



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MARION COUNTY**

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MARION COUNTY**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

River Valley Local School District
Marion County
197 Brocklesby Road
Caledonia, Ohio 43314

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 the River Valley Local School District, Marion County, Ohio (the School District), as of and for the 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 School District, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position and where applicable cash flows thereof and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. 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 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 March 21, 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

March 21, 2024

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River Valley Local School District
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis
June 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities
<u>Assets:</u>	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$9,690,195
 <u>Net Position:</u>	
Restricted For:	
Debt Service	\$1,260,515
Food Service	766,678
Classroom Facilities Maintenance	35,737
Student Activities	171,560
School Safety	374,114
Other Purposes	191,879
Unrestricted	6,889,712
Total Net Position	\$9,690,195

See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

River Valley Local School District
Statement of Activities - Cash Basis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Program Cash Receipts			Net (Disbursement) Receipt and Change in Net Position
	Disbursements	Charges for Services	Operating Grants, Contributions, and Interest	Governmental Activities
<u>Governmental Activities:</u>				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$10,243,183	\$246,174	\$652,332	(\$9,344,677)
Special	2,733,099	575,218	1,124,332	(1,033,549)
Vocational	377,623	0	137,279	(240,344)
Support Services:				
Pupils	1,215,562	0	279,246	(936,316)
Instructional Staff	431,157	0	0	(431,157)
Board of Education	16,205	0	0	(16,205)
Administration	2,125,990	0	104,346	(2,021,644)
Fiscal	647,168	0	0	(647,168)
Business	38,407	0	0	(38,407)
Operation and Maintenance of Pla	1,924,650	0	324,620	(1,600,030)
Pupil Transportation	1,746,677	11,644	80,105	(1,654,928)
Central	530,456	0	7,993	(522,463)
Non-Instructional Services	1,477,494	556,644	863,615	(57,235)
Extracurricular Activities	741,533	502,924	57,973	(180,636)
Capital Outlay	508,033	0	0	(508,033)
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	1,310,000	0	0	(1,310,000)
Interest	88,780	0	0	(88,780)
Total Governmental Activities	<u>\$26,156,017</u>	<u>\$1,892,604</u>	<u>\$3,631,841</u>	<u>(20,631,572)</u>

General Receipts:

Property Taxes Levied for General Purposes	7,780,292
Property Taxes Levied for Classroom Facilities Purposes	111,743
Property Taxes Levied for Debt Service Purposes	1,183,632
Income Taxes	2,974,085
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	350,567
Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs	9,788,627
Investment Earnings and Other Interest	270,498
Other	241,556
Total General Receipts	<u>22,701,000</u>
Change in Net Position	2,069,428
Net Position at Beginning of Year	<u>7,620,767</u>
Net Position at End of Year	<u>\$9,690,195</u>

See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

River Valley Local School District
Statement of Cash Basis Assets and Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2023

	General	Bond Retirement	Other Governmental	Total Governmental Funds
<u>Assets:</u>				
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$6,559,290	\$1,260,515	\$1,394,584	\$9,214,389
<u>Fund Balances:</u>				
Restricted	\$0	\$1,260,515	\$1,539,968	\$2,800,483
Assigned	453,290	0	0	453,290
Unassigned (Deficit)	6,106,000	0	(145,384)	5,960,616
Total Fund Balances	\$6,559,290	\$1,260,515	\$1,394,584	\$9,214,389

See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

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

	General	Bond Retirement	Other Governmental	Total Governmental Funds
<u>Receipts:</u>				
Property Taxes	\$7,780,292	\$1,183,632	\$111,743	\$9,075,667
Income Taxes	2,974,085	0	0	2,974,085
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	350,567	0	0	350,567
Intergovernmental	9,976,429	317,119	3,012,658	13,306,206
Investment Earnings and Other Interest	270,498	0	29,190	299,688
Tuition and Fees	833,036	0	0	833,036
Extracurricular Activities	7,098	0	553,423	560,521
Charges for Services	0	0	556,644	556,644
Gifts and Donations	0	0	27,475	27,475
Other	152,610	0	88,946	241,556
Total Receipts	22,344,615	1,500,751	4,380,079	28,225,445
<u>Disbursements:</u>				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	9,664,499	0	578,684	10,243,183
Special	2,304,619	0	428,480	2,733,099
Vocational	366,628	0	10,995	377,623
Support Services:				
Pupils	1,000,238	0	215,324	1,215,562
Instructional Staff	431,157	0	0	431,157
Board of Education	16,205	0	0	16,205
Administration	1,736,071	0	389,919	2,125,990
Fiscal	614,908	29,479	2,781	647,168
Business	38,407	0	0	38,407
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,681,851	0	242,799	1,924,650
Pupil Transportation	1,744,411	0	2,266	1,746,677
Central	529,223	0	1,233	530,456
Non-Instructional Services	0	0	1,477,494	1,477,494
Extracurricular Activities	46,169	0	695,364	741,533
Capital Outlay	301,447	0	206,586	508,033
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	0	1,310,000	0	1,310,000
Interest	0	88,780	0	88,780
Total Disbursements	20,475,833	1,428,259	4,251,925	26,156,017
Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements	1,868,782	72,492	128,154	2,069,428
<u>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</u>				
Advances In	0	0	53,796	53,796
Advances Out	(53,796)	0	0	(53,796)
Transfers In	0	0	149,334	149,334
Transfers Out	(149,334)	0	0	(149,334)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(203,130)	0	203,130	0
Changes in Fund Balances	1,665,652	72,492	331,284	2,069,428
Fund Balances at Beginning of Year	4,893,638	1,188,023	1,063,300	7,144,961
Fund Balances at End of Year	\$6,559,290	\$1,260,515	\$1,394,584	\$9,214,389

