



**Cardington-Lincoln
Local School District
Morrow County
Single Audit**

**For the Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2025**



Jessica Heldman, CPA

330 Muskingum Drive
Marietta, OH 45750
(740) 629-8717
Jessica.heldman@outlook.com



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

Board of Education
Cardington-Lincoln Local School District
121 Nichols Street
Cardington, Ohio 43315

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Cardington-Lincoln Local School District, Morrow County, prepared by Jessica Heldman, CPA, for the audit period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. 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 Cardington-Lincoln Local School District is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State

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

June 02, 2026

This page intentionally left blank.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditor's Report.....	1
Prepared by Management:	
Basic Financial Statements:	
Government-Wide Financial Statements:	
Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis.....	4
Statement of Activities – Cash Basis	5
Fund Financial Statements:	
Statement of Assets and Fund Balances – Cash Basis – Governmental Funds	6
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances – Cash Basis	7
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position – Cash Basis.....	8
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements	9
Supplementary Information:	
Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis) – General Fund.....	39
Notes to the Supplementary Information	40
Schedule of Expenditure of Federal Awards	41
Notes to the Schedule of Expenditure of Federal Awards	42
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	43
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements Applicable to Each Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance	45
Schedule of Findings.....	48
Prepared by Management:	
Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings	50
Corrective Action Plan.....	51

This page intentionally left blank.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Cardington-Lincoln Local School District
Morrow County
121 Nichols St.
Cardington, OH 43315

To the Board of Education:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Cardington-Lincoln Local School District, Morrow County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Cardington-Lincoln Local School District, Morrow County, Ohio as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Emphasis of Matter - Accounting Basis

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



Jessica Heldman, CPA

330 Muskingum Drive
Marietta, OH 45750

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2, and for determining that the cash-basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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 for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements.

The budgetary comparison schedule and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, these schedules are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 20, 2026, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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.

Jessica Heldman CPA

Jessica Heldman, CPA
Marietta, Ohio

March 20, 2026

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - CASH BASIS
JUNE 30, 2025**

	Governmental Activities
Assets:	
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 10,258,924</u>
Net position:	
Restricted for:	
Classroom facilities maintenance	135,132
Debt service	583,832
State funded programs	28,626
Federally funded programs	11,451
Food service operations	236,782
Extracurricular	82,369
Other purposes	785,982
Unrestricted	<u>8,394,750</u>
Total net position	<u><u>\$ 10,258,924</u></u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - CASH BASIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	Cash	Program Receipts		Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position
	Disbursements	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
Governmental activities:				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$ 5,271,534	\$ 234,067	\$ 149,210	\$ (4,888,257)
Special	2,994,942	52,433	1,248,557	(1,693,952)
Vocational	275,815	-	147,793	(128,022)
Other	155,599	-	145,432	(10,167)
Support services:				
Pupil	662,821	-	306,013	(356,808)
Instructional staff	548,593	-	214,584	(334,009)
Board of education	158,426	-	-	(158,426)
Administration	1,559,520	20,665	81,415	(1,457,440)
Fiscal	505,130	-	-	(505,130)
Business	636	-	-	(636)
Operations and maintenance	2,035,169	164,710	103,239	(1,767,220)
Pupil transportation	770,931	-	100,324	(670,607)
Central	150,982	-	5,973	(145,009)
Operation of non-instructional services:				
Food service operations	547,008	41,851	406,206	(98,951)
Extracurricular activities	590,905	328,558	3,604	(258,743)
Facilities acquisition and construction	29,030	-	-	(29,030)
Debt service:				
Principal retirement	405,000	-	-	(405,000)
Interest	25,988	-	-	(25,988)
Totals	\$ 16,688,029	\$ 842,284	\$ 2,912,350	(12,933,395)

General receipts:

Property taxes levied for:

General purposes 4,143,791

Debt service 428,741

Capital outlay 202,237

Income taxes levied for:

General purposes 1,500,169

Grants and entitlements not restricted

to specific programs 7,794,686

Investment earnings 388,634

Issuance of notes 960,000

Miscellaneous 46,890

Total general receipts 15,465,148

Change in net position 2,531,753

Net position at beginning of year 7,727,171

Net position at end of year \$ 10,258,924

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND FUND BALANCES - CASH BASIS
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2025

