

SINGLE AUDIT FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024





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Board of Education Columbus Grove Local School District 201 West Cross Street Columbus Grove, OH 45830-1237

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Columbus Grove Local School District, Putnam County, prepared by Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co., for the audit period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Columbus Grove Local School District is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber Auditor of State Columbus, Ohio

November 25, 2024



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#### INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Education Columbus Grove Local School District 201 West Cross Street Columbus Grove, Ohio 45830

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### **Opinions**

We have audited the cash basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Columbus Grove Local School District, Putnam County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash basis financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the District, as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in cash basis financial position for the year then ended in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 2.

#### **Basis for Opinions**

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### **Emphasis of Matter - Accounting Basis**

Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the District to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We draw attention to Note 2 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 opinions are not modified with respect to this matter.

#### Responsibilities of Management 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 described in Note 2, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.



In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

#### Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

#### **Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by *Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards,* and the Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis) – General Fund are presented for the purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The 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 GAAS. In our opinion, the schedules are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

#### Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 15, 2024 on our consideration of the District'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 solely 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 the effectiveness of the District's 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 the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.

Maumee, Ohio November 15, 2024

### STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - CASH BASIS JUNE 30, 2024

	 overnmental Activities
Assets:	
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9,050,239
Cash and cash equivalents with fiscal agent	 4,629,539
Total assets	 13,679,778
Net position:	
Restricted for:	
Facilities maintenance	289,969
Debt service	5,580,420
State funded programs	32,546
Food service operations	246,840
Extracurricular	205,694
Other purposes	32,034
Unrestricted	 7,292,275
Total net position	\$ 13,679,778

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - CASH BASIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

				Program (	Cash Ro	eceipts	Ne	t (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position
				Charges		Operating		-
		Cash		for Services Grants and				Governmental
	Di	sbursements	a	nd Sales	Co	ntributions		Activities
Governmental activities:								_
Instruction:								
Regular	\$	4,821,382	\$	146,667	\$	282,108	\$	(4,392,607)
Special		2,328,133		14,753		960,811		(1,352,569)
Vocational		151,148		-		27,775		(123,373)
Other		76,802		-		-		(76,802)
Support services:								
Pupil		446,630		1,666		227,662		(217,302)
Instructional staff		146,517		-		-		(146,517)
Board of education		28,522		-		-		(28,522)
Administration		736,761		-		-		(736,761)
Fiscal		424,284		-		-		(424,284)
Operations and maintenance		1,005,612		602		9,463		(995,547)
Pupil transportation		597,913		-		45,738		(552,175)
Central		224,132		591		6,137		(217,404)
Operation of non-instructional services:								
Food service operations		398,296		154,508		186,762		(57,026)
Other non-instructional services		119,074		-		139,467		20,393
Extracurricular activities		702,129		278,023		68,041		(356,065)
Facilities acquisition and construction		674,484		-		-		(674,484)
Debt service:								
Principal retirement		155,000		-		-		(155,000)
Interest and fiscal charges		190,813						(190,813)
Total governmental activities	\$	13,227,632	\$	596,810	\$	1,953,964		(10,676,858)
			Prop Ge De Fac	eral receipts: erty taxes leveneral purpose bt service cilities mainted me taxes levie	ied for:			3,147,372 368,096 45,381
			Ger	neral purposes	3			1,701,387
				ts and entitle		ot restricted		5 752 051
				pecific progra				5,753,951
				stment earning and donation	-			486,761
				ellaneous	18			3,066 52,798
			Tota	l general rece	ipts			11,558,812
			Char	nge in net pos	ition			881,954
			Net	position at be	ginnin	g of year		12,797,824
			Net	position at en	d of ye	ar	\$	13,679,778

#### 

	General Fund	R	Bond etirement Fund	Gov	Other vernmental Funds	Go	Total overnmental Funds
Assets: Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents Cash and cash equivalents with fiscal agent	\$ 7,292,275	\$	950,881 4,629,539	\$	807,083	\$	9,050,239 4,629,539
Total assets	\$ 7,292,275	\$	5,580,420	\$	807,083	\$	13,679,778
Fund balances:							
Restricted:							
Debt service	-		5,580,420		-		5,580,420
Facilities maintenance	-		-		289,969		289,969
Food service operations	-		-		246,840		246,840
Non-public schools	-		-		28,833		28,833
State funded programs	-		-		3,713		3,713
Extracurricular	-		-		205,694		205,694
Other purposes	-		-		32,034		32,034
Assigned:							
Student instruction	153,156		-		_		153,156
Student and staff support	101,217		_		_		101,217
Extracurricular activities	7,354		_		_		7,354
Facilities acquisition and construction	289,142		_		_		289,142
Unassigned	 6,741,406		=				6,741,406
Total fund balances	\$ 7,292,275	\$	5,580,420	\$	807,083	\$	13,679,778

## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - CASH BASIS GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	General Fund	. 1	Bond Retirement Fund	Gov	Other vernmental Funds	Go	Total overnmental Funds
Receipts:							
Property taxes	\$ 3,147,	372 \$	368,096	\$	45,381	\$	3,560,849
Income taxes	1,701,	387	-		-		1,701,387
Intergovernmental	6,559,	222	46,367		975,266		7,580,855
Investment earnings	456,	829	29,932		21,711		508,472
Tuition and fees	157,	768	-		-		157,768
Extracurricular	1,	666	-		278,552		280,218
Rental income		602	-		-		602
Charges for services	3,	652	-		154,570		158,222
Contributions and donations	3,	381	-		89,501		92,882
Miscellaneous		377			13,954		68,331
Total receipts	12,086,	256	444,395		1,578,935		14,109,586
Disbursements:							
Current:							
Instruction:							
Regular	4,550,	219	-		271,163		4,821,382
Special	1,993,		-		335,110		2,328,133
Vocational	151,	148	-		-		151,148
Other	76,	802	-		-		76,802
Support services:							
Pupil	446,	630	=		-		446,630
Instructional staff	146,	517	-		-		146,517
Board of education	28,	522	-		-		28,522
Administration	736,	761	-		-		736,761
Fiscal	414,	816	8,426		1,042		424,284
Operations and maintenance	923,	110	-		82,502		1,005,612
Pupil transportation	597,	913	-		-		597,913
Central	217,	182	-		6,950		224,132
Operation of non-instructional services:							
Food service operations		-	-		398,296		398,296
Other non-instructional services		-	-		119,074		119,074
Extracurricular activities	402,	287	-		299,842		702,129
Facilities acquisition and construction	632,	596	-		41,888		674,484
Debt service:	ŕ				•		ŕ
Principal retirement		-	155,000		_		155,000
Interest and fiscal charges			190,813				190,813
Total disbursements	11,317,	526	354,239		1,555,867		13,227,632
Net change in fund balances	768,	730	90,156		23,068		881,954
Fund balances at beginning of year	6,523,	545	5,490,264		784,015		12,797,824
Fund balances at end of year	\$ 7,292,	275 \$	5,580,420	\$	807,083	\$	13,679,778

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - CASH BASIS CUSTODIAL FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Custodial		
Additions: Extracurricular collections for OHSAA	\$	10,793	
<b>Deductions:</b> Extracurricular distributions to OHSAA	\$	10,793	
Change in net position		-	
Net position at beginning of year			
Net position at end of year	\$		

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND REPORTING ENTITY

The Columbus Grove Local School District (the "District") is organized under Article VI, Sections 2 and 3 of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. The District operates under a locally-elected Board form of government consisting of five members elected at-large for staggered four year terms. The District provides educational services as authorized by state statute and federal guidelines.

The District is staffed by 37 classified employees, 62 certified teaching personnel, and 4 administrative personnel who provides services to 770 students and other community members. The District operates one instructional building.

A reporting entity is comprised of the primary government and other organizations that are included to insure the financial statements are not misleading.

#### PRIMARY GOVERNMENT

The primary government of the District consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the District. For the Columbus Grove Local School District, this includes general operations, food service, and student related activities of the District.

#### JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS AND PUBLIC ENTITY RISK POOLS

The District participates in three jointly governed organizations and four public entity risk pools. These organizations are the Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative, Apollo Career Center, State Support Team Region 1, Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority, Ohio School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan, Putnam County Schools Insurance Group, and the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council. These organizations are presented in Notes 15 and 16 to the financial statements.

The financial statements exclude these entities which perform activities within the District's boundaries for the benefit of its residents because the District is not financially accountable for these entities nor are they fiscally dependent on the District.

The District's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the District is financially accountable.

#### **NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

As discussed further in Note 2.C, these financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. This basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Generally accepted accounting principles include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. Following are the more significant of the District's accounting policies.

#### A. Basis of Presentation

The District's basic financial statements consist of government-wide financial statements, including a statement of net position, a statement of activities, and fund financial statements, which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

<u>Government-Wide Financial Statements</u> - The statement of net position – cash basis and the statement of activities – cash basis display information about the District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental receipts, or other nonexchange transactions.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

The statement of net position – cash basis presents the cash balance of the governmental activities of the District at fiscal year-end. The statement of activities – cash basis compares disbursements with program receipts for each function or program of the District's governmental activities. Disbursements are reported by function. A function is a group of related activities designed to accomplish a major service or regulatory program for which the government is responsible. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services, grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program, and receipts of interest earned on grants that are required to be used to support a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing on a basis or draws from the District's general receipts.

<u>Fund Financial Statements</u> - During the fiscal year, the District segregates transactions related to certain District functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the District at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column.

#### B. Fund Accounting

The District uses funds to report its financial position and the results of its operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain District activities or functions. Funds are classified into three categories: governmental, proprietary and fiduciary. The District has no proprietary funds. Each category is divided into separate fund types.

#### GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions typically are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources. Expendable resources are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. The following are the District's major governmental funds:

<u>General Fund</u> - The General Fund is used to account for all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The General Fund is available to the District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

<u>Bond Retirement Fund</u> – The Bond Retirement Fund accounts for resources received from property taxes to pay school improvement general obligation bond principal, interest, and related costs.

#### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

Other governmental funds of the District are used to account for:

**Nonmajor special revenue funds** - Special revenue funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects.

#### FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds and custodial funds. Trust funds are distinguished from custodial funds by the existence of a trust agreement or equivalent arrangements that have certain characteristics. The District has no trust funds. Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund. The District's only custodial fund accounted for money related to and collected for the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA).

#### C. Basis of Accounting

Although required by Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with GAAP, the District chooses to prepare its financial statements and notes on the cash basis of accounting. The cash basis of accounting is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than GAAP. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

As a result of the use of the cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related receipts (such as accounts receivable and receipt for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related disbursements (such as accounts payable and disbursements for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued disbursements and liabilities) are not recorded in this financial statement.

Budgetary presentations report budgetary cash disbursements when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved). The difference between disbursements reported in the fund and government-wide statements and disbursements reported in the budgetary statements is due to current year encumbrances being added to disbursements reported in the budgetary statements.

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in the preceding paragraphs.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

#### **D.** Budgetary Process

All funds, except custodial funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, certificate of estimated resources and the appropriations resolution, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amount the Board of Education may appropriate.

The appropriations resolution is the Board's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on cash disbursements plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Board. The legal level of control has been established by the Board at the fund level for all funds. Budgetary allocations at the fund, function, and object level within all funds are made by the Treasurer.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the fiscal year if projected increases or decreases in receipts are identified by the Treasurer. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the certificate of estimated resources when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the amended certificate of estimated resources in effect at the time final appropriations were passed by the Board.

The appropriation resolution is subject to amendment throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation resolution for that fund that covered the entire fiscal year, including amounts automatically carried forward from prior fiscal years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the Board during the fiscal year.

#### E. Cash and Investments

To improve cash management, cash received by the District is pooled and invested. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through District records. Interest in the pool is presented as "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents" on the financial statements. Cash and cash equivalents that are held separately in an account at a financial institution for debt service are reported as "Cash and Cash Equivalents with Fiscal Agent."

Investments of the District's cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the District are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months that are not purchased from the pool are reported as investments.

Investments are reported as assets. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements, and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or negative receipts (contra receipt), respectively.

During fiscal year 2024, investments were limited to STAR Ohio, U.S. Treasury notes, and money market funds. Investments are reported at cost, except for the money market funds. The District's money market funds are recorded at the amounts reported by BNY Mellon at June 30, 2024.

#### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

The District invested in STAR Ohio. STAR Ohio (the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio), is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Statement No. 79, "Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants." The District measures their investment in STAR Ohio at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

There were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, 24 hours notice in advance of all deposits and withdrawals exceeding \$100 million is encouraged. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$250 million, requiring the excess amount to be transacted the following business day(s), but only to the \$250 million limit. All accounts of the participant will be combined for these purposes.

As authorized by Ohio statutes, the Board of Education has specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest receipt credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2024 amounted to \$456,829, which includes \$191,574 assigned from other District funds.

#### F. Restricted Assets

Assets are reported as restricted when limitations on their use change the nature or normal understanding of the availability of the asset. Such constraints are either imposed by creditors, contributors, grantors, or laws of other governments, or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Restricted cash and cash equivalents with fiscal agent in the Bond Retirement Fund include amounts held in escrow for the 2009 Qualified School Construction Bonds that are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption.

#### G. Inventory and Prepaid Items

The District reports disbursements for inventory and prepaid items when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

#### H. Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment purchased are recorded as cash disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements under the cash basis of accounting.

#### I. Accumulated Leave

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the District's cash basis of accounting.

#### J. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

The District recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 9 and 10, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

#### K. Long-Term Obligations

The District's cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for bonds and other long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received and principal and interest payments are reported when paid. Since recording a capital asset (including the intangible right to use) when entering into a lease, SBITA, or financed purchase transaction is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay disbursment is reported at inception. Lease, SBITA, and financed purchase payments are reported when paid.

#### L. Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use either through enabling legislation adopted by the District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. The District did not have any net cash position restricted by enabling legislation at June 30, 2024. The District first applies restricted resources when a disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net cash position is available.

#### M. Fund Balance

Fund cash balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

<u>Nonspendable</u> - The nonspendable fund cash balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash. It also includes the long-term amount of interfund loans.

<u>Restricted</u> - Fund cash balance is reported as restricted when constraints are placed on the use of resources that are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

<u>Committed</u> - The committed fund cash balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the District Board of Education (the highest level of decision making authority). Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the District Board of Education removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund cash balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

<u>Assigned</u> – Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds, other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. These amounts are assigned by the District's Board of Education. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the District Board of Education or a District official delegated by that authority by resolution or by State Statute. State statute authorizes the District's Treasurer to assign fund balance for purchases on order provided such amounts have been lawfully appropriated.

<u>Unassigned</u> - Unassigned fund cash balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is only used to report a deficit fund cash balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

The District applies restricted resources first when disbursements are incurred for purposes for which restricted and unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) fund cash balance is available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund cash balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when disbursements are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund cash balance classifications could be used.

#### N. Internal Activity

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as receipts in the seller funds and as disbursements in the purchaser funds. Subsidies from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular cash disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented in the financial statements.

#### O. Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB liability and net OPEB asset, information about the fiduciary net position of the pension/OPEB plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the pension/OPEB plan. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The pension/OPEB plans report investments at fair value.

#### P. Leases

The District is the lessee in a lease related to equipment under noncancelable leases. Lease receivables/payables are not reflected under the District's cash basis of accounting. Lease receipts/disbursements are recognized when they are received/paid.

#### Q. Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements

The District has Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs) under noncancelable arrangements. SBITA payables are not reflected under the District's cash basis of accounting. SBITA disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

#### NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

#### A. Change in Accounting Principles

For fiscal year 2024, the District has implemented certain paragraphs of GASB Implementation Guide No. 2021-1, certain paragraphs of GASB Statement No. 99, "*Omnibus 2022*", GASB Statement No. 100, "*Accounting Changes and Error Corrections - an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62*" and Implementation Guide No. 2023-1.