See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

River Valley Local School District
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balance
Budget (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual
General Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance With
	Original	Final		Final Budget
<u>Receipts:</u>				
Property Taxes	\$7,178,600	\$7,793,924	\$7,780,292	(\$13,632)
Income Taxes	2,411,102	2,974,102	2,974,085	(17)
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	285,000	350,567	350,567	0
Intergovernmental	9,770,484	9,988,730	9,976,429	(12,301)
Interest	13,000	233,698	270,498	36,800
Tuition and Fees	802,100	850,019	833,036	(16,983)
Extracurricular Activities	6,000	7,295	7,098	(197)
Other	67,000	59,125	49,666	(9,459)
Total Receipts	20,533,286	22,257,460	22,241,671	(15,789)
<u>Disbursements:</u>				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	10,237,149	9,848,850	9,696,672	152,178
Special	2,072,258	2,365,400	2,310,528	54,872
Vocational	366,072	406,188	400,380	5,808
Support Services:				
Pupils	858,270	973,702	968,205	5,497
Instructional Staff	431,218	436,908	431,231	5,677
Board of Education	34,755	22,340	16,205	6,135
Administration	1,734,113	1,824,615	1,749,930	74,685
Fiscal	640,065	666,292	647,117	19,175
Business	80,857	41,969	41,465	504
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,874,804	1,790,743	1,756,378	34,365
Pupil Transportation	1,402,557	1,911,516	1,813,811	97,705
Central	728,450	704,387	659,091	45,296
Extracurricular Activities	40,416	51,067	46,169	4,898
Capital Outlay	24,040	301,447	301,447	0
Public School Support				
Pupils	30,000	36,278	33,713	2,565
Total Disbursements	20,555,024	21,381,702	20,872,342	509,360
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements	(21,738)	875,758	1,369,329	493,571
<u>Other Financing Sources (Uses):</u>				
Refund of Prior Year Expenditures	20,000	102,944	102,944	0
Advances Out	(25,000)	(53,796)	(53,796)	0
Transfers Out	0	(149,334)	(149,334)	0
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(5,000)	(100,186)	(100,186)	0
Changes in Fund Balance	(26,738)	775,572	1,269,143	493,571
Fund Balance at Beginning of Year	4,334,217	4,334,217	4,334,217	0
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	559,421	559,421	559,421	0
Fund Balance at End of Year	\$4,866,900	\$5,669,210	\$6,162,781	\$493,571

River Valley Local School District
Statement of Fund Net Position - Cash Basis
Proprietary Fund
June 30, 2023

	Governmental Activity
	Internal Service
<u>Current Assets:</u>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$475,806
<u>Net Position:</u>	
Unrestricted	\$475,806

See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

River Valley Local School District
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Change in Fund Net Position - Cash Basis
Proprietary Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Governmental Activity
	Internal Service
<u>Operating Revenues:</u>	\$0
<u>Operating Expenses:</u>	0
Change in Net Position	0
Net Position at Beginning of Year	475,806
Net Position at End of Year	\$475,806

See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

River Valley Local School District
Statement of Cash Flows
Proprietary Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	<u>Governmental Activity Internal Service</u>
Net Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$0
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<u>475,806</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<u><u>\$475,806</u></u>

See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

River Valley Local School District
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis
Private Purpose Trust Fund
June 30, 2023

	<u>Private Purpose Trust</u>
<u>Assets:</u>	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$1,250</u>
<u>Net Position:</u>	
Held in Trust for Scholarships	<u>\$1,250</u>

See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 1 - Description of the School District and Reporting Entity

River Valley 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 consisting of five members elected at-large for staggered four year terms. The School District provides educational services as authorized by state and federal guidelines.

The School District was established in 1960. The School District serves an area of approximately one hundred thirty-one square miles. It is located in Marion and Morrow Counties, and includes all of the Villages of Caledonia, Claridon, Martel, and Waldo. It is staffed by seventy-five classified employees, one hundred twenty-nine certified teaching personnel, and twenty-three administrative employees who provide services to 1,868 students and other community members. The School District currently operates four instructional buildings, an administration building, and a bus garage.

Reporting Entity

A reporting entity is composed of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure the financial statements are not misleading. 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 River Valley Local School District, this includes general operations, food service, and student related activities of the School District.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the School District is financially accountable. The School District is financially accountable for an organization if the School District appoints a voting majority of the organization’s governing board and (1) the School District is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the School District is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization’s resources; the School District is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the School District is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the School District in that the School District approves the budget, the issuance of debt, or the levying of taxes, and there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to or impose specific financial burdens on the School District. There are no component units of the River Valley Local School District.

The School District participates in three jointly governed organizations and three insurance pools. These organizations are the Metropolitan Educational Technology Association, the Tri-Rivers Joint Vocational School, the Marion Area Workforce Acceleration Collaborative (MAWAC), the Ohio School Plan, the Ohio Schools Council Workers’ Compensation Group Rating Plan, and the Stark County Schools Council of Governments Health Benefit Plan. These organizations are presented in Notes 20 and 21 to the basic financial statements.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. This basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Generally accepted accounting principles include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. Following are the more significant of the 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.

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. These statements usually distinguish between those activities of the School District that are governmental activities (primarily supported by taxes and intergovernmental receipts) and those that are considered business-type activities (primarily supported by fees and charges). However, the School District does not have any business-type activities. The activity of the internal service fund is eliminated to avoid "doubling up" receipts and disbursements and is presented as governmental activities on the statement of net position.

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 School District is responsible. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services and grants, contributions, and interest restricted to meeting the operational requirements of 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. In fiscal year 2023, receipts in the amount of \$400,000 were received and reflected as general revenue as the program has not been assigned.

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 reporting is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. The internal service fund is presented in a single column on the proprietary fund financial statements. Fiduciary funds are reported by type.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

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 divided into three categories; governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary.

Governmental Funds

The School District classifies funds financed primarily from taxes, intergovernmental receipts (e.g. grants), and other non-exchange transactions as governmental funds. The School District's two major governmental funds are the General Fund and the Bond Retirement debt service fund.