	<u>General</u>	<u>Permanent Improvement</u>	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Assets:				
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,428,248	\$ 1,716,502	\$ 2,114,174	\$ 10,258,924
Fund balances:				
Restricted:				
Debt service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 583,832	\$ 583,832
Classroom facilities maintenance	-	-	135,132	135,132
Food service operations	-	-	236,782	236,782
State funded programs	-	-	28,626	28,626
Federally funded programs	-	-	11,451	11,451
Extracurricular	-	-	82,369	82,369
Other purposes	-	-	785,982	785,982
Committed:				
Capital improvements	-	1,716,502	-	1,716,502
Termination benefits	350,000	-	-	350,000
Assigned:				
Student instruction	41,721	-	-	41,721
Student and staff support	181,861	-	-	181,861
Capital improvements	-	-	250,000	250,000
Unassigned	5,854,666	-	-	5,854,666
Total fund balances	<u>\$ 6,428,248</u>	<u>\$ 1,716,502</u>	<u>\$ 2,114,174</u>	<u>\$ 10,258,924</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - CASH BASIS
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	General	Permanent Improvement	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receipts:				
Property taxes	\$ 4,143,791	\$ 202,237	\$ 428,741	\$ 4,774,769
Income taxes	1,500,169	-	-	1,500,169
Intergovernmental	8,955,020	26,571	1,564,561	10,546,152
Investment earnings	388,634	-	38,971	427,605
Tuition and fees	286,500	-	-	286,500
Extracurricular	20,665	-	328,558	349,223
Rental income	164,710	-	-	164,710
Charges for services	-	-	41,851	41,851
Contributions and donations	2,500	-	121,913	124,413
Miscellaneous	44,390	-	-	44,390
Total receipts	<u>15,506,379</u>	<u>228,808</u>	<u>2,524,595</u>	<u>18,259,782</u>
Disbursements:				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	5,128,665	-	142,869	5,271,534
Special	2,512,224	-	482,718	2,994,942
Vocational	275,815	-	-	275,815
Other	110,715	-	44,884	155,599
Support services:				
Pupil	563,482	-	99,339	662,821
Instructional staff	364,215	-	184,378	548,593
Board of education	158,426	-	-	158,426
Administration	1,492,660	-	66,860	1,559,520
Fiscal	489,944	4,867	10,319	505,130
Business	636	-	-	636
Operations and maintenance	1,642,486	268,709	123,974	2,035,169
Pupil transportation	636,894	130,652	3,385	770,931
Central	145,009	-	5,973	150,982
Operation of non-instructional services:				
Food service operations	-	-	547,008	547,008
Extracurricular activities	249,935	-	340,970	590,905
Facilities acquisition and construction	-	29,030	-	29,030
Debt service:				
Principal retirement	80,000	-	325,000	405,000
Interest	8,213	-	17,775	25,988
Total disbursements	<u>13,859,319</u>	<u>433,258</u>	<u>2,395,452</u>	<u>16,688,029</u>
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over (under) disbursements	<u>1,647,060</u>	<u>(204,450)</u>	<u>129,143</u>	<u>1,571,753</u>
Other financing sources (uses):				
Sale of notes	-	960,000	-	960,000
Transfers in	-	-	250,000	250,000
Transfers (out)	(250,000)	-	-	(250,000)
Advances in	-	-	1,652	1,652
Advances (out)	(1,652)	-	-	(1,652)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(251,652)</u>	<u>960,000</u>	<u>251,652</u>	<u>960,000</u>
Net change in fund balances	1,395,408	755,550	380,795	2,531,753
Fund balances at beginning of year	<u>5,032,840</u>	<u>960,952</u>	<u>1,733,379</u>	<u>7,727,171</u>
Fund balances at end of year	<u>\$ 6,428,248</u>	<u>\$ 1,716,502</u>	<u>\$ 2,114,174</u>	<u>\$ 10,258,924</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - CASH BASIS
FIDUCIARY FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	<u>Custodial</u>
Additions:	
Extracurricular collections for OHSAA	<u>\$ 7,078</u>
Deductions:	
Extracurricular distributions to OHSAA	<u>7,078</u>
Change in net position	-
Net position at beginning of year	<u>-</u>
Net position at end of year	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Cardington-Lincoln Local School District (the “District”) is located primarily in Morrow (and serves a small portion of Marion) County and includes the Village of Cardington and Lincoln Township. The District serves an area of approximately 85 square miles.

The District was established in 1840 through the consolidation of existing land areas and school districts. The District is organized under Sections 2 and 3, Article VI of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. Under such laws, there is no authority for a school district to have a charter or adopt local laws. The legislative power of the school district is vested in the Board of Education, consisting of five members elected at large for staggered four year terms.

The District currently operates 1 elementary school, 1 middle school, and 1 comprehensive high school. The District employs 60 non-certified, 76 certified employees and 8 administrators to provide services to approximately 921 students in grades K through 12 and various community groups.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As discussed further in Note 2.D., these financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. This basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Generally accepted accounting principles include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. The District’s significant accounting policies are described below.

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.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

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

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

JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

META Solutions

The District is a participant in META Solutions, which is a computer consortium. META Solutions develops, implements and supports the technology and instructional needs of schools in a cost-effective manner. META Solutions provides instructional, core, technology and purchasing services for its member districts. The Board of Directors consists of the Superintendents from eight of the member districts. During fiscal year 2025, the District paid META Solutions \$60,865 for services. Financial information can be obtained from Ashley Widby, who serves as Chief Financial Officer, 100 Executive Drive, Marion, Ohio 43302.