GASB Implementation Guide 2021-1 provides clarification on issues related to previously established GASB guidance. The implementation of GASB Implementation Guide 2021-1 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

GASB Statement No. 99 is to enhance comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing (1) practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements and (2) accounting and financial reporting for financial guarantees. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 99 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

#### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE - (Continued)

GASB Statement No. 100 is to enhance accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessing accountability. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 100 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

GASB Implementation Guide 2023-1 provides clarification on issues related to previously established GASB guidance. The implementation of GASB Implementation Guide 2023-1 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

#### B. Compliance

Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(B) requires the District to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. However, the District prepared its basic financial statements on a cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The accompanying basic financial statements omit assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, net position/fund balances, and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time. The District can be fined and various other administrative remedies may be taken against the District.

#### **NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

State statutes classify monies held by the District into three categories.

Active deposits are public deposits necessary to meet current demands on the treasury. Such monies must be maintained either as cash in the District treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawable on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

Inactive deposits are public deposits that the Board of Education has identified as not required for use within the current five year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those monies which are not needed for immediate use, but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories.

Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts including passbook accounts.

Interim monies may be deposited or invested in the following securities:

- 1. United States Treasury Notes, Bills, Bonds, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
- Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality, including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and Government National Mortgage Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;

#### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

- 3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided that the fair value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and that the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
- 4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, or legal governments, and with certain limitations including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met;
- 5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
- 6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in items (1) and (2) above and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
- 7. The State Treasurer's investment pool, the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAR Ohio);
- 8. Certain bankers' acceptances for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days) and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met.

Protection of the deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, or by the financial institutions participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage and short selling are also prohibited. Except as noted above, an investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the District, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity. Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the Treasurer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

#### A. Cash on Hand

At June 30, 2024, the District had \$700 in undeposited cash on hand, which is included on the financial statements of the District as part of "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents".

#### **B.** Deposits with Financial Institutions

At June 30, 2024, the carrying amount of all District deposits was \$294,360 and the bank balance was \$466,726. Of the bank balance, \$250,000 was covered by federal depository insurance. Although all statutory requirements for the deposit of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the District to a successful claim by the FDIC.

#### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the District will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The District has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or be protected by:

- Eligible securities pledged to the District and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured; or
- Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities
  deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all
  public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities
  pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

#### C. Investments

As of June 30, 2024, the District had the following investments and maturities:

	]	Inves	tment Maturities
	Carrying	- (	months or
Investment type	Value	_	less
STAR Ohio	\$ 8,755,179	\$	8,755,179
U.S. Treasury Notes	3,834,108		3,834,108
Money Market	 795,431	. <u>-</u>	795,431
Total	\$ 13,384,718	\$	13,384,718

*Interest Rate Risk*: Interest rate risk arises because potential purchasers of debt securities will not agree to pay face value for those securities if interest rates subsequently increase. As a means of limiting its exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates and according to State law, the District's investment policy limits investment portfolio maturities to five years or less.

#### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)**

*Credit Risk:* The District's money market funds were not rated. STAR Ohio carries a rating of AAAm by Standard and Poor's. The District's investments in U.S Treasury notes were rated Aaa by Moody's Investor Services. The District has no investment policy that would further limit its investment choices.

Custodial Credit Risk: For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the District will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The U.S. Treasury notes are exposed to custodial credit risk in that they are uninsured, unregistered and held by the counterparty's trust department or agent, but not in the District's name. The District has no investment policy dealing with investment custodial risk beyond the requirements in ORC 135.14(M)(2) which states, "Payment for investments shall be made only upon the delivery of securities representing such investments to the treasurer, investing authority, or qualified trustee. If the securities transferred are not represented by a certificate, payment shall be made only upon receipt of the confirmation of transfer from the custodian by the treasurer, governing board, or qualified trustee."

Concentration of Credit Risk: The District places no limit on the amount that may be invested in any one issuer. The following table includes the percentage of each investment type held by the District at June 30, 2024:

Investment type	Carrying <u>Value</u>	% of Total
STAR Ohio	\$ 8,755,179	65.41
U.S. Treasury Notes Money Market	3,834,108 795,431	28.65 5.94
Total	\$ 13,384,718	100.00

#### D. Reconciliation of Cash to the Statement of Net Position

The following is a reconciliation of cash as reported in the note disclosure above to cash as reported on the statement of net position as of June 30, 2024:

Cook and investments non-note disclosure

Cash and investments per note disclosure		
Carrying amount of deposits	\$	294,360
Investments		13,384,718
Cash on hand	_	700
Total	\$	13,679,778
Cash and investments per statement of net position	<u>on</u>	
Governmental activities	\$	13,679,778

#### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 5 - PROPERTY TAXES**

Property taxes are levied and assessed on a calendar year basis while the District fiscal year runs from July through June. First half tax collections are received by the District in the second half of the fiscal year. Second half tax distributions occur in the first half of the following fiscal year.

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real property and public utility property. Real property tax receipts received in calendar year 2024 represent the collection of calendar year 2023 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2024 were levied after April 1, 2023, on the assessed values as of January 1, 2023, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State statute at 35 percent of appraised fair value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semiannually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established. Public utility property tax receipts received in calendar year 2024 represent the collection of calendar year 2023 taxes. Public utility real and personal property taxes received in calendar year 2024 became a lien on December 31, 2022, were levied after April 1, 2023, and are collected with real property taxes. Public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value; public utility tangible personal property is currently assessed at varying percentages of true value.

The District receives property taxes from Putnam and Allen Counties. The County Auditors periodically advance to the District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2024, are available to finance fiscal year 2024 operations. The amount of second-half real property taxes available for advance at fiscal year-end can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent.

The assessed values upon which the fiscal year 2024 taxes were collected are:

	2023 Second Half Collections				2024 First Half Collections			
		Amount	Percent		Amount	Percent		
Agricultural/residential								
and other real estate	\$	123,836,100	88.20	\$	164,384,790	90.26		
Public utility personal		16,573,930	11.80		17,732,910	9.74		
Total	\$	140,410,030	100.00	<u>\$</u>	182,117,700	100.00		
Tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation		\$31.00			\$31.00			

#### **NOTE 6 - INCOME TAX**

The District levies a voted tax of 1.00 percent for general operations on the income of residents and of estates. Of the overall 1.00 percent taxes, .75 percent is a renewable tax, last renewed effective January 1, 2021. As of January 1, 2010, .25 percent of the tax was effective and expires December 31, 2032. Employers of residents are required to withhold income tax on compensation and remit the tax to the State. Taxpayers are required to file an annual return. The State makes quarterly distributions to the District after withholding amounts for administrative fees and estimated refunds. Income tax receipts are credited to the General Fund and totaled \$1,701,387 for fiscal year 2024.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 7 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS**

During fiscal year 2024, the following changes occurred in governmental activities long-term obligations:

	О	Balance outstanding			Balance utstanding	Amounts Due in
	_	06/30/23	<u> </u>	Reductions	 06/30/24	One Year
Governmental activities:						
2009 Construction and Improvement Bonds:						
Qualified School Construction						
Bonds - Series 2009	\$	5,000,000	\$	-	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 5,000,000
Qualified School Construction						
Bonds - Series 2009C		100,000		(50,000)	50,000	50,000
2016 Refunding Bonds		2,770,000		(105,000)	 2,665,000	115,000
Total governmental activities	\$	7,870,000	\$	(155,000)	\$ 7,715,000	\$ 5,165,000

#### 2009 Qualified School Construction Bonds, Series 2009:

On October 8, 2009, the District issued \$5,000,000 in voted general obligation bonds for constructing, renovating, and equipping school facilities. The term bond, with an interest rate of 1.64 percent, was issued for a fifteen-year period, with final maturity in fiscal year 2025. The bonds are being retired through the Bond Retirement Debt Service Fund.

