CLARK SCHAEFER HACKETT
BUSINESS ADVISORS

LAKOTA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO

SINGLE AUDIT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER

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

Board of Education
Lakota Local School District
5200 County Road 13
Kansas, Ohio 44841

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Lakota Local School District, Sandusky County, prepared by Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co., 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. The Lakota Local School District is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

December 23, 2024

This page intentionally left blank.

Table of Contents

This page intentionally left blank.

CLARK SCHAEFER HACKETT
BUSINESS ADVISORS

1656 Henthorne Drive, Suite 400
Maumee, Ohio 43537
P. 419.841.2848 | F. 419.841.8178

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Board of Education
Lakota Local School District
5200 County Road 13
Kansas, Ohio 44841

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Adverse Opinion
We have audited the financial statements of the cash balances, receipts and disbursements for each governmental and proprietary fund type of the Lakota Local School District, Sandusky County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on the Financial Statements as a Whole* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements referred to above do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the District, as of June 30, 2024, or the changes in financial position or, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on the Financial Statements as a Whole
As described in Note 2 of the financial statements, the financial statements are prepared by the District on the basis of the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section117-2-03(C) permit. However, Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(B) requires these statements to follow accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statements of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 2 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumably material and pervasive.

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 *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our adverse 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 the financial reporting provisions Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(C) permit; 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 District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditors' 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 auditors' 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 District's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.

- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Supplementary Information
Our audit was conducted to opine on the financial statements as a whole.

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards presents additional analysis as required by *Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200*, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Because of the significance of the matter described in the *Basis for Adverse Opinion on the Financial Statements as a Whole* paragraph, it is inappropriate to express and we do not express an opinion on the supplementary information referred to above.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 25, 2024 on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.

Maumee, Ohio
November 25, 2024

THIS SPACE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

LAKOTA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO

COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - REGULATORY CASH BASIS
ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Governmental Fund Types				Totals
	General	**Special Revenue**	**Debt Service**	**Capital Projects**	**(Memorandum Only)**
Receipts:					
From local sources:					
Property taxes	$ 4,541,627	$ -	$ 676,391	$ -	$ 5,218,018
Income taxes	3,197,495	-	-	-	3,197,495
Payment in lieu of taxes	-	-	-	53,712	53,712
Tuition	351,320	-	-	-	351,320
Transportation fees	1,155	2,273	-	-	3,428
Earnings on investments	761,071	14,760	-	-	775,831
Charges for services	-	198,385	-	-	198,385
Extracurricular	-	216,106	-	-	216,106
Rental income	200	-	-	-	200
Contributions and donations	-	785	-	3,702	4,487
Other local receipts	72,858	-	-	-	72,858
Intergovernmental - intermediate	-	9,392	-	-	9,392
Intergovernmental - state	6,762,927	102,102	81,680	-	6,946,709
Intergovernmental - federal	86,749	1,287,104	-	-	1,373,853
Total receipts	15,775,402	1,830,907	758,071	57,414	18,421,794
Disbursements:					
Current:					
Instruction:					
Regular	5,537,679	300,169	-	-	5,837,848
Special	1,454,345	381,849	-	-	1,836,194
Vocational	30,450	-	-	-	30,450
Other	263,620	3,907	-	-	267,527
Support services:					
Pupil	704,299	116,420	-	-	820,719
Instructional staff	280,431	126,470	-	-	406,901
Board of education	21,786	-	-	-	21,786
Administration	1,015,234	4,038	-	-	1,019,272
Fiscal	339,156	431	-	-	339,587
Business	320,405	-	13,102	-	333,507
Operations and maintenance	1,773,289	197,494	-	8,047	1,978,830
Pupil transportation	1,078,323	13,799	-	-	1,092,122
Central	8,187	5,855	-	-	14,042
Operation of non-instructional services:					
Food service operations	-	551,865	-	-	551,865
Operation of non-instructional services	1,268	9,712	-	-	10,980
Extracurricular activities	303,299	196,008	-	22,854	522,161
Debt service:					
Principal retirement	-	-	820,000	-	820,000
Interest and fiscal charges	-	-	379,875	-	379,875
Total disbursements	13,131,771	1,908,017	1,212,977	30,901	16,283,666
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over (under) disbursements	2,643,631	(77,110)	(454,906)	26,513	2,138,128
Other financing sources (uses):					
Transfers in	340,000	61,330	498,800	1,800,000	2,700,130
Transfers (out)	(2,700,130)	-	-	-	(2,700,130)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(2,360,130)	61,330	498,800	1,800,000	-
Net change in fund balances	283,501	(15,780)	43,894	1,826,513	2,138,128
Fund balances, July 1	10,141,067	1,391,269	1,005,336	1,973,980	14,511,652
Fund balances, June 30:					
Restricted	-	1,375,489	1,049,230	400,493	2,825,212
Committed	915,533	-	-	3,400,000	4,315,533
Assigned	198,925	-	-	-	198,925
Unassigned	9,310,110	-	-	-	9,310,110
Fund balances, June 30	$ 10,424,568	$ 1,375,489	$ 1,049,230	$ 3,800,493	$ 16,649,780

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

LAKOTA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO

COMBINED STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - REGULATORY CASH BASIS
PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Proprietary Fund Type
	Internal Service Fund
Operating receipts:	
Charges for services	$ 2,188,067
Other	48,296
Total operating receipts	2,236,363
Operating disbursements:	
Purchased services	98,224
Claims	1,910,951
Total operating disbursements	2,009,175
Operating income	227,188
Nonoperating receipts:	
Investment earnings	79,060
Change in net position	306,248
Fund balance, July 1	2,534,489
Fund balance, June 30	$ 2,840,737

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT

The Lakota Local District (the "District") is located in Wood, Seneca and Sandusky Counties.

The District is organized under Article VI, Sections 2 and 3 of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. The District operates under a locally-elected Board form of government consisting of five members elected at-large for staggered four year terms. The District provides educational services as authorized by State statute and/or federal guidelines.

