governed by a 13-member board, all of whom are elected by shares held by the State. A financial benefit/burden relationship exists between the State and the Railroad. Also, the State is financially accountable since the State's intent in owning the Railroad's stock is to directly enhance the State's ability to provide governmental services.

**The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.**

The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (Partnership) is a legally separate organization established to develop and oversee a comprehensive long-range strategic plan for high-quality early childhood education and development. A 26-member board governs the Partnership. Certain elected state officials appoint 22 of the members, while three members serve ex officio by virtue of their state positions and one serves as the Director of the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten Program. The State provides significant operating subsidies to the Partnership, creating a financial benefit/burden relationship.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****North Carolina Biotechnology Center**

The North Carolina Biotechnology Center (NCBiotech) is a legally separate nonprofit corporation established for the purpose of furthering economic development and job creation in North Carolina through life science technology, company, and sector development statewide. NCBiotech is governed by a 40-member board. Twelve of the board members are appointed by the Governor or General Assembly; four serve as a result of their positions with the UNC System, a component unit of the State; two serve ex officio by virtue of their state positions; and two serve ex officio by virtue of their positions with private universities. The President of NCBiotech serves as an ex officio member. The other members are elected by the board of directors. The State has provided significant funding to NCBiotech since its inception; therefore, a financial benefit/burden relationship exists between the State and the NCBiotech.

**Centennial Authority**

The Centennial Authority (Authority) is a legally separate authority created to study, design, plan, construct, own, promote, finance, and operate a regional facility in Wake County, North Carolina. The regional facility consists of an arena where sports, fitness, health, recreational, entertainment or cultural activities can be conducted. The Authority is governed by a 21-member board comprised of ten members appointed by the General Assembly, four members appointed by the Wake County Board of Commissioners, four members appointed by the Raleigh City Council, one member appointed by the Chancellor of North Carolina State University or the Chancellor's designee, and two members appointed jointly by the mayors of all the cities in Wake County. The facility is located on land owned by the State and leased to the Authority at an annual rent of \$1 per year. Therefore, a financial benefit/burden relationship exists between the State and the Authority.

**Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina**

Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina (EDPNC) is a legally separate nonprofit corporation created to consolidate and enhance the State's economic development marketing and sales functions previously conducted by the North Carolina Department of Commerce. These functions include export promotion, tourism marketing, existing industry support, small business assistance, and business recruitment. EDPNC is governed by an 18-member board comprised of nine members appointed by the Governor and eight members appointed by the General Assembly, and the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce as an ex officio member. The State has the ability to remove board members at will. The State's contract with EDPNC provides recurring financial support to EDPNC, creating a financial benefit/burden relationship.

**Availability of Financial Statements**

Unless otherwise noted, complete financial statements for the following component units can be obtained from the Office of the State Auditor, 2 South Salisbury Street, 20601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-0600 or can be accessed from the Office of the State Auditor internet home page at <https://www.auditor.nc.gov>.

Constituent institutions in the UNC System (excluding Gateway Research Park, Inc., North Carolina Arboretum, and University of North Carolina Health Care System)

North Carolina Global TransPark Authority

North Carolina State Ports Authority

The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.

Complete financial statements for the following component units can be obtained from the respective administrative offices of those units listed below:

The Golden LEAF, Inc.  
301 North Winstead Avenue  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804

North Carolina Railroad Company  
2809 Highwoods Boulevard  
Raleigh, NC 27604-1000

Gateway Research Park, Inc.  
2901 East Gate City Boulevard Ste 2500  
Greensboro, NC 27401-4904

North Carolina Housing Finance Agency  
P.O. Box 28066  
Raleigh, NC 27611-8066

North Carolina Biotechnology Center  
P.O. Box 13547  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3547

Economic Development Partnership of  
North Carolina  
150 Fayetteville St. Suite 1200  
Raleigh, NC 27601

State Education Assistance Authority  
P.O. Box 14103  
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-4103

Centennial Authority  
1400 Edwards Mill Road  
Raleigh, NC 27607

Complete financial statements of the individual community colleges can be obtained from their respective administrative offices. The addresses of the individual community colleges are available on the internet home page for the North Carolina Community College System as follows: <https://www.nccommunitycolleges.edu> (click "Find a College"). The State Health Plan, North Carolina Arboretum, and the University of North Carolina Health Care System do not issue separate financial statements.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****B. Basis of Presentation**

The accompanying financial statements of the State of North Carolina financial reporting entity have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America (GAAP) as applicable to governments. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) establishes standards of financial accounting and reporting for state and local governmental entities. The financial statements of the North Carolina Railroad Company, a for-profit corporation, and the North Carolina Biotechnology Center (discretely presented component units) have been prepared in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) pronouncements.

