

East Academy  
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

*Audited Financial Statements*

For the Fiscal Year Ended  
June 30, 2017





# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Board of Directors  
East Academy  
15720 Kipling Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44110

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the East Academy, Cuyahoga County, prepared by Rea & Associates, Inc., for the audit period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. 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 East Academy is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost  
Auditor of State

March 26, 2018

**This page intentionally left blank.**

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b><u>TITLE</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Management's Discussion and Analysis	4
Basic Financial Statements	9
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements	12
Required Supplementary Information:	
Schedule of the School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	29
Schedule of School Contributions	31
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	33

**This page intentionally left blank.**

January 24, 2018

To the Board of Directors  
East Academy  
Cuyahoga County, Ohio  
15720 Kipling Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44110

## **Independent Auditor's Report**

### **Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the East Academy, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, (the "School") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

#### ***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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

***Opinion***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the School, as of June 30, 2017, and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***Emphasis of Matter***

As described in Note 14, the School restated the beginning net position to account for a prior period adjustment related to a reporting error within deferred outflows of resources. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

***Other Matters***

***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the *Management's Discussion and Analysis*, the *Schedule of the School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability*, and *Schedule of School Contributions* on pages 4-8, 29-30 and 31-32, respectively, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 24, 2018 on our consideration of the School'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 School'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 School's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Rea & Associates, Inc.*

Cambridge, Ohio



*This page intentionally left blank*

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017**

The discussion and analysis of East Academy's (the School) financial performance provides an overall review of the School's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the School's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the School's financial performance.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is an element of the reporting model adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standard Board (GASB) in their Statement No. 34 **Basic Financial Statements – and Management's Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments** issued June 1999. Certain comparative information between the current year and the prior year is required to be presented in the MD&A.

**Financial Highlights**

- In total, net position decreased \$480,171, which represents a 49.5 percent change from 2016. This was primarily due to a decrease in deferred outflows, increase in deferred inflows offset by a decrease in net pension liability.
- Total assets increased \$34,462, which represents a 31.7 percent change from 2016. This was primarily due to an increase in cash and cash equivalents and grant funding receivable.
- Liabilities decreased \$760,801, which represents a 23.9 percent change from 2016. This was due primarily to the decrease of the net pension liability.
- Deferred outflows of resources decreased \$539,701, which represents a 23.4 percent change. This change represents contractually required amounts due to GASB 68.
- Deferred inflows of resources increase \$735,733, which represents a 368.7 percent change. This change represents contractually required amounts due to GASB 68.

During a prior year, the School adopted GASB Statement 68, "*Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions—an Amendment of GASB Statement 27*," which significantly revises accounting for pension costs and liabilities. For reasons discussed below, many end users of this financial statement will gain a clearer understanding of the School's actual financial condition by adding deferred inflows related to pension and the net pension liability to the reported net position and subtracting deferred outflows related to pension.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board standards are national and apply to all government financial reports prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. When accounting for pension costs, GASB 27 focused on a funding approach. This approach limited pension costs to contributions annually required by law, which may or may not be sufficient to fully fund each plan's *net pension liability*. GASB 68 takes an earnings approach to pension accounting; however, the nature of Ohio's statewide pension systems and state law governing those systems requires additional explanation in order to properly understand the information presented in these statements.

Under the standards required by GASB 68, the net pension liability equals the School's proportionate share of each plan's collective:

1. Present value of estimated future pension benefits attributable to active and inactive employees' past service
- 2 Minus plan assets available to pay these benefits

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017**

**Financial Highlights (continued)**

GASB notes that pension obligations, whether funded or unfunded, are part of the "employment exchange" – that is, the employee is trading his or her labor in exchange for wages, benefits, and the promise of a future pension. GASB noted that the unfunded portion of this pension promise is a present obligation of the government, part of a bargained-for benefit to the employee, and should accordingly be reported by the government as a liability since they received the benefit of the exchange. However, the School is not responsible for certain key factors affecting the balance of this liability. In Ohio, the employee shares the obligation of funding pension benefits with the employer. Both employer and employee contribution rates are capped by State statute. A change in these caps requires action of both Houses of the General Assembly and approval of the Governor. Benefit provisions are also determined by State statute. The employee enters the employment exchange with the knowledge that the employer's promise is limited not by contract but by law. The employer enters the exchange also knowing that there is a specific, legal limit to its contribution to the pension system. In Ohio, there is no legal means to enforce the unfunded liability of the pension system *as against the public employer*. State law operates to mitigate/lessen the moral obligation of the public employer to the employee, because all parties enter the employment exchange with notice as to the law. The pension system is responsible for the administration of the plan.