It is staffed by 71 non-certified employees and 80 certified full-time teaching personnel, who provide services to 1,015 students and other community members. The District currently operates one instructional buildings and one bus garage.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Although required by Ohio Admin. Code § 117-2-03(B) to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), the District chooses to prepare its financial statements and notes in accordance with standards established by the Auditor of State for governmental entities that are not required to prepare annual financial reports in accordance with GAAP. This basis of accounting is similar to the cash receipts and disbursements basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e. when an encumbrance is approved).

A. Reporting Entity

The reporting entity has been defined in accordance with GASB Statement No. 14, "The Financial Reporting Entity" as amended by GASB Statement No. 39, "Determining Whether Certain Organizations Are Component Units" and GASB Statement No. 61, "The Financial Reporting Entity: Omnibus an Amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 34". The reporting entity is composed of the primary government and component units. The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards and agencies that are not legally separate from the District. For the District, this includes general operations, food service and student related activities of the District.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the District is financially accountable. The District is financially accountable for an organization if the District appoints a voting majority of the organization's Governing Board and (1) the District is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the District is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; or (3) the District is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or (4) the District is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the District in that the District approves the budget, the issuance of debt or the levying of taxes. Certain organizations are also included as component units if the nature and significance of the relationship between the primary government and the organization is such that exclusion by the primary government would render the primary government's financial statements incomplete or misleading. Based upon the application of these criteria, the District has no component units. The basic financial statements of the reporting entity include only those of the District (the primary government).

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

The following organizations are described due to their relationship to the District:

JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

Northern Ohio Educational Computer Association

Northern Ohio Educational Computer Association (NOECA) is a jointly governed organization among several school districts. NOECA was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to the administrative and instructional functions among member districts. Each of the governments of these schools supports NOECA based upon a per pupil charge dependent upon the software package utilized. The NOECA assembly consists of a superintendent from each participating school district and a representative from the fiscal agent. NOECA is governed by a Board of Directors chosen from the general membership of the NOECA Assembly. The Board of Directors consists of a representative from the fiscal agent, the chairman of each of the operating committees, and two Assembly members from each county in which participating school districts are limited to its representation on the Board. During fiscal year 2024, the District paid NOECA $13,680 for its services. Financial information can be obtained by contacting NOECA at 2019 Howard Drive, Sandusky, Ohio 44870.

Vanguard-Sentinel Career and Technology Center

Vanguard-Sentinel Career and Technology Center (Center) is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio which provides vocational education. The Center operates under the direction of a Board consisting of representatives from thirteen of the sixteen participating Districts' Board of Education. The Board possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. The degree of control exercised by the District is limited to its representation on the Board. Financial information can be obtained from Vanguard-Sentinel Career and Technology Center, 1306 Cedar Street, Fremont, Ohio 43420.

INSURANCE PURCHASING POOL

Ohio School Plan

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

Ohio School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan

The District participates in a group rating plan for worker's compensation as established under Section 4123.29 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Ohio School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (GRP) was established through the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) as an insurance purchasing pool. The GRP's business and affairs are conducted by a three member Board of Directors consisting of the President, the President-Elect, and the Immediate Past President of the OSBA. The Executive Director of the OSBA, or his designee, serves as coordinator of the GRP. Each year, the participants pay an enrollment fee to the GRP to cover the costs of administering the program.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

Jefferson Health Plan

The District participates in the Jefferson Health Plan (Plan), a risk-sharing, claims servicing, and insurance purchasing pool, including two insurance consortiums. Each participant appoints a member of the insurance plan's assembly. The Plan's business and affairs are conducted by a nine member Board of Directors elected from the assembly. The Plan offers medical, dental, and prescription drug coverage to the members on a self-insured basis, as well as the opportunity to participate in the group purchasing of life insurance coverage. The medical coverage plan provides each plan participant the opportunity to choose a self-insurance deductible limit which can range from $35,000 to $150,000, under which the individual member is responsible for all claims through the claims servicing pool. Plan participants also participate in a shared risk internal pool for individual claims between the self-insurance deductible limit and $500,000, and all claims between the deductible limit and the $500,000 are paid from the internal shared risk pool. The internal pool is not owned by the plan's participants. All participants pay a premium rate that is actuarially calculated based on the participant's actual claims experience which are utilized for the payment of claims within the claims servicing pool up to the self-insurance deductible limit; and for this portion of the plan, all plan participants retain their own risk. All participants pay an additional fee for participation in the internal pool that is based on the claims of the internal pool in aggregate and is not based on individual claims experience. In the event of a deficiency in the internal pool, participants would be charged a higher rate for participation, and in the event of a surplus, the internal pool pays dividends to the participants. For all individual claims exceeding $500,000, stop loss coverage is purchased, as well as from an annual total plan aggregate claims amount. All plan participants also pay a monthly administrative fee for fiscal services and third party administrative services.

D. Basis of Accounting

As a result of the use of this cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in this financial statement.

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, as the financial reporting provisions of Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (C) permit.

C. Basis of Presentation

The District's financial statements consist of a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all governmental fund types, and a combined statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (regulatory cash basis) for all proprietary and fiduciary fund types which are organized on a fund type basis.

D. Fund Accounting

The District uses fund accounting to segregate cash and investments which are restricted to use. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain District functions or activities.

For financial statement presentation purposes, the various funds of the District are grouped into the following generic fund types under the broad fund categories: governmental and proprietary.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions of the District are financed. The following are the District's governmental fund types:

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

Special Revenue Funds - Special revenue funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than major capital projects and debt service) that are legally restricted to disbursements for specified purposes. The District had the following significant Special Revenue Fund:

Food Services Fund - This fund is used to account for financial transactions related to food service operation.

Debt Service Fund - The District has one Debt Service Fund. The Debt Service fund is used for to account for property taxes and related receipts restricted for the payment of principal and interest on general obligation bonds.