The financial statements are presented as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, except for the USS North Carolina Battleship Commission whose statements are as of and for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2019, and the North Carolina Deferred Compensation Plan, the 401(k) Supplemental Retirement Income Plan, and the North Carolina Railroad Company whose statements are as of and for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019. Occupational licensing boards have financial statements with various fiscal year ending dates.

The basic financial statements include both government-wide (based on the State as a whole) and fund financial statements as follows:

**Government-wide Financial Statements**

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information on all the nonfiduciary activities of the primary government (the State) and its component units. Fiduciary activities are excluded from the government-wide statements because they cannot be used to support the State's own programs. As a general rule, the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements. Exceptions to this general rule are interfund services provided and used between functions. Elimination of these charges would misstate both the expenses of the purchasing function and the program revenues of the selling function. These statements distinguish between the governmental and business-type activities of the State. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other nonexchange transactions. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties. Likewise, the primary government is reported separately from certain legally separate component units for which the primary government is financially accountable.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function or identifiable activity are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly associated with a specific function or identifiable activity. Certain charges to other funds or programs for "centralized" expenses also include an overhead markup that is included in direct expenses. Program revenues include (a) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use, or directly benefit from goods, services, or privileges provided by a given function or identifiable activity (including fees, fines and forfeitures and certain grants and contracts that are essentially contracts for services) and (b) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program or identifiable activity (including restricted investment earnings or losses). Revenues that are not classified as program revenues, including all taxes, are presented as general revenues. Unrestricted resources internally dedicated by the State's governing body (General Assembly) are reported as general revenues rather than as program revenues. The State does not allocate general government (indirect) expenses to other functions.

**Fund Financial Statements**

The fund financial statements provide information about the State's funds, including its fiduciary funds. Separate statements for each fund category—governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary—are presented. The emphasis of fund financial statements is on major governmental and major enterprise funds, each displayed in a separate column. All remaining governmental and enterprise funds are aggregated and reported as nonmajor funds.

The State reports the following major governmental funds:

**General Fund**

This is the State's primary operating fund. It accounts for all financial resources of the general government, except those accounted for in another fund.

**Highway Fund**

This fund accounts for most of the activities of the Department of Transportation, including the maintenance and some construction of the State's primary and secondary road systems. In addition, it supports areas such as the North Carolina Ferry System, the Division of Motor Vehicles, public transportation, and railroad operations. The principal revenues of the Highway Fund are motor fuels taxes, motor vehicle registration fees, driver's license fees, and federal aid. A portion of the motor fuels taxes is distributed to municipalities for local transportation projects.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****Highway Trust Fund**

This fund was established by legislation (Chapter 692 of the 1989 Session Laws) to provide a dedicated funding mechanism to meet highway construction needs for North Carolina. Taxes were increased for the specific purpose of improving identified primary transportation corridors within the State and for the completion of urban loops around seven major metropolitan areas. The fund makes transfers to the General Fund, the Highway Fund, and the North Carolina Turnpike Authority. The fund also provides revenue to the North Carolina State Ports Authority to support modernization initiatives. Session Law 2013-183 amends the Highway Trust Fund allocation of resources. It eliminates individually legislated projects and implements a new way for the Department of Transportation to fund and prioritize necessary infrastructure improvements while utilizing existing revenue sources more efficiently. In June 2015, the Board of Transportation approved the 10-year State Transportation Improvement Program, fully implementing the new legislation. The principal revenues of the Highway Trust Fund are highway use taxes, motor fuels taxes, and various title and registration fees.

The State reports the following major enterprise funds:

**Unemployment Compensation Fund**

This fund accounts for the State's unemployment insurance program, which is part of a national system established to provide temporary benefit payments to eligible unemployed workers. The administrative costs of this program are reported in the General Fund and financed through the distribution of employer paid federal unemployment insurance taxes. The state unemployment taxes collected from employers are transferred to the United States Treasury and deposited into North Carolina's Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. State unemployment benefits are financed by the employer paid state unemployment insurance taxes. Certain unemployment benefits for civilian and military employees are paid through the trust fund but reimbursed from federal funds. In addition, when triggered, some extended benefits and emergency related benefits are also reimbursed from federal funds.

