



**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2025**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Wayne Trace Local School District
Paulding County
4915 U.S. Highway 127
Haviland, Ohio 45851-9738

To the Board of Education:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

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

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

Basis for Opinions

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

Emphasis of Matter – Accounting Basis

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements.

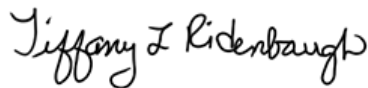
The Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – Budget Basis – General Fund and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – Budget Basis – General Fund and the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards are 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 February 24, 2026, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



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

February 24, 2026

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**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - CASH BASIS
JUNE 30, 2025

	Governmental Activities
Assets:	
Equity in pooled cash and investments	<u>\$ 18,893,338</u>
Net position:	
Restricted for:	
Classroom facilities maintenance	16,400
Debt service	63,253
State funded programs	684
Food service operations	13,960
Student activities	219,147
Other purposes	63,456
Unrestricted	<u>18,516,438</u>
Total net position	<u><u>\$ 18,893,338</u></u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

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

			Program Cash Receipts		Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
Governmental activities:					
Instruction:					
Regular	\$ 6,476,917	\$ 98,143	\$ 80,585	\$ 150,907	\$ (6,147,282)
Special	2,701,093	119,149	1,016,831		(1,565,113)
Vocational	360,226		25,638	114,366	(220,222)
Other	38,650		1,720		(36,930)
Support services:					
Pupil	841,187		192,001		(649,186)
Instructional staff	901,506		5,973		(895,533)
Board of education	99,494				(99,494)
Administration	1,196,536	4,909			(1,191,627)
Fiscal	609,315		2,535		(606,780)
Operations and maintenance	2,138,759	680	215,256	27,879	(1,894,944)
Pupil transportation	972,732				(972,732)
Central	5,719				(5,719)
Operation of non-instructional services:					
Food service operations	858,303	181,601	330,835		(345,867)
Other non-instructional services	15,624	78	15,243		(303)
Extracurricular activities	959,781	381,079	46,784		(531,918)
Debt service:					
Principal retirement	200,000				(200,000)
Interest and fiscal charges	19,978				(19,978)
Total governmental activities	<u>\$ 18,395,820</u>	<u>\$ 785,639</u>	<u>\$ 1,933,401</u>	<u>\$ 293,152</u>	<u>(15,383,628)</u>
General receipts:					
Property taxes levied for:					
General purposes					4,484,833
Debt service					104,151
Payment in lieu of taxes					1,927,559
Income taxes levied for:					
General purposes					2,689,019
Grants and entitlements not restricted					
to specific programs					5,965,432
Investment earnings					934,599
Miscellaneous					63,015
Total general receipts					<u>16,168,608</u>
Change in net position					784,980
Net position at beginning of year					<u>18,108,358</u>
Net position at end of year					<u>\$ 18,893,338</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

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

	<u>General</u>	<u>Permanent Improvement</u>	<u>Capital Projects</u>	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Assets:					
Equity in pooled cash and investments	\$ 5,963,387	\$ 8,553,051	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 376,900	\$ 18,893,338
Fund balances:					
Restricted:					
Debt service				\$ 63,253	\$ 63,253
Classroom facilities maintenance				16,400	16,400
Food service operations				13,960	13,960
State funded programs				684	684
Extracurricular activities				219,147	219,147
Other purposes				63,456	63,456
Committed:					
Capital improvements		\$ 312,288	\$ 2,000,000		2,312,288
Student and staff support	\$ 70,000				70,000
Termination benefits	293,917				293,917
Assigned:					
Student instruction	15,810				15,810
Student and staff support	111,987				111,987
Capital improvement		8,240,763	2,000,000		10,240,763
Unassigned	5,471,673				5,471,673
Total fund balances	<u>\$ 5,963,387</u>	<u>\$ 8,553,051</u>	<u>\$ 4,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 376,900</u>	<u>\$ 18,893,338</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