Tri-Rivers Career Center

The Tri-Rivers Career Center (the "Center") is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio. The Center operates under the direction of a Board consisting of one representative from each of the participating school district's Board of Education, one representative from the Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center and three representatives from the North Central Ohio Educational Service Center. The Center Board of Education possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. Financial information is available from Tammi Cowell, Treasurer, at 2222 Marion-Mt. Gilead Road, Marion, Ohio 43302.

Cardington-Lincoln Joint Recreation Board

The District and the Village of Cardington participate in a Joint Recreation Board, created under the provisions of Ohio Revised Code, Sections 755.12 to 755.18. The Joint Recreation Board consists of two representatives from each participant, and one appointed by the four members. The degree of control exercised by the District is limited to its representation on the Board. Financial information is available from the Treasurer, P.O. Box 10, Cardington, Ohio 43315.

RELATED ORGANIZATION

Cardington-Lincoln School District Public Library

The Cardington-Lincoln School District Public Library is a distinct subdivision of the State of Ohio, created under Chapter 3375 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Library is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Cardington-Lincoln School District Board of Education. The Board of Trustees possesses its own contracting and budgeting authority, hires and fires personnel and does not depend on the District for operational subsidies. Although the District does serve as the taxing authority for the Library, its role is limited to a ministerial function. The determination to request approval of a tax, including its rate and the purpose, are discretionary decisions made solely by the Board of Trustees. Financial information is available from the Cardington Public Library, Clerk/Treasurer, at 128 East Main Street, Cardington, Ohio 44315.

INSURANCE PURCHASING POOLS

Ohio School Boards Association

The District participates in a group rating plan for workers' compensation as established under Section 4123.29 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (GRP) was established through the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) as a group purchasing pool.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

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

B. Fund Accounting

The District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. There are three categories of funds: governmental, proprietary and fiduciary. The District has no proprietary funds.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions typically are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. The following are the District's major governmental funds:

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

Permanent improvement fund - The permanent improvement fund is used to account for all the transactions related to the acquiring, constructing, and improving of such permanent improvements.

Other governmental funds of the District are used to account for:

Nonmajor special revenue funds - Special revenue funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects.

Nonmajor debt service funds - Debt service funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for principal and interest.

Nonmajor capital projects funds - Capital projects funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.

FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: private-purpose trust funds, custodial funds, pension trust funds and investment trust funds. Trust funds are used to account for assets held by the District under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments and are therefore not available to support the District's own programs. The District has no trust funds. Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund. The District's custodial fund accounts for tournament monies collected on behalf of the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA).

C. Basis of Presentation and Measurement Focus

Government-Wide Financial Statements - The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

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

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

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

D. Basis of Accounting

The District's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the District's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when a liability is incurred. Any such modifications made by the District are described in the appropriate section in this note.

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

E. Budgets

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 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 these levels are made by the District's Treasurer.

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

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

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

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

F. Cash and Investments

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

Under existing Ohio statutes all investment earnings are assigned to the general fund unless statutorily required to be credited to a specific fund or the Board of Education has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest. Interest revenue credited to the general fund during fiscal year 2025 amounted to \$388,634, which includes \$116,156 assigned from other funds.

For presentation on the basic financial statements, investments of the cash management pool with original maturities of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the District are considered to be cash equivalents.

G. Inventory and Prepaid Items

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

H. Capital Assets

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

I. Compensated Absences

For fiscal year 2025, GASB Statement No. 101, "Compensated Absences", was effective. GASB 101 defines a compensated absence as leave for which employees may receive cash payments when the leave is used for time off or receive cash payments for unused leave upon termination of employment. These payments could occur during employment or upon termination of employment. Compensated absences generally do not have a set payment schedule. The District does not offer noncash settlements.

District employees earn sick and vacation that can be used for time off. In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment or retirement, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave.

This GASB pronouncement had no effect on beginning net position/fund balance as unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the District's cash basis of accounting.

J. Long-Term Obligations

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

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

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

K. Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

The District recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 9 and 10, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

L. Leases

The District is the lessee in various 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.

M. Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs)

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

N. Interfund Transactions

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as receipts in the seller funds and as disbursements in the purchaser funds. Subsidies from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. The District reports advances-in and advances-out for interfund loans. These items are not reflected as assets and liabilities in the accompanying financial statements. Interfund transfers and advances are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds. Repayment from funds responsible for particular cash disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented in the financial statements.

O. Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes includes resources from various donations and grants restricted to cash disbursement for specified purposes.

The District's policy is to first apply restricted resources when a cash disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

P. 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 balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash. It also includes the long-term amount of loans receivable.

Restricted - Fund 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.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

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

Committed - The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the 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 balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

Assigned - Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the 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 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 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 balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

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

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

A. Change in Accounting Principles

For fiscal year 2025, the District has implemented GASB Statement No. 101, "Compensated Absences" and GASB Statement No. 102, "Certain Risk Disclosures".

