



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**





**HARDIN-HOUSTON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SHELBY COUNTY  
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

Hardin-Houston Local School District  
Shelby County  
5300 Houston Road  
Houston, Ohio 45333

To the Board of Education:

***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 Hardin-Houston Local School District, Shelby County, Ohio (the School District), as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Hardin-Houston Local School District, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position thereof and the budgetary comparison for the General fund for the fiscal 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. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the School District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

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

Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the School District to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the 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 the 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 School District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

***Auditor's 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 auditor's 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 School District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the School District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

**Supplementary Information**

Our audit was conducted to opine on the financial statements as a whole that collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements.

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the 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 to 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, this schedule is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

**Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 25, 2024, on our consideration of the School District's internal control over financial reporting and 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 District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

January 25, 2024

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**Hardin Houston Local School District**

*Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis*

*June 30, 2023*

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	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
<b>Assets</b>	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$9,777,649
Cash and Cash Equivalents in Segregated Accounts	5,162
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u><u>\$9,782,811</u></u>
<b>Net Position</b>	
Restricted for:	
Capital Projects	\$818,969
Debt Service	1,431,117
School Bus Purchases	64,358
Other Purposes	1,355,728
Unrestricted	<u>6,112,639</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u><u>\$9,782,811</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Statement of Activities - Cash Basis*  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Program Cash Receipts			Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position	
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Total Governmental Activities
<b>Governmental Activities</b>					
Instruction:					
Regular	\$4,516,089	\$45,680	\$300,721		(\$4,169,688)
Special	1,117,447	197,727	583,407		(336,313)
Vocational	141,548		7,616		(133,932)
Student Intervention Services	1,763		3,108		1,345
Support Services:					
Pupil	1,039,591	6,462	182,946		(850,183)
Instructional Staff	260,195	1,678	1,583		(256,934)
Board of Education	8,710				(8,710)
Administration	786,514				(786,514)
Fiscal	357,659				(357,659)
Business	127				(127)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,057,170		100,576		(956,594)
Pupil Transportation	884,357	9,820	176,396	\$45,000	(653,141)
Central	5,341				(5,341)
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	348,149	131,125	196,201		(20,823)
Extracurricular Activities	497,968	211,867	35,304		(250,797)
Capital Outlay	390,758				(390,758)
Principal Retirement	390,000				(390,000)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	219,875				(219,875)
<i>Total Governmental Activities</i>	<u>\$12,023,261</u>	<u>\$604,359</u>	<u>\$1,587,858</u>	<u>\$45,000</u>	<u>(9,786,044)</u>
<b>General Receipts</b>					
Property Taxes Levied for:					
					2,345,490
					43,206
					691,312
					760,108
					380,054
					5,829,746
					9,464
					100,960
					37,349
<i>Total General Receipts</i>					<u>10,197,689</u>
Change in Net Position					411,645
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>					<u>9,371,166</u>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>					<u><u>\$9,782,811</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Statement of Assets and Fund Balances - Cash Basis*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*June 30, 2023*

	General	Bond Retirement	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Assets</b>				
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$6,112,363	\$1,431,117	\$2,169,811	\$9,713,291
Cash and Cash Equivalents in Segregated Accounts	5,162			5,162
Restricted Assets:				
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	64,358			64,358
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>6,181,883</u>	<u>\$1,431,117</u>	<u>\$2,169,811</u>	<u>\$9,782,811</u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>				
Nonspendable	\$1,559			\$1,559
Restricted	64,358	\$1,431,117	\$2,173,138	3,668,613
Committed			2,192	2,192
Assigned	48,424			48,424
Unassigned	6,067,542		(5,519)	6,062,023
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$6,181,883</u>	<u>\$1,431,117</u>	<u>\$2,169,811</u>	<u>\$9,782,811</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances - Cash Basis*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

	General	Bond Retirement	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Receipts</b>				
Property Taxes	\$2,345,490	\$691,312	\$43,206	\$3,080,008
Income Taxes	760,108		380,054	1,140,162
Intergovernmental	6,225,162	92,178	1,106,465	7,423,805
Interest	100,169		2,721	102,890
Tuition and Fees	245,159			245,159
Extracurricular Activities	6,383		215,194	221,577
Contributions and Donations	9,729		36,604	46,333
Charges for Services			126,581	126,581
Miscellaneous	37,349		2,974	40,323
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>9,729,549</u>	<u>783,490</u>	<u>1,913,799</u>	<u>12,426,838</u>
<b>Disbursements</b>				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	4,382,259		133,830	4,516,089
Special	986,540		130,907	1,117,447
Vocational	141,548			141,548
Student Intervention Services	13		1,750	1,763
Support Services:				
Pupil	857,762		181,829	1,039,591
Instructional Staff	256,899		3,296	260,195
Board of Education	8,710			8,710
Administration	786,514			786,514
Fiscal	334,646	16,295	6,718	357,659
Business	127			127
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	940,076		117,094	1,057,170
Pupil Transportation	807,688		76,669	884,357
Central	5,341		-	5,341
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	-		348,149	348,149
Extracurricular Activities	221,949		276,019	497,968
Capital Outlay	4,527		386,231	390,758
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement		390,000		390,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges		219,875		219,875
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>9,734,599</u>	<u>626,170</u>	<u>1,662,492</u>	<u>12,023,261</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>(5,050)</u>	<u>157,320</u>	<u>251,307</u>	<u>403,577</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>				
Insurance Recoveries	8,068			8,068
Transfers In	11,789		30,000	41,789
Transfers Out	(30,000)		(11,789)	(41,789)
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(10,143)</u>		<u>18,211</u>	<u>8,068</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	(15,193)	157,320	269,518	411,645
<i>Fund Balances Beginning of Year</i>	<u>6,197,076</u>	<u>1,273,797</u>	<u>1,900,293</u>	<u>9,371,166</u>
<i>Fund Balances End of Year</i>	<u>\$6,181,883</u>	<u>\$1,431,117</u>	<u>\$2,169,811</u>	<u>\$9,782,811</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**Hardin-Houston Local School District**  
*Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and*  
*Changes in Fund Balance - Budget (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual*  
*General Fund*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

