



CLARK SCHAEFER HACKETT
BUSINESS ADVISORS

**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

SINGLE AUDIT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024



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Columbus, Ohio 43215
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800-282-0370

Governing Board
Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center
205 Nolan Parkway
Archbold, Ohio 43502

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, Fulton 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 Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

December 12, 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center
Board of Education
205 Nolan Parkway
Archbold, Ohio 43502

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 Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, Fulton County, Ohio (the ESC), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the ESC'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 ESC, 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 ESC 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 ESC 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 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 ESC'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 ESC'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 ESC'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 ESC'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 (Budgetary Basis) General Fund are presented for the purposes of additional analysis and are 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 20, 2024 on our consideration of the ESC'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 ESC'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 ESC's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.

Maumee, Ohio
November 20, 2024

**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - CASH BASIS
JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets:	
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 3,039,764</u>
Net position:	
Restricted for:	
Capital projects	127,377
Locally funded programs	59,226
State funded programs	99
Federally funded programs	31,709
Unrestricted	<u>2,821,353</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 3,039,764</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

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

	<u>Cash Disbursements</u>	<u>Program Cash Receipts</u>		<u>Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in in Net Position</u>
		<u>Charges for Services and Sales</u>	<u>Operating Grants and Contributions</u>	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Governmental activities:				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$ 529,432	\$ 401,322	\$ 118,858	\$ (9,252)
Special	13,018,455	12,572,981	486,432	40,958
Other	87,667	-	-	(87,667)
Support services:				
Pupil	6,255,123	5,968,498	273,940	(12,685)
Instructional staff	4,072,924	2,933,437	1,073,842	(65,645)
Board of education	92,488	-	-	(92,488)
Administration	790,486	791,966	-	1,480
Fiscal	744,859	683,347	61,852	340
Business	9,434	-	-	(9,434)
Operations and maintenance	752,260	493,667	64,642	(193,951)
Pupil transportation	119,935	-	12,379	(107,556)
Central	643,987	553,014	46,678	(44,295)
Other non-instructional services	2,251,781	2,249,383	4,435	2,037
Intergovernmental pass-through	2,384,624	-	2,498,731	114,107
Facilities acquisition and construction	74,856	-	-	(74,856)
Debt service:				
Principal retirement	65,980	-	-	(65,980)
Interest and fiscal charges	41,222	-	-	(41,222)
Total governmental activities	<u>\$ 31,935,513</u>	<u>\$ 26,647,615</u>	<u>\$ 4,641,789</u>	<u>(646,109)</u>
		General cash receipts:		
		Grants and entitlements not restricted		
		to specific programs		715,471
		Investment earnings		68,778
		Miscellaneous		86,334
		Total general cash receipts		<u>870,583</u>
		Change in net position		224,474
		Net position at beginning of year		<u>2,815,290</u>
		Net position at end of year		<u>\$ 3,039,764</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND FUND BALANCES - CASH BASIS
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2024

	General	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:			
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,821,353	\$ 218,411	\$ 3,039,764
Fund balances:			
Restricted:			
Capital improvements	\$ -	\$ 127,377	\$ 127,377
Locally funded programs	-	59,226	59,226
State funded programs	-	99	99
Federally funded programs	-	31,709	31,709
Committed:			
Student and staff support	1,694	-	1,694
Assigned:			
Student instruction	40,546	-	40,546
Student and staff support	51,609	-	51,609
Operation of non-instructional	1,207,620	-	1,207,620
Unassigned	1,519,884	-	1,519,884
Total fund balances	\$ 2,821,353	\$ 218,411	\$ 3,039,764

