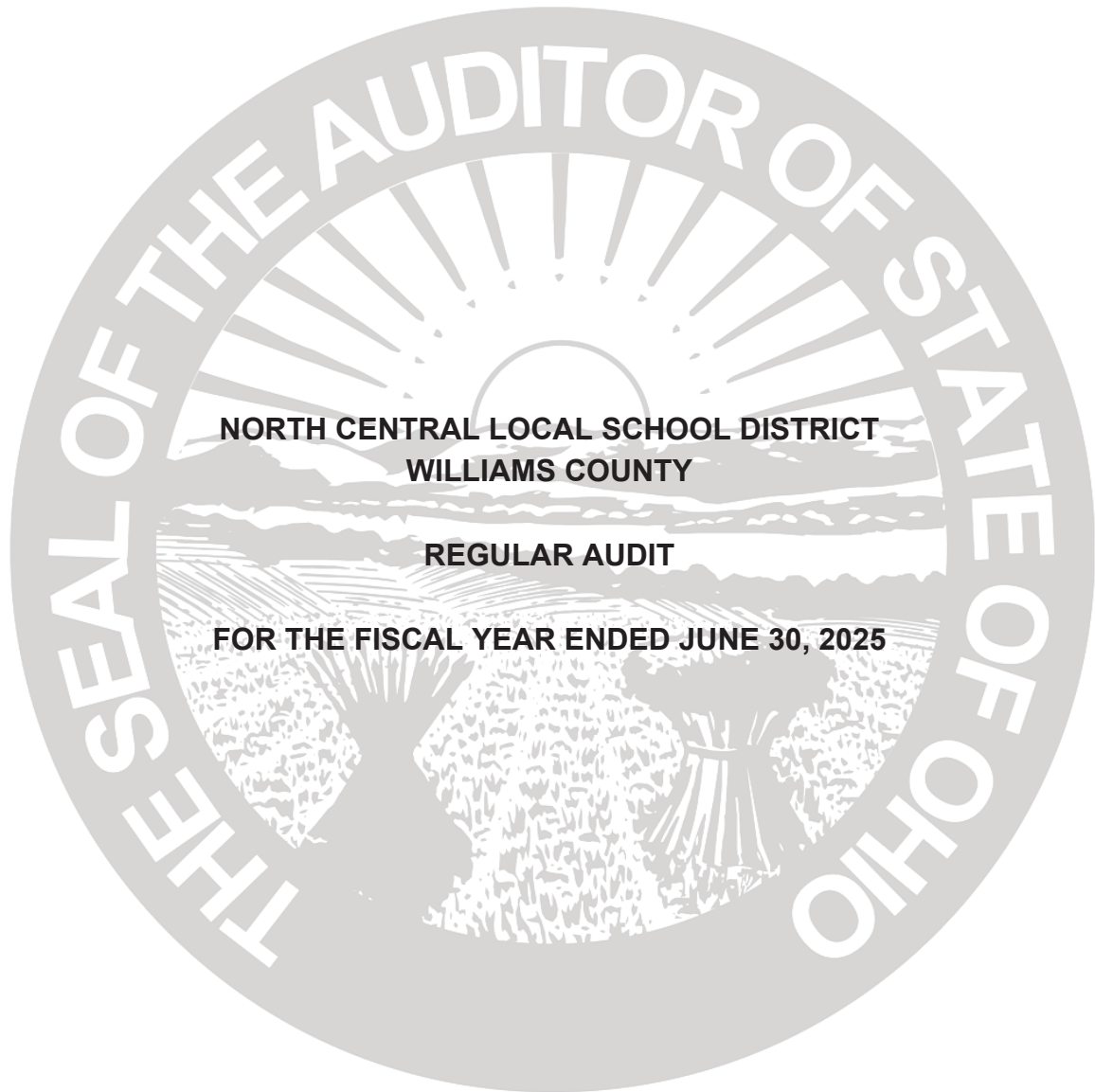




**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2025**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

North Central Local School District
Williams County
400 East Baubice Street
Pioneer, Ohio 43554-9637

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 North Central Local School District, Williams 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 District, as of June 30, 2025, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position thereof 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.

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 Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis) for the General Fund is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied 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, this schedule is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 24, 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.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



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

April 24, 2026

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**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets:	
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 4,064,835</u>
Net position:	
Restricted for:	
Classroom facilities maintenance	288,072
Debt service	304,708
State funded programs	6,402
Food service operations	307,004
Student activities	89,016
Other purposes	5,131
Unrestricted	<u>3,064,502</u>
Total net position	<u><u>\$ 4,064,835</u></u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