Capital Projects Funds - The capital projects funds are used to account for financial resources that are restricted or committed for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities (other than those financed by proprietary funds). The District had the following significant Capital Projects Fund:

Permanent Improvement Fund – This fund is used to account for restricted receipts and disbursements related to the acquiring, constructing, or improving of such permanent improvements as are authorized by Chapter 5705, Ohio Rev. Code.

PROPRIETARY FUNDS

Proprietary funds are used to account for the District's ongoing activities which are similar to those found in the private sector. Proprietary funds are classified as either enterprise or internal service. The District had no enterprise funds.

Internal Service Fund - Internal service funds account for the financing of services provided by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of the District on a cost reimbursement basis. The District's internal service fund accounts for the activities of the self-insurance program for employee dental benefits.

FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net cash position and changes in net cash position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private-purpose trust funds and custodial funds. Trust funds are distinguished from custodial funds by the existence of a trust agreement or equivalent arrangements that have certain characteristics. Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund. The District had no fiduciary funds.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

E. Budgetary Process

All funds, except custodial funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the certificate of estimated resources, and the appropriations resolution, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amount the Board of Education may appropriate.

The appropriations resolution is the Board's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on disbursements plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Board. The legal level of budgetary control selected by the Board is at the fund level for all funds. Any budgetary modifications at this level may only be made by resolution of the Board of Education. Budgetary allocations below the legal level within all funds are made by the District Treasurer.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the fiscal year if projected increases or decreases in revenue are identified by the Treasurer.

The appropriation resolution is subject to amendment throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources.

The Ohio Revised Code requires the District to reserve (encumber) appropriations when individual commitments are made. Encumbrances outstanding at year end are carried over and need not be reappropriated.

A summary of fiscal year 2024 budgetary activity appears in Note 12.

F. Cash and Investments

To improve cash management, cash received by the District is pooled. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through District records. Interest in the pool is presented as the cash balances reported by fund type.

Cash and cash equivalents held for the District by the Jefferson Health Plan are reflected on the financial statements within the Internal Service fund balance.

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

Investments were limited to negotiable certificates of deposit, U.S. Government money market mutual funds, U.S. Treasury notes, Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) securities, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (FHLMC) securities, and investments in the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAR Ohio). Investments are reported at cost.

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

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

There were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, 24 hours notice in advance of all deposits and withdrawals exceeding $100 million is encouraged. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to $250 million, requiring the excess amount to be transacted the following business day(s), but only to the $250 million limit. All accounts of the participant will be combined for these purposes.

The Board of Education has allocated interest earnings according to State statutes. Interest revenue credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2024 was $761,071.

Investments of the District's cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the District are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months that were not purchased from the pool are reported as investments.

G. Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. The financial statements do not report these assets. Depreciation has not been reported for any capital assets.

H. Compensated Absences

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

I. Long-Term Obligations

Cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for bonds and other long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received and principal and interest payments are reported when disbursements are made. Since recording a capital asset (including the intangible right to use) when entering into a lease, financed purchase transaction, or Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay expenditure is reported at inception. Lease payments, financed purchase payments, and SBITA payments are reported when paid.

J. Leases

The District is a lessee in leases related to equipment under noncancelable leases. Lease payables are not reflected under the District's cash basis of accounting. Lease disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

K. Fund Balance

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

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

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

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

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

Assigned - Amounts in the assigned fund cash balance classification are intended to be used by the District for specific purposes, but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted nor committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund cash balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the District Board of Education, which includes giving the Treasurer the authority to constrain monies for intended purposes.

Unassigned - Unassigned fund cash balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is only used to report a deficit fund cash balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

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

L. Total Columns on Financial Statements

Total columns on the financial statements are captioned "Totals (Memorandum Only)" to indicate that they are presented only to facilitate financial analysis. This data is not comparable to a consolidation. Interfund–type eliminations have not been made in the aggregation of this data.

M. Operating Receipts and Disbursements

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

N. Interfund Activity

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

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

O. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

The District recognizes disbursements for employer contributions to cost-sharing plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 10 and 11, employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and postretirement health care benefits.

P. Pension/Other Postemployement Benefits (OPEB)

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

Q. Extraordinary and Special Items

Extraordinary items are transactions or events that are both unusual in nature and infrequent in occurrence. Special items are transactions or events that are within the control of the Board of Education and that are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence. Neither type of transaction occurred during fiscal year 2024.

R. Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs)

The District has Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs) under noncancelable agreements. SBITA payables are not reflected under the District's cash basis of accounting. SBITA disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

A. Change in Accounting Principles

For fiscal year 2024, the District has implemented certain paragraphs of GASB Implementation Guide No. 2021-1, certain paragraphs of GASB Statement No. 99, "*Omnibus 2022*", GASB Statement No. 100, "*Accounting Changes and Error Corrections - an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62*" and Implementation Guide No. 2023-1.

GASB Implementation Guide 2021-1 provides clarification on issues related to previously established GASB guidance. The implementation of GASB Implementation Guide 2021-1 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

GASB Statement No. 99 is to enhance comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing (1) practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements and (2) accounting and financial reporting for financial guarantees. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 99 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

GASB Statement No. 100 is to enhance accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessing accountability. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 100 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

GASB Implementation Guide 2023-1 provides clarification on issues related to previously established GASB guidance. The implementation of GASB Implementation Guide 2023-1 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE - (Continued)

B. Compliance

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

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

1. United States Treasury Notes, Bills, Bonds, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;

2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality, including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and Government National Mortgage Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;

3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided that the fair value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and that the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;

4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and with certain limitations including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met;

5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in items (1) and (2) above and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;

7. The State Treasurer's investment pool, the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAR Ohio);

8. Certain bankers' acceptances for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days) and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met

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

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements, and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage, and short selling are also prohibited. Except as noted above, an investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the District, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity. Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions.

A. Cash and Cash Equivalents with Fiscal Agent

At fiscal year end, the District had $2,758,391 in cash and cash equivalents with fiscal agent. These monies are held by the Jefferson Health Plan for related health care costs of the District.