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

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

	<u>General</u>	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Receipts:			
Intergovernmental	\$ 744,705	\$ 4,612,555	\$ 5,357,260
Investment earnings	68,778	-	68,778
Tuition and fees	23,154,834	-	23,154,834
Charges for services	3,166,284	326,497	3,492,781
Contributions and donations	16,241	-	16,241
Miscellaneous	70,093	-	70,093
Total receipts	<u>27,220,935</u>	<u>4,939,052</u>	<u>32,159,987</u>
Disbursements:			
Current:			
Instruction:			
Regular	400,570	128,862	529,432
Special	12,549,487	468,968	13,018,455
Other	87,667	-	87,667
Support services:			
Pupil	5,907,823	347,300	6,255,123
Instructional staff	2,832,329	1,240,595	4,072,924
Board of education	92,488	-	92,488
Administration	790,486	-	790,486
Fiscal	682,070	62,789	744,859
Business	9,434	-	9,434
Operations and maintenance	492,745	259,515	752,260
Pupil transportation	105,866	14,069	119,935
Central	378,109	265,878	643,987
Other non-instructional services	2,238,315	13,466	2,251,781
Facilities acquisition and construction	74,856	-	74,856
Intergovernmental pass-through	-	2,384,624	2,384,624
Debt service:			
Principal retirement	65,980	-	65,980
Interest and fiscal charges	36,431	4,791	41,222
Total disbursements	<u>26,744,656</u>	<u>5,190,857</u>	<u>31,935,513</u>
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over (under) disbursements	<u>476,279</u>	<u>(251,805)</u>	<u>224,474</u>
Other financing sources (uses):			
Advances in	13,290	137,165	150,455
Advances (out)	(137,165)	(13,290)	(150,455)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(123,875)</u>	<u>123,875</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balances	352,404	(127,930)	224,474
Fund balances at beginning of year	<u>2,468,949</u>	<u>346,341</u>	<u>2,815,290</u>
Fund balances at end of year	<u>\$ 2,821,353</u>	<u>\$ 218,411</u>	<u>\$ 3,039,764</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 1 - REPORTING ENTITY

The Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center (the “ESC”) is located in Archbold, Ohio, in Fulton County. The ESC supplies supervisory, special education, administrative, and other services to seventeen local, three exempted village, and three city school districts. The ESC furnishes leadership and consulting services designed to strengthen these school districts in areas they are unable to finance or staff independently.

The ESC operates under a locally-elected Governing Board elected from subdistricts within the four county area (Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Williams counties). The Board consists of nine members elected for staggered four year terms. The ESC has 7 administrators, 268 classified employees, and 167 certified employees who provide services to the local, exempted village, and city school districts.

The reporting entity is composed of the primary government and other organizations that are included to ensure the financial statements are not misleading.

A. Primary Government

The primary government of the ESC consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the ESC. For the ESC, this consists of general operations.

B. Component Units

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the ESC is financially accountable. The ESC is financially accountable for an organization if the ESC appoints a voting majority of the organization’s Governing Board and (1) the ESC is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the ESC is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization’s resources; or (3) the ESC is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or (4) the ESC is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the ESC in that the ESC approves the budget, the issuance of debt or the levying of taxes. Certain organizations are also included as component units if the nature and significance of the relationship between the primary government and the organization is such that exclusion by the primary government would render the primary governments financial statements incomplete or misleading. Based upon the application of these criteria, the ESC has no component units.

C. Other Organizations

The basic financial statements of the reporting entity include only those of the ESC (the primary government). The following organizations are described due to their relationship to the ESC:

JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

Northwest Ohio Computer Association (NWOCA)

The ESC is a participant in the Northwest Ohio Computer Association (NWOCA), which is a computer consortium. NWOCA is an association of educational entities within the boundaries of Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Williams, and Wood Counties. 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.

**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 1 - REPORTING ENTITY - (Continued)

The NWOCA Assembly consists of the superintendent from each participating educational entity and a representative from the fiscal agent. The Assembly elects the governing Council of two representatives from each of the six counties in which member educational entities are located and the representative from the member educational entity serving as fiscal agent for NWOCA. The degree of control exercised by any participating educational entity is limited to its representation on the Board. During fiscal year 2024, the ESC paid \$418,241 to NWOCA for various services including services and payments relating to the RemotEDx PLCO and Future Forward-OLC grants. Financial information can be obtained from NWOCA, 209 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, Ohio 43502.

Northern Buckeye Educational Council

The Northern Buckeye Education Council (NBEC) was established in 1979 to foster cooperation among educational entities located in Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Williams, and Wood Counties. NBEC is organized under Ohio laws as a regional council of governments pursuant to a written agreement entered into by its member educational entities and bylaws adopted by the representatives of the member educational entities. NBEC is governed by an elected board consisting of two representatives from each of the six counties in which the member educational entities are located. The Board is elected from an assembly consisting of a representative from each participating educational entity. Financial information can be obtained from the Northern Buckeye Education Council, 209 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, Ohio 43502.

Four County Career Center

The Four County Career Center (Career Center) is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio which provides vocational education to students. The Career Center is operated under the direction of a Board consisting of five representatives from the ESC and one representative from the participating school districts elected boards. The degree of control exercised by the ESC is limited to its representation on the Board. The Career Center possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. Financial information can be obtained from the Four County Career Center, 22-900 State Route 34, Archbold, Ohio 43502.

INSURANCE POOLS

Ohio School Plan

The ESC participates in the Ohio School Plan (the Plan), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio's public educational entities (Members).

