



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
CUYAHOGA COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2024**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County
1441 West 116th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

To the Board of Directors:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the Northwest School of the Arts, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the School), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Northwest School of the Arts, Cuyahoga County, Ohio as of June 30, 2024, and the changes in financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

Required Supplementary Information

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

Supplementary information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

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

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 8, 2026, on our consideration of the School's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the School'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 School's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



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

April 8, 2026

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Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

The discussion and analysis of Northwest School of the Arts (the School) financial performance provides an overall review of the School's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the School's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the financial statements and the notes to the financial statements to enhance their understanding of the School's financial performance.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is an element of the reporting model adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in their ***Statement No. 34 Basic Financial Statements – and Management's Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments*** issued June 1999. Certain comparative information between the current year and the prior year is required to be presented in the MD&A.

Financial Highlights

- In total, net position increased \$243,745 from 2023.
- Total assets increased \$424,973 during 2024.
- Total liabilities increased \$590,385 during 2024.
- Operating revenues increased by \$820,469, operating expenses increased by \$623,348, and non-operating revenues increased by \$348,760.

The net pension liability (NPL) is the largest single liability reported by the School at June 30, 2024, and is reported pursuant to GASB Statement 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions—an Amendment of GASB Statement 27*. In a prior period, the School also adopted GASB Statement 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*. For reasons discussed below, many end users of this financial statement will gain a clearer understanding of the School'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 the 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/OPEB 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 School'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.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

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 School is not responsible for certain key factors affecting the balance of these assets/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.

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. For STRS, the plan’s fiduciary net OPEB position was sufficient to cover the plan’s total OPEB liability resulting in a net OPEB asset that is allocated to each school based on its proportionate share. 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 liability reported by the retirement boards. 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 School’s statements 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 or resources.

Using this Financial Report

This report consists of the financial statements, notes to the financial statements, required supplementary information and notes to the required supplementary information. The financial statements include a Statement of Net Position, a Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position, and a Statement of Cash Flows.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

Statement of Net Position

The Statement of Net Position answers the question of how well the School performed financially during fiscal year 2024. This statement includes all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position, both financial and capital, and current and long-term, using the accrual basis of accounting, which is 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 expended.

Table 1 provides a summary of the School's Net Position for fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2023.

(Table 1)
Statement of Net Position

	2024	Restated 2023	Change
Assets			
Current Assets	\$ 1,736,971	\$ 1,298,326	\$ 438,645
Net OPEB Asset	150,552	164,224	(13,672)
Total Assets	<u>1,887,523</u>	<u>1,462,550</u>	<u>424,973</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>806,682</u>	<u>492,046</u>	<u>314,636</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	1,072,369	817,739	254,630
Long Term Liabilities	1,943,558	1,607,803	335,755
Total Liabilities	<u>3,015,927</u>	<u>2,425,542</u>	<u>590,385</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>392,271</u>	<u>486,792</u>	<u>(94,521)</u>
Net Position			
Restricted	150,552	26,790	123,762
Unrestricted	(864,545)	(984,528)	119,983
Total Net Position	<u>\$ (713,993)</u>	<u>\$ (957,738)</u>	<u>\$ 243,745</u>

Current assets increased primarily due to an increase in cash and cash equivalents as revenue outpaced expenses. Current liabilities increased due to unpaid management company and sponsor fees.

There was a significant change in net pension/OPEB liability/asset for the School. These fluctuations are due to changes in the actuarial liabilities/assets and related accruals that are passed through to the School's financial statements. All components of pension and OPEB accruals contribute to the fluctuations in deferred outflows/inflows and NPL/NOL/NOA and are described in more detail in their respective notes.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position

Table 2 shows the changes in Net Position for fiscal years 2024 and 2023.

	(Table 2) Change in Net Position		
	2024	Restated 2023	Change
Operating Revenue	\$ 2,648,751	\$ 1,828,282	\$ 820,469
Non-Operating Revenue	2,459,129	2,110,369	348,760
Total Revenue	<u>5,107,880</u>	<u>3,938,651</u>	<u>1,169,229</u>
Operating Expenses	<u>4,864,135</u>	<u>4,240,787</u>	<u>623,348</u>
Change In Net Position	<u>\$ 243,745</u>	<u>\$ (302,136)</u>	<u>\$ 545,881</u>

The School's operating and non-operating revenues are based on the School's full-time enrollment (FTE) and the School's federal grant funding received throughout the year. The School's operating revenues and expenses typically correlate to one another based on student enrollment, which decreased from fiscal year 2023. Operating revenues increased primarily from calculation of its foundation funding per the Fair School Funding Plan. Nonoperating revenues increased due to the School receiving additional funds from the quality community school support grant as well as increased shared levy proceeds compared to the prior year. The School's most significant expenses, "Purchased Services: Management Fees" fluctuate in relation to the revenues as a result of the management agreement in place between the School and WHLS of Ohio, LLC. The agreement provides that specific percentages of the revenues received by the School will be paid to WHLS of Ohio, LLC to fund operations (See Note 8).

The changes in pension and OPEB are primarily associated to changes in the School's proportionate share of the net pension liability, net OPEB liability/asset and related accruals. As previously indicated, these items are explained in detail within their respective notes.

Capital Assets

For the year ended June 30, 2024, all assets had been fully depreciated in a prior fiscal year. See Note 6 for further information.

Current Financial Issues

Northwest School of the Arts received revenue for 253 students in 2024 and 331 in 2023. State law governing community schools allows for the School to have open enrollment across traditional school district boundaries.