			Program Receipts			Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position
	Disbursements	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions		Governmental Activities
Governmental activities:						
Instruction:						
Regular	\$ 3,472,806	\$ 223,179	\$ 32,847	\$ -	\$	(3,216,780)
Special	2,094,762	-	585,646	-		(1,509,116)
Vocational	156,334	-	27,013	-		(129,321)
Support services:						
Pupil	551,209	-	213,261	-		(337,948)
Instructional staff	360,437	2,251	-	-		(358,186)
Board of education	35,914	-	-	-		(35,914)
Administration	715,874	2,665	-	-		(713,209)
Fiscal	315,772	-	-	-		(315,772)
Business	11,200	10,222	-	-		(978)
Operations and maintenance	907,955	-	19,237	40,000		(848,718)
Pupil transportation	466,408	15,000	35,040	-		(416,368)
Central	212,169	-	-	-		(212,169)
Operation of non-instructional services:						
Food service operations	275,560	94,831	194,652	-		13,923
Other non-instructional services	8,014	-	3,940	-		(4,074)
Extracurricular activities	608,564	157,529	43,215	-		(407,820)
Facilities acquisition and construction	14,005	-	-	-		(14,005)
Debt service:						
Principal retirement	325,000	-	-	-		(325,000)
Interest and fiscal charges	89,785	-	-	-		(89,785)
Total governmental activities	\$ 10,621,768	\$ 505,677	\$ 1,154,851	\$ 40,000		(8,921,240)
General receipts:						
Property taxes levied for:						
General purposes						3,631,466
Debt service						116,576
Capital outlay						482,431
Classroom facilities maintenance						56,759
Payments in lieu of taxes						654,964
Grants and entitlements not restricted to specific programs						4,377,053
Investment earnings						143,176
Miscellaneous						19,691
Total general receipts						9,482,116
Change in net position						560,876
Net position at beginning of year						3,503,959
Net position at end of year						\$ 4,064,835

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

**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	\$ 2,441,016	\$ 627,924	\$ 995,895	\$ 4,064,835
Fund balances:				
Restricted:				
Debt service	-	-	304,708	304,708
Classroom facilities maintenance	-	-	288,072	288,072
Food service operations	-	-	307,004	307,004
State Funded Programs	-	-	6,402	6,402
Extracurricular	-	-	89,016	89,016
Other purposes	-	-	5,131	5,131
Committed:				
Capital improvements	-	627,924	-	627,924
Assigned:				
Student instruction	82,863	-	-	82,863
Student and staff support	136,391	-	-	136,391
Extracurricular activities	409	-	-	409
Educational activities	23,449	-	-	23,449
Unassigned (deficit)	2,197,904	-	(4,438)	2,193,466
Total fund balances	<u>\$ 2,441,016</u>	<u>\$ 627,924</u>	<u>\$ 995,895</u>	<u>\$ 4,064,835</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

**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	\$ 3,631,466	\$ 482,431	\$ 173,335	\$ 4,287,232
Intergovernmental	4,906,887	56,694	561,168	5,524,749
Investment earnings	143,130	46	-	143,176
Tuition and fees	238,009	-	-	238,009
Extracurricular	15,308	-	157,529	172,837
Charges for services	-	-	94,831	94,831
Contributions and donations	-	-	47,155	47,155
Payment in lieu of taxes	654,964	-	-	654,964
Miscellaneous	19,691	-	-	19,691
Total receipts	<u>9,609,455</u>	<u>539,171</u>	<u>1,034,018</u>	<u>11,182,644</u>
Disbursements:				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	3,435,584	-	37,222	3,472,806
Special	1,821,458	-	273,304	2,094,762
Vocational	155,334	-	1,000	156,334
Support services:				
Pupil	548,594	-	2,615	551,209
Instructional staff	358,423	2,014	-	360,437
Board of education	35,914	-	-	35,914
Administration	715,874	-	-	715,874
Fiscal	303,615	8,919	3,238	315,772
Business	11,200	-	-	11,200
Operations and maintenance	725,164	39,729	143,062	907,955
Pupil transportation	466,408	-	-	466,408
Central	212,169	-	-	212,169
Operation of non-instructional services:				
Food service operations	-	-	275,560	275,560
Other non-instructional services	516	-	7,498	8,014
Extracurricular activities	380,587	20,024	207,953	608,564
Facilities acquisition and construction	-	14,005	-	14,005
Debt service:				
Principal retirement	40,000	245,000	40,000	325,000
Interest and fiscal charges	14,484	3,675	71,626	89,785
Total disbursements	<u>9,225,324</u>	<u>333,366</u>	<u>1,063,078</u>	<u>10,621,768</u>
Net change in fund balances	384,131	205,805	(29,060)	560,876
Fund balances at beginning of year	2,056,885	422,119	1,024,955	3,503,959
Fund balances at end of year	<u>\$ 2,441,016</u>	<u>\$ 627,924</u>	<u>\$ 995,895</u>	<u>\$ 4,064,835</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY

STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - CASH BASIS
FIDUCIARY FUND
JUNE 30, 2025

	<u>Custodial</u>
Assets:	
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 1,000</u>
Net position:	
Restricted for individuals, organizations and other government:	<u>\$ 1,000</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY

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

	<u>Custodial</u>
Additions:	
Contributions and donations	<u>\$ 500</u>
Deductions:	
Scholarships awarded	<u>750</u>
Change in net position	(250)
Net position at beginning of year	<u>1,250</u>
Net position at end of year	<u><u>\$ 1,000</u></u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

North Central Local School District (the District) is a body politic and corporate established for the purpose of exercising the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The District is a local school district as defined by §3311.03 of the Ohio Revised Code. The District operates under an elected Board of Education (5 members) and is responsible for the provision of public education to residents of the District. The Board oversees the operations of the District's instructional/support facility staffed by 32 noncertified and 54 certified full-time teaching personnel who provide services to 482 students and other community members.

A reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure the financial statements are not misleading.

A. Primary Government

The reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements of the District are not misleading. The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the District. This includes general operations, food service, and student related activities of the District.

B. Component Units

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; the District is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or 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. Component units also include legally separate, tax-exempt entities whose resources are for the direct benefit of the District, are accessible to the District, and are significant in amount to the District. The District does not have any component units.

C. Jointly Governed Organizations

The District is associated with organizations, which are defined as jointly governed organizations and group purchasing pools. These organizations include the Northwest Ohio Computer Association, the Northern Buckeye Education Council, the Four County Career Center, the Northern Buckeye Health Plan – Northwest Division of Optimal Health Initiatives (OHI), the Northern Buckeye Health Plan Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan, and the Ohio School Plan. These organizations are presented in Notes 12 and 13 to the basic financial statements.

The District's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the District is financially accountable.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

A. Basis of Presentation

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. The statements distinguish between those activities of the District that are governmental in nature and those that are considered business-type activities. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental receipts or other non-exchange transactions. Business-type activities are financed in whole or in part by fees charged to external parties for goods or services. The District reports no business type activities.

The statement of net position presents the cash balance of the governmental activities of the District at fiscal year-end. 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 cash 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. Non-major funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. Fiduciary funds are reported by type.

B. Fund Accounting

The District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the fiscal year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the District are divided into two categories, governmental and fiduciary.

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 resources 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 all financial resources, except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The General fund is available to the District 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 the acquisition and construction of permanent improvements.

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

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.

FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private-purpose trust funds and custodial funds. Trust funds are distinguished from custodial funds by the existence of a trust agreement or equivalent arrangements that have certain characteristics. Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund. The District's custodial funds are used to account for college scholarships for students.

C. Basis of Accounting

Although Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (B) requires the District's financial report to follow generally accepted accounting principles, the District chooses to prepare its financial statements and notes in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting. This is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

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.

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.

D. Budgetary Process

The budgetary process is prescribed by provision of the Ohio Revised Code and entails the preparation of budgetary documents within established timetable. All funds are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the certificate of estimated resources, and the appropriations resolution, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amount the Board of Education may appropriate. The appropriations resolution is the Board's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on expenditures plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Board. The legal level of budgetary control selected by the Board is at the object level for the General fund and the fund level for all other 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 Treasurer.

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

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

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.

The District is required to use the encumbrance method of accounting by virtue of Ohio law. Under this system, purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of funds are recorded in order to reserve the portion of the applicable appropriation. Expenditures plus encumbrances may not legally exceed appropriations.

At the close of each fiscal year, the unencumbered balance of each appropriation reverts to the respective fund from which it was appropriated and becomes subject to future appropriations. The encumbered appropriation balance is carried forward to the succeeding fiscal year and need not be reappropriated.

E. Cash and Investments

To improve cash management, cash received by the District is pooled and invested. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through the District records. Interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents."

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

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

During fiscal year 2025, the District did not have any investments.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Education has specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest revenue credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2025, amounted to \$143,130, of which \$58,070 was interest assigned from other District funds.

F. Inventory and Prepaid Items

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

G. Capital Assets

Acquisition of property, plant, and equipment purchased are recorded as cash disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements under the cash basis of accounting.

H. Accumulated Leave

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.

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

District employees earn sick, vacation and personal time 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.

I. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

The District recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 8 and 9, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

J. Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

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

K. 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.

L. 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 paid.

M. 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 expenditure is reported at inception. Lease and SBITA payments and financed purchase payments are reported when paid.

N. Internal Activity

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as receipts in the seller funds and as disbursements in the purchaser funds. Flows of cash or goods from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented on the basic financial statements. Interfund transfers between governmental funds are eliminated in the statement of activities. During fiscal year 2025, the District did not have any interfund transactions.

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

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 include resources restricted for food service operations, music and athletic programs, and federal and state 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 cash balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

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

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

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

Assigned - Amounts in the assigned fund cash balance classification are intended to be used by the District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the General fund, assigned fund cash balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. These amounts are assigned by the District's Board of Education. 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. The District Board of Education has also assigned fund balance to cover a gap between estimated resources and appropriations in the fiscal year 2024 budget, as well as for various educational activities.

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

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

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

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 financial statements on a cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The accompanying financial statements omit assets, 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.

C. Deficit Fund Balances

Fund balances at June 30, 2025 included the following individual fund deficits:

<u>Nonmajor governmental funds</u>	<u>Deficit</u>
Title I	\$ 3,937
Title II-A	501

The deficit fund balances resulted from a lag between disbursements made by the District and reimbursements from grantors and are allowable under Ohio Revised Code Section 3315.20.