**North Carolina State Lottery Fund**

This fund accounts for the activities of the North Carolina Education Lottery Commission. The North Carolina Education Lottery Commission was created as an independent, self-supporting, and revenue raising entity. The purpose of the lottery is to generate funds to provide educational opportunities as directed by the General Assembly. The net profits of the fund are transferred periodically to the General Fund as required by general statutes.

**EPA Revolving Loan Fund**

This fund accounts for the activities of the State's clean water and drinking water revolving loan programs, which provide low cost loans to units of local government for the construction of wastewater facilities and drinking water infrastructure. These programs are financed primarily by federal capitalization grants from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), interest earnings on loans, loan repayments, and state funds (i.e., bond proceeds and State appropriations).

**North Carolina Turnpike Authority**

This fund accounts for the activities of the North Carolina Turnpike Authority (Authority), which was created to study, design, plan, construct, finance, and operate a system of toll roads, bridges, and/or tunnels supplementing the traditional non-toll transportation serving the citizens of the State. Effective July 2009, the General Assembly enacted legislation that transferred the functions and funds of the Authority to the Department of Transportation.

Additionally, the State reports the following fund types:

**Internal Service Funds**

These funds account for state property fire insurance coverages, motor fleet management services, mail services, temporary staffing services, computing and telecommunication services, and surplus property services provided to other departments or agencies of the State and its component units, or to other governments, on a cost-reimbursement basis.

**Pension and Other Employee Benefit Trust Funds**

These funds account for resources held in trust for the members and beneficiaries of the State's defined benefit pension plans, defined contribution pension plans, Internal Revenue Code Section 457 plan, death benefit plan, disability income plan, and retiree health benefit fund.

**Investment Trust Funds**

These funds account for the external portion of the Investment Pool sponsored by the Department of State Treasurer and individual investment accounts held by the Department of State Treasurer for public hospitals that are not part of the State reporting entity.

**Private-purpose Trust Funds**

These funds account for resources held in trust for insurance carriers, designated beneficiaries by the Administrative Office of the Courts, and other departmental trust funds in which the principal and income benefit individuals, private organizations, or other governments.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****Agency Funds**

These funds account for sales tax collections held on behalf of local governments, resources held by the Administrative Office of the Courts for distribution to designated beneficiaries, insurance company receivership assets, vehicle property tax collections held on behalf of local governments, and other resources held by the State in a purely custodial capacity for individuals, private organizations, or other governments. Insurance company receivership assets are held by the Commissioner of Insurance exclusively in his capacity as Receiver. These assets belong to insurance companies and other entities in receivership and are not the property of the State.

**C. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting****Government-wide, Proprietary, and Fiduciary Fund Financial Statements**

The government-wide, proprietary, and fiduciary fund financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting, except for agency funds which do not have a measurement focus. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows.

Lottery games are sold to the public by contracted retailers. For the North Carolina Education Lottery Commission's draw games, POWERBALL, Mega Millions, Carolina Cash 5, Carolina Pick 4, Carolina Pick 3, EZ Match, Lucky for Life, and Keno, revenue is recognized at the time of sale on a daily basis. For instant games, revenue is recognized at the time a pack of tickets is settled. For POWERBALL, Mega Millions, Carolina Cash 5, Carolina Pick 4, Carolina Pick 3, and Lucky for Life, prize expense is recorded at 50% of sales on a daily basis. EZ Match is recorded at 63.36% of sales on a daily basis. Keno is recorded at 65.73% of sales on a daily basis. For instant games, prize expense is accrued based on the final production prize structure percentage provided by the gaming vendor for each game and recorded daily on the value of packs settled. For the instant games with prize tickets, the final prize structure percentage used is adjusted to eliminate the value of the prize tickets. Prize expense for merchandise prizes is recognized as prizes are fulfilled.