The School receives its support almost entirely from state aid. The School receives additional revenues from grant subsidies.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

Although there is a possibility that state aid will be cut in future years due to the economic climate, the School feels that the relationship with the management company will insulate them from any significant change. The relationship brings stability to the School since specific percentages of revenues are payable to the management company (See Note 8).

Contacting the School's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our readers with a general overview of the School's finances and to show the School's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact the Fiscal Officer for the Northwest School of the Arts, 3200 West Market Street, Suite 300, Akron, Ohio 44333.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Statement of Net Position
June 30, 2024

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash And Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,628,627
Grant Funding Receivable	101,129
Prepaid Insurance	7,215
Total Current Assets	<u>1,736,971</u>

Noncurrent Assets

Net OPEB Asset	150,552
Total Noncurrent Assets	<u>150,552</u>

Total Assets	<u>1,887,523</u>
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DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Pension	726,321
OPEB	80,361
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>806,682</u>

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	1,069,673
Grant Funding Payable	2,173
State Grant Payable	523
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,072,369</u>

Long Term Liabilities

Net Pension Liability	1,880,437
Net OPEB Liability	63,121
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>1,943,558</u>

Total Liabilities	<u>3,015,927</u>
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DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Pension	184,357
OPEB	207,914
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>392,271</u>

NET POSITION

Restricted for OPEB	150,552
Unrestricted	(864,545)
Total Net Position	<u>\$ (713,993)</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

OPERATING REVENUES

State Basic Aid	\$ 2,634,600
Casino Revenue	<u>14,151</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>2,648,751</u>

OPERATING EXPENSES

Purchased Services: Management Fees	3,564,298
Purchased Services: Grant Programs	1,215,910
Sponsorship Fees	72,026
Pension & OPEB	(59,730)
Other Expenses	<u>71,631</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>4,864,135</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>(2,215,384)</u>

NON-OPERATING REVENUES

Federal and State Grants	2,045,500
Shared Levy Proceeds	380,741
Miscellaneous Revenue	22,158
Interest	<u>10,730</u>
Total Non-Operating Revenues	<u>2,459,129</u>
Change in Net Position	243,745
Net Position Beginning of Year, as Previously Presented	(277,828)
Error Correction	(679,910)
Net Position Beginning of Year, as Restated	<u>(957,738)</u>
Net Position End of Year	<u><u>\$ (713,993)</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Cash Received From State Aid	\$ 2,648,751
Cash Payments To Management Company	(4,525,578)
Cash Payments to Sponsor	(72,026)
Other Cash Payments	(71,631)
Net Cash Used For Operating Activities	<u>(2,020,484)</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Cash Received From Grant Programs	2,079,886
Cash Received From Shared Levy Proceeds	380,741
Cash Received From Miscellaneous Revenue	22,158
Net Cash Received From Noncapital Financing Activities	<u>2,482,785</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Cash Received From Interest	<u>10,730</u>
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Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents 473,031

Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year 1,155,596

Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year \$ 1,628,627

RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME (LOSS) TO NET CASH USED FOR OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Operating Income (Loss) \$ (2,215,384)

ADJUSTMENTS TO RECONCILE OPERATING INCOME (LOSS) TO NET CASH USED FOR OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Changes in Assets, Liabilities, and Deferred Outflows/Inflows:	
Deferred Outflows of Resources	(314,636)
Deferred Inflows of Resources	(94,521)
Net OPEB Asset	13,672
Net Pension/OPEB Liability	335,755
Accounts Payable	252,215
Grant Funding Payable	2,173
State Grant Payable	242
Total Adjustments	<u>194,900</u>
Net Cash Used For Operating Activities	<u><u>\$ (2,020,484)</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL AND REPORTING ENTITY

Northwest School of the Arts (the School) is a federal tax exempt 501(c)(3) and state nonprofit corporation established pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code Chapters 3314 and 1702 to maintain and provide a school exclusively for any educational, literary, scientific and related teaching service. The School, which is part of the State's education program, is independent of any school district. The School may sue and be sued, acquire facilities as needed, and contract for any services necessary for the operation of the School.

The School contracts with WHLS of Ohio, LLC for most of its functions (see Note 8). WHLS of Ohio, LLC is under ownership of ACCEL Schools Ohio, LLC.

The School was approved for operation under contract with the Ohio Council of Community Schools (Sponsor) for a period of five years from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2019, which was extended for an additional five year period ending June 30, 2024, then extended for an additional six year period ending June 30, 2030. The School operates under a self-appointing, five-member Board of Directors (the Board). The School's Code of Regulations specify that vacancies that arise on the Board will be filled by the appointment of a successor director by a majority vote of the then existing directors. The Board is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the contract with the Sponsor, which include, but are not limited to, state-mandated provisions regarding student population, curriculum, academic goals, performance standards, admission standards, and qualifications of teachers. The School has one instructional/support facility, which is leased by WHLS of Ohio, LLC. The facility is staffed with teaching personnel employed by WHLS of Ohio, LLC.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

Basis of Presentation

The School's financial statements consist of a Statement of Net Position, a Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position, and a Statement of Cash Flows. Enterprise fund reporting focuses on the determination of the change in Net Position, financial position and cash flows.

