

SOUTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO

SINGLE AUDIT

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2023



www.reacpa.com

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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

Board of Education
Southern Local School District
38095 State Route 39, East
Salineville, Ohio 43945

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Southern Local School District, Columbiana County, prepared by Rea & Associates, Inc., for the audit period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 18, 2024

This page intentionally left blank.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Table of Contents
June 30, 2023

Page

Independent Auditor’s Report	1
Management’s Discussion and Analysis	5
Basic Financial Statements:	
Government-Wide Financial Statements:	
Statement of Net Position	14
Statement of Activities	15
Fund Financial Statements:	
Balance Sheet – Governmental Funds.....	16
Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to Net Position of Governmental Activities.....	17
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Governmental Funds	18
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities.....	19
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget (Budget Basis) and Actual – General Fund.....	20
Statement of Fund Net Position – Proprietary Fund.....	21
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Fund Net Position – Proprietary Fund.....	22
Statement of Cash Flows – Proprietary Fund.....	23
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements.....	24

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Table of Contents
June 30, 2023
(Continued)

Page

Required Supplementary Information:

Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	62
Schedule of the School District's Contributions – Pension	64
Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset).....	66
Schedule of the School District's Contributions – OPEB.....	68
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information	70
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	74
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and Report on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance	76
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.....	79
Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	80
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.....	81
Corrective Action Plan.....	83

Independent Auditor's Report

The Board of Education
Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
38095 State Route 39 East
Salineville, OH 43945

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Southern Local School District, Columbiana 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 financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Southern Local School District, Columbiana County, Ohio, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position, and, where applicable, cash flows thereof and the respective budgetary comparison for the general fund for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 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.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and 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.

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, and pension and other post-employment benefit schedules, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with

GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements 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 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 basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. In our opinion, the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 29, 2024 on our consideration of the School District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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.

Rea & Associates, Inc.

Rea & Associates, Inc.
New Philadelphia, Ohio
January 29, 2024

This page intentionally left blank

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

The discussion and analysis of the Southern Local School District's (the "School District") financial performance provides an overall review of the School District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the School District's performance as a whole; readers should also review the notes to the basic financial statements and financial statements to enhance their understanding of the School District's financial performance.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for 2023 are as follows:

- Net position of governmental activities increased by \$996,548.
- Capital assets increased \$118,180 during fiscal year 2023.
- During the fiscal year, outstanding debt decreased as a result of making schedule principal payments.

Using this Annual Report

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. The statements are organized so the reader can understand the School District as a whole entire operating entity. The statements then proceed to provide an increasingly detailed look at specific financial activities.

The *Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities* provide information about the activities of the whole School District, presenting both an aggregate view of the School District's finances and a longer-term view of those finances. Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. For governmental funds, these statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. The fund financial statements also look at the School District's most significant funds with all other nonmajor funds presented in total in one column. In the case of the School District, the general fund is by far the most significant fund.

Reporting the School District as a Whole

Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities

While the basic financial statements contain the large number of funds used by the School District to provide programs and activities, the view of the School District as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, "How did we do financially during fiscal year 2023?" The *Statement of Net Position* and the *Statement of Activities* answer this question. These statements include all assets and deferred outflows of resources and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the School District's net position and changes in net position. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader that, for the School District as a whole, the financial position of the School District has improved or diminished. The causes of this change may be the result of many factors, some financial, some not. Non-financial factors include the School District's property tax

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

base, current property tax laws in Ohio which restrict revenue growth, facility conditions, required educational programs, and other factors.

In the *Statement of Net Position* and the *Statement of Activities*, Governmental Activities include the School District's programs and services, including instruction, support services, extracurricular activities, and non-instructional services, i.e., food service operations.

Reporting the School District's Most Significant Funds

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the School District's major funds. The School District uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions; however, these fund financial statements focus on the School District's most significant funds. The School District's major governmental funds are the general and permanent improvement funds.

Governmental Funds Most of the School District's activities are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the School District's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance educational programs. The relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the *Statement of Net Position* and the *Statement of Activities*) and governmental funds is reconciled in the financial statements.

Proprietary Fund Internal service funds are an accounting device used to accumulate and allocate costs internally among the School District's various functions. The School District uses an internal service fund to account for its health insurance benefits. Because this service benefits governmental functions, it has been included within the governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements.

This space intentionally left blank.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

The School District as a Whole

Recall that the Statement of Net Position provides the perspective of the School District as a whole. Table 1 provides a summary of the School District's net position for 2023 compared to 2022:

Table 1			
Net Position			
<u>Governmental Activities</u>			
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Assets			
Current & Other Assets	\$ 12,296,389	\$ 10,673,910	\$ 1,622,479
Net OPEB Asset	1,069,347	815,262	254,085
Capital Assets, Net	8,371,503	8,253,323	118,180
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>21,737,239</u>	<u>19,742,495</u>	<u>1,994,744</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Pension & OPEB	3,776,091	3,590,364	185,727
<i>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</i>	<u>3,776,091</u>	<u>3,590,364</u>	<u>185,727</u>
Liabilities			
Current & Other Liabilities	1,964,158	1,246,143	718,015
Long-Term Liabilities:			
Due Within One Year	223,377	317,327	(93,950)
Due In More Than One Year:			
Pension & OPEB	12,693,320	7,821,333	4,871,987
Other Amounts	563,202	807,206	(244,004)
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>15,444,057</u>	<u>10,192,009</u>	<u>5,252,048</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Property Taxes	4,092,196	3,800,468	291,728
Pension & OPEB	2,923,365	7,283,218	(4,359,853)
<i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>	<u>7,015,561</u>	<u>11,083,686</u>	<u>(4,068,125)</u>
Net Position			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	8,042,258	7,646,692	395,566
Restricted	3,154,317	2,870,284	284,033
Unrestricted	(8,142,863)	(8,459,812)	316,949
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>\$ 3,053,712</u>	<u>\$ 2,057,164</u>	<u>\$ 996,548</u>

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

Collectively, the net pension liability (NPL), reported pursuant to GASB Statement 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions—an Amendment of GASB Statement 27* and the net OPEB liability, pursuant to GASB Statement 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*, are the largest liabilities reported by the School District at June 30, 2023. For reasons discussed below, many end users of this financial statement will gain a clearer understanding of the School District's actual financial condition by adding deferred inflows related to pension and OPEB, the net pension liability and the net OPEB asset/liability (NOA/NOL) to the reported net position and subtracting deferred outflows related to pension and OPEB.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board standards are national and apply to all government financial reports prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Prior accounting for pensions (GASB 27) and postemployment benefits (GASB 45) focused on a funding approach. This approach limited pension and OPEB costs to contributions annually required by law, which may or may not be sufficient to fully fund each plan's net pension/OPEB liability. GASB 68 and GASB 75 take an earnings approach to pension and OPEB accounting; however, the nature of Ohio's statewide pension/OPEB plans and state law governing those systems requires additional explanation in order to properly understand the information presented in these statements.

GASB 68 and GASB 75 require the net pension liability and the net OPEB asset/liability to equal the School District's proportionate share of each plan's collective:

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

GASB notes that pension and OPEB obligations, whether funded or unfunded, are part of the "employment exchange" – that is, the employee is trading his or her labor in exchange for wages, benefits, and the promise of a future pension and other postemployment benefits. GASB noted that the unfunded portion of this promise is a present obligation of the government, part of a bargained-for benefit to the employee, and should accordingly be reported by the government as a liability since they received the benefit of the exchange. However, the School District is not responsible for certain key factors affecting the balance of these assets/liabilities. In Ohio, the employee shares the obligation of funding pension benefits with the employer. Both employer and employee contribution rates are capped by State statute. A change in these caps requires action of both Houses of the General Assembly and approval of the Governor. Benefit provisions are also determined by State statute. The Ohio revised Code permits, but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients. The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits.

The employee enters the employment exchange with the knowledge that the employer's promise is limited not by contract but by law. The employer enters the exchange also knowing that there is a specific, legal limit to its contribution to the retirement system. In Ohio, there is no legal means to enforce the unfunded liability of the pension/OPEB plan *as against the public employer*. State law operates to mitigate/lessen the moral obligation of the public employer to the employee, because all parties enter the employment exchange with notice as to the law. For STRS, the plan's fiduciary net OPEB position was sufficient to cover the plan's total OPEB liability resulting in a net OPEB asset that is allocated to each school based on its proportionate share. The retirement system is responsible for the administration of the pension and OPEB plans.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

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

In accordance with GASB 68 and GASB 75, the School District's statements prepared on an accrual basis of accounting include an annual pension expense and an annual OPEB expense for their proportionate share of each plan's *change* in net pension liability and net OPEB asset/liability, respectively, not accounted for as deferred inflows/outflows.

Capital assets include land, land improvements, building and improvements, furniture and equipment, vehicle, infrastructure and construction in progress. These capital assets are used to provide services to citizens and are not available for future spending. Although the School District's investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources to repay the debt must be provided from other sources, since capital assets may not be used to liquidate these liabilities.

A portion of the School District's net position, represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The balance of unrestricted net position is a deficit balance.

Current and other assets increased during fiscal year 2023 with the most significant increase being cash and cash equivalents primarily due to an increase in charges for services related to the School District's arrangement with Utica Shale Academy.

Current and other liabilities increased during the fiscal year due primarily to an increase in accounts payable for electrical work and repairs performed during the fiscal year but not paid until the following fiscal year coupled with an increase in accrued wages and benefits due to rising labor costs.

There was a significant change in net pension/OPEB liability/asset for the School District. These fluctuations are due to changes in the retirement systems unfunded liabilities that are passed through to the School District's financial statements. All components of pension and OPEB accruals contribute to the fluctuations in deferred outflows/inflows and NPL/NOL/NOA and are described in more detail in their respective notes.

This space intentionally left blank.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

In order to further understand what makes up the changes in net position for the current year, the following table gives readers further details regarding the results of activities for 2023 and 2022.

Table 2
Changes in Net Position

	Governmental Activities		
	2023	2022	Change
Revenues			
<i>Program Revenues</i>			
Charges for Services	\$ 1,932,684	\$ 1,405,600	\$ 527,084
Operating Grants	2,096,791	2,891,926	(795,135)
<i>Total Program Revenues</i>	<u>4,029,475</u>	<u>4,297,526</u>	<u>(268,051)</u>
General Revenues			
Property Taxes	4,673,104	4,485,514	187,590
Grants & Entitlements	9,688,559	8,581,751	1,106,808
Other	173,399	217,426	(44,027)
<i>Total General Revenues</i>	<u>14,535,062</u>	<u>13,284,691</u>	<u>1,250,371</u>
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>18,564,537</u>	<u>17,582,217</u>	<u>982,320</u>
Program Expenses			
Instruction:			
Regular	5,790,334	5,994,399	(204,065)
Special	1,904,465	1,764,093	140,372
Vocational	272,351	188,680	83,671
Other	7,843	28,077	(20,234)
Support Services:			
Pupils	1,082,189	750,897	331,292
Instructional Staff	441,432	399,396	42,036
Board of Education	640,589	659,220	(18,631)
Administration	1,448,360	1,286,281	162,079
Fiscal	632,326	414,743	217,583
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,851,842	1,333,626	518,216
Pupil Transportation	1,086,154	1,083,264	2,890
Central	69,170	72,075	(2,905)
Operation of Non-Instructional/Shared Services:			
Food Service Operations	628,117	636,842	(8,725)
Community Services	842,482	351,407	491,075
Extracurricular Activities	854,526	641,642	212,884
Debt Service:			
Interest and Fiscal Charges	15,809	24,482	(8,673)
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<u>17,567,989</u>	<u>15,629,124</u>	<u>1,938,865</u>
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	996,548	1,953,093	(956,545)
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	<u>2,057,164</u>	<u>104,071</u>	<u>1,953,093</u>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 3,053,712</u>	<u>\$ 2,057,164</u>	<u>\$ 996,548</u>

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

The increase in grants and entitlements is primarily due to the state foundation funding being changed to a direct funding model for open enrollment. Operating grants revenues decreased during the fiscal year due to an decrease in grant funding received for nutrition services. Charges for services increased primarily for reasons previously discussed.