GASB Statement No. 101 is to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by updating the recognition and measurement guidance for compensated absences. That objective is achieved by aligning the recognition and measurement guidance under a unified model and by amending certain previously required disclosures. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 101 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

GASB Statement No. 102 improves financial reporting by providing users with timely information regarding certain concentrations or constraints and related events that have occurred or have begun to occur that make a government vulnerable to a substantial impact. As a result, users will have better information with which to understand and anticipate certain risks to a government's financial condition. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 102 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

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.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

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

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

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

A. Deposits with Financial Institutions

At June 30, 2025, the carrying amount of all District deposits was \$10,258,924 and the bank balance of all District deposits was \$10,551,618. Of the bank balance, \$250,000 was covered by the FDIC and \$10,301,618 was exposed to custodial risk as discussed below.

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's 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. 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.

B. Reconciliation of Cash and Investments to the Statement of Net Position

The following is a reconciliation of cash and investments as reported in the note above to cash and investments as reported on the statement of net position as of June 30, 2025:

Cash and investments per note

Carrying amount of deposits	\$ 10,258,924
Total	<u>\$ 10,258,924</u>

Cash and investments per statement of net position

Governmental activities	\$ 10,258,924
Total	<u>\$ 10,258,924</u>

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 5 - INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS

A. Transfers In/Transfers Out

Interfund transfers for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, consisted of the following, as reported on the fund financial statements:

<u>Transfer from general fund to:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Nonmajor governmental funds	\$ 250,000
Total	<u>\$ 250,000</u>

Transfers are used to (1) move revenues from the fund that statute or budget required to collect them to the fund that statute or budget requires to expend them, (2) and to use unrestricted revenues collected in the general fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorization and approval from the budget commission. Transfers between governmental funds are eliminated on the statement of activities.

All transfers made in fiscal year 2025 were in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Sections 5705.14.

B. Advances In/Advances Out

At June 30, 2025, the general fund had an unpaid interfund cash advance in the amount of \$1,652 for short-term loans made to nonmajor governmental funds.

NOTE 6 - 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 2025 represent the collection of calendar year 2024 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2025 were levied after April 1, 2024, on the assessed values as of January 1, 2024, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State statute at 35 percent of appraised market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semiannually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established.

Public utility property tax revenues received in calendar year 2025 represent the collection of calendar year 2024 taxes. Public utility real and personal property taxes received in calendar year 2025 became a lien on December 31, 2023, were levied after April 1, 2024, 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 Morrow and Marion Counties. The County Auditors periodically advance to the District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2025, are available to finance fiscal year 2025 operations. The amount of second-half real property taxes available for advance at fiscal year-end can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 6 - PROPERTY TAXES - (Continued)

The assessed values upon which the fiscal year 2025 taxes were collected are:

	2024 Second Half Collections		2025 First Half Collections	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Agricultural/residential and other real estate	\$ 215,650,770	94.78	\$ 218,686,960	94.29
Public utility personal	<u>11,881,780</u>	<u>5.22</u>	<u>13,231,550</u>	<u>5.71</u>
Total	<u>\$ 227,532,550</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>\$ 231,918,510</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation				
Operations	\$26.10		\$26.10	
Permanent Improvement	1.00		1.00	
Bonded Debt	2.12		2.12	

NOTE 7 - LONG-TERM DEBT

A. Summary of Long-Term Debt

During fiscal year 2025, the following changes occurred in governmental activities long-term debt:

	<u>Balance 06/30/24</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Balance 06/30/25</u>	<u>Amounts Due in One Year</u>
Governmental activities:					
<u>G.O. Bond - Series 2014 Refunding</u>					
Current interest	\$ 755,000	\$ -	\$ (325,000)	\$ 430,000	\$ 345,000
<u>Other long-term obligations:</u>					
Energy conservation bond	340,000	-	(80,000)	260,000	85,000
Notes payable - financed purchased agreement	<u>-</u>	<u>960,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>960,000</u>	<u>77,000</u>
Total long-term debt	<u>\$ 1,095,000</u>	<u>\$ 960,000</u>	<u>\$ (405,000)</u>	<u>\$ 1,650,000</u>	<u>\$ 507,000</u>

B. General Obligation Bonds

Series 2014 Refunding Bonds

On May 28, 2014, the District issued general obligation bonds to currently refund the current interest bonds outstanding of the Series 2003 general obligation bonds and the auditorium bonds.

At June 30, 2014, the refunding issue is comprised of current interest bonds, par value \$3,080,000. The interest rate on the current interest bonds ranges from 1.50-3.00%. Interest payments on the current interest bonds are due June 1 and December 1 each year. The final maturity date on the issue is December 1, 2026.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 7 - LONG-TERM DEBT - (Continued)

This current refunding was undertaken to reduce total debt service payments by \$445,917 and resulted in an economic gain of \$392,768. The bonds are being retired from the bond retirement fund (a nonmajor governmental fund).