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.

Bond Retirement Fund - The Bond Retirement debt service fund is used to account for property taxes and other resources restricted for the payment of principal and interest on general obligation bonds issued for the construction of two elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school.

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

Proprietary Funds

Proprietary fund reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, change in net position, financial position, and cash flows. The School District reports one type of proprietary fund, an internal service fund.

Internal Service Fund - The internal service fund accounts for the financing of services provided by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of the School District on a cost reimbursement basis. The School District's internal service fund accounts for the remaining balance of the self-insurance program that ended in fiscal year 2021. The self insurance program had no activity during fiscal year 2023.

Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds, and custodial funds. Trust funds are distinguished from custodial funds by the existence of a trust agreement or equivalent arrangements that have certain characteristics. Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

The School District's private purpose trust fund accounts for a program which provides college scholarships to students after graduation.

C. Basis of Accounting

The School District's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Except for modifications having substantial support, 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 the 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 the financial statements.

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 expenditures plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Board. The legal level of budgetary control selected by the Board is at the fund level for all funds. Any budgetary modifications at this level may only be made by resolution of the Board of Education. Budgetary allocations at the function and object level within all funds are made by the School District Treasurer.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the fiscal year if projected increases or decreases in revenue 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 final amended certificate of estimated resources requested by the School District prior to year end.

The appropriations 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 appropriations 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.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

E. Cash and Investments

To improve cash management, cash received by the School District is pooled. 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”.

During fiscal year 2023, the School District’s investments consisted of STAR Ohio. STAR Ohio is an investment pool, managed by the State Treasurer’s Office, which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company but has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 79, “Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants”. The School District measures the investment in STAR Ohio at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides a NAV per share that approximates fair value.

For fiscal year 2023, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, twenty-four hours advance notice is appreciated for deposits and withdrawals exceeding \$100 million. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$250 million requiring the excess amount to be transacted the following business day(s) but only to the \$250 million limit. All accounts of the participant will be combined for this purpose.

The School District allocates interest earnings according to State statutes. Interest revenue credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2023 was \$270,498, which includes \$67,665 assigned from other School District funds.

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 with an initial maturity of more than three months that were not purchased from the pool are reported as investments.

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

F. Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. The financial statements do not report these assets.

G. Compensated Absences

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

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

H. Long-Term Obligations

Cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received and principal and interest payments are reported when disbursements are made.

I. Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use either through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes includes resources restricted for music and athletic programs and federal and state grants. The School District's policy is to first apply restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

J. 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:

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

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

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

Assigned - Amounts in the assigned classification are intended to be used by the 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. Assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the Board of Education. Fund balance policy of the Board of Education has authorized the Treasurer to assign fund balance for purchases on order provided those amounts have been lawfully appropriated. Certain resources have also been assigned for various educational and administrative activities.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Unassigned - Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

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

K. Operating Receipts and Disbursements

Operating receipts are those receipts that are generated directly from the primary activity of the proprietary fund. For the School District, these receipts are insurance premiums. Operating disbursements are the necessary costs incurred to provide the service that is the primary activity of the fund. All receipts and disbursements not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating.

L. Interfund Activity

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

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

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

M. Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB liability (asset), deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension/OPEB, and pensions/OPEB expense, 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.

Note 3 - Accountability and Compliance

A. Accountability

At June 30, 2023, the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief, 21st Century Grant, Title VI-B, Title I, Title IV-A, Early Childhood Ed IDEA, and Title VI-R Class Reduction special revenue funds had deficit fund balances, in the amount of \$68,080, \$7,448, \$45,856, \$21,568, \$1,361, \$17, and \$1,054, respectively, resulting from disbursements in advance of grant receipts. The General Fund provides transfers to cover deficit balances; however, this is done when cash is needed.

B. Compliance

Ohio Administrative Code Section 17-2-3(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, net position/fund balance, and disclosure 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 4 - 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 Receipts, Disbursements, 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 the cash basis is outstanding year end encumbrances which are treated as cash disbursements (budgetary basis) rather than restricted, committed, or assigned fund balance (cash basis). Encumbrances outstanding at year end (budgetary basis) was \$396,509 for the General Fund.

Note 5 - 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 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.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 5 - Deposits and Investments (continued)

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those monies which are not needed for immediate use but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts, including passbook accounts.

Protection of the 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, 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 may be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other 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, and Government National Mortgage 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. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in 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;
7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio); and
8. Certain bankers' acceptances for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days and commercial paper notes for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time (if training requirements have been met).

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 5 - Deposits and Investments (continued)

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 settlement, 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. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the School District Treasurer or qualified trustee or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

Investments

As of June 30, 2023, the School District had funds on deposit with STAR Ohio, in the amount of \$7,415,371. The School District's investments in STAR Ohio had an average maturity of 38.5 days. STAR Ohio carries a rating of AAA by Standards and Poor's. The School District has no policy regarding interest rate or credit risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service.

Note 6 - Property Taxes

Property taxes are levied and assessed on a calendar year basis, while the School District's fiscal year runs from July through June. First-half tax distributions are received by the School District in the second half of the fiscal year. Second-half tax distributions are received 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 revenues received in calendar year 2023 represent the collection of calendar year 2022 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2023 were levied after April 1, 2022, on the assessed values as of January 1, 2022, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State statute at 35 percent of appraised market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semiannually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established.

Public utility property tax revenues received in calendar year 2023 represent the collection of calendar year 2022 taxes. Public utility real and tangible personal property taxes received in calendar year 2023 became a lien on 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 is currently assessed at varying percentages of true value.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 6 - Property Taxes (continued)

The School District receives property taxes from Marion and Morrow Counties. The County Auditors periodically advance to the School District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the counties 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 fiscal year 2023 taxes were collected are:

	2022 Second- Half Collections		2023 First- Half Collections	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Agricultural/Residential	\$236,835,310	71.92%	\$292,361,751	75.73%
Industrial/Commercial	72,430,890	22.00	72,588,820	18.80
Public Utility	20,017,830	6.08	21,131,310	5.47
Total Assessed Value	\$329,284,030	100.00%	\$386,081,881	100.00%
Tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation	\$37.84		\$37.32	

Note 7 - Income Taxes

The School District levies a voted tax of 1 percent for general operations on the income of residents and of estates. The tax was effective on January 1, 2020, for a five year period. 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. Income tax revenue is credited to the General Fund.