B. Deposits with Financial Institutions

At June 30, 2024, the carrying amount of all District deposits was $497,952 and the bank balance of all District deposits was $688,437. Of the bank balance, $438,437 was exposed to custodial risk as discussed below and $250,000 was covered by the FDIC.

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of bank failure, the District will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The District 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 District and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose fair 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 fair value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

For fiscal year 2024, District financial institutions which participated in the OPCS were approved for a collateral rate of 102 percent and District financial institutions which did not participate in the OPCS pledged eligible securities to the District at collateral rate of 105 percent. Although all statutory requirements for the deposit of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the District to a successful claim by the FDIC.

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

C. Investments

As of June 30, 2024, the District had the following investments and maturities:

		Investment maturities				
Investment type	Carrying Value	6 months or less	7 to 12 months	13 to 18 months	19 to 24 months	Greater than 24 months
STAR Ohio	$ 9,876,648	$ 9,876,648	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
U.S. governmental money market mutal fund	263,920	263,920	-	-	-	-
Negotiable CDs	4,304,000	456,000	681,000	873,000	249,000	2,045,000
U.S. Treasury notes	264,701	264,701	-	-	-	-
FHLB	747,931	-	250,000	-	300,000	197,931
FHLMC	776,974	-	348,600	-	-	428,374
Total	$ 16,234,174	$ 10,861,269	$ 1,279,600	$ 873,000	$ 549,000	$ 2,671,305

The weighted average maturity of investments is 0.58 years.

Interest Rate Risk: Interest rate risk arises as potential purchasers of debt securities will not agree to pay face value for those securities if interest rates subsequently increase. As a means of limiting its exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates and according to State law, the District's investment policy limits investment portfolio maturities to five years or less.

Credit Risk: The District's investments in federal agency securities and U.S. Treasury notes carry a rating of AA+ and Aaa by Standard and Poor's and Moody's Investor Services, respectively. STAR Ohio and U.S. Government money market mutual funds carry a rating of AAAm by Standard & Poor's. Ohio law requires that STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. The District's negotiable CDs were not rated but are fully insured by the FDIC. The District has no policy that would further limit its investment choices.

Custodial Credit Risk: For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the District will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The District has no investment policy dealing with investment custodial risk beyond the requirement in State statute that prohibits payment for investments prior to the delivery of the securities representing such investments to the Treasurer or qualified trustee.

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

Concentration of Credit Risk: The District places no limit on the amount that may be invested in any one issuer. The following table includes the percentage of each investment type held by the District at June 30, 2024:

Investment type	Carrying value	% of total
STAR Ohio	$ 9,876,648	60.83
U.S. governmental money market mutual fund	263,920	1.63
Negotiable CDs	4,304,000	26.51
U.S. Treasury notes	264,701	1.63
FHLMC	747,931	4.61
FHLB	776,974	4.79
Total investments	$ 16,234,174	100.00

D. Reconciliation of Cash to the Combined Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances - Regulatory Cash Basis

The following is a reconciliation of cash as reported in the note above to cash as reported on the financial statements as of June 30, 2024:

Cash per note	
Carrying amount of deposits	$ 497,952
Cash and cash equivalents with fiscal agent	2,758,391
Investments	16,234,174
Total	$ 19,490,517
Cash per financial statements	
Governmental funds	$ 16,649,780
Internal service fund	2,840,737
Total	$ 19,490,517

NOTE 5 - PROPERTY TAXES

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

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real property and public utility property. Real property tax revenues received in calendar year 2024 represent the collection of calendar year 2023 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2024 were levied after April 1, 2023, on the assessed values as of January 1, 2023, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State statute at 35 percent of appraised market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semiannually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established.

NOTE 5 - PROPERTY TAXES - (Continued)

Public utility property tax revenues received in calendar year 2024 represent the collection of calendar year 2023 taxes. Public utility real and personal property taxes received in calendar year 2024 became a lien on December 31, 2022, were levied after April 1, 2023, and are collected with real property taxes. Public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value; public utility tangible personal property is currently assessed at varying percentages of true value.

The District receives property taxes from Sandusky, Seneca and Wood Counties. The County Auditor periodically advances to the District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2024, are available to finance fiscal year 2024 operations. The amount available as an advanced can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent.

The assessed values upon which the fiscal year 2024 taxes were collected are:

	2023 Second Half Collections		2024 First Half Collections	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Agricultural/residential and other real estate	$ 172,149,950	86.92	$ 212,137,760	89.28
Public utility personal	25,906,310	13.08	25,462,630	10.72
Total	$ 198,056,260	100.00	$ 237,600,390	100.00
Tax rate per $1,000 of assessed valuation	$40.00		$39.70	

NOTE 6 - INCOME TAXES

The District levies a voted tax of 1.50% for general operations on the income of residents and of estates. The continuous tax levy was effective on January 1, 2008. Employers of residents are required to withhold income tax on compensation and remit the tax to the State. Taxpayers are required to file an annual return. The State makes quarterly distributions to the District after withholding amounts for administrative fees and estimated refunds. Income tax revenue is credited to the General fund.

NOTE 7 - OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

A. Compensated Absences

The criteria for determining vacation and sick leave benefits are derived from negotiated agreements and State laws. Classified employees earn ten to twenty days of vacation per fiscal year, depending upon length of service. Accumulated unused vacation time is paid to classified employees upon termination of employment. Teachers do not earn vacation time.

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

B. Employee Insurance Benefits

The District offers medical and dental insurance to all employees through self-insurance programs. The District offers life insurance through Dearborn National Life Insurance Company.

NOTE 8 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

During fiscal year 2024, the following changes occurred in governmental activities long-term obligations.