Auditor of State of Ohio Bulletin No. 2000-005 requires the presentation of all financial activity to be reported within one enterprise fund for year-end reporting purposes. Enterprise accounting is used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent is that the costs (expenses) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and deferred outflows of resources as well as all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are included on the Statement of Net Position.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Operating statements present increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in Net Position. The accrual basis of accounting is utilized for reporting purposes. Revenues are recognized when they are earned, and expenses are recognized when 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 School and its Sponsor. The contract between the School and its Sponsor does not require the School to follow the provisions Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705; therefore, no budgetary information is presented in the basic financial statements.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

All cash received by the School is maintained in a demand deposit account and STAR Ohio. 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.

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

There were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, 24 hours advance notice for deposits and withdrawals of \$100 million or more is appreciated. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$250 million per day.

Intergovernmental Revenues

The School currently participates in the State Foundation Program and casino tax distributions, which are reflected under "Operating revenues" on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position. Revenues received from these programs are recognized as operating revenue in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the School receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlements, and contributions. Grants, entitlements, and contributions are recognized as non-operating revenues in the accounting period in which all 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 school must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose; and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the School on a reimbursement basis.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

During the fiscal year, the School received prorated shares of property tax distributions from the Cleveland Municipal School District (CMSD) as part of a partnership agreement executed between the School and CMSD.

Capital Assets and Depreciation

For purposes of recording capital assets, the Board has a capitalization threshold of \$5,000.

Depreciation is computed by the straight-line method over five years for “Equipment.”

Aside from those mentioned previously, the School has no other capital assets, as the School operates under a management agreement with WHLS of Ohio LLC (see Note 8).

Use of Estimates

In preparing the financial statements, management is sometimes required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Net Position

Net Position represents the difference between assets and deferred outflows of resources, and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net Position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the School or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. The School applies restricted resources first when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the School’s primary activities. For the School, these revenues are primarily state aid payments. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the goods and services that are the primary activities of the School. Revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

Pensions and 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 pension/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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Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. For the School, deferred outflows of resources are reported on the statement of net position for pension and OPEB. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are explained in Notes 11 and 12.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized until that time. For the School, deferred inflows of resources include pension and OPEB, which are reported on the statement of net position. (See Notes 11 and 12).

Prepays

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond June 30, 2024, are recorded as prepaid items using the consumption method. A current asset for the prepaid amount is recorded at the time of purchase and an expense is reported in the year which services are consumed.

NOTE 3 – IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the School has implemented certain provisions of GASB Statement No. 99, *Omnibus 2022* and GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*.

GASB Statement No. 99 enhances comparability in accounting and financial reporting and improves the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing (1) practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements and (2) accounting and financial reporting for financial guarantees. The implementation of certain provisions of GASB Statement No. 99 that relate to financial guarantees and the classification and reporting of derivative instruments within the scope of Statement 53 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School.

GASB Statement No. 100 enhances accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide a more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessment accountability. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 100 was incorporated into the financial statements of the School.

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

Deposits

At year-end, \$1,044,742 of the School's bank balance of \$1,294,742 was exposed to custodial credit risk. Although the securities were held by the pledging financial institutions' trust department in the School's name and all statutory requirements for the investment of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the School District to a successful claim by the FDIC.

Investments

As of June 30, 2024, the School had the following investment:

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<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Measurement</u> <u>Value</u>	<u>Investment</u> <u>Maturity</u> <u>3 Months</u> <u>or Less</u>	<u>Percentage of</u> <u>Total</u>
STAR Ohio	<u>\$ 332,443</u>	<u>\$ 332,443</u>	<u>100%</u>

Interest Rate Risk: As a means of limiting its exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates and according to state law, the School's investment policy limits investment portfolio maturities to five years or less.

Credit Risk: STAR Ohio is an investment pool operated by the Ohio State Treasurer. It is unclassified since it is not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form. Ohio law requires STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. The weighted average of maturity of the portfolio held by STAR Ohio as of June 30, 2024, is 47 days and carries a rating of AAAm by S&P Global Ratings.

Concentration of Credit Risk: The School places no limit on the amount that may be invested in any one issuer.

NOTE 5 - GRANTS FUNDING RECEIVABLE

The School has recorded "Grant Funding Receivable" in the amount of \$101,129 to account for incurred expenses for State and Federal grants, but not received as of June 30, 2024.

Under the terms of the management agreement (see Note 8), the School will remit 100 percent of any State and Federal monies uncollected or unpaid to ACCEL as of June 30, 2024.

NOTE 6 - CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

As of June 30, 2024, the School had \$134,560 in fully depreciated equipment.

NOTE 7 - RISK MANAGEMENT

Property and Liability: The School is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft or damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters.

As part of its management agreement with WHLS of Ohio, LLC, WHLS of Ohio, LLC has contracted with an insurance company for property and general liability insurance pursuant to the management agreement. (see Note 8). There were no significant reduction in insurance coverage from the prior year and claims did not exceed insurance coverage over the past three years.

Director and Officer: Coverage has been purchased by the School with a \$2,000,000 aggregate limit and a \$10,000 deductible.