	BUDGETED AMOUNTS			VARIANCE WITH
	ORIGINAL	FINAL	ACTUAL	FINAL BUDGET POSITIVE (NEGATIVE)
<b>Revenues:</b>				
Property Taxes	\$2,351,000	\$2,351,000	\$2,345,490	(\$5,510)
Income Taxes	725,000	725,000	760,108	35,108
Intergovernmental	6,388,913	6,388,913	6,225,162	(163,751)
Interest	40,000	40,000	100,169	60,169
Tuition and Fees	250,000	250,000	245,159	(4,841)
Contributions and Donations			7,200	7,200
Charges for Services	5,000	5,000	2,264	(2,736)
Miscellaneous	10,000	10,000	26,329	16,329
Total Revenues	<u>9,769,913</u>	<u>9,769,913</u>	<u>9,711,881</u>	<u>(58,032)</u>
<b>Expenditures:</b>				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	4,767,726	5,417,726	4,389,702	1,028,024
Special	1,113,195	1,113,195	986,540	126,655
Vocational	141,320	141,320	141,548	(228)
Student Intervention Services	700	700	13	687
Support Services:				
Pupils	1,006,469	1,006,469	847,645	158,824
Instructional Staff	271,580	271,580	262,898	8,682
Board of Education	11,050	11,050	8,710	2,340
Administration	832,491	832,491	786,514	45,977
Fiscal	356,700	357,700	334,646	23,054
Business	600	600	127	473
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,057,200	1,057,200	957,667	99,533
Pupil Transportation	850,000	850,000	807,688	42,312
Central	11,100	11,100	5,341	5,759
Extracurricular Activities	230,573	230,573	221,949	8,624
Capital Outlay			4,527	(4,527)
Total Expenditures	<u>10,650,704</u>	<u>11,301,704</u>	<u>9,755,515</u>	<u>1,546,189</u>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>(880,791)</u>	<u>(1,531,791)</u>	<u>(43,634)</u>	<u>1,488,157</u>
<b>Other Financing Source (Uses)</b>				
Refund of Prior Year Expenditure	30,000	30,000	10,862	(19,138)
Insurance Recoveries			8,068	8,068
Transfers In			11,789	11,789
Transfers Out	(50,000)	(50,000)	(30,000)	20,000
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	<u>(20,000)</u>	<u>(20,000)</u>	<u>719</u>	<u>20,719</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	(900,791)	(1,551,791)	(42,915)	1,508,876
Fund Balance at Beginning of Year	6,167,673	6,167,673	6,167,673	
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	1,998	1,998	1,998	
Fund Balance at End of Year	<u>\$5,268,880</u>	<u>\$4,617,880</u>	<u>\$6,126,756</u>	<u>\$1,508,876</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

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**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 1 - Reporting Entity**

Hardin-Houston Local School District (the "School District") is organized under Article VI, Sections 2 and 3 of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. The School District operates under a locally elected Board form of government and provides educational services as authorized by State and federal agencies. The legislative power of the School District is vested in the Board of Education, consisting of five members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms.

The School District is located in Shelby County. The School District is staffed by 41 non-certificated employees, 57 certificated full-time teaching personnel. The School District ADM for fiscal year 2023 was 727. The School District currently operates one instructional/support buildings.

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

**B. Jointly Governed Organizations and Insurance Purchasing Pools**

The School District participates in one jointly governed organization and two insurance purchasing pools. These organizations are discussed in Note 13 to the basic financial statements. These organizations are:

Jointly Governed Organizations:

Western Ohio Computer Organization

Insurance Purchasing Pools:

Shelby County Schools Consortium

Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council

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

**Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

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

**A. Basis of Presentation**

The School District'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.

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies** (continued)

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the School District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds. The statements usually distinguish between those activities of the School District that are governmental in nature and those that are considered business-type activities. However, the School District does not have any business-type activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental receipts or other nonexchange transactions.

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

Fund Financial Statements

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

B. Fund Accounting

The School District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the fiscal year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the School District are classified as governmental.

Governmental Funds

The School District classifies funds financed primarily from taxes, intergovernmental receipts (e.g., grants), and other nonexchange transactions as governmental funds. The following are the School District's major governmental funds:

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



**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies** (continued)

Bond Retirement Fund - The Bond Retirement Fund debt service fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of, general long-term principal, interest and related costs.

The other governmental funds of the School District account for grants and other resources whose use is restricted to a particular purpose.

**C. Basis of Accounting**

The School District's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the School District's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursements are recorded when cash is 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. If the School District utilized the basis of accounting recognized as generally accepted, the fund financial statements for governmental funds would use the modified accrual basis of accounting. All government-wide financials would be presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

**D. Budgetary Process**

All funds, except custodial funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the certificate of estimated resources, and the appropriations resolution, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amount the Board of Education may appropriate. The appropriations resolution is the Board's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on cash disbursements plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Board. The legal level of budgetary control is at the fund level for all funds, except the General Fund. The legal level of control for this fund is at the object level within the fund. Budgetary allocations at the function and object level within all funds are made by the Treasurer.

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

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

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies** (continued)

**E. Cash and Investments**

To improve cash management, cash received by the School District is pooled and invested. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through School District records. Interest in the pool is presented as “Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents”.

Investments of the School District’s cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the School District are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents.

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 2023, the School District invested in negotiable certificates of deposit, US Treasury notes and US Treasury Bills.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Education has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest receipts credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2023 was \$100,169, which included \$36,910 assigned from other School District funds.