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

	General	Permanent Improvement	Capital Projects	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receipts:					
Property taxes	\$ 4,484,833			\$ 104,151	\$ 4,588,984
Income taxes	2,689,019				2,689,019
Intergovernmental	6,635,524			1,493,274	8,128,798
Investment earnings	931,812			5,065	936,877
Tuition and fees	209,763				209,763
Extracurricular	11,763			377,382	389,145
Rental income	680				680
Charges for services	4,048			182,003	186,051
Contributions and donations	12,788			14,125	26,913
Payment in lieu of taxes	1,927,559				1,927,559
Miscellaneous	50,227			46,784	97,011
Total receipts	<u>16,958,016</u>			<u>2,222,784</u>	<u>19,180,800</u>
Disbursements:					
Current:					
Instruction:					
Regular	6,019,761	\$ 197,473		259,683	6,476,917
Special	2,205,086			496,007	2,701,093
Vocational	209,481			150,745	360,226
Other	37,654			996	38,650
Support services:					
Pupil	839,068	2,119			841,187
Instructional staff	866,880	28,653		5,973	901,506
Board of education	99,494				99,494
Administration	1,196,536				1,196,536
Fiscal	601,144			8,171	609,315
Operations and maintenance	1,358,623	507,819		272,317	2,138,759
Pupil transportation	721,864	250,868			972,732
Central	5,719				5,719
Operation of non-instructional services:					
Food service operations				858,303	858,303
Other non-instructional services	165	8,846		6,613	15,624
Extracurricular activities	477,150	63,319		419,312	959,781
Debt service:					
Principal retirement	54,541			145,459	200,000
Interest and fiscal charges				19,978	19,978
Total disbursements	<u>14,693,166</u>	<u>1,059,097</u>		<u>2,643,557</u>	<u>18,395,820</u>
Excess of receipts over (under) disbursements	<u>2,264,850</u>	<u>(1,059,097)</u>		<u>(420,773)</u>	<u>784,980</u>
Other financing sources (uses):					
Transfers in		2,689,019	\$ 2,000,000	80,000	4,769,019
Transfers (out)	(4,769,019)				(4,769,019)
Advances in	208,637			239,449	448,086
Advances (out)	(239,449)			(208,637)	(448,086)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(4,799,831)</u>	<u>2,689,019</u>	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u>110,812</u>	
Net change in fund balances	(2,534,981)	1,629,922	2,000,000	(309,961)	784,980
Fund balances at beginning of year	<u>8,498,368</u>	<u>6,923,129</u>	<u>2,000,000</u>	<u>686,861</u>	<u>18,108,358</u>
Fund balances at end of year	<u>\$ 5,963,387</u>	<u>\$ 8,553,051</u>	<u>\$ 4,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 376,900</u>	<u>\$ 18,893,338</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

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

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF THE DISTRICT AND REPORTING ENTITY

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

The District was established in 1971. The District serves an area of approximately 178 square miles consisting of the Villages of Payne and Grover Hill, and portions of Benton, Harrison, Blue Creek, Paulding, Latty, and Washington Townships. It is staffed by 51 non-certified employees and 79 certified full-time teaching personnel who provide services to 956 students and other community members.

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

The District is associated with three jointly governed organizations and four group purchasing pools. These organizations include the Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative, State Support Team Region 1, Vantage Career Center, Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council, Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority, Ohio SchoolComp Workers’ Compensation Group Rating Plan, and TIPS Purchasing Cooperative. These organizations are presented in Notes 13 and 14 of the financial statements.

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

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

A. Basis of Accounting

Although Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (B) requires the District’s financial report to follow generally accepted accounting principles, the District chooses to prepare its financial statements and notes in accordance with the cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The District recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred. The accompanying financial statements omit assets, liabilities, net position/fund balances, and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time. The District can be fined, and various other administrative remedies may be taken against the District.

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in the preceding paragraph.

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

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

B. Basis of Presentation

The District's basic financial statements consist of government-wide financial statements, including a statement of net position and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements, which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis and Statement of Activities – Cash Basis display information about the District as a whole. The statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental receipts, or other non-exchange transactions.

The Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis presents the financial condition of the governmental activities of the District at fiscal year-end. The Statement of Activities – Cash Basis compares disbursements with program receipts for each program or function of the District's governmental activities. Disbursements are reported by function. A function is a group of related activities designed to accomplish a major service or regulatory program for which the government is responsible. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program, grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program and interest earned on grants that is required to be used to support a particular program. Receipts, which are not classified as program receipts, are presented as general receipts of the District with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general receipts of the District.

FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

C. Fund Accounting

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

Governmental Funds

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

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

Permanent Improvement Fund – This fund is used to account for all transactions related to the acquiring, constructing, or improving of the District's permanent improvements.

Capital Projects Fund – This fund is used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

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

Other governmental funds of the District are used to account for (a) specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to an expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects, and (b) financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditures for principal and interest.

D. Budgetary Process

The budgetary process is prescribed by provisions of the Ohio Revised Code and entails the preparation of budgetary documents within an established timetable. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the certificate of estimated resources, and the appropriation resolution, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The certificate of estimated resources and the appropriations resolution are subject to amendment throughout the year with the legal restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources, as certified.

All funds, other than custodial funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The primary level of budgetary control selected by the Board is at the fund-object level for the General Fund, and fund level for all other funds. Any budgetary modifications at this level may only be made by resolution of the Board of Education.

Tax Budget

A budget of estimated cash receipts and disbursements is submitted to the County Auditor, as Secretary of the County Budget Commission, by January 20 of each year, for the period July 1 to June 30 of the following fiscal year.

Estimated Resources

The County Budget Commission certifies its actions to the District by March 1. As part of this certification, the District receives the official certificate of estimated resources, which states the projected receipts of each fund. On or about July 1 this certificate is amended to include any unencumbered balances from the preceding fiscal year. Prior to June 30, the District must revise its budget so that the total contemplated expenditures from a fund during the ensuing fiscal year will not exceed the amount stated in the certificate of estimated resources. The revised budget then serves as the basis for the annual appropriation measure. Budget receipts as shown in the accompanying financial statements do not include July 1, 2025 unencumbered fund balances. However, those fund balances are available for appropriations.

Appropriations

Temporary appropriation measure to control cash disbursements may be passed on or about July 1 of each year for the period July 1 to September 30. An annual appropriation measure must be passed by October 1 of each year for the period July 1 to June 30. The appropriation measure may be amended or supplemented during the year as new information becomes available. Appropriations may not exceed estimated resources.

The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation resolution for that fund that covered the entire fiscal year, including amounts automatically carried forward from prior fiscal years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the Board of Education during the fiscal year.

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

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

Encumbrances

The District is required to use the encumbrance method of accounting by virtue of Ohio law. Under this system, purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of funds are recorded in order to reserve the portion of the applicable appropriation. Expenditures plus encumbrances may not legally exceed appropriations. Encumbrances at year-end are reported as a reservation of fund balance for subsequent-year expenditures for governmental funds and may be reported as part of restricted, committed, or assigned classifications of fund balance.

Lapsing of Appropriations

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

E. Cash and Investments

To improve cash management, all cash received by the District Treasurer is pooled. Monies for all funds, including fiduciary funds, are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through District accounting records. Interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in pooled cash and investments."

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

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

During fiscal year 2025, the District invested in negotiable and nonnegotiable certificates of deposits, U.S. Treasury bills, federal agency securities (FHLB), repurchase agreement, and U.S. Government mutual funds. Investments are reported at cost basis.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Education has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest receipts for the General Fund during fiscal year 2025 were \$931,812, which includes approximately \$565,013 interest assigned from other District funds.

F. Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. The financial statements do not report these assets. Depreciation is not recorded on these capital assets.

G. Accumulated Leave

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

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

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

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

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

H. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

The District recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 10 and 11, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

I. Long-Term Debt

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

J. Inventory and Prepaid Items

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

K. Interfund Receivables/Payables

The District reports advances in and advances out for interfund loans. These items are not reflected as assets and liabilities in the accompanying financial statements.

L. Interfund Transactions

During the course of normal operations, the District has numerous transactions between funds. The most significant include:

1. Transfers of resources from one fund to another fund through which resources are to be expended are recorded as transfers.
2. Reimbursements from one fund to another are treated as expenditures/disbursements in the reimbursing fund and a reduction in expenditures/disbursement in the reimbursed fund.

M. Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

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

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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(Continued)**

N. Equity Classifications

GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENTS

Equity is classified as Net Position, and displayed in separate components:

- a. Restricted Net Position – Consists of Net Position with constraints placed on the use either by (1) external groups such as creditors, grantors, contributors, or laws and regulations of other governments, or (2) law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.
- b. Unrestricted Net Position – All other Net Position that do not meet the definition of “restricted.”