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Plan is a separate legal entity. The Plan provides property, liability, automobile, violence and other coverages, modified for each Member's needs. The Plan pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the Member's deductible.

The Plan's business and affairs are conducted by a fifteen member board consisting of superintendents, treasurers, the president of Harcum-Schuett Insurance Agency, Inc., and a member of the Hylant Group, Inc. The Hylant Group Inc. is the Plan's administrator and is responsible for processing claims. Harcum-Hyre Insurance Agency serves as the sales and marketing representative which establishes agreements between the Plan and its members. Financial information can be obtained from the Ohio School Plan at the Plan's website, www.ohioschoolplan.org.

Northern Buckeye Health Plan

The ESC participates in the Northern Buckeye Health Plan, a division of Optimal Health Initiatives (Plan). The Plan is a public entity shared risk pool consisting of public entities mostly within Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Williams Counties. The ESC pays monthly premiums to Optimal Health Initiatives for the benefits offered to its employees including medical, dental, vision, and life insurance.

**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 1 - REPORTING ENTITY - (Continued)

Northern Buckeye Health Plan Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan

The ESC participates in a group-rating plan for workers' compensation as established under Section 4123.29 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Northern Buckeye Health Plan, Northern Division of Ohio Health Initiatives (OHI) Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (WCGRP) was established through the OHI as an insurance group purchasing pool. The group was formed to create a workers' compensation group rating plan which would allow employers to group together to achieve a potentially lower premium rate than they may otherwise be able to acquire as individual employers. OHI has created a workers' compensation group rating and risk management program which will potentially reduce the workers' compensation premiums for the ESC. OHI has retained Sheakley UniService has their third-party administrator and Sedgwick Managed Care Ohio for the managed care organization (MCO) for the group. The MCO is responsible for evaluating the injured worker's current and future medical needs, approving the injured worker's treatment, paying the worker's medical bills, and providing rehabilitation referrals.

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

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As discussed in Note 2.A, these financial statements are presented on the cash basis of accounting. The cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). GAAP 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 ESC's accounting policies.

A. Basis of Accounting

Although required by Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with GAAP, the ESC 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 this cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in these financial statements.

B. Fund Accounting

The ESC uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. There is one fund category used by the ESC, governmental.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions typically are financed. The following is the ESC's major governmental fund:

General fund - The general fund is used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The general fund balance is available for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Other governmental funds of the ESC are used to account for grants and other financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned for a specific purpose.

**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

C. Basis of Presentation

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

Government-Wide Financial Statements - The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the ESC as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government.

The statement of net position presents the cash balance of the governmental activities of the ESC at fiscal year-end. The statement of activities compares disbursements with program receipts for each function or program of the ESC'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 cash basis or draws from the ESC's general receipts.

Fund Financial Statements - During the fiscal year, the ESC segregates transactions related to certain ESC 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 ESC 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.

D. Cash and Investments

To improve cash management, cash received by the ESC is pooled in a central bank account. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through the ESC's records. Each fund's interest in the pool is presented as "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents" on the basic financial statements.

Investments of the ESC's cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the ESC are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months that were 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 revenue), respectively.

During fiscal year 2024, the ESC invested in federal agency securities (FHLB), U.S. Treasury money market fund and STAR Ohio. Investments are recorded at cost.

The ESC 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 ESC 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.

**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

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.

Under existing Ohio statutes all investment earnings are assigned to the general fund unless statutorily required to be credited to a specific fund. By policy of the Board of Education, investment earnings are assigned to the fund from which the investment was made. Interest revenue credited to the general fund during fiscal year 2024 amounted to \$68,778, which includes \$6,634 assigned from other funds.

An analysis of the ESC's investment account at year end is provided in Note 4.

E. Inventory and Prepaid Items

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

F. Capital Assets

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

G. Compensated Absences

Employees are entitled to cash payments for unused vacation and sick leave in certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment. Unpaid vacation and sick leave are not reflected as liabilities under the cash basis of accounting.

H. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

The ESC 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).

I. Leases

The ESC is the lessee in various leases related to equipment under noncancelable leases. Lease payables are not reflected under the ESC's cash basis of accounting. Lease disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

J. Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs)

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

**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

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 ESC'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, financed purchase transaction, or SBITA is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay expenditure is reported at inception. Lease payments, financed purchase payments, and SBITA payments are reported when paid.

L. Fund Cash Balance

The ESC reports classifications of fund balance based on the extent to which the ESC is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent. The following categories are used:

Nonspendable - The nonspendable classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

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

Committed - The committed classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the Board of Education. The committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the 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 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.