Note 8 - Payment in Lieu of Taxes

In accordance with agreements related to tax increment financing districts, Marion County has entered into agreements with a number of property owners under which Marion County has granted property tax exemptions to those property owners. The property owners have agreed to make payments to Marion County which reflect all or a portion of the property taxes which the property owners would have paid if the taxes had not been exempted. The agreements provide for a portion of these payments to be paid to the School District. The property owners contractually promise to make these payments in lieu of taxes until the agreement expires.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 9 - Tax Abatements

The School District's property taxes were reduced as follows under community reinvestment area agreements entered into by overlapping governments.

Overlapping Government	Amount of Fiscal Year 2023 Taxes Abated
Community Reinvestment Area	
Marion County	\$25,993

Note 10 - Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, was as follows:

	Balance at 6/30/22	Additions	Reductions	Balance at 6/30/23
Governmental Activities				
Nondepreciable Capital Assets				
Land	\$1,310,270	\$0	\$0	\$1,310,270
Depreciable Capital Assets				
Land Improvements	1,027,114	0	0	1,027,114
Buildings and Building Improvements	40,174,551	312,790	0	40,487,341
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment	1,515,453	397,009	(10,898)	1,901,564
Vehicles	1,743,482	262,196	0	2,005,678
Total Depreciable Capital Assets	44,460,600	971,995	(10,898)	45,421,697
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	\$45,770,870	\$971,995	(\$10,898)	\$46,731,967

Note 11 - Risk Management

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 contracted for the following insurance coverage.

Coverage provided by the Ohio School Plan is as follows:

General Liability	
Per Occurrence	\$5,000,000
General Aggregate	7,000,000
Building and Contents	79,095,798
Vehicle Liability	5,000,000

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 11 - Risk Management (continued)

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

For fiscal year 2023, the School District participated in the Ohio School Plan (Plan), an insurance purchasing pool. Each participant enters into an individual agreement with the Plan for insurance coverage and pays annual premiums to the Plan based on the types and limits of coverage and deductibles selected by the participant.

The School District participates in the Ohio Schools Council Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (Plan), an insurance purchasing pool. The intent of the Plan 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 Plan. The workers' compensation experience of the participants is calculated as one experience and a common premium rate is applied to all participants in the Plan. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the Plan rather than its individual rate. Participation in the Plan is limited to participants that can meet the Plan's selection criteria. The firm of Sheakley Uniservice, Inc. provides administrative, cost control, and actuarial services to the Plan.

The School District participates in the Stark County Schools Council of Governments Health Benefit Plan (Plan), a public entity shared risk pool. The School District pays monthly premiums to the Plan for employee medical, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits. The Plan is responsible for the management and operations of the program. Upon withdrawal from the Plan, the participant is responsible for the payment of all Plan liabilities to its employees, dependents, and designated beneficiaries accruing as a result of withdrawal.

Note 12 - Contractual Commitments

At fiscal year end, the amount of significant encumbrances expected to be honored upon performance by the vendor in fiscal year 2023 are as follows:

General Fund	\$396,509
Other Governmental Funds	692,211

Note 13 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

Pensions and OPEB are a component of exchange transactions - between an employer and its employees of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions/OPEB are provided to an employee on a deferred-payment basis as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period.

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) represent the 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.

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 14 for the required OPEB disclosures.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 13 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans (continued)

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, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3309. SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about SERS’ fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by visiting the SERS website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

	Eligible to Retire on or before August 1, 2017 *	Eligible to Retire 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 percent for the first thirty years of service and 2.5 percent for years of service credit over 30. Final average salary is the average of the highest three years of salary.

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. New benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. The COLA is indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5 percent and with a floor of 0 percent. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. The Retirement Board approved a 2.5 percent COLA for calendar year 2023.

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the School District is required to contribute 14 percent of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS’ Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10 percent for plan members and 14 percent for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System’s funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.0 percent. For fiscal year 2023, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The School District’s contractually required contribution to SERS was \$386,243 for fiscal year 2023.

Note 13 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans (continued)

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 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.

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

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0 percent upon a determination by its actuary that it was necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients’ base benefit and past cost-of living increases are not affected by this change. Effective July 1, 2022, an ad-hoc COLA of 3 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2023 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2018. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit and at least age 60.

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

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 9.53 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. The member determines how to allocate the member and employer money among various investment choices offered by STRS. The remaining 4.47 percent of the 14 percent employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

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

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 13 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans (continued)

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

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

Funding Policy – Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The 2023 employer and employee contribution rate of 14 percent was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For 2023, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The School District contractually required contribution to STRS was \$1,389,138 for 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 contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.07366050%	0.07188769%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.07344110%	0.07194060%	
Change in Proportionate Share	0.00021940%	-0.00005291%	
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$3,984,133	\$15,980,723	\$19,964,856

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 13 - 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, are presented below:

	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.4 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent 2.0 percent, on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of System expenses
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)

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 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent 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 percent for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 13 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans (continued)

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

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

<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>	

Discount Rate - The total pension liability for 2022 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.00 percent). Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

Sensitivity of the School 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 percent, as well as what each plan's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current rate.

	<u>1% Decrease (6.00%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (7.00%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (8.00%)</u>
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$5,864,453	\$3,984,133	\$2,399,988

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 13 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans (continued)

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

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

	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.50 percent
Salary increases	From 2.5 percent to 12.5 percent based on age
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0.0 percent, effective July 1, 2017

For 2022, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110 percent 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 percent 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.