Net Position restricted for other purposes include resources restricted for scholarships, student managed activity, and miscellaneous grants. The District’s policy is to first apply restricted resources when a cash disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted Net Position is available. There was no Net Position restricted by enabling legislation as of June 30, 2025.

O. Fund Balance

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

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

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

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

Assigned – Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. These amounts are assigned by the District’s Board of Education. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the District Board of Education or a District official delegated by that authority by resolution or by State Statute. State statute authorizes the District’s Treasurer to assign fund balance for purchases on order provided such amounts have been lawfully appropriated.

Unassigned – Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the General Fund and includes amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance.

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

P. New Accounting Pronouncements

For fiscal year 2025, the District implemented GASB Statement No. 102, Certain Risk Disclosures, but had no disclosures related to concentrations or constraints. This GASB pronouncement relates to note disclosure only and had no effect on beginning net position/fund balance.

NOTE 3 – ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

A. Change in Accounting Principles

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

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

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

B. Compliance

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

NOTE 4 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

Monies held by the District are classified by State statute into three categories.

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

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

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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(Continued)**

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

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

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

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality, including but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and Government National Mortgage Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided that the fair value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and that the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio or local governments, and with certain limitations including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met;
5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
7. The State Treasurer's investment pool, (STAR Ohio);
8. Certain bankers' acceptances (for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days) and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage and short selling are also prohibited. Except as noted above, an investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the District, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity. Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of securities representing the investments to the treasurer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

A. Cash on Hand

At fiscal year end, the District had \$109 in undeposited cash on hand which is included on the financial statements of the District as part of "Equity in pooled cash and investments."

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025
(Continued)

B. Deposits with Financial Institutions

At June 30, 2025, the carrying amount of all District deposits was \$14,739,125 and the bank balance of all District deposits was \$14,841,049. As of June 30, 2025, of the District's bank balance, \$14,230,307 was covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), \$26,074 was covered by a line of credit pledged by the financial institution, and \$584,668 was covered by pooled collateral through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS). Although all statutory requirements for the deposit of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the District to a successful claim by the FDIC.

C. Investments

As of June 30, 2025, the District had the following investments and maturities:

Investment Type	Balance at Carrying Value	Balance at Fair Value	Investments Maturities		
			6 months or less	13 to 18 months	19 to 24 months
Negotiable CD's	\$ 737,000	\$ 733,833	\$ 245,651		\$ 488,182
U.S. Treasury bills	2,591,220	2,615,241	2,615,241		
FHLB	750,000	722,378		\$ 722,378	
Repurchase agreement	75,137	75,137	75,137		
U.S. Government mutual fund	747	747	747		
Total	<u>\$ 4,154,104</u>	<u>\$ 4,147,336</u>	<u>\$ 2,936,776</u>	<u>\$ 722,378</u>	<u>\$ 488,182</u>

The weighted average maturity of investments is 0.59 years.

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 District's investment policy limits investment portfolio maturities to five years or less.

Credit Risk: The District's investments in federal agency securities and the federal agency securities that underlie the repurchase agreement were rated AA+ and Aa1 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Services, respectively. The negotiable CD's, U.S. Treasury bill and U.S. Government mutual fund were not rated. The federal agency securities (FHLB) were rated AA+ and Aa1 by Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Services, respectively. The District's investment policy does not specifically address credit risk beyond the adherence to all relevant sections of the Ohio Revised Code.

Custodial Credit Risk: For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the District will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The federal agency securities are exposed to custodial credit risk in that they are uninsured, unregistered and held by the counterparty's trust department or agent, but not in the District's name. Of the District's investment in a repurchase agreement, the entire balance is collateralized by underlying securities that are held by the investment's counterparty, not in the name of the District. Ohio law requires the fair value of the securities subject to repurchase agreements must exceed the principal value of securities subject to a repurchase agreement by 2 percent. The District has no investment policy dealing with investment custodial risk beyond the requirement in State statute that prohibits payment for investments prior to the delivery of the securities representing such investments to the Treasurer or qualified trustee.