	Balance Outstanding 06/30/23	Additions	Reductions	Balance Outstanding 06/30/24	Amounts Due in One Year
Governmental activities:					
General Long-Term Obligation Bonds:					
School Improvement Refunds Bonds, FY 2016-1					
Serial Bonds - 4%	$ 3,475,000	$ -	$ -	$ 3,475,000	$ -
Bond Premium	556,759	-	-	556,759	-
School Improvement Refunds Bonds, FY 2016-2					
Serial Bonds - 1.5-4%	3,405,000	-	(370,000)	3,035,000	385,000
Bond Premium	418,107	-	(45,433)	372,674	-
School Improvement Refunds Bonds, FY 2017					
Serial Bonds - 2-5%	925,000	-	(450,000)	475,000	475,000
Term Bonds 3-4%	2,910,000	-	-	2,910,000	-
Bond Premium	222,487	-	(26,107)	196,380	-
Total general obligation bonds payable	$ 11,912,353	$ -	$ (891,540)	$ 11,020,813	$ 860,000

FY 2016-1 School Improvement Refunding Bonds - On March 23, 2016, the District issued general obligation bonds, in the amount of $3,475,000, to partially refund bonds previously issued in fiscal year 2008 for improving and constructing school buildings and facilities. The refunding bond issue consisted of serial bonds. The bonds were issued for a seventeen fiscal year period, with maturity in fiscal year 2033. The bonds are being retired through the Bond Retirement debt service fund.

The serial bonds are subject to prior redemption on or after July 15, 2026, by and at the sole option of the District, either in whole on any date or in part on any interest payment date, and in integral multiples of $5,000, at 100 percent of the principal amount redeemed plus accrued interest to the redemption date.

The refunded bonds are fully retired.

FY 2016-2 School Improvement Refunding Bonds - On March 23, 2016, the District issued general obligation bonds, in the amount of $5,200,000, to partially refund bonds previously issued in fiscal year 2008 for improving and constructing school buildings and facilities. The refunding bond issue consisted of serial bonds. The bonds were issued for a fifteen fiscal year period, with maturity in fiscal year 2031. The bonds are being retired through the Bond Retirement debt service fund. The serial bonds are subject to prior redemption on or after July 15, 2026, by and at the sole option of the District, either in whole on any date or in part on any interest payment date, and in integral multiples of $5,000, at 100 percent of the principal amount redeemed plus accrued interest to the redemption date.

The refunded bonds are fully retired.

FY 2017 School Improvement Refunding Bonds - On June 29, 2017, the District issued general obligation bonds, in the amount of $5,955,000, to partially refund bonds previously issued in fiscal year 2008 for improving and constructing school buildings and facilities. The refunding bond issue included serial and term bonds, in the original amount of $3,045,000 and $2,910,000, respectively. The bonds were issued for a nineteen fiscal year period, with maturity in fiscal year 2036. The bonds are being retired through the Bond Retirement debt service fund.

NOTE 8 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS - (Continued)

The bonds maturing on January 15, 2030, are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption, at a redemption price equal to 100 percent of the principal amount redeemed plus accrued interest to the date of redemption, on January 15 in the years and the respective principal amounts as follows:

Fiscal Year Ended	Amount
2026	$ 95,000
2027	100,000
2028	100,000
2029	100,000

The remaining principal, in the amount of $105,000, will be paid at stated maturity on January 15, 2030.

The bonds maturing on January 15, 2036, are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption, at a redemption price equal to 100 percent of the principal amount redeemed plus accrued interest to the date of redemption, on January 15 in the years and the respective principal amounts as follows:

Fiscal Year Ended	Amount
2031	$ 115,000
2032	120,000
2033	120,000
2034	665,000
2035	685,000

The remaining principal, in the amount of $705,000, will be paid at stated maturity on January 15, 2036.

The serial bonds are subject to prior redemption on or after July 15, 2026, by and at the sole option of the District, either in whole on any date or in part on any interest payment date, and in integral multiples of $5,000, at 100 percent of the principal amount redeemed plus accrued interest to the redemption date.

The refunded bonds are fully retired.

The District's overall debt margin was $12,538,265 with an unvoted debt margin of $237,600 at June 30, 2024.

Principal and interest requirements to retire general long-term obligations outstanding at June 30, 2024, were as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending	General Obligation Bonds		
June 30,	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	$ 860,000	$ 362,200	$ 1,222,200
2026	870,000	337,300	1,207,300
2027	905,000	302,500	1,207,500
2028	945,000	266,300	1,211,300
2029	975,000	228,500	1,203,500
2030 - 2034	3,950,000	593,150	4,543,150
2035 - 2036	1,390,000	62,850	1,452,850
Total	$ 9,895,000	$ 2,152,800	$ 12,047,800

NOTE 9 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During fiscal year 2024, the District contracted for the following insurance coverage.

Coverage provided by the Ohio School Plan is as follows:

General District Liability	
Per Occurrence	$1,000,000
Total per Year	3,000,000
Automobile Liability	1,000,000
Buildings and Contents	63,946,249

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

For fiscal year 2024, the District participated in the Ohio School Plan (Plan), an insurance purchasing pool. Each participant enters into an individual agreement with the Plan for insurance coverage and pays annual premiums to the Plan based on the types and limits of coverage and deductibles selected by the participant.

The District participated in the Ohio School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (GRP), an insurance purchasing pool. The intent of the GRP is to achieve the benefit of a reduced premium for the District by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the GRP. The workers' compensation experience of the participants is calculated as one experience and a common premium rate is applied to all participants in the GRP. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the GRP rather than its individual rate.

Sedgwick provides administrative, cost control, and actuarial services to the GRP.

The District offers dental insurance to all employees through a self-insured program. All funds of the District participated in the program and made payments to the Self Insurance internal service fund based on actuarial estimates of the amounts needed to pay prior and current year claims. The internal service fund covers claims up to $1,500 per individual annually. Settled claims have not exceeded this coverage for the past three years. There is no stop-loss coverage.

The District offers Medical and Drug Insurance (health insurance) to all eligible employees through a self-insured program through the General Fund. The District is a participant in the Jefferson Health Plan, an insurance purchasing pool. The Jefferson Health Plan was formed for the purpose of providing insurance. The Jefferson Health Plan is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of superintendents and treasurers of member school districts. The District's self-insured deductible (pooling level) is $50,000. Amounts between $50,000 and $1,500,000 are paid from a shared risk pool through Jefferson Health Plan. Stop Loss coverage for the District over $1,500,000 is provided by SunLife through Jefferson Health Plan.