Overall, program expenses increased. The changes in program expenses are primarily associated to changes in the School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability, net OPEB liability/asset and related accruals. As previously indicated, these items are explained in detail within their respective notes. Additionally, the expenses for the restrooms and electrical work and repairs increased operation and maintenance of plant expenses during the year.

Governmental Funds

The School District's major funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Schedule below indicates the cash fund balances.

Table 3
Fund Balance Analysis

	Fund Balance 6/30/2023	Fund Balance 6/30/2022	Increase (Decrease)
General	\$ 2,216,114	\$ 1,987,870	\$ 228,244
Permanent Improvement	1,320,183	1,040,966	279,217

The fund balance of the General Fund increased during the fiscal year. The increase was due to an increase in intergovernmental and charges for services revenues during the fiscal year, outpacing expenditures.

The fund balance of the permanent improvement fund increased. The increase was a result from timing of revenues and capital projects.

General Fund Budgeting Highlights

The School District's budget is prepared according to Ohio law and is based on accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The most significant budgeted fund is the general fund.

During the course of fiscal year 2023, the School District amended its general fund budget. The School District uses site-based budgeting and budgeting systems are designed to tightly control total site budgets but provide flexibility for site management.

Original Budget Compared to Final Budget For the general fund, the most significant variances between the original budget basis revenue and other financing sources to the final budget were increases for intergovernmental and miscellaneous revenues related to the School District's arrangement with Utica Shale Academy. The most significant variances between original expenditure appropriations and final expenditure appropriations in the general fund were increases for community services expenses.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

Final Budget Compared to Actual Results For the general fund, there were no significant variances between actual budget basis revenue and other financing sources and final budget basis revenue or between final budget basis appropriations and actual expenditures and other financing uses.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

Overall, the increase in capital assets was attributable to construction in progress of the roof replacement and the HVAC system replacement. See Note 8 for more information about the capital assets of the School District.

Debt

At June 30, 2023, the School District had a \$329,245 in debt outstanding, which decreased from the prior period. See Note 9 for additional information.

Current Issues

The School District faces many challenges in the future. As the preceding information shows, the School District relies heavily upon state foundation and grants for a significant percentage of its operating revenue. Future grant and Foundation revenue is subject to change with the biannual budgets of the State which would cause the reliance upon local taxes to become increasingly important. The School District may also face a situation where an operating levy may have to be passed by School District voters in the near future in order for the School District to obtain the necessary funds to meet its operating expenses.

The School District faces a problem with some parts of its building nearing the end of its effective operational life. The School District completed a new building in 2000, but the new building additions were built around the old original building that was constructed in 1963. The older part of the building has mechanical replacement issues that are going to have to be dealt with in the near future. The School District just completed a new roof and boiler system replacement over the summer of 2023. The boiler project dramatically increased the efficiency of the heating system from 63% to over 98%.

The last challenge facing the School District is the future of state funding. In March of 1997 the Supreme Court found the State of Ohio to be operating an unconstitutional funding of the educational system, one that was neither "adequate" nor "equitable". Since 1997, the State has directed its tax revenue growth toward school districts who do not have the local capacity to generate operational revenue through levy initiatives. On December 11, 2002, the Ohio Supreme Court issued its opinion regarding the State's school funding plan. The decision reaffirmed earlier decisions that Ohio's current school funding plan is unconstitutional. At this time, the School District is unable to determine what effect, if any, this decision will have on its future State funding and on its financial operations. A new funding formula was passed that will provide an increase in the funding for the School District, but that funding formula has not been made permanent.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Unaudited)

Contacting the School District's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the School District's finances and to show the School District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Greg Sabbato, Treasurer of the Southern Local School District, 38095 State Route 39, Salineville, OH 43945 or greg.sabbato@slindians.org.

This space intentionally left blank.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities
Assets	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 6,357,635
Cash and Cash Equivalents with Fiscal Agents	1,299,315
Accounts Receivable	12,112
Intergovernmental Receivable	124,210
Property Taxes Receivable	4,503,117
Net OPEB Asset	1,069,347
Non-Depreciable Capital Assets	630,624
Depreciable Capital Assets, net	7,740,879
<i>Total Assets</i>	21,737,239
Deferred Outflows of Resources	
Pension	3,394,420
OPEB	381,671
<i>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</i>	3,776,091
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	292,877
Accrued Wages and Benefits	1,013,531
Contracts Payable	42,950
Intergovernmental Payable	331,087
Claims Payable	155,512
Matured Compensated Absences Payable	34,698
Unearned Revenue	93,503
Long-Term Liabilities:	
Due Within One Year	223,377
Due In More Than One Year:	
Net Pension Liability	11,956,485
Net OPEB Liability	736,835
Other Amounts Due in More Than One Year	563,202
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	15,444,057
Deferred Inflows of Resources	
Property Taxes Levied for the Next Year	4,092,196
Pension	1,148,177
OPEB	1,775,188
<i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>	7,015,561
Net Position	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	8,042,258
Restricted for:	
Capital Outlay	1,354,354
Classroom Facilities Maintenance	585,869
Student Wellness and Success	349,908
Food Service	333,251
Other Purposes	530,935
Unrestricted	(8,142,863)
<i>Total Net Position</i>	\$ 3,053,712

See accompanying notes the basic financial statements

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Statement of Activities
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Program Revenues			Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
	Expenses	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants, Contributions and Interest	Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$ 5,790,334	\$ 1,269,694	\$ 434,575	\$ (4,086,065)
Special	1,904,465	260,275	333,437	(1,310,753)
Vocational	272,351	-	-	(272,351)
Other	7,843	-	-	(7,843)
Support Services:				
Pupils	1,082,189	-	24,330	(1,057,859)
Instructional Staff	441,432	-	52,158	(389,274)
Board of Education	640,589	-	-	(640,589)
Administration	1,448,360	-	164,849	(1,283,511)
Fiscal	632,326	-	-	(632,326)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,851,842	-	441,129	(1,410,713)
Pupil Transportation	1,086,154	-	144,331	(941,823)
Central	69,170	-	-	(69,170)
Operation of Non-Instructional/Shared Services:				
Food Service Operations	628,117	120,940	501,982	(5,195)
Community Services	842,482	-	-	(842,482)
Extracurricular Activities	854,526	281,775	-	(572,751)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	15,809	-	-	(15,809)
Total	\$ 17,567,989	\$ 1,932,684	\$ 2,096,791	(13,538,514)

General Revenues

Property Taxes Levied for:	
General Purposes	3,957,268
Capital Outlay	655,583
Facilities Maintenance	60,253
Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs	9,688,559
Investment Earnings	19,842
Miscellaneous	153,557
Total General Revenues	14,535,062
 <i>Change in Net Position</i>	 996,548
 <i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	 <u>2,057,164</u>
 <i>Net Position End of Year</i>	 <u>\$ 3,053,712</u>

See accompanying notes the basic financial statements

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Balance Sheet
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2023

	General	Permanent Improvement	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets				
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 3,498,704	\$ 1,279,947	\$ 1,578,984	\$ 6,357,635
Accounts Receivable	12,112	-	-	12,112
Interfund Receivable	54,544	-	-	54,544
Intergovernmental Receivable	-	-	124,210	124,210
Property Taxes Receivable	3,808,668	638,106	56,343	4,503,117
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$ 7,374,028</u>	<u>\$ 1,918,053</u>	<u>\$ 1,759,537</u>	<u>\$ 11,051,618</u>
Liabilities				
Accounts Payable	\$ 243,399	\$ -	\$ 49,478	\$ 292,877
Accrued Wages and Benefits	932,012	-	81,519	1,013,531
Contracts Payable	-	-	42,950	42,950
Intergovernmental Payable	291,111	-	39,976	331,087
Interfund Payable	-	-	54,544	54,544
Matured Compensated Absences Payable	34,698	-	-	34,698
Unearned Revenue	-	-	93,503	93,503
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>1,501,220</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>361,970</u>	<u>1,863,190</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources				
Property Taxes Levied for the Next Year	3,476,630	563,699	51,867	4,092,196
Unavailable Revenue	180,064	34,171	68,325	282,560
<i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>	<u>3,656,694</u>	<u>597,870</u>	<u>120,192</u>	<u>4,374,756</u>
Fund Balances				
Restricted	-	1,320,183	1,426,619	2,746,802
Assigned	32,027	-	-	32,027
Unassigned	2,184,087	-	(149,244)	2,034,843
<i>Total Fund Balance</i>	<u>2,216,114</u>	<u>1,320,183</u>	<u>1,277,375</u>	<u>4,813,672</u>
<i>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources and Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$ 7,374,028</u>	<u>\$ 1,918,053</u>	<u>\$ 1,759,537</u>	<u>\$ 11,051,618</u>

See accompanying notes the basic financial statements

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to
Net Position of Governmental Activities
June 30, 2023

Total Governmental Fund Balances	\$	4,813,672
<i>Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:</i>		
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.		8,371,503
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and therefore are deferred in the funds:		
Intergovernmental	\$ 65,820	
Delinquent Property Taxes	<u>216,740</u>	282,560
An internal service fund is used by management to charge the costs of insurance to individual funds. The assets, liabilities, deferred outflows/inflows of resources of the internal service fund are included in governmental activities in the statement of net position.		1,143,803
The net pension liability and net OPEB (asset)/liability are not due and payable in the current period, therefore, the asset/liability and related deferred inflows/outflows are not reported in governmental funds.		
Net OPEB Asset	1,069,347	
Deferred Outflows - Pension	3,394,420	
Deferred Outflows - OPEB	381,671	
Net Pension Liability	(11,956,485)	
Net OPEB Liability	(736,835)	
Deferred Inflows - Pension	(1,148,177)	
Deferred Inflows - OPEB	<u>(1,775,188)</u>	(10,771,247)
Long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds:		
Lease Purchase Obligations	(329,245)	
Compensated Absences	<u>(457,334)</u>	(786,579)
<i>Net Position of Governmental Activities</i>	<u>\$</u>	<u>3,053,712</u>