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025
(Continued)**

Concentration of Credit Risk: The District places no limit on the amount that may be invested in any one issuer other than for commercial paper and banker's acceptances. The following table includes the percentage of each investment type held by the District at June 30, 2025:

<u>Investment type</u>	<u>Carrying Value</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Negotiable CD's	\$ 737,000	\$ 733,833	17.69
U.S. Treasury bills	2,591,220	2,615,241	63.06
FHLB	750,000	722,378	17.42
Repurchase agreement	75,137	75,137	1.81
U.S. Government mutual fund	747	747	0.02
Total	<u>\$ 4,154,104</u>	<u>\$ 4,147,336</u>	<u>100.00</u>

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

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

<u>Cash and Investments Per Note</u>	
Carrying amount of deposits	\$ 14,739,125
Investments	4,154,104
Cash on hand	109
Total	<u>\$ 18,893,338</u>
<u>Cash and Investments Per Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis</u>	
Governmental activities	<u>\$ 18,893,338</u>

NOTE 5 – PROPERTY TAXES

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

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

Public utility property tax revenues received in calendar year 2025 represent the collection of calendar year 2024 taxes. Public utility real and tangible personal property taxes received in calendar year 2025 became a lien on December 31, 2023, were levied after April 1, 2024 and are collected with real property taxes. Public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value; public utility tangible personal property is currently assessed at varying percentages of true value.

The District receives property taxes from Paulding, Van Wert, and Putnam Counties. The County Auditors periodically advances to the District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2025, are available to finance fiscal year 2025 operations. The amount of second-half real property taxes available for advance at fiscal year-end can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent.

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025
(Continued)**

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

	2024 Second Half Collections		2025 First Half Collections	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Agricultural/residential and other real estate	\$ 174,995,590	77.72	\$ 177,122,840	77.09
Public utility personal	<u>50,165,520</u>	<u>22.28</u>	<u>52,639,800</u>	<u>22.91</u>
Total	<u>\$ 225,161,110</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>\$ 229,762,640</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for:				
General	\$25.70		\$25.70	
Debt service	0.50		0.50	

NOTE 6 – INCOME TAX

The District levies a tax of 1.25 percent for general operations on the income of residents and of estates. Of the overall 1.25 percent taxes, .75 percent is a five-year renewable tax, last renewed in May 2020; .5 percent of the income tax is a continuing tax. Employers of residents are required to withhold income tax on compensation and remit the tax to the State. Taxpayers are required to file an annual return. The State makes quarterly distributions to the District after withholding amounts for administrative fees and estimated refunds. Income tax receipts are credited to the General Fund.

NOTE 7 – PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES

According to State law and Senate Bill 232, qualifying energy projects are exempt from real and personal property taxation, instead requiring project owners to make payments in lieu of taxes based on generating capacity and other factors. The effect is to tax personal property used in a renewable or advanced energy project favorably for developers. The Ohio Department of Development certifies qualifying energy projects. Certified project owners make annual service payments in lieu of taxes to the county in which the exempted property is located. This payment in lieu of tax monies are then distributed in the same manner as the tangible personal property tax to localities and school districts. Payment in lieu of taxes, received by the District, for such qualifying energy projects in fiscal year 2025 were \$1,927,559.

NOTE 8 – DEBT

Debt obligations of the District at June 30, 2025 consisted of the following:

	Balance Outstanding June 30, 2024	Reductions	Balance Outstanding June 30, 2025	Amount Due in One Year
<u>General Obligation Bonds</u>				
2018 Refunding Bonds				
Current interest bonds	<u>\$ 1,050,000</u>	<u>\$ (200,000)</u>	<u>\$ 850,000</u>	<u>\$ 205,000</u>

Series 2018 Refunding Bonds – During fiscal year 2018, the District issued \$2,180,000 in general obligation bonds to refund \$2,545,000 of the Series 2010 General Obligation Refunding Bonds. The issuance proceeds were used to purchase securities which were placed in an irrevocable trust to provide resources for all future debt service payments on the refunded debt. This refunded debt is considered defeased.

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(Continued)**

The issue is comprised of current interest bonds, par value \$2,180,000. The interest rates on the current interest bonds range from 2.00 percent – 2.20 percent.

Interest payments on the current interest bonds are due on June 1 and December 1 of each year. The final maturity stated in the issue is December 1, 2028.