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NOTE 8 - AGREEMENT WITH WHLS OF OHIO, LLC

Effective January 22, 2009, the School extended its management agreement (Agreement) with WHLS of Ohio, LLC, which is an educational consulting and management company. WHLS of Ohio, LLC is under ownership of ACCEL Schools Ohio, LLC. The Agreement's term will end on June 30, 2030. The Agreement will renew for an additional, successive five (5) year term unless one party notifies the other party by January 1st of the then-current year of its intention to not renew the agreement. Substantially all functions of the School have been contracted to WHLS of Ohio, LLC. WHLS of Ohio, LLC is responsible and accountable to the School's Board of Directors for the administration and operation of the School. Effective July 1, 2009, the School is required to pay WHLS of Ohio, LLC a monthly continuing fee of 97 percent of the School's "Qualified Gross Revenues", defined as, all revenues and income received by the School except for charitable contributions and also WHLS of Ohio, LLC shall receive 100 percent of any and all grants or funding of any kind generated by WHLS of Ohio, LLC, and its affiliates beyond the regular per pupil state funding received by the School, (not including Ed Jobs) subject to any terms and conditions attached to the grants, if any. The continuing fee is paid to WHLS of Ohio, LLC based on the qualified gross revenues.

The School had purchased service expenses for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, to WHLS of Ohio, LLC of \$4,420,408. WHLS of Ohio, LLC will be responsible for all costs incurred in providing the educational program at the School, which include but are not limited to, salaries and benefits of all personnel, curriculum materials, textbooks, library books, computers and other equipment, software, supplies, building payments, maintenance, capital, and insurance.

NOTE 9 - SPONSORSHIP FEES

Under Paragraph D(2) of the sponsor contract with The Ohio Council of Community Schools (OCCS), it states that the School "...shall pay to the Sponsor, the amount of 3 percent of all state funds received each year by the School, in consideration for the time, organization, oversight, fees, and costs of the Sponsor pursuant to the contract." Such fees are paid to OCCS monthly.

NOTE 10 - MANAGEMENT COMPANY EXPENSES

For the year ended June 30, 2024, WHLS of Ohio, LLC, under the ownership of ACCEL Schools Ohio, LLC, and its affiliates incurred the following expenses on behalf of the School.

Northwest School of Arts	Regular Instruction (1100 Function Codes)	Special Instruction (1200 Function Codes)	Support Services (2000 Function Codes)	Non-Instructional (3000 through 7000 Function Codes)	Total
Direct Expenses:					
Salaries & Wages (100 Object Codes)	983,505	62,399	158,290	\$ -	\$ 1,204,194
Employees' Benefits (200 Object Codes)	249,552	24,340	60,098	-	333,990
Professional & Technical Services (410 Object Codes)	89,400	88,967	250,631	-	428,998
Property Services (420 Object Codes)	-	-	481,529	-	481,529
Utilities (450 Object Codes)	-	-	81,263	-	81,263
Contracted Craft or Trade Services (460 Object Codes)	-	-	-	269,683	269,683
Transportation (480 Object Codes)	-	-	75,496	-	75,496
Supplies (500 Object Codes)	22,047	325	90,336	-	112,708
Other direct costs (All other object codes)	-	-	153,042	-	153,042
Indirect Expenses:					
Overhead	-	-	-	188,936	188,936
Total Expenses	\$ 1,344,504	\$ 176,031	\$ 1,350,685	\$ 458,619	\$ 3,329,839

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Overhead charges are assigned to the School based on a percentage of FTE headcount. These charges represent the indirect cost of services provided in the operation of the School. Such services include, but are not limited to facilities management, equipment, operational support services, management and management consulting, board relations, human resources management, training and orientation, financial reporting and compliance, purchasing and procurement, education services, technology support and marketing and communications.

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

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

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) represents the School'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 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 this estimate annually.

The Ohio Revised Code limits the School's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The School cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the School 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 (asset)*. Any liability for the contractually required pension contribution outstanding at the end of the year is included in *accounts payable*.

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 12 for the required OPEB disclosures.

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Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

	Eligible to Retire on or before August 1, 2017 *	Eligible to Retire after August 1, 2017
Full Benefits	Any age with 30 years of service credit	Age 67 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 57 with 30 years of service credit
Actuarially Reduced Benefits	Age 60 with 5 years of service credit 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, may be included in this plan.

Annual retirement benefits are calculated based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on year of service; 2.2 percent for the first 30 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 2023.

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

The School’s contractually required contribution to SERS was \$22,497 for fiscal year 2024.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description – School 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

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financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information, and detailed information about STRS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by writing to STRS, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771, by calling (888) 227-7877, or by visiting the STRS Web site at www.strsoh.org.

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

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

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 11.09 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. 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 50 and after termination of employment.

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

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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 2024 employer and employee contribution rate of 14 percent was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For 2024, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The School's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$214,548 for fiscal year 2024.

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

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an independent actuarial valuation as of that date. The School's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the employer's share of employer contributions in the pension plan relative to the total employer contributions of all participating employers. Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.0038623%	0.00774102%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.0028886%	0.00634233%	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>0.0009737%</u>	<u>0.00139869%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net			
Pension Liability	\$ 213,413	\$ 1,667,024	\$ 1,880,437
Pension Expense	\$ 10,170	\$ 189,255	\$ 199,425

Other than contributions made subsequent to the measurement date and differences between projected and actual earnings on investments; deferred inflows/outflows of resources are recognized in pension expense beginning in the current period, using a straight-line method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining services lives of all employees that are provided with pensions, determined as of the beginning of the measurement period. Net deferred inflows/outflows of resources pertaining to the differences between projected and actual investment earnings are similarly recognized over a closed five-year period.