See accompanying notes the basic financial statements

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances
Governmental Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	General	Permanent Improvement	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues				
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 3,961,865	\$ 659,770	\$ 60,629	\$ 4,682,264
Intergovernmental	9,592,634	57,547	2,240,524	11,890,705
Tuition and Fees	295,247	-	-	295,247
Extracurricular Activities	53,080	-	228,695	281,775
Charges for Services	1,234,722	-	120,940	1,355,662
Miscellaneous	141,934	-	11,623	153,557
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>15,279,482</u>	<u>717,317</u>	<u>2,662,411</u>	<u>18,659,210</u>
Expenditures				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	4,834,714	-	455,618	5,290,332
Special	1,550,164	-	334,594	1,884,758
Vocational	233,440	-	-	233,440
Other	7,843	-	-	7,843
Support Services:				
Pupils	876,381	-	208,100	1,084,481
Instructional Staff	439,349	-	55,505	494,854
Board of Education	645,150	-	-	645,150
Administration	1,335,841	-	167,284	1,503,125
Fiscal	642,344	15,380	1,294	659,018
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,510,141	422,720	493,999	2,426,860
Pupil Transportation	1,249,570	-	144,331	1,393,901
Central	69,170	-	-	69,170
Operation of Non-Instructional/Shared Services:				
Food Service Operations	-	-	721,958	721,958
Community Services	845,244	-	7,550	852,794
Extracurricular Activities	428,692	-	321,419	750,111
Debt Service				
Principal Retirement	277,386	-	-	277,386
Interest and Fiscal Charges	15,809	-	-	15,809
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>14,961,238</u>	<u>438,100</u>	<u>2,911,652</u>	<u>18,310,990</u>
<i>Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures</i>	<u>318,244</u>	<u>279,217</u>	<u>(249,241)</u>	<u>348,220</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Transfers In	-	-	90,000	90,000
Transfers Out	(90,000)	-	-	(90,000)
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(90,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>90,000</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	228,244	279,217	(159,241)	348,220
<i>Fund Balances Beginning of Year</i>	<u>1,987,870</u>	<u>1,040,966</u>	<u>1,436,616</u>	<u>4,465,452</u>
<i>Fund Balances End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 2,216,114</u>	<u>\$ 1,320,183</u>	<u>\$ 1,277,375</u>	<u>\$ 4,813,672</u>

See accompanying notes the basic financial statements

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
*Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes
in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds	\$	348,220
<i>Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:</i>		
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense.		
Capital Asset Additions	\$ 975,367	
Current Year Depreciation	<u>(857,187)</u>	118,180
Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.		
Intergovernmental	(105,355)	
Property Taxes	<u>(9,160)</u>	(114,515)
Repayment of principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position.		
Lease Purchase		277,386
Contractually required pension/OPEB contributions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds; however, the statement of net position reports these amounts as deferred outflows.		
Pension	1,040,410	
OPEB	<u>39,016</u>	1,079,426
Except for amount reported as deferred inflows/outflows, changes in the net pension/OPEB liability are reported as pension/OPEB expense in the statement of activities.		
Pension	(1,352,347)	
OPEB	<u>200,599</u>	(1,151,748)
The internal service fund used by management to charge the costs of insurance to individual funds is not reported in the statement of activities. Governmental expenditures and related internal service fund revenues are eliminated. The net revenue (expense) of the internal service fund is allocated among the governmental activities.		
		379,031
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities, do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.		
Compensated Absences		<u>60,568</u>
<i>Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities</i>	\$	<u><u>996,548</u></u>

See accompanying notes the basic financial statements

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

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual	Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final		
Revenues and Other Financing Sources	\$ 13,907,975	\$ 15,312,097	\$ 15,233,417	\$ (78,680)
Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	<u>14,000,000</u>	<u>14,479,823</u>	<u>14,529,589</u>	<u>(49,766)</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	(92,025)	832,274	703,828	(128,446)
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	<u>2,815,957</u>	<u>2,815,957</u>	<u>2,815,957</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 2,723,932</u>	<u>\$ 3,648,231</u>	<u>\$ 3,519,785</u>	<u>\$ (128,446)</u>

See accompanying notes the basic financial statements

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Statement of Fund Net Position
Proprietary Fund
June 30, 2023

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
	<u>Internal Service Fund</u>
Assets	
<i>Current Assets:</i>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents with Fiscal Agents	<u>\$ 1,299,315</u>
Liabilities	
<i>Current Liabilities:</i>	
Claims Payable	<u>155,512</u>
Net Position	
Unrestricted	<u><u>\$ 1,143,803</u></u>

See accompanying notes the basic financial statements

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Position
Proprietary Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities
	Internal Service Fund
Operating Revenues	
Charges for Services	\$ 2,539,148
Other	200,649
<i>Total Operating Revenues</i>	<i>2,739,797</i>
Operating Expenses	
Purchased Services	535,990
Claims	1,844,618
<i>Total Operating Expenses</i>	<i>2,380,608</i>
<i>Operating Income (Loss)</i>	<i>359,189</i>
Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)	
Interest	19,842
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	<i>379,031</i>
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	<i>764,772</i>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<i>\$ 1,143,803</i>

See accompanying notes the basic financial statements

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Statement of Cash Flows
Proprietary Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities
	Internal Service Fund
Cash Flows from Operating Activities	
Cash Received from Customers	\$ 2,539,148
Cash Received from Other Operating Receipts	200,649
Cash Payments for Employee Benefits	(535,990)
Cash Payments for Claims	(1,791,084)
<i>Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Operating Activities</i>	<i>412,723</i>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities	
Interest	19,842
<i>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents</i>	432,565
<i>Cash and Cash Equivalents Beginning of Year</i>	866,750
<i>Cash and Cash Equivalents End of Year</i>	\$ 1,299,315
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Operating Activities	
Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 359,189
Adjustments:	
Increase (Decrease) in Liabilities and Deferred Inflows:	
Claims Payable	53,534
<i>Net Cash Provided by (Used For) Operating Activities</i>	<i>\$ 412,723</i>

See accompanying notes the basic financial statements

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Southern Local School District (the “School District”) is a body politic and corporate established for the purpose of exercising the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio.

The Southern Local School District operates under an elected Board of Education (5 members) and is responsible for the provision of public education to residents of the School District.

The reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units and other organizations that are included to insure that the basic financial statements of the School District are not misleading. The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the School District. For the Southern 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; or (3) 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 (4) 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. Certain organizations are also included as component units if the nature and significance of the relationship between the primary government and the organization is such that exclusion by the primary government would render the primary government’s financial statements incomplete or misleading. Based upon the application of these criteria, the School District has no components units. The basic financial statements of the reporting entity include only those of the School District (the primary government).

JOINTLY GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Area Cooperative Computerized Educational Service System (ACCESS Council)

ACCESS is a not-for-profit computer service organization whose primary function is to provide information technology services to its member school with the major emphasis being placed on accounting, payroll and inventory control services. Other areas of service provided by the ACCESS include pupil scheduling, attendance, EMIS, internet access, firewall and web security, telephony server hosting, grade reporting, career guidance services, special education records and test scoring.

ACCESS is one of 18 Information Technology Centers (ITCs) formerly known as Data Acquisition Sites licensed by the Ohio Department of Education. The ITCs serve over 600 public school districts in the State of Ohio that make up the Ohio Educational Computer Network (OECN). These service organizations are known as Data Acquisition Sites. The ITCs are a collective group of Data Acquisition Sites, authorized pursuant to Section 3301.075 of the Ohio Revised Code and their member school districts. Such sites, in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), comprise a statewide delivery system to provide comprehensive, cost-effective accounting and other administrative and instructional computer services for participating Ohio school districts. Major funding for this network is derived from the State of Ohio. In addition, a majority of the software utilized by ACCESS is developed by the ODE.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Columbiana County Career and Technical Center

The Columbiana County Career and Technical Center is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio operated under the direction of a Board consisting of one representative from each of the participating school districts' elected Boards, which possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. To obtain financial information, write to the Columbiana County Career Center, Treasurer, 9364 State Route 45, Lisbon, Ohio 44432.

PUBLIC ENTITY RISK POOL

Ohio Association of School Business Officials

The School District participates in a group rating plan (GRP) for workers' compensation as established under Section 4123.29 of the Ohio Revised Code. Participation in the GRP is limited to school School Districts that can meet the GRP's selection criteria. The firm of Sheakley Uniservice Inc. provides administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the GRP. Each year, the School District pays an enrollment fee to the GRP to cover the costs of administering the program.

INSURANCE PURCHASING POOLS

Jefferson Health Plan

The School District is a member of the Jefferson Health Plan, a partially self-insured consortium of public employers in Ohio. The consortium has over 100 member organizations participating. Monthly accruals are paid to a custodian bank, U.S. Bank, acting as trustee on behalf of the fiscal agent. The trustees disburse payments to vendors for services rendered and to satisfy claim reimbursements for covered plan participants. The Jefferson Health Plan is located at 2023 Sunset Blvd., Steubenville, Ohio 43952. The Jefferson County Educational Service Center is one of Jefferson Health Plan's member School Districts and acts in the capacity of fiscal agent for Jefferson Health Plan.

Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority

The School District participates in the Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority Board (SORSA), and insurance purchasing pool. SORSA's business affairs are conducted by a nine-member Board of Directors consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and five delegates. SORSA was created to provide joint self-insurance coverage and to assist members to prevent and reduce losses and injuries to the School Districts property and person. It is intended to provide liability and property insurance at reduced premiums for the participants. SORSA is organized as a nonprofit corporation under provisions of Ohio Revised Code 2744.

Management believes the basic financial statements included in the report represent all of the funds of the School District over which the School District has the ability to exercise direct operating control. There are no component units.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The basic financial statements of the School District have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting entity for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The School District's significant accounting policies are described below.

Basis of Presentation

The School District's basic financial statements consist of government-wide 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.

The statement of net position presents the financial condition of the governmental activities of the School District at year-end. The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each program or function of the School District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program, or department and therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program, grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program, and interest earned on grants that is required to be used to support a particular program. Revenues which are not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues of the School District, with certain limitations. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each business segment or governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the School District.

Fund Financial Statements During the 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 financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column.

Fund Accounting

The School District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. There are three categories of funds: government, proprietary and fiduciary.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Governmental Funds Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions typically are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between governmental fund assets and deferred outflows of resources and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources is reported as fund balance. The following are the School District's major governmental funds:

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

Permanent Improvement Fund The permanent improvement fund accounts for financial resources to be used for the acquisitions, construction, or improvement of major capital facilities.

The other governmental funds of the School District account for grants and other resources to which the School District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources.

Proprietary Fund Type Proprietary funds are used to account for the School Districts ongoing activities which are similar to those often found in the private sector. The School District has no enterprise funds. The following is a description of the School District's internal service fund:

Internal Service Fund The internal service fund is used to account for the financing of goods or services provided by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of the School District, or to other governments, on a cost reimbursement basis. The only internal service fund of the School District accounts for a self-insurance program which provides medical/surgical, vision and dental benefits to employees.

Fiduciary Funds Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into the following 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 has certain characteristics. Custodial Funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund. The School District does not have fiduciary funds.

Measurement Focus

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. Internal service fund operating activity is eliminated to avoid overstatement of revenues and expenses.

The government-wide statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function or program of the governmental activities of the School District. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and, therefore, clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include amounts paid by the recipient of goods or services offered by the program and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues of the School District.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

The government-wide financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. All assets and deferred outflows of resources and all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources associated with the operation of the School District are included on the statement of net position.

Fund Financial Statements Fund financial statements report detailed information about the School District. The focus of government fund financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type. Each major fund is presented in a separate column, and all nonmajor funds are aggregated into one column. The internal service fund is presented in a single column on the face of the proprietary fund statements.

All governmental funds are accounted for using a flow of current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and deferred outflows of resources and current liabilities and deferred inflows of resources generally are included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the government activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Government fund financial statements therefore include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

Like the government-wide statements, the internal service fund is accounted for on a flow of economic resources measurement focus. All assets and all liabilities associated with the operation of this fund are included on the statement of fund net position. The statement of changes in fund net position presents increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in net position. The statement of cash flows provide information about how the School District finances and meets the cash flow needs of its proprietary activity.