The net carrying amount of the old debt exceeded the reacquisition price by \$2,133,592. This amount is being netted against the new debt and amortized over the remaining life of the refunding debt, which has a final maturity date of December 1, 2028. This advance refunding was undertaken to reduce the combined total debt service payments by \$546,918 and resulted in an economic gain of \$112,913.

The following is a summary of the future debt service requirements to maturity for the series 2018 refunding bonds:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	2018 Refunding Bonds		
	Current Interest Bonds		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2026	\$ 205,000	\$ 15,928	\$ 220,928
2027	210,000	11,778	221,778
2028	215,000	7,259	222,259
2029	220,000	2,420	222,420
Total	\$ 850,000	\$ 37,385	\$ 887,385

Legal Debt Margin

The Ohio Revised Code provides that voted net general obligation debt of the District shall never exceed 9 percent of the total assessed valuation of the District. The code further provides that unvoted indebtedness shall not exceed 1/10 of 1 percent of the property valuation of the District. The code additionally states that unvoted indebtedness related to energy conservation debt shall not exceed 9/10 of 1 percent of the property valuation of the District. The assessed valuation used in determining the District's legal debt margin has been modified by House Bill 530 which became effective March 30, 2006. In accordance with House Bill 530, the assessed valuation used in the District's legal debt margin calculation excluded tangible personal property used in business, telephone or telegraph property, interexchange telecommunications company property, and personal property owned or leased by a railroad company and used in railroad operations. The effects of these debt limitations at June 30, 2025, are a voted debt margin of \$19,891,891 (including available funds of \$63,253) and an unvoted debt margin of \$229,763.

NOTE 9 – RISK MANAGEMENT

1. Property and Liability

The District is exposed to various risks related to torts, theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets, error and omissions, injuries to employees and natural disasters. During fiscal year 2025, the District contracted with Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority for property, fleet, violence and liability insurance in the amounts as follows:

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(Continued)**

Bodily Injury and Property Damage	\$ 15,000,000
Personal Injury/Advertising Liability	15,000,000
Products/Completed Operations Aggregate Limit	15,000,000
General Annual Aggregate	17,000,000
Fire Legal Liability	500,000
Medical Payments Any One Person	10,000/25,000
Errors or Omissions	1,000,000
Errors or Omissions Aggregate	15,000,000
Employment Practices Liability	15,000,000
Employment Practices Liability Aggregate	15,000,000
Owned/Leased Vehicles	15,000,000
Medical Payments	10,000/25,000
Uninsured Motorist	1,000,000
Automobile Physical Damage (5 year or new vehicles)	Replacement Cost
Property per Occurrence Limit	
Employee Dishonesty/Faithful Performance of Duty	1,000,000
Forgery or Alteration	1,000,000
Computer Fraud	1,000,000
Money & Securities – In	1,000,000
Money & Securities – Out	1,000,000

Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three fiscal years. There has been no significant reduction in insurance coverage since fiscal year 2023.

2. Health Care Benefits

The District participates in the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council (EPC). EPC is a council of governments with over 40 years of shared services experience, pooling the purchasing power of 109 Ohio Districts. Member districts benefit from the EPC's ability to aggregate volumes on goods and services as health and dental insurance. The EPC self-insures up to a maximum amount per individual and purchases excess coverage through Anthem Insurance.

3. Workers' Compensation

The District participated in the Ohio SchoolComp Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (the Plan), an insurance purchasing pool which is administered by Sedgwick. The Plan is intended to reduce premiums for the participants. The workers' compensation experience of the participating school districts is calculated as one experience, and a common premium rate is applied to all school districts in the Plan. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the Plan rather than its individual rate.

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

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 10 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability/Asset

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

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

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

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

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

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

Plan Description – School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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(Continued)**

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

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

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

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

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10.00 percent of their annual covered salary and the District is required to contribute 14.00 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 10.00 percent for plan members and 14.00 percent for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System's funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.00 percent. For fiscal year 2025, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$291,795 for fiscal year 2025.

Plan Description – State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

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

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. The calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of credited service. Effective August 1, 2023, any member can retire with unreduced benefits with 34 years of services credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 65. Effective June 1, 2025 – July 1, 2027, any member can retire with unreduced benefits with 33 years of service credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 65. Effective on or after August 1, 2027, any member can retire with unreduced benefits with 34 years of service credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 65.