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability/Asset

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

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

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

GASB 68/75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires funding to come from these employers. All pension contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes pension costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits. In addition, health care plan enrollees pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. State statute requires the retirement systems to amortize unfunded pension liabilities within 30 years. If the pension amortization period exceeds 30 years, each retirement system's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension/OPEB liability (asset). Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require, the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients.

The net pension/net OPEB liability (asset) are not reported on the face of the financial statements, but rather are disclosed in the notes because of the use of the cash basis framework.

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 11 for the required OPEB disclosures.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

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

Funding Policy - Plan members are required to contribute 10.00% of their annual covered salary and the District is required to contribute 14.00% 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 10.00% for plan members and 14.00% 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, 2024, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.00%. For fiscal year 2024, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was $329,289 for fiscal year 2024.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description - Licensed teachers 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 website at www.strsoh.org.

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

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0 percent upon a determination by its actuary that it was necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients' base benefit and past cost-of living increases are not affected by this change. Effective July 1, 2022, 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 of their member contributions and 11.09% of the 14% employer contributions into an investment account. The member determines how to allocate the member and employer money among various investment choices offered by STRS Ohio. The remaining 2.91% of the 14% employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, 12% of the 14% member rate goes to the DC Plan and the remaining 2% is applied to the DB Plan. Member contributions to the DC Plan are allocated among investment choices by the member, and contributions to the DB Plan from the employer and the member are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the 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 and after termination of employment.

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

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

Funding Policy - Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The fiscal year 2024 employer and employee contribution rate of 14% was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For fiscal year 2024, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The District's contractually required contribution to STRS was $720,050 for fiscal year 2024.

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Net Pension Liability

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 District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the net pension liability prior measurement date	0.056866700%	0.039897690%	
Proportion of the net pension liability current measurement date	0.055360700%	0.039353640%	
Change in proportionate share	-0.001506000%	-0.000544050%	
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	$ 3,058,966	$ 8,474,782	$ 11,533,748

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 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. 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.

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022, are presented below:

Wage inflation:	
Current measurement date	2.40%
Prior measurement date	2.40%
Future salary increases, including inflation:	
Current measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Prior measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
COLA or ad hoc COLA:	
Current measurement date	2.00%
Prior measurement date	2.00%
Investment rate of return:	
Current measurement date	7.00% net of system expenses
Prior measurement date	7.00% net of system expenses
Discount rate:	
Current measurement date	7.00%
Prior measurement date	7.00%
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal (level percent of payroll)

In 2023, mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

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

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

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

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00 %	0.75 %
US Equity	24.75	4.82
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	5.19
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	5.98
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	2.24
Private Equity	12.00	7.49
Real Estate/Real Assets	17.00	3.70
Private Debt/Private Credit	5.00	5.64
Total	100.00 %	

Discount Rate - Total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%. 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 of fiscal year 2023 was 14%. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return, 7.00%. Based on those assumptions, the plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability. 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%.

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

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	$ 4,514,874	$ 3,058,966	$ 1,832,637

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022, actuarial valuation are presented below:

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount rate of return	7.00%	7.00%
Payroll increases	3.00%	3.00%
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%	0.00%

For the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

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

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 on a quinquennial basis.

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation*	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return **
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.60 %
International Equity	22.00	6.80
Alternatives	19.00	7.38
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75
Real Estate	10.00	5.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	1.00
Total	100.00 %	

* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

**10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25% and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS' investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 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 the rates described previously. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS' 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 investments of 7.00% was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2023.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate - The following table represents the net pension liability as of June 30, 2023, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current assumption:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	$ 13,032,339	$ 8,474,782	$ 4,620,336

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

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

See Note 10 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description - The District contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 75 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. SERS' Health Care Plan provides healthcare benefits to eligible individuals receiving retirement, disability, and survivor benefits, and to their eligible dependents. Members who retire after June 1, 1986, need 10 years of service credit, exclusive of most types of purchased credit, to qualify to participate in SERS' health care coverage. The following types of credit purchased after January 29, 1981, do not count toward health care coverage eligibility: military, federal, out-of-state, municipal, private school, exempted, and early retirement incentive credit. In addition to age and service retirees, disability benefit recipients and beneficiaries who are receiving monthly benefits due to the death of a member or retiree, are eligible for SERS' health care coverage. Most retirees and dependents choosing SERS' health care coverage are over the age of 65 and therefore enrolled in a fully insured Medicare Advantage plan; however, SERS maintains a traditional, self-insured preferred provider organization for its non-Medicare retiree population. For both groups, SERS offers a self-insured prescription drug program. Health care is a benefit that is permitted, not mandated, by statute. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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% of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, SERS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2024, this amount was $30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2% of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5% of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the District's surcharge obligation was $41,362.

The surcharge added to the allocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was $41,362 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. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting www.strsoh.org or by calling (888) 227-7877.

Funding Policy - Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. Nearly all health care plan enrollees, for the most recent year, pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14% of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

The net OPEB liability/asset was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total OPEB liability/asset used to calculate the net OPEB liability/asset was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset was based on the District's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset prior measurement date	0.058194700%	0.039897690%	
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset current measurement date	0.056920500%	0.039353640%	
Change in proportionate share	-0.001274200%	-0.000544050%	
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	$ 937,733	$ -	$ 937,733
Proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	$ -	$ (765,374)	$ (765,374)

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.

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022 are presented below:

Wage inflation:	
Current measurement date	2.40%
Prior measurement date	2.40%
Future salary increases, including inflation:	
Current measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Prior measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Investment rate of return:	
Current measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Prior measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Municipal bond index rate:	
Current measurement date	3.86%
Prior measurement date	3.69%
Single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:	
Current measurement date	4.27%
Prior measurement date	4.08%
Medical trend assumption:	
Current measurement date	6.75 to 4.40%
Prior measurement date	7.00 to 4.40%

In 2023, the following mortality assumptions were used:

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.

