

NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL
ACADEMY
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2025





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Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

Board of Directors
Northeast Ohio Classical Academy
137 Heritage Woods Blvd.
Copley, Ohio 44321

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Northeast Ohio Classical Academy, Summit County, prepared by Rea & Associates, Inc., for the audit period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

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

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State

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

May 07, 2026

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**NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors
Northeast Ohio Classical Academy
137 Heritage Woods Drive
Akron, OH 44321

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Northeast Ohio Classical Academy, Summit County, Ohio, (the "Academy"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Academy's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Northeast Ohio Classical Academy, Summit County, Ohio, as of June 30, 2025, and the changes in financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

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

Substantial Doubt About the Academy's Ability to Continue as a Going Concern

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared assuming that the Academy will be a going concern. As discussed in Note 14 to the financial statements, the Academy has suffered a loss from operations, has a net position deficit, defaults in debt service payment, and has stated that substantial doubt exists about the Academy's ability to continue as a going concern. Management's evaluation of the events and conditions and management's plans regarding these matters are also described in Note 14. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of this uncertainty. 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Academy's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Academy's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis and pension and other post-employment benefit schedule, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 31, 2026 on our consideration of the Academy's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Academy's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Academy's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Rea & Associates, Inc.

Rea & Associates, Inc.
Medina, Ohio
March 31, 2026

**NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY – SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 (UNAUDITED)**

The discussion and analysis of the Northeast Ohio Classical Academy's and its blended component units (collectively "the Academy") financial performance provides an overall review of the Academy's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. The blended component unit, NEOCA Properties, LLC, is described in the notes to the basic financial statements. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the Academy's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the Academy's financial performance.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (the MD&A) is an element of the reporting model adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in their Statement No. 34 Basic Financial Statements – and Management's Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments. Certain comparative information between the current fiscal year and the prior fiscal year is required to be presented in the MD&A. However, because this is the first year of financial reporting for the Academy comparative prior year fiscal information does not exist. Subsequent reports will include the comparative information.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Key highlights for fiscal year 2025 are as follows:

- Net position was a deficit of \$3,111,787.
- Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources were \$8,846,937.
- Total Liabilities were \$11,958,724.
- Total Operating and Non-Operating Revenues were \$1,316,517.
- Total Operating and Non-Operating Expenses were \$2,938,001.
- Fiscal Year 2025 was the first year of operations for the Academy.

USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT

This report consists of three parts: the required supplementary information, the basic financial statements, and notes to those statements. The basic financial statements include a Statement of Net Position, a Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Position, and a Statement of Cash Flows.

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Change in Net Position reflect how the Academy did financially during fiscal year 2025. These statements include all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources, using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting includes all of the current year revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These statements report the Academy's net position and changes in that position. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader whether the financial position of the Academy has improved or diminished. The causes of this change may be the result of many factors, some financial, some not. Non-financial factors include the Academy's student enrollment, per-pupil funding as determined by the State of Ohio, change in technology, required educational programs and other factors.

The Academy uses enterprise presentation for all of its activities.

**NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY – SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 (UNAUDITED)**

Statement of Net Position - The Statement of Net Position answers the question of how the Academy did financially during 2025. This statement includes all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources, both financial and capital, and short-term and long-term using the accrual basis of accounting and economic resources measurement focus, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all revenues and expenses during the year, regardless of when the cash is received or paid.

Table 1 provides a summary of the Academy's combined Net Position for fiscal year 2025. This is the Academy's first year of operations. Therefore, comparative information is not available:

Table 1
Statement of Net Position

	2025
Assets	
Current Assets	\$ 573,002
Non-Current Assets	58,757
Capital Assets, Net	8,133,801
Total Assets	8,765,560
Deferred Outflows of Resources	81,377
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	1,151,153
Non-Current Liabilities	10,807,571
Total Liabilities	11,958,724
Net Position	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	(2,413,786)
Restricted for Debt Purposes	58,757
Unrestricted	(756,758)
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ (3,111,787)</u></u>

As previously noted, no prior year information is available as fiscal year 2025 was the initial year of operations for the Academy. Therefore, comparative information will be available in future years.

**NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY – SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 (UNAUDITED)**

The Academy has adopted GASB Statement 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions—an Amendment of GASB Statement 27," and GASB Statement 75, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions," which significantly revises accounting for costs and liabilities related to other postemployment benefits (OPEB). For reasons discussed below, many end users of this financial statement will gain a clearer understanding of the Academy's actual financial condition by adding deferred inflows related to pension and OPEB, the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability to the reported net position and subtracting deferred outflows related to pension and OPEB and net OPEB asset.

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

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

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

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

**NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY – SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 (UNAUDITED)**

The employee enters the employment exchange with the knowledge that the employer's promise is limited not by contract but by law. The employer enters the exchange also knowing that there is a specific, legal limit to its contribution to the retirement system. In Ohio, there is no legal means to enforce the unfunded liability of the pension/OPEB plan *as against the public employer*. State law operates to mitigate/lessen the moral obligation of the public employer to the employee, because all parties enter the employment exchange with notice as to the law. The retirement system is responsible for the administration of the pension and OPEB plans.

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

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

Due to the Academy not being in operating during the measurement period for GASB 68/75 (fiscal year 2024), the Academy is only reporting a deferred outflow of resources for the contributions subsequent to the measurement date.

Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position - Table 2 shows the changes in combined Net Position for fiscal year 2025, as well as a listing of revenues and expenses. This change in Net Position is important because it tells the reader that, for the Academy as a whole, the financial position of the Academy has improved or diminished. The cause of this may be the result of many factors, some financial, some not. Non-financial factors include the current laws in Ohio restricting revenue growth, facility conditions, required educational programs and other factors.

**NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY – SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 (UNAUDITED)**

Table 2 reflects the changes in net position for fiscal year 2025:

**Table 2
Change in Net Position**

	2025
Operating Revenues:	
State Aid	\$ 852,595
Miscellaneous	14,665
Total Operating Revenues	867,260
Operating Expenses:	
Salaries	605,979
Fringe Benefits	116,107
Purchased Services	715,703
Depreciation	217,444
Supplies	90,674
Other Operating Expense	55,089
Total Operating Expenses	1,800,996
Operating Income (Loss)	(933,736)
Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses):	
Federal and State Restricted Grants	284,158
Donations	82,177
Interest Income	82,922
Note Interest Expense	(92,894)
Bond Interest Expense	(1,044,111)
Net Nonoperating Revenues/Expenses	(687,748)
Change in Net Position	\$ (1,621,484)

As previously noted, no prior year information is available as fiscal year 2025 was the initial year of operations for the Academy. Therefore, comparative information will be available in future years.

BUDGET

Unlike other public schools located in the State of Ohio, community schools are not required to follow budgetary provisions set forth in Ohio Rev. Code Chapter 5705, unless specifically provided in the community school's contract with its Sponsor. The contract between the Academy and its Sponsor does prescribe a budgetary process. The Academy has developed a one-year spending plan and a five-year forecast that is reviewed periodically by the Board of Directors. The five-year forecasts are also submitted to the Sponsor and the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce.

**NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY – SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 (UNAUDITED)**

CAPITAL ASSETS

At the end of fiscal year 2025 the Academy had \$8,133,801 in capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation. During the current year the Academy recorded \$3,216,694 worth of capital asset additions, offset by current year depreciation expense of \$217,444 (See Note 5 for further information).

DEBT OBLIGATIONS

At June 30, 2025, the Academy had \$11,507,571 in long term debt obligations related to a building purchase and operating advances. Of this amount \$700,000 is due within one year. (See Note 6 for further information).

CURRENT FINANCIAL ISSUES

The Academy is a community School and is funded through the State of Ohio Foundation Program. The Academy relies on this, as well as, other State and Federal funds as its primary source of revenue. In 2022, the State replaced the existing funding formula with a new formula that was implemented in January 2022 as a result of changes in Ohio law under the passage of HB110. Under the new formula, community schools are funded directly with no deductions or transfers from the student's district of residence. The funding calculation for community schools uses several concepts and formulas, some of which also apply to traditional school districts. These primarily include Base Cost, Special Education, Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid, English Learners and Career Technical Education. Combined, these elements make up the Core Foundation Funding and the change in calculated amounts compared to the funding received in Fiscal Year 2020 are being phased-in at 16.67% per year until fully implemented. In June 2025, the State Legislature passed the 26-27 biennial budget which included the continued phase-in of the new formula, reaching full implementation in Fiscal Year 2027.

In addition, facility funding remained the same as the last budget cycle and the student equity grant was reduced from \$650 per student to \$500 per student for Fiscal Year 2026. Moving forward, all schools will need to continue to be vigilant about growing enrollment and monitoring expenses in order to build sustainable budgets for the future.

The full-time equivalent enrollment of the Academy for the year ended June 30, 2025 was 83.

REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is designed to provide our citizen's, taxpayers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the Academy's finances and to demonstrate accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information contact the Academy's Fiscal Officer, C. David Massa, CPA, of Massa Financial Solutions, LLC, 137 Heritage Woods Dr, Akron, OH 44321.

NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY - SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2025

Assets:

Current Assets:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 210,067
Escrow Accounts	259,984
Accounts Receivable	71,771
Intergovernmental Receivable	8,258
Other Assets	22,922
Total Current Assets	<u>573,002</u>

Noncurrent Assets:

Bond Reserve Accounts	58,757
Non-Depreciable Capital Assets	700,000
Capital Assets, net of Accumulated Depreciation	7,433,801
Total Non-Current Assets	<u>8,192,558</u>

Total Assets 8,765,560

Deferred Outflows of Resources:

Pension (STRS & SERS) Outflows	79,062
OPEB (STRS & SERS) Outflows	2,315
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>81,377</u>

Liabilities:

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable, Trade	85,765
Accrued Wages and Benefits	30,109
Accrued Interest Payable	335,279
Current Portion, Long Term Debt	700,000
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,151,153</u>

Noncurrent Liabilities:

Noncurrent Portion of Long-term Debt	10,807,571
Total Noncurrent Liabilities	<u>10,807,571</u>

Total Liabilities 11,958,724

Net Position:

Net Investment in Capital Assets	(2,413,786)
Restricted for Debt Purposes	58,757
Unrestricted Net Position	(756,758)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ (3,111,787)</u>

See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY - SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

Operating Revenues:	
State Aid	\$ 852,595
Miscellaneous	14,665
Total Operating Revenues	<u>867,260</u>
Operating Expenses:	
Salaries	605,979
Fringe Benefits	116,107
Purchased Services	715,703
Depreciation	217,444
Supplies	90,674
Other Operating Expenses	55,089
Total Operating Expenses	<u>1,800,996</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	(933,736)
Non-Operating Revenues and (Expenses):	
Federal and State Restricted Grants	284,158
Donations	82,177
Interest Income	82,922
Note Interest Expense	(92,894)
Bond Interest Expense	(1,044,111)
Net Non-operating Revenues and (Expenses)	<u>(687,748)</u>
Change in Net Position	(1,621,484)
Net Position - Beginning of Year	<u>(1,490,303)</u>
Net Position - End of Year	<u><u>\$ (3,111,787)</u></u>

See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY - SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

State Aid Receipts	\$ 852,595
Miscellaneous	14,665
Cash Payments to Employees for Services	(575,870)
Cash Payments for Employee Benefits	(197,484)
Cash Payments to Suppliers for Goods and Services	(881,598)
Net Cash Provided By (Used For) Operating Activities	<u>(787,692)</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Federal and State Grant Receipts	275,900
Donations	82,177
Net Cash Provided By Noncapital Financing Activities	<u>358,077</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL & RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Purchase of Capital Assets	(3,216,694)
Interest Payments	(727,155)
Net Cash Provided By (Used For) Capital and Related Financing Activities	<u>(3,943,849)</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Interest Income Receipts	82,922
Net Cash (Used For) Provided By Investing Activities	<u>82,922</u>

Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents (4,290,542)

Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of the Year	4,819,350
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Ending of the Year	<u>\$ 528,808</u>

See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY - SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025

(Continued)

Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided By (Used For) Operating Activities

Operating Income (Loss)	\$ (933,736)
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**Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income (Loss) to
Net Cash Provided By (Used For) Operating Activities:**

Depreciation	217,444
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Changes in Assets, Liabilities, and Deferred Inflows and Outflows:

(Increase)/ Decrease in Accounts Receivable	(71,771)
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(Increase)/ Decrease in Other Assets	(18,672)
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(Increase)/ Decrease in Deferred Outflows Pension	(79,062)
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(Increase)/ Decrease in Deferred Outflows OPEB	(2,315)
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Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable, Trade	70,311
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Increase/(Decrease) in Accrued Wages and Benefits	30,109
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Net Cash Provided By (Used For) Operating Activities	<u>\$ (787,692)</u>
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See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY – SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF ACADEMY

The Northeast Ohio Classical Academy (the Academy) is a nonprofit corporation established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3314. The Academy offers education for Ohio children in grades K-12. The Academy is independent of any Academy and is nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operation. The Academy may lease or acquire facilities as needed and contract for any services necessary for the operation of the Academy.

The Academy was approved for operation under a contract with the St. Aloysius (the Sponsor) for a period of six academic years commencing after July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2030. The Sponsor is responsible for evaluating the performance of the Academy and has the authority to deny renewal of the contract at its expiration or terminate the contract prior to its expiration.

The Academy operates under the direction of a Board of Directors (the Board). The Board is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the contract which include, but are not limited to, state mandated provisions regarding student populations, curriculum, academic goals, performance standards, admissions standards, and qualifications of teachers. The Board controls the Academy's instructional and administrative staff.

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

The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards and agencies that are not legally separate from the Academy. For the Academy, this includes general operations, and student related activities of the Academy.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the Academy is financially accountable. The Academy is financially accountable for an organization if the Academy appoints a voting majority of the organization's Governing Board and (1) the Academy is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the Academy is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; or (3) the Academy is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or (4) the Academy is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the Academy in that the Academy approves the budget, the issuance of debt or the levying of taxes. Certain organizations are also included as component units if the nature and significance of the relationship between the primary government and the organization is such that exclusion by the primary government would render the primary government's financial statements incomplete or misleading. The Academy is reporting a blended component unit within its financial statements.

Blended Component Unit – NEOCA Properties, LLC is considered a blended component unit of the Academy by virtue of meeting the criteria noted above. NEOCA Properties, LLC was formed to acquire, hold, invest in, and lease real property for Academy operations. The Academy is obligated for the debt of NEOCA Properties, LLC. See Note 16 for detail on NEOCA Properties, LLC's fiscal year 2025 financial activity.

NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY – SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNT POLICIES

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

Basis of Presentation - The Academy's basic financial statements consist of a Statement of Net Position; a Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position; and a Statement of Cash Flows. The Academy uses a single enterprise presentation for its financial records. Enterprise reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position, financial position, and cash flows.

Measurement Focus - The enterprise activity is accounted for using a flow of economic resources measurement focus. All assets, liabilities, deferred inflows/ outflows of resources associated with the operation of the Academy are included on the Statement of Net Position. The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position presents increases (e.g. revenues) and decreases (e.g. expenses) in net position. The Statement of Cash Flows reflects how the Academy finances meet its cash flow needs.

Basis of Accounting - Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. The Academy's financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place. Revenue resulting from nonexchange transactions, in which Academy receives value without directly giving equal value in return, such as grants and entitlements, are recognized in the period in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the period when the resources are required to be used or the period when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the Academy must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Academy on a reimbursement basis. Expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred.

Budgetary Process - Community Schools are statutorily required to adopt a budget by Ohio Revised Code 3314.032(C). However, unlike traditional public schools located in the State of Ohio, community schools are not required to follow the specific budgetary process and limits set forth in the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705, unless specifically provided in the contract between the Academy and its Sponsor. The contract between the Academy and its Sponsor does not require the Academy to follow the provisions Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705; therefore, no budgetary information is presented in the basic financial statements.

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Cash and Cash Equivalents - All cash received by the Academy is maintained in a demand deposit account and Commercial Paper Instruments. For purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows and for presentation on the Statement of Net Position, investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased are considered to be cash equivalents.

Prepaid Items - The Academy records payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond June 30, 2025, as prepaid items using the consumption method. A current asset for the prepaid amount is recorded at the time of the purchase and an expense is reported in the year in which services are consumed.

Restricted Assets - Assets are reported as restricted assets when limitations on their use change the normal understanding of the availability of the asset. Such constraints are either imposed by creditors, contributors grantors, or laws of other government or imposed by enabling legislation.

Capital Assets - All capital assets are capitalized at cost and updated for additions and retirements during the fiscal year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their acquisition value as of the date received. The Academy maintains a capitalization threshold of one thousand five hundred dollars. The Academy does not have any infrastructure. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend an asset's life are not capitalized. Capital assets were \$8,133,801 as of June 30, 2025, net of accumulated depreciation.

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

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Useful Life</u>
Buildings	39 years
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment	10 years

Note Issuance Costs and Unamortized Discounts - In the financial statements, note issuance costs are recognized in the current period and are not amortized. Note discounts are amortized over the term of the notes using the straight-line method, which approximates the effective interest method. Unamortized note discounts are presented as a decrease of the face amount of the note payable (see Note 6).

Net Position - Net position represents the difference between assets and deferred outflows of resources and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction, or improvements of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws and regulations of other governments. There was no net position restricted for enabling legislation at fiscal year-end. The Academy applies restricted resources first when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available. Restricted for Debt Purpose represents the Bond Reserve Account which is being held for bond financing reserve requirements and will continue to be funding through January 2030.

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Exchange and Non-Exchange Transactions - Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place. Non-exchange transactions, in which the Academy receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlements and donations. Revenue from grants, entitlements and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the Academy must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditures requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Academy on a reimbursement basis.

Intergovernmental Revenues - The Academy currently participates in the State Foundation Program. Revenues received from this program are recognized as operating revenues in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Grants and entitlements are recognized as non-operating revenues in the accounting period in which eligibility requirements have been met.