The following is a summary of the future annual requirements to maturity for general obligation bonds:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Current Interest Bonds		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	\$ 345,000	\$ 7,725	\$ 352,725
2027	85,000	1,275	86,275
Total	<u>\$ 430,000</u>	<u>\$ 9,000</u>	<u>\$ 439,000</u>

C. Energy Conservation Bonds

On July 2, 2013, the District issued \$1,076,165 in energy conservation bonds for energy improvements to all existing buildings. The bonds bear an interest rate of 2.75%. The bonds were issued for a 15-year period, with final maturity on December 1, 2027. The bonds are being retired from the bond retirement fund (a nonmajor governmental fund).

The following is a summary of the future annual requirements to maturity for energy conservation bonds:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Energy Conservation Bonds		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	\$ 85,000	\$ 5,981	\$ 90,981
2027	85,000	3,643	88,643
2028	90,000	1,238	91,238
Total	<u>\$ 260,000</u>	<u>\$ 10,862</u>	<u>\$ 270,862</u>

D. Notes Payable - Financed Purchase Agreement

On June 5, 2025, the District enter a \$960,000 financed purchase agreement to construct a bus and maintenance garage. The financed purchase agreement bears an interest rate of 4.44%. The financed purchase agreement was signed for a 10-year period, with final maturity on December 1, 2034. The financed purchase agreement will be retired from the permanent improvement fund.

The following is a summary of the future annual requirements to maturity for the financed purchase agreement:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Financed Purchase Agreement		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	\$ 77,000	\$ 40,441	\$ 117,441
2027	82,000	37,385	119,385
2028	86,000	33,655	119,655
2029	89,000	29,770	118,770
2030	93,000	25,730	118,730
2031 - 2035	<u>533,000</u>	<u>61,249</u>	<u>594,249</u>
Total	<u>\$ 960,000</u>	<u>\$ 228,230</u>	<u>\$ 1,188,230</u>

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 7 - LONG-TERM DEBT - (Continued)

E. Legal Debt Margin

The Ohio Revised Code provides that voted net general obligation debt of the District shall never exceed 9% of the total assessed valuation of the District. The code further provides that unvoted indebtedness shall not exceed 1/10 of 1% of the property valuation of the District. The code additionally states that unvoted indebtedness related to energy conservation debt shall not exceed 9/10 of 1% of the property valuation of the District. The assessed valuation used in determining the District's legal debt margin has been modified by House Bill 530 which became effective March 30, 2006. In accordance with House Bill 530, the assessed valuation used in the District's legal debt margin calculation excluded tangible personal property used in business, telephone or telegraph property, interexchange telecommunications company property, and personal property owned or leased by a railroad company and used in railroad operations. The effects of these debt limitations at June 30, 2025, are a voted debt margin of \$21,026,498 (including available funds of \$583,832) and an unvoted debt margin of \$231,919.

NOTE 8 - RISK MANAGEMENT

A. Property and Liability

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 2025, the District participated in the Ohio School Plan's, Fleet and Property Insurance Program. The following is the District's insurance coverage obtained through the group purchasing program:

Total policy coverage - includes the following:

Blanket Building and Personal Property limit (\$2,500 deductible)	
Equipment Breakdown (\$1,000 deductible)	\$73,877,700
Inland Marine (\$500 deductible)	Included
Auto Liability	\$4,000,000
Uninsured/underinsured motorist	\$1,000,000
Medical payments	\$10,000
Public Employee Dishonesty (\$1,000 deductible)	\$250,000
General school district liability	\$4,000,000
Per occurrence	\$4,000,000

Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years. There has not been a significant reduction in insurance coverage from the prior year.

B. OSBA Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan

For fiscal year 2025, the District participated in the Ohio School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (GRP), an insurance purchasing pool (Note 2.A.). 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 participating school districts is calculated as one experience and a common premium rate is applied to all school districts in the GRP. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the state based on the rate for the GRP rather than its individual rate. Total savings are then calculated and each participant's individual performance is compared to the overall savings percentage of the GRP.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 8 - RISK MANAGEMENT - (Continued)

C. Group Health and Dental Insurance

The District offers group life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance to all employees through One American Life Insurance Company. The District offers employee group medical/surgical benefits through Medical Mutual. Depending upon the plan chosen, the employees share a portion of the cost of the monthly premium with the Board. The premium varies with employee depending on the terms of the union contract. Dental insurance is offered by the District to all employees through Delta Dental. Vision insurance is offered by the District through Eyemed. Regardless of the plan utilized by the employees, all group benefit plans are traditionally funded, and the District does not retain any risk of loss.

Post employment health care is provided to plan participants or their beneficiaries through the respective retirement systems discussed in Note 10.

NOTE 9 - 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 obligation to sacrifice resources for pensions is a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that already have occurred.

The net pension/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 10 for the required OPEB disclosures.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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.

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. Beginning April 1, 2018, new benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. Upon resumption of the COLA, it will be indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5% and with a floor of 0%. In 2023, the Board of Trustees approved a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for eligible retirees and beneficiaries in 2024. In 2024, the Board of Trustees approved a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for eligible retirees and beneficiaries in 2025.

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, 2025, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.00%. For fiscal year 2025, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$287,802 for fiscal year 2025.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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.