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.

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

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

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. Cash on Hand

At year end, the District had \$2,090 in undeposited cash on hand which is included on the financial statements of the District as part of "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents".

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

B. Deposits with Financial Institutions

At June 30, 2025, the carrying amount of all District deposits was \$4,063,745 and the bank balance of all District deposits was \$4,113,465. Of the bank balance, \$3,890,889 was covered by the FDIC and \$222,576 was exposed to custodial credit risk because it was uninsured and collateralized.

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

Eligible securities pledged to the District and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least one hundred five percent of the deposits being secured; or

Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities pledged to be one hundred two percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

C. 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 as reported on the statement of net position as of June 30, 2025:

Cash and investments per note

Carrying amount of deposits	\$ 4,063,745
Cash on hand	<u>2,090</u>
Total	<u>\$ 4,065,835</u>

Cash and investments per statement of net position

Governmental activities	\$ 4,064,835
Custodial funds	<u>1,000</u>
Total	<u>\$ 4,065,835</u>

NOTE 5 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

During the year ended June 30, 2025, the following changes occurred in long-term obligations:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>06/30/24</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>06/30/25</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Due in</u> <u>One Year</u>
School Improvement Bonds, Series 2014					
Current Interest Term Bonds	\$ 1,865,000	\$ -	\$ (40,000)	\$ 1,825,000	\$ 40,000
Certificates of Participation, Series 2014	245,000	-	(245,000)	-	-
Note Payable - Financed Purchase - Energy Efficiency Improvements	<u>405,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(40,000)</u>	<u>365,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>
Total debt obligations	<u>\$ 2,515,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (325,000)</u>	<u>\$ 2,190,000</u>	<u>\$ 80,000</u>

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

School Improvement Bonds, Series 2014

Proceeds from the outstanding bonds were used for the purpose of construction, additions to and renovating and improving existing school buildings and facilities. These bonds were issued on October 16, 2014. The bonds consisted of \$175,000 in current interest serial bonds, \$2,020,000 in current interest term bonds, and \$29,999 in capital appreciation bonds. The serial bonds matured on December 1, 2016, the term bonds which mature on December 1, 2050, and the capital appreciation bonds matured on December 1, 2019. The bonds are being retired through the Bond Retirement Debt Service fund.

The Current Interest Bonds (Term Bonds) shall bear interest at the respective rates per annum shall be as follows:

Maturity Date (December 1)	Principal Amount Maturing	Interest Rate
2028	\$215,000	3.500%
2033	265,000	4.000%
2038	320,000	3.625%
2043	385,000	4.000%
2050	680,000	4.000%

Mandatory Sinking Fund Redemption

The Current Interest Bonds due December 1, 2028 are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption. The mandatory sinking fund redemption is to occur on December 1, 2024, and on each December 1 thereafter at 100% of the principal amount thereof plus accrued interest to the date of redemption according to the following schedule:

Date (December 1)	Principal Amount to be Redeemed
2024	\$40,000
2025	40,000
2026	45,000
2027	45,000

Unless otherwise called for redemption, the remaining \$45,000 principal amount of the Bonds due December 1, 2028 is to be paid at stated maturity.

The Current Interest Bonds due December 1, 2033 are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption. The mandatory sinking fund redemption is to occur on December 1, 2029, and on each December 1 thereafter at 100% of the principal amount thereof plus accrued interest to the date of redemption according to the following schedule:

Date (December 1)	Principal Amount to be Redeemed
2029	\$50,000
2030	50,000
2031	55,000
2032	55,000

Unless otherwise called for redemption, the remaining \$55,000 principal amount of the Bonds due December 1, 2033 is to be paid at stated maturity.

The Current Interest Bonds due December 1, 2038 are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption. The mandatory sinking fund redemption is to occur on December 1, 2034, and on each December 1 thereafter at 100% of the principal amount thereof plus accrued interest to the date of redemption according to the following schedule:

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

Date (December 1)	Principal Amount to be Redeemed
2034	\$60,000
2035	60,000
2036	65,000
2037	65,000

Unless otherwise called for redemption, the remaining \$70,000 principal amount of the Bonds due December 1, 2038 is to be paid at stated maturity.

The Current Interest Bonds due December 1, 2043 are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption. The mandatory sinking fund redemption is to occur on December 1, 2039, and on each December 1 thereafter at 100% of the principal amount thereof plus accrued interest to the date of redemption according to the following schedule:

Date (December 1)	Principal Amount to be Redeemed
2039	\$70,000
2040	75,000
2041	75,000
2042	80,000

Unless otherwise called for redemption, the remaining \$85,000 principal amount of the Bonds due December 1, 2043 is to be paid at stated maturity.