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

The Academy also participates in various federal programs passed through the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. Under the above programs the Academy recorded \$852,595 this fiscal year from the State Foundation Program and Casino Tax Revenues and \$284,158 from Federal and State Grants.

Operating Revenues and Expenses - Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the primary activity of the Academy. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the service that is the primary activity of the Academy. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

Deferred Outflows of Resources - In addition to assets, the statements of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. For the Academy, deferred outflows of resources are reported on statement of net position for pension and OPEB. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are explained in Notes 9 and 10.

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

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

NOTE 3 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The following information classifies deposits by category of risk as defined in GASB Statement No. 3 “Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments (including Repurchase Agreements) and Reverse Repurchase Agreements,” as amended by GASB Statement No. 40, “Deposit, and Investment Risk Disclosures”.

Escrow and reserve accounts held in trust on behalf of the Academy and the Public Finance Authority totaled \$318,741 at fiscal year end June 30, 2025. The escrow accounts are invested in the US Treasury and are 100% backed by the full faith and credit of the United States government. Reserve accounts are invested in U.S. Bank Open Commercial Paper instruments.

The Academy maintains its cash balances at one financial institution, Huntington Bank, located in Ohio. The balances are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to \$250,000, per qualifying account. At June 30, 2025, the book amount of the Academy’s deposits was \$210,067 and the bank balance was \$210,067 of which the entire balance was covered by FDIC.

NOTE 4 – RECEIVABLES

At June 30, 2025, the Academy had intergovernmental receivables of \$8,258. These receivables represent monies due from Federal programs which was not received as of year-end. The Academy also had accounts receivables of \$71,771 at June 30, 2025. These receivables represented reimbursements due to the School, but not received as of June 30, 2025. All receivables are expected to be collected within one year.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 5 - CAPITAL ASSETS

For the year ended June 30, 2025, the Academy's capital assets consisted of the following:

	Balance 06/30/24	Additions	Deletions	Balance 06/30/25
Non Depreciable Capital Assets:				
Land	\$ 700,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 700,000
Construction in Progress	4,434,551	2,930,801	(7,365,352)	-
Total Non Depreciable Capital Assets	5,134,551	2,930,801	(7,365,352)	700,000
Capital Assets:				
Building	-	7,365,352	-	7,365,352
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	-	285,893	-	285,893
Total Depreciable Capital Assets	-	7,651,245	-	7,651,245
Less Accumulated Depreciation:				
Building	-	(188,855)	-	(188,855)
Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	-	(28,589)	-	(28,589)
Total Accumulated Depreciation	-	(217,444)	-	(217,444)
Net Depreciable Capital Assets	-	7,433,801	-	7,433,801
Total Capital Assets, Net	\$ 5,134,551	\$ 10,364,602	\$ (7,365,352)	\$ 8,133,801

NOTE 6 – LONG TERM OBLIGATIONS

During the fiscal year, the following activity occurred in long-term liabilities.

	Balance 6/30/2024	Additions	Reductions	Balance 6/30/2025	Due Within One Year
<i>Direct Financing:</i>					
Series 2023 Promissory Note	\$ 11,255,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,255,000	\$ -
Discount	(522,000)	-	74,571	(447,429)	-
LENDonate Loan	700,000	-	-	700,000	700,000
<i>Total Direct Financing</i>	11,433,000	-	74,571	11,507,571	700,000
<i>Total Long-Term Liabilities</i>	\$ 11,433,000	\$ -	\$ 74,571	\$ 11,507,571	\$ 700,000

The Academy entered into a loan with LENDonate CA LLC (LENDonate Loan) for operating expenses. The original issue amount of the loan was \$700,000, of which no principal payments were made during the fiscal year. Interest paid on the Loan totaled \$92,894 during the fiscal year.

Series 2023 Promissory Note – In December 2023, a \$11,255,000 promissory note was issued to evidence the loan agreement between NEOCA Properties, LLC and the Public Finance Authority (Authority). NEOCA Properties, LLC entered into a loan agreement with the Authority to borrow \$10,440,000 in proceeds from the issuance of the Authority's Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds (Northeast Classical Ohio Academy), Series 2023A and \$815,000 in proceeds from the Authority's Taxable Educational Facilities Revenue Bonds. Payments of principal and interest on this note shall be due not later than the fifteenth day of each

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month (each a “lease payment” date), commencing on January 1, 2024, between NEOCA Properties, LLC and the Academy. UMB Bank (Trustee) has been designated as the paying agent, registrar and trustee. Payments of both principal and interest are to be irrevocably assigned by the Authority to the Trustee pursuant to the indenture. The interest rate on the issuance of \$10,440,000 is 8.35% and the interest rate on the issuance of \$815,000 is 12%.

At June 30, 2025, \$58,757 was held in trust for debt service payments. \$1,975,000 of the note proceeds were used to finance the purchase of land and Academy facilities and \$259,984 was available in trust for future capital improvements at June 30, 2025.

The promissory note is considered a direct financing. Direct financings have terms negotiated directly between the borrower and the lender and are not offered for public sale. In the event of default, at the option of the holder, the entire indebtedness evidenced shall become due, payable and collectible then and thereafter as the holder may elect, regardless of the date of maturity hereof. Prior to the exercise of such option, the Trustee shall give written notice thereof to NEOCA Properties, LLC. Until the note is terminated and paid in full. NEOCA Properties, LLC (1) will not suspend or discontinue any payments under the loan agreement or neglect to perform any of its duties required thereunder, (2) will perform and observe all of its obligations as set forth in the loan agreement, mortgage and this note, and (3) except as provided in the loan agreement, will not terminate the loan agreement, mortgage or this note for any cause.

A summary of the principal and interest amounts for promissory note are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Promissory Note	
	Principal	Interest
2026	\$ -	\$ 969,540
2027	-	969,540
2028	-	969,540
2029	-	969,540
2030	-	969,540
2031-2034	11,255,000	3,393,390
	<u>\$ 11,255,000</u>	<u>\$ 8,241,090</u>

Management believes it is in compliance with all debt covenants, except for certain requirements related to liquidity and debt service coverage. The Academy did not make the loan payment due on April 1, 2025, and, consequently, has failed to make interest payments on the Series 2023 Bonds in June 2025, September 2025, December 2025, and March 2026.