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

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	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 9,173	\$ 60,777	\$ 69,950
Changes of Assumptions	1,512	137,289	138,801
Changes in Proportion and Differences between School Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	38,054	242,471	280,525
School Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	22,497	214,548	237,045
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 71,236</u>	<u>\$ 655,085</u>	<u>\$ 726,321</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ -	\$ 3,699	\$ 3,699
Net Difference between Projected and Actual Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	2,998	4,998	7,996
Changes of Assumptions	-	103,339	103,339
Changes in Proportion and Differences between School Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	21,131	48,192	69,323
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$ 24,129</u>	<u>\$ 160,228</u>	<u>\$ 184,357</u>

\$237,045 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from school contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2025	\$ (5,340)	\$ 26,402	\$ 21,062
2026	6,080	(15,221)	(9,141)
2027	23,711	221,825	245,536
2028	159	47,303	47,462
Total	<u>\$ 24,610</u>	<u>\$ 280,309</u>	<u>\$ 304,919</u>

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of

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each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations. Future benefits for all current plan members were projected through 2137.

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

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2023, and 2022 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 two 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 five years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward three 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. 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 an arithmetic 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, 2023:

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

Discount Rate The total pension liability for 2023 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The discount rate did not use a municipal bond rate. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed employers would contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate of projected compensation over the remaining 21-year amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The actuarially determined contribution rate of fiscal year 2023 was 14.00 percent. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long term assumed investment rate of return, 7.00 percent. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability. The annual money weighted rate of return, calculated as the internal rate of return on pension plan investments, for fiscal year 2023 was 6.90 percent.

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

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 314,985	\$ 213,413	\$ 127,856

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

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

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Post-retirement mortality rates for healthy retirees 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, 2023, valuation, were based on the results of the latest available actuarial experience study, which is for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation*	Long-Term Expected Rate of Return**
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.60 %
International Equity	22.00	6.80
Alternatives	19.00	7.38
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75
Real Estate	10.00	5.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	1.00
Total	<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, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with rate increases described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS' fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2023. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2023.

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

Northwest School of the Arts
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	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 2,563,514	\$ 1,667,024	\$ 908,839

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

NOTE 12 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

See Note 11 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

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

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

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Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2024, no allocation was made to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2024, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2.00 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.50 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the School's surcharge obligation was \$2,841. The surcharge, added to the allocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The School's contractually required contribution to SERS was equal to its surcharge obligation for fiscal year 2024.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description – The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) administers a cost-sharing Health Plan administered for eligible retirees who participated in the defined benefit or combined pension plans offered by STRS. Ohio law authorizes STRS to offer this plan. Benefits include hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs and partial reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. Health care premiums were reduced by a Medicare Part B premium credit beginning in 2023. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting www.strsoh.org or by calling (888) 227-7877.

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

OPEB Liability (Asset), OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

The net OPEB liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The School's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on the School's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and OPEB expense:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset):			
Current Measurement Date	0.0038315%	0.00774102%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.0029669%	0.00634233%	
Change in Proportionate Share	0.0008646%	0.00139869%	
Proportionate Share of the Net			
OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ 63,121	\$ (150,552)	
OPEB Expense	\$ (3,514)	\$ (15,755)	\$ (19,269)

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Other than contributions made subsequent to the measurement date and differences between projected and actual earnings on investments; deferred inflows/outflows of resources are recognized in OPEB expense beginning in the current period, using a straight-line method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining services lives of all employees that are provided with pensions, determined as of the beginning of the measurement period. Net deferred inflows/outflows of resources pertaining to the differences between projected and actual investment earnings are similarly recognized over a closed five-year period.

At June 30, 2024, the School reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 130	\$ 234	\$ 364
Net Difference between Projected and Actual Earnings on OPEB Plan Investments	491	266	757
Changes of Assumptions	21,344	22,180	43,524
Changes in Proportion and Differences between School Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	32,869	6	32,875
School Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	2,841	-	2,841
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 57,675</u>	<u>\$ 22,686</u>	<u>\$ 80,361</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 32,555	\$ 22,960	\$ 55,515
Changes of Assumptions	17,928	99,330	117,258
Changes in Proportion and Differences between School Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	26,738	8,403	35,141
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$ 77,221</u>	<u>\$ 130,693</u>	<u>\$ 207,914</u>

\$2,841 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from School 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, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

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	SERS	STRS	Total
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2025	\$ (5,678)	\$ (45,843)	\$ (51,521)
2026	(5,953)	(21,911)	(27,864)
2027	(7,000)	(8,775)	(15,775)
2028	(5,038)	(11,534)	(16,572)
2029	(3,123)	(10,608)	(13,731)
Thereafter	4,405	(9,336)	(4,931)
Total	<u>\$ (22,387)</u>	<u>\$ (108,007)</u>	<u>\$ (130,394)</u>

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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

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

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	<u>June 30, 2023</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	2048
Municipal Bond Index Rate	
Measurement Date	3.86 percent
Prior Measurement Date	3.69 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate	
Measurement Date	4.27 percent
Prior Measurement Date	4.08 percent
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	
Medicare	5.125 to 4.40 percent
Pre-Medicare	6.75 to 4.40 percent
Medical Trend Assumption	
Measurement Date	6.75 to 4.40 percent
Prior Measurement Date	7.00 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, 7.00 percent, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The capital market assumptions developed by the investment consultant are intended for use over a 10-year horizon and may not be useful in setting the long-term rate of return for funding pension plans which covers a longer timeframe. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class, as used in the June 30, 2020, five-year experience study, are summarized as follows:

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For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2023, was 4.27 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2023, was 4.08 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the plan 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 2048 by SERS' actuaries. The Fidelity General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index Rate was used in the determination of the single equivalent interest rate for both the June 30, 2022, and the June 30, 2023, total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is 3.86 percent at June 30, 2023, and 3.69 percent at June 30, 2022.