For 2021, post-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50 percent of rates through age 69, 70 percent of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90 percent of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100 percent of rates, thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Table with 90 percent of rates for males and 100 percent 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.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 13 - Defined Benefit Pension 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 Rate of Return **
Domestic Equity	26.00%	6.60%
International Equity	22.00	6.80
Alternatives	19.00	7.38
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75
Real Estate	10.00	5.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	1.00
Total	100.00%	

* Target allocation percentage is effective 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 percent, and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS' investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00 percent 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 rate increases described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS' fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2022. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2022.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 13 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans (continued)

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

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$24,141,056	\$15,980,723	\$9,079,609

Social Security System

Effective July 1, 1991, all employees not otherwise covered by the State Teachers Retirement System or the School Employees Retirement System have an option to choose Social Security or the State Teachers Retirement System/School Employees Retirement System. As of June 30, 2023, three of the Board of Education members has elected Social Security. The Board's liability is 6.2 percent of wages paid.

Note 14 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans

See Note 13 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description - The School 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. The following types of credit purchased after January 29, 1981 do not count toward health care coverage eligibility: military, federal, out-of-state, municipal, private school, exempted, and early retirement incentive credit. In addition to age and service retirees, disability benefit recipients and beneficiaries who are receiving monthly benefits due to the death of a member or retiree, are eligible for SERS' health care coverage. Most retirees and dependents choosing SERS' health care coverage are over the age of 65 and therefore enrolled in a fully insured Medicare Advantage plan; however, SERS maintains a traditional, self-insured preferred provider organization for its non-Medicare retiree population. For both groups, SERS offers a self-insured prescription drug program. Health care is a benefit that is permitted, not mandated, by statute. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 14 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans (continued)

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2023, no allocation was made to 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 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2023, the School District's surcharge obligation was \$53,450.

The surcharge, added to the allocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The School District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$53,450 for fiscal year 2023.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

Funding Policy – Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. All benefit recipients 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 percent of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 14 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans (continued)

Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

The net OPEB liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total OPEB 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 respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.07534950%	0.07188769%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.07579010%	0.07194060%	
Change in Proportionate Share	-0.00044060%	-0.00005291%	
Proportionate Share of the:			
Net OPEB Liability	\$1,057,914	\$0	\$1,057,914
Net OPEB Asset	\$0	\$1,861,410	\$1,861,410

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.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 14 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans (continued)

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

	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	
Wage Increases	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expense, including inflation
Fiduciary Net Position is Projected to be Depleted	2044
Municipal Bond Index Rate:	
Measurement Date	3.69 percent
Prior Measurement Date	1.92 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation	
Measurement Date	4.08 percent
Prior Measurement Date	2.27 percent
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	
Medicare	5.125 to 4.40 percent
Pre-Medicare	6.75 to 4.40 percent
Medical Trend Assumption	7.00 to 4.40 percent

Mortality rates among healthy retirees 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 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent 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 percent for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Mortality rates for contingent survivors were based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Contingent Survivor mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 105.5 percent for males and adjusted 122.5 percent for females. Mortality rates for actives is based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table.

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

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 14 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans (continued)

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial five-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 percent, 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 SERS health care plan follows the same asset allocation and long-term expected real rate of return for each major asset class as the pension plan, see Note 13.

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2022 was 4.08 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2021, was 2.27 percent. 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 percent of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent 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 percent at June 30, 2022 and 1.92 percent at June 30, 2021.

Sensitivity of the School 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 of SERS, what SERS' 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 SERS' 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.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 14 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans (continued)

	1% Decrease (3.08%)	Current Discount Rate (4.08%)	1% Increase (5.08%)
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$1,313,946	\$1,057,914	\$851,228
	1% Decrease (6.00% decreasing to 3.40%)	Current Trend Rate (7.00% decreasing to 4.40%)	1% Increase (8.00% decreasing to 5.40%)
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$815,842	\$1,057,914	\$1,374,101

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

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

	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent	Varies by age from 2.5 percent to 12.50 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3 percent	3 percent
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent	7.00 percent
Health Care Cost Trends		
Medical		
Pre-Medicare	7.50 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	5.00 percent initial 4 percent ultimate
Medicare	-68.78 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	-16.18 percent initial 4 percent ultimate
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	9.00 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	6.50 percent initial 4 percent ultimate
Medicare	-5.47 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	29.98 percent initial 4 percent ultimate

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

For 2022, healthy retirees post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110 percent 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 percent 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.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 14 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans (continued)

For 2021, healthy retirees the mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50 percent of rates through age 69, 70 percent of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90 percent of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100 percent 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 Table with 90 percent of rates for males and 100 percent 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.

The STRS health care plan follows the same asset allocation and long-term expected real rate of return for each major asset class as the pension plan, see Note 13.

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed STRS continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on these 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 plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected health care costs to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2022.

Sensitivity of the School 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 percent, 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 percent) or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) 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 (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$1,720,826	\$1,861,410	\$1,981,835
		Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$1,930,737	\$1,861,410	\$1,773,906

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 15 - Other Employee Benefits

A. Compensated Absences

The criteria for determining vacation and sick leave benefits are derived from negotiated agreements and State laws. Classified employees earn ten to twenty-five days of vacation per fiscal year, depending upon length of service. Up to ten days of unused vacation may be carried forward to the succeeding fiscal year. Teachers do not earn vacation time.

Teachers, administrators, and classified employees earn sick leave at a rate of one and one-fourth days per month. Sick leave may be accumulated up to a maximum of two hundred thirty-five days for classified employees and two hundred twenty-five days for certified employees. Upon retirement, payment is made for one-fourth of accrued, but unused sick leave credit to a maximum of fifty days for classified employees and forty-five days for certified employees.