If the Academy continues to fall short of these covenants, the Trustee may require it to hire a management consultant within 45 days of the reporting date, at the Academy’s expense, to recommend steps to restore compliance with the bond provisions.

In March 2026, the Academy and the Authority entered into a forbearance agreement with the Trustees for deferral of payments on the promissory note through the period of June 2027 to avoid default on the promissory note. The Trustee will transfer \$249,769 from the Project Fund, the Series 2023 Working Capital subaccount to the Bond Fund, and the Debt Service Reserve Fund to cover interest payments on the note.

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The Academy and the Authority at the approval of the Trustee have also agreed to enter into a contract with Blue Learning as the management company, effective July 1, 2025. Under this agreement, Blue Learning will serve as the Academy's management company through at least the end of the 2026–2027 academic year. Blue Learning has also agreed to contribute a total of \$533,247, which represents a monthly payment in the amount of \$44,437.25 in respect of a partial payment of interest accruing in the twelve months for the period April 2025 through March 2026. These funds will be deposited into the Bond Fund.

Commencing April 1, 2026, Blue Learning shall, on or before the first business day of each month during the forbearance period, transfer, or cause to transfer, to the Trustee, solely from the funds available to Blue Learning under the CSMO agreement, the amount of \$44,437.25 per month in respect of a partial payment of interest accruing in such month.

NOTE 7 – RISK MANAGEMENT

Property & Liability - The Academy is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, the Academy contracted with Philadelphia Insurance Company for nonprofits and maintained general liability insurance with a \$1,000,000 single occurrence limit and \$2,000,000 annual aggregate. Settled claims have not exceeded this coverage in the past year, nor has there been any significant reduction in insurance coverage during the year.

NOTE 8 – PURCHASED SERVICES

For the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, purchased service expenses were as follows:

<u>Purchased Services</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Pupil Transportation	\$ 18,052
Professional Fees	412,360
Property Services	56,814
Travel and Meetings	8,244
Communications	110,581
Utilities	49,403
Contractual Trade Services	28,696
Other	31,553
	<u>\$ 715,703</u>

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN

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.

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The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) represent the Academy'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.

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

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

The proportionate share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a long-term *net pension/OPEB liability*. Any liability for the contractually required pension contribution outstanding at the end of the year is included in *accrued expenses*.

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 10 for the required OPEB disclosures.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description – the Academy 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.

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Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. New benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. The COLA is indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5 percent and with a floor of 0 percent. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. The Retirement Board approved a 2.5 percent COLA for calendar year 2024.

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the Academy is required to contribute 14 percent of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS' Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10 percent for plan members and 14 percent for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System's funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.0 percent. For fiscal year 2025, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The Academy's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$18,270 for fiscal year 2025.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description – The Academy licensed teachers and other faculty members participate in STRS Ohio, a cost-sharing multiple employer public employee system administered by STRS. STRS provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. STRS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information, and detailed information about STRS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by writing to STRS, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771, by calling (888) 227-7877, or by visiting the STRS Web site at www.strsoh.org.

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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 their member contributions and 11.09 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. The member determines how to allocate the member and employer money among various investment choices offered by STRS. The remaining 2.91 percent of the 14 percent employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, 12 percent of the 14 percent member rate is deposited into the member's DC account and the remaining 2 percent is applied to the DB Plan. Member contributions to the DC Plan are allocated among investment choices by the member, and contributions to the DB Plan from the employer and the member are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined Plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of service. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity at age fifty and after termination of employment.

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

The Academy's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$60,792 for fiscal year 2025.

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

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources (with the exception of deferred outflows of resources related to Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date) and Deferred Inflows of Resources related to Pensions are not applicable to the Academy at June 30, 2025 due to the Academy not being in operation during the measurement period. At June 30, 2025, the Academy reported deferred outflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Academy Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	\$ 18,270	\$ 60,792	\$ 79,062
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 18,270</u>	<u>\$ 60,792</u>	<u>\$ 79,062</u>

\$79,062 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from the Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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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. 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:

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 System expenses
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.0 percent, on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement

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*. ORC 3309.15 and the SERS Board-adopted Investment Policy govern investment activity. 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. As of June 30, 2024:

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<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 total pension liability for 2024 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The discount rate determination did not use a municipal bond rate. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employers would contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate of projected compensation over the remaining 20-year amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The actuarially determined contribution rate for fiscal year 2024 was 14 percent. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.00 percent). Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability. The annual money-weighted rate of return, calculated as the internal rate of return on pension plan investments, for fiscal year 2024 was 9.31 percent.

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

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

Inflation	2.50 percent
Salary Increases	From 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent, based on service
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0.00 percent, effective July 1, 2017

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

Actuarial assumptions used in the 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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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:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation *</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Rate of Return **</u>
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 2.25 percent and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.*

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 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 rate increases described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS' fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2024. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2024.

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

See Note 9 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description – the Academy contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 75 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. SERS' Health Care Plan provides healthcare benefits to eligible individuals receiving retirement, disability, and survivor benefits, and to their eligible dependents. Members who retire after June 1, 1986, need 10 years of service credit, exclusive of most types of purchased credit, to qualify to participate in SERS' health care coverage. 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 Academy, 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

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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. SERS' Retirement Board reserves the right to change or discontinue any health plan or program. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. The SERS Retirement Board established the rules for the premiums paid by the retirees for health care coverage for themselves and their dependents or for their surviving beneficiaries. Premiums vary depending on the plan selected, qualified years of service, Medicare eligibility, and retirement status.

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2025, no allocation was made to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2025, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2025, the Academy's surcharge obligation was \$2,315.

The surcharge, added to the allocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The Academy's contractually required contribution to SERS were equal to the surcharge amount 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.

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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 percent 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)

OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources (with the exception of deferred outflows of resources related to Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date) and Deferred Inflows of Resources related to OPEB are not applicable to the Academy at June 30, 2025 due to the Academy not being in operation during the measurement period. At June 30, 2025, the Academy reported deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Academy Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	\$ 2,315	\$ -	\$ 2,315
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 2,315</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 2,315</u>

\$2,315 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from the Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction/addition to the net OPEB liability/asset in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026.