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0 percent upon a determination by its actuary that it was necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients' base benefit and past cost of living increases are not affected by this change. Effective July 1, 2022, an ad-hoc COLA of 3 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2023 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2018. Effective July 1, 2023, a permanent 1 percent COLA of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2024 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2019.

Eligibility changes for DB Plan members who retire with actuarially reduced benefits effective August 1, 2023, can retire with 29 years of service credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 60. Effective June 1, 2025 – July 1, 2027, retirement eligibility for reduced benefits is 28 years of service credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 60. Effective on or after August 1, 2027, retirement eligibility for reduced benefits is 29 years of service credit at any age; or five years of service credit and age 60.

The DC Plan allows members to place all of their member contributions and 11.09 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.

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

Funding Policy – Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The fiscal year 2025 employer and employee contribution rate of 14 percent was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For fiscal year 2025, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The District's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$798,917 for fiscal year 2025.

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(Continued)

Net Pension Liability

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Prior Measurement Date	0.047139400%	0.039487820%	
Current Measurement Date	<u>0.046222400%</u>	<u>0.039316500%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.000917000%</u>	<u>-0.000171320%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 2,364,552	\$ 7,565,130	\$ 9,929,682

Actuarial Assumptions – SERS

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

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations. Future benefits for all current plan members were projected through 2137.

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

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

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(Continued)**

Inflation	2.4 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
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
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of System expenses
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)

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

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

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined by using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS' *Statement of Investment Policy*. Ohio Revised Code Section 3309.15 and the Board-adopted Investment Policy govern investment activity at SERS. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. As of June 30, 2024:

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

Discount Rate – Total pension liability for 2024 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The discount rate determination did not use a municipal bond rate. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employers would contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate of projected compensation over the remaining 20-year amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The actuarially determined contribution rate for fiscal year 2024 was 14 percent. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return, 7.00 percent. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members.

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(Continued)**

Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability. The annual money-weighted rate of return, calculated as the internal rate of return on pension plan investments, for fiscal year 2024 was 9.31 percent.

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

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 3,617,436	\$ 2,364,552	\$ 1,309,690

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2024, actuarial valuations 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)	0.0 percent, effective July 1, 2017

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

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2024 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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

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(Continued)**

Asset Class	Target Allocation*	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return **
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.90 %
International Equity	22.00	7.70
Alternatives	19.00	9.10
Fixed Income	22.00	4.50
Real Estate	10.00	5.10
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	2.40
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

**10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.40 percent and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS' investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

Discount Rate – The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 2024. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with the rates described previously. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS' fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2024. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2024.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate – The following table represents the District'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 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:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 12,203,880	\$ 7,565,130	\$ 3,641,544

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

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

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

NOTE 11 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

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

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025
(Continued)**

Plan Description – School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

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

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

Funding Policy – State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, SERS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2025, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2025, the District's surcharge obligation was \$33,793.

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 District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$33,793 for fiscal year 2025.

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(Continued)

Plan Description – State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

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

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

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

The net OPEB liability/asset was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability/asset was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset was based on the District's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability:			
Prior Measurement Date	0.048293300%	0.039487820%	
Current Measurement Date	0.047089900%	0.039316500%	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.001203400%</u>	<u>-0.000171320%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the:			
Net OPEB Liability	\$ 479,609		\$ 479,609
Net OPEB (Asset)		\$ (745,759)	\$ (745,759)

Actuarial Assumptions – SERS

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

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

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

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

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

Mortality rates among healthy retirees were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Mortality rates for contingent survivors were based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Contingent Survivor mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 105.5 percent for males and adjusted 122.5 percent for females. Mortality rates for actives is based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table. Mortality rates are projected using a fully generational projection with Scale MP-2020.

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

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(Continued)**

The long-term expected rate on plan assets of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial five-year experience study. The most recent five-year experience study was performed for the period covering fiscal years 2016 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board on April 15, 2021. Several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a long-normal distribution analysis in which best estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected return, net of investment expense and inflation) were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.00 percent, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. As of June 30, 2024:

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

Discount Rate