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 2.20% 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 effective August 1, 2023, can retire with 29 years of service credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 60. Effective June 1, 2025 - July 1, 2027, retirement eligibility for reduced benefits is 28 years of service credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 60. Effective on or after August 1, 2027, retirement eligibility for reduced benefits is 29 years of service credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 60.

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. 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.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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.

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 2025 employer and employee contribution rate of 14% was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For fiscal year 2025, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The District's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$817,295 for fiscal year 2025.

Net Pension Liability

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, 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:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the net pension liability prior measurement date	0.046682400%	0.042747330%	
Proportion of the net pension liability current measurement date	<u>0.042662400%</u>	<u>0.042643850%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>-0.004020000%</u>	<u>-0.000103480%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 2,182,437	\$ 8,205,366	\$ 10,387,803

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.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 9 - 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, 2024 and June 30, 2023, are presented below:

	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
Wage inflation	2.40%	2.40%
Future salary increases, including inflation	3.25% to 13.58%	3.25% to 13.58%
COLA or ad hoc COLA	2.00% on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for 3 years following commencement	2.00% on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for 3 years following commencement
Investment rate of return	7.00% net of system expenses	7.00% net of system expenses
Discount rate	7.00%	7.00%
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal	Entry age normal

In 2024, mortality rates were based on the following:

Service Retirement: 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. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

Disabled Retirement: 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.

Contingent Survivor: 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. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

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

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

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined by using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS' *Statement of Investment Policy*. Ohio Revised Code Section 3309.15 and the Board-adopted Investment Policy govern investment activity at SERS. 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.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 9 - 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 (geometric)
Cash	3.00 %	0.97 %
US Equity	22.00	4.68
Non-US Equity Developed	12.00	4.96
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.00	5.66
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	18.00	2.38
Private Equity	14.00	7.10
Real Estate	13.00	3.64
Infrastructure	7.00	4.80
Private Debt/Private Credit	5.00	5.86
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

Discount Rate - Total pension liability for 2024 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 20-year amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The actuarially determined contribution rate of fiscal year 2024 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 2024 was 9.31%.

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 proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%, as well as what each the proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%), 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	\$ 3,338,825	\$ 2,182,437	\$ 1,208,819

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 9 - 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, 2024 and June 30, 2023, actuarial valuations are presented below:

	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
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, 2024 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 Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2024 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 %	6.90 %
International Equity	22.00	7.70
Alternatives	19.00	9.10
Fixed Income	22.00	4.50
Real Estate	10.00	5.10
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	2.40
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

****10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns**, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.40% 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, 2024. 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, 2024. 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, 2024.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate - The following table represents the proportionate share of 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 proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) 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	\$ 13,236,693	\$ 8,205,366	\$ 3,949,727

Assumption and Benefit Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - The discount rate remained at 7.00% for June 30, 2024 valuation.

Retirement rates were extended to younger ages intended to ensure that the ranges in retirement eligibility impacted participants at such ages.

Demographic assumptions were changed based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021.

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

See Note 9 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.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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.

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 2025, 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 2025, the District's surcharge obligation was \$29,657.

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 \$29,657 for fiscal year 2025.

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. Health care premiums were reduced by a Medicare Part B premium credit beginning in 2023. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting www.strsoh.org or by calling (888) 227-7877.

Funding Policy - Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. All benefit recipients pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14% of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

The net OPEB liability/asset was measured as of June 30, 2024, 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.

Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset prior measurement date	0.047498100%	0.042747330%	
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset current measurement date	<u>0.043226400%</u>	<u>0.042643850%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>-0.004271700%</u>	<u>-0.000103480%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 440,259	\$ -	\$ 440,259
Proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ -	\$ (808,872)	\$ (808,872)

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.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 10 - 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, 2024 and June 30, 2023 are presented below:

	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
Wage inflation	2.40%	2.40%
Future salary increases, including inflation	3.25% to 13.58%	3.25% to 13.58%
Investment rate of return	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Municipal bond index rate	3.93%	3.86%
Single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation	4.88%	4.27%
Medical trend assumption	7.00 to 4.40%	6.75 to 4.40%

In 2024, 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, 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.

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

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

The long-term expected rate on plan assets of return on plan assets 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 as June 30, 2024 are summarized as follows:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (geometric)</u>
Cash	3.00 %	0.97 %
US Equity	22.00	4.68
Non-US Equity Developed	12.00	4.96
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.00	5.66
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	18.00	2.38
Private Equity	14.00	7.10
Real Estate	13.00	3.64
Infrastructure	7.00	4.80
Private Debt/Private Credit	5.00	5.86
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2024, was 4.88%. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2024, was 4.27%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the contribution rate of 1.50% of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50% payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is projected to be depleted in 2059 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, 2023 and the June 30, 2024 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 3.96% at June 30, 2023 and 3.86% at June 30, 2022.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

NOTE 10 - 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 proportionate share of the net OPEB liability, what the proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.88%) and higher (4.88%) than the current discount rate (4.88%). Also shown is what the proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (6.00% decreasing to 3.40%) and higher (8.00% decreasing to 5.40%) than the current rate (7.00% decreasing to 4.40%).