Most long-term liabilities have set repayment schedules or, in the case of compensated absences (i.e. sick and vacation leave), are satisfied through paid time-off or termination payments. There is no repayment schedule for the net pension liability. As explained above, changes in pension benefits, contribution rates, and return on investments affect the balance of the net pension liability, but are outside the control of the local government. In the event that contributions, investment returns, and other changes are insufficient to keep up with required pension payments, State statute does not assign/identify the responsible party for the unfunded portion. Due to the unique nature of how the net pension liability is satisfied, this liability is separately identified within the long-term liability section of the statement of net position.

In accordance with GASB 68, the School's statements prepared on an accrual basis of accounting include an annual pension expense for their proportionate share of each plan's *change* in net pension liability not accounted for as deferred inflows/outflows.

**Using this Financial Report**

This report consists of three parts, the Required Supplementary Information, the financial statements, and notes to the financial statements. The financial statements include a Statement of Net Position, a Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position, and a Statement of Cash Flows.

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017**

**Statement of Net Position**

The Statement of Net Position answers the question of how well the School performed financially during 2017. This statement includes all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position, both financial and capital and current and long-term, using the accrual basis of accounting, which is the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all revenues and expenses during the year, regardless of when the cash is received or expended.

Table 1 provides a summary of the School's Net Position for fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2016 (Restated).

(Table 1)  
**Statement of Net Position**

	2017	2016 Restated
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets	\$ 143,278	\$ 108,816
Total Assets	143,278	108,816
<b>Deferred Outflow of Resources</b>		
Pension System	1,762,400	2,302,101
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current Liabilities	60,368	42,838
Long Term Liabilities	2,361,232	3,139,563
Total Liabilities	2,421,600	3,182,401
<b>Deferred Inflow of Resources</b>		
Pension System	935,254	199,521
<b>Net Position</b>		
Unrestricted	(1,451,176)	(971,005)
Total Net Position	\$ (1,451,176)	\$ (971,005)

Total assets increased \$34,462. This was primarily due to decreases in cash and cash equivalents and grant funding receivable. Deferred outflows of resources decreased \$539,701. Liabilities decreased \$760,801. This was due primarily due to the decrease of net pension liability. Deferred inflows of resources increased \$735,733. The changes in deferred outflows and inflows of resources were impacted by the implementation of GASB 68. The School operates under a management agreement with STA East, LLC. Under the terms of the management agreement, STA East, LLC Schools is paid a specific percentage of the State and Federal revenues the School receives (see notes to the financial statements, note 8).

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017**

**Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position**

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for fiscal year 2017 and 2016, as well as a listing of revenues and expenses.

**Table 2  
Change in Net Position**

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016 Restated</u>
<b>Operating revenue</b>		
State aid	\$ 2,386,319	\$ 1,921,397
<b>Non-operating revenues</b>		
Federal Grants	542,250	512,648
State Grants	3,457	4,236
Donations	-	777
Miscellaneous	18,640	20,528
Total Revenues	<u>2,950,666</u>	<u>2,459,586</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Purchased Services: Management Fees	2,269,036	1,828,012
Purchased Services: Federal Grant Programs	542,250	512,648
Purchased Services: State Grant Programs	3,457	4,236
Pension expense	497,104	667,734
Sponsorship Fees	69,703	56,701
Board of Education	6,866	8,127
Legal	13,180	15,259
Accounting and Auditing	24,056	23,835
Bank Fees	-	131
Insurance: D&O & Liability	5,185	4,880
Total Expenses	<u>3,430,837</u>	<u>3,121,563</u>
<b>Change in net position</b>	<u>\$ (480,171)</u>	<u>\$ (661,977)</u>

The School's operating and non-operating revenues in 2017 were based on the School's full-time equivalent (FTE) count of 286 and the School's federal grant funding received throughout the year. The School's most significant expense was "Purchased Services: Management Fees" paid pursuant to the management agreement in place between the School and STA East, LLC. The agreement provides that specific percentages of the revenues received by the School will be paid to STA East, LLC to fund operations. The increase in revenues and expenses is due to the increase in enrollment. (See notes to the basic financial statements, note 8)

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017**

**Capital Assets**

At the end of fiscal year 2017, all capital assets had been fully depreciated in a prior year.

**Current Financial Issues**

East Academy received revenue for 286 students in 2017. East Academy is different from many other schools as it provides education in a distance-learning environment to students in nearly every county in the State of Ohio. State law governing community schools allows for the School to have open enrollment across traditional school district boundaries.

The School receives its support almost entirely from state aid. Per pupil revenue from state aid for the School averaged \$8,299 in fiscal year 2017. The School receives additional revenues from grant subsidies.

Although there is a possibility that State aid will be cut in future years due to the economic climate, the School feels that the relationship with the management company will insulate them from any significant change. The relationship brings stability to the School since specific percentages of revenues are payable to the management company (See notes to the basic financials statements, note 8).

**Contacting the School's Financial Management**

This financial report is designed to provide our readers with a general overview of the School's finances and to show the School's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact the Fiscal Officer for the East Academy, 3320 West Market Street, Suite 300, Fairlawn, Ohio 44333.