Nonexchange transactions, in which the State receives (or gives) value without directly giving (or receiving) equal value in exchange, include taxes, fines and forfeitures, grants (and similar assistance), entitlements, and donations. Recognition standards are based on the characteristics and classes of nonexchange transactions. Income taxes, sales taxes, and other similar taxes on earnings or consumption are recognized as revenues, net of estimated refunds and uncollectible amounts, in the accounting period when the underlying exchange transaction has occurred. Franchise taxes, other taxes, and fines and forfeitures are recognized as revenues, net of estimated refunds and uncollectible amounts, in the accounting period when an enforceable legal claim to the assets arises and the use of resources is required or is first permitted. Grants (and similar assistance), entitlements, and donations are recognized by providers as expenses and by recipients as revenues (net of estimated uncollectible amounts), when all applicable eligibility requirements, including time requirements, are met. Resources transmitted before the eligibility requirements are met (excluding time requirements) are reported as assets by the provider and as liabilities by the recipient. Resources received or recognized as a receivable before time requirements are met, but after all other eligibility requirements have been met, are reported as a deferred outflow of resources by the provider and a deferred inflow of resources by the recipient.

**Governmental Fund Financial Statements**

Governmental funds are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. With this measurement focus, only current assets and liabilities are generally included on the balance sheet. The operating statement presents increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other financing uses) in spendable resources. General capital asset acquisitions are reported as expenditures and proceeds of general long-term debt are reported as other financing sources.

Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when both measurable and available. Generally, the State considers revenues reported in the governmental funds to be available if they are collected within 31 days after year-end. Exceptions are individual income tax revenues and federal and county funds accrued for the matching share of medicaid claims payable, which the State considers to be available if they are collected within 12 months after year-end. Furthermore, in the circumstance where underpayments exceed overpayments, individual income tax revenues are recognized to the extent of estimated overpayments (i.e., refunds payable and applied refunds). Principal revenue sources considered susceptible to accrual include taxes, federal funds, local funds, and investment earnings. Other revenues are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the State.

Expenditures are recorded when the related fund liability is incurred, except for principal and interest on general long-term debt, claims and judgments, compensated absences, obligations for workers' compensation, pollution remediation, and arbitrage rebate liabilities, which are recognized as expenditures when payment is due. Pension and other postemployment benefit contributions to cost-sharing plans are recognized as expenditures in the period to which the payment relates, even if payment is not due until the subsequent period.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS****D. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

This classification includes undeposited receipts; petty cash; deposits held by the State Treasurer in the Short-term Investment Fund, a portfolio within the North Carolina Department of State Treasurer External Investment Pool (External Investment Pool); demand and time deposits with private financial institutions, excluding certificates of deposit; and deposits with the United States Treasury. The Short-term Investment Fund maintained by the State Treasurer has the general characteristics of a demand deposit account in that participants may deposit additional cash at any time and also may withdraw cash at any time without prior notice or penalty.

**E. Investments**

This classification includes deposits held by the State Treasurer in certain investment portfolios (see Note 3A) as well as investments held separately by the State and its component units. Investments are generally reported at fair value, with significant exceptions as follows. Repurchase agreements and certain money market mutual funds are reported at cost. Fully benefit responsive synthetic guaranteed investment contracts and unallocated insurance contracts that are nonparticipating interest-earning investment contracts are reported at contract value.

The net increase (decrease) in the fair value of investments is recognized as a component of investment income. Additional information regarding investments is provided in Note 3.

**F. Securities Lending**

Cash received as collateral on securities lending transactions is used to purchase investments. These investments are reported as assets in the accompanying financial statements and are generally measured at fair value with the exception of repurchase agreements, which are reported at cost. A corresponding liability is also reported for the amount owed to the broker at the termination of the lending agreement.

**G. Receivables and Payables**

Receivables in all funds represent amounts that have arisen in the ordinary course of business and are shown net of allowances for uncollectible amounts.

Activity between funds that are representative of lending/borrowing arrangements outstanding at the end of the fiscal year are referred to as either “due to/due from other funds” (i.e., current portion of interfund loans) or “advances to/from other funds” (i.e., the non-current portion of interfund loans except “advances to outside entities”). Coronavirus relief funds were advanced to entities outside the State’s financial reporting entity. These current advances are classified as “advances to outside entities.” All other outstanding balances between funds related to services provided and used, reimbursements, and transfers are classified as “due to/due from other funds.” Any residual balances outstanding between the governmental activities and business-type activities are reported in the government-wide financial statements as “internal balances.”

**H. Inventories and Prepaid Items**

The inventories of the State and component units are valued at cost using either the first-in, first-out (FIFO); last invoice cost; or average cost method. These inventories consist of general supplies and materials. Institutions of the UNC System and community colleges also use these valuations along with the retail inventory method for some bookstore operations. The State Highway Fund accounts for its maintenance and construction inventories using the average cost method. Inventories of governmental funds are recorded as expenditures when consumed rather than when purchased. Prepaid items of governmental funds are recorded as expenditures when purchased, and balances of prepaid items are not reported as assets.