**F. Restricted Assets**

Assets are reported as restricted when limitations on their use change the nature or normal understanding of the availability of the asset. Such constraints are either imposed by creditors, contributors, grantors, or laws of other governments, or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Restricted assets represent amounts required by State statute to be set aside for the purchase of buses.

**G. Inventory and Prepaid Items**

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

**H. Capital Assets**

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

**I. Accumulated Leave**

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

**J. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension (OPEB) Plans**

The School District recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension (OPEB) plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 8 and 9, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for postretirement health care benefits.

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies** (continued)

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB liability, 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 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/OPEB systems report investments at fair value.

**K. Long-Term Obligations**

The School District's cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for bonds and other long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received and principal and interest payments are reported when paid. Since recording a capital asset when entering into a lease is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay expenditure are reported at inception. Lease payments are reported when paid.

**L. Leases and Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs)**

The School District is the lessor/lessee (as defined by GASB 87) in a lease related other equipment under noncancelable leases. Lease receivables/payables are not reflected under the School District's cash basis of accounting. Lease receipts/disbursements are recognized when they are received/paid.

The School District has entered into noncancelable SBITA contracts (as defined by GASB 96) for several types of software including contracts related to financial services, grading systems and various other software. SBITA payables are not reflected under the School District's cash basis of accounting. SBITA disbursements are recognized when they are received/paid.

**M. Net Position**

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the School District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes include resources restricted for food service operations, music and athletic programs, and federal and state grants restricted to cash disbursement for specified purposes. The School District'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 School District did not have net position restricted by enabling legislation at June 30, 2023.

**N. Fund Balance**

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

Non-spendable – The non-spendable 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.

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies** (continued)

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 is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed – The committed classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by 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 School District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds, other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the Board of Education.

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 fund balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed or assigned.

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

**O. Interfund Transactions**

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

**P. Estimates**

The cash basis of accounting used by the School District requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported disclosures; accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 3 - Budgetary Basis of Accounting**

The budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on the basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual presented for the General Fund is prepared on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget.

The difference between the budgetary basis and cash basis is

- 1.) Outstanding year-end encumbrances are treated as cash disbursements (budgetary) rather than as assigned fund balance (cash basis) and
- 2.) Perspective differences resulting from differences in fund structure.

Cash Basis	\$ (15,193)
Encumbrances	(31,034)
Perspective Differences	<u>3,312</u>
Budgetary Basis	<u><u>\$ (42,915)</u></u>

**Note 4 - Deposits and Investments**

Monies held by the School District are classified by State statute into three categories.

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

Inactive deposits are public deposits that the Board 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 that 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 School District'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.

Interim monies held by the School District can 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;

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 4 - Deposits and Investments** (continued)

2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligation or security 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 the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least 2 percent and be marked to market daily, and 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. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
6. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio);
7. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts; and
8. Certain bankers' acceptances (for a period not to exceed one hundred eight days) and commercial paper (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. Except as noted above, an investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the School District, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity. Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions.

***Deposits***

At fiscal year-end, the carrying amount of the School District's deposits was \$4,783,053 and the bank balance was \$4,843,362. \$250,000 of the School District's deposits was insured by federal depository insurance. As of June 30, 2023, \$4,593,362 of the School District's bank balance was exposed to custodial risk because it was uninsured and collateralized. The School District's financial institution was approved for a reduced collateral rate of 102 percent through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System.

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

**Note 4 - Deposits and Investments** (continued)

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

Eligible securities pledged to the School District and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured; or

Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

**Investments**

Investments are reported at cost. The School District had the following investments at June 30, 2023:

Investment Type	Carrying Value	Fair Value	Investment Maturity		
			6 months or less	7 to 12 months	13 to 18 months
US Treasury Bills	1,249,952	1,277,172	1,277,172	-	-
US Treasury Notes	2,499,806	2,438,283	-	-	2,438,283
Negotiable Certificates of Deposit	1,250,000	1,221,673	244,308	977,365	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,999,758</b>	<b>\$ 4,937,128</b>	<b>\$ 1,521,480</b>	<b>\$ 977,365</b>	<b>\$ 2,438,283</b>

*Interest Rate Risk* – Interest rate risk arises because the potential purchasers of debt securities will not agree to pay face value for those securities if interest rates subsequently increase. The Ohio Revised Code generally limits security purchases to those that mature within five years of the settlement date. The School District’s investment policy does not further limit its investment choices.

*Credit Risk* – State law limits investments in commercial paper and corporate bonds to the top two ratings issued by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations. Ohio law requires that STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service and that the money market fund be rated in the highest category at the time of purchase by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. The School District’s investment policy does not further limit its investment choices. Moody’s rates the US Treasury Notes and US Treasury Bills as Aaa.

*Custodial Credit Risk* - Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the School District will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The School District has no investment policy dealing with investment custodial risk beyond the requirements of ORC 135.14(M)(2) which states, “Payment for investments shall be made only upon the delivery of securities representing such investments to the treasurer, investing authority, or qualified trustee. If the securities transferred are not represented by a certificate, payment shall be made only upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian by the treasurer, governing board, or qualified trustee.”

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 4 - Deposits and Investments** (continued)

*Concentration of Credit Risk* - The School District places no limits on the amount the School District may invest in any one issuer. The School District has invested more than 5 percent in the following:

US Treasury Bills	25%
US Treasury Notes	50%
Negotiable CDs	25%
	100%

**Note 5 - Property Taxes**

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

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real and public utility property located in the School District. Real property tax revenue received in calendar 2023 represents collections of calendar year 2022 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2023 were levied after April 1, 2022, on the assessed value listed as of January 1, 2022, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State law at 35 percent of appraised market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semi-annually, the first payment is due December 31 with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established.

Public utility property tax revenue received in calendar 2023 represents collections of calendar year 2022 taxes. Public utility real and tangible personal property taxes received in calendar year 2023 became a lien December 31, 2021, were levied after April 1, 2022 and are collected with real property taxes. Public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value; public utility tangible personal property currently is assessed at varying percentages of true value.