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

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 80,688	\$ 63,121	\$ 49,270
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 46,373	\$ 63,121	\$ 85,316

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

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

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For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
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 4.14 percent ultimate	7.50 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate
Medicare	-10.94 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	-68.78 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	-11.95 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	9.00 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate
Medicare	1.33 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	-5.47 percent initial 3.94 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, 2023, valuation is 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:

Northwest School of the Arts
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For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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

*Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

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

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate 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, 2023. 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, 2023.

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

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	\$ (127,423)	\$ (150,552)	\$ (170,695)
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	\$ (171,630)	\$ (150,552)	\$ (125,164)

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

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

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Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

NOTE 13 - CONTINGENCIES

Grants

Amounts received from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. Any disallowed costs may require refunding to the grantor. Amounts which may be disallowed, if any, are not presently determinable. However, in the opinion of the School, any such adjustments will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the School.

Litigation

The School is not a party to legal proceedings that, in the opinion of management, would have a material adverse effect on the financial statements.

NOTE 14 – RESTATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND NET POSITION

The School incorrectly calculated qualified gross revenues which resulted in underpayment to its management company and sponsor. Therefore, accounts payable, unrestricted net position and purchased services were understated for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The error correction resulted in an adjustment to and restatement of beginning net position of \$(679,910) which went from \$(277,828) to \$(957,738).

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Required Supplementary Information

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2024	2023	2022	2021
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>				
School's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.0038623%	0.0028886%	0.0040416%	0.0042061%
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 213,413	\$ 156,238	\$ 149,123	\$ 278,200
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 153,229	\$ 107,907	\$ 139,507	\$ 143,543
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	139.28%	144.79%	106.89%	193.81%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	76.06%	75.82%	82.86%	68.55%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>				
School's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.00774102%	0.00634233%	0.00613373%	0.00668149%
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 1,667,024	\$ 1,409,909	\$ 784,253	\$ 1,616,683
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 1,045,564	\$ 824,536	\$ 756,864	\$ 806,350
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	159.44%	170.99%	103.62%	200.49%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	80.02%	78.90%	87.80%	75.50%

Note: The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date, which is the prior fiscal year.

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
0.0039791%	0.0021489%	0.0032426%	0.0047474%	0.0077841%	0.0086880%
\$ 238,077	\$ 123,071	\$ 193,738	\$ 347,466	\$ 444,168	\$ 439,695
\$ 137,815	\$ 72,756	\$ 104,900	\$ 260,157	\$ 450,114	\$ 478,117
172.75%	169.16%	184.69%	133.56%	98.68%	91.96%
70.85%	71.36%	69.50%	62.98%	69.16%	71.70%
0.00666954%	0.00644105%	0.00645486%	0.00727263%	0.00807103%	0.01049523%
\$ 1,474,929	\$ 1,416,242	\$ 1,533,366	\$ 2,434,368	\$ 2,230,597	\$ 2,552,803
\$ 783,029	\$ 732,243	\$ 709,636	\$ 832,571	\$ 1,040,664	\$ 840,346
188.36%	193.41%	216.08%	292.39%	214.34%	303.78%
77.40%	77.31%	75.30%	66.80%	72.10%	74.70%

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School's Contributions - Pension
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>				
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 22,497	\$ 21,452	\$ 15,107	\$ 19,531
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(22,497)</u>	<u>(21,452)</u>	<u>(15,107)</u>	<u>(19,531)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 160,693	\$ 153,229	\$ 107,907	\$ 139,507
Pension Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%
 <i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>				
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 214,548	\$ 146,379	\$ 115,435	\$ 105,961
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(214,548)</u>	<u>(146,379)</u>	<u>(115,435)</u>	<u>(105,961)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 1,532,486	\$ 1,045,564	\$ 824,536	\$ 756,864
Pension Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
\$ 20,096	\$ 18,605	\$ 9,822	\$ 14,686	\$ 36,422	\$ 59,325
<u>(20,096)</u>	<u>(18,605)</u>	<u>(9,822)</u>	<u>(14,686)</u>	<u>(36,422)</u>	<u>(59,325)</u>
<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
\$ 143,543	\$ 137,815	\$ 72,756	\$ 104,900	\$ 260,157	\$ 450,114
14.00%	13.50%	13.50%	14.00%	14.00%	13.18%
\$ 112,889	\$ 109,624	\$ 102,514	\$ 99,349	\$ 116,560	\$ 145,693
<u>(112,889)</u>	<u>(109,624)</u>	<u>(102,514)</u>	<u>(99,349)</u>	<u>(116,560)</u>	<u>(145,693)</u>
<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
\$ 806,350	\$ 783,029	\$ 732,243	\$ 709,636	\$ 832,571	\$ 1,040,664
14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)
Last Eight Fiscal Years (1)

	2024	2023	2022	2021
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>				
School's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	0.0038315%	0.0029669%	0.0038051%	0.0041580%
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 63,121	\$ 41,656	\$ 72,015	\$ 90,356
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 153,229	\$ 107,907	\$ 139,507	\$ 143,543
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	41.19%	38.60%	51.62%	62.95%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	30.02%	30.34%	24.08%	18.17%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>				
School's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	0.00774102%	0.00634233%	0.00613373%	0.00668100%
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	\$ (150,552)	\$ (164,224)	\$ (129,330)	\$ (117,418)
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 1,045,564	\$ 824,536	\$ 756,864	\$ 806,350
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	-14.40%	-19.92%	-17.09%	-14.56%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	168.52%	230.73%	174.73%	182.10%

(1) Information prior to 2017 is not available.