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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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, are 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 is 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.

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial five-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2016 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board 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,

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7.00 percent, 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. As of June 30, 2024:

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

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2024, was 4.88 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2024, was 4.27 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the contribution rate of 1.50 percent of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to 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 3.93 percent at June 30, 2024, and 3.86 percent at June 30, 2023.

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

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

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	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2023
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent	Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3 percent	3 percent
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent	7.00 percent
Health Care Cost Trends		
Medical		
Pre-Medicare	7.50 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	7.50 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate
Medicare	-112.22 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	-10.94 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	8.00 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	-11.95 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate
Medicare	-15.14 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	1.33 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate

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

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

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 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:

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<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation *</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Rate of Return **</u>
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 2.25 percent and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.*

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 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 these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2024. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected health care costs to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2024.

NOTE 11 - CONTINGENCIES

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

Litigation - There are currently no matters in litigation with the Academy as defendant.

NOTE 12 - SPONSOR

The Academy was approved for operation under a contract with St. Aloysius (the Sponsor) through June 30, 2030. As part of this contract, the Sponsor is entitled to a maximum of 3% of foundation revenues. Total amount due and paid for fiscal year 2025 was \$26,186.

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NOTE 13 – TRANSACTION PRIOR TO BEGINNING OPERATIONS

The Academy began operations in fiscal year 2025. Certain transactions took place before July 1, 2024. These transactions include securing a note to acquire land and a building with additional trustee cash accounts for project improvements as well as reserve funds for future long term obligations. The net of this activity is reflected in the combined beginning net position deficit balance of \$1,490,303. See Note 5 (capital assets) and Note 6 (long-term obligations) for additional details.

NOTE 14 – MANAGEMENT PLAN

During the Academy's initial year of operations, fiscal year 2025, the Academy had a net position deficit of (\$3,111,787), which included the input of GASB 68/75 accruals. Enrollment during the fiscal year 2025 was 83 which was not enough to cover all operating costs of the Academy. The Academy's ability to maintain a stable administration and instructional team along with active advertising via print, radio, mailings, and through referrals of current parents is anticipated to help produce the like likelihood of future enrollment growth leading to surpluses and provide an opportunity for the Academy to recover from its deficit. In addition, the Academy experienced defaults on debt service payments related to its educational facilities Note. Subsequent to year end, the Academy and related parties entered into a forbearance agreement with the bond trustee under which enforcement or remedies has been temporarily deferred and third party financing has been committed.

NOTE 15 – SUBSEQUENT EVENT

The Academy entered into a management agreement with Blue Learning to serve as its community school management organization. The agreement is effective July 1, 2025 and continues through June 30, 2027. Under the terms of the agreement, Blue Learning will provide management and operational support services to the Academy in accordance with the contract. In addition, the Academy has entered into a forbearance agreement as noted in Note 6, with the Bond Trustee related to the series 2023 long term obligations. The agreement provides temporary forbearance from enforcement of remedies relating to existing payment defaults through June 30, 2027, subject to compliance with specified conditions and includes financial support from Blue Learning to fund a portion of interest payments. The agreement does not waive existing defaults, and all deferred amounts become due at the end of the forbearance period.

In addition, the Academy has entered into a loan agreement in March 2026 with a maximum amount of principal of \$1,000,000 with their new management company, Blue Learning. The initial advance of \$613,247 will be made on the closing date. The outstanding principal of this note shall bear interest at a rate of 6.5% per annum from the closing date or from the date of each loan advance hereunder until the maturity date. Interest shall be calculated based on the actual number of days that principal is outstanding over a year of 360 days. The entire outstanding principal balance, together with all accrued and unpaid interest, shall be due and payable in full on June 30, 2029 (maturity date). There are no prepayment penalties on the note. In the event of default, interest shall accrue on the outstanding principal balance on the note at the interest rate plus 4%, and such accrued interest shall be immediately due and payable.

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NOTE 16 – CONDENSED COMBINING INFORMATION

Condensed combining information is provided for Northeast Ohio Classical Academy and NEOCA Properties, LLC, a blended component unit, is as follows:

	Northeast Ohio Classical Academy	NEOCA Properties, LLC	Eliminations	Total
Assets:				
Current Assets	\$ 313,018	\$ 1,767,952	\$ (1,507,968)	\$ 573,002
Non-Current Assets				
Bond Reserve Accounts	-	58,757	-	58,757
Total Capital Assets	-	8,133,801	-	8,133,801
Total Assets	313,018	9,960,510	(1,507,968)	8,765,560
Deferred Outflows of Resources	81,377	-	-	81,377
Liabilities:				
Current Liabilities	2,659,121	-	(1,507,968)	1,151,153
Long-Term Liabilities	-	10,807,571	-	10,807,571
Total Liabilities	2,659,121	10,807,571	(1,507,968)	11,958,724
Net Position:				
Net Investment in Capital Assets	-	(2,413,786)	-	(2,413,786)
Restricted for Debt Service	-	58,757	-	58,757
Unrestricted	(2,264,726)	1,507,968	-	(756,758)
Total Net Position	\$ (2,264,726)	\$ (847,061)	\$ -	\$ (3,111,787)

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	Northeast Ohio Classical Academy	NEOCA Properties, LLC	Eliminations	Total
Operating Revenues:				
State Aid	\$ 852,595	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 852,595
Lease Income	-	969,540	(969,540)	-
Miscellaneous	14,665	-	-	14,665
Total Operating Revenues	<u>867,260</u>	<u>969,540</u>	<u>(969,540)</u>	<u>867,260</u>
Operating Expenses:				
Salaries & Wages	605,979	-	-	605,979
Fringe Benefits	116,107	-	-	116,107
Purchased Services	1,685,243	-	(969,540)	715,703
Supplies	90,674	-	-	90,674
Depreciation	-	217,444	-	217,444
Other Operating Expenses	55,089	-	-	55,089
Total Operating Expenses	<u>2,553,092</u>	<u>217,444</u>	<u>(969,540)</u>	<u>1,800,996</u>
Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses):				
Federal and State Restricted Grants	284,158	-	-	284,158
Donations	82,177	-	-	82,177
Interest Income	2,180	80,742	-	82,922
Interest Expense	(92,894)	(1,044,111)	-	(1,137,005)
Net Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>275,621</u>	<u>(963,369)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(687,748)</u>
Change in Net Position	(1,410,211)	(211,273)	-	(1,621,484)
Net Position Beginning of Year	(854,515)	(635,788)	-	(1,490,303)
Net Position End of Year	<u>\$ (2,264,726)</u>	<u>\$ (847,061)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (3,111,787)</u>