Proprietary funds distinguish operating revenues and expenses from nonoperating items. Operating revenues and expenses generally result from providing services and producing and delivering goods in connection with a proprietary fund's principal ongoing operation. The principal operating revenue of the School District's internal service fund is charges for sales and services. Operating expenses for internal service funds include the cost of sales and services and administrative expenses. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as nonoperating revenues and expenses.

Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. Government-wide financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Proprietary funds also use the accrual basis of accounting.

Revenues: Exchange and Non-Exchange Transactions Revenues resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, are recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place. On a modified accrual basis, revenue is recorded in the fiscal year in which the resources are measurable and become available. Available means that the resources will be collected within the current fiscal year or are expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current fiscal year. For the School District, available means expected to be received within sixty days of fiscal year-end.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Non-exchange transactions, in which the School District receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include property taxes, grants, entitlements and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied (see Note 6). Revenue from grants, entitlements and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the School District must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the School District on a reimbursement basis. On a modified accrual basis, revenue from nonexchange transactions must also be available before it can be recognized.

Under the modified accrual basis, the following revenue sources are considered to be both measurable and available at fiscal year-end: property taxes available as an advance, interest, tuition, grants, student fees and rentals.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources In addition to assets, the statements of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. For the School District, deferred outflows of resources are reported on the government-wide statement of net position for pension and OPEB. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are explained in Notes 12 and 13.

In addition to liabilities, the statements of financial position report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized until that time. For the School District, deferred inflows of resources include property taxes, pension, OPEB and unavailable revenue. Property taxes represent amounts for which there is an enforceable legal claim as of June 30, 2023, but which were levied to finance fiscal year 2024 operations. These amounts have been recorded as a deferred inflow on both the government-wide statement of net position and governmental fund financial statements. Unavailable revenue is reported only on the governmental funds balance sheet, and represents receivables which will not be collected within the available period. For the School District, unavailable revenue may include delinquent property taxes, grants and entitlements and miscellaneous revenues. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period the amounts become available. The details of these unavailable revenues are identified on the Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to Net Position of Governmental Activities. Deferred inflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are reported on the government-wide statement of net position. (See Notes 12 and 13).

Expenses/Expenditures On the accrual basis of accounting, expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred. The fair value of donated commodities used during the year is reported in the statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances as an expenditure with a like amount reported as intergovernmental revenue.

The measurement focus of governmental fund accounting is on decreases in net financial resources (expenditures) rather than expenses. Expenditures are generally recognized in the accounting period in which the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable. Allocations of cost, such as depreciation and amortization, are not recognized in governmental funds.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Education has, by resolution, identified the funds to receive an allocation of interest. Interest revenue credited to the general fund in fiscal year 2023 was zero.

Investments of the cash management pool and investments with a maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the School District are considered to be cash equivalents. Investments with an original maturity of more than three months that are not made from the pool are reported as investments.

Capital Assets

General capital assets generally result from expenditures in the governmental funds. These assets are reported in the governmental activities column of the government-wide statement of net position, but are not reported in the fund financial statements.

All capital assets are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their acquisition values as of the date received. The School District's capitalization threshold is \$5,000. Improvements are capitalized; the costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend an asset's life are not. The infrastructure class tracks costs for the waste treatment facility.

All reported capital assets, except for land and construction in progress, are depreciated. Improvements are depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Description	Estimated Lives
Land Improvements	20 Years
Buildings and Improvements	20-50 Years
Infrastructure	50 Years
Furniture and Equipment	5-20 Years
Vehicles	8 Years

Interfund Balances

On fund financial statements, receivables and payables resulting from short-term interfund loans are classified as "interfund receivables/payables." Repayments from the funds responsible for particular expenditures or expenses to the funds that initially paid for them are reported as "due to/due from other funds." These amounts are eliminated in the governmental columns of the Statement of Net Position.

Compensated Absences

Compensated absences of the School District consist of vacation leave and sick leave to the extent that payments to the employee for these absences are attributable to services already rendered and are not contingent on a specific event that is outside the control of the School District and the employee.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

In accordance with the provisions of GASB Statement No. 16, *Accounting for Compensated Absences*, a liability for vacation leave is accrued and a) the employees' rights to payment are attributable to services already rendered; and b) it is probable that the employer will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or other means, such as cash payment at termination or retirement. An accrual for earned sick leave is made to the extent that it is probable that the benefits will result in termination (severance) payments. A liability for sick leave is accrued using the vesting method; i.e., the liability is based on the sick leave accumulated at the balance sheet date by those employees who are currently eligible in the future. For purposes of establishing a liability for severance on employees expected to become eligible to retire in the future, employees age fifty or greater with ten years of service or any age with twenty years of service were considered expected to become eligible to retire in accordance with GASB Statement No. 16.

The total liability for vacation and sick leave has been calculated using pay rates in effect at June 30, 2023 and reduced to the maximum payment allowed by labor contract and/or statute, plus any additional salary related payments.

The entire compensated absence liability is reported on the government-wide financial statements.

For governmental fund financial statements, compensated absences are recognized as liabilities and expenditures as payments come due each period upon the occurrence of employee resignations and retirements.

Pensions and Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB asset/liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension/OPEB, and pension/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 plan. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The pension/OPEB plans report investments at fair value.

Bond Premiums

Bond premiums are recorded as another financing sources on the governmental fund statements. The bond premiums are amortized over the term of the bond using the straight-line method on the government-wide statements since the results are not significantly different from the effective-interest or bonds outstanding methods. Bond premiums are presented as an increase of the face amount of the bonds payable.

Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligations

All payables, accrued liabilities and long-term obligations are reported in the government-wide financial statements, and all payables, accrued liabilities, and long-term obligations payable from proprietary funds are reported on the proprietary fund financial statements. In general, governmental fund payables and accrued liabilities that, once incurred, are paid in a timely manner and in full from current financial resources, are reported as obligations of the funds. However, claims and judgments, compensated absences that will be paid from governmental funds are reported as a liability in the fund financial statements only to the extent that they are due for payment during the current fiscal year. Net pension/OPEB liability should be recognized in the governmental funds to the extent that benefit payments are due and payable and the pension/OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is not sufficient for payment of those benefits.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Fund Balance

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, the School District classifies its fund balance based on the purpose for which the resources were received and the level of constraint placed on the resources. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable – The nonspendable fund balance category 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” criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash. It also includes the long-term amount of loans receivable, as well as property acquired for resale, unless the use of the proceeds from the collection of those receivables or from the sale of those properties is restricted, committed or assigned.

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

Committed – The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the School District Board of Education. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the School District Board of Education removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund 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 fund balance classification are intended to be used by the School District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the School District Board of Education. The Board of Education has by resolution authorized the Treasurer to assign fund balance. The Board of Education may also assign fund balance as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated revenue and appropriations in the subsequent year’s appropriated budget.

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

The School District applies restricted resources first when expenditures are 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 could be used.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets and deferred outflows of resources and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowings used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets or related debt also should be included in this component of net position. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the School District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes includes instructional activities, grants and extracurricular activities. At June 30, 2023, none of the School District's net position was restricted by enabling legislation.

The School District applies restricted resources first when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

Interfund Activity

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as revenues in the seller funds and as expenditures/expenses 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 expenditures/expenses to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented on the financial statements.

Estimates

The preparation of the basic financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the basic financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Extraordinary and Special Items

Extraordinary items are transactions or events that are both unusual in nature and infrequent in occurrence. Special items are transactions or events that are within the control of the Board of Education and that are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence. During fiscal year 2023, the School District had no extraordinary or special items.

Budgetary Data

All funds, other than custodial funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the alternative tax budget, the appropriation resolution and the certificate of estimated resources, which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The alternative tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amounts that the Board of Education may appropriate. The appropriation resolution is the Board's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on expenditures plus encumbrances at a level of control selected by the Board. The legal level of budgetary control has been established by the Board of Education at the fund level for all funds. The Treasurer has been given the authority to allocate Board appropriations to the function and object levels within each fund.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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

The appropriation resolution is subject to amendment by the Board throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations may not exceed estimated revenues. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation for that fund that covered the entire fiscal year, including amounts automatically carried over from prior years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts in the budgetary statements reflect the final appropriations passed by the Board during the year.

Implementation of New Accounting Principles

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the School District has implemented GASB Statement No. 91, *Conduit Debt Obligations*, GASB Statement No. 93, paragraphs 13 and 14, *Replacement of Interbank Offered Rates*, GASB Statement No. 94, *Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Available Payment Arrangements*, GASB Statement No. 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements*, and certain provisions of GASB Statement No. 99, *Omnibus 2022*.

GASB Statement No. 91 provides a single method of reporting conduit debt obligations by issuers and eliminates diversity in practice associated with (1) commitments extended by issuers, (2) arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations, and (3) related note disclosures. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 91 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School District.

GASB Statement No. 93, paragraphs 13 and 14, provide an exception to the lease modifications guidance in GASB Statement No. 87, as amended, for certain lease contracts that are amended solely to replace an IBOR as the rate upon which variable payments depend. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 93 paragraphs 13 and 14, did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School District.

GASB Statement No. 94 improves financial reporting by establishing the definitions of public-private and public-public partnership arrangements and availability payment arrangements as well as provides uniform guidance on accounting and financial reporting for transactions that meet the definitions. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 94 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School District.

GASB Statement No. 96 improves financial reporting by establishing a definition for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) and providing uniform guidance for accounting and financial reporting for transactions that meet that definition. The statement also enhances the relevance and reliability of the financial statements by requiring a government to report a subscription asset and subscription liability for a SBITA and discloses essential information about the arrangement. The note disclosures also allow the users to understand the scale and important aspects of the SBITA activities and evaluate the obligations and assets resulting from the SBITAs. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 96 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School District.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

GASB Statement No. 99 enhances comparability in accounting and financial reporting and improves the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing (1) practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements and (2) accounting and financial reporting for financial guarantees. The implementation of certain provisions of GASB Statement No. 99 that relate to extension of LIBOR, accounting for SNAP distributions, disclosures of nonmonetary transactions, and pledges of future revenues by pledging governments, did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School District.

NOTE 3 – BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

While reporting financial position, results of operations and changes in fund balance on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts and disbursements.

The statement of revenue, expenditures and changes in fund balance – budget (non-GAAP budgetary basis) and actual presented for the general fund is presented on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The major differences between the budget basis and the GAAP basis are that:

- (a) Revenues and other financing sources are recorded when received in cash (budget basis) as opposed to susceptible to accrual (GAAP basis);
- (b) Expenditures and other financing uses are recorded when paid in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when the liability is incurred (GAAP basis);
- (c) In order to determine compliance with Ohio law, and to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, total outstanding encumbrances (budget basis) are recorded as the equivalent of an expenditure, as opposed to assigned or committed fund balance for that portion of outstanding encumbrances not already recognized as an account payable (GAAP basis);
- (d) Advances-in and advances-out are operating transactions (budget basis) as opposed to balance sheet transactions (GAAP basis); and
- (e) Some funds are included in the general fund (GAAP basis), but have separate legally adopted budgets (budget basis).

The adjustments necessary to convert the results of operations for the year on the budget basis to the GAAP basis for the general fund is as follows:

Net Change in Fund Balance	
GAAP Basis	\$ 228,244
Net Adjustment for Revenue Accruals	7,015
Net Adjustment for Expenditure Accruals	461,083
Funds Budgeted Elsewhere**	7,486
Budget Basis	<u>\$ 703,828</u>

**Certain funds that are legally budgeted in separate special revenue funds are considered part of the general fund on a GAAP basis. This includes the public school support fund.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 4 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. United States Treasury notes, bills, bonds, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided that the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and that the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio;
5. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in items (1) and (2) above and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
6. The State Treasurer's investment pool the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAR Ohio).

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

7. Certain banker's acceptance and commercial paper notes for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days and two hundred seventy days, respectively, in an amount not to exceed forty percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time; and,
8. Under limited circumstances, corporate debt interests rated in either of the two highest classifications by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations reverse repurchase agreements and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage and short selling are also prohibited. An investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the 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 or, if the securities are not represented by certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

Deposits

At year-end, \$6,231,917 of the School District's bank balance was exposed to custodial credit risk. Although the securities were held by the pledging financial institutions' trust department in the School District's name and all statutory requirements for the investment of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the School District to a successful claim by the FDIC.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the School District will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party.

The School District has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or protected by:

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

Cash and Cash Equivalents with Fiscal Agent

The School District is self-insured through a fiscal agent. The money held by the fiscal agent cannot be identified as an investment or deposit, since it is held in a pool made up of numerous participants.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 5 – INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS

Interfund Balances

Interfund balances for the year ended June 30, 2023 consisted of the following, as reported on the fund financial statements:

Interfund Payable	Interfund Receivable General
ESSER	\$ 39,040
TITLE VI-B	11,067
Student Support and Academic Enrichment	950
Preschool Grant	783
Title II-A	2,704
Total	\$ 54,544

The primary purpose of the interfund loans is to cover costs in specific funds where revenues were not received by June 30. These interfund loans will be repaid once the anticipated revenues are received. All interfund loans are expected to be repaid within one year.

Interfund Transfers

Interfund transfers for the year ended June 30, 2023 consisted of the following:

Fund	Transfer In	Transfer Out
Major Funds		
General Fund	\$ -	\$ 90,000
Nonmajor Governmental Funds	90,000	-
Total	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000

The primary purpose of the general fund transfers was to provide additional resources for extracurricular activities. Interfund transfers between governmental funds are eliminated for reporting in the statement of activities.

NOTE 6 – PROPERTY TAXES

Property taxes are levied and assessed on a calendar year basis while the School District fiscal year runs from July through June. First half tax collections are received by the School District in the second half of the fiscal year. Second half tax distributions occur in the first half of the following fiscal year. Property taxes include amounts levied against all real and public utility property located in the School District. Real property tax revenue received in calendar year 2023 represents collections of calendar year 2022 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2023 were levied after April 1, 2022, on the assessed value listed as of January 1, 2022, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State law at 35 percent of appraised market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid 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.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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

The School District receives property taxes from Columbiana, Carroll, and Jefferson Counties. The County Auditor periodically advances to the School District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2023, are available to finance fiscal year 2023 operations. The amount of second-half real property taxes available for advance at fiscal year-end can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent.

Accrued property taxes receivable includes real property, public utility property and delinquent tangible personal property taxes which are measurable as of June 30, 2023, and for which there is an enforceable legal claim. Although total property tax collections for the next fiscal year are measurable, only the amount of real property taxes available as an advance at June 30 was levied to finance current fiscal year operations and is reported as revenue at fiscal year-end. The portion of the receivable not levied to finance current fiscal year operations is offset by a credit to deferred inflows of resources.

On the accrual basis of accounting, collectible delinquent property taxes have been recorded as a receivable and revenue, while on a modified accrual basis of accounting the revenue has been reported as a deferred inflow of resources.

The assessed values upon which the fiscal year 2023 taxes were collected are:

	2022 Second-Half Collections		2023 First-Half Collections	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Real Estate	\$ 101,850,330	67%	\$ 121,181,020	71%
Public Utility Personal Property	49,710,260	33%	50,136,080	29%
Total Assessed Value	<u>\$ 151,560,590</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>\$ 171,317,100</u>	<u>100%</u>
Tax rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value	<u>\$ 38.59</u>		<u>\$ 38.59</u>	

NOTE 7 – RECEIVABLES

Receivables at June 30, 2023 consisted of property taxes, interfund, accounts, and intergovernmental grants and entitlements. All receivables are considered collectible in full due to the ability to foreclose for nonpayment of taxes, the stable condition of State programs and the current year guarantee of federal funds.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 8 - CAPITAL ASSETS

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

	Balance 6/30/2022	Additions	Reductions	Balance 6/30/2023
Governmental Activities:				
<i>Nondepreciable Capital Assets:</i>				
Land	\$ 84,670	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 84,670
Construction in Progress	-	545,954	-	545,954
<i>Total Nondepreciable Capital Assets</i>	<u>84,670</u>	<u>545,954</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>630,624</u>
<i>Depreciable Capital Assets:</i>				
Land Improvements	866,515	-	-	866,515
Buildings and Improvements	19,093,791	-	-	19,093,791
Furniture and Equipment	656,219	49,938	-	706,157
Vehicles	1,759,503	379,475	-	2,138,978
Infrastructure	139,856	-	-	139,856
<i>Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated</i>	<u>22,515,884</u>	<u>429,413</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,945,297</u>
<i>Less Accumulated Depreciation:</i>				
Land Improvements	(701,626)	(40,989)	-	(742,615)
Buildings and Improvements	(11,805,079)	(664,892)	-	(12,469,971)
Furniture and Equipment	(451,124)	(32,463)	-	(483,587)
Vehicles	(1,260,035)	(111,850)	-	(1,371,885)
Infrastructure	(129,367)	(6,993)	-	(136,360)
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(14,347,231)</u>	<u>(857,187)</u> *	<u>-</u>	<u>(15,204,418)</u>
<i>Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated, Net</i>	<u>8,168,653</u>	<u>(427,774)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,740,879</u>
<i>Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net</i>	<u>\$ 8,253,323</u>	<u>\$ 118,180</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 8,371,503</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to governmental functions as follows:

Instruction:	
Regular	\$ 554,048
Vocational	18,013
Support Services:	
Administration	685
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	71,297
Pupil Transportation	107,656
Operation of Non-Instructional Services:	
Food Service Operations	4,915
Extracurricular Activities	<u>100,573</u>
Total Depreciation Expense	<u>\$ 857,187</u>

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 9 – LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

The changes in the School District's long-term obligations during the fiscal year consist of the following:

	Outstanding 6/30/2022	Additions	Deductions	Outstanding 6/30/2023	Due Within One Year
Governmental Activities					
Direct Borrowings:					
Football Field Renovations Lease-Purchase	\$ 185,195	\$ -	\$ (123,284)	\$ 61,911	\$ 61,911
HB264-Infrastructure	367,781	-	(100,447)	267,334	102,744
Bus Lease-Purchase	53,655	-	(53,655)	-	-
<i>Total Direct Borrowings</i>	<u>606,631</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(277,386)</u>	<u>329,245</u>	<u>164,655</u>
Net Pension/OPEB Liability:					
Pension	6,826,382	5,130,103	-	11,956,485	-
OPEB	994,951	-	(258,116)	736,835	-
<i>Total Net Pension/OPEB Liability</i>	<u>7,821,333</u>	<u>5,130,103</u>	<u>(258,116)</u>	<u>12,693,320</u>	<u>-</u>
Other Liabilities:					
Compensated Absences	517,902	10,780	(71,348)	457,334	58,722
<i>Total Governmental Activities</i>					
<i>Long-Term Liabilities</i>	<u>\$ 8,945,866</u>	<u>\$ 5,140,883</u>	<u>\$ (606,850)</u>	<u>\$ 13,479,899</u>	<u>\$ 223,377</u>

There is no repayment schedule for the net pension liability and net OPEB liability; however, employer pension and OPEB contributions are primarily made from the General Fund. For additional information related to the net pension liability and net OPEB liability see Notes 12 and 13. Compensated absences will be paid from the fund from which the employees' salaries are paid, which, for the School District, is primarily the general fund.

Lease Purchase Agreements

During fiscal year 2013, the School District entered into lease-purchase agreement with the Ohio School Building Leasing Corporation to finance football field renovations, bleachers and a building at the School District. In the event of default, as defined by the lease-purchase agreement, the lessor has the right to exercise all rights and remedies, including the rights to take possession of and sublease the project site and facilities. The School District is liable for all payments due and any legal fees, costs, and expenses associated with the exercising of the Lessor's rights and remedies.

During fiscal year 2017, the School District entered into a lease-purchase agreement with the Jefferson Health Plan to finance energy conservation infrastructure projects. In the event of default, as defined by the lease-purchase agreement, the lessor has the right to exercise all rights and remedies, including the rights to take possession of and sell or lease the project. The School District is liable for applicable lease payments and other payments due during the current lease term.

During fiscal year 2019, the School District entered into a lease-purchase agreement for three buses. The buses were capitalized in the amount of \$259,302 representing the present value of the minimum lease payments at the time of the acquisition. In the event of default, as defined by the lease-agreement, the amounts payable by the School District may become due. If payments are not made, the financing company may retake possession of the buses and hold the School District liable for amounts payable. The lease purchase agreements will be paid from the general fund.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

The following is a summary of the School District’s annual debt service principal and interest payments on debt outstanding at June 30, 2023:

Fiscal Year Ending	Lease-Purchase Agreements	
June 30,	Principal	Interest
2024	\$ 164,655	\$ 6,884
2025	105,119	3,329
2026	59,471	4,990
Total	\$ 329,245	\$ 15,203

NOTE 10 – OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Compensated Absences

The criteria for determining vacation and sick leave benefits are derived from negotiated agreements and State laws. Classified employees earn 10 to 20 days of vacation per year, depending upon length of service. Accumulated unused vacation time is paid to classified employees upon termination of employment.

Principals, teachers, aides, secretaries, bus drivers, cafeteria workers do not earn vacation time. Teachers, administrators and classified employees earn sick leave at the rate of one and one-fourth days per month. Sick leave may be accumulated up to a maximum of 300 days for certified employees and 280 for non-certified employees. Upon retirement, certified employees are paid one-third of their total sick leave accumulation up to their maximum accumulation. Upon retirement, classified employees are paid 25 percent of unused accumulated sick leave plus 20 percent of accumulated sick leave in excess of 120 days.

Life Insurance

The School District provides life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance to most employees through Epic Life Insurance Company. Each full-time employee received \$50,000 in coverage.

NOTE 11– RISK MANAGEMENT

Comprehensive

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. For this fiscal year, the School District contracted with Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA) for property, boiler and inland marine insurance (see Note 1). This risk policy has a \$1,000 deductible. General liability is protected by Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA) with a \$15,000,000 single occurrence limit and \$17,000,000 aggregate and no deductible. Vehicles, including school buses, are covered by Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA) and hold a \$0 deductible for comprehensive and collision. There is a \$15,000,000 combined single limit of liability.

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

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Workers' Compensation Plan

The School District participates in the Ohio Association of School Business Officials Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan, an insurance purchasing pool (Note 1). 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. Participants in the Plan are placed on tiers according to their loss history. Participants with low loss histories are rewarded with greater savings than participants with higher loss histories. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for its Plan tier rather than its individual rate. Participation in the Plan is limited to school districts that can meet the Plan's selection criteria. The firm of Sheakley UniService, Inc. provides administrative, cost control, assistance with safety programs, and actuarial services to the Plan.

Medical, Vision, Dental and Prescription Insurance

Medical, vision, dental and prescription insurance is offered to employees through a self-insurance internal service fund. The School District is a member of a claims servicing pool, consisting of several School Districts within the Eastern Region, in which monthly premiums are paid to the fiscal agent who in turn pays the claims on the School District's behalf. The claims liability reported in the internal service fund at June 30, is based on an estimate provided by a the third party administrator and the requirements of GASB Statement No. 10, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Risk Financing and Related Insurance Issues*, as amended by GASB Statement No. 30, *Risk Financing Omnibus*, which requires that a liability for unpaid claims costs, including estimates of costs relating to incurred but not reported claims, be accrued at the estimated ultimate cost of settling claims:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Claims Incurred</u>	<u>Claims Payments</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
2023	\$ 101,978	\$ 1,844,618	\$ (1,791,084)	\$ 155,512
2022	107,112	1,867,560	(1,872,694)	101,978

NOTE 12 - 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) represents 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 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 this estimate annually.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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 proportionate share of each plan’s unfunded benefits is presented as a long-term *net pension/OPEB liability (asset)* on the accrual basis of accounting. Any liability for the contractually-required pension contribution outstanding at the end of the year is included in *intergovernmental payable* on both the accrual and modified accrual bases of accounting.

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 13 for the required OPEB disclosures.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

	Eligible to Retire on or before August 1, 2017 *	Eligible to Retire after August 1, 2017
Full Benefits	Any age with 30 years of service credit	Age 67 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 57 with 30 years of service credit
Actuarially Reduced Benefits	Age 60 with 5 years of service credit 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, may be included in this plan.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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

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 \$287,660 for fiscal year 2023. Of this amount, \$10,718 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

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. Effective August 1, 2017 – July 1, 2019, any member could retire with reduced benefits who had (1) five years of service credit and age 60; (2) 27 years of service credit and age 55; or (3) 30 years of service credit regardless of age. Effective August 1, 2019 – July 1, 2021, any member may retire with reduced benefits who has (1) five years of service credit and age 60; (2) 28 years of service credit and age 55; or (3) 30 years of service credit regardless of age. Eligibility changes will continue to 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.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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 50 and after termination of employment.

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

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

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's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$752,750 for fiscal year 2023. Of this amount, \$131,180 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

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 independent actuarial valuation as of that date. The School District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the employer's share of employer contributions in the pension plan relative to the total employer contributions of all participating employers. Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.0513213%	0.04129815%	
Prior Measurement Date	<u>0.0510177%</u>	<u>0.03866742%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>0.0003036%</u>	<u>0.00263073%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net			
Pension Liability	\$ 2,775,855	\$ 9,180,630	\$ 11,956,485
Pension Expense	\$ 144,095	\$ 1,208,252	\$ 1,352,347

Other than contributions made subsequent to the measurement date and differences between projected and actual earnings on investments; deferred inflows/outflows of resources are recognized in pension expense beginning in the current period, using a straight line method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining services lives of all employees that are provided with pensions, determined as of the beginning of the measurement period. Net deferred inflows/outflows of resources pertaining to the differences between projected and actual investment earnings are similarly recognized over a closed five year period.

At June 30, 2023, the School District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 112,425	\$ 117,525	\$ 229,950
Net Difference between Projected and Actual Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	-	319,469	319,469
Changes of Assumptions	27,390	1,098,646	1,126,036
Changes in Proportion and Differences between School District Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	14,906	663,649	678,555
School District Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	<u>287,660</u>	<u>752,750</u>	<u>1,040,410</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 442,381</u>	<u>\$ 2,952,039</u>	<u>\$ 3,394,420</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 18,223	\$ 35,120	\$ 53,343
Net Difference between Projected and Actual Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	96,862	-	96,862
Changes of Assumptions	-	826,964	826,964
Changes in Proportion and Differences between School District Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	<u>44,577</u>	<u>126,431</u>	<u>171,008</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$ 159,662</u>	<u>\$ 988,515</u>	<u>\$ 1,148,177</u>

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

\$1,040,410 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	SERS	STRS	Total
2024	\$ (25,531)	\$ 154,481	\$ 128,950
2025	(2,012)	226,773	224,761
2026	(138,372)	(101,545)	(239,917)
2027	160,974	931,065	1,092,039
Total	<u>\$ (4,941)</u>	<u>\$ 1,210,774</u>	<u>\$ 1,205,833</u>

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 and June 30, 2021, are presented below:

Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
Inflation	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expense, including inflation
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.00 percent, on and after April 1, 2018, COLA's for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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 two 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 five years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward three years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

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

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

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

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Cash	2.00 %	(0.45) %
US Equity	24.75	5.37
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	6.22
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	8.22
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	1.20
Private Equity	11.00	10.05
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00	4.87
Multi-Asset Strategies	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.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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 School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent, as well as what the School District'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.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 4,085,926	\$ 2,775,855	\$ 1,672,138

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

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

Inflation	2.50 percent
Salary Increases	
Current Measurement Period	Varies by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 percent
Prior Measurement Period	Varies by age from 2.50 percent to 12.50 percent
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0.00 percent effective July 1, 2017

For 2022, post-retirement mortality rates for healthy retirees 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 for healthy retirees 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. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Tables, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality 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, were based on the results of the latest available actuarial experience study, which is for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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 as of July 1, 2022. Target weights were phased in over a 3-month period concluding on October 1, 2022.

**10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25 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.

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	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 13,868,591	\$ 9,180,630	\$ 5,216,068

Changes between the Measurement Date and the Reporting Date The discount rate was adjusted to 7.00 percent for the June 30, 2022 valuation. Demographic assumptions were changed based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

See Note 12 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.

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 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 \$39,016, which is reported as an intergovernmental payable. 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 equal to its surcharge obligation for fiscal year 2023.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 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. Nearly all health care plan enrollees, for the most recent year, pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14 percent of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

OPEB Liability (Asset), OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

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 and OPEB expense:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset):			
Current Measurement Date	0.0524807%	0.04129815%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.0525711%	0.03866742%	
Change in Proportionate Share	-0.0000904%	0.00263073%	
Proportionate Share of the Net			
OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ 736,835	\$ (1,069,347)	
OPEB Expense	\$ (11,786)	\$ (188,813)	\$ (200,599)

Other than contributions made subsequent to the measurement date and differences between projected and actual earnings on investments; deferred inflows/outflows of resources are recognized in OPEB expense beginning in the current period, using a straight-line method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining services lives of all employees that are provided with pensions, determined as of the beginning of the measurement period. Net deferred inflows/outflows of resources pertaining to the differences between projected and actual investment earnings are similarly recognized over a closed five-year period.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

At June 30, 2023, the School District reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 6,194	\$ 15,505	\$ 21,699
Net Difference between Projected and Actual Earnings on OPEB Plan Investments	3,831	18,613	22,444
Changes of Assumptions	117,203	45,552	162,755
Changes in Proportion and Differences between School District Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	120,486	15,271	135,757
School District Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	39,016	-	39,016
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 286,730</u>	<u>\$ 94,941</u>	<u>\$ 381,671</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 471,334	\$ 160,596	\$ 631,930
Net Difference between Projected and Actual Earnings on OPEB Plan Investments	-	-	-
Changes of Assumptions	302,475	758,270	1,060,745
Changes in Proportion and Differences between School District Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	58,478	24,035	82,513
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$ 832,287</u>	<u>\$ 942,901</u>	<u>\$ 1,775,188</u>

\$39,016 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction/addition to the net OPEB liability/asset in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2024	\$ (109,643)	\$ (241,360)	\$ (351,003)
2025	(120,277)	(247,860)	(368,137)
2026	(116,381)	(121,607)	(237,988)
2027	(85,334)	(47,309)	(132,643)
2028	(62,767)	(62,667)	(125,434)
Thereafter	(90,171)	(127,157)	(217,328)
Total	<u>\$ (584,573)</u>	<u>\$ (847,960)</u>	<u>\$ (1,432,533)</u>

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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

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

Inflation	2.40 percent
Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expense, including inflation
Fiduciary Net Position Depletion	Projected to be 2044
Municipal Bond Index Rate	
Measurement Date	3.69 percent
Prior Measurement Date	1.92 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate	
Measurement Date	4.08 percent, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation
Prior Measurement Date	2.27 percent, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	
Medicare	5.125 percent - 4.40 percent
Pre-Medicare	6.750 percent - 4.40 percent
Medical Trend Assumption	7.00 percent - 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.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial 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 target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class, as used in the June 30, 2020 five-year experience study, are summarized as follows:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Cash	2.00 %	(0.45) %
US Equity	24.75	5.37
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	6.22
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	8.22
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	1.20
Private Equity	11.00	10.05
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00	4.87
Multi-Asset Strategies	4.00	3.39
Private Debt/Private Credit	3.00	5.38
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

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, 2022 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 plan 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 and what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (3.08 percent) and higher (5.08 percent) than the current discount rate (4.08 percent).

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Also shown is what the net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower (6.00 percent decreasing to 3.40 percent) and higher (8.00 percent decreasing to 5.40 percent) than the current rate (7.00 percent decreasing to 4.40 percent).

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District 's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 915,160	\$ 736,835	\$ 592,878
		Current Trend Rate	
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School District 's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 568,232	\$ 736,835	\$ 957,057

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results 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.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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.

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 as of July 1, 2022. Target weights were phased in over a 3-month period concluding on October 1, 2022.

**10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25 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 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 Rate 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.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
School District 's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	\$ (988,583)	\$ (1,069,347)	\$ (1,138,528)
	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Trend Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
School District 's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	\$ (1,109,172)	\$ (1,069,347)	\$ (1,019,076)

NOTE 14 – FUND BALANCES

Fund balance can be classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the 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 as follows:

	<u>General</u>	<u>Permanent Improvement</u>	<u>Other Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total</u>
Restricted for:				
Capital Outlay	\$ -	\$ 1,320,183	\$ -	\$ 1,320,183
Food Service	-	-	333,251	333,251
Classroom Facilities Maintenance	-	-	583,364	583,364
Student Activities	-	-	125,663	125,663
Other Purposes	-	-	384,341	384,341
Total Restricted	-	1,320,183	1,426,619	2,746,802
Assigned for:				
Public School Support	32,027	-	-	32,027
Total Assigned	32,027	-	-	32,027
Unassigned	2,184,087	-	(149,244)	2,034,843
Total Fund Balance	\$ 2,216,114	\$ 1,320,183	\$ 1,277,375	\$ 4,813,672

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Unassigned fund balance included the following individual fund deficits at June 30:

	Deficit
<i>Non-Major Governmental Funds</i>	
Athletics (District Managed Activity)	\$ 6,133
ESSER	69,563
IDEA-B	38,039
IDEA-B ARP	1,080
IDEA Preschool Grant for the Handicap	351
Improving Teacher Quality	2,703
Miscellaneous Federal Grants	31,375
Total	\$ 149,244

The general fund is liable for any deficit in these funds and provides transfers when cash is required, not when accruals occur. The deficit fund balances resulted from adjustments for accrued liabilities.

NOTE 15 – CONTINGENCIES AND COMMITMENTS

Grants

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

Litigation

The School District is not involved in material litigation as either plaintiff or defendant.

School Foundation

School District foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is legislatively required to adjust/reconcile funding as enrollment information is updated by schools throughout the State, which can extend past the fiscal year end. As of the date of this report, ODE adjustments for fiscal year 2023 are finalized.

Contractual Commitments

At June 30, 2023, the School District had the following outstanding contractual commitments:

Project	Vendor	Amount of Contract	Expenditures as of 6/30/23	Amount Remaining on Contract
Roof Replacement	Burns & Scalo Roofing Co., Inc.	\$ 799,942	\$ 263,994	\$ 535,948
HVAC System Replacement	Cattrell Companies, Inc	473,100	239,010	234,090

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 16 – SET-ASIDES

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

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

	<u>Capital Improvement</u>
Set Aside Restricted Balance June 30, 2022	\$ -
Current Year Set-Aside Requirement	176,679
Current Year Qualifying Expenditures	<u>(646,485)</u>
Total	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance Carried Forward to Fiscal Year 2024	<u>\$ -</u>
Set Aside Balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$ -</u>

Although the School District had qualifying expenditures during the fiscal year that reduced the set-aside amount below zero for the capital acquisition set-aside, this amount may not be used to reduce the set-aside requirement for future years. This negative balance is therefore not presented as being carried forward to future years.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>					
School District's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.05132130%	0.05101770%	0.05417710%	0.04894860%	0.04756970%
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 2,775,855	\$ 1,882,405	\$ 3,583,388	\$ 2,928,681	\$ 2,724,405
School District's Covered Payroll	\$ 1,961,757	\$ 1,761,750	\$ 1,881,971	\$ 1,936,904	\$ 1,145,741
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	141.50%	106.85%	190.41%	151.20%	237.79%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	75.82%	82.86%	68.55%	70.85%	71.36%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>					
School District's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.04129815%	0.03866742%	0.03724512%	0.03458550%	0.03785042%
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 9,180,630	\$ 4,943,977	\$ 9,011,994	\$ 7,648,375	\$ 8,322,458
School District's Covered Payroll	\$ 4,477,836	\$ 4,778,521	\$ 4,488,836	\$ 4,020,950	\$ 4,423,379
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	205.02%	103.46%	200.76%	190.21%	188.15%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	78.90%	87.80%	75.50%	77.40%	77.31%

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

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
0.04320810%	0.03604930%	0.03353900%	0.03241900%	0.03241900%
\$ 2,581,589	\$ 2,638,476	\$ 1,913,768	\$ 1,640,707	\$ 1,927,854
\$ 1,679,714	\$ 1,201,786	\$ 1,009,697	\$ 942,027	\$ 1,003,324
153.69%	219.55%	189.54%	174.17%	192.15%
69.50%	62.98%	69.16%	71.70%	65.52%
0.03768434%	0.03634591%	0.03376254%	0.03392511%	0.03392511%
\$ 8,951,996	\$ 12,166,072	\$ 9,330,979	\$ 8,251,761	\$ 9,829,444
\$ 4,202,157	\$ 3,951,314	\$ 3,522,557	\$ 3,466,208	\$ 3,650,815
213.03%	307.90%	264.89%	238.06%	269.24%
75.30%	66.80%	72.10%	74.70%	69.30%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School District's Contributions - Pension
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>					
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 287,660	\$ 274,646	\$ 246,645	\$ 263,476	\$ 261,482
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(287,660)</u>	<u>(274,646)</u>	<u>(246,645)</u>	<u>(263,476)</u>	<u>(261,482)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
School District's Covered Payroll	\$ 2,054,714	\$ 1,961,757	\$ 1,761,750	\$ 1,881,971	\$ 1,936,904
Pension Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	13.50%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>					
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 752,750	\$ 626,897	\$ 668,993	\$ 628,437	\$ 562,933
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(752,750)</u>	<u>(626,897)</u>	<u>(668,993)</u>	<u>(628,437)</u>	<u>(562,933)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
School District's Covered Payroll	\$ 5,376,786	\$ 4,477,836	\$ 4,778,521	\$ 4,488,836	\$ 4,020,950
Pension Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
\$ 154,675	\$ 235,160	\$ 168,250	\$ 133,078	\$ 130,565
<u>(154,675)</u>	<u>(235,160)</u>	<u>(168,250)</u>	<u>(133,078)</u>	<u>(130,565)</u>
<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
\$ 1,145,741	\$ 1,679,714	\$ 1,201,786	\$ 1,009,697	\$ 942,027
13.50%	14.00%	14.00%	13.18%	13.86%
\$ 619,273	\$ 588,302	\$ 553,184	\$ 493,158	\$ 450,607
<u>(619,273)</u>	<u>(588,302)</u>	<u>(553,184)</u>	<u>(493,158)</u>	<u>(450,607)</u>
<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
\$ 4,423,379	\$ 4,202,157	\$ 3,951,314	\$ 3,522,557	\$ 3,466,208
14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	13.00%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)
Last Seven Fiscal Years (1)

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>					
School District's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	0.05248070%	0.05257100%	0.05502100%	0.05038500%	0.04815100%
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 736,835	\$ 994,951	\$ 1,195,778	\$ 1,267,084	\$ 1,335,825
School District's Covered Payroll	\$ 1,961,757	\$ 1,761,750	\$ 1,881,971	\$ 1,936,904	\$ 1,145,741
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	37.56%	56.48%	63.54%	65.42%	116.59%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	30.34%	24.08%	18.17%	15.57%	13.57%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>					
School District's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	0.04129815%	0.03866700%	0.03724500%	0.03458600%	0.03785000%
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	\$ (1,069,347)	\$ (815,262)	\$ (654,580)	\$ (572,827)	\$ (608,218)
School District's Covered Payroll	\$ 4,477,836	\$ 4,778,521	\$ 4,488,836	\$ 4,020,950	\$ 4,423,379
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	-23.88%	-17.06%	-14.58%	-14.25%	-13.75%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability/(Asset)	230.73%	174.73%	182.10%	174.70%	176.00%

(1) Information prior to 2017 is not available.

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

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
0.04379490%	0.03646751%
\$ 1,175,340	\$ 1,039,459
\$ 1,679,714	\$ 1,201,786
69.97%	86.49%
12.46%	11.49%
0.03768434%	0.03634591%
\$ 1,470,304	\$ 1,943,789
\$ 4,202,157	\$ 3,951,314
34.99%	49.19%
47.10%	37.30%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School District's Contributions - OPEB
Last Ten Fiscal Years (1)

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>					
Contractually Required Contribution (1)	\$ 39,016	\$ 34,294	\$ 33,611	\$ 29,676	\$ 41,482
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(39,016)</u>	<u>(34,294)</u>	<u>(33,611)</u>	<u>(29,676)</u>	<u>(41,482)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
School District's Covered Payroll	\$ 2,054,714	\$ 1,961,757	\$ 1,761,750	\$ 2,121,281	\$ 1,936,904
OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (1)	1.90%	1.85%	1.91%	1.40%	2.14%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>					
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
School District's Covered Payroll	\$ 5,376,786	\$ 4,477,836	\$ 4,778,521	\$ 3,696,114	\$ 4,020,950
OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

(1) Includes surcharge

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
\$ 31,258	\$ 23,632	\$ 18,176	\$ 25,215	\$ 18,906
<u>(31,258)</u>	<u>(23,632)</u>	<u>(18,176)</u>	<u>(25,215)</u>	<u>(18,906)</u>
<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
\$ 1,140,156	\$ 1,679,714	\$ 1,201,786	\$ 1,009,697	\$ 942,027
2.74%	1.41%	1.51%	2.50%	2.01%
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,662
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(34,662)</u>
<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
\$ 4,423,379	\$ 4,202,157	\$ 3,951,314	\$ 3,522,557	\$ 3,466,208
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.00%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 1 - NET PENSION LIABILITY

There were no changes in assumptions or benefit terms for the fiscal years reported unless otherwise stated below:

Changes in Assumptions - SERS

For fiscal year 2022, the SERS Board adopted the following assumption changes:

- Assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.00 percent to 2.40 percent
- Payroll growth assumption was reduced from 3.50 percent to 1.75 percent
- Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.50 percent to 0.85 percent
- Discount rate was reduced from 7.50 percent to 7.00 percent
- Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience.
- Mortality among active members, service retirees and beneficiaries, and disabled members were updated.

For fiscal year 2017, the SERS Board adopted the following assumption changes:

- Assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25 percent to 3.00 percent
- Payroll Growth Assumption was reduced from 4.00 percent to 3.50 percent
- Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75 percent to 0.50 percent
- Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience.
- Mortality among active members was updated to RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five year age set-back for both males and females.
- Mortality among service retired members, and beneficiaries was updated to RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120 percent of male rates, and 110 percent of female rates.
- Mortality among disabled members was updated to RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90 percent for male rates and 100 percent for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement.

Changes in Benefit Terms - SERS

For fiscal year 2022, cost-of-living adjustments were increased from 2.00 percent to 2.50 percent.

For fiscal year 2021, cost-of-living adjustments were reduced from 2.50 percent to 2.00 percent.

For fiscal year 2018, the cost-of-living adjustment was changed from a fixed 3.00 percent to a cost-of-living adjustment that is indexed to CPI-W not greater than 2.50 percent with a floor of zero percent beginning January 1, 2018. In addition, with the authority granted the Board under HB 49, the Board has enacted a three-year COLA suspension for benefit recipients in calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Changes in Assumptions – STRS

For fiscal year 2022, the Retirement Board approved several changes to the actuarial assumptions. The salary increases were where changed from 12.50 percent at age 20 to 2.50 percent at age 65 to varying by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 percent. The healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the Pub-2010 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2020.

For fiscal year 2021, the long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.45 percent to 7.00 percent.

For fiscal year 2018, the Retirement Board approved several changes to the actuarial assumptions in 2017. The long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75 percent to 7.45 percent, the inflation assumption was lowered from 2.75 percent to 2.50 percent, the payroll growth assumption was lowered to 3.00 percent, and total salary increases rate was lowered by decreasing the merit component of the individual salary increases, in addition to a decrease of 0.25 percent due to lower inflation. The healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the RP-2014 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2016. Rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.

Changes in Benefit Terms - STRS

For fiscal year 2018, the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was reduced to zero.

NOTE 2 - NET OPEB LIABILITY (ASSET)

Changes in Assumptions – SERS

Amounts reported incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented as follows:

Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Fiscal year 2023	3.69 percent
Fiscal year 2022	1.92 percent
Fiscal year 2021	2.45 percent
Fiscal year 2020	3.13 percent
Fiscal year 2019	3.62 percent
Fiscal year 2018	3.56 percent
Fiscal year 2017	2.92 percent

Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Fiscal year 2023	4.08 percent
Fiscal year 2022	2.27 percent
Fiscal year 2021	2.63 percent
Fiscal year 2020	3.22 percent
Fiscal year 2019	3.70 percent
Fiscal year 2018	3.63 percent
Fiscal year 2017	2.98 percent

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Pre-Medicare Trend Assumption

Fiscal year 2023	6.75 percent initially, decreasing to 4.40 percent
Fiscal year 2022	6.75 percent initially, decreasing to 4.40 percent
Fiscal year 2021	7.00 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2020	7.00 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2019	7.25 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2018	7.50 percent initially, decreasing to 4.00 percent

Medicare Trend Assumption

Fiscal year 2023	7.00 percent initially, decreasing to 4.40 percent
Fiscal year 2022	5.125 percent initially, decreasing to 4.40 percent
Fiscal year 2021	5.25 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2020	5.25 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2019	5.375 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2018	5.50 percent initially, decreasing to 5.00 percent

Changes in Benefit Terms - SERS

There have been no changes to the benefit provisions.

Changes in Assumptions – STRS

For fiscal year 2022, the healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the RPub-2010 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2020. Rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.

For fiscal year 2022, the following changes were made to the actuarial assumptions:

- Projected salary increases from 3.25 to 10.75 percent, including wage inflation to varying by service from 2.50 to 8.50 percent
- Medicare medical health care cost trends from -16.18 percent initial to -68.78 percent initial and 4.00 percent ultimate to 3.94 percent ultimate
- Medicare prescription drug health care cost trends from 29.98 percent initial to -5.47 percent initial and 4.00 percent ultimate to 3.94 percent ultimate

For fiscal year 2021, valuation year per capita health care costs were updated. Health care cost trend rates ranged from -5.20 percent to 9.60 percent initially for fiscal year 2020 and changed for fiscal year 2021 to a range of -6.69 percent to 11.87 percent, initially.

For fiscal year 2019, the discount rate was increased from the blended rate of 4.13 percent to the long-term expected rate of return of 7.45 percent. Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated. Health care cost trend rates ranged from 6.00 percent to 11 percent initially and a 4.50 percent ultimate rate for fiscal year 2018 and changed for fiscal year 2019 to a range of -5.20 percent to 9.60 percent, initially and a 4.00 ultimate rate.

For fiscal year 2018, the blended discount rate was increased from 3.26 percent to 4.13 percent. Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated, and the salary scale was modified. The percentage of future retirees electing each option was updated based on current data and the percentage of future disabled retirees

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

and terminated vested participants electing health coverage were decreased. The assumed mortality, disability, retirement, withdrawal and future health care cost trend rates were modified along with the portion of rebated prescription drug costs.

Changes in Benefit Terms – STRS

For fiscal year 2021, there were no changes to the claims costs process. Claim curves were updated to reflect the projected fiscal year 2021 premium based on June 30, 2020 enrollment distribution. The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2021 from 1.984 percent to 2.055 percent per year of service. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2021. The Medicare subsidy percentages were adjusted effective January 1, 2021 to .1 percent for the AMA Medicare plan. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

For fiscal year 2020, there was no change to the claims costs process. Claim curves were trended to the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 to reflect the current price renewals. The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2020 from 1.944 percent to 1.984 percent per year of service. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2020. The Medicare subsidy percentages were adjusted effective January 1, 2021 to 2.1 percent for the Medicare plan. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed to January 1, 2021

For fiscal year 2019, the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was increased from 1.9 percent to 1.944 percent per year of service effective January 1, 2019. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2019 and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 1, 2020.

For fiscal year 2018, the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was reduced from 2.1 percent to 1.9 percent per year of service. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were discontinued for certain survivors and beneficiaries and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 2019. This was subsequently extended, see above paragraph.

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

To the Board of Education
Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
38095 State Route 39 East
Salineville, OH 43945

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 financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Southern Local School District, Columbiana 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, and have issued our report thereon dated January 29, 2024.

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 entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified certain deficiencies in internal control, described in the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs* as item 2023-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

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*. 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 entity's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

Rea & Associates, Inc.

Rea & Associates, Inc.
New Philadelphia, Ohio
January 29, 2024

**Independent Auditor’s Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and
Report on Internal Control over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance**

To the Board of Education
Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
38095 State Route 39 East
Salineville, OH 43945

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Southern Local School District’s, Columbiana County, Ohio (the School District) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the School District’s major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2023. The 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*.

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

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

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

We are required to be independent of the School District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for 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.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

Auditor's Responsibility 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.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis.

A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

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

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Rea & Associates, Inc.

Rea & Associates, Inc.
New Philadelphia, Ohio
January 29, 2024

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Federal Grantor/Pass Through Grantor Program Title	Grant Year	ALN	Federal Expenditures	Passed Through to Subrecipients
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION				
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education:</i>				
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	2022	84.010A	6,405	-
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	2023	84.010A	178,879	-
<i>Total Title I</i>			185,284	-
<i>Special Education Cluster:</i>				
Special Education Grants to States	2022	84.027A	5,489	-
Special Education Grants to States	2023	84.027A	231,215	-
COVID-19: Special Education Grants to States - ARP	2022	84.027X	1,080	-
COVID-19: Special Education Grants to States - ARP	2023	84.027X	22,543	-
<i>Special Education Grants to States Subtotal</i>			260,327	-
Special Education Preschool Grants	2023	84.173A	2,862	-
COVID-19: Special Education Preschool Grants - ARP	2022	84.173X	351	-
<i>Special Education Preschool Grants Subtotal</i>			3,213	-
<i>Total Special Education Cluster</i>			263,540	-
Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment	2023	84.424A	19,956	-
Title II-A Supporting Effective Instruction	2022	84.367A	98	-
Title II-A Supporting Effective Instruction	2023	84.367A	27,546	-
<i>Total Title II-A Supporting Effective Instruction</i>			27,644	-
COVID-19: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief	2022	84.425D	4,384	-
COVID-19: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief	2023	84.425D	84,972	-
COVID-19: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief - ARP	2022	84.425U	28,256	-
COVID-19: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief - ARP	2023	84.425U	683,608	-
<i>Total Education Stabilization Fund</i>			801,220	-
Total U.S. Department of Education			1,297,644	-
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY				
<i>Passed Through Ohio Facilities Construction Commission:</i>				
K12 School Safety Grant	2023	21.027	106,497	-
Total U.S. Department of Treasury			106,497	-
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE				
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education:</i>				
<i>Child Nutrition Cluster:</i>				
<i>Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution):</i>				
National School Lunch Program	2023	10.555	29,877	-
School Breakfast Program	2022	10.553	15,408	-
<i>Non-Cash Assistance Subtotal</i>			45,285	-
<i>Cash Assistance:</i>				
National School Lunch Program	2023	10.555	462,663	-
COVID-19: National School Lunch Program	2023	10.555	27,250	-
School Breakfast Program	2023	10.553	252,668	-
<i>Cash Assistance Subtotal</i>			742,581	-
<i>Total Child Nutrition Cluster</i>			787,866	-
COVID-19: State Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Administrative Costs Grant	2023	10.649	628	-
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			788,494	-
TOTAL FEDERAL ASSISTANCE			\$ 2,192,635	\$ -

See accompanying notes to this schedule.

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Southern Local School District (the School District's) 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 Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, wherein certain types of expenditures may or may not be allowable or may be limited as to reimbursement. The School District has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE C - 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 D – 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 programs that benefitted from the use of those donated food commodities.

NOTE E – TRANSFERS BETWEEN PROGRAM YEARS

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

ARP ESSER	84.425U	1,520,650
Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies	84.010A	43,674
Title II-A Supporting Effective Instruction	84.367A	11,059
Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment	84.424A	5,555
Special Education Grants to States	84.027A	87,619
IDEA Early Childhood Special Education	84.173A	12
ARP IDEA Part B Special Education	84.027X	22,543
ARP IDEA Early Childhood Special Education	84.173X	480
Expanding Opportunities for Each Child Non-Competitive Grant	84.010A	117
Title V-B Rural and Low-Income	84.358B	1,519
ESSER II	84.425D	84,845

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
2 CFR Section 200.515
June 30, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

<i>(d)(1)(i)</i>	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unmodified
<i>(d)(1)(ii)</i>	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	Yes
<i>(d)(1)(ii)</i>	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	None Reported
<i>(d)(1)(iii)</i>	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
<i>(d)(1)(iv)</i>	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
<i>(d)(1)(iv)</i>	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	None Reported
<i>(d)(1)(v)</i>	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unmodified
<i>(d)(1)(vi)</i>	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?	No
<i>(d)(1)(vii)</i>	Major Programs (list): COVID-19: Education Stabilization Fund – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund COVID-19: Education Stabilization Fund – Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund - ARP	ALN 84.425D 84.425U
<i>(d)(1)(viii)</i>	Dollar Threshold: Type A\B Programs	Type A: > \$ 750,000 Type B: all others
<i>(d)(1)(ix)</i>	Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR §200.520?	Yes

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Continued)
2 CFR Section 200.515
June 30, 2023

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

Finding Number: 2023-001

Material Weakness – Payroll

Criteria: The School District’s management is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining sound internal controls over the payroll process to ensure that payroll is for actual time worked and to ensure that payroll is paid at the proper rate.

Condition: During our review of internal controls over the payroll process and payroll testing we noted the following issues:

- Inadequate internal control procedures over review of pay rates in the system to ensure all employees are paid at the correct rate.
- Inadequate internal control procedures over converting unused personal leave to sick leave in the system.
- No evidence indicating that the Treasurer reviews payroll reports for each pay period.
- Contract language appeared incomplete or inconsistent for non-union employees.

Cause: The factors that resulted in the control failures were a lack of oversight and authorization over the payroll process.

Effect: Without proper controls over the payroll process, there is an increased risk that an employee could be paid an incorrect amount.

Recommendations: We recommend the School District re-evaluate the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls over the payroll process. Internal controls should be sufficient to ensure that payroll expenses are for actual time work and at the correct rate. Evidence should be maintained to support supervisory approval.

Management’s Response/Corrective Action: See Corrective Action Plan.

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS
--

None

Southern Local School District

38095 State Route 39
Salineville, Ohio 43945
Fax 330-679-0193
330-679-2305 School

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Robert Dowling
Scott Hart
Jean Pastore
John Sawyer
Frank Shagnot
Gregory Sabbato, Treasurer



Tom Cunningham, Superintendent
Southern Local Board of Education 330-679-2343
Rich Wright, Principal
Southern Local Jr./Sr.High School 330-679-2305
Jess Krulik, Assistant Principal
Southern Local Jr./Sr. High School 330-679-2305
Emily Brinker, Elementary Principal
Southern Local Elementary School 330-679-2305
Jordan Wrask, Assistant Principal/Curriculum Director
Southern Local Elementary School 330-679-2305
Kristy Sampson, Federal Programs Coordinator 330-679-2343
Laura Krulik, Director of Special Services 330-679-2305

Southern Local School District
Columbiana County, Ohio
Corrective Action Plan
2 CFR Section 200.511(c)
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Finding Number	Planned Corrective Action	Anticipated Completion Date	Responsible Contact Person
2023-001	1. Enhancing internal controls- Implement more robust procedures for reviewing pay rates and converting unused personal to sick leave to ensure accuracy and consistency. All changes will be signed off by both the treasurer and assistant treasurer.	1/30/2024	Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer
	2. Review Payroll Reports – The treasurer or assistant treasurer will review and sign off (on payroll report) each payroll report for every pay period.	1/30/2024	Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer
	3. Wage and position Changes- all wage and position changes will be calculated on a spreadsheet then approved by the treasurer. The state software input will be reviewed and verified by the treasurer or assistant treasurer.	1/30/2024	Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer
	4. All administrative non union employees will be a new updated administrative salary schedule approved by the board of education. This will provide a uniform contract language.	1/30/2024	Treasurer
	5. Monitoring and Continuous Improvement- Provide training for all fiscal staff and establish mechanisms for ongoing of implemented controls making adjustments as necessary. All payroll salaries will be reviewed monthly or quarterly.	2/5/2024	Treasurer

This page intentionally left blank.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



SOUTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

COLUMBIANA 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 3/28/2024

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