Assigned - Amounts in the assigned classification are intended to be used by the ESC 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. Assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the Board of Education. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the Board of Education or an official delegated by that authority by resolution or by State Statute. State statute authorizes the Treasurer to assign fund balance for purchases on order provided such amounts have been lawfully appropriated.

Unassigned - Unassigned fund 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 used only to report a deficit balance.

The ESC first applies restricted resources when an expenditure is incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications can be used.

M. Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through enabling legislation adopted by the ESC or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

The ESC's policy is to first apply restricted resources when a cash disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

The ESC did not have any assets restricted by enabling legislation at June 30, 2024.

N. Interfund Activity

Transfers within governmental activities are eliminated on the government-wide financial statements.

Internal allocations of overhead expenses from one function to another or within the same function are eliminated on the statement of activities. Payments for interfund services provided and used are not eliminated.

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as receipts in the seller funds and as disbursements in the purchaser funds. Flows of cash or goods 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 disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented on the financial statements.

O. Extraordinary and Special Items

Extraordinary items are transactions or events that are both unusual in nature and infrequent in occurrence. Special items are transactions or events that are within the control of the Board of Education and that are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence. Neither type of transaction occurred during fiscal year 2024.

P. Flow-Through Grants

The ESC is the primary recipient of grants which are passed through or spent on behalf of the local, exempted village, and city school districts. When the ESC has a financial or administrative role in the grants, the grants are reported as receipts and intergovernmental disbursements in a special revenue fund. For fiscal year 2024, these funds included the Title VI-B (a nonmajor governmental fund), early childhood special education (a nonmajor governmental fund), limited English proficiency (a nonmajor governmental fund), and elementary and secondary school emergency (a nonmajor governmental fund) special revenue funds.

Q. 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.

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

A. Change in Accounting Principles

For fiscal year 2024, the ESC 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 ESC.

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

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE - (Continued)

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 ESC.

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 ESC.

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 ESC.

B. Compliance

Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(B) requires the ESC to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. However, the ESC 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 ESC can be fined and various other administrative remedies may be taken against the ESC.

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

State statutes classify monies held by the ESC 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 ESC 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.

Protection of the ESC's 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.

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

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

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

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, 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;
2. 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, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
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, 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 obligation 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); and,
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.

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. An investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the ESC 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 fiscal year end, the ESC had \$670 in undeposited cash on hand which is included on the financial statements of the ESC as part of "equity in pooled cash and investments."

B. Deposits with Financial Institutions

At June 30, 2024, the carrying amount of all ESC deposits was \$1,006,106 and the bank balance of all ESC deposits was \$1,984,711. The entire bank balance of \$1,984,711 was covered by the FDIC.

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

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of bank failure, the ESC will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The ESC has no deposit policy for custodial credit risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or protected by (1) eligible securities pledged to the ESC and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose fair value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured, or (2) participation in the 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 fair value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a reduced rate set by the Treasurer of State.

C. Investments

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

Investment type	Carrying Value	Investment Maturities				
		6 months or less	7 to 12 months	13 to 18 months	19 to 24 months	Greater than 24 months
STAR Ohio	\$ 1,731,429	\$ 1,731,429	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
FHLB	184,961	50,000	-	109,961	-	25,000
U. S. Treasury money market fund	<u>116,598</u>	<u>116,598</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,032,988</u>	<u>\$ 1,898,027</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 109,961</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 25,000</u>

Interest Rate Risk: As a means of limiting its exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates and according to State law, the ESC’s investment policy limits investment portfolio maturities to five years or less unless they are matched to a specific obligation or debt of the ESC.

Credit Risk: The U.S. Treasury money market fund was not rated. The FHLB securities carry a rating of Aaa by Moody’s and AA+ from Standard and Poor’s. STAR Ohio carries a rating of AAA by Standard and Poor’s. The ESC has no policy dealing with credit risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that mutual funds in eligible securities must be rated in the highest category at the time of purchase by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. Ohio law requires that STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service.

Custodial Credit Risk: For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the ESC will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The ESC has no investment policy dealing with investment custodial risk beyond the requirement in State statute that prohibits payment for investments prior to the delivery of the securities representing such investments to the Treasurer or qualified trustee.