The bonds are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption. The District has covenanted that it will make equal annual deposits of \$269,580 to an account maintained with the Bond Registrar on each July 15 until the Bonds mature, commencing July 15, 2010. Such amounts, together with the interest thereon are expected by the District to be sufficient to retire the Bonds upon their final maturity. The remaining sinking fund deposits will be made as follows:

Period	Deposit
7/15/2024	\$269,580

#### 2016 Bonds Refunding of 2009 School Facilities Construction and Improvement Bonds, Series 2009B:

Proceeds from this issue were used for the purpose of advance refunding a portion of the District's \$3,551,617 School Facilities Construction and Improvement Bonds, Series 2009B, dated December 2, 2009. This current refunding resulted in an economic savings of \$335,617.

The bond issue included capital appreciation, and UTGO Refunding bonds of \$56,617 and \$3,145,000, respectively. The interest rate on the UTGO Refunding bonds range from 1.00 percent to 4.00 percent. The bonds are being retired through the Bond Retirement Debt Service Fund. Interest payments on the UTGO Refunding bonds are due January 15 and July 15 of each year. Final maturity state in the issue is January 15, 2037.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 7 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS - (Continued)**

The UTGO refunding bonds were issued in the aggregate original principal amount of \$3,145,000 and mature on January 15, in the years, have the original principal amounts, as follows:

Maturity Date (January 15)	Principal Amount	Maturity Date (January 15)	Principal Amount		
2025	115,000	2032	210,000		
2026	170,000	2033	220,000		
2027	175,000	2034	235,000		
2028	180,000	2035	245,000		
2029	190,000	2036	250,000		
2030	200,000	2037	265,000		
2031	210,000		•		

#### 2009 Qualified School Construction Bonds, Series 2009C:

On December 2, 2009, the District issued \$747,770 in voted general obligation bonds for constructing, renovating, and equipping school facilities. The bonds were issued for the acquisition and construction of equipment and facilities. The bond issue consists of a term bond with an interest rate of 1.90 percent maturing on January 15, 2025. The bonds are being retired through the Bond Retirement Debt Service Fund.

The remaining principal amount of such Current Interest Term Bonds (\$50,000) will be paid at stated maturity on January 15, 2025.

Principal and interest requirements to retire general obligation debt outstanding at June 30, 2024 are as follows:

Fiscal Year		Current Interest Bonds					
Ending June 30,	_	Principal	Interest			Total	
2025	\$	5,165,000	\$	189,550	\$	5,354,550	
2026		170,000		102,000		272,000	
2027		175,000		95,200		270,200	
2028		180,000		88,200		268,200	
2029		190,000		81,000		271,000	
2030 - 2034		1,075,000		284,200		1,359,200	
2035 - 2037		760,000		61,600		821,600	
Total	\$	7,715,000	\$	901,750	\$	8,616,750	

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 7 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS - (Continued)**

#### Legal Debt Margin

The Ohio Revised Code provides that voted net general obligation debt of the District shall never exceed 9 percent of the total assessed valuation of the District. The code further provides that unvoted indebtness shall not exceed 1/10 of 1 percent of the property valuation of the District. The effects of the debt limitations at June 30, 2024 were a voted debt margin of \$14,256,013 (including available fund of \$9,883) and an unvoted debt margin of \$182,118.

#### **NOTE 8 - RISK MANAGEMENT**

#### A. Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA)

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During fiscal year 2024, the District contracted for the following insurance coverage. Coverage provided through the SORSA is as follows:

Coverage	 Amount
Property including inland marine	\$ 350,000,000
Employee Dishonesty Liability	1,000,000
Automobile Liability	10,000,000
Uninsured Motorist	1,000,000
Medical Payments - per occurance/aggregate	25,000
General District Liability - per occurance	15,000,000
General District Liability - aggregate	17,000,000

Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years, and there has been no significant reduction in insurance coverage from the prior fiscal year.

#### B. Ohio School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan

For fiscal year 2024, the District participated in the Ohio School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (Plan), an insurance purchasing pool. The Plan is intended to achieve the benefit of a reduced premium for the District by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the Plan. The workers' compensation experience of the participating members is calculated as one experience and a common premium rate is applied to all members in the Plan.

Each member pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the Plan rather than its individual rate. Total savings are then calculated and each participant's individual performance is compared to the overall savings percentage of the Plan. A participant will then either receive money from or be required to contribute to the "Equity Pooling Fund". This "equity pooling" arrangement insures that each participant shares equally in the overall performance of the Plan. Participation in the Plan is limited to participants that can meet the Plan's selection criteria. The firm of Gates McDonald & Co. provides administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the Plan.

#### C. Putnam County Schools Insurance Group

The District participates as a member of the Putnam County Schools Insurance Group, a public entity risk pool, administered by Huntington Trust. The District converted its fully-insured medical insurance program to partial self-insurance through participation in this public entity risk pool. Medical Mutual of Ohio provides claim review and processing. The District maintains stop-loss coverage for its medical insurance program. Aggregate stop loss is maintained for expected claims.

#### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS**

The Statewide retirement systems provide both pension benefits and other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

#### Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability/Asset

Pensions and OPEB are a component of exchange transactions—between an employer and its employees—of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions/OPEB are provided to an employee—on a deferred-payment basis—as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period. The obligation to sacrifice resources for pensions is a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that already have occurred.

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) represent the District's proportionate share of each pension/OPEB plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension/OPEB plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting these estimates annually.

The Ohio Revised Code limits the District's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The District cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the District does receive the benefit of employees' services in exchange for compensation including pension and OPEB.

GASB 68/75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires funding to come from these employers. All pension contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes pension costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits. In addition, health care plan enrollees pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. State statute requires the retirement systems to amortize unfunded pension liabilities within 30 years. If the pension amortization period exceeds 30 years, each retirement system's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension/OPEB liability (asset). Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require, the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients.

The net pension/net OPEB liability (asset) are not reported on the face of the financial statements, but rather are disclosed in the notes because of the use of the cash basis framework.

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 10 for the required OPEB disclosures.

#### Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description - The District's non-teaching employees participate in SERS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by SERS. SERS provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3309. SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about SERS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by visiting the SERS website at <a href="www.ohsers.org">www.ohsers.org</a> under Employers/Audit Resources.

#### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

Eligible to Retire on or before August 1, 2017 *		Eligible to Retire after August 1, 2017
Full benefits	Any age with 30 years of service credit	Age 67 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 57 with 30 years of service credit
Actuarially reduced benefits	Age 60 with 5 years of service credit; or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age 62 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 60 with 25 years of service credit

<sup>\*</sup> Members with 25 years of service credit as of August 1, 2017 will be included in this plan.

Annual retirement benefits are calculated based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service; 2.2% for the first thirty years of service and 2.5% for years of service credit over 30. Final average salary is the average of the highest three years of salary.

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. Beginning April 1, 2018, new benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. Upon resumption of the COLA, it will be indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5% and with a floor of 0%. In 2023, the Board of Trustees approved a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for eligible retirees and beneficiaries in 2024.

Funding Policy - Plan members are required to contribute 10.00% of their annual covered salary and the District is required to contribute 14.00% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS' Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10.00% for plan members and 14.00% for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System's funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.00%. For fiscal year 2024, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$207,004 for fiscal year 2024.

#### Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description - Licensed teachers participate in STRS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer public employee retirement system administered by STRS. STRS provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. STRS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about STRS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by writing to STRS, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771, by calling (888) 227-7877, or by visiting the STRS website at www.strsoh.org.

New members have a choice of three retirement plans: a Defined Benefit (DB) Plan, a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan and a Combined (CO) Plan. Benefits are established by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307.

#### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.20% of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0% upon a determination by its actuary that it was necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients' base benefit and past cost-of living increases are not affected by this change. Effective July 1, 2022, a one-time ad-hoc COLA of 3% of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2023 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2018. Effective July 1, 2023, a one-time ad-hoc COLA of 1% of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2024 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2019. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3307.67€ the STRS Ohio Retirement Board may adjust the COLA upon a determination by the board's actuary that a change will not materially impair the fiscal integrity of the system or is necessary to preserve the discal integrity of the system. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 34 years of service credit and at any age.