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	Northeast Ohio Classical	NEOCA Properties,	Eliminations	Total
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:				
State Aid Receipts	\$ 852,595	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 852,595
Cash Received from Leases	-	20,615	(20,615)	-
Cash Received from Other Operating	14,665	-	-	14,665
Cash Payments to Employees for Services and Benefits	(773,354)	-	-	(773,354)
Cash Payments to Suppliers for Goods and Services	(659,828)	-	(221,770)	(881,598)
Net Cash Provided by (Used for) Operating Activities	(565,922)	20,615	(242,385)	(787,692)
Cash Flows from NonCapital Financing Activities:				
Donation Receipts	82,177	-	-	82,177
Cash Received from State and Federal Grants	275,900	-	-	275,900
Net Cash Provided by Non Capital Financing Activities	358,077	-	-	358,077
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities:				
Cash Payments for Capital Acquisitions	-	(3,216,694)	-	(3,216,694)
Cash Paid on Interest	-	(969,540)	242,385	(727,155)
Net Cash Provided by (Used For) Capital and Related Financing Activities	-	(4,186,234)	242,385	(3,943,849)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:				
Interest Receipts	2,180	80,742	-	82,922
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities	2,180	80,742	-	82,922
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(205,665)	(4,084,877)	-	(4,290,542)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	415,732	4,403,618	-	4,819,350
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	\$ 210,067	\$ 318,741	\$ -	\$ 528,808

NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY – SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

*Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of Academy Contributions
Current Fiscal Year (3)*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Contractually Required Contribution - Pension (1)</u>	<u>Contractually Required Contribution - OPEB (1)(2)</u>	<u>Academy's Covered Payroll</u>	<u>Pension Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll</u>	<u>OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (2)</u>
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>					
2025	\$ 18,270	\$ 2,315	\$ 130,500	14.00%	1.77%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>					
2025	\$ 60,792	\$ -	\$ 434,229	14.00%	0.00%

(1) The contributions in relation to the contractually required contributions are equal to the contractually required contributions, resulting in zero contribution deficiency/excess.

(2) SERS contributions include surcharge

(3) Information prior to 2025 is not available. Schedule is intended to show ten years of information, and additional information will be displayed as it becomes available

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information

NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY – SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

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

NOTE 1 - NET PENSION LIABILITY

Changes in Assumptions - SERS

Amounts reported in 2022 incorporate changes in assumptions used by SERS in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation. These assumptions compared with those used in prior years are presented as follows:

	<u>Fiscal Years 2025-2022</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2021-2017</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2016 and Prior</u>
Wage Inflation	2.40%	3.00%	3.25%
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25% to 13.58%	3.50% to 18.20%	4.00% to 22.00%
Investment Rate of Return	7.00% net of system expenses	7.50% net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.75% net of investment expenses, including inflation

Beginning in 2022, amounts reported use mortality rates 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. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP2020 projection scale generationally.

Beginning in fiscal year 2018, on each anniversary of the initial retirement, the allowance of all retirees and survivors may be increased by the annual rate of increase in the CPI-W measured as of the June preceding the beginning of the applicable calendar year. The annual rate of increase shall not be less than 0 percent nor greater than 2.5 percent.

Amounts report for 2017 through 2021 use mortality rates that are based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five-year age set-back for both males and females. Amounts reported for fiscal year 2016 and prior, use mortality assumptions that are based on the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Table set back one year for both men and women. Special mortality tables were used for the period after disability retirement.

Changes in Benefit Terms - SERS

For fiscal year 2022, COLA was increased from 2.00 percent to 2.50 percent.

For fiscal year 2021, COLA was reduced from 2.50 percent to 2.00 percent.

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

NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY – SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Changes in Assumptions – STRS

Beginning with fiscal year 2022, amounts reported incorporate changes in assumptions and changes in benefit terms used by STRS in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation. These new assumptions compared with those used in fiscal years 2018-2021 and fiscal year 2017 and prior are presented as follows:

	<u>Fiscal Years 2025-2022</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2021-2018</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2017 and Prior</u>
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%	2.75%
	Varies by service from	From 12.50% at age 20 to	From 12.25% at age 20 to
Projected Salary Increases	2.50% 8.50%	2.50% at age 65	2.75% at age 70
Investment Rate of Return, net of investment	7.00%	7.45%	7.75%
Payroll Increases	3.00%	3.00%	3.50%

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

Beginning with fiscal year 2018, post-retirement mortality rates for healthy retirees were based on the RP2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50 percent of rates through age 69, 70 percent of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90 percent of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100 percent of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Table with 90 percent of rates for males and 100 percent of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

For fiscal year 2017 and prior actuarial valuation, mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table (Projection 2022—Scale AA) for Males and Females. Males' ages are set-back two years through age 89 and no set back for age 90 and above. Females younger than age 80 are set back four years, one year set back from age 80 through 89, and no set back from age 90 and above.

Changes in Benefit Terms - STRS

For fiscal year 2023, the Board approved a one-time 3 percent COLA effective on the anniversary of a benefit recipient's retirement date for those eligible during fiscal year 2023 and eliminated the age 60 requirement to receive unreduced retirement that was scheduled to go into effect August 1, 2026.

For fiscal year 2018, the COLA was reduced to zero.

Fiscal year 2017 and prior, COLA was 2 percent simple applied as follows: for members retiring before August 1, 2013, 2 percent per year; for members retiring August 1, 2013 or later, 2 percent COLA commences on fifth anniversary of retirement date.

NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY – SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

NOTE 2 - NET OPEB LIABILITY (ASSET)

Changes in Assumptions – SERS

Amounts reported incorporate changes in assumptions and changes in benefit terms used by SERS in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation. These new assumptions compared with those used in fiscal year 2021 and prior are presented below:

	<u>Fiscal Years 2025-2022</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2021-2017</u>
Inflation	2.40%	3.00%
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25% to 13.58%	3.50% to 18.20%
Investment Rate of Return, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00%	7.50%

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

	<u>Fiscal Year</u>								
<u>Assumption</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Municipal Bond Index Rate	3.93%	3.86%	3.69%	1.92%	2.45%	3.13%	3.62%	3.56%	2.92%
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation	4.88%	4.27%	4.08%	2.27%	2.63%	3.22%	3.70%	3.63%	2.98%

Changes in Assumptions – STRS

For fiscal year 2023, the projected salary increases were changed from age based (2.5 percent to 12.50 percent) to service based (2.5 percent to 8.5 percent).

For fiscal year 2022, the discount rate was decreased from 7.45 percent to the long-term expected rate of return of 7.00.

For fiscal year 2019, the discount rate was increased from the blended rate of 4.13 percent to the long-term expected rate of return of 7.45.

For fiscal year 2018, the blended discount rate was increased from 3.26 percent to 4.13 percent. Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated, and the salary scale was modified. The percentage of future retirees electing each option was updated based on current data and the percentage of future disabled retirees and terminated vested participants electing health coverage were decreased. The assumed mortality, disability, retirement, withdrawal and future health care cost trend rates were modified along with the portion of rebated prescription drug costs.

NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY – SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO
NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025

Changes in Benefit Terms – STRS

For fiscal year 2025, healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience.

For fiscal year 2024, healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience as well as benefit changes effective January 1, 2024.

For fiscal year 2023, health care trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience.

For fiscal year 2022, there was no change to the claims costs process. Claim curves were updated to reflect the projected fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, premium based on June 30, 2021, enrollment distribution. The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2022, from 2.055 percent to 2.1 percent per year of service. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2022. The Medicare Part D Subsidy was updated to reflect it is expected to be negative in calendar year 2022. The Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

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

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

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

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

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

Board of Directors
Northeast Ohio Classical Academy
137 Heritage Woods Drive
Akron, OH 44321

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the Northeast Ohio Classical Academy, Summit County, Ohio (the “Academy”), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Academy’s basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 31, 2026, in which we noted the Academy has as loss from operations, defaults in debt service payment, and a net position deficit that raise substantial doubt about its ability to continue as a going concern.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Academy's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

Purpose of this Report

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

Rea & Associates, Inc.

Rea & Associates, Inc.
Medina, Ohio
March 31, 2026

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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Northeast Ohio Classical Academy
Summit County
137 Heritage Woods Drive
Akron, OH 44321

To the Board of Directors:

Ohio Rev. Code § 117.53 states “the auditor of state shall identify whether the school district or community school has adopted an anti-harassment policy in accordance with Section 3313.666 of the Revised Code. This determination shall be recorded in the audit report. The auditor of state shall not prescribe the content or operation of any anti-harassment policy adopted by a school district or community school.”

Accordingly, we have performed the procedures enumerated below solely to assist the Board in evaluating whether Northeast Ohio Classical Academy (the Academy) has adopted an anti-harassment policy in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 3313.666 and Ohio Rev. Code § 3314.03(a)(11)(d) for the period ended June 30, 2025. Management is responsible for complying with this requirement.

The Board has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of whether the Academy has adopted an anti-harassment policy in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 3313.666. Additionally, the Auditor of State has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet their purposes. No other party acknowledged the appropriateness of the procedures. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of the report and may not meet the needs of all users of the report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the Board. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

1. We inspected the Board minutes and observed that the Board adopted an anti-harassment policy at its meeting on July 25, 2024.

Ohio Rev. Code § 3313.666(B) and Ohio Rev. Code § 3314.03(a)(11)(d) specifies the following requirements must be included in anti-harassment policies. We inspected the policy for proper inclusion of these requirements:

1. A statement prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying of any student on Academy property, on a school bus, or at school-sponsored events and expressly providing for the possibility of suspension of a student found responsible for harassment, intimidation, or bullying by an electronic act;
2. A definition of harassment, intimidation, or bullying that includes the definition in division (A) of Ohio Rev. Code § 3313.666. The act defines that term as “any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both (1) causes mental or physical harm to the other student, (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student,” and violence within a dating relationship.;

3. A procedure for reporting prohibited incidents;
4. A requirement that Academy personnel report prohibited incidents of which they are aware to the Academy principal or other administrator designated by the principal;
5. A requirement that the custodial parent or guardian of any student involved in a prohibited incident be notified and, to the extent permitted by section 3319.321 of the Revised Code and the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974," 88 Stat. 571, 20 U.S.C. 1232q, as amended, have access to any written reports pertaining to the prohibited incident;
6. A procedure for documenting any prohibited incident that is reported;
7. A procedure for responding to and investigating any reported incident;
8. A strategy for protecting a victim from new or additional harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and from retaliation following a report, including a means by which a person may report an incident anonymously;
9. A disciplinary procedure for any student guilty of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, which shall not infringe on any student's rights under the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States;
10. A statement prohibiting students from deliberately making false reports of harassment, intimidation, or bullying and a disciplinary procedure for any student responsible for deliberately making a false report of that nature;
11. A requirement that the administration semiannually provide the president of the district board a written summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on its web site, if the district has a web site, to the extent permitted by section 3319.321 of the Revised Code and the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974," 88 Stat. 571, 20 U.S.C. 1232q, as amended.

We were engaged by the Academy to perform this agreed-upon procedure engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the AICPA and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on compliance with the anti-harassment policy. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Academy and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the ethical requirements established by the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* related to our agreed upon procedures engagement.

Rea & Associates, Inc.

Rea & Associates, Inc.
Medina, Ohio
March 31, 2026

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



NORTHEAST OHIO CLASSICAL ACADEMY

SUMMIT 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 5/19/2026

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