The School District receives property taxes from Shelby County. The County Auditor periodically advances to the School District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2023, are available to finance fiscal year 2023 operations. The amount available to be advanced can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent. The assessed values upon which the fiscal year 2023 taxes were collected are:

	2022 Second- Half Collections		2023 First- Half Collections	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Agricultural/Residential and Other Real Estate	\$120,234,320	95.55%	\$120,665,730	95.36%
Public Utility Personal	5,602,430	4.45%	5,869,840	4.64%
Total	\$125,836,750	100.00%	\$126,535,570	100.00%
Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation	\$34.12		\$34.12	



**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 6 - Income Taxes**

The School District levies a voted tax of three-fourths of one percent for general operations on the income of residents and of estates. Income tax revenue is credited to the General Fund (one-half of one percent) and the Permanent Improvement Capital Projects Fund (one-fourth of one percent). The General Fund tax was effective on January 1, 1991, and the Permanent Improvement Capital Projects Fund tax was effective on January 1, 1997. Both are continuing taxes. Employers of residents are required to withhold income tax on compensation and remit the tax to the State. Taxpayers are required to file an annual return. The State makes quarterly distributions to the School District after withholding amounts for administrative fees and estimated refunds.

**Note 7 - Risk Management**

**A. Property and Liability**

The School District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During fiscal year 2023, the School District joined together with other school districts in Ohio to participate in the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council Property, Fleet and Liability Insurance Program (See Note 13). The School District pays this annual premium to Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council who in turns pays Arthur Gallagher Risk Management Services Inc.

Insurance coverage provided includes the following:

Building and Contents (\$5,000 deductible)	\$30,044,101
Money and Securities	1,000,000
General Liability:	
Per Occurrence	1,000,000
Aggregate	4,000,000
Fiduciary (\$1,500 deductible):	
Each Offense	1,000,000
Aggregate Limit	1,000,000
School Board Legal and Employment Practices Liability:	
Each Occurrence	1,000,000
Annual Aggregate	1,000,000
Automobile Liability (\$1,000 deductible)	1,000,000
Uninsured/Underinsured Motorists (\$1,000 deductible)	1,000,000
Site Pollution (\$25,000 deductible)	
Per Occurrence	1,000,000
Aggregate	5,000,000
Cyber Liability/Identity Theft (\$25,000 deductible)	2,000,000
Excess Liability	4,000,000
Sexual Abuse & Molestation	4,000,000
Violent Event (\$2,500 deductible)	
Per Occurrence	100,000
Aggregate	250,000

Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three fiscal years. There has been no significant change in insurance coverage from the last fiscal year.

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 7 - Risk Management** (continued)

**B. Workers' Compensation**

For fiscal year 2023, the School District participated in the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (GRP), an insurance purchasing pool (Note 13). The intent of the GRP is to achieve the benefit of a reduced premium for the School District by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the GRP. The workers' compensation experience of the participating school districts is calculated as one experience and a common premium rate is applied to all school districts in the GRP. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the GRP rather than its individual rate. Total savings are then calculated and each participant's individual performance is compared to the overall savings percentage of the GRP. A participant will then either receive money from or be required to contribute to the "Equity Pooling Fund." This "equity pooling" arrangement ensures that each participant shares equally in the overall performance of the GRP. Participation in the GRP is limited to school districts that can meet the GRP's selection criteria. The firm of Hunter Consulting provides administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the GRP.

**Note 8 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

The net pension/OPEB liability is disclosed as a commitment and not reported on the face of the financial statements as a liability because of the use of the cash basis framework.

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

***Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability***

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

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

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 8 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans** (continued)

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 9 for the required OPEB disclosures.

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

Plan Description – School District 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 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.

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 8 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans** (continued)

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. Beginning April 1, 2018, new benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. A three-year COLA suspension is in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. In 2022, the Board of Trustees approved a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for eligible retirees and beneficiaries in 2023.

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10% of their annual covered salary and the School District is required to contribute 14% 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% for plan members and 14% 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, 2023, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14%; 0% was allocated to the Health Care Fund.

The School District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$172,725 for fiscal year 2023.

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

Plan Description – School District 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 (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 Aug. 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2% of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. Eligibility changes will be phased in until Aug. 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit at any age.

Eligibility changes for DB Plan members who retire with actuarially reduced benefits will be phased in until Aug. 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 9.53% 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 4.47% 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.

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 8 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans** (continued)

The CO Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the CO Plan, 12% of the 14% member rate is deposited into the member’s DC account 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 CO 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 at age 50 and after termination of employment.

New members who choose the DC Plan or CO 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 Ohio plan. The optional annuitization of a member’s defined contribution account or the defined contribution portion of a member’s CO Plan account to a lifetime benefit results in STRS Ohio bearing the risk of investment gain or loss on the account. STRS Ohio therefore has included all three plan options in the GASB 68 schedules of employer allocations and pension amounts by employer.

A DB or CO 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 10 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 Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The fiscal year 2023 employer and member contribution rates of 14% was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For fiscal year 2023, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The School District’s contractually required contribution to STRS was \$541,880 fiscal year 2023.

***Net Pension Liability***

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The School District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the School District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected 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	0.03194470%	0.031334098%	
Current Measurement Date	<u>0.03039760%</u>	<u>0.030327410%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.0015471%</u>	<u>-0.001006688%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$1,644,139	\$6,741,821	\$8,385,960

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 8 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans** (continued)

***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, 2022, compared with June 30, 2021, 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 of payroll)

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
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**Note 8 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans** (continued)

In 2022, 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.

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 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 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 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	2.00%	-0.45%
US Equity	24.75%	5.37%
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50%	6.22%
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75%	8.22%
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00%	1.20%
Private Equity	11.00%	10.05%
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00%	4.87%
Multi-Asset Strategy	4.00%	3.39%
Private Debt/Private Credit	3.00%	5.38%
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 8 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans** (continued)

**Discount Rate** The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%. 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 (7.00%). 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.