Eligibility changes for DB Plan members who retire with actuarially reduced benefits will be phased in until August 1, 2023 when retirement eligibility will be five years of qualifying service credit and age 60, or 30 years of service credit regardless of age.

The DC Plan allows members to place all of their member contributions and 11.09% of the 14% employer contributions into an investment account. The member determines how to allocate the member and employer money among various investment choices offered by STRS Ohio. The remaining 2.91% of the 14% employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, 12% of the 14% member rate goes to the DC Plan and the remaining 2% is applied to the DB Plan. Member contributions to the DC Plan are allocated among investment choices by the member, and contributions to the DB Plan from the employer and the member are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined Plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of service. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity after termination of employment at age 50 and after termination of employment.

New members who choose the DC Plan or Combined Plan will have another opportunity to reselect a permanent plan during their fifth year of membership. Members may remain in the same plan or transfer to another STRS plan. The optional annuitization of a member's defined contribution account or the defined contribution portion of a member's Combined Plan account to a lifetime benefit results in STRS bearing the risk of investment gain or loss on the account. STRS has therefore included all three plan options as one defined benefit plan for GASB 68 reporting purposes.

A DB or Combined Plan member with five or more years of credited service, who is determined to be disabled, may qualify for a disability benefit. New members, on or after July 1, 2013, must have at least ten years of qualifying service credit to apply for disability benefits. Members in the DC Plan who become disabled are entitled only to their account balance. Eligible survivors of members who die before service retirement may qualify for monthly benefits. If a member of the DC Plan dies before retirement benefits begin, the member's designated beneficiary is entitled to receive the member's account balance.

#### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Funding Policy - Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The fiscal year 2024 employer and employee contribution rate of 14% was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For fiscal year 2024, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The District's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$711,847 for fiscal year 2024.

#### Net Pension Liability

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	 SERS	 STRS	 Total
Proportion of the net pension			
liability prior measurement date	0.0362204%	0.0358238%	
Proportion of the net pension			
liability current measurement date	0.0344278%	0.0356806%	
Change in proportionate share	-0.0017926%	-0.0001432%	
Proportionate share of the net			
pension liability	\$ 1,902,314	\$ 7,683,799	\$ 9,586,113

#### Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

SERS' total pension liability was determined by their actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 67, as part of their annual actuarial valuation for each defined benefit retirement plan. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts (e.g., salaries, credited service) and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future (e.g., mortality, disabilities, retirements, employment terminations). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations. Future benefits for all current plan members were projected through 2137.

Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. For a newly hired employee, actuarial calculations will take into account the employee's entire career with the employer and also take into consideration the benefits, if any, paid to the employee after termination of employment until the death of the employee and any applicable contingent annuitant. In many cases actuarial calculations reflect several decades of service with the employer and the payment of benefits after termination.

#### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022, are presented below:

Wage inflation:

Current measurement date 2.40%
Prior measurement date 2.40%

Future salary increases, including inflation:

Current measurement date 3.25% to 13.58% Prior measurement date 3.25% to 13.58%

COLA or ad hoc COLA:

Current measurement date 2.00% Prior measurement date 2.00%

Investment rate of return:

Current measurement date 7.00% net of system expenses
Prior measurement date 7.00% net of system expenses

Discount rate:

Current measurement date 7.00% Prior measurement date 7.00%

Actuarial cost method Entry age normal (level percent of payroll)

In 2023, mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

In the prior measurement date, mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended June 30, 2020.

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined by using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS' Statement of Investment Policy. Ohio Revised Code Section 3309.15 and the Board-adopted Investment Policy govern investment activity at SERS. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

	Target	Long-Term Expected
Asset Class	Allocation	Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00 %	0.75 %
US Equity	24.75	4.82
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	5.19
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	5.98
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	2.24
Private Equity	12.00	7.49
Real Estate/Real Assets	17.00	3.70
Private Debt/Private Credit	5.00	5.64
Total	100.00 %	

Discount Rate - Total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%. The discount rate determination did not use a municipal bond rate. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employers would contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate of projected compensation over the remaining 21-year amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The actuarially determined contribution rate of fiscal year 2023 was 14%. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return, 7.00%. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all 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 benefits to determine the total pension liability. The annual money weighted rate of return, calculated as the internal rate of return on pension plan investments, for fiscal year 2023 was 6.90%.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate - Net pension liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact the following table presents the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%, as well as what each plan's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%), or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current rate.

	1%	1% Decrease		count Rate	1% Increase	
District's proportionate share				_		
of the net pension liability	\$	2,807,717	\$	1,902,314	\$	1,139,683

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

#### **Actuarial Assumptions - STRS**

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022, actuarial valuation are presented below:

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%	Varies by service from 2.50% to 12.50%
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount rate of return	7.00%	7.00%
Payroll increases	3.00%	3.00%
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%	0.00%

For the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

For the prior measurement date, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Disable Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2023 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

STRS' investment consultant develops an estimate range for the investment return assumption based on the target allocation adopted by the Retirement Board. The target allocation and long-term expected rate of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

	Target	Long-Term Expected
Asset Class	Allocation*	Real Rate of Return **
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.60 %
International Equity	22.00	6.80
Alternatives	19.00	7.38
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75
Real Estate	10.00	5.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	1.00
Total	100.00 %	

<sup>\*</sup> Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

\*\*10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25% and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS' investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

**Discount Rate** - The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with the rates described previously. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS' fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2023. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.00% was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2023.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate - The following table represents the net pension liability as of June 30, 2023, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current assumption:

		Current					
	19	1% Decrease Discount Rate			1% Increase		
District's proportionate share							
of the net pension liability	\$	11,815,983	\$	7,683,799	\$	4,189,103	

Assumption and Benefit Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - The discount rate remained at 7.00% for June 30, 2023 valuation. Demographic assumptions were changed based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021.

#### NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

#### Net OPEB Liability/Asset

See Note 9 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

#### Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description - The District contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for noncertificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 75 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. SERS' Health Care Plan provides healthcare benefits to eligible individuals receiving retirement, disability, and survivor benefits, and to their eligible dependents. Members who retire after June 1, 1986, need 10 years of service credit, exclusive of most types of purchased credit, to qualify to participate in SERS' health care coverage. In addition to age and service retirees, disability benefit recipients and beneficiaries who are receiving monthly benefits due to the death of a member or retiree, are eligible for SERS' health care coverage. Most retirees and dependents choosing SERS' health care coverage are over the age of 65 and therefore enrolled in a fully insured Medicare Advantage plan; however, SERS maintains a traditional, self-insured preferred provider organization for its non-Medicare retiree population. For both groups, SERS offers a self-insured prescription drug program. Health care is a benefit that is permitted, not mandated, by statute. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at <a href="https://www.ohsers.org">www.ohsers.org</a> under Employers/Audit Resources.

#### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

The Health Care program is financed through a combination of employer contributions, recipient premiums, investment returns, and any funds received on behalf of SERS' participation in Medicare programs. The System's goal is to maintain a health care reserve account with a 20-year solvency period in order to ensure that fluctuations in the cost of health care do not cause an interruption in the program. However, during any period in which the 20-year solvency period is not achieved, the System shall manage the Health Care Fund on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Access to health care for retirees and beneficiaries is permitted in accordance with Section 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Health Care Fund was established and is administered in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 105(e). SERS' Retirement Board reserves the right to change or discontinue any health plan or program. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. The SERS Retirement Board established the rules for the premiums paid by the retirees for health care coverage for themselves and their dependents or for their surviving beneficiaries. Premiums vary depending on the plan selected, qualified years of service, Medicare eligibility, and retirement status.

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14% of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, SERS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2024, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2% of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5% of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the District's surcharge obligation was \$24,195.

The surcharge added to the allocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$24,195 for fiscal year 2024.

#### Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description - The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) administers a cost-sharing Health Plan administered for eligible retirees who participated in the defined benefit or combined pension plans offered by STRS. Ohio law authorizes STRS to offer this plan. Benefits include hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs and partial reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. Health care premiums were reduced by a Medicare Part B premium credit beginning in 2023. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting <a href="https://www.strsoh.org">www.strsoh.org</a> or by calling (888) 227-7877.