Note: The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date, which is the prior fiscal year.

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

2020	2019	2018	2017
0.0037290%	0.0020825%	0.0032637%	0.0043597%
\$ 93,771	\$ 57,774	\$ 87,589	\$ 124,268
\$ 137,815	\$ 72,756	\$ 104,900	\$ 260,157
68.04%	79.41%	83.50%	47.77%
15.57%	13.57%	12.46%	11.49%
0.00667000%	0.00644105%	0.00645486%	0.00727263%
\$ (110,471)	\$ (103,501)	\$ 251,845	\$ 388,942
\$ 783,029	\$ 732,243	\$ 709,636	\$ 832,571
-14.11%	-14.13%	35.49%	46.72%
174.70%	176.00%	47.10%	37.30%

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School's Contributions - OPEB
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>				
Contractually Required Contribution (1)	\$ 2,841	\$ 2,030	\$ 2,005	\$ 772
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(2,841)</u>	<u>(2,030)</u>	<u>(2,005)</u>	<u>(772)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 160,693	\$ 153,229	\$ 107,907	\$ 139,507
OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (1)	1.77%	1.32%	1.86%	0.55%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>				
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 1,532,486	\$ 1,045,564	\$ 824,536	\$ 756,864
OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

(1) Includes surcharge

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
\$ 1,691	\$ 1,329	\$ 1,056	\$ 1,655	\$ 270	\$ 2,070
<u>(1,691)</u>	<u>(1,329)</u>	<u>(1,056)</u>	<u>(1,655)</u>	<u>(270)</u>	<u>(2,070)</u>
<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
\$ 143,543	\$ 137,815	\$ 72,756	\$ 104,900	\$ 260,157	\$ 450,114
1.18%	0.96%	1.45%	1.58%	0.10%	0.46%
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
\$ 806,350	\$ 783,029	\$ 732,236	\$ 709,636	\$ 832,571	\$ 1,040,664
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

See accompanying notes to required supplementary information.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 - NET PENSION LIABILITY

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

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:

	Fiscal Year 2022	Fiscal Years 2021-2017	Fiscal Years 2016 and Prior
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 were increased from 2.00 percent to 2.50 percent.

For fiscal year 2021, COLA were 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.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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 2022 and 2023</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2021-2018</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2017 and Prior</u>
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%	2.75%
Projected Salary Increases	From 2.50% to 12.50% based on age	From 12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65	From 12.25% at age 20 to 2.75% at age 70
Investment Rate of Return, net of investment expenses, including inflation	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.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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 2023 and 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>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	3.86%	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	4.27%	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.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Changes in Benefit Terms – STRS

Effective January 1, 2024, Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience as well as benefit changes.

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.

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**NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

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

FEDERAL GRANTOR Pass Through Grantor Program / Cluster Title	Federal AL Number	Total Federal Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce</i>		
Child Nutrition Cluster:		
School Breakfast Program - 2024	10.553	\$ 78,415
National School Lunch Program - 2024	10.555	150,098
Total Child Nutrition Cluster		<u>228,513</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		<u>228,513</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce</i>		
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies - 2024	84.010A	182,504
Total Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies		<u>182,504</u>
Special Education Cluster (IDEA):		
Special Education - Grants to States (IDEA, Part B) - 2024	84.027A	35,335
Total Special Education - Grants to States (IDEA, Part B)		<u>35,335</u>
Total Special Education Cluster (IDEA)		<u>35,335</u>
Title II, Part A, Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants - 2024	84.367A	18,686
Total Title II, Part A, Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants		<u>18,686</u>
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program - 2024	84.424A	19,444
Total Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program		<u>19,444</u>
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund - 2024	84.425U	707,963
Total COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund		<u>707,963</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education		<u>963,932</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards		<u>\$ 1,192,445</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

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

NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

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

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

NOTE C – INDIRECT COST RATE

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

NOTE D - CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

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



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

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County
1441 West 116th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the Northwest School of the Arts, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the School) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated April 8, 2026.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the School'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 School's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the School'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 and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2024-001 that we consider to be a material weakness.

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

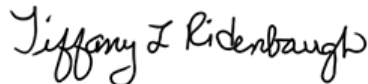
School's Response to the Finding

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

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the School'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 School's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



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

April 8, 2026



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

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County
1441 West 116th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

To the Board of Directors:

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

Qualified Opinion

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

Qualified Opinion on the Education Stabilization Fund

In our opinion, except for the noncompliance described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the Northwest School of the Arts complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on the Education Stabilization Fund for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

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

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

Matter Giving Rise to Qualified Opinion on the Education Stabilization Fund

As described in finding 2024-002 in the accompanying schedule of findings, the School did not comply with requirements regarding Equipment and Real Property Management applicable to its AL #84.425U Education Stabilization Fund major federal program.

Compliance with such requirements is necessary, in our opinion, for the School to comply with requirements applicable to that program.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

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

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the School's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of the School's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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

Other Matter

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the School's response to the noncompliance finding identified in our compliance audit described in the accompanying Schedule of findings and corrective action plan. The School's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we did identify a certain deficiency in internal control over compliance that we consider to be a material weakness.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiency in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2024-002 to be a material weakness.