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

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

Concentration of Credit Risk: The ESC 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 ESC at June 30, 2024:

<u>Investment type</u>	<u>Carrying Value</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
STAR Ohio	\$ 1,731,429	85.17
FHLB	184,961	9.10
U. S. Treasury money market fund	<u>116,598</u>	<u>5.73</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,032,988</u>	<u>100.00</u>

D. Reconciliation of Cash to the Statement of Net Position

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

<u>Cash and investments per note</u>	
Carrying amount of deposits	\$ 1,006,106
Investments	2,032,988
Cash on hand	<u>670</u>
Total	<u>\$ 3,039,764</u>
 <u>Cash and investments per statement of net position</u>	
Governmental activities	<u>\$ 3,039,764</u>

NOTE 5 - INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS

Advances for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, as reported on the fund statements, consist of the following:

<u>Advances from general fund to:</u>	
Nonmajor governmental funds	\$ 137,165
 <u>Advances from nonmajor governmental funds to:</u>	
General fund	<u>13,290</u>
Total advances	<u>\$ 150,455</u>

The advances will be repaid once the anticipated receipts are received. Interfund advances are eliminated on the government-wide financial statements.

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

NOTE 6 - STATE FUNDING

The ESC, under State law, provides supervisory services to the local school districts within its territory. Each city and exempted village school district that entered into an agreement with the ESC is considered to be provided supervisory services. The cost of the supervisory services is determined by formula under State law. The State Department of Education apportions the costs for all supervisory services among the ESC's school districts based on each school district's total student count. The State Department of Education deducts each school district's amount from their State Foundation Program settlements and remits the amount to the ESC. The ESC may provide additional supervisory services if the majority of the school districts agree to the services and the apportionment of the costs.

The ESC also receives funding from the State Department of Education, in the amount of \$26 multiplied by the average daily membership of the ESC. Average daily membership includes the total student counts of all of the local school districts served by the ESC. This amount is paid from State resources. The State Department of Education also deducts from the State Foundation Program settlement of each of the school districts served by the ESC an amount equal to \$6.50 multiplied by the school district's total student count and remits this amount to the ESC.

The ESC may contract with local, city, exempted village, joint vocational, or cooperative education school districts to provide special education and related services or career-technical education services. The individual boards of education pay the costs for these services directly to the ESC.

NOTE 7 - DEBT

During the year ended June 30, 2024, the following changes occurred in the ESC debt obligations:

	Balance 06/30/23	Additions	Reductions	Balance 06/30/24	Amounts Due in One Year
Governmental activities:					
Energy conservation special obligation bonds, series 2020 (direct borrowing)	\$ 857,750	\$ -	\$ (65,980)	\$ 791,770	\$ 65,981

Energy Conservation Special Obligation Bonds - The energy conservation bonds were issued October 30, 2020, for \$989,712 for the acquisition, construction, and installation of energy conservation measures, including but not limited to, a solar array, a new boiler, HVAC controls and lighting upgrades. The interest rate on the bonds is 4.25 percent and has a final maturity of November 1, 2035.

The energy conservation special obligation bonds are secured by the ESC's pledge to repay the bond payments from all legally available revenues of the ESC.

The energy conservation special obligation bonds are considered a direct borrowing. Direct borrowings have terms negotiated directly between the ESC and the lender and are not offered for public sale. In the event of default, if the entire loan amount has not been disbursed, the lender may terminate any and all of the lender's obligations under the agreement, the lender may declare all payments be immediately due and payable, the lender may increase the interest rate on the outstanding balance of the bonds to 21.00 percent, which are subject to appropriations and applicable debt limitations, and the lender may exercise any, all or any combination of the remedies specified in the bond document.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 7 - DEBT - (Continued)

Fiscal Year Ended	Energy Conservation Bonds		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$ 65,981	\$ 33,650	\$ 99,631
2026	65,981	30,846	96,827
2027	65,981	28,042	94,023
2028	65,981	25,238	91,219
2029	65,980	22,434	88,414
2030-2034	329,904	70,105	400,009
2035-2036	131,962	8,412	140,374
Total	<u>\$ 791,770</u>	<u>\$ 218,727</u>	<u>\$ 1,010,497</u>

NOTE 8 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The ESC 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 ESC contracted for the following insurance coverage.

Coverage provided by Ohio School Plan:

General Liability	
Per Occurrence	\$6,000,000
Total per Year	8,000,000
Auto Coverage	
Liability	6,000,000
Uninsured Motorist	1,000,000
Commercial Property	17,857,461

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.

For fiscal year 2024, the ESC participated in the Ohio School Plan (Plan), a non-assessable, unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to Ohio’s public educational entities (“Members”).

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Plan is a separate legal entity. The Plan provides property, liability, automobile, violence and other coverages, modified for each Member’s needs. The Plan pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the Member's deductible.

