



ASSOCIATION OF  
SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS  
INTERNATIONAL

The Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting  
is presented to

## Brookings School District #5-1

for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR)  
for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2019.

The CAFR meets the criteria established for  
ASBO International's Certificate of Excellence.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Claire Hertz'.

Claire Hertz, SFO  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'David J. Lewis'.

David J. Lewis  
Executive Director



October 14, 2020

Mr. Brian Lueders  
Director of Business Services  
Brookings School District #5-1  
2130 8th St. S.  
Brookings, SD 57006

Dear Mr. Lueders:

Congratulations! On behalf of the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International, I am pleased to inform you that Brookings School District #5-1 has received ASBO's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fiscal year ended 2019. This award represents a significant achievement and reflects your commitment to transparency and high-quality financial reporting. We encourage you to use the [COE recipient's logo](#) to share your achievement in emails and marketing materials.

The Certificate of Excellence (COE) Review Team has provided their comments for the improvement of your Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). It is important to review the comments and address them before you prepare next year's CAFR. Your district must include a copy of the original comments and the district's written responses to the comments in next year's application packet.

We hope you will use the attached press release to share this important achievement with your community. Your award certificate is also attached.

Congratulations to you and the members of your staff who worked so hard to earn the COE this year. We look forward to your continued participation in the COE program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David J. Lewis'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David J. Lewis  
Executive Director



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Susan Lambert

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**School District Awarded for Outstanding Financial Reporting**

Ashburn, VA – 2020 – The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) is pleased to award Brookings School District #5-1 the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting (COE). ASBO International's COE recognizes districts that have met the program's high standards for financial reporting and transparency. The school district earned the Certificate of Excellence for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended 2019.

"The COE's mission is to promote and recognize excellence in financial reporting, specifically through a district's CAFR," ASBO International Executive Director David Lewis says. "The CAFR informs stakeholders about the financial and economic state of the district, making it an important communications tool for building trust and engaging with the school community."

By participating in the COE program, school districts demonstrate their commitment to financial transparency. Applicants submit their CAFR for review by a team of financial professionals, who provide feedback to improve future documents. If the CAFR meets the requirements of the program, the document may receive the Certificate of Excellence. A district's participation in the COE program can facilitate bond rating and continuing bond disclosure processes.

The COE is proudly sponsored by ASBO International Strategic Partner American Fidelity.

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**About ASBO International**

Founded in 1910, the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) is a nonprofit organization that, through its members and affiliates, represents approximately 30,000 school business professionals worldwide. ASBO International is committed to providing programs, services, and a global network that promote the highest standards in school business. Its members support student achievement through effective resource management in various areas ranging from finance and operations to food services and transportation. Learn more at [asbointl.org](http://asbointl.org).

**About American Fidelity**

American Fidelity provides employer cost-savings solutions and supplemental insurance benefits to specific industries. Acting as an extension of the HR department, we educate, enroll, and support the development of robust, competitive insurance packages—all while ensuring seamless administration and employee satisfaction. As experts in employer benefit solutions, our salaried account managers deliver year-round support, help employers overcome benefit administrative challenges, and always offer a different perspective – a different opinion.