B. Health Care Benefits

The School District offers medical, dental, vision, and life insurance to most employees through the Stark County Schools Council of Governments Health Benefit Plan. The employees share the cost of the monthly premium with the Board. The premium varies with each employee depending on marital and family status. The School District offers dental, vision, and life insurance through Delta Dental, Vision Service Plan, and Grady Enterprises, respectively.

Note 16 - Long-Term Obligations

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

	Balance at 6/30/22	Additions	Reductions	Balance at 6/30/23	Amounts Due Within One Year
Governmental Activities					
General Obligation Bonds					
FY2002 School Improvement Bonds 2.2-5.25%	\$1,455,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,455,000	\$1,455,000
General Obligation Bonds from Direct Placement					
FY2018 School Improvement Refunding Bonds					
Term Bonds - 1.946%	1,310,000	0	1,310,000	0	0
Total Governmental Activities Long -Term Obligations	<u>\$2,765,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,310,000</u>	<u>\$1,455,000</u>	<u>\$1,455,000</u>

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 16 - Long-Term Obligations (continued)

FY2002 School Improvement Bonds - On October 21, 2001, the School District issued bonds, in the original amount of \$19,600,000, for the construction of two elementary schools, including multipurpose rooms for school and community use; construction of a new middle school and high school and equipping them for technology for classroom instruction; and landscaping. The bonds have an interest rate ranging from 2.2 percent to 5.25 percent. The bonds were issued for a twenty-two year period, with final maturity in fiscal year 2024. During fiscal year 2008, a portion of the serial bonds, in the amount of \$9,255,000, was refunded. The bonds are being retired through the Bond Retirement debt service fund.

FY 2018 School Improvement Refunding Bonds - On August 8, 2017, the School District issued bonds, in the amount of \$6,180,000, to currently refund bonds previously issued in fiscal year 2008 for the construction of two elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. The refunding bonds are term bonds. The bonds were issued for a five year period, with final maturity in fiscal year 2023. The bonds are being retired through the Bond Retirement debt service fund.

The refunded bonds were fully retired on November 1, 2017.

The School District's overall debt margin was \$34,552,884 with an unvoted debt margin of \$386,082 at June 30, 2023.

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

Fiscal Year Ending	General Obligation Bonds		
	From Direct Placement		
	Serial	Interest	Total
2024	\$1,455,000	\$38,194	\$1,493,194
	\$1,455,000	\$38,194	\$1,493,194

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 17 - 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</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Restricted for:				
Athletics and Music	\$0	\$0	\$48,512	\$48,512
Debt Retirement	0	1,260,515	0	1,260,515
Food Service Operations	0	0	766,678	766,678
Regular Instruction	0	0	44,437	44,437
School Aged Childcare	0	0	98,380	98,380
School Facilities Maintenance	0	0	35,737	35,737
School Safety	0	0	374,114	374,114
Student Activities	0	0	171,560	171,560
Vocational Instruction	0	0	550	550
Total Restricted	<u>0</u>	<u>1,260,515</u>	<u>1,539,968</u>	<u>2,800,483</u>
Assigned for:				
Educational Activities	51,170	0	0	51,170
Administrative Activities	5,611	0	0	5,611
Unpaid Obligations	396,509	0	0	396,509
Total Assigned	<u>453,290</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>453,290</u>
Unassigned (Deficit)	6,106,000	0	(145,384)	5,960,616
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$6,559,290</u>	<u>\$1,260,515</u>	<u>\$1,394,584</u>	<u>\$9,214,389</u>

Note 18 - Set Asides

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. The amount 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. This amount must be carried forward and used for the same purpose in future years.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 18 - Set Asides (continued)

The following cash basis information identifies the change in the fund balance set aside for capital improvements during fiscal year 2023.

	Capital Improvements
Balance June 30, 2022	\$0
Current Year Set Aside Requirement	419,666
Current Year Offsets	(419,666)
Balance June 30, 2023	\$0

Note 19 - Interfund Transfers

During fiscal year 2023, the General Fund made transfers to other governmental funds, in the amount of \$149,334, to subsidize operations in other funds.

Note 20 - Jointly Governed Organizations

A. Metropolitan Educational Technology Association

The School District is a participant in the Metropolitan Educational Technology Association (META), which is a computer consortium. META is an association of public school districts within the boundaries of Athens, Crawford, Delaware, Erie, Knox, Licking, Marion, Morrow, Muskingum, Union, and Wyandot Counties. The organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among member school districts. The governing board of META consists of one representative from each county elected by majority vote of all charter member school districts within each county, one representative from the city school districts, and the superintendent from Tri-Rivers Joint Vocational School. During fiscal year 2023, the School District paid \$83,032 to META for various services. Financial information can be obtained from the Metropolitan Educational Technology Association, 100 Executive Drive, Marion, Ohio 43302.

B. Tri-Rivers Joint Vocational School

The Tri-Rivers Joint Vocational School (JVS) is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio which provides vocational education. The JVS operates under the direction of a Board consisting of one representative from each of the ten participating school districts' Board of Education. The Board possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. The degree of control exercised by the School District is limited to its representation on the Board. Financial information can be obtained from the Tri-Rivers Joint Vocational School, 2222 Marion Mt. Gilead Road, Marion, Ohio 43302.

Note 20 - Jointly Governed Organizations (continued)

C. Marion Area Workforce Acceleration Collaborative

The School District is a participant in the Marion Area Workforce Acceleration Collaborative (MAWAC), a jointly governed organization formed to develop and execute a strategy for education designed to improve college preparatory and expand post-secondary participation, increase the attainment of postsecondary credentials, and create a highly skilled and adaptive workforce in the Marion area. The governing board of MAWAC consists of the superintendent of each participating school district in Marion County, the President of Marion Technical College, and the Dean of The Ohio State University - Marion Campus. Financial information can be obtained from the Tri-Rivers Joint Vocational School, who serves as fiscal agent, 2222 Marion-Mt. Gilead Road, Marion, Ohio 43302.