You can read the complete audited financial statements for the Ohio School Plan at the Plan’s website, www.ohioschoolplan.org.

The ESC participates in the Northern Buckeye Health Plan, a division of Optimal Health Initiatives (Plan). The Plan is a public entity shared risk pool consisting of public entities mostly within Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Williams Counties. The ESC pays monthly premiums to Optimal Health Initiatives for the benefits offered to its employees including medical, dental, vision, and life insurance. The Plan has a board of trustees from member entities responsible for its management and operations. The agreement for the Plan provides for additional assessments to participants if the premiums are insufficient to pay the program costs for the fiscal year. Upon withdrawal from the Plan, a participant is responsible for any claims not processed and paid and any related administrative costs.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 8 - RISK MANAGEMENT - (Continued)

The ESC participates in the Northern Buckeye Health Plan (NBHP) OHI Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (the Plan), an insurance purchasing pool. The Plan is intended to reduce premiums for the participants. The workers' compensation experience of the participants is calculated as one experience, and a common premium rate is applied to all participants in the Plan. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the Plan rather than its individual rate. Participation in the Plan is limited to participants that can meet the Plan's selection criteria. Each participant must apply annually. The Plan provides the participants with a centralized program for the processing, analysis, and management of workers' compensation claims and a risk management program to assist in developing safer work environments. Each participant must pay its premiums, enrollment or other fees, and perform its obligations in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

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 net pension/OPEB liability (asset) represent the ESC'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 ESC's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The ESC cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the ESC 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.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description - The ESC’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 www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

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

* 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. 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. The COLA is indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5 percent and with a floor of 0 percent. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. The Retirement Board approved a 2.5 percent COLA for calendar year 2023.

Funding Policy - Plan members are required to contribute 10.00% of their annual covered salary and the ESC 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 ESC’s contractually required contribution to SERS was \$815,253 for fiscal year 2024.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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.

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 2.2 percent 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 percent 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 percent 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 percent 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(E) 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 fiscal 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 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.

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NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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.

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 ESC's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$1,408,506 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 ESC's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the ESC's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the net pension liability prior measurement date	0.11719560%	0.07117376%	
Proportion of the net pension liability current measurement date	<u>0.12857330%</u>	<u>0.07273631%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>0.01137770%</u>	<u>0.00156255%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 7,104,336	\$ 15,663,719	\$ 22,768,055

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.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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.

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 the SERS Statement of Investment Policy. 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.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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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:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected 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	<u>100.00 %</u>	

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 ESC'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% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
ESC's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 10,485,638	\$ 7,104,336	\$ 4,256,235

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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 8.50%
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:

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	<u>100.00 %</u>	

* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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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 ESC'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:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
ESC's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 24,087,333	\$ 15,663,719	\$ 8,539,647

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 ESC contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated 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. The following types of credit purchased after January 29, 1981, do not count toward health care coverage eligibility: military, federal, out-of-state, municipal, private school, exempted, and early retirement incentive credit. 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 www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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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 ESC's surcharge obligation was \$97,093.

The surcharge added to the allocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The ESC's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$97,093 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 www.strsoh.org 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 ESC's proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset was based on the ESC's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset prior measurement date	0.12009730%	0.07117376%	
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset current measurement date	<u>0.13236400%</u>	<u>0.07273631%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>0.01226670%</u>	<u>0.00156255%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 2,180,624	\$ -	\$ 2,180,624
Proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ -	\$ (1,414,621)	\$ (1,414,621)

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.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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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 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%
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
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.

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.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
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	<u>100.00 %</u>	

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.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Sensitivity of the ESC'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%).

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
ESC's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 2,787,462	\$ 2,180,624	\$ 1,702,108

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
ESC's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 1,602,029	\$ 2,180,624	\$ 2,947,341

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 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 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.

**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

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	<u>100.00 %</u>	

* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

**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 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.

**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Sensitivity of the ESC'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.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
ESC's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 1,197,291	\$ 1,414,621	\$ 1,603,892
		Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
ESC's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 1,612,675	\$ 1,414,621	\$ 1,176,068

NOTE 11 - OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

A. Compensated Absences

The criteria for determining vacation and sick leave benefits are derived from Board policy and State laws. Classified employees earn ten to twenty days of vacation per year, depending on length of service. Accumulated unused vacation time is paid to classified employees, the superintendent, and directors upon termination of employment. Teachers do not earn vacation time.

Teachers, the superintendent, and classified employees earn sick leave at a rate of one and one-fourth days per month. Sick leave may be accumulated up to a maximum of one hundred eighty-five days. Upon retirement, payment is made for one-fourth of accrued but unused sick leave credit to a maximum of forty-six and one-fourth days for all employees.