The Current Interest Bonds due December 1, 2050 are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption. The mandatory sinking fund redemption is to occur on December 1, 2044, and on each December 1 thereafter at 100% of the principal amount thereof plus accrued interest to the date of redemption according to the following schedule:

Date (December 1)	Principal Amount to be Redeemed
2044	\$85,000
2045	90,000
2046	95,000
2047	95,000
2048	100,000
2049	105,000

Unless otherwise called for redemption, the remaining \$110,000 principal amount of the Bonds due December 1, 2050 is to be paid at stated maturity.

Certificates of Participation, Series 2014

Proceeds from the outstanding certificates were used for the purpose of construction, additions to and renovating and improving existing school buildings and facilities. These certificates were issued on December 2, 2014. The certificates consisted of \$2,230,000 in current interest certificates. The serial certificates matured on December 1, 2024. The certificates were retired through the Permanent Improvement fund.

The serial certificates bear interest payable at the rates per year and matured in the principal amount on the following date:

Maturity Date (December 1)	Principal Amount Maturing	Interest Rate
2024	\$245,000	3.000%

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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Principal and interest requirements to retire long-term liabilities outstanding at June 30, 2025 are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	School Improvement Bonds - Series 2014		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	\$ 40,000	\$ 70,225	\$ 110,225
2027	45,000	68,738	113,738
2028	45,000	67,163	112,163
2029	45,000	65,588	110,588
2030	50,000	63,800	113,800
2031 - 2035	275,000	287,413	562,413
2036 - 2040	330,000	230,994	560,994
2041 - 2045	400,000	160,200	560,200
2046 - 2050	485,000	71,900	556,900
2051	<u>110,000</u>	<u>2,200</u>	<u>112,200</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,825,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,088,221</u>	<u>\$ 2,913,221</u>

Note Payable - Financed Purchases

The District entered into a noncancelable note payable agreement for equipment and renovations in the amount of \$620,000, which will mature on December 1, 2032, to create energy efficiency savings. Principal and interest payments are made from the General fund from the savings.

The District disbursed \$54,484 to pay note costs for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. Future note payments are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Note Payable		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	\$ 40,000	\$ 12,979	\$ 52,979
2027	40,000	11,474	51,474
2028	45,000	9,875	54,875
2029	45,000	8,182	53,182
2030	45,000	6,489	51,489
2031 - 2033	<u>150,000</u>	<u>8,465</u>	<u>158,465</u>
Total	<u>\$ 365,000</u>	<u>\$ 57,464</u>	<u>\$ 422,464</u>

Promissory Note

The District purchased land from the Friends of the Library, Pioneer, Ohio, Inc on December 17, 2024 for \$50,000 with the first interest free installment of \$12,500 due by May 22, 2025 and remaining payments to be made in annual installments of \$12,500 on or before January 2nd of each year through January 2, 2028.

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

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. The amount available to be advanced can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent. 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 located within the District. Real property tax revenue received in calendar year 2025 represents the collection of calendar year 2024 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2024 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 law 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 revenue received in calendar year 2025 represents the collection of calendar year 2024 taxes. Public utility real and tangible 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 Williams County. The County Auditor periodically advances to the District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2025, are available to finance fiscal year 2026 operations. The amount available to be advanced can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent.

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	\$ 120,693,210	96.77	\$ 162,516,850	97.51
Public utility personal	<u>4,027,040</u>	<u>3.23</u>	<u>4,148,070</u>	<u>2.49</u>
Total	<u>\$ 124,720,250</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>\$ 166,664,920</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation:	\$60.70		\$58.90	

NOTE 7 - RISK MANAGEMENT

A. Comprehensive

The District maintains comprehensive insurance coverage with the Ohio School Plan for liability, real property, building contents, and vehicles. Vehicle policies include liability coverage for bodily injury and property damage. In addition, real property contents are fully insured.

The District joined together with other school districts in Ohio to participate in the Ohio School Plan (the Plan), a public entity insurance purchasing pool (Note 13). Each participant enters into an individual agreement with the Plan for insurance coverage and pays annual premiums to the Plan based on types and limits of coverage and deductibles that it selected by the participant.

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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Settled claims have not exceeded the amount of commercial coverage in any of the past three years, and there has been no significant reduction in the amount of insurance coverage from last year.

B. Employee Insurance Benefits Program

The District participates in the Northern Buckeye Health Plan (NBHP), Northwest Division of Optimal Health Initiative (OHI) Consortium, a self-insurance pool, for insurance benefits to employees (Note 13). The District pays monthly premiums to NBHP for the benefits offered to its employees, which includes health, dental, and life insurance. NBHP is responsible for the management and operations of the program. The agreement with NBHP provides for additional assessment to participants if the premiums are insufficient to pay the program costs for the fiscal year. Upon withdrawal from NBHP, a participant is responsible for any claims not processed and paid and any related administrative costs.

C. Workers' Compensation Group Program

The District participates in the Northern Buckeye Health Plan (NBHP), Northern Division of Optimal Health Initiative (OHI) Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (the Plan), an insurance purchasing pool (Note 13). The Plan is intended to reduce premiums for the participants. 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 Plan. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the Plan rather than its individual rate. The Executive Director of the NBHP coordinates the management and administration of the program.