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 587,070	\$ 440,259	\$ 323,598

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 297,599	\$ 440,259	\$ 627,774

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2024 actuarial valuation, compared with June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation, are presented below:

	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
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%
Discount rate of return	7.00%	7.00%
Blended discount rate of return	N/A	N/A
Health care cost trends		
	Initial	Ultimate
Medical		
Pre-Medicare	7.50%	3.94%
Medicare	-112.22%	3.94%
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	8.00%	3.94%
Medicare	-15.14%	3.94%

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

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

For the June 30, 2024 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, 2024 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, 2024 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, 2025. The larger Medicare trends for Years 2027 and 2028 reflect the assumed impact of the expiration of current Medicare Advantage contract on December 31, 2028.

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 %	6.90 %
International Equity	22.00	7.70
Alternatives	19.00	9.10
Fixed Income	22.00	4.50
Real Estate	10.00	5.10
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	2.40
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 2.40% 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, 2024. 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, 2024. 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, 2024.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 10 - 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, 2024, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the proportionate share of 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 proportionate share of 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.

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 657,667	\$ 808,872	\$ 940,454

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Trend Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 949,343	\$ 808,872	\$ 639,939

NOTE 11 - CONTINGENCIES

A. Grants

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

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 finalized the impact of enrollment adjustments to the June 30, 2025 Foundation funding for the District and these adjustments did not have a material impact on the financial statement presentation.

NOTE 12 - STATUTORY RESERVES

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

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 12 - STATUTORY RESERVES - (Continued)

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

	Capital Improvements
Set-aside balance June 30, 2024	\$ -
Current year set-aside requirement	224,908
Current year offsets	<u>(224,908)</u>
Total	<u>\$ -</u>
Set-aside balance June 30, 2025	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

The District had current year offsets that reduced the capital improvements set-aside amount to zero. During fiscal years 2002 and 2003, the District issued a total of \$6,595,000 in capital related school improvement bonds. These proceeds may be used to reduce capital acquisition below zero for future years. The amount presented for prior year offset from bond proceeds is limited to an amount needed to reduce the reserve for capital improvement to zero. The District is responsible for tracking the amount of the bond proceeds that may be used as an offset in future periods, which was \$4,808,827 at June 30, 2025.

NOTE 13 - COMMITMENTS

The District utilizes encumbrance accounting as part of its budgetary controls. Encumbrances outstanding at year end may be reported as part of restricted, committed, or assigned classifications of fund balance. At year end, the District's commitments for encumbrances in the governmental funds were as follows:

<u>Fund Type</u>	<u>Year-End Encumbrances</u>
General fund	\$ 111,790
Nonmajor governmental funds	<u>13,563</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 125,353</u></u>

NOTE 14 - INCOME TAX

In 2013, the voters of the District passed a 5-year 0.75 percent school income tax on wages earned by residents of the District. In 2017, voters again passed an early renewal of the same levy, which was then again approved by voters in 2022 effective January 1, 2014, and will expire December 31, 2028. 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. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the District recorded income tax receipts of \$1,500,169 in the general fund.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BUDGETARY BASIS)
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts Budgetary Basis</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget - Over (Under) Actual Amounts</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Budgetary receipts and other financing sources	\$ 14,350,000	\$ 14,380,226	\$ 15,526,295	\$ 1,146,069
Budgetary disbursements and other financing uses	<u>14,512,482</u>	<u>15,012,482</u>	<u>14,572,690</u>	<u>(439,792)</u>
Net change in fund balance	(162,482)	(632,256)	953,605	1,585,861
Budgetary fund balance at beginning of year	4,888,579	4,888,579	4,888,579	-
Prior year encumbrances appropriated	<u>12,482</u>	<u>12,482</u>	<u>12,482</u>	<u>-</u>
Budgetary fund balance at end of year	<u><u>\$ 4,738,579</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 4,268,805</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 5,854,666</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,585,861</u></u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE 1 - BUDGETARY PROCESS

The budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on the basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget Basis presented for the general fund is prepared on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The difference between the budgetary basis and the cash basis are as follows:

- (a) In order to determine compliance with Ohio law, and to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, total outstanding encumbrances (budget basis) are recorded as the equivalent of an expenditure, as opposed to assigned or committed fund balance for that portion of outstanding encumbrances (cash basis); and,
- (b) Some funds are included in the general fund (cash basis) but have separate legally adopted budgets (budget basis).