B. Health Care Benefits

The ESC participates in the Northern Buckeye Health Plan. Through this program, the ESC offers medical, dental, and vision insurance benefits. The ESC provides life insurance through American United Life Insurance Group. Depending upon the coverage selected, the employees share the cost of the monthly premium with the Board.

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**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 12 - CONTINGENCIES

A. Grants

The ESC receives significant financial assistance from numerous federal, state and local agencies in the form of grants. The disbursement of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the ESC. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material effect on the financial position of the ESC.

B. Litigation

There are currently no matters in litigation with the ESC.

NOTE 13 - OTHER COMMITMENTS

The ESC utilizes encumbrance accounting as part of its budgetary controls. Encumbrances outstanding at year-end are reservations of fund balance for subsequent-year expenditures and may be report as part of restricted, committed, or assigned classifications of fund balance. At year end, the ESC's commitments for encumbrances in the governmental funds were as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Year-End Encumbrances</u>
General	\$ 1,301,469
Nonmajor governmental funds	<u>45,620</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,347,089</u>

**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

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

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Receipts:				
Intergovernmental			\$ 744,705	
Investment earnings			68,778	
Tuition and fees			23,154,834	
Charges for services			3,166,284	
Contributions and donations			16,241	
Miscellaneous			69,492	
Total receipts			<u>27,220,334</u>	
Disbursements:				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$ 467,014	\$ 458,209	423,154	\$ 35,055
Special	12,987,179	12,638,010	12,603,953	34,057
Other	96,057	87,737	87,736	1
Support services:				
Pupil	5,597,056	5,941,025	5,893,664	47,361
Instructional staff	2,823,831	2,843,541	2,829,041	14,500
Board of education	122,795	92,660	92,491	169
Administration	775,970	790,758	790,083	675
Fiscal	672,054	704,369	705,407	(1,038)
Business	13,015	9,515	9,434	81
Operations and maintenance	608,014	501,908	497,626	4,282
Pupil transportation	142,969	119,445	118,038	1,407
Central	359,161	378,682	377,675	1,007
Other non-instructional services	2,131,556	4,153,623	3,445,935	707,688
Facilities acquisition and construction	224,856	74,856	74,856	-
Debt service:				
Principal	65,980	65,980	65,980	-
Interest and fiscal charges	39,259	36,431	36,431	-
Total disbursements	<u>27,126,766</u>	<u>28,896,749</u>	<u>28,051,504</u>	<u>845,245</u>
Excess of disbursements over receipts	<u>(27,126,766)</u>	<u>(28,896,749)</u>	<u>(831,170)</u>	<u>28,065,579</u>
Other financing sources (uses):				
Refund of prior year's disbursements			202	
Refund of prior year's receipts	(10,000)	-	-	-
Transfers in	110,100	110,100	110,100	-
Transfers (out)	(110,100)	(110,100)	(110,100)	-
Advances in	13,289	13,289	234,598	221,309
Advances (out)	(140,000)	(358,472)	(358,472)	-
Sale of capital assets			601	
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(136,711)</u>	<u>(345,183)</u>	<u>(123,071)</u>	<u>221,309</u>
Net change in fund balance	(27,263,477)	(29,241,932)	(954,241)	28,286,888
Unencumbered fund balance at beginning of year	1,332,940	1,332,940	1,332,940	-
Prior year encumbrances appropriated	719,726	719,726	719,726	-
Unencumbered fund balance at end of year			<u>\$ 1,098,425</u>	<u>\$ 28,286,888</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECTION

**NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
FULTON COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL SECTION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE A - BUDGETARY PROCESS

There are no budgetary requirements for Educational Service Centers identified in the Ohio Revised Code nor does the State Department of Education specify any budgetary guidelines to be followed.

The ESC’s Board does not budget for resources estimated to be received during the fiscal year.

The ESC’s Board adopts an annual appropriation resolution, which is the Board’s authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on expenditures plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Board. The level of control has been established by the Board at the fund, function, and object level within the general fund and the fund-special cost center level for all other funds. The Chief Fiscal Officer has been authorized to allocate appropriations to the function and object level within all other funds.

Throughout the fiscal year, appropriations may be amended or supplemented as circumstances warrant. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the first appropriation resolution for that fund that covered the entire fiscal year, including amounts automatically carried forward from prior fiscal year. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary schedules represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the Board during the fiscal year.