Participation in the Plan is limited to educational entities that can meet the Plan's selection criteria. Each participant must apply annually. The Plan provides the participants with a centralized program for the processing, analysis and management of workers' compensation claims and a risk management program to assist in developing safer work environments. Each participant must pay its premiums, enrollment or other fees, and perform its obligations in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

NOTE 8 - 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.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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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 9 for the required OPEB disclosures.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description - The District's non-teaching employees participate in SERS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by SERS. SERS provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits 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.

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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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 \$198,952 for fiscal year 2025.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description - Licensed teachers participate in STRS Ohio, 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 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 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 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.

The calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of credited service. Effective August 1, 2023, any member can retire with unreduced benefits with 34 years of services credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 65. Effective June 1, 2025 - July 1, 2027, any member can retire with unreduced benefits with 33 years of service credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 65. Effective on or after August 1, 2027, any member can retire with unreduced benefits with 34 years of service credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 65.

In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0 percent upon a determination by its actuary that it was necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients' base benefit and past cost-of living increases are not affected by this change. Effective July 1, 2022, an ad-hoc COLA of 3 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2023 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2018. Effective July 1, 2023, a permanent 1 percent COLA 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.

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.

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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 fifty and after termination of employment.

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

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

Funding Policy - Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The fiscal year 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 \$541,682 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	0.035995300%	0.026726980%	
Proportion of the net pension liability current measurement date	<u>0.033820200%</u>	<u>0.027766120%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>-0.002175100%</u>	<u>0.001039140%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 1,730,102	\$ 5,342,650	\$ 7,072,752

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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.

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2024, are presented below:

Wage inflation	2.40%
Future salary increases, including inflation	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
Investment rate of return	7.00% net of system expenses
Discount rate	7.00%
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal (Level Percent of Payroll)

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

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.

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

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return (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 - 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.

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 2,646,821	\$ 1,730,102	\$ 958,279

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2024, actuarial valuation are presented below:

Inflation	2.50%
Projected salary increases	From 2.50% to 8.50% based on service
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount rate of return	7.00%
Payroll increases	3.00%
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0% effective July 1, 2017

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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	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 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	\$ 8,618,631	\$ 5,342,650	\$ 2,571,733

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

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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 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

See Note 8 for a description of the net OPEB liability/asset.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

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 \$24,958.

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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 \$24,958 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.

Medicare Part D is a federal program to help cover the costs of prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries. This program allows STRS Ohio to recover part of the cost for providing prescription coverage since all eligible STRS Ohio health care plans include creditable prescription drug coverage.

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.

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	0.036996000%	0.026726980%	
Proportion of the net OPEB			
liability/asset current measurement date	<u>0.034490800%</u>	<u>0.027766120%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>-0.002505200%</u>	<u>0.001039140%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net			
OPEB liability	\$ 351,287	\$ -	\$ 351,287
Proportionate share of the net			
OPEB asset	\$ -	\$ (526,670)	\$ (526,670)

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.

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

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

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2024, is presented below:

	<u>June 30, 2024</u>
Inflation	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expense
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
Fiduciary Net Position is Projected to be Depleted	2059
Municipal Bond Index Rate:	
Measurement Date	3.93 percent
Prior Measurement Date	3.86 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate,	
Measurement Date	4.88 percent
Prior Measurement Date	4.27 percent
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	
Medical Trend Assumption	
Measurement Date	7.00 to 4.40 percent
Prior Measurement Date	6.75 to 4.40 percent

Mortality rates among healthy retirees were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Mortality rates for contingent survivors were based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Contingent Survivor mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 105.5 percent for males and adjusted 122.5 percent for females. Mortality rates for actives are based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table. 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.

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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, 2024 and 3.86% at June 30, 2023.

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 (5.88%) 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.

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	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 468,429	\$ 351,287	\$ 258,202

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Trend Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 237,457	\$ 351,287	\$ 500,908

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2024 actuarial valuation, compared to the prior year, are presented below:

	<u>June 30, 2024</u>	<u>June 30, 2023</u>
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	Initial	Ultimate
Medical				
Pre-Medicare	7.50%	3.94%	7.50%	4.14%
Medicare	-112.22%	3.94%	-10.94%	4.14%
Prescription Drug				
Pre-Medicare	8.00%	3.94%	-11.95%	4.14%

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

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.

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WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

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.

**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.

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.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 428,218	\$ 526,670	\$ 612,345

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 618,133	\$ 526,670	\$ 416,675

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

NOTE 10 - COMPENSATED ABSENCES

The criteria for determining vacation and sick leave components are derived from negotiated agreements, administrator contracts, and State laws. Employees earn ten to twenty-five days of vacation per year, depending upon length of service. Employees who are not on an eleven or twelve-month contract do not earn vacation time. Accumulated unused vacation time is paid to administrators at the end of each contract year. Employees earn sick leave at the rate of one and one-fourth days per month. Upon retirement, payment is made for one-fourth of the total sick leave accumulation, up to a maximum accumulation of 260 days.