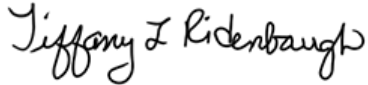
Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the School's response to the internal control over compliance finding identified in our audit described in the accompanying schedule of findings and corrective action plan. The School's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

Northwest School of the Arts
Cuyahoga County
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements
Applicable to the Major Federal Program and on Internal Control
Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance
Page 4

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

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

April 8, 2026

**NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2024**

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

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

**NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2024
(Continued)**

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

FINDING NUMBER 2024-001

Financial Reporting – Material Weakness

In our audit engagement letter, as required by AU-C Section 210, Terms of Engagement, paragraph .06, management acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error as discussed in AU-C Section 210 paragraphs .A14 & .A16. Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Cod. 1100 paragraph .101 states a governmental accounting system must make it possible both: (a) to present fairly and with full disclosure the funds and activities of the governmental unit in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles, and (b) to determine and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions.

Due to insufficient understanding of the operator agreement between the School and WHLS of Ohio LLC, under ownership of ACCEL Schools Ohio, LLC, the following material errors were noted and subsequent adjustments made by the School to its financial statements:

- The School did not contribute consulting fees to its operator during the prior three fiscal years, resulting in an overstatement of Net Position Beginning of Year and corresponding understatement of Accounts Payable totaling \$679,910, respectively; and
- The School failed to properly distribute payments to its operator during fiscal year 2024, resulting in understatements of Purchased Services: Management Fees Operating Expenses and Accounts Payable, totaling \$359,800.

Insufficient understanding of the requirements of the agreement between the School and WHLS of Ohio, LLC resulted in errors that required adjustments made by the School.

The School should take appropriate measures to ensure compliance with its Operator agreement and that related transactions are properly reported on its financial statements.

Officials' Response: The Operator submits invoices to the Treasurer each month for state revenues due to and from the School. However, the Cleveland Municipal School District (CMSD) Levy funds were not previously included in these invoices as allowable amounts due. The Operator is now aware of this oversight and will implement procedures to ensure that future invoices accurately reflect all allowable amounts, including CMSD Levy funds.

**NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2024
(Continued)**

3. FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

Equipment and Real Property Management

Finding Number:	2024-002
Assistance Listing Number and Title:	AL # 84.425 Education Stabilization Fund
Federal Award Identification Number / Year:	2024
Federal Agency:	United States Department of Education
Compliance Requirement:	Equipment and Real Property Management
Pass-Through Entity:	Ohio Department of Education and Workforce
Repeat Finding from Prior Audit?	No

Noncompliance and Material Weakness

2 CFR § 3474.1 gives regulatory effect to the Office of Budget and Management Guidance in 2 CFR § 200.313(d) for the Department of Education, which states, in part, that a control system must be in place to ensure safeguards to prevent loss, damage, or theft of the equipment. It also requires that the recipient or subrecipient maintain property records that include a description of the asset, a serial number or other source of identification (including the FAIN), the source of funding for the property and other data to identify the equipment. Finally, it requires recipients or subrecipients to perform a physical inventory of property purchased with federal funds and reconcile the inventory results to the recipient or subrecipient's property records at least once every two years.

Due to insufficient knowledge of and controls implemented over the federal requirements related to equipment, the School could not provide evidence that a physical inventory over property purchased with Education Stabilization Funds had been taken and reconciled with property records in the required timeframe. In addition, records related to capital asset purchases with Education Stabilization Funds did not contain serial or identification numbers, source of funding, who holds title, percentage of federal participation in the project costs for the federal award under which the property was acquired, and use and condition of the property, in accordance with the above requirements.

Lack of controls over equipment management and failure to complete the required inventory results in a qualified opinion on the School's Major Federal Program and could lead to misappropriation of School assets and potential questioned costs and non-compliance with federal requirements.

The School should establish control procedures over the management of equipment. Controls would include proper tagging and logging of assets and regularly scheduled inventory dates.

Officials' Response: The School's contract with management indicates that purchases of equipment for School operations and federal programs are to be handled by the management organization. Records related to capital assets purchased with Educational Stabilization Funds did not contain all the required information for the governing authority or the Treasurer to record the capital assets in the School's financial reports.

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

/Finding Number:	2024-001
Planned Corrective Action:	Effective July 1, 2025, the School contracted with C. David Massa, Massa Financial Solutions, as its Treasurer. During the transition, the new treasurer and the School's legal counsel reviewed the Operator agreement to ensure understanding and compliance with the terms of the agreement, including the shared Cleveland Municipal School District Levy funds. This was also communicated with the School's Board and the Operator to ensure accurate invoicing and recording of related transactions recorded in the financial statements.
Anticipated Completion Date:	Immediately
Responsible Contact Person:	David Massa, Treasurer
Finding Number:	2024-002
Planned Corrective Action:	The School's contract with management indicates that purchases of equipment for School operations and federal programs are to be handled by the management organization. Records related to capital assets purchased with Educational Stabilization Funds did not contain all the required information for the governing authority or the Treasurer to record the capital assets in the school's financials. The Operator will ensure future purchases of capital assets made with federal dollars are submitted to the Treasurer for review and capitalization determination and the management of recorded capital assets.
Anticipated Completion Date:	Immediately
Responsible Contact Person:	David Massa, Treasurer

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

CUYAHOGA COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 5/7/2026

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

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