Funding Policy - Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. Nearly all health care plan enrollees, for the most recent year, pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14% of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

#### Net OPEB Liability/Asset

The net OPEB liability/asset was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total OPEB liability/asset used to calculate the net OPEB liability/asset was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset was based on the District's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS	STRS	 Total
Proportion of the net OPEB			
liability/asset prior measurement date	0.0367277%	0.0358238%	
Proportion of the net OPEB			
liability/asset current measurement date	0.0351484%	0.0356806%	
Change in proportionate share	- <u>0.0015793</u> %	- <u>0.0001432</u> %	
Proportionate share of the net			
OPEB liability	\$ 579,051	\$ -	\$ 579,051
Proportionate share of the net			
OPEB asset	\$ -	\$ (693,939)	\$ (693,939)

#### Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

The total OPEB liability is determined by SERS' actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 74, as part of their annual actuarial valuation for each retirement plan. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts (e.g., salaries, credited service) and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future (e.g., mortality, disabilities, retirements, employment terminations). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations.

Actuarial calculations reflect a long-term perspective. For a newly hired employee, actuarial calculations will take into account the employee's entire career with the employer and also take into consideration the benefits, if any, paid to the employee after termination of employment until the death of the employee and any applicable contingent annuitant. In many cases, actuarial calculations reflect several decades of service with the employer and the payment of benefits after termination.

#### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022 are presented below:

***			
Wage	ın t	lation	٠
vv azc	ши	ιαιιστι	

Current measurement date 2.40% Prior measurement date 2.40%

Future salary increases, including inflation:

Current measurement date 3.25% to 13.58% Prior measurement date 3.25% to 13.58%

Investment rate of return:

Current measurement date 7.00% net of investment

expense, including inflation

Prior measurement date 7.00% net of investment

expense, including inflation

Actuarial Cost Method Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)

Fiduciary Net Position is Projected to be Depleted 2048

Municipal bond index rate:

Current measurement date 3.86%
Prior measurement date 3.69%

Single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense,

including price inflation:

Current measurement date 4.27% Prior measurement date 4.08%

Medical trend assumption:

Current measurement date 6.75 to 4.40% Prior measurement date 7.00 to 4.40%

In 2023, the following mortality assumptions were used:

**Healthy Retirees** - PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females.

**Disabled Retirees** - PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females.

**Contingent Survivors** - PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Contingent Survivor mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 105.5% for males and adjusted 122.5% for females.

Actives - PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table.

Mortality Projection - Mortality rates are projected using a fully generational projection with Scale MP-2020.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

In the prior measurement date, mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five-year period ended June 30, 2020.

The long-term expected rate of return is reviewed as part of the regular experience studies prepared every five years for SERS. The most recent five-year experience study was performed for the period covering fiscal years 2016 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board on April 15, 2021. Several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a long-normal distribution analysis in which best estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected return, net of investment expense and inflation) were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.00%, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes.

The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

	Target	Long-Term Expected
Asset Class	Allocation	Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00 %	0.75 %
US Equity	24.75	4.82
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	5.19
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	5.98
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	2.24
Private Equity	12.00	7.49
Real Estate/Real Assets	17.00	3.70
Private Debt/Private Credit	5.00	5.64
Total	100.00 %	

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2023, was 4.27%. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2023, was 4.08%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the contribution rate of 1.50% of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50% payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is projected to be depleted in 2048 by SERS' actuaries. The Fidelity General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index Rate was used in the determination of the single equivalent interest rate for both the June 30, 2022 and the June 30, 2023 total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate was 3.86% at June 30, 2023 and 3.69% at June 30, 2022.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates - The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability, what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.27%) and higher (5.27%) than the current discount rate (4.27%). Also shown is what the net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (5.75% decreasing to 3.40%) and higher (7.75% decreasing to 5.40%) than the current rate (6.75% decreasing to 4.40%).

			(	Current		
	1%	Decrease	Disc	count Rate	1%	Increase
District's proportionate share						
of the net OPEB liability	\$	740,192	\$	579,051	\$	451,984
			(	Current		
	1%	Decrease	Tr	end Rate	1%	Increase
District's proportionate share						
of the net OPEB liability	\$	425,408	\$	579,051	\$	782,647

#### Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation, compared with June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation, are presented below:

	June 30, 2023		June 3	0, 2022	
Inflation	2.50%		2.50%		
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%		Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%		
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation		7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation		
Payroll increases	3.00%		3.00%		
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%		0.00%		
Discount rate of return	7.00%		7.00%		
Blended discount rate of return	N/A		N/A		
Health care cost trends					
	Initial	Ultimate	Initial	Ultimate	
Medical					
Pre-Medicare	7.50%	4.14%	7.50%	3.94%	
Medicare	-10.94%	4.14%	-68.78%	3.94%	
Prescription Drug					
Pre-Medicare	-11.95%	4.14%	9.00%	3.94%	
Medicare	1.33%	4.14%	-5.47%	3.94%	

Projections of benefits include the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and retired plan members.

#### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

For the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation, for healthy retirees the post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020; pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

For the prior measurement date, for healthy retirees the post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020; pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2023 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

Assumption Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - The discount rate remained unchanged at 7.00% for the June 30, 2023 valuation.

Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience as well as benefit changes effective January 1, 2024.

STRS' investment consultant develops an estimate range for the investment return assumption based on the target allocation adopted by the Retirement Board. The target allocation and long-term expected rate of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

Asset Class	Target Allocation*	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return **
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.60 %
International Equity	22.00	6.80
Alternatives	19.00	7.38
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75
Real Estate	10.00	5.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	1.00
Total	100.00 %	

<sup>\*</sup> Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

**Discount Rate** - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed STRS continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on those assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2023. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care fund investments of 7.00% was applied to all periods of projected health care costs to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023.

<sup>\*\*10-</sup>Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25% and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS' investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate - The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2023, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

			(	Current		
	1%	Decrease	Disc	count Rate	1%	Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$	587,328	\$	693,939	\$	786,785
	1%	Decrease		Current rend Rate	1%	Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$	791,094	\$	693,939	\$	576,917

#### **NOTE 11 - CONTINGENCIES**

#### A. Grants

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the District are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. Grantors may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

#### B. Litigation

The District is not party to any legal proceedings that would have a material effect, if any, on the financial condition of the District.

#### C. Foundation Funding

Foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. Traditional districts must comply with minimum hours of instruction, instead of a minimum number of school days each year. The funding formula the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) is legislatively required to follow will continue to adjust as enrollment information is updated by the District, which can extend past the fiscal year-end. As of the date of this report, ODEW has not finalized the impact of enrollment adjustments to the June 30, 2024 Foundation funding for the District; therefore, the financial statement impact is not determinable at this time. ODEW and management believe this will result in either a receivable to or liability of the District.

### NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 12 - COMMITMENTS**

The District utilizes encumbrance accounting as part of its budgetary controls. Encumbrances outstanding at fiscal yearend may be reported as part of restricted, committed, or assigned classifications of fund cash balance. At fiscal year end, the District's commitments for encumbrances in the governmental funds were as follows:

	Year-End			
<u>Fund</u>	Enc	umbrances		
General Fund	\$	525,998		
Other Governmental Funds		48,759		
Total	\$	574,757		

#### **NOTE 13 - SET-ASIDES**

The District is required by State law to annually set-aside certain general fund cash receipt amounts, as defined by statutory formula, for the acquisition and construction of capital improvements. Amounts not spent by the end of the fiscal year or offset by similarly restricted resources received during the year must be held in cash at fiscal year end. This amount must be carried forward to be used for the same purpose in future years. Disbursements and other applicable offsets exceeding the set-aside requirement may not be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

The following cash-basis information describes the change in the fiscal year end set-aside amount for capital improvements. Disclosure of this information is required by State statute.