NOTE 11 - SET-ASIDE REQUIREMENTS

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

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

	<u>Capital Improvements</u>
Set-aside reserve balance June 30, 2024	\$ -
Current year set-aside requirement	131,116
Current year offsets	<u>(131,116)</u>
Total	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance carried forward to fiscal year 2025	<u>\$ -</u>

NOTE 12 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

A. Northwest Ohio Computer Association

The District is a participant in the Northwest Ohio Computer Association (NWOCA), which is a computer consortium. NWOCA is an association of educational entities within the boundaries of Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Williams, and Wood Counties. The organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among member educational entities.

The NWOCA Assembly consists of the superintendent from each participating educational entity and a representative from the fiscal agent. The Assembly elects the Governing Council of two representatives from each of the six counties in which member educational entities are located and the representative from the member educational entity serving as fiscal agent for NWOCA. The degree of control exercised by any participating educational entity is limited to its representation on the Governing Council. During fiscal year 2025, the District paid \$181,423 to NWOCA for various services. Financial information can be obtained from Northwest Ohio Computer Association, 209 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, Ohio 43502.

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

B. Northern Buckeye Education Council

The Northern Buckeye Education Council (NBEC) was established in 1979 to foster cooperation among various educational entities located in Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Williams, and Wood counties. NBEC is organized under Ohio laws as a regional council of governments pursuant to a written agreement entered into by its member educational entities and bylaws adopted by the representatives of the member educational entities. NBEC is governed by an elected Board consisting of two representatives from each of the six counties in which the member educational entities are located. The Board is elected from an Assembly consisting of a representative from each participating educational entity. Total disbursements made by the District to NBEC were \$250. Financial information can be obtained from the Optimal Health Initiatives, 10999 Reed Hartman Highway, Suite 304E, Blue Ash, Ohio 45242- 8300.

C. Four County Career Center

The Four County Career Center (Career Center) is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio which provides vocational education to students. The Career Center is operated under the direction of a Board consisting of five representatives from the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center and one representative from the participating school districts elected boards. The Career Center possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. There were no disbursements made by the District to Four County Career Center. Financial information can be obtained from the Four County Career Center, 22-900 State Route 34, Archbold, Ohio 43502.

NOTE 13 - GROUP PURCHASING POOLS

A. Employee Insurance Benefits Program

The District participates in the Northern Buckeye Health Plan – Northwest Division of Optimal Health Initiatives Consortium (OHI), a public entity shared risk pool consisting of educational entities throughout the state. The Pool is governed by OHI and its participating members. The District contributed a total of \$1,159,392 to Northern Buckeye Health Plan – Northwest Division of OHI for all four plans. Financial information for the period can be obtained from the Northern Buckeye Health Plan, 201 East 5th Avenue, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

B. Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan

The District participates in a group-rating plan for workers' compensation as established under §4123.29 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Northern Buckeye Health Plan – Northwest Division of OHI Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (WCGRP) was established through the Ohio Health Initiatives (OHI) as a group purchasing pool. The group was formed to create a workers' compensation group rating plan which would allow employers to group together to achieve a potentially lower premium rate than they may otherwise be able to acquire as individual employers. OHI has created a workers' compensation group rating and risk management program which will potentially reduce the workers' compensation premiums for the District.

OHI has retained Sheakley UniService as the servicing agent to perform administrative, actuarial, cost control, claims, and safety consulting services and unemployment claims services for program participants. During this fiscal year, the District paid an enrollment fee of \$330 to WCGRP to cover the costs of administering the program.

C. Ohio School Plan

The District belongs to the Ohio School Plan (the Plan), an unincorporated non-profit association providing a formalized, jointly administered self-insurance risk management program and other administrative services to approximately 333 members.

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

Pursuant to Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code, the Plan is deemed a separate legal entity. The Plan provides property, general liability, educator's legal liability, automobile, and violence coverages, modified for each member's needs. The Plan pays judgments, settlements and other expenses resulting from covered claims that exceed the member's specific deductible.

The Plan issues its own policies and reinsures the Plan with reinsurance carriers. Only if the Plan's paid liability loss ratio exceeds 65 percent and is less than 80 percent does the Plan contribute to paid claims. (See the Plan's audited financial statements on the website for more details.) The individual members are responsible for their self-retention (deductible) amounts, which vary from member to member.

The Ohio School Plan's audited financial statements conform with generally accepted accounting principles, and reported the following assets, liabilities and net position at December 31, 2024 and 2023:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Assets	\$ 22,289,992	\$ 19,048,264
Liabilities	17,599,774	13,713,334
Net Position	4,690,218	5,334,930

You can read the complete audited financial statements for The Ohio School Plan at the Plan's website, www.ohioschoolplan.org.

NOTE 14 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The District used local businesses which had ties to two board of education members. The District made purchases of Bus/Van Repairs from Interstate Truck & Trailer, which is owned by Board Member, Dustin Meyers, in the amount of \$41,627 and purchases of snow removal and electrical labor from Huffman and Sons Electric which is owned by Board Member, John Huffman, in the amount of \$6,852. The transactions were approved at arm's length, with full knowledge by District officials, of Mr. Meyers and Mr. Huffmans interests. They also took no part in the deliberation or decision by District officials with respect to the transactions.