Mortality Projection - Mortality rates are projected using a fully generational projection with Scale MP-2020.

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

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

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

The long-term expected rate of return is reviewed as part of the regular experience studies prepared every five years for SERS. The most recent five-year experience study was performed for the period covering fiscal years 2016 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board on April 15, 2021. Several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a long-normal distribution analysis in which best estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected return, net of investment expense and inflation) were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.00%, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The 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 long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes.

The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00 %	0.75 %
US Equity	24.75	4.82
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	5.19
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	5.98
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	2.24
Private Equity	12.00	7.49
Real Estate/Real Assets	17.00	3.70
Private Debt/Private Credit	5.00	5.64
Total	100.00 %	

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2023, was 4.27%. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2023, was 4.08%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the contribution rate of 1.50% of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50% payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is projected to be depleted in 2048 by SERS' actuaries. The Fidelity General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index Rate was used in the determination of the single equivalent interest rate for both the June 30, 2022 and the June 30, 2023 total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate was 3.86% at June 30, 2023 and 3.69% at June 30, 2022.

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates - The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability, what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.27%) and higher (5.27%) than the current discount rate (4.27%). Also shown is what the net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (5.75% decreasing to 3.40%) and higher (7.75% decreasing to 5.40%) than the current rate (6.75% decreasing to 4.40%).

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	$ 1,198,692	$ 937,733	$ 731,958

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	$ 688,921	$ 937,733	$ 1,267,445

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation, compared with June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation, are presented below:

	June 30, 2023		June 30, 2022	
Inflation	2.50%		2.50%	
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%		Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%	
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation		7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	
Payroll increases	3.00%		3.00%	
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%		0.00%	
Discount rate of return	7.00%		7.00%	
Blended discount rate of return	N/A		N/A	
Health care cost trends				
	Initial	Ultimate	Initial	Ultimate
Medical				
Pre-Medicare	7.50%	4.14%	7.50%	3.94%
Medicare	-10.94%	4.14%	-68.78%	3.94%
Prescription Drug				
Pre-Medicare	-11.95%	4.14%	9.00%	3.94%
Medicare	1.33%	4.14%	-5.47%	3.94%

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

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

For the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation, for healthy retirees the post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020; pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

For the prior measurement date, for healthy retirees the post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020; pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

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 on a quinquennial basis.

Assumption Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - The discount rate remained unchanged at 7.00% for the June 30, 2023 valuation.

Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience as well as benefit changes effective January 1, 2024.

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation*	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return **
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.60 %
International Equity	22.00	6.80
Alternatives	19.00	7.38
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75
Real Estate	10.00	5.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	1.00
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% 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% as of June 30, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed STRS' continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on those assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2023. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care fund investments of 7.00% was applied to all periods of projected health care costs to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023.

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate - The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2023, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	$ 647,789	$ 765,374	$ 867,778

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	$ 872,530	$ 765,374	$ 636,306

NOTE 12 - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Budgetary activity for the year ended June 30, 2024 follows:

Budgeted vs. Actual Receipts

Fund Type	Budgeted Receipts	Actual Receipts	Variance
General	$ 14,236,959	$ 16,115,402	$ 1,878,443
Special Revenue	2,264,614	1,892,237	(372,377)
Debt Service	1,208,473	1,256,871	48,398
Capital Projects	324,512	1,857,414	1,532,902
Internal Service	2,178,676	2,315,423	136,747
Total	$ 20,213,234	$ 23,437,347	$ 3,224,113

Budgeted vs. Actual Disbursements

Fund Type	Budgeted Disbursements	Actual Disbursements	Variance
General	$ 16,342,845	$ 15,992,458	$ 350,387
Special Revenue	2,135,519	1,924,058	211,461
Debt Service	1,239,646	1,212,977	26,669
Capital Projects	350,000	280,359	69,641
Internal Service	2,258,017	2,009,175	248,842
Total	$ 22,326,027	$ 21,419,027	$ 907,000

NOTE 13 - CONTINGENCIES

A. Grants

The District received financial assistance from federal and state agencies in the form of grants. The expenditure of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and is subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the General fund or other applicable funds. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material adverse effect on the overall financial position of the District at June 30, 2024.

B. Litigation

The District is involved in no material litigation as either plaintiff or defendant.

C. Foundation Funding

Foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. Traditional districts must comply with minimum hours of instruction, instead of a minimum number of school days each year. The funding formula the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) is legislatively required to follow will continue to adjust as enrollment information is updated by the District, which can extend past the fiscal year-end. As of the date of this report, ODEW has not finalized the impact of enrollment adjustments to the June 30, 2024 Foundation funding for the District; therefore, the financial statement impact is not determinable at this time. ODEW and management believe this will result in either a receivable to or liability of the District.

NOTE 14 - SET-ASIDE REQUIREMENTS

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

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

	Capital Improvements
Set-aside balance June 30, 2023	$ -
Current year set-aside requirement	200,176
Current year offsets	(1,800,000)
Total	$ (1,599,824)
Balance carried forward to fiscal year 2025	$ -
Set-aside balance June 30, 2024	$ -

NOTE 15- INTERFUND TRANSFERS

During fiscal year 2024, the General fund made transfers to the Termination Benefits fund, Bond Retirement Debt Service fund, Classroom Facilities Maintenance fund, and Capital Projects fund in the amounts of $340,000, $498,800, $61,330, and $1,800,000, respectively, to move receipts as debt payments came due, for capital projects, and to subsidize operations in other funds.