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

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$2,420,094	\$1,644,139	\$990,407

**Actuarial Assumptions - STRS**

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2022, actuarial valuation compared to those used in the June 30, 2021, actuarial valuation are presented below:

	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%	12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65
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, 2022 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 Disable Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.



**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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**Note 8 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans** (continued)

For the prior measurement date, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Tables with 50% of rates through age 69, 70% of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90% of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100% of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Tables, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Tables with 90% of rates for males and 100% of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 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 Ohio’s 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:

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

\*Target allocation percentage is effective as of July 1, 2022. Target weights were phased in over a 3-month period concluding on 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 Ohio’s 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, 2022. 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 Ohio’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2022. 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, 2022.

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 8 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans** (continued)

**Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate** - The following table represents the net pension liability as of June 30, 2022, 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
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$10,184,438	\$6,741,821	\$3,830,434

**Changes Between Measurement Date and Reporting Date** - STRS approved a one-time 1.00% cost-of-living adjustment to eligible benefit recipients effective July 1, 2023. It is unknown what effect this change will have on the net pension liability.

**Note 9 – Defined Benefit OPEB Plans**

The net OPEB liability is disclosed as a commitment and not reported on the face of the financial statements as a liability because of the use of the cash basis framework.

See Note 8 for a description of the net OPEB liability.

**A. School Employees Retirement System**

**Health Care Plan Description** - The District 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. 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](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. 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.

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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**Note 9 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans** (continued)

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, 2023, 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 2023, this amount was \$25,000. 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 2023, the School District's surcharge obligation was \$23,844.

The surcharge added to the allocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The School District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$23,844 for fiscal year 2023.

**B. 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. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely. 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 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, 2023, 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, 2022, and the total OPEB asset/liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The School District's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on the School District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)			
Prior Measurement Date	0.0330004%	0.031334098%	
Current Measurement Date	0.0312229%	0.030327410%	
Change in Proportionate Share	-0.0017775%	-0.001006688%	
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB			
Liability (Asset)	\$438,373	(\$785,278)	(\$346,905)

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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**Note 9 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans** (continued)

***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.

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2022, compared with June 30, 2021, are presented below:

	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Inflation	2.40%	2.40%
Projected salary increases, including inflation	3.25% to 13.58%	3.25% to 13.58%
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Municipal bond index rate	3.69%	1.92%
Single Equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including inflation price	4.08%	2.27%
Medical trend assumption	7.00 to 4.40%	
Medicare		5.125 to 4.400%
Pre-Medicare		6.750 to 4.400%

In 2022, 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.

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 9 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans** (continued)

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

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

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial 5-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2016 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board in 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 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 capital market assumptions developed by the investment consultant are intended for use over a 10-year horizon and may not be useful in setting the long-term rate of return for funding pension plans which covers a longer timeframe. 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 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%	-0.45%
US Equity	24.75%	5.37%
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50%	6.22%
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75%	8.22%
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00%	1.20%
Private Equity	11.00%	10.05%
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00%	4.87%
Multi-Asset Strategy	4.00%	3.39%
Private Debt/Private Credit	3.00%	5.38%
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 9 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans** (continued)

**Discount Rate** - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2022, was 4.08%. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2022, was 2.27%. 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 was projected to become insufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current System members by SERS actuaries. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is used in the determination of the SEIR for both the June 30, 2022 and the June 30, 2021 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 is 3.69% at June 30, 2022 and 1.92% at June 30, 2021.

**Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates** - The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability, what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.08%) and higher (5.08%) than the current discount rate (4.08%). Also shown is what the net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (6.00% decreasing to 3.40%) and higher (8.00% decreasing to 5.40%) than the current rate (7.00% decreasing to 4.40%).

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$544,466	\$438,373	\$352,727
	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$338,064	\$438,373	\$569,392

**Actuarial Assumptions - STRS**

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2022, actuarial valuation and the June 30, 2021 actuarial valuation are presented below:

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
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**Note 9 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans** (continued)

	June 30, 2022		June 30, 2021	
	Inflation	2.50%		2.50%
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%		12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65	
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%	
Health care cost trends				
	Initial	Ultimate	Initial	Ultimate
Medical				
Pre-Medicare	7.50%	3.94%	5.00%	4.00%
Medicare	-68.78%	3.94%	-16.18%	4.00%
Prescription Drug				
Pre-Medicare	9.00%	3.94%	6.50%	4.00%
Medicare	-5.47%	3.94%	29.98%	4.00%

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

For the June 30, 2022 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 mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Tables with 50% of rates through age 69, 70% of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90% of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100% of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Tables with 90% of rates for males and 100% of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 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, 2022 valuation.

**Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date** - Salary increase rates were updated based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021 and were changed from age based to service based.

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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**Note 9 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans** (continued)

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%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

\*Target allocation percentage is effective as of July 1, 2022. Target weights were phased in over a 3-month period concluding on 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 Ohio's 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, 2022. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed STRS Ohio 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, 2022. 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, 2022.

**Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate** - The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2022, 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
	School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	(\$725,968)	(\$785,278)
	1% Decrease In Trend Rate	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase in Trend Rate
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	(\$814,524)	(\$785,278)	(\$748,361)



**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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**Note 10 – Debt**

The changes in the School District’s long-term obligations during fiscal year 2023 were as follows:

	Amount			Amount	Amount
	Outstanding			Outstanding	Due in
	6/30/2022	Additions	Deletions	6/30/2023	One Year
<b>Governmental Activities</b>					
Classroom Facilities Refunding					
Bonds - 2-4%					
Serial Bonds	\$ 4,885,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,885,000	\$ -
Term Bonds	890,000	-	-	890,000	-
Capital Appreciation Bonds	179,993	-	(73,616)	106,377	59,035
Accretion on CABs	672,383	166,188	(316,384)	522,187	330,965
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>\$ 6,627,376</b>	<b>\$ 166,188</b>	<b>\$ (390,000)</b>	<b>\$ 6,403,564</b>	<b>\$ 390,000</b>

During 2015, the School District issued \$7,564,993 in Classroom Facilities Refunding bonds with interest rates ranging from 1.75% to 4%. \$6,495,000 are serial bonds with interest rates ranging from 1.75% to 4%, \$890,000 are term bonds with a 2.75% interest rate, and \$179,993 are capital appreciation bonds, maturing on December 1, 2022, 2023, and 2024 with a maturity value of \$390,000.

The term bonds due December 1, 2029, are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption as follows:

Year	Amount to be Redeemed
2028	\$440,000

The remaining \$450,000 principal amount of the bonds due December 1, 2029, is to be paid at stated maturity.

The School District's overall debt margin was \$6,937,941, the energy conservation debt margin was \$1,138,820 and the un-voted debt margin was \$126,536 at June 30, 2023.

Principal and interest requirements to retire the general obligation bonds and loans outstanding at June 30, 2023, are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Refunding Bonds, 2015	
	Principal	Interest
2024	\$59,035	\$550,841
2025	47,342	562,532
2026	395,000	211,975
2027	405,000	195,975
2028	425,000	179,375
2029-2033	2,330,000	671,813
2034-2036	2,220,000	182,000
Subtotal	5,881,377	2,554,511
Accretion	522,187	(522,187)
Total	<b>\$6,403,564</b>	<b>\$2,032,324</b>

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

**Note 11 – Fund Balance**

Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the School District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in governmental funds.

The constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental funds and all other governmental funds are presented below:

<u>Fund Balance</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Bond Retirement</u>	<u>Other Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Nonspendable:				
Unclaimed Monies	\$ 1,559			\$ 1,559
Total Nonspendable	1,559			1,559
Restricted for:				
Food Service Operations			\$304,860	\$304,860
Grants			173,776	173,776
Classroom Maintenance			761,563	761,563
Athletics			40,576	40,576
Bus Purchases	64,358			64,358
Capital Improvements			818,969	818,969
Debt Service		\$ 1,431,117		1,431,117
Student Activities			73,394	73,394
Total Restricted	64,358	1,431,117	2,173,138	3,668,613
Committed to:				
Scholarships			2,192	2,192
Total Committed			2,192	2,192
Assigned for:				
Unpaid Obligations	31,034			31,034
Public School Supprt	17,390			17,390
Total Assigned	48,424			48,424
Unassigned	6,067,542		(5,519)	6,062,023
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$ 6,181,883</u>	<u>\$ 1,431,117</u>	<u>\$ 2,169,811</u>	<u>\$ 9,782,811</u>

**Note 12 – Set-Aside Requirements**

The School District is required by State statute to annually set aside, in the General Fund, an amount based on a statutory formula for the acquisition and construction of capital improvements. Amounts not spent by the end of the fiscal year or offset by similarly restricted resources received during the fiscal year must be held in cash at fiscal year-end. These amounts must be carried forward and used for the same purposes in future years.

The following cash basis information identifies the changes in the fund balance reserves capital improvements during fiscal year 2023.

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 12 – Set-Aside Requirements** (continued)

	Capital Acquisitions
Set-aside Reserve Balance as of June 30, 2022	\$0
Current Year Set-aside Requirement	174,948
Current Year Offsets	(174,948)
Set-aside Balances	\$0
Amount of Set-aside Carried Forward to Future Fiscal Years	\$0

**Note 13 - Jointly Governed Organizations and Insurance Purchasing Pools**

**A. Jointly Governed Organizations**

*Western Ohio Computer Organization* - The Hardin-Houston Local School District is a participant in the Western Ohio Computer Organization (WOCO), a computer consortium. The Western Ohio Computer Organization is one of the 23 Information Technology Center's (ITC) in the state of Ohio, which were formed in the late 70's, early 80's. These "ITCs" were originally charged to provide computer services to the member school district's fiscal offices, forming what is known today as the OECN, The Ohio Educational Computer Network. WOCO began its operations in 1980 providing computer services to 29 members school districts located in the five-county area of Shelby, Auglaize, Hardin, Logan and Champaign. Today WOCO provides technical services to 34 public school districts, 5 public charter schools and 4 non-public districts.

The governing board of WOCO consists of fourteen members who consist of the Superintendent of the Fiscal Agent, two Superintendents from each county (Auglaize, Champaign, Hardin, Logan and Shelby), one representative from the city schools and one representative each from the treasurer and student services users. The School District paid WOCO \$68,243 for services provided during the fiscal year. Financial information can be obtained from Donn Walls, who serves as Director, at 129 E. Court Street, Sidney, Ohio 45365.

**B. Insurance Purchasing Pools**

*Shelby County Schools Consortium* - The Shelby County Schools Consortium is an insurance purchasing pool among seven local school districts and the Midwest Regional Educational Service Center. The purpose of the Consortium is to achieve more favorable rates for employee insurance by creating a larger pool on which to base the insurance experience. The Consortium acts together to provide health/surgical, dental, and term-life benefits to its participants at a lower rate than if individual districts acted independently.

Each school district pays monthly premiums to the provider, currently Anthem for health, Superior Dental for dental insurance, and Sun Life Financial for life insurance. The Consortium is governed by an administrative committee consisting of the superintendent from each participating district and the service center. The degree of control exercised by any participating school district is limited to its representation on the committee. During fiscal year 2023, the School District contributed \$1,967,830. Financial information can be obtained from Michele Mandelik-Worley, who serves as consultant to the group Horan & Associates, at 7475 Paragon Rd, Dayton, OH 45459.

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 13 - Jointly Governed Organizations and Insurance Purchasing Pools** (continued)

*Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council* - The district participates in the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council (SOEPC), an insurance purchasing pool, for workers' compensation and property insurance. The SOEPC was established under Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code. SOEPC is an incorporated nonprofit association of its members which enables the participants to provide for a formalized joint insurance purchasing program for maintaining adequate insurance protection and provides risk management programs and other administrative services. SOEPC's business and affairs are conducted by a board consisting of seven school administrators, who are elected by the membership each year.

In addition, the cooperative hires attorneys, auditors and actuaries to assist in running the day-to-day program. Gallagher is responsible for the insurance program administration. JWF Specialty Company is responsible for processing claims between SOEPC and its members. Payments to SOEPC are made from the General Fund. During fiscal year 2023, the School District paid \$60,372 to SOEPC. To obtain financial information, write to the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council, Ken Swink, who serves as Director, at 303 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 208, Vandalia, OH 45377.

**Note 14 – Interfund**

During fiscal year 2023, the General Fund transferred \$30,000 to the Athletic Fund to provide support needed. In addition, the Student Activities Fund transferred \$11,789 to the General Fund due to the termination of the McKinney Memorial Press Box Fund.

**Note 15 – Significant Contractual Commitments**

The School District had the following contractual commitments at June 30, 2023:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Cardinal Bus Sales	\$ 267,000	\$ -	\$ 267,000
Low Voltage Solutions	115,277	68,112	47,165

**Note 16 – Contingent Liabilities**

**Grants**

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

**Foundation Funding**

Foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. Traditional districts must comply with minimum hours of instruction, instead of a minimum number of school days each year. The funding formula the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is legislatively required to follow will continue to adjust as enrollment information is updated by the School District, which can extend past the fiscal year-end. As of the date of this report, ODE has finalized the impact of enrollment adjustments to the June 30, 2023 Foundation funding for the School District; and adjustments made to the School District's fiscal year 2023 funding after year-end were not significant..

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 16 – Contingent Liabilities** (continued)

**Litigation**

There are currently no matters in litigation with the School District as defendant.

**Note 17 – Compliance**

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

**Note 18 – Negative Fund Balance**

During fiscal year 2023, the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief – ESSER funds had a deficit fund balance of \$5,519. The deficit will be eliminated when grant dollars are received during the first quarter of fiscal year 2024.

**Note 19 – Implementation of New Accounting Policies**

For fiscal year 2023, the School District has implemented GASB Statement No. 91, “*Conduit Debt Obligations*”, GASB Statement No. 94, “*Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements*”, GASB Statement No. 96, “*Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements*”, certain questions and answers of GASB Implementation Guide 2021-1 and certain paragraphs of GASB Statement No. 99, “*Omnibus 2022*”.

GASB Statement No. 91 provides a single method of reporting conduit debt obligations by issuers and eliminate diversity in practice associated with (1) commitments extended by issuers, (2) arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations, and (3) related note disclosures. This Statement achieves those objectives by clarifying the existing definition of a conduit debt obligation; establishing that a conduit debt obligation is not a liability of the issuer; establishing standards for accounting and financial reporting of additional commitments and voluntary commitments extended by issuers and arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations; and improving required note disclosures. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 91 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School District.

GASB Statement No. 94 is to improve financial reporting by addressing issues related to public-private and public partnership arrangements (PPPs). As used in this Statement, a PPP is an arrangement in which a government (the transferor) contracts with an operator (a governmental or nongovernmental entity) to provide public services by conveying control of the right to operate or use a nonfinancial asset, such as infrastructure or other capital asset (the underlying PPP asset), for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 94 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School District.

**Hardin Houston Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 19 – Implementation of New Accounting Policies** (continued)

GASB Statement No. 96 provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for government end users (governments). This Statement (1) defines a SBITA; (2) establishes that a SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription asset—an intangible asset—and a corresponding subscription liability; (3) provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of a SBITA; and (4) requires note disclosures regarding a SBITA. To the extent relevant, the standards for SBITAs are based on the standards established in Statement No. 87, Leases, as amended. The notes to the basic financial statements include the disclosure requirements under the Statement.

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 School District.

GASB Statement No. 99 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 School District.

**HARDIN-HOUSTON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SHELBY COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

<b>FEDERAL GRANTOR Pass Through Grantor Program / Cluster Title</b>	<b>Federal Assistance Listing Number</b>	<b>Total Federal Expenditures</b>
<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</b>		
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education</i>		
Child Nutrition Cluster:		
Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution):		
National School Lunch Program	10.555	\$30,923
Cash Assistance:		
School Breakfast Program	10.553	66,193
National School Lunch Program	10.555	296,988
Total Child Nutrition Cluster		394,104
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		394,104
<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY</b>		
<i>Passed Through Ohio Office of Budget and Management</i>		
COVID-19 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	21.027	31,605
Total U.S. Department of Treasury		31,605
<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b>		
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education</i>		
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	113,240
Special Education Cluster		
Special Education Grants to States	84.027	180,550
Special Education Preschool Grants	84.173	2,580
Total Special Education Cluster		183,130
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	20,901
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	15,329
COVID-19 - Education Stabilization Fund		
ARP - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425U	166,208
Total COVID-19 - Education Stabilization Fund		166,208
Total U.S. Department of Education		498,808
<b>Total Expenditures of Federal Awards</b>		<b>\$924,517</b>

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.*

**HARDIN-HOUSTON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SHELBY COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS  
2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Hardin-Houston Local School District (the School District) under programs of the federal government for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. 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 School District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in net position of the School District.

**NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

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

**NOTE C – INDIRECT COST RATE**

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

**NOTE D - CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER**

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

**NOTE E – FOOD DONATION PROGRAM**

The School District reports commodities consumed on the Schedule at the entitlement value. The School District allocated donated food commodities to the respective program that benefitted from the use of those donated food commodities.