	(	Capital
	<u>Imp</u>	rovements
Set-aside balance June 30, 2023	\$	-
Current year set-aside requirement		162,560
Current year qualifying disbursements		(155,000)
Current year offsets		(7,560)
Total	\$	
Balance carried forward to fiscal year 2025	\$	
Set-aside balance June 30, 2024	\$	
,		

Although the District had offsets and qualifying disbursements during the fiscal year that reduced the set-aside amount below zero for the capital improvements set aside, this amount may not be used to reduce the set aside requirements of future years. This negative balance is therefore not presented as being carried forward to future fiscal years.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 14 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS**

#### A. Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative

The District is a participant in the Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative (NOACSC) which is a computer consortium. NOACSC is an association of public school districts within the boundaries of Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Seneca, Van Wert, Wood, and Wyandot Counties, and the cities of St. Marys and Wapakoneta. The organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology, with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment, to administrative and instructional functions among member educational entities. The governing board of NOACSC consists of two representatives from each county elected by majority vote of all charter member entities within each county plus one representative from the fiscal agent school district. Financial information can be obtained from Ben Thaxton, who serves as director, at 4277 East Road, Elida, Ohio 45807.

#### **B.** Apollo Career Center

The Apollo Career Center is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio established under 3313.90. Apollo operates under the direction of a Board of Education consisting of one representative from each of the participating school districts' elected boards. The Board possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. Financial information is available from Apollo's Treasurer at 3325 Shawnee Road, Lima, Ohio 45806-1497.

#### C. State Support Team Region 1

The State Support Team Region 1 (SSTR1) provides specialized core work related to building regional capacity for district, building, and community school implementation of the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) at a high level. The service region of the SSTR1 includes Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood Counties. The fiscal agent for the SSTR1 is the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West. The SSTR1 Executive Director and Single Point of Contact is Lynn McKahan. Contact information is available at www.sstr1.org.

#### **NOTE 15 – PUBLIC ENTITY RISK POOLS**

#### A. Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority

The District participates in the Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA), which was established in 2002 pursuant to Articles of Incorporation filed under Chapter 1702 of the Ohio Revised Code – Non-Profit Corporations and functioning under authority granted by Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code. SORSA's purpose is to provide a joint self-insurance pool to assist member school districts in preventing and reducing losses and injuries to property and persons which might result in claims being made against members of SORSA, their employees or officers. A nine person Board of Directors manages the business and affairs of SORSA and is elected annually by the members of the pool. The Board of Directors consists of superintendents, treasurers, or business managers from the participating school districts. The District works with UIS Insurance and Investments, a local agent as a liaison between SORSA and the District. SORSA employs an Executive Director, Program Manager Risk Control Manager, and Claims Manager. Claims are handled in-hours by Claims Manager, Greg Gilliam. Additional information can be obtained from SORSA at 555 Metro Place North, Suite 645, Dublin, Ohio, 43017 or by calling 866-767-7299.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 15 - PUBLIC ENTITY RISK POOLS - (Continued)

#### B. Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan

For fiscal year 2024, the District participated in the Ohio School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (Plan), an insurance purchasing pool. The Plan is intended to achieve the benefit of a reduced premium for the District by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the Plan. The workers' compensation experience of the participating members is calculated as one experience and a common premium rate is applied to all members in the Plan. Each member pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the Plan rather than its individual rate. Total savings are then calculated and each participant's individual performance is compared to the overall savings percentage of the Plan. A participant will then either receive money from or be required to contribute to the "Equity Pooling Fund". This "equity pooling" arrangement ensures that each participant shares equally in the overall performance of the Plan. Participation in the Plan is limited to participants that can meet the Plan's selection criteria. The firm of Gates McDonald & Co. provides administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the Plan.

#### C. Putnam County Schools Insurance Group

The Putnam County School Insurance Group (the "Group"), a public entity risk pool, administered by Huntington Trust, is a public entity shared risk pool consisting of eleven school districts, including the Putnam County Educational Service Center, and the Putnam County Board of DD. The Group is a not-for profit insurance group and provides medical, prescription drug, and optional dental insurance benefits, to the employees of the participants. Each participant's superintendent is appointed to the Board of Trustees which advises the consultant, Huntington Insurance, concerning aspects of the administration of the Group. Each school district in the Group (other than the Putnam County Board of DD) must collectively bargain benefit levels with its respective employee unions. Financial information can be obtained from Jan Osborne, Superintendent, Putnam County Educational Service Center, 124 Putnam Parkway, Ottawa, Ohio 45875.

#### D. Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council

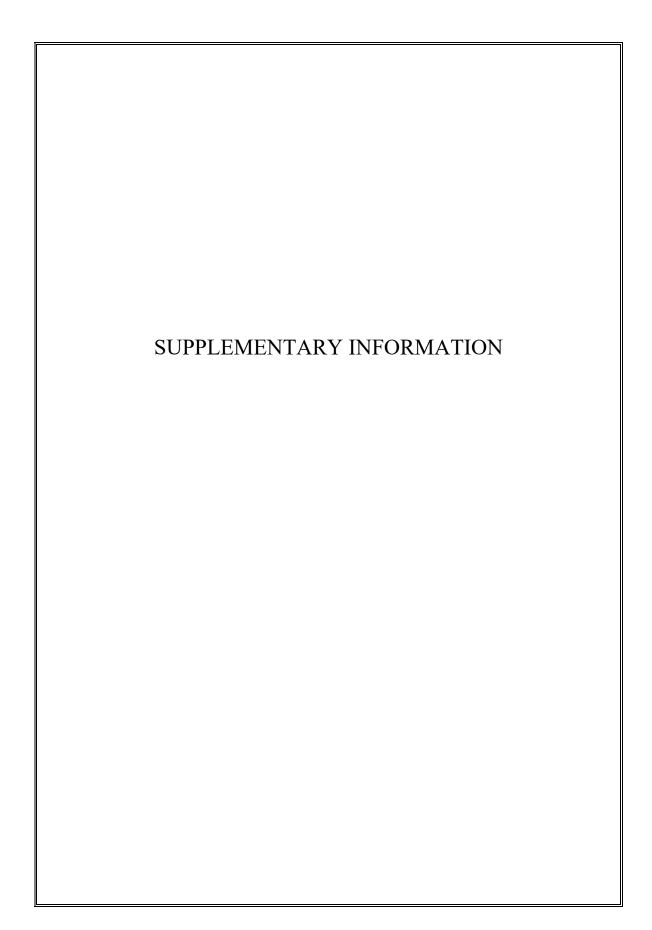
The District participates in the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council, a Council of Governments, defined as a purchasing pool (the Program). The Program has an eleven-member Executive Board. All members of the Executive Board are elected from Superintendents, Administrators, Business Managers and Treasurers of active members of the Program. The Program is an unincorporated nonprofit association of its members, which enables the participants to provide for a formalized joint purchasing program to maintain adequate insurance protection and provide risk management programs and other administrative services for medical and dental insurance coverage to the employees of the participants. The District also uses the bus bidding services and educational supply bidding services of the Program. The health program that is offered is with Anthem and the dental program offered is with Delta Dental and the Life Plan is with UNUM Life Insurance. For more information please contact Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council, Ken Swink, Director, at 303 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 208, Vandalia, Ohio 45377.

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### NOTE 16 - TAX ABATEMENTS ENTERED INTO BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS

Other governments have entered into property tax abatement agreements with property owners under the Ohio Community Reinvestment Area ("CRA") program with the taxing districts of the District. The CRA program is a direct incentive tax exemption program benefiting property owners who renovate or construct new buildings. Under this program, the other governments designated areas to encourage revitalization of the existing housing stock and the development of new structures. Within the taxing districts of the District, the Village of Columbus Grove has entered into such agreements. Under these agreements, the District's property taxes were reduced by \$93,019. The District is not receiving any amounts from these other governments in association with the forgone property tax receipt.