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
JUNE 30, 2017**

**ASSETS**

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 90,554
Prepaid insurance	418
Continuing fees receivable	5,577
Grant funding receivable	46,729
	<hr/>

Total current assets	<hr/> 143,278
----------------------	---------------

<b>Total assets</b>	<hr/> <b>143,278</b>
---------------------	----------------------

**DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

Pension system	<hr/> 1,762,400
----------------	-----------------

**LIABILITIES**

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable	7,768
Federal grant funding payable	46,729
State aid payable	5,871
	<hr/>

Total current liabilities	<hr/> 60,368
---------------------------	--------------

Long term liabilities

Net pension liability	<hr/> 2,361,232
-----------------------	-----------------

<b>Total liabilities</b>	<hr/> <b>2,421,600</b>
--------------------------	------------------------

**DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

Pension system	<hr/> 935,254
----------------	---------------

**NET POSITION**

Unrestricted net position	<hr/> (1,451,176)
---------------------------	-------------------

<b>Total net position</b>	<hr/> <b>\$ (1,451,176)</b> <hr/>
---------------------------	-----------------------------------

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**EAST ACADEMY  
 CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
 STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017**

**OPERATING REVENUES**

State basic aid	\$	2,316,141
Facilities aid		57,144
3rd grade reading bonus		342
Casino revenue		12,692
		2,386,319
<b>Total operating revenues</b>		<b>2,386,319</b>

**OPERATING EXPENSES**

Purchased Services: Management fees		2,269,036
Purchased Services: Federal Grant programs		542,250
Purchased Services: State Grant programs		3,457
Pension		497,104
Sponsorship Fees		69,703
Board of Education		6,866
Legal		13,180
Accounting & Auditing		24,056
Insurance: D&O & Liability		5,185
		3,430,837
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		<b>3,430,837</b>
<b>Operating loss</b>		<b>(1,044,518)</b>

**NON-OPERATING REVENUES**

Federal grants		542,250
State grants		3,457
Miscellaneous		18,640
		564,347
<b>Total non-operating revenues</b>		<b>564,347</b>
<b>Change in net position</b>		<b>(480,171)</b>
<b>Net position, July 1, 2016 (Restated, see Note 14)</b>		<b>(971,005)</b>
<b>Net position, June 30, 2017</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>(1,451,176)</b>

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.



**EAST ACADEMY  
 CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
 STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017**

**INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

**CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Cash received from state aid	\$	2,386,042
Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services		(2,916,203)
		(530,161)

**CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES**

Cash received from grant programs		521,403
Cash received from miscellaneous sources		19,417
		540,820
Net cash received from noncapital financing activities		540,820
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		10,659
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		79,895
		79,895
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$	90,554

**RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING LOSS TO NET CASH  
 USED FOR OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Operating loss	\$	(1,044,518)
----------------	----	-------------

**ADJUSTMENTS TO RECONCILE OPERATING LOSS TO NET  
 CASH USED FOR OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Changes in assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows/inflows of resources:		
Continuing fees receivable		(290)
Prepaid insurance		14
Deferred outflows of resources		539,701
Deferred inflows of resources		735,733
Net pension liability		(778,331)
Accounts payable		(6,303)
Grants funding payable		23,527
State aid payable		306
		306
Total adjustments		514,357
Net cash used for operating activities	\$	(530,161)

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017**

**1. DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL AND REPORTING ENTITY**

East Academy (the School) is a federal tax exempt 501(c)(3) and state nonprofit corporation established pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code Chapters 3314 and 1702 to maintain and provide a school exclusively for any educational, literary, scientific and related teaching service. The School, which is part of the State's education program, is independent of any school district. The School may sue and be sued, acquire facilities as needed, and contract for any services necessary for the operation of the School.

The School contracts with STA East, LLC for most of its functions (see note 8). STA East, LLC is under ownership of ACCEL Schools of Ohio, LLC.

The School signed a contract with the University of Toledo (UT Board) to operate for a period from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2018. The School operates under a self-appointing, five-member Board of Directors (the Board). The School's Code of Regulations specify that vacancies that arise on the Board will be filled by the appointment of a successor director by a majority vote of the then existing directors. The Board is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the contract with the Sponsor, which include, but are not limited to, state-mandated provisions regarding student population, curriculum, academic goals, performance standards, admission standards, and qualifications of teachers. The School has one instructional/support facility, which is leased by STA East, LLC. The facility is staffed with teaching personnel employed by STA East, LLC, who provide services to 286 students.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements of the School have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles as applied to governmental nonprofit organizations. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of the School's accounting policies are described on the following pages.

**A. Basis of Presentation**

The School's financial statements consist of a Statement of Net Position, a Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position, and a Statement of Cash Flows. Enterprise fund reporting focuses on the determination of the change in Net Position, financial position and cash flows.