NOTE B - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

While the ESC is reporting financial position, results of operations and changes in fund balances on the cash basis, the budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a 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 presented on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The difference between the budget basis and the cash basis are as follows:

1. Outstanding year end encumbrances are treated as 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).

The following table summarizes the adjustments necessary to reconcile the budgetary basis statement to the cash basis statement for the general fund:

Net Change in Fund Balance	
	General <u>Fund</u>
Budget basis	\$ (954,241)
Adjustment for encumbrances	1,301,469
Funds budgeted elsewhere	<u>5,176</u>
Cash basis	<u>\$ 352,404</u>

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 district agency benefits fund and insurance escrow funds.

Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center
 Fulton County, Ohio
 Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Federal Agency/ Pass Through Agency/ Program Title	Assistance Listing Number	Disbursements
U.S. Department of Education:		
<i>Passed through Ohio Department of Education:</i>		
Migrant Education State Grant Program	84.011A	\$ 665,760
<u>Special Education Cluster:</u>		
Special Education Grants to States (IDEA, Part B)	84.027A	2,195,545
Special Education - Preschool Grants (IDEA, Preschool)	84.173A	<u>144,923</u>
Total Special Education Cluster		<u>2,340,468</u>
Migrant Education Coordination Program	84.144F	56,719
Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers	84.287	160,738
English Language Acquisition State Grants	84.365A	45,822
Education Stabilization Fund:		
COVID-19 Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund	84.425C	126,971
COVID-19 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425D	564,963
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School	84.425U	127,332
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan - Homeless Round II	84.425W	<u>4,096</u>
Total Education Stabilization Fund		<u>823,362</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education		<u>4,092,869</u>
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:		
<i>Passed through State of Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services:</i>		
Block Grants for Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse	93.959	<u>2,476</u>
Total U.S. Department of Health and Human Services		<u>2,476</u>
U.S. Department of Treasury		
<i>Passed through Ohio School Facilities Commission:</i>		
COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	21.027	<u>99,971</u>
Total U.S. Department of Treasury		<u>99,971</u>
Total Federal Assistance		<u>\$ 4,195,316</u>

NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION:

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center (the ESC) 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 ESC, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in net position of the ESC.

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

NOTE D – TRANSFERS BETWEEN PROGRAM YEARS

Federal regulations require schools to obligate certain federal awards by June 30. However, with the Ohio Department of Education’s consent, schools can transfer unobligated amounts to the subsequent fiscal year’s program. The ESC transferred the following amounts from 2024 to 2025 programs:

<u>Program Title</u>	<u>AL Number</u>	<u>Amt. Transferred</u>
Special Education – Preschool Grants (IDEA, Preschool)	84.173A	\$ 306
Migrant Education Coordination Program	84.144F	14,228

**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**

Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center
Board of Education
205 Nolan Parkway
Archbold, Ohio 43502

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 Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, Fulton County, Ohio (the ESC), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the ESC's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated November 20, 2024 wherein we noted the ESC 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 ESC'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 ESC's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the ESC'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 ESC'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 ESC's Response to Finding

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the ESC's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. The ESC'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 ESC'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 ESC's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.

Maumee, Ohio
November 20, 2024

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

Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center
Board of Education
205 Nolan Parkway
Archbold, Ohio 43502

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center, Fulton County, Ohio (the ESC) 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 ESC's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. The ESC'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 ESC 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 ESC 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 ESC'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 ESC'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 ESC'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 ESC'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 ESC'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 ESC'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 ESC'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.

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.

Maumee, Ohio
November 20, 2024

Section I – Summary of Auditors’ Results

Financial Statements

Type of auditors’ report issued:	Unmodified
Internal control over financial reporting:	
• Material weakness(es) identified?	No
• Significant deficiency(ies) identified not considered to be material weakness(es)?	None Reported
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	Yes

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:	
• Material weakness(es) identified?	No
• 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 84.027A, 84.173A – Special Education Cluster	
Dollar threshold to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs:	\$750,000
Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?	No

Section II – Financial Statement Findings

Finding Number 2024-001 – Noncompliance:

Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-3(B) requires the ESC to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center 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.

Management Response: The ESC does not have plans to correct the finding. The ESC 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



Providing Quality Services
Building Valued Partnerships

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.



Providing Quality Services
Building Valued Partnerships

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 ESC believes the excess cost associated with generating and auditing reports on a generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) basis far outweighs the benefits. The ESC will continue to report on an OCBOA (Other Comprehensive Basis of Accounting) basis for future audits.	N/A	Abby Lorenzen, Treasurer 567-444-4806

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



NORTHWEST OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

FULTON 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 12/24/2024

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

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov