



bhm cpa group, inc.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

APEX ACADEMY
CUYAHOGA COUNTY

SINGLE AUDIT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

Board of Directors
Apex Academy
16005 Terrace Rd.
East Cleveland, OH 44112

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Apex Academy, Cuyahoga County, prepared by BHM CPA Group, Inc., for the audit period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

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

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State

Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

July 01, 2025

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APEX ACADEMY
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Apex Academy
Cuyahoga County
16005 Terrance Road
East Cleveland, Ohio 44112

To the Board of Directors:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Apex Academy, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the Academy), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Academy'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 Apex Academy, Cuyahoga County, Ohio as of June 30, 2024, and the changes in financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Academy, 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 opinion.

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 Academy'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 opinion. 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 Academy'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 Academy'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 schedules of net pension and other post-employment benefit liabilities and pension and other post-employment benefit contributions 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Academy's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. 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 March 25, 2025, on our consideration of the Academy's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Academy'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 Academy's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



BHM CPA Group, Inc.
Portsmouth, Ohio
March 25, 2025

APEX ACADEMY

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS - UNAUDITED AS OF AND FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

The discussion and analysis of Apex Academy's (the "Academy") financial performance provides an overall review of the Academy's financial activities through June 30, 2024. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the Academy's financial performance as a whole. It should be read in conjunction with the financial statements and notes to the financial statements, which immediately follow this section, to enhance understanding of the Academy's financial performance.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is an element of the reporting model adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in their Statement No. 34, *Financial Statements — and Management's Discussion and Analysis — for State and Local Governments*, issued June, 1999.

Financial Highlights

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, total assets were \$2,169,208, deferred outflows of resources were \$671,833, total liabilities were \$4,793,354, deferred inflows of resources were \$1,089,800, and total net position was (\$3,042,113).

Using this Financial Report

This report consists of the MD&A, the financial statements, and notes to those statements. The financial statements include a statement of net position, a statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position, and a statement of cash flows.

Reporting the Academy as a Whole

One of the most important questions asked about the Academy is, "As a whole, what is the Academy's financial condition as a result of the year's activities?" The statement of net position and the statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, which appear first in the Academy's financial statements, report information on the Academy as a whole and its activities in a way that helps you answer this question. We prepare these statements to include all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources, using the accrual basis of accounting, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. All of the current year's revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when the cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the Academy's net position — the difference between assets plus deferred outflows of resources and liabilities plus deferred inflows of resources, as reported in the statement of net position — as one way to measure the Academy's financial health or financial position. Over time, increases or decreases in the Academy's net position — as reported in the statement of net position — are indicators of whether its financial health is improving or deteriorating. The relationship between revenues and expenses is the Academy's operating results. However, the Academy's goal is to provide services to our students, not to generate profits as commercial entities do. One must consider many other nonfinancial factors, such as the quality of the education provided and the safety of the school, to assess the overall health of the Academy.

The statement of net position and the statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position report the activities for the Academy, which encompass all the Academy's services, including instruction, support services, community services, and food services. Unrestricted state aid and state and federal grants finance most of these activities. The Academy has entered into a services agreement (the "Agreement") with National Heritage Academies, Inc. (NHA) which requires NHA to provide administration, strategic planning and all labor, materials, equipment, and supervision necessary for the provision of educational services to students. As part of the consideration received under the Agreement, NHA also provides the facility in which the Academy operates. Under the terms of the Agreement, NHA receives as remuneration for its services an amount equal to the total revenue received by the Academy from all revenue sources.

The table below provides a summary of the Academy's net position for fiscal years ended June 30:

	2024	2023
Assets:		
Current assets	\$ 1,934,878	\$ 2,015,642
Net OPEB Asset	<u>234,330</u>	<u>335,634</u>
Total assets	<u>2,169,208</u>	<u>2,351,276</u>
Deferred outflows of resources:		
Pension system	580,628	783,767
OPEB	<u>91,205</u>	<u>69,432</u>
Total deferred outflows	<u>671,833</u>	<u>853,199</u>
Liabilities:		
Current liabilities	1,762,299	1,823,787
Net pension liability	2,928,228	3,425,418
Net OPEB liability	<u>102,827</u>	<u>145,060</u>
Total liabilities	<u>4,793,354</u>	<u>5,394,265</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:		
Pension system	679,900	612,954
OPEB	<u>409,900</u>	<u>499,424</u>
Total deferred inflows	<u>1,089,800</u>	<u>1,112,378</u>
Net position :		
Restricted - School Service Fund	106,259	143,816
Unrestricted	<u>(3,148,372)</u>	<u>(3,445,984)</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ (3,042,113)</u>	<u>\$ (3,302,168)</u>

The unrestricted net position represent the accumulated results of the Academy's operations to date. These assets can be used to finance day-to day-operations without constraints, such as legislative or legal requirements. The results of the current-year operations for the Academy as a whole are reported in the statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, which shows the change in net position.

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

The table below shows the changes in net position as well as a listing of revenues and expenses for the fiscal years ending June 30:

	2024	2023
Operating revenues:		
Foundation payments	\$ 6,060,382	\$ 4,526,743
Food services	27	13
Other revenues	<u>486,995</u>	<u>487,344</u>
Total operating revenues	6,547,404	5,014,100
Operating expenses:		
Contracted service fee	9,684,418	9,013,306
Pension system recharacterization	(279,329)	(116,190)
Expenses of the Board of Directors	<u>44,265</u>	<u>19,410</u>
Total operating expenses	9,449,354	8,916,526
Operating income (loss)	<u>(2,901,950)</u>	<u>(3,902,426)</u>
Nonoperating revenues:		
Federal grants	2,876,598	2,947,590
State grants	116,237	111,058
Private sources—NHA	<u>169,170</u>	<u>937,999</u>
Total nonoperating revenues	<u>3,162,005</u>	<u>3,996,647</u>
Change in net position	<u>\$ 260,055</u>	<u>\$ 94,221</u>

As reported in the statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, the cost of business activities was \$9,449,354. These activities were primarily funded by the Academy's state aid (based on student count) and governments and organizations that subsidized certain programs with grants. *Revenues Non-operating – Private sources – NHA* represent a contribution granted by NHA for the excess of the Academy expenses over public revenues available.

The Academy experienced an increase in net position of \$260,055 in 2024. The primary reason for the change in net position is the recharacterization of pension funding and the timing of Board discretionary expenditures. Under the terms of the Agreement, NHA provides a spending account to the Board of Directors for discretionary expenditures.

Capital Assets

At June 30, 2024, the Academy had fully depreciated capital assets consisting primarily of other equipment. Capital assets are substantially provided as part of the agreement with NHA.

General Economic Factors

The Academy depends on legislative and governmental support to fund its operations. Based on information currently available, no significant changes are expected to occur in the nature of the funding or operations of the Academy in 2025.

Contacting the Academy's Financial Management

The financial report is designed to provide users of the report with a general overview of the Academy's finances and to demonstrate the Academy's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report, contact the Chief Financial Officer of National Heritage Academies, Inc., 3850 Broadmoor SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512.

APEX ACADEMY

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION JUNE 30, 2024

CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash	78,744
Intergovernmental receivables	<u>1,856,134</u>
Total current assets	<u>1,934,878</u>

NON-CURRENT ASSETS:

Net OPEB Asset	<u>234,330</u>
Total non-current assets	<u>234,330</u>
Total assets	<u>2,169,208</u>

DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES:

Pension system	580,628
OPEB	<u>91,205</u>
Total deferred outflows	<u>671,833</u>

CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Accounts payable	450
Unearned revenue	(7,548)
Contracted service fee payable	<u>1,769,397</u>
Total current liabilities	<u>1,762,299</u>

NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES:

Net pension liability	2,928,228
Net OPEB liability	<u>102,827</u>
Total non-current liabilities	3,031,055
Total liabilities	<u>4,793,354</u>

DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES:

Pension system	679,900
OPEB	<u>409,900</u>
Total deferred inflows	<u>1,089,800</u>

NET POSITION :

Restricted - School Service Fund	106,259
Unrestricted	<u>(3,148,372)</u>

TOTAL NET POSITION	<u><u>(3,042,113)</u></u>
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See notes to financial statements.

APEX ACADEMY

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

OPERATING REVENUES:

Foundation payments	\$ 6,060,382
Food services	27
Other revenues	<u>486,995</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>6,547,404</u>

OPERATING EXPENSES:

Contracted service fee	9,684,418
Pension system recharacterization	(279,329)
Expenses of the Board of Directors	<u>44,265</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>9,449,354</u>

OPERATING INCOME	<u>(2,901,950)</u>
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NONOPERATING REVENUES:

Federal grants	2,876,598
State grants	116,237
Private sources — NHA	<u>169,170</u>
Total nonoperating revenues	<u>3,162,005</u>

CHANGE IN NET POSITION	260,055
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NET POSITION — Beginning of year	<u>(3,302,168)</u>
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NET POSITION — End of year	<u>\$ (3,042,113)</u>
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See notes to financial statements.

APEX ACADEMY

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Cash received from State of Ohio	\$ 6,060,382
Cash received from other operating revenue	310,393
Cash paid on behalf of the Academy for goods and services	<u>(9,431,948)</u>

Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(3,061,173)</u>
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CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES:

Federal grants received	2,935,508
State grants received	<u>116,237</u>

Net cash provided by noncapital financing activities	<u>3,051,745</u>
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NET INCREASE IN CASH	(9,428)
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CASH — Beginning of year	<u>88,172</u>
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CASH — End of year	<u><u>\$ 78,744</u></u>
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RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME TO NET CASH USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES:

Operating income	\$ (2,901,950)
Support from private sources — NHA	169,170
Entitlement commodities assistance	12,426
Changes in assets and liabilities:	
Change in pension system, net	(279,331)
Change in accounts payable	450
Change in unearned revenue	(176,629)
Change in contracted service fee payable	<u>114,691</u>

NET CASH USED IN OPERATING ACTIVITIES	<u><u>\$ (3,061,173)</u></u>
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NON-CASH ACTIVITIES:

Support from private sources — NHA	<u><u>\$ 169,170</u></u>
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See notes to financial statements.

APEX ACADEMY

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

1. NATURE OF OPERATIONS

Apex Academy (the “Academy”) is an Ohio Public School Academy, which provides education based on rigorous teaching methods, parental involvement, student responsibility, and basic moral values. The Academy operates under an approved charter contract received from Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West (ESCLEW or the “Sponsor”), which is responsible for oversight of the Academy’s operations. The charter contract’s term expires on June 30, 2027. The Academy provides education to students in kindergarten through the eighth grade, at no cost to the parent. Enrollment is open to all appropriately aged children without regard to gender, ethnic background, disability, and/or religious affiliation.

The Academy was established and is operated as a nonprofit corporation under Chapter 1702 of the Ohio Revised Code and believes itself to be exempt from taxation under Internal Revenue Code Section 115(1) because its income is derived from the exercise of an essential governmental function and accrues to the State of Ohio (the “State”). Donations to the Academy qualify as a charitable deduction under Internal Revenue Code Section 170(c)(1).

The Academy operates under the direction of a board of directors (the “Board”). The Board is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the contract with the Sponsor that include, but are not limited to, state-mandated provisions regarding student population, curriculum, academic goals, performance standards, admission standards, and qualifications of teachers.

The Board has entered into a services agreement (the “Agreement”) with National Heritage Academies, Inc. (NHA) which requires NHA to provide administration, strategic planning and all labor, materials, equipment, and supervision necessary for the provision of educational services to students. As part of the consideration received under the Agreement, NHA also provides the facility in which the Academy operates. The Agreement will continue until the termination or expiration of the charter contract, up to a maximum of five years, unless at least 90 days written notice of intent to terminate or renegotiate is given by either the Academy or NHA.

Under the terms of the Agreement, NHA receives as remuneration for its services an amount equal to the total revenue received by the Academy from all revenue sources. *Revenues Non-operating – Private sources – NHA* represent a contribution granted by NHA for the excess of the Academy expenses over public revenues available.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the Academy have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) as applied to governmental nonprofit organizations. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental

accounting and financial reporting principles. The more-significant of the Academy's accounting policies are described below.

The Academy's financial statements consist of a statement of net position; a statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position; and a statement of cash flows. Enterprise fund reporting focuses on the determination of the change in net position, financial position, and cash flows.

Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources are included on the statement of net position. The statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position presents increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in total net position. The statement of cash flows provides information about how the Academy finances and meets the cash flow needs of its enterprise's activities.

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. The Academy's financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting.

Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place.

Nonexchange transactions, in which the Academy receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlements, and donations. 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 purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Academy on a reimbursement basis.

Expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred.

Estimates — The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash Deposits — For cash management, all cash received by the Academy is pooled in a non-interest bearing central bank account. Total cash for the Academy is presented as "Cash" on the accompanying statement of net position. Cash as of June 30, 2024, represents bank deposits, which are covered by federal depository insurance.

Capital Assets — Capital assets, which include other equipment, are reported in the financial statements at historical cost. Capital assets are generally defined by the Academy as assets with an initial cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Other equipment is depreciated using the straight-line method over useful lives of 3 to 10 years.

Contracted Service Fee Payable — Contracted service fee payable as of June 30, 2024, represents a timing difference between funds received from governmental sources and amounts payable to NHA in accordance with the Agreement.

Unearned Revenue — Unearned revenue is reported in connection with funds that have been received for services which have not been performed and is therefore not yet earned.

Pensions — For purposes of measuring the net pension and OPEB liability, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions and OPEB, and pension and OPEB expense, information about the fiduciary net position of the pension plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net position have been determined on the same basis as they are reported by the pension systems. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of employee contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the benefit terms. The pension systems report investments at fair value. Pension system recharacterization expense represents the net impact of applying GASB Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27 and GASB Statement No. 75, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment benefits Other Than Pensions (OPEB)*.

Deferred Outflows and Deferred Inflows of Resources — In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. For the Academy, deferred outflows of resources are reported on the statement of net position for pension and OPEB. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB are explained in Note 5 and 6.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized until that time. For the Academy, deferred inflows of resources are reported, when applicable, for pension and OPEB on the statement of net position. (See Note 5 and 6.)

Operating Revenues and Expenses — The Academy currently participates in the State Foundation Program, the State Intervention Services Program, and the State Special Education Program. Revenues received from these programs are recognized as operating revenues in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Grants and entitlements are recognized as nonoperating revenue in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is permitted, matching requirements, in which the Academy must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Academy on a reimbursement basis.

Net Position — Net position represent the difference between assets plus deferred outflows of resources and liabilities plus deferred inflows of resources. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation adopted through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. The Academy applies

restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

Budgetary Process — The contract between the Academy and its Sponsor prescribes an annual budget requirement in addition to preparing a five-year forecast, which is to be updated on an annual basis. Chapter 5705.391(A) of the Ohio Revised Code also requires the Academy to prepare a five-year forecast, update it annually, and submit it to the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Ohio Department of Education.

3. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

At fiscal year-end June 30, 2024, the Academy's bank balance was \$78,744. Based on the criteria described in GASB Statement No. 40, *Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosure*, as of June 30, 2024, none of the bank balance was exposed to custodial risk as discussed below and all of the bank balance was covered by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of bank failure, the Academy will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The Academy has no deposit policy for custodial credit risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or protected by (1) eligible securities pledged to the Academy 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 (2) participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State. Although all statutory requirements for the deposit of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the Academy to a successful claim by the FDIC.

4. RECEIVABLES

Receivables at June 30, 2024, consisted of intergovernmental grants. All receivables are considered collectible in full and will be received within one year.

A summary of the principal items of intergovernmental receivables at June 30, 2024, is as follows:

Due from State	\$	59,240
Title I		344,191
Title IIA		(20,484)
Title IID		49,440
ESSER		1,407,449
Erate		9,423
National School Lunch & Breakfast		<u>6,875</u>
Total intergovernmental receivables	\$	<u>1,856,134</u>

5. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

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

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

The Ohio Revised Code limits the Academy's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The Academy cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions are financed; however, the Academy does receive the benefit of the employees' services (specifically NHA-employees and other third-party contracted employees) in exchange for compensation including pension.

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

The proportionate share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a long-term net pension liability on the accrual basis of accounting.

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

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

	Eligible to Retire on or before August 1, 2017*	Eligible to Retire on or after August 1, 2017
Full Benefits	Any age with 30 years of service credit	Age 67 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 57 with 30 years of service credit
Actuarially Reduced Benefits	Age 60 with 5 years of service credit Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age 62 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 60 with 25 years of service credit

* Members with 25 years of service credit as of August 1, 2017 will be included in this plan.

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

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. Beginning April 1, 2018, new benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. A three-year COLA suspension is in effect for all benefit recipients following commencement. Upon resumption of the COLA, it will be indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5 percent and with a floor of 0 percent.

Funding Policy — Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the Academy 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, 2018, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.0 percent. For fiscal year 2024, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contributions to the Health Care Fund.

The Academy's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$33,412 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount \$0 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

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

Plan Description — Certain licensed teachers and other faculty members participate in STRS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer public employee retirement system administered by STRS. STRS provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. STRS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about STRS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by

writing to STRS, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771, by calling (888) 227-7877, or by visiting the STRS 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, or a Combined Plan. Benefits are established by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307.

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0 percent to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients' base benefit and past cost-of living increases are not affected by this change. Effective July 1, 2022, a one-time ad-hoc COLA of 3 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2023 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2018. Effective July 1, 2023, a one-time ad-hoc COLA of 1 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2024 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2019. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3307.67(E) the STRS Ohio Retirement Board may adjust the COLA upon a determination by the board's actuary that a change will not materially impair the fiscal integrity of the system or is necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the system. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 34 years of service credit at any age.

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

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 11.09 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. Investment allocation decisions are determined by the member. The remaining 2.91 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 goes to the DC Plan and the remaining 2 percent goes to the DB Plan. Member contributions to the DC Plan are allocated among investment choices by the member, and contributions to the DB Plan from the employer and the member are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined Plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of service. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity after termination of employment at age 50 or later.

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

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

Funding Policy — Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the employer rate was 14 percent and the plan members were also required to contribute 14 percent of covered salary. For fiscal year 2024, the contributions rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates and the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The Academy's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$221,132 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount \$0 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

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

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Academy's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Academy's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

The following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

		<u>SERS</u>		<u>STRS</u>		<u>Total</u>
Proportionate share of net pension liability	\$	333,559	\$	2,594,669	\$	2,928,228
Proportion of the net pension liability		0.006036%		0.001204%		
Total pension expense	\$	(70,373)	\$	(156,734)	\$	(227,107)

At June 30, 2024, the Academy reported deferred outflows and deferred inflows related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deferred outflows of resources			
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 14,337	\$ 94,597	\$ 108,934
Change in assumptions	2,363	213,684	216,047
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	-	-
Changes in employer proportion and differences between contributions and proportionate share of contributions	-	1,103	1,103
Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>33,412</u>	<u>221,132</u>	<u>254,544</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 50,112</u>	<u>\$ 530,516</u>	<u>\$ 580,628</u>
Deferred inflows of resources			
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ 5,755	\$ 5,755
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	4,690	7,776	12,466
Change in assumptions	-	160,843	160,843
Changes in employer proportion and differences between contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>177,350</u>	<u>323,486</u>	<u>500,836</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>\$ 182,040</u>	<u>\$ 497,860</u>	<u>\$ 679,900</u>

The Academy reported \$254,544 as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from contributions subsequent to the measurement date. This amount will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows/inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Fiscal year ending June 30	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ (75,961)	\$ (152,380)	\$ (228,341)
2026	(70,607)	(204,632)	(275,239)
2027	(19,023)	220,087	201,064
2028	250	(51,553)	(51,303)
2029	-	-	-
Total	<u>\$ (165,341)</u>	<u>\$ (188,478)</u>	<u>\$ (353,819)</u>

E. Actuarial Assumptions – SERS

SERS' total pension liability was determined by their actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 67, as part of their annual actuarial valuation for each defined benefit retirement plan. Actuarial valuations of an ongoing plan involve estimates of the value of reported amounts (e.g., salaries, credited service) and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future (e.g., mortality, disabilities, retirements, employment termination). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

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

potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations. Future benefits for all current plan members were projected through 2137.

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

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2023, are presented below:

Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
Investment Rate of Return	7.0 Percent, net of System Expenses
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.
Future Salary Increases, Including Inflation	3.25 Percent to 13.58 Percent
Inflation	2.40 Percent

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

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

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	3.00 %	0.76 %
US Equity	22.00	6.20
Non-US Equity Developed	12.00	6.91
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.00	8.92
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	18.00	2.46
Private Equity	14.00	10.30
Real Estate/Real Assets	20.00	5.01
Private Debt/Private Credit	5.00	6.42
Total	100.00 %	

Discount Rate The total pension liability for 2023 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The discount rate determination did not use a municipal bond rate. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employers would contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate of projected compensation over the remaining 21-year amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The actuarially determined contribution rate for fiscal year 2023 was 14 percent. 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. The annual money weighted rate of return, calculated as the internal rate of return on pension plan investments, for fiscal year 2023 was 6.90 percent.

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

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 492,316	\$ 333,559	\$ 199,836

F. Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

The total pension liability in the June 30, 2023, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation	2.50 Percent
Salary Increases	8.50 Percent at Age 20 to 2.5 Percent at Age 65
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 Percent, Net of Investment Expenses, Including Inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 Percent
Payroll Increases	3.00 Percent
Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)	0 Percent

For 2023 and 2022, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110 percent for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95 percent for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Disable Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

Actuarial assumptions used in the July 1, 2023 valuation are based on the results of the latest available actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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

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%	

* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

** 10 year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25 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, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with 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 Ohio's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2023. Therefore, the long term expected rate of return on pension plan investment of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2023.

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

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 3,990,027	\$ 2,594,669	\$ 1,414,578

Assumptions and Benefit Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date The discount rate remained at 7.00% for the June 30, 2023 valuation. Demographic assumptions were changed based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021.

6. DEFINED BENEFIT OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT (OPEB) PLANS

Net OPEB Liability

For fiscal year 2018, Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 75, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions" was effective. The net OPEB liability has been disclosed below.

OPEB is a component of exchange transactions-between an employer and its employees-of salaries and benefits for employee services. 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 obligation to sacrifice resources for OPEB is a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that have already occurred.

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

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

GASB 75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because they benefit from employee services. OPEB contributions come from these employers and health care plan enrollees which pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. The Ohio revised Code permits, but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients. Any change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net OPEB liability. Resulting adjustments to the net OPEB liability would be effective

when the changes are legally enforceable. The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits.

The proportionate share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a long-term *net OPEB liability* on the accrual basis of accounting.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description - The Academy contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 75 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. SERS' Health Care Plan provides healthcare benefits to eligible individuals receiving retirement, disability, and survivor benefits, and to their eligible dependents. Members who retire after June 1, 1986, need 10 years of service credit, exclusive of most types of purchased credit, to qualify to participate in SERS' health care coverage. In addition to age and service retirees, disability benefit recipients and beneficiaries who are receiving monthly benefits due to the death of a member or retiree, are eligible for SERS' health care coverage. Most retirees and dependents choosing SERS' health care coverage are over the age of 65 and therefore enrolled in a fully insured Medicare Advantage plan; however, SERS maintains a traditional, self-insured preferred provider organization for its non-Medicare retiree population. For both groups, SERS offers a self-insured prescription drug program. Health care is a benefit that is permitted, not mandated, by statute. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

The Health Care program is financed through a combination of employer contributions, recipient premiums, investment returns, and any funds received on behalf of SERS' participation in Medicare programs. The System's goal is to maintain a health care reserve account with a 20-year solvency period in order to ensure that fluctuations in the cost of health care do not cause an interruption in the program. However, during any period in which the 20-year solvency period is not achieved, the System shall manage the Health Care Fund on a pay-as-you-go basis.

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2024, 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 2024, this amount was \$30,000. 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 2024, the Academy's surcharge obligation was \$4,724.

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 \$4,225 for fiscal year 2024.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description – The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) administers a cost-sharing Health Plan administered for eligible retirees who participated in the defined benefit or combined pension plans offered by STRS. Ohio law authorizes STRS to offer this plan. Benefits include hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs and partial reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued effective January 1, 2021. 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, 2024, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

The net OPEB liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Academy's proportion of the net OPEB liability was based on the Academy'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:

		<u>SERS</u>		<u>STRS</u>		<u>Total</u>
Proportionate share of net OPEB liability	\$	102,827	\$	(234,330)	\$	(131,503)
Proportion of the net pension liability		0.006242%		0.001205%		
Total OPEB expense	\$	(40,668)	\$	(11,554)	\$	(52,222)

At June 30, 2024, the Academy 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			
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 217	\$ 365	\$ 582
Change in assumptions	34,770	34,521	69,291
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	796	418	1,214
Changes in employer proportion and differences between contributions and proportionate share of contributions	10,193	5,700	15,893
Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date	4,225	-	4,225
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 50,201</u>	<u>\$ 41,004</u>	<u>\$ 91,205</u>
Deferred inflows of resources			
Difference between expected and actual experience	\$ 53,027	\$ 35,743	\$ 88,770
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	-	-	-
Change in assumptions	29,204	154,604	183,808
Changes in employer proportion and differences between contributions and proportionate share of contributions	136,479	843	137,322
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>\$ 218,710</u>	<u>\$ 191,190</u>	<u>\$ 409,900</u>

The academy reported \$4,225 as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date that will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability in the year ending June 30, 2025. 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>Fiscal year ending June 30</u>	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	(38,017)	(68,103)	(106,120)
2026	(29,898)	(31,145)	(61,043)
2027	(20,994)	(11,278)	(32,272)
2028	(18,754)	(15,515)	(34,269)
2029	(18,738)	(14,142)	(32,880)
2030	(18,738)	(14,144)	(32,882)
2031	(10,413)	4,143	(6,270)
2032	(9,595)	-	(9,595)
2033	(7,587)	-	(7,587)
Total	<u>\$ (172,734)</u>	<u>\$ (150,184)</u>	<u>\$ (322,918)</u>

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, 2023, are presented below:

Inflation	2.40 percent
Wage Increases	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment Expense, including inflation
Municipal Bond Index Rate:	
Measurement Date	3.86 percent
Prior Measurement Date	3.69 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation	
Measurement Date	4.27 percent
Prior Measurement Date	4.08 percent
Medical Trend Assumption	
Medicare	5.125 percent to 4.40 percent
Pre-Medicare	6.75 percent to 4.40 percent
Mortality Assumptions	Healthy Retirees – PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Disabled Retirees – PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Contingent Survivors - PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Contingent Survivor mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 105.5% for males and adjusted 122.5% for females. Actives – PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table

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 2015 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 log-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 allocation and long-term expected rate of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Cash	3.00 %	0.76 %
US Equity	22.00	6.20
Non-US Equity Developed	12.00	6.91
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.00	8.92
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	18.00	2.46
Private Equity	14.00	10.30
Real Estate/Real Assets	20.00	5.01
Private Debt/Private Credit	5.00	6.42
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2023 was 4.27 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability at June 30, 2022 was 4.08 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the state statute contribution rate of 1.50 percent of projected covered employee 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 be depleted in 2048 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, 2023 total OPEB liability. The Fidelity General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present

value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate was 3.86 percent at June 30, 2023 and 3.69 percent at June 30, 2022.

Sensitivity of the Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates

The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability of SERS, what SERS' net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.27%) and higher (5.27%) than the current discount rate (4.27%). Also shown is what SERS' net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower and higher than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (3.27%)	Current Discount Rate (4.27%)	1% Increase (5.27%)
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 131,442	\$ 102,827	\$ 80,263
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 75,543	\$ 102,827	\$ 138,981

Assumption and Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date The discount rate was changed from 4.08% to 4.27%. Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience. Effective January 1, 2024, the non-Medicare disability health care subsidy amounts will change to reflect amounts equal to that of service retirees by years of service.

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

The total OPEB liability in the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation was determined using the following assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Salary increases	8.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65
Payroll increases	3.00%
Investment rate of return	7.00% net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount rate of return	7.00%

<u>Health care cost trends</u>	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Ultimate</u>
<i>Medical</i>		
Pre-Medicare	7.50%	4.14 %
Medicare	-10.94%	4.14 %
<i>Prescription Drug</i>		
Pre-Medicare	-11.95%	4.14 %
Medicare	1.33%	4.14 %

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

For 2023 and 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.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2023, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done a quinquennial basis.

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

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%	

* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

** 10 year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25 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, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes STRS Ohio 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, 2023. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care fund 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, 2023.

Sensitivity of the Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2021, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00 percent, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent) or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ (198,329)	\$ (234,330)	\$ (265,682)
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ (267,137)	\$ (234,330)	\$ (194,814)

Assumption and Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date The discount rate remained unchanged at 7.00% for the June 30, 2023 valuation. Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience as well as benefit changes effective January 1, 2024.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

The Academy is exposed to various risks of loss related to general liability. Commercial insurance policies to cover certain risks of loss have been obtained through Citizens Insurance Company of America as follows:

Commercial General Liability	\$1,000,000 per occurrence \$3,000,000 in the aggregate with no deductible
Commercial Liability Umbrella	\$5,000,000 per occurrence \$5,000,000 in the aggregate with no deductible

There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage during fiscal year 2024, and claims did not exceed coverage less retained risk deductible amounts during the past three fiscal years.

8. CONTINGENCIES

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

Under Ohio Rev Code Section 3314.08, ODE may also perform a FTE Review subsequent to the fiscal year end that may result in additional adjustments to the enrollment information as well as claw backs of Foundation funding due to a lack of evidence to support student participation and other matters of noncompliance. ODE performed such a review on the School for fiscal year 2023 and 2024 which resulted in no significant adjustments to the Academy's funding.

In addition, the Academy contracts with Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West require payment based on revenues received from the State. As discussed above, FTE adjustments could impact the Academy's funding and ultimate amount due to its sponsor.

9. RELATED PARTY

A Board Member for the Academy also serve as a Board member for Pinnacle Academy; both academies are managed by NHA.

10. CONTRACTED SERVICE FEE

NHA incurred the following actual direct and indirect expenses on behalf of the Academy for the year ended June 30, 2024:

	<u>Regular</u> <u>Instruction</u>	<u>Special</u> <u>Instruction</u>	<u>Support</u> <u>Services</u>	<u>Non-</u> <u>Instructional</u>	<u>Total</u>
Contracted service fee:					
Direct expenses:					
Salaries & wages	\$ 2,620,179	\$ 349,198	\$ 764,184	\$ 3,508	\$ 3,737,069
Employees' benefits	492,170	83,211	176,418	-	751,799
Professional & technical services	177,068	720,816	411,561	-	1,309,445
Property services	-	-	1,036,451	26,771	1,063,222
Utilities	-	-	101,577	-	101,577
Contracted craft or trade services	-	-	-	404,201	404,201
Transportation	-	-	10,472	-	10,472
Supplies	847,984	42,159	374,278	-	1,264,421
Other direct costs	47,784	101	286,500	-	334,385
	<u>4,185,185</u>	<u>1,195,485</u>	<u>3,161,441</u>	<u>434,480</u>	<u>8,976,591</u>
Indirect expenses:					
Overhead	-	-	707,827	-	707,827
Total expenses	<u>\$ 4,185,185</u>	<u>\$ 1,195,485</u>	<u>\$ 3,869,268</u>	<u>\$ 434,480</u>	<u>\$ 9,684,418</u>

NHA charges expenses benefiting more than one school (i.e., indirect expenses) based on key cost drivers. These charges represent indirect cost of services provided in the operation of the Academy. Such services include, but are not limited to, education services, facilities management, equipment, operational support services, board relations, human resources management, training and orientation, financial reporting and compliance, purchasing and procurement, grant management, technology support, and marketing and communications.

11. SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

The Academy entered into a sponsorship agreement with ESCLEW. The sponsorship agreement provides that ESCLEW receives 2.5% of State Foundation funds received by the Academy from the State. Oversight fees paid to ESCLEW were \$182,996 for fiscal year 2024.

12. FACILITY LEASE

The Academy has entered into a sublease agreement with NHA for a facility to house the Academy. The lease term is from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. Annual rental payments required by the lease are \$859,360 payable in twelve monthly payments of \$71,613. This lease is automatically renewed on a year-to-year basis unless a notice of non-renewal is provided by either the Academy or NHA. The lease agreement can be cancelled upon termination of the NHA services agreement.

The Academy is not a party to any leasing arrangements that meet the criteria for recognition of lease assets or liabilities under GASB Statement No. 87, Leases based on the noncancellable period being less than 12 months and applicability of the short-term lease exception for the facility lease agreement.

The Academy subsequently renewed the sublease with NHA for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, at the same rental rate.

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APEX ACADEMY

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF THE ACADEMY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF OHIO
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS**

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Academy's proportion of the net pension liability	0.006037%	0.001002%	0.001118%	0.010411%	0.010737%	0.012284%	0.013600%	0.014447%	0.014773%	0.013921%
Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 333,559	\$ 543,907	\$ 412,458	\$ 688,592	\$ 642,384	\$ 733,954	\$ 812,582	\$ 1,057,387	\$ 842,956	\$ 704,534
Academy's covered-employee payroll	\$ 243,436	\$ 376,350	\$ 385,857	\$ 364,979	\$ 364,979	\$ 417,689	\$ 450,521	\$ 448,671	\$ 444,743	\$ 404,507
Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of the total pension liability	137.02%	144.52%	106.89%	188.67%	176.01%	175.72%	180.36%	235.67%	189.54%	174.17%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	75.82%	75.82%	68.55%	68.55%	70.85%	71.36%	69.50%	62.98%	69.16%	71.70%

Amounts presented as of the Academy's measurement date,
which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

APEX ACADEMY

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SCHEDULE OF THE ACADEMY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET PENSION LIABILITY
STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF OHIO
LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS**

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Academy's proportion of the net pension liability	0.001205%	0.001296%	0.001458%	0.014562%	0.014858%	0.015190%	0.015163%	0.018803%	0.016857%	0.015564%
Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 2,594,669	\$ 2,881,511	\$ 1,863,537	\$ 3,523,561	\$ 3,285,731	\$ 3,608,422	\$ 3,602,024	\$ 6,294,048	\$ 4,658,804	\$ 3,785,662
Academy's covered-employee payroll	\$ 1,627,393	\$ 1,685,150	\$ 1,798,450	\$ 1,757,443	\$ 1,744,371	\$ 1,726,850	\$ 1,667,000	\$ 1,978,471	\$ 1,758,757	\$ 1,698,015
Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of the total pension liability	159.44%	170.99%	103.62%	200.49%	188.36%	208.96%	216.08%	318.13%	235.47%	222.95%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	75.50%	75.50%	75.50%	75.50%	77.40%	77.31%	75.30%	66.80%	72.10%	74.70%

Amounts presented as of the Academy's measurement date,
which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

APEX ACADEMY

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF ACADEMY PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF OHIO LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Contractually required contribution	\$ 33,412	\$ 34,081	\$ 52,689	\$ 54,020	\$ 51,097	\$ 49,402	\$ 56,388	\$ 63,073	\$ 62,814	\$ 58,617
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>33,412</u>	<u>34,081</u>	<u>52,689</u>	<u>54,020</u>	<u>51,097</u>	<u>49,402</u>	<u>56,388</u>	<u>63,073</u>	<u>62,814</u>	<u>56,617</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Academy covered-employee payroll	\$ 238,657	\$ 243,436	\$ 376,350	\$ 385,857	\$ 364,979	\$ 352,871	\$ 417,689	\$ 450,521	\$ 448,671	\$ 444,743
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	13.50%	14.00%	14.00%	13.18%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

APEX ACADEMY

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF ACADEMY PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF OHIO LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Contractually required contribution	\$ 221,132	\$ 227,835	\$ 235,921	\$ 251,783	\$ 246,042	\$ 244,212	\$ 241,759	\$ 233,380	\$ 276,986	\$ 246,226	\$ 206,725
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>221,132</u>	<u>227,835</u>	<u>235,921</u>	<u>251,783</u>	<u>246,042</u>	<u>244,212</u>	<u>241,759</u>	<u>233,380</u>	<u>276,986</u>	<u>246,226</u>	<u>206,725</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Academy covered-employee payroll	\$ 1,579,514	\$ 1,627,393	\$ 1,685,150	\$ 1,798,450	\$ 1,757,443	\$ 1,744,371	\$ 1,726,850	\$ 1,667,000	\$ 1,978,471	\$ 1,758,757	\$ 1,590,193
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	13.00%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

APEX ACADEMY

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION **SCHEDULE OF THE ACADEMY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY** **SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF OHIO** **LAST EIGHT FISCAL YEARS ⁽¹⁾**

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Academy's proportion of the net OPEB liability	0.006242%	0.001033%	0.001155%	0.010898%	0.011033%	0.012470%	0.013779%	0.014672%
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 102,827	\$ 145,060	\$ 218,495	\$ 236,841	\$ 277,444	\$ 345,951	\$ 369,787	\$ 418,203
Academy's covered-employee payroll	\$ 243,436	\$ 376,350	\$ 385,857	\$ 364,979	\$ 352,871	\$ 417,689	\$ 450,521	\$ 448,671
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	42.24%	38.54%	56.63%	64.89%	78.62%	82.83%	82.08%	93.21%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	18.17%	18.17%	18.17%	18.17%	15.57%	13.57%	12.46%	11.49%

⁽¹⁾ Information prior to 2016 is not available.

Amounts presented as of the Academy's measurement date, which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

APEX ACADEMY

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION **SCHEDULE OF THE ACADEMY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE NET OPEB LIABILITY (ASSET)** **STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF OHIO** **LAST EIGHT FISCAL YEARS ⁽¹⁾**

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Academy's proportion of the net OPEB liability	0.001205%	0.001296%	0.001458%	0.014562%	0.014858%	0.015190%	0.015163%	0.018803%
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ (234,330)	\$ (335,634)	\$ (307,301)	\$ (255,932)	\$ (246,082)	\$ (244,088)	\$ 591,609	\$ 1,005,608
Academy's covered-employee payroll	\$ 1,627,393	\$ 1,685,150	\$ 1,798,450	\$ 1,757,443	\$ 1,757,443	\$ 1,726,850	\$ 1,667,000	\$ 1,978,471
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	-14.40%	-19.92%	-17.09%	-14.56%	-14.00%	-14.13%	35.49%	50.38%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability	182.10%	182.10%	182.10%	182.10%	174.70%	176.00%	47.10%	37.30%

⁽¹⁾ Information prior to 2016 is not available.

Amounts presented as of the Academy's measurement date,
which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

APEX ACADEMY

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF ACADEMY OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF OHIO LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Contractually required contribution	\$ 4,225	\$ 4,724	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,501	\$ 7,447	\$ 8,703	\$ 6,771	\$ 7,407	\$ 7,559	\$ 4,454
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution ⁽¹⁾	<u>4,225</u>	<u>4,724</u>	<u>7,000</u>	<u>7,501</u>	<u>7,447</u>	<u>8,703</u>	<u>6,771</u>	<u>7,407</u>	<u>7,559</u>	<u>4,454</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Academy covered-employee payroll	\$ 238,657	\$ 243,436	\$ 376,350	\$ 385,857	\$ 364,979	\$ 352,871	\$ 417,689	\$ 450,521	\$ 448,671	\$ 444,743
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	1.77%	1.94%	1.08%	1.94%	2.04%	2.47%	1.62%	1.64%	1.68%	1.00%

(1) Includes employee surcharge

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

APEX ACADEMY

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF ACADEMY OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF OHIO LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Contractually required contribution	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contribution deficiency (excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Academy covered-employee payroll	\$ 1,579,514	\$ 1,627,393	\$ 1,685,150	\$ 1,798,450	\$ 1,757,443	\$ 1,744,371	\$ 1,726,850	\$ 1,667,000	\$ 1,978,471	\$ 1,758,757
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

APEX ACADEMY

NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

1. NET PENSION LIABILITY SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM

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 2023, the SERS Board adopted the following assumption changes:

- Assumed rate of inflation remained at 2.40 percent
- Discount rate remained at 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 2021, cost-of-living adjustments was 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.

Changes in Assumptions STRS – For fiscal year 2021, the long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00%.

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.

2. NET OPEB ASSET/LIABILITY

Changes in assumptions SERS – Amounts reported as 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

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	5.125 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

Change in Benefit Terms SERS – There have been no changes to the benefit provisions.

Changes in Assumptions STRS – 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 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 Term 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.

APEX ACADEMY
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Program Title/Project Number/Subrecipient Name	Grant/Project Number	ALN Number	Expenditures
Clusters:			
Child Nutrition Cluster - U.S. Department of Agriculture - Passed through the Ohio Department of Education: Noncash Assistance (Commodities) -			
National Lunch Program Entitlement Commodities 23-24	N/A	10.555	\$ 12,426
Cash Assistance:			
National Supply Chain Assistance 23-24	N/A	10.555	16,278
National School Lunch Program 22-23	N/A	10.555	6,569
National School Lunch Program 23-24	N/A	10.555	276,750
National School Lunch Program (incl. commodities) Subtotal			312,023
National School Breakfast Program 22-23	N/A	10.553	2,657
National School Breakfast Program 23-24	N/A	10.553	105,266
National School Breakfast Program Subtotal			107,923
Total Child Nutrition Cluster			419,946
Special Education Cluster - U.S. Department of Education Passed through Ohio Department of Education IDEA Flowthrough:			
IDEA Flowthrough 23-24	N/A	84.027	128,498
ARP IDEA Flowthrough	N/A	84.027X	176
Total IDEA Flowthrough			128,674
Other federal awards:			
Passed through the Ohio Department of Education:			
Title I Part A			
Title I Part A 22-23	N/A	84.010	868
Title I Part A 23-24	N/A	84.010	397,924
Total Title I Part A			398,792
Title II Part A - Supporting Effective Instruction			
Title II Part A 23-24	N/A	84.367	97,887
Total Title II Part A			97,887
Total noncluster programs passed through the Ohio Department of Education			496,679
Education Stabilization Fund Program - U.S. Department of Education 'Passed through Ohio Department of Education			
COVID-19 ESSER Formula Fund II	213712	84.425D	1,146,006
COVID-19 ESSER Formula Fund III ARP	213713	84.425U	495,029
Total ESSER			1,641,035
Total federal awards			\$ 2,686,334

APEX ACADEMY

NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

A. BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of the Academy under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2024. The information on this Schedule is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the Academy it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of the Academy.

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

C. CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

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

D. FOOD DONATION PROGRAM

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

E. TRANSFERS BETWEEN FEDERAL PROGRAMS

During the fiscal year 2024, the Academy made allowable transfers of \$37,360 from the Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment (Title IV) program to the Title II Supporting Effective Instruction (Title II) program. The amount reported for the Title IV programs on the Schedule excludes the amount transferred to the Title II program. The amount transferred to the Title II program is included as Title II expenditures when disbursed. The following table shows the gross amount drawn for Title IV program during fiscal year 2024 and the amount transferred to the Title II program:

<u>Program Title</u>	<u>Federal ALN Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Title IIA Supporting Effective Instruction	84.367	\$ 39,174
Transfer from Title IV Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.424	37,360
Transfer to Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	-
Total Title IIA Supporting Effective Instruction		<u>\$ 76,534</u>
Title IV Student Support and Academic Enrichment	84.424	\$ 37,360
Transfer to Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	-
Transfer to Title IIA Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.367	(37,360)
Total Title IV Supporting Effective Instruction		<u>\$ -</u>



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

Apex Academy
Cuyahoga County
16005 Terrance Road
East Cleveland, Ohio 44112

To the Board of Directors:

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 Apex Academy, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the Academy) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Academy's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated March 25, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Academy'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 opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Academy's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Academy'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 Academy's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Academy'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*.

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 Academy'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 Academy's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "BHM CPA Group". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

BHM CPA Group, Inc.
Portsmouth, Ohio
March 25, 2025



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

Apex Academy
Cuyahoga County
16005 Terrance Road
East Cleveland, Ohio 44112

To the Board of Directors:

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We have audited Apex Academy's, Cuyahoga County, (the Academy) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on Apex Academy's major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2024. Apex Academy's major federal program is identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

In our opinion, Apex Academy complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on the Major Federal Program

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

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

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the Academy'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 Academy's compliance with the requirements of the major federal program as a whole.

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the Academy'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 Academy'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 Academy's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

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

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

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "BHM CPA Group". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

BHM CPA Group, Inc.
Portsmouth, Ohio
March 25, 2025

**APEX ACADEMY
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

Schedule of Findings
2 CFR § 200.515
June 30, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(v)	Type of Major Program's Compliance Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?	No
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Programs (list):	Education Stabilization Fund ALN 84.425D, 84.425U
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A\B Programs	Type A: > \$750,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR § 200.520?	Yes

**APEX ACADEMY
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

Schedule of Findings
2 CFR § 200.515
June 30, 2024

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

None

3. FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

None

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



APEX ACADEMY

CUYAHOGA 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 7/15/2025

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

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