Auditor of State of Ohio Bulletin No. 2000-005 requires the presentation of all financial activity to be reported within one enterprise fund for year-end reporting purposes. Enterprise accounting is used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent is that the costs (expenses) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

**B. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting**

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and deferred outflows of resources as well as all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are included on the Statement of Net Position. Operating statements present increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases in Net Position. The accrual basis of accounting is utilized for reporting purposes.

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**B. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (continued)**

Revenues are recognized when they are earned, and expenses are recognized when they are incurred.

**C. Budgetary Process**

Unlike traditional public schools located in the State of Ohio, community schools are not required to follow budgetary provisions set forth in Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705, unless specifically provided in the School's contract with its Sponsor. The contract between the School and its Sponsor requires a detailed school budget for each year of the contract. In addition, the Board adopted an operating budget at the beginning of fiscal year 2017. However, the budget does not have to follow the provisions of Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705, except for section 5705.391 as it relates to five-year forecasts.

**D. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

All cash received by the School is maintained in a demand deposit account.

**E. Intergovernmental Revenues**

The School currently participates in the State Foundation Program, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Reading, Facilities Aid and casino tax distributions, which are reflected under "Operating revenues" on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position. Revenues received from these programs are recognized as operating revenue in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the School receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlements, and contributions. Grants, entitlements, and contributions are recognized as non-operating revenues in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted; matching requirements, in which the School must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose; and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the School on a reimbursement basis. Amounts awarded under the above programs for the 2017 school year totaled \$2,947,209.

**F. Capital Assets and Depreciation**

For purposes of recording capital assets, the Board has a capitalization threshold of \$5,000.

As of June 30, 2017, the School had no capital assets.

**G. Use of Estimates**

In preparing the financial statements, management is sometimes required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and deferred outflows of resources, and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

**H. Net Position**

Net Position represents the difference between assets and deferred outflows of resources, and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net Position consists of unrestricted.

**I. Operating Revenues and Expenses**

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the School's primary activities. For the School, these revenues are primarily state aid payments. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the goods and services that are the primary activities of the School. Revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

**J. Pensions**

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

**K. Deferred Outflows and Deferred Inflows of Resources**

In addition to assets, the statements of the financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. For the School, deferred outflows of resources are reported on the statement of net position for pension. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension are explained in note 11.

In addition to liabilities, the statements of financial position report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net position that applied to a future period and will not be recognized until that time. For the School, deferred inflows of resources include pension. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period the amounts become available. Deferred inflows of resources related to pension are reported on the statement of net position. (See note 11)

**3. CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES**

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, the School has implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 77, *Tax Abatement Disclosures*, GASB Statement No. 78, *Pensions Provided through Certain Multiple-Employer Defined Benefit Pension Plans*, GASB Statement No. 80, *Blending Requirements for Certain Component Units – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 14* and GASB Statement No. 82, *Pension Issues – an amendment of GASB Statements No. 67, No. 68, and No. 73*.

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**3. CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES (continued)**

GASB Statement No. 77 requires disclosure of tax abatement information about (1) a reporting government's own tax abatement agreements and (2) those that are entered into by other government and that reduce the reporting government's tax revenues. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 77 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School.

GASB Statement No. 78 amends the scope of GASB Statement No. 68 to exclude certain multiple-employer defined benefit pension plans provided to employees of state and local governments on the basis that obtaining the measurements and other information required by GASB Statement No. 68 was not feasible. The implementation of GASB No. 78 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the Academy.

GASB Statement No. 80 amends the blending requirements for the financial statement presentation of component units of all state and local governments. The additional criterion requires blending of a component unit incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in which the primary government is the sole corporate member. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 80 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the Academy.

GASB Statement No. 82 improves consistency in the application of pension accounting. These changes were incorporated in the School's fiscal year 2017 financial statements; however, there was no effect on beginning net position.

**4. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

**A. Deposits with Financial Institutions**

At June 30, 2017, the carrying amount of all School deposits was \$90,554. Based on the criteria described in GASB Statement No. 40, "Deposits and Investment Risk Disclosures", as of June 30, 2017, none of the School's bank balance of \$90,554 was exposed to custodial risk as discussed below, since all of the bank balance was covered by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

**B. Investments**

As of June 30, 2017, the School had no investments.

**5. GRANT FUNDING RECEIVABLE/PAYABLE**

The School has recorded "Grant funding receivable" in the amount of \$46,729 to account for the remainder of State and Federal awards allocated to the School, but not received as of June 30, 2017.

Under the terms of the management agreement (see note 8), the School has recorded a liability to STA East, LLC in the amount of \$46,729 for 100 percent of any State and Federal monies uncollected or unpaid to STA East, LLC as of June 30, 2017.