**I. Securities Held in Trust**

Securities held in trust include various assets, including securities from insurance companies and bail bondsmen doing business within North Carolina. These securities have been placed in safekeeping with a financial institution or the State Treasurer, as required by applicable general statutes.



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**J. Restricted/Designated Assets**

In the government-wide and enterprise fund financial statements, certain resources are reported as restricted assets because restrictions on asset use change the nature or normal understanding of the availability of the asset. The following resources are not available for current operations and are reported as restricted assets: 1) resources restricted for the acquisition/construction of the government’s own capital assets, 2) resources legally segregated for the payment of principal and interest as required by debt covenants, 3) temporarily invested debt proceeds, and 4) nonexpendable resources of permanent funds. This financial statement caption also includes resources designated by management for the acquisition/construction of the government’s own capital assets and thus not available for current operations.

**K. Capital Assets**

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment; easements; and infrastructure assets (e.g., State highway network, utility systems, and similar items), are reported in the government-wide financial statements and the fund financial statements for proprietary funds. Purchased or constructed capital assets are reported at cost or estimated historical cost. The State highway network constructed prior to July 1, 2001 is recorded at estimated historical cost. Since July 1, 2001, the State highway network is recorded at cost. The initial estimated historical cost of the network is based on construction expenditures reported by the Department of Transportation less amounts estimated for the cost of right-of-ways and land improvements. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend its useful life are not capitalized. Donated capital assets are recorded at acquisition value at the date of donation except that capital assets donated prior to July 1, 2015 are recorded at their estimated fair value at the date of donation.

Generally, capital assets are defined by the State and component units as assets with an initial value or cost greater than or equal to \$5,000 and an estimated useful life of two or more years, except for internally generated computer software and other intangible assets, which are capitalized when the value or cost is greater than or equal to \$1 million and \$100 thousand, respectively.

The value of assets constructed by the State and its component units for their own use includes all material direct and indirect construction costs that are incurred as a result of the construction. In proprietary funds and component units, interest costs incurred (if material) are capitalized during the period of construction.

The depreciation methods and estimated useful lives generally used by the State and its component units are as follows:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Estimated Useful Life</u>
Buildings.....	Straight-line	10-100 years
Machinery and Equipment.....	Straight-line Units of output for motor vehicles	2-30 years 90,000 miles
Art, literature, and other artifacts.....	Straight-line	2-25 years
General infrastructure.....	Straight-line	10-75 years
State highway network.....	Composite	50 years
Computer software.....	Straight-line	2-30 years
Other intangible assets.....	Straight-line	2-100 years

For the State highway network (including toll roads), depreciation is based on a weighted average of the estimated useful lives of dissimilar assets in the network (e.g., subsurface foundations, roadway surfaces, bridges, traffic control devices, guardrails, markings, signage, etc.).

**L. Tax Refund Liabilities**

Tax refund liabilities consist primarily of accrued income and sales and use tax refunds due to taxpayers. During the calendar year, the State collects employee withholdings and taxpayers’ payments for income taxes. At June 30, the State estimates the amount it owes taxpayers for income tax overpayments during the preceding six months. Sales and use tax refund liabilities are also estimated at June 30. These liabilities are recorded as “Tax refunds payable.”

**M. Compensated Absences**

Employees of the State and component units are permitted to accumulate earned, but unused vacation pay benefits. All vacation pay is accrued when incurred in the government-wide and proprietary fund financial statements. Also, when determining the vacation pay liability due within one year, leave is considered taken on a last in, first out (LIFO) basis. In governmental funds, a liability for these amounts is reported only as payments come due each period upon the occurrence of relevant events such as employee resignations and retirements. The State’s policy provides for a maximum accumulation of unused vacation leave of 30 days which can be carried forward

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

each January 1 or for which an employee can be paid upon termination of employment. Also, any accumulated vacation leave in excess of 30 days at calendar year end is converted to sick leave.

In addition to the vacation leave described above, compensated absences include the accumulated unused portion of the special annual leave bonuses awarded by the General Assembly. The bonus leave balance on December 31 is retained by employees and transferred into the next calendar year. It is not part of the 30 day maximum applicable to regular vacation leave and is not subject to conversion to sick leave.

There is no liability for unpaid accumulated sick leave because the State has no obligation to pay sick leave upon employee termination or retirement. However, additional service credit for retirement pension benefits is given for accumulated sick leave upon retirement.

**N. Long-Term Liabilities**

In the government-wide financial statements, long-term debt and other long-term obligations are reported as liabilities in the columns for governmental activities, business-type activities, and component units. These amounts are also reported as liabilities in the fund financial statements for proprietary funds. If material, debt premiums and discounts of the State are deferred and amortized over the life of the debt using the effective interest method. If material, debt premiums and discounts of the University of North Carolina System (component unit) are generally deferred and amortized using the straight-line method. Long-term debt is reported net of the applicable debt premium, and/or discount.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize debt premiums, as well as debt issuance costs, during the current period. The face amount of the debt issued and premiums received are reported as other financing sources. Issuance costs, whether or not withheld from the actual proceeds received, are reported as debt service expenditures.

**O. Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources**

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position reports 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(s) and so will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. The State and its component units have the following items that qualify for reporting in this category. They are 1) the accumulated decrease in fair value of hedging derivative instruments, 2) deferred loss on refunding, 3) State aid transmitted to a component unit that cannot be spent until a future period (but all other eligibility requirements, if any, have been met), 4) deferred outflows for asset retirement obligations (AROs), 5) deferred outflows for pensions (i.e., difference between actual and expected experience, change in proportion, differences between employer's contributions and proportionate share of contributions, and contributions subsequent to the measurement date), 6) deferred outflows for OPEB (i.e., difference between actual and expected experience, net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments, change in proportion, differences between employer's contributions and proportionate share of contributions, and contributions subsequent to the measurement date), and 7) a deferred loss on a sale-leaseback transaction reported by a community college (other deferred outflows). A deferred loss 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 primary government amortizes the deferred loss on refunding using the effective interest method, and the University of North Carolina System (component unit) generally amortizes this amount using the straight-line method.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position reports 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 inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The State and a component unit have the following items that qualify for reporting in this category. They are 1) service concession arrangement revenue applicable to future years, 2) State aid received by a component unit that cannot be spent until a future period (but all other eligibility requirements, if any, have been met), 3) deferred inflows for pensions (i.e., difference between actual and expected experience, changes of assumptions, net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments, change in proportion, and differences between employer's contributions and proportionate share of contributions), 4) deferred inflows for OPEB (i.e., difference between actual and expected experience, changes in assumptions, net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments, change in proportion, and differences between employer's contributions and proportionate share of contributions), 5) a capital lease obligation adjustment by a university due to a change in the provisions of a lease resulting from a refunding by the lessor of tax-exempt debt (other deferred inflows), 6) deferred inflows for irrevocable split interest agreements that universities are beneficiaries of, and 7) unavailable revenues in governmental funds. The governmental funds report unavailable revenues primarily from the following sources: sales and use taxes; other taxes; tobacco settlement; and fees, licenses, and fines. These amounts are deferred and recognized as revenues in the period that the amounts become available.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Deferred outflows of resources resulting from the difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments are included in pension expense over a closed five-year period, beginning in the current measurement period. Deferred outflows of resources, with the exception of employer contributions after the measurement date, and deferred inflows of resources are included in pension expense, beginning in the current measurement period, over a closed period (see Note 12). The closed period is equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees (both active and inactive) that are provided with pensions through the pension plan determined as of the beginning of the measurement period.

Deferred outflows and inflows of resources resulting from the difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments are included in OPEB expense over a closed five-year period, beginning in the current measurement period. Deferred outflows of resources, with the exception of employer contributions after the measurement date, and all other deferred outflows and inflows of resources are included in OPEB expense, beginning in the current measurement period, over a closed period (see Note 14). The closed period is equal to the average of the expected remaining service lives of all employees (both active and inactive) that are provided with OPEB benefits through the OPEB plans determined as of the beginning of the measurement period.

## **P. Net Position/Fund Balance**

### Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when constraints placed on net position use are either externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions. Constraints placed on net position use by enabling legislation are not reported as net position restrictions since such constraints are not legally enforceable. Legal enforceability means that the State can be compelled by an external party, such as citizens, public interest groups, or the judiciary to use resources created by enabling legislation only for the purposes specified by the legislation. Situations where the State's internal governing body (General Assembly) places restrictions on existing resources or earmarks existing revenue sources are considered to be constraints that are internally imposed. Such internally dedicated net position is presented as unrestricted.

For governmental activities, the State considers restricted amounts to have been spent first when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available. For business-type activities and component units, when both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, generally it is the State's policy to use receipts first (which include restricted and unrestricted resources), then State appropriations as necessary. Receipts are defined as all funds collected by an agency or institution other than State appropriations. The decision to use restricted or unrestricted receipts to fund a payment is transactional-based within the departmental management system in place at the agency or institution. For projects funded by tax-exempt debt proceeds and other sources, the debt proceeds are always used first.

### Fund Balance

Fund balance for governmental funds is reported in the following classifications depicting the relative strength of the constraints that control how specific amounts can be spent.

- The nonspendable fund balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are either (a) not in spendable form or (b) legally or contractually required to be maintained intact.
- Restricted fund balances have constraints placed on the use of resources that are either (a) externally imposed by creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments or (b) imposed by law through constitutional provisions.
- Committed fund balances can only be used for specific purposes pursuant to constraints imposed by formal action of the North Carolina General Assembly, the State's highest level of decision-making authority. The North Carolina General Assembly establishes commitments through the passage of legislation that becomes State law. Commitments may be changed or lifted only by taking the same formal action that imposed the constraint originally.
- Assigned fund balances are constrained by an intent to be used for specific purposes, but are neither restricted nor committed. The Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) is authorized to assign unexpended funds at year-end as a carryforward of budget authority to the subsequent fiscal year. The North Carolina Constitution (Article III, Sec. 5(3)) provides that the "budget as enacted by the General Assembly shall be administered by the Governor." The Governor has delegated the authority to perform certain powers and duties of the Governor's role as the Director of the Budget to OSBM.
- Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund. Other governmental funds cannot report positive unassigned fund balance but can report negative unassigned fund balance if expenditures incurred for specific purposes exceeded the amounts restricted, committed, or assigned to those purposes.

For classification of governmental fund balances, the State considers an expenditure to be made from the most restrictive resource (i.e., restricted, committed, assigned, and unassigned in that order) when more than one fund balance classification is available for use.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

In accordance with General Statute 143C-4-2, the Savings Reserve is established as a reserve in the General Fund and is a component of the unappropriated General Fund balance. Funds reserved to the Savings Reserve are available for expenditure in an aggregate amount that does not exceed 7.5% of the prior fiscal year's General Fund operating budget appropriations, excluding departmental receipts, upon appropriation by a majority vote of the membership of the Senate and House of Representatives present and voting for any of the following purposes:

- To cover a decline in General Fund revenue from one fiscal year to another.
- To cover the difference between that fiscal year's General Fund operating budget appropriations, excluding departmental receipts, and projected revenue.
- To pay costs imposed by a court or administrative order.
- To provide relief and assistance from the effects of an emergency.

Each year the OSBM and Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly shall jointly develop and produce an evaluation of the adequacy of the Savings Reserve based on the volatility of North Carolina's General Fund tax structure. After completing the evaluation, these entities may revise the methodology as needed to estimate the target for the Savings Reserve balance, which shall be calculated so as to be sufficient to cover two years of need for nine out of ten scenarios involving a decline in General Fund revenue from one fiscal year to the next fiscal year.

In 2020, the OSBM along with the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly recommended a Savings Reserve target balance of 10.9% of prior fiscal year's General Fund operating budget appropriations. At June 30, 2020, the balance of the Savings Reserve was \$1.17 billion, which represents 4.88% of the prior year's General Fund appropriation budget. The Savings Reserve is included with unassigned fund balance.

**Q. Revenues and Expenses**

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from nonoperating items and capital contributions. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operations. Proprietary fund operating revenues result from exchange transactions associated with the principal activity of the fund. Exchange transactions are those in which each party receives and gives up essentially equal values. Nonoperating revenues, such as noncapital grants and investment earnings, result from nonexchange transactions or ancillary activities. Capital contributions are reported separately, after nonoperating revenues and expenses.

**R. Food and Nutrition Services**

In accordance with GASB Statement No. 24, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Grants and Other Financial Assistance*, the State recognizes distributions of food and nutrition services benefits as revenue and expenditures in the General Fund. Revenues and expenditures are recognized based on the fair value at the time the benefits are distributed to the individual recipients. In North Carolina, benefits are distributed in electronic form, thus distribution takes place when the individual recipients use the benefits.