NOTE 15 - TAX ABATEMENTS ENTERED INTO BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS

The Village of Holiday City and Williams County entered into tax abatement agreements with various companies for the abatement of property taxes to bring jobs and economic development into the area. The agreement affects the property tax receipts collected and distributed to the District. Under the agreements, the District property taxes were reduced by \$2,091,486 during fiscal year 2025. The District received \$654,964 in compensation for the forgone property taxes.

NOTE 16 - CONTINGENCIES

A. Grants

The District received financial assistance from federal and state agencies in the form of grants. The expenditure of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the General fund or other applicable funds. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material adverse effect on the overall financial position of the District at June 30, 2025.

B. Litigation

The District is currently party to legal proceedings. Because management cannot presently determine the outcome of the suit, it is currently unknown how the resolution of this matter might affect the District's financial statements.

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

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

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 adjustments for fiscal year 2025 have been finalized and resulted in a payable for the District totaling \$787. This amount is not reported on the cash-basis financial statements.

NOTE 17 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

As of July 30, 2025, the District hired the Shared Service Alliance to perform the duties of the Treasurer. The contact is Ryan Pendleton.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS 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

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts Budgetary Basis	Variance with Final Budget - Over (Under) Actual Amounts
	Original	Final		
Budgetary receipts and other financing sources	\$ 8,495,968	\$ 8,495,968	\$ 9,582,685	\$ 1,086,717
Budgetary disbursements:				
Personal services - salaries	4,534,600	5,144,991	5,114,892	(30,099)
Employees' retirement and insurance benefits	1,936,627	2,265,557	2,265,557	-
Purchased services	1,674,869	1,915,347	1,545,260	(370,087)
Supplies and materials	427,045	478,325	380,507	(97,818)
Capital outlay	74,007	74,007	8,526	(65,481)
Miscellaneous	100,830	101,765	101,765	-
Total budgetary disbursements	8,747,978	9,979,992	9,416,507	(563,485)
Net change in fund balance	(252,010)	(1,484,024)	166,178	1,650,202
Budgetary fund balance at beginning of year	1,732,996	1,732,996	1,732,996	-
Prior year encumbrances appropriated	298,730	298,730	298,730	-
Budgetary fund balance at end of year	<u>\$ 1,779,716</u>	<u>\$ 547,702</u>	<u>\$ 2,197,904</u>	<u>\$ 1,650,202</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS 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 Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Budgetary 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:

1. Outstanding year end encumbrances are treated as a cash disbursements (budgetary basis) rather than as restricted, committed or assigned fund balance (cash basis).
2. Some funds are included in the General fund (cash basis) but have separate legally adopted budgets (budgetary basis).

Adjustments necessary to convert the results of operations at the end of the year on the budgetary basis to the cash basis are as follows:

	<u>General</u>
Budgetary basis	\$ 166,178
Funds budgeted elsewhere	(1,710)
Encumbrances	<u>219,663</u>
Cash basis	<u><u>\$ 384,131</u></u>

As part of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, "Fund Balance Reporting", certain funds that are legally budgeted in separate special revenue funds are considered part of the General fund. This includes the Uniform School Supplies fund, Public School Support fund, and the Internal Rotary fund.

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65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
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800-282-0370

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

North Central Local School District
Williams County
400 East Baubice Street
Pioneer, Ohio 43554-9637

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 North Central Local School District, Williams 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 April 24, 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 purposes 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.

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 matter 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 schedule of findings. 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

This 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.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



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

April 24, 2026

**NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
WILLIAMS COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
JUNE 30, 2025**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2025-001

Noncompliance

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

Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(B), 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 Rev. 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:

Management believes reporting on a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) is more cost efficient.

NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOLS
400 Baubice St.
Pioneer, Ohio 43554

ADMINISTRATION

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(419) 737-2392 (Phone)
(419) 737-3361 (Fax)
mbute@northcentralschool.org

Mr. Brent Saneholtz; Principal (K-6)
(419) 737-2293 (Phone)

Mrs. Martha Hasselbusch; Principal (7-12)
(419) 737-2366 (Phone)



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. John Huffman; President
Mr. Tim Livengood; Vice President
Mrs. Kati Burt
Mr. Dustin Meyers
Mr. Mark Moreland

Mr. Ryan Pendleton; Treasurer
(419) 737-2392 (Phone)

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
JUNE 30, 2025

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2024-001	Finding first reported in 2008. Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(B) for not reporting in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.	Not corrected. Repeated in this report as finding 2025-001.	Management believes reporting on a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) is more cost efficient.



Align For Students

Providing Educational Services for communities of: Bridgewater, Bridgewater Center, Jefferson East, Jefferson West, Holiday City, Kunkle, Lake Seneca, Madison and Millcreek Townships and Pioneer.

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

WILLIAMS 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 5/7/2026

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