**6. CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION**

For the year ended June 30, 2017, all capital assets had been fully depreciated in a prior year.

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

**Property and Liability** - The School is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft or damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. As part of its management agreement with, STA East, LLC, STA East, LLC has contracted with an insurance company for property and general liability insurance pursuant to the management agreement (see note 8). There was no significant reduction in coverage from the prior year, and claims have not exceeded insurance coverage over the past three years.

**Director and Officer** - Coverage has been purchased by the School with a \$2,000,000 aggregate limit and a \$5,000, \$15,000, or \$50,000 deductible, depending on the claim.

**8. AGREEMENT WITH STA EAST, LLC**

Effective July 1, 2013, the School entered into a management agreement (Agreement) with STA East, LLC, which is an educational consulting and Management Company. The term of the Agreement with STA East, LLC is for 5 years and will renew for additional, successive five (5) year terms unless one party notifies the other party on or before the January 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the expiration of the then-current term of its intention to not renew the Agreement. Substantially all functions of the School have been contracted to STA East, LLC. STA East, LLC is responsible and accountable to the School's Board of Directors for the administration and operation of the School. The School is required to pay STA East, LLC a monthly continuing fee of 95 percent of the School's "Qualified Gross Revenues", defined in the Agreement as, all revenues and income received by the School except for charitable contributions and STA East, LLC shall receive 100 percent of any and all grants or funding of any kind generated by STA East, LLC, and its affiliates beyond the regular per pupil state funding received by the School, subject to any terms and conditions attached to the grants, if any. The continuing fee is paid to STA East, LLC based on the qualified gross revenues.

The School had management fees for the year ended June 30, 2017, to STA East, LLC, of \$2,814,743 of which \$5,577 was receivable from STA East, LLC at June 30, 2017. STA East, LLC will be responsible for all costs incurred in providing the educational program at the School, which include but are not limited to, salaries and benefits of all personnel, curriculum materials, textbooks, library books, computers and other equipment, software, supplies, building payments, maintenance, capital, and insurance.

**9. SPONSORSHIP FEES**

Under Paragraph D5 of the sponsor contract with UT Board, states that the School "shall pay to the Sponsor the amount of three percent (3%) of the total state funds received each year, in consideration for the time, organization, oversight, fees and costs of the Sponsor pursuant to this contract." Such fees are paid to the Sponsor monthly. As indicated on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position, the School incurred \$69,703 in sponsorship fees to the Sponsor.

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**10. MANAGEMENT COMPANY EXPENSES**

For the year ended June 30, 2017, STA East, LLC and its affiliates incurred the following expenses on behalf of the School:

		Regular Instruction (1100 Function Codes)	Special Instruction (1200 Function Codes)	Support Services (2000 Function Codes)	Non-Instructional (3000 through 7000 Function Codes)	Total
		1100	1200	2000	3000	
<b>Direct Expenses:</b>						
Salaries & Wages (100 Object Codes)	100	709,691		149,234		858,925
Employees' Benefits (200 Object Codes)	200	200,201		48,897		249,099
Professional & Technical Services (410 Object Codes)	410	62,014	155,780	286,924		504,718
Property Services (420 Object Codes)	420			232,212		232,212
Travel (430 Object Codes)	430			880		880
Communications (440 Object Codes)	440			83,943		83,943
Utilities (450 Object Codes)	450			71,303		71,303
Contracted Craft or Trade Services (460 Object Codes)	460				175,672	175,672
Transportation (480 Object Codes)	480			123,262		123,262
Other Supplies (510 Object Codes)	510	3,743	1,815	49,325		54,883
Educational Supplies & Curriculum (520 Object Codes)	520	42,860				42,860
Depreciation (600 Object Codes)	600			29,823		29,823
Other Direct Expense (800 Object Codes)	800			13,128		13,128
Total Direct Expenses		1,018,510	157,595	1,088,932	175,672	2,440,709
<b>Indirect Expenses:</b>						
Overhead				33,971		33,971
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 1,018,510</b>	<b>\$ 157,595</b>	<b>\$ 1,122,903</b>	<b>\$ 175,672</b>	<b>\$ 2,474,679</b>

Overhead charges are assigned to the School based on a percentage of revenue. These charges represent the indirect cost of services provided in the operation of the School. Such services include, but are not limited to facilities management, equipment, operational support services, management and management consulting, board relations, human resources management, training and orientation, financial reporting and compliance, purchasing and procurement, education services, technology support, marketing and communications.

**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS**

**A. Net Pension Liability**

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

The net pension liability represents the School's proportionate share of each pension plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension liability 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 this estimate annually.

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**A. Net Pension Liability (continued)**

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

GASB 68 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires all funding to come from these employers. All contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). State statute requires the pension plans to amortize unfunded liabilities within 30 years. If the amortization period exceeds 30 years, each pension plan's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension liability. Resulting adjustments to the net pension liability would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable.

The proportionate share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a long-term net pension liability on the accrual basis of accounting. Any liability for the contractually-required pension contribution outstanding at the end of the year is included in continuing fees payable on the accrual basis of accounting.

**B. Plan Description – School Employees Retirement System (SERS)**

**Plan Description** – School 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](http://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 on or 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 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 year of service; 2.2 percent for the first 30 years of service and 2.5 percent for years of service credit over 30. Final average salary is the average of the highest three years of salary.



**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**B. Plan Description – School Employees Retirement System (SERS) (continued)**

One year after an effective benefit date, a benefit recipient is entitled to a three percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). This same COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit.

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the School is required to contribute 14 percent 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 percent for plan members and 14 percent 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, 2017, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14 percent. SERS did not allocate any employer contributions to the Health Care Fund for fiscal year 2017.

The School's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$30,737 for fiscal year 2017.

**C. Plan Description – State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)**

Plan Description – School licensed teachers and other faculty members participate in STRS Ohio, 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 Web site at [www.strsoh.org](http://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 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 was 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. Members are eligible to retire at age 60 with five years of qualifying service credit, or at age 55 with 26 years of service, or 31 years of service regardless of age. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2026, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit and at least age 60.

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 9.5 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. Investment allocation decisions are determined by the member. The remaining 4.5 percent of the 14 percent 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.

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**C. Plan Description – State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) (continued)**

The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, 12 percent of the 14 percent member rate goes to the DC Plan and the remaining 2 percent 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 or later.

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

A DB or Combined Plan member with five or more years of credited service who is determined to be disabled may qualify for a disability benefit. Eligible survivors of members who die before service retirement may qualify for monthly benefits. 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. 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. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, plan members were required to contribute 14 percent of their annual covered salary. The School was required to contribute 14 percent; the entire 14 percent was the portion used to fund pension obligations. The fiscal year 2017 contribution rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates.

The School's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$80,940 for fiscal year 2017.

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

The net pension liability was measured as of July 1, 2016, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an independent actuarial valuation as of that date. The School's employer allocation percentage of the net pension liability was based on the Employer's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the total employer contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**D. Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (continued)**

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 340,901	\$ 2,020,331	\$ 2,361,232
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.00465770%	0.00603570%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.00826530%	0.00965347%	
Change in Proportionate Share	(0.00360760%)	(0.00361777%)	
Pension Expense	\$ 82,548	\$ 526,233	\$ 608,781

Deferred outflows/inflows of resources represent the effect of changes in the net pension liability due to the difference between projected and actual investment earnings, differences between expected and actual actuarial experience, changes in assumptions and changes in the School's proportion of the collective net pension liability. The deferred outflows and deferred inflows are to be included in pension expense over current and future periods. The difference between projected and actual investment earnings is recognized in pension expense using a straight line method over a five year period beginning in the current year. Deferred outflows and deferred inflows resulting from changes in sources other than differences between projected and actual investment earnings are amortized over the average expected remaining service lives of all members (both active and inactive) using the straight line method. Employer contributions to the pension plan subsequent to the measurement date are also required to be reported as a deferred outflow of resources.

At June 30, 2017, the School reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	SERS	STRS	Total
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 4,597	\$ 81,633	\$ 86,230
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	28,121	167,742	195,863
Changes of assumptions	22,757	-	22,757
Changes in proportion and differences			
Difference between School contributions and proportionate share of contributions	198,567	1,147,306	1,345,873
School contributions subsequent to the measurement date	30,737	80,940	111,677
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$ 284,779	\$ 1,477,621	\$ 1,762,400
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>			
Changes in proportion and differences between School Contributions and proportionate share of contributions	\$ 147,187	\$ 788,067	\$ 935,254
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$ 147,187	\$ 788,067	\$ 935,254

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**D. Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions (continued)**

\$111,677 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from School contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending June 30, 2018. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2018	\$60,511	\$401,470	\$461,981
2019	56,440	401,474	457,914
2020	(18,180)	(63,870)	(82,050)
2021	8,084	(130,460)	(122,376)
Total	\$106,855	\$608,614	\$715,469

**E. 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 termination). 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.

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2016, are presented below:

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**E. Actuarial Assumptions – SERS (continued)**

Wage Inflation	3.00 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.50 percent to 18.20 percent
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	3.00 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.50 percent net of investment expense, including inflation
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)

Mortality rates among active members were based upon the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five year age set-back for both males and females. Mortality among service retired members and beneficiaries were based upon the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120 percent of male rates and 110 percent of female rates. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90 percent for male rates and 100 percent for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement.

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2016 valuation were based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period ending July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2015. The assumed rate of inflation, payroll growth assumption and assumed real wage growth were reduced in the June 30, 2016 actuarial valuation. The rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability updated to reflect recent experience and mortality rates were also updated.