Adjustments necessary to convert the results of operations at the end of the year on the budget basis to the cash basis for the general fund is as follows:

Net Change in Fund Balance

	<u>General fund</u>
Budget basis	\$ 953,605
Funds budgeted elsewhere	334,265
Adjustment for encumbrances	<u>107,538</u>
Cash basis	<u>\$ 1,395,408</u>

Certain funds that are legally budgeted in separate special revenue funds are considered part of the general fund on a cash basis. This includes the special trust fund, the public school support fund, the liability self insurance fund, and the termination benefits fund.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

FEDERAL GRANTOR Pass Through Grantor Program / Cluster Title	Federal AL Number	Total Federal Expenditures
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</u>		
<i>Passed through the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce:</i>		
Child Nutrition Cluster:		
Cash Assistance:		
School Breakfast Program	10.553	\$ 87,788
National School Lunch Program	10.555	299,825
COVID-19 National School Lunch Program	10.555	24,145
Total National School Lunch Program		<u>323,970</u>
Total Cash Assistance		<u>411,758</u>
Noncash Assistance:		
National School Lunch Program	10.555	<u>46,249</u>
Total Child Nutrition Cluster		<u>458,007</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		<u>458,007</u>
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION</u>		
<i>Passed through the Ohio Department of Transportation:</i>		
Highway Planning and Construction Grant - Safe Routes to Schools	20.205	<u>29,435</u>
Total U.S. Department of Transportation		<u>29,435</u>
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY</u>		
<i>Passed through the Ohio Office of Budget and Management:</i>		
COVID-19 - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	21.027	<u>(436)</u>
Total U.S. Department of Treasury		<u>(436)</u>
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</u>		
<i>Passed through the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce:</i>		
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	198,955
Special Education Cluster:		
Special Education - Grants to States	84.027A	246,525
Special Education - Preschool Grants	84.173A	10,785
Total Special Education Cluster		<u>257,310</u>
Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers	84.287C	371,532
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367A	45,287
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424A	21,320
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program - Stronger Connection Grant	84.424F	3,231
Total Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program		<u>24,551</u>
COVID-19 - Education Stabilization Fund:		
COVID-19 - Education Stabilization Fund (ARP ESSER)	84.425U	89,475
COVID-19 - Education Stabilization Fund (ARP Homeless)	84.425W	89
Total COVID-19 - Education Stabilization Fund		<u>89,564</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education		<u>987,199</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS		<u>\$ 1,474,205</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY
NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR § 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Cardington-Lincoln Local School District, Morrow County, Ohio, (the District) under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2025. The information on this Schedule is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in net position of the District.

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

NOTE C – INDIRECT COST RATE

The District has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimus 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 benefitted from the use of those donated food commodities.

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

Cardington-Lincoln Local School District
Morrow County
121 Nichols St.
Cardington, OH 43315

To the Board of Education:

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 cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Cardington-Lincoln Local School District, Morrow County, Ohio (the District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated March 20, 2026, wherein we noted the District uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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



Jessica Heldman, CPA

330 Muskingum Drive
Marietta, OH 45750

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 which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2025-001.

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 corrective action plan. 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.



Jessica Heldman, CPA
Marietta, Ohio

March 20, 2026

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

Cardington-Lincoln Local School District
Morrow County
121 Nichols St.
Cardington, OH 43315

To the Board of Education:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Cardington-Lincoln Local School District, Morrow County's (the District) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the District's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2025. The District's major federal programs are identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

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, 2025.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

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

We are required to be independent of the 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.



Jessica Heldman, CPA

330 Muskingum Drive
Marietta, OH 45750

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the 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 combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control*

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

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

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

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



Jessica Heldman, CPA
Marietta, Ohio

March 20, 2026

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	Yes
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any material weakness in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(v)	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR §200.516(a)?	No
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Programs (list):	AL #84.010, Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies Child Nutrition Cluster
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A\B Programs	Type A: > \$ 750,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR §200.520?	No

**CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW COUNTY, OHIO
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2025-001

Noncompliance

GAAP Reporting

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

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

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

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

Officials' Response: See Corrective Action Plan.

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS
--

None



Cardington-Lincoln Local Schools



Todd Spinner, Superintendent • Erin Long, Treasurer
Ron Williams, High School Principal • Eric Pettit, Middle School Principal
Patrina Elliott, Elementary Principal
Jennifer Zierden, Director of Curriculum, School Improvement, and Assessment
Amy Hill, Director of Special Education • John Brehm, Athletic and Activities Director

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2024-001	GAAP Reporting	Not Corrected	Repeated as Finding 2025-001
2024-002	Prevailing Wage Requirements	Corrected	N/A



Cardington-Lincoln Local Schools



Todd Spinner, Superintendent • Erin Long, Treasurer
Ron Williams, High School Principal • Eric Pettit, Middle School Principal
Patrina Elliott, Elementary Principal
Jennifer Zierden, Director of Curriculum, School Improvement, and Assessment
Amy Hill, Director of Special Education • John Brehm, Athletic and Activities Director

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
2 CFR § 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Finding Number	Planned Corrective Action	Anticipated Completion Date	Responsible Contact Person
2025-001	The District understands the consequences of noncompliance, but will continue to file Cash look alike statements. This is based on a cost analysis and value to the District of the GAAP reports.	N/A	Erin Long, Treasurer

This page intentionally left blank.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



CARDINGTON-LINCOLN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
MORROW 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 6/16/2026

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

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