Note 21 - Insurance Pools

A. Ohio School Plan

The School District participates in the Ohio School Plan (Plan), an insurance purchasing pool established under Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Plan is an unincorporated 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. The Plan's business and affairs are conducted by a fifteen member board consisting of superintendents, treasurers, the president of Harcum-Shuett Insurance Agency, Inc., and a member of the Hylant Group, Inc. The Hylant Group, Inc. is the Plan's administrator and is responsible for processing claims. Harcum-Shuett Insurance Agency serves as the sales and marketing representative which establishes agreements between the Plan and its members. Financial information can be obtained from Harcum-Shuett Insurance Agency, 246 East Sycamore Street, Columbus, Ohio 43206.

B. Ohio Schools Council Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan

The School District participates in a group rating plan for workers' compensation as established under Section 4123.29 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Ohio Schools Council Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (Plan) was established through the Ohio Schools Council (OSC) as an insurance purchasing pool.

The Plan's business and affairs are conducted by a nine member Board of Directors consisting of superintendents from the member districts. Each year, the participants pay an enrollment fee to the Plan to cover the costs of administering the program.

Note 21 - Insurance Pools (continued)

C. Stark County Schools Council of Governments Health Benefit Plan

The School District participates in a public entity shared risk pool, the Stark County Schools Council of Governments Health Benefit Plan (Plan) for employee medical, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits. The Plan is administered by the Stark County Schools Council (SCSC), a regional council of governments established in accordance with Chapter 167 of the Ohio Revised Code. The SCSC is governed by an assembly consisting of one representative from each participant. Each participant pays its premiums to the Plan based on an apportionment of estimated costs established by the SCSC prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. Should estimated program costs be insufficient to pay all claims for the fiscal year, the SCSC notifies each participant of any additional program costs for the fiscal year. Upon withdrawal from the Health Benefit Plan, a participant is entitled to be refunded any excess contributions being held by the Plan.

Participation in the Health Benefit Plan is by written application subject to acceptance by the Board of Directors of the Assembly and payment of the monthly premiums. Financial information can be obtained from the Stark County Educational Service Center, who serves as fiscal agent, 2100 Thirty-Eighth Street Northwest, Canton, Ohio 44709.

Note 22 - Contingencies

A. Grants

The School District received financial assistance from federal and state agencies in the form of grants. The expenditure of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and is subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the General Fund or other applicable funds. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material adverse effect on the overall financial position of the School District at June 30, 2023.

B. School Foundation

School District foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. 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 a result of the fiscal year 2023 review, the School District is owed \$2,812 from the Ohio Department of Education. This amount has not been included in the financial statements.

River Valley Local School District
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Note 22 - Contingencies (continued)

C. Litigation

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

Note 23 - COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 while the national state of emergency ended in April 2023. During fiscal year 2023, the School District received COVID-19 funding. The School District will continue to spend available COVID-19 funding consistent with the applicable program guidelines.

Note 24 - Subsequent Events

On November 7, 2023, the voters approved a 1.93 mill bond levy for twenty years and 2.5 mill permanent improvement levy for five years to construct and renovate school facilities. Collection will begin January 1, 2024. Voters also approved a 1 percent income tax levy for general operations on the income of residents and of estates. The tax will be effective on January 1, 2025, for a five year period.

On December 28, 2023, the School District issued \$9,960,000 in School Facilities Notes, Series 2023 in anticipation of the issuance of bonds for the purpose of renovating, repairing and constructing school facilities. Subsequently, on March 7, 2024, the School District issued \$10,000,000 in School Facilities Bonds, Series 2024. The bond issue consisted of serial bonds with an annual interest rate of 4.00 -5.00 percent, with final maturity in 2043.

RIVER VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MARION COUNTY

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

FEDERAL GRANTOR <i>Pass Through Grantor</i> Program / Cluster Title	Federal AL Number	Total Federal Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		
<i>Passed Through the Ohio Department of Education</i>		
Child Nutrition Cluster:		
Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution)		
National School Lunch Program	10.555	\$ 69,526
Cash Assistance		
School Breakfast Program	10.553	151,186
COVID-19 National School Lunch Program	10.555	52,387
National School Lunch Program	10.555	470,432
Summer Food Service Program for Children	10.559	27,060
Total Child Nutrition Cluster		<u>770,591</u>
COVID-19 Pandemic EBT Administrative Costs	10.649	628
TOTAL U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		<u>771,219</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY		
<i>Passed Through the Ohio Office of Budget and Management</i>		
COVID-19 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	21.027	25,886
TOTAL U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY		<u>25,886</u>
U.S. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION		
<i>Passed Through the Universal Service Administrative Company</i>		
COVID-19 Emergency Connectivity Fund Program	32.009	1,656
TOTAL U.S. FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION		<u>1,656</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		
<i>Consortium Amount Passed/Transferred to North Central Ohio Educational Service Center</i>		
English Language Acquisition State Grants	84.365A	1,022
<i>Passed Through the Ohio Department of Education</i>		
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	286,247
Special Education Cluster (IDEA):		
Special Education - Grants to States	84.027A	413,801
COVID-19 Special Education - Grants to States	84.027X	21,285
Special Education - Preschool Grants	84.173A	10,921
COVID-19 Special Education - Preschool Grants	84.173X	6,771
Total Special Education Cluster (IDEA)		<u>452,778</u>
Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers	84.287A	323,230
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367A	72,056
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424A	16,432
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund	84.425D	226,744
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund	84.425U	406,484
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund	84.425W	750
Total Education Stabilization Fund		<u>633,978</u>
TOTAL U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		<u>1,785,743</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		
<i>Passed Through the Ohio Child Care Resource & Referral Association</i>		
CCDF Cluster:		
COVID-19 Child Care and Development Block Grant	93.575	75,176
TOTAL U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES		<u>75,176</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS		<u>\$ 2,659,680</u>

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MARION COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE 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 River Valley Local School District (the School District) under programs of the federal government for the 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, changes in net position, or cash flows 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 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 benefited from the use of those donated food commodities.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



88 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
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(800) 282-0370

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

River Valley Local School District
Marion County
197 Brocklesby Road
Caledonia, Ohio 43314

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 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 the River Valley Local School District Marion County, (the School District) as of and for the 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 March 21, 2024, wherein we noted the School District uses a special purpose framework other than general 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 and questioned costs as item 2023-001.