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# SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BUDGETARY BASIS) GENERAL FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Actual Amounts		Variance with Final Budget -		
		Original	iginal Final		Budgetary Basis		Over (Under) Actual Amounts	
Budgetary receipts and other financing sources	\$	14,800,000	\$	15,126,117	\$	12,113,101	\$	(3,013,016)
Budgetary disbursements and other financing uses		15,097,639		15,097,639		11,871,109		3,226,530
Net change in fund balance		(297,639)		28,478		241,992		213,514
Budgetary fund balance at beginning of year Prior year encumbrances appropriated		6,201,776 297,638		6,201,776 297,638		6,201,776 297,638		- -
Budgetary fund balance at end of year	\$	6,201,775	\$	6,527,892	\$	6,741,406	\$	213,514

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### NOTES TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

#### **NOTE 1 - BUDGETARY PROCESS**

The budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on the basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual - Budgetary Basis presented for the general fund is prepared on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The difference between the budgetary basis and the cash basis are as follows:

- 1. Outstanding year end encumbrances are treated as a cash disbursements (budgetary basis) rather than as restricted, committed or assigned fund balance (cash basis).
- 2. Some funds are included in the general fund (cash basis) but have separate legally adopted budgets (budgetary basis).

Adjustments necessary to convert the results of operations at the end of the year on the budgetary basis to the modified cash basis are as follows:

	General		
Budgetary basis	\$	241,992	
Funds budgeted elesewhere		740	
Encumbrances		525,998	
Cash basis	\$	768,730	

As part of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, "Fund Balance Reporting", certain funds that are legally budgeted in separate special revenue funds are considered part of the general fund. This includes the public school support fund.

Federal Agency/ Pass Through Agency/ Program Title	Assistance Listing Number	Pass Though to Subrecipients	Disbursements
U.S. Department of Agriculture: Passed through Ohio Department of Education:			
Nutrition Cluster:  Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution):  National School Lunch Program	10.555		\$ 33,472
Cash Assistance: National School Lunch Program COVID-19 - National School Lunch Program Total Nutrition Cluster	10.555 10.555		151,535 22,255 207,262
Total US Department of Agriculture			207,262
U.S. Department of Education: Passed through Ohio Department of Education:			
Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies	84.010A		125,569
Special Education Cluster: Consortium Amount transferred to Putnam County ESC Special Education Grants to States Special Education Preschool Grants - Restoration Total Special Education Cluster	84.027A 84.173A	\$ 211,948 4,449 216,397	211,948 4,449 216,397
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367A		27,619
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424A		11,477
Education Stabilization Fund:  COVID-19 - American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER)  Total Stabilization Fund	84.425U		235,271 235,271
Total U.S. Department of Education			616,333
U.S. Department of the Treasury: Passed through State of Ohio Office of Budget and Management:			
COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	21.027		41,888
Total U.S. Department of the Treasury			41,888
Total Federal Assistance		\$ 216,397	\$ 865,483

Columbus Grove Local School District
Putnam County, Ohio
Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the year ended June 30, 2024

#### **NOTE A - BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Columbus Grove Local School District (the District) under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2024. The information on this Schedule is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in net position of the District.

#### NOTE B - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the cash basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in Uniform Guidance wherein certain types of expenditures may or may not be allowable or may be limited as to reimbursement.

#### **NOTE C - INDIRECT COST RATE**

The District has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

#### **NOTE D - SUBRECIPIENTS**

The District passes certain federal awards received from the Ohio Department of Education to other governments or not-for-profit agencies (subrecipients). As Note B describes, the District reports expenditures of Federal awards to subrecipients when paid in cash.

As a pass-through entity, the District has certain compliance responsibilities, such as monitoring its subrecipients to help assure they use these subawards as authorized by laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and that subrecipients achieve the award's performance goals.

#### **NOTE E - CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER**

The District commingles cash receipts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture with similar State grants. When reporting expenditures on this Schedule, the District assumes it expends federal monies first.

#### **NOTE F - FOOD DONATION PROGRAM**

The District reports commodities consumer on the Schedule at the fair value. The District allocated donated food commodities to the respective program that benefited from the use of those donated food commodities.



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Board of Education Columbus Grove Local School District 201 West Cross Street Columbus Grove, Ohio 45830

We have audited 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 (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Columbus Grove Local School District, Putnam County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated November 15, 2024, wherein we noted the District reported on the cash basis of accounting.

#### **Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

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

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. 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 or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

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

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.



The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 2024-001.

#### The District's Response to Finding

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

#### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District'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 District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.

Maumee, Ohio November 15, 2024



## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Board of Education Columbus Grove Local School District 201 West Cross Street Columbus Grove, Ohio 45830

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

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

We have audited the Columbus Grove Local School District's, Putnam County, Ohio (the District) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the District's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. The District's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the District complied, in all material respects, with the 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, 2024.

#### **Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program**

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

#### **Responsibilities of Management for Compliance**

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the District's federal programs.



#### Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the District's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the District's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design
  and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on
  a test basis, evidence regarding the District's compliance with the compliance requirements
  referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the
  circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of the District's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in
  order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report
  on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the
  purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over
  compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

#### **Report on 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 a 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 Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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.

Maumee, Ohio

November 15, 2024

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.

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Columbus Grove Local School District Putnam County, Ohio Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs Year Ended June 30, 2024

#### Section I - Summary of Auditors' Results

#### **Financial Statements**

Type of auditors' report issued:

Unmodified

Internal control over financial reporting:

Material weakness(es) identified?

Significant deficiency(ies) identified not

considered to be material weakness(es)?

None Reported

Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?

#### Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:

Material weakness(es) identified?

Significant deficiency(ies) identified not

considered to be material weakness(es)?

None Reported

Type of auditors' report issued on compliance for major programs:

Unmodified

Any audit findings that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)?

No

Identification of major programs:

ALN 84.425U – COVID-19 American Rescue Plan – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER)
ALN 84.027, 84.173 – Special Education Cluster

Dollar threshold to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs: \$750,000

Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?

Columbus Grove Local School District
Putnam County, Ohio
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Continued)

#### Section II - Financial Statement Findings

#### Finding Number 2024-001 – Noncompliance:

Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-3(B) requires the District to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Columbus Grove Local School District has elected to prepare and submit its annual financial report on the cash basis of accounting. The accompanying financial statements and notes omit material assets, liabilities, fund equities and disclosures required by GAAP.

<u>Management Response</u>: The District does not have plans to correct the finding. The District will continue filing a cash basis financial report due to the cost of preparing a GAAP basis report.

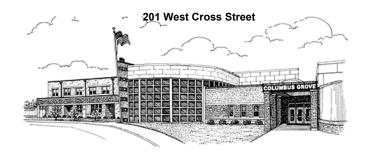
#### Section III - Federal Awards Findings and Questioned Costs

**None Noted** 

## Columbus Grove Local School District

Board Members
Jon Diller
Brian E. Jones
Kevin Schumacher
Ned A. Stechschulte
Mindy Troyer

Mark K. Ellerbrock Treasurer Phone: (419) 659-2630



Nicholas Verhoff Superintendent Phone: (419) 659-2639

Brian J. Best High School Principal Phone: (419) 659-2156

Bradley M. Calvelage Elementary Principal Phone: (419) 659-2631

November 15, 2024

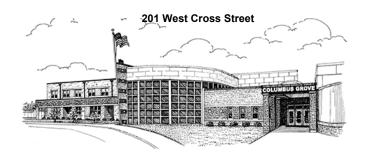
#### SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS 2 CFR § 200.511(c) June 30, 2024

Finding Number	Status	Explanation
2023-001	Not Corrected	Noncompliance for not filing GAAP Report.

## Columbus Grove Local School District

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#### CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN 2 CFR § 200.511(c) June 30, 2024

Finding Number	Planned Corrective Action	Anticipated Completion Date	Responsible Contact Person
2024-001	The District believes the excess cost associated with generating and auditing reports on a generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) basis far outweighs the benefits. The District will continue to report on an OCBOA (Other Comprehensive Basis of Accounting) basis for future audits.	N/A	Mark Ellerbrock, Treasurer 419-659-4303





### COLUMBUS GROVE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### **PUTNAM COUNTY**

#### **AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION**

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 12/5/2024

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370