**NOTE F - TRANSFERS BETWEEN PROGRAM YEARS**

Federal regulations require schools to obligate certain federal awards by June 30. However, with ODE's consent, schools can transfer unobligated amounts to the subsequent fiscal year's program. The School District transferred the following amounts from 2022 to 2023 programs:

<u>Program Title</u>	<u>AL Number</u>	<u>Amt. Transferred</u>
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	\$ 31,712
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	\$ 5,329



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER  
FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS  
REQUIRED BY GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Hardin-Houston Local School District  
Shelby County  
5300 Houston Road  
Houston, Ohio 45333

To the Board of Education:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Hardin-Houston Local School District, Shelby County, (the School District) as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated January 25, 2024, wherein we noted the School District uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

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

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

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the School District'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 School District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matter that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2023-001.

***School District's Response to Findings***

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

***Purpose of this Report***

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



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

January 25, 2024



88 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov  
(800) 282-0370

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS  
APPLICABLE TO THE MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER  
COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE**

Hardin-Houston Local School District  
Shelby County  
5300 Houston Road  
Houston, Ohio 45333

To the Board of Education:

**Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program**

***Opinion on the Major Federal Program***

We have audited Hardin-Houston Local School District's, Shelby County, (the School District) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on Hardin-Houston Local School District's major federal program for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. Hardin-Houston Local School District's major federal program is identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

In our opinion, Hardin-Houston Local School District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

***Basis for Opinion on the 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 *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section of our report.

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

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

The School District's 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 School District's federal programs.

### ***Auditor's 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 School District's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the School District's compliance with the requirements of the 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 School District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of the School District's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School District's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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

### **Report on Internal Control Over Compliance**

*A deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or 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 *Auditor's 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 this testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

January 25, 2024

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**HARDIN-HOUSTON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SHELBY COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
2 CFR § 200.515  
JUNE 30, 2023**

**1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS**

<b>(d)(1)(i)</b>	<b>Type of Financial Statement Opinion</b>	Unmodified
<b>(d)(1)(ii)</b>	<b>Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?</b>	No
<b>(d)(1)(ii)</b>	<b>Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?</b>	No
<b>(d)(1)(iii)</b>	<b>Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?</b>	Yes
<b>(d)(1)(iv)</b>	<b>Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?</b>	No
<b>(d)(1)(iv)</b>	<b>Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?</b>	No
<b>(d)(1)(v)</b>	<b>Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion</b>	Unmodified
<b>(d)(1)(vi)</b>	<b>Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?</b>	No
<b>(d)(1)(vii)</b>	<b>Major Programs (list):</b>	Child Nutrition Cluster
<b>(d)(1)(viii)</b>	<b>Dollar Threshold: Type A/B Programs</b>	Type A: > \$ 750,000 Type B: all others
<b>(d)(1)(ix)</b>	<b>Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR § 200.520?</b>	No

**2. FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS**

**FINDING NUMBER 2023-001**

**Noncompliance**

**Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38** provides that each public office shall file a financial report for each fiscal year. The Auditor of State may prescribe forms by rule or may issue guidelines, or both, for such reports. If the Auditor of State has not prescribed a rule regarding the form for the report, the public office shall submit its report on the form utilized by the public office.

**Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(B)**, which further clarifies the requirements of Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38, requires the School District to file annual financial reports which are prepared using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

**FINDING NUMBER 2023-001  
(Continued)**

The School District prepared financial statements that, although formatted similar to financial statements prescribed by Governmental Accounting Standards Board, report on the cash basis of accounting rather than GAAP. The accompanying financial statements and notes omit certain assets, liabilities, deferred inflows/outflows of resources, fund equities/net position, and disclosures that, while presumed material, cannot be determined at this time.

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 the School District may be fined and subject to various other administrative remedies for its failure to file the required financial report. Failure to report on a GAAP basis compromises the School District's ability to evaluate and monitor the overall financial condition of the School District. To help provide the users with more meaningful financial statements, the School District should prepare its annual financial statements according to generally accepted accounting principles.

**Officials' Response:**

It is the position of the district that the filing of OCBOA financial statements is adequate. GAAP statements do not add a significant value to the overall financial statements, therefore this substantial additional expense associated with the preparation and audit of GAAP would not be justified.

<b>3. FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS</b>
---------------------------------------

None.





# Hardin-Houston Local School

5300 Houston Road, Houston, Ohio 45333

Ryan Maier  
Superintendent  
Sara Roseberry  
Elementary Principal

Amy Ayers  
Treasurer  
Jeff Judy  
High School Principal

Craig Knouff  
Assistant Principal  
Athletic Director

ph: (937) 295-3010 fx: (937) 295-3737

## SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS 2 CFR § 200.511(b) JUNE 30, 2023

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2022-001	Noncompliance – ORC117.38 and OAC 117-2-03 – Failure to File GAAP Originally issued as Finding 2016-001	Not Corrected	Repeated as Finding 2023-001

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# Hardin-Houston Local School

5300 Houston Road, Houston, Ohio 45333

Ryan Maier  
Superintendent  
Sara Roseberry  
Elementary Principal

Amy Ayers  
Treasurer  
Jeff Judy  
High School Principal

Craig Knouff  
Assistant Principal  
Athletic Director

ph: (937) 295-3010 fx: (937) 295-3737

## CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN 2 CFR § 200.511(c) JUNE 30, 2023

**Finding Number:** 2023-001  
**Planned Corrective Action:** No Correction Action Plan – It is the position of the district that the filing of OCBOA financial statements is adequate. GAAP statements do not add a significant value to the overall financial statements, therefore this substantial additional expense associated with the preparation and audit of GAAP would not be justified.  
**Anticipated Completion Date:** N/A  
**Responsible Contact Person:** Amy J. Ayers, Treasurer

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**HARDIN-HOUSTON LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
SHELBY 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 2/13/2024**

88 East Broad 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](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)