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined by using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS' Statement of Investment Policy. 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 an arithmetic 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 allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major assets class are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Cash	1.00 %	0.50 %
US Stocks	22.50	4.75
Non-US Stocks	22.50	7.00
Fixed Income	19.00	1.50
Private Equity	10.00	8.00
Real Assets	15.00	5.00
Multi-Asset Strategies	10.00	3.00
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**E. Actuarial Assumptions – SERS (continued)**

**Discount Rate** The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.50 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.50 percent). 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.

**Sensitivity of the School’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 School’s proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.50 percent, 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 (6.50 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.50 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.50%)	Current Discount Rate (7.50%)	1% Increase (8.50%)
School proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$451,331	\$340,901	\$248,466

**F. Actuarial Assumptions – STRS**

The total pension liability in the June 30, 2016, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.75 percent
Projected salary increases	12.25 percent at age 20 to 2.75 percent at age 70
Investment Rate of Return	7.75 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	2 percent simple applied as follows: for members retiring before August 1, 2013, 2 percent per year; for members retiring August 1, 2013, or later, 2 percent COLA paid on fifth anniversary of retirement date.

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table (Projection 2022—Scale AA) for Males and Females. Males’ ages are set-back two years through age 89 and no set-back for age 90 and above. Females younger than age 80 are set back four years, one year set back from age 80 through 89 and not set back from age 90 and above.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2016, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study, effective July 1, 2012.

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:

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**F. Actuarial Assumptions – STRS (continued)**

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return*</u>
Domestic Equity	31.00 %	8.00 %
International Equity	26.00	7.85
Alternatives	14.00	8.00
Fixed Income	18.00	3.75
Real Estate	10.00	6.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	3.00
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	<u>7.61 %</u>

\*10-year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.50 percent and does not include investment expenses. The total fund long-term expected return reflects diversification among the asset classes and therefore is not a weighted average return of the individual asset classes.

**Discount Rate** The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.75 percent as of June 30, 2016. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with rate increases described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Projected employer contributions that are intended to fund the service costs of future plan members and their beneficiaries, as well as projected contributions from future plan members, are not 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, 2016. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.75 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2016.

**Sensitivity of the School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate** The following table presents the School's proportionate share of the net pension liability as of June 30, 2016, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.75 percent, as well as what the School's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (6.75 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (8.75 percent) than the current rate:

	<u>1% Decrease (6.75%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (7.75%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (8.75%)</u>
School's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$2,684,855	\$2,020,331	\$1,459,765

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**F. Actuarial Assumptions – STRS (continued)**

***Changes Between Measurement Date and Report Date*** In March 2017, the STRS Board adopted certain assumption changes which will impact their annual actuarial valuation prepared as of June 30, 2017. The most significant change is a reduction in the discount rate from 7.75 percent to 7.45 percent. In April 2017, the STRS Board voted to suspend cost of living adjustments granted on or after July 1, 2017. Although the exact amount of these changes is not known, the overall decrease to School's net pension liability is expected to be significant.

**12. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

**A. School Employee Retirement System (SERS)**

Health Care Plan Description - The School contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 45 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. The Health Care Plan includes hospitalization and physicians' fees through several types of plans including HMO's, PPO's, Medicare Advantage, and traditional indemnity plans as well as a prescription drug program. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org) under Employers/Audit Resources.

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. Health care is financed through a combination of employer contributions and retiree premiums, copays and deductibles on covered health care expenses, investment returns, and any funds received as a result of SERS' participation in Medicare programs. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. Retirees and their beneficiaries are required to pay a health care premium that varies depending on the plan selected, the number of 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 basic benefits, the Retirement Board allocates the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund. For fiscal year 2017, SERS did not allocate any employer contributions to the Health Care fund. In addition, employers pay a surcharge for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, prorated according to service credit earned. For fiscal year 2017, this amount was \$23,500. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2017, the School's surcharge obligation was \$1,965.

For fiscal years 2015, 2016 and 2017, SERS did not allocate employer contributions to the Health Care fund.



**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**12. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

**B. State Teachers Retirement System**

Plan Description – The School participates in the cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit Health Plan administered by the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) 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 reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org) or by calling (888) 227-7877.

Funding Policy – Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS Ohio to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board 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. All benefit recipients, for the most recent year, pay a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions. For fiscal years 2017, 2016 and 2015, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care; therefore, the School did not contribute to health care in the last three fiscal years.

**13. CONTINGENCES**

**A. Grants**

Amounts received from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. Any disallowed costs may require refunding to the grantor. Amounts which may be disallowed, if any, are not presently determinable. However, in the opinion of the School, any such disallowed claims will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the School.