School District's Response to Finding

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 questioned costs 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

March 21, 2024

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



88 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

River Valley Local School District
Marion County
197 Brocklesby Road
Caledonia, Ohio 43314

To the Board of Education:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Qualified and Unmodified Opinions

We have audited River Valley Local School District's, Marion County, (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 each of River Valley Local School District's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2023. River Valley Local School District's major federal programs are identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

Qualified Opinion on Child Nutrition Cluster

In our opinion, except for the noncompliance described in the *Basis for Qualified and Unmodified Opinions* section of our report, River Valley Local School District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on the Child Nutrition Cluster for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Unmodified Opinion on the Other Major Federal Program

In our opinion, River Valley 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 other major federal program identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs for the year ended June 30, 2023.

Basis for Qualified and Unmodified Opinions

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 qualified and unmodified opinions on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the School District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Matter Giving Rise to Qualified Opinion on the Child Nutrition Cluster

As described in finding 2023-002 in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs, the School District did not comply with requirements regarding allowable costs/cost principles applicable to its Child Nutrition Cluster major federal program.

Compliance with such requirements is necessary, in our opinion, for the School District to comply with requirements applicable to that program.

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 each major federal program as a whole.

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the 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.

Other Matters

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

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

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 and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we did identify a certain deficiency in internal control over compliance that we consider to be a material weakness.

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. We consider the deficiency in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 2023-002 to be a material weakness.

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.

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

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

March 21, 2024

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**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MARION COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

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

**RIVER VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MARION COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2023-001

**Material Noncompliance
GAAP Reporting**

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).

The School District prepared financial statements that, although formatted similar to financial statements prescribed by the 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: See Corrective Action Plan

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS
--

Allowable Costs/Cost Principles

Finding Number:	2023-002
Assistance Listing Number and Title:	AL # 10.553 School Breakfast Program AL # 10.555 National School Lunch Program AL # 10.555 COVID-19 – National School Lunch Program AL # 10.559 Summer Food Service Program for Children
Federal Award Identification Number / Year:	2023
Federal Agency:	Department of Agriculture
Compliance Requirement:	Allowable Costs/Cost Principles
Pass-Through Entity:	Ohio Department of Education
Repeat Finding from Prior Audit?	No

RIVER VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MARION COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS (Continued)

Noncompliance / Questioned Costs / Material Weakness

2 CFR §400.1 gives regulatory effect to the Department of Agriculture for **2 CFR §200.439(b)** which provides that the following rules of allowability must apply to equipment and other capital expenditures:

- (1) Capital expenditures for general purpose equipment, buildings, and land are unallowable as direct charges, except with the prior written approval of the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity.
- (2) Capital expenditures for special purpose equipment are allowable as direct costs, provided that items with a unit cost of \$5,000 or more have the prior written approval of the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity.

Furthermore, the School District's **Administration of Federal Grant Funds Policy (DECA)** provides costs charged by the school system to a federal grant must be allowed under the individual program and be in accordance with the cost principles established in the Uniform Guidance, including how charges made to the grant for personnel are to be determined. Costs will be charged to a federal grant only when the costs is reasonable and necessary for the program, in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, allocable to the grant, adequately documented and consistent with School District policies and procedures that apply to both federally-funded and non-federally-funded activities.

During fiscal year 2023, the School District purchased a catering truck in the amount of \$80,000 with commingled Child Nutrition Cluster monies without obtaining prior written approval from the Ohio Department of Education, the pass-through entity, or the Department of Agriculture, resulting in questioned costs of \$80,000.

Failure to acquire prior written approval for capital expenditures with a unit cost of \$5,000 or more from the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity may result in expenditures that are not allowable under Federal awards.

We recommend the School District acquire prior written approval for capital expenditures with a unit cost of \$5,000 or more to ensure compliance with federal award requirements.

Officials' Response: See Corrective Action Plan

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

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2022-001	Material Noncompliance – Ohio Rev. Code §117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code § 117-2-03(B) – GAAP Reporting. Finding first reported in fiscal year 2019.	Not Corrected	Finding not corrected and is being repeated in the current audit as finding 2023-001.

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

Finding Number: 2023-001

Planned Corrective Action: The River Valley Board of Education acknowledges that the State requires school districts to create GAAP reports once a year. The Board also acknowledges that to do so creates additional costs to the District for conversion and auditing. School districts currently operate on a cash basis. The GAAP conversion process takes several months, and the information is, therefore, outdated before the GAAP report is complete. If the State wishes to have school districts report on a GAAP, or accrual basis, they should provide accrual accounting software that would also provide a balance sheet for the districts. It is the opinion of the Board and Administration that the GAAP conversion process is costly and time consuming to the District with little or no benefit to the District. Therefore, the District is reporting on a cash basis with OCBOA (Other Comprehensive Basis of Accounting) statements prepared annually.

Anticipated Completion Date: N/A

Responsible Contact Person: Brittany Keller

Finding Number: 2023-002

Planned Corrective Action: The River Valley Board of Education acknowledges that the Federal government requires school districts to get approval for any purchases with a unit cost of \$5,000 or more from the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity. The Board and Administration have implemented processes and procedures, which require approval from both the awarding agency or pass-through entity and the Board of Education prior to purchasing any unit at or above the \$5,000 threshold.

Anticipated Completion Date: January 1, 2024

Responsible Contact Person: Brittany Keller

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



RIVER VALLEY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

MARION 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 4/9/2024

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