NOTE 16 - CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS

At fiscal year end, the amounts of significant encumbrances expended to be honored upon performance by the vendor in fiscal year 2024 are as follows:

General fund	$	160,557
Special Revenue funds		16,041
Capital Porject funds		249,458
	$	426,056

LAKOTA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

FEDERAL GRANTOR ***Pass Through Grantor*** **Program / Cluster Title**	**Federal Assistance Listing Number**	**(1) (2) Total Federal Expenditures**
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		
Passed Through Ohio Department of Education & Workforce		
Child Nutrition Cluster:		
National School Lunch Program		
Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution)	10.555	$ 53,398
Cash Assistance	10.555	258,156
COVID-19 Cash Assistance	10.555	30,533
Total National School Lunch Program		342,087
School Breakfast Program:		
Cash Assistance	10.553	66,812
Total Child Nutrition Cluster and U.S. Department of Agriculture		408,899
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		
Passed Through Ohio Department of Education & Workforce		
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	329,768
Special Education Cluster (IDEA):		
Special Education Grants to States	84.027A	224,877
Special Education Preschool Grants	84.173A	4,193
Total Special Education Cluster (IDEA)		229,070
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367A	32,760
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424A	15,064
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program - Stronger Connections Grants	84.424F	5,192
Total Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program		20,256
Comprehensive Literacy Development	84.371C	94,518
Education Stabilization Fund:		
COVID-19 - Amercian Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER)	84.425U	220,145
Total U.S. Department of Education		926,517
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY		
Passed Through the Ohio Office of Budget and Management		
COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds - School Safety	21.027	102,215
Total U.S. Department of the Treasury		102,215
UNITED STATES FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION		
Direct		
COVID-19 - Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Program - Equipment	32.009	32,400
Total U.S. Federal Communications Commission		32,400
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards		**$ 1,470,031**

(1) There were no amounts passed through to subrecipients.
(2) There were no pass through entity identifying numbers.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

LAKOTA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO

NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE A - BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Lakota Local School District, Sandusky County, Ohio (the District) under programs of the federal government for the fiscal 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 operations of the District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of the District.

NOTE B - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

NOTE C - INDIRECT COST RATE

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

NOTE D - CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

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

NOTE E - FOOD DONATION PROGRAM

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

NOTE F - TRANFERS BETWEEN PROGRAM YEARS

Federal regulations require schools to obligate certain federal awards by June 30. However, with Ohio Department of Education’s consent, schools can transfer unobligated amounts to the subsequent fiscal year’s program.

The District transferred the following amount from 2024 to 2025 programs:

Program Title	AL Number	Amount Transferred
(P-EBT) Administrative Costs Grants	10.649	$ 1,242

CLARK SCHAEFER HACKETT
BUSINESS ADVISORS

1656 Henthorne Drive, Suite 400
Maumee, Ohio 43537
P. 419.841.2848 | F. 419.841.8178

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH *GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS*

Lakota Local School District
Board of Education
5200 County Road 13
Kansas, Ohio 44841

We have audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States *(Government Auditing Standards)*, the financial statements of the Lakota Local School District, Sandusky County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated November 25, 2024, wherein we issued an adverse opinion on the District's financial statements because the District did not follow accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America as required by Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. 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 District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and is described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as item 2024-001.

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

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

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.

Maumee, Ohio
November 25, 2024

CLARK SCHAEFER HACKETT
BUSINESS ADVISORS

1656 Henthorne Drive, Suite 400
Maumee, Ohio 43537
P. 419.841.2848 | F. 419.841.8178

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Lakota Local School District
Board of Education
5200 County Road 13
Kansas, Ohio 44814

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program
We have audited the Lakota Local School District's, Sandusky County, Ohio (the District) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the District's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. The District's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditors' results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

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

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

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

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

Auditors' 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 District's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the District's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.

- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

- obtain an understanding of the District's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance
A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a 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 Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

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

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

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.

Maumee, Ohio
November 25, 2024

Section I – Summary of Auditors' Results

Financial Statements

Type of auditors' report issued:	Adverse
Internal control over financial reporting:	
• Material weakness(es) identified?	No
• Significant deficiency(ies) identified not considered to be material weakness(es)?	None Reported
Noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	Yes

Federal Awards

Internal control over major programs:	
• Material weakness(es) identified?	No
• Significant deficiency(ies) identified not considered to be material weakness(es)?	None Reported
Type of auditors' report issued on compliance for major programs:	Unmodified
Any audit findings that are required to be reported in accordance with 2 CFR 200.516(a)?	No

Identification of major programs:

- ALN 10.553, 10.555 – Child Nutrition Cluster
- ALN 84.425U – COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund

Dollar threshold to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs:	$750,000
Auditee qualified as low-risk auditee?	No

Section II – Financial Statement Findings

Finding Number 2024-001 – Noncompliance:
Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-3(B) requires the District to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Lakota Local School District has elected to prepare and submit its annual financial report on the regulatory cash basis of accounting. The accompanying financial statements and notes omit material assets, liabilities, fund equities and disclosures required by GAAP.

> *Management Response: The District does not have plans to correct the finding. The District will continue filing a cash basis financial report due to the cost of preparing a GAAP basis report.*

Section III – Federal Awards Findings and Questioned Costs

None Noted

LAKOTA | LOCAL SCHOOLS

Dr. Chad Coffman
Superintendent

Norm Elchert
Treasurer

November 25, 2024

SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.511(c)
June 30, 2024

Finding Number	Status	Explanation
2023-001	Not Corrected	Noncompliance for not filing GAAP Report.

419-986-6610 419-986-6651 5200 County Road 13 Kansas, Ohio 44841 lakotaschools.org

The Lakota Local School District, as a unified learning community, is dedicated to graduating students who are lifelong learners and productive citizens in an ever-changing society.

LAKOTA LOCAL SCHOOLS

Dr. Chad Coffman
Superintendent

Norm Elchert
Treasurer

November 25, 2024

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
2 CFR § 200.511(c)
June 30, 2024

Finding Number	Planned Corrective Action	Anticipated Completion Date	Responsible Contact Person
2024-001	The District believes the excess cost associated with generating and auditing reports on a generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) basis far outweighs the benefits. The District will continue to report on an OCBOA (Other Comprehensive Basis of Accounting) basis for future audits.	N/A	Norm Elchert, Treasurer 419-986-6650

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER

LAKOTA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SANDUSKY 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 1/2/2025

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