**B. Enrollment FTE**

School foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. However, there is an important nexus between attendance and enrollment for Foundation funding purposes. Community schools must provide documentation that clearly demonstrates students have participated in learning opportunities. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is legislatively required to adjust/reconcile funding as enrollment information is updated by schools throughout the State, which can extend past the fiscal year end.

Under Ohio Rev. Code Section 3314.08, ODE may also perform a FTE Review subsequent to the fiscal year end that may result in an additional adjustment to the enrollment information as well as claw backs of Foundation funding due to a lack of evidence to support student participation and other matters of noncompliance. ODE has not performed such a review on the School for fiscal year 2017.

As of the date of this report, all ODE adjustments through fiscal year 2017 have been completed.

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2017  
(Continued)**

**13. CONTINGENCES (continued)**

**B. Enrollment FTE (continued)**

In addition, the School's contracts with their Sponsor and Management Company require payment based on revenues received from the State. As discussed above, all ODE adjustments through fiscal year 2017 have been completed. A reconciliation between payments previously made and the FTE adjustments has taken place with these contracts.

**C. Litigation**

The School is not a party to legal proceedings that, in the opinion of management, would have a material adverse effect on the financial statements.

**14. PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENT**

A prior period adjustment was needed to restate beginning net position related to deferred outflows of resources due to GASB 68 reporting errors. The restatement had the following effect on Net Position:

Previously Reported Net Position, June 30, 2016	\$ (340,799)
Adjustments:	
Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ (630,206)</u>
Restated Net Position, July 1, 2016	<u><u>\$ (971,005)</u></u>

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

*Required Supplementary Information  
Schedule of the School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability  
School Employees Retirement System of Ohio  
Last Three Fiscal Years (1)*

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</b>			
School's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.00465770%	0.00826530%	0.00845000%
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 340,901	\$ 471,626	\$ 427,650
School's Covered-Employee Payroll	\$ 256,550	\$ 295,114	\$ 223,911
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered-Employee Payroll	132.88%	159.81%	190.99%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	62.98%	69.16%	71.70%

(1) Information prior to 2015 is not available.

The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date, which is the prior fiscal year.

**Notes:**

**School Employees Retirement System (SERS)**

Changes of Benefit Terms: None.

Changes of Assumptions: Amounts reported in 2017 reflect an adjustment of the rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability to more closely reflect actual experience and the expectation of retired life mortality was based on RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Tables and RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table. The following reductions were also made to the actuarial assumptions:

- Discount rate from 7.75% to 7.50%
- Assumed rate of inflation from 3.25% to 3.00%
- Payroll growth assumption from 4.00% to 3.50%
- Assumed real wage growth from 0.75% to 0.50%

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

*Required Supplementary Information  
Schedule of the School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability  
State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio  
Last Three Fiscal Years (1)*

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
<b>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</b>			
School's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.00603570%	0.00965347%	0.00914109%
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 2,020,331	\$ 2,667,937	\$ 2,223,429
School's Covered-Employee Payroll	\$ 928,571	\$ 1,270,129	\$ 784,131
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered-Employee Payroll	217.57%	210.05%	283.55%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	66.80%	72.10%	74.70%

(1) Information prior to 2015 is not available.

The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date, which is

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

*Required Supplementary Information  
Schedule of Schools Contributions  
School Employee Retirement System of Ohio  
Last Four Fiscal Years (1)*

---

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</b>				
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 30,737	\$ 35,917	\$ 38,896	\$ 31,034
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	(30,737)	(35,917)	(38,896)	(31,034)
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
School Covered-Employee Payroll	\$ 219,550	\$ 256,550	\$ 295,114	\$ 223,911
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll	14.00%	14.00%	13.18%	13.86%

(1) Information prior to 2014 is not available

**EAST ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

*Required Supplementary Information  
Schedule of Schools Contributions  
School Teachers Retirement System of Ohio  
Last Four Fiscal Years (1)*

---

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</b>				
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 80,940	\$ 130,000	\$ 177,818	\$ 101,937
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	(80,940)	(130,000)	(177,818)	(101,937)
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
School Covered-Employee Payroll	\$ 578,143	\$ 928,571	\$ 1,270,129	\$ 784,131
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	13.00%

(1) information prior to 2014 is not available

January 24, 2018

To the Board of Directors  
East Academy  
Cuyahoga County, Ohio  
15720 Kipling Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44110

**Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards***

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the East Academy, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the "School") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated January 24, 2018, wherein we noted the School restated the beginning net position balance to account for a prior period adjustment related to reporting errors within deferred outflows of resources due to GASB 68.

**Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the School's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the School'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 may exist that have not been identified.

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the School'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 determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Purpose of this Report**

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

*Rea & Associates, Inc.*

Cambridge, Ohio





# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**EAST ACADEMY**

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**CLERK'S CERTIFICATION**

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

*Susan Babbitt*

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU**

**CERTIFIED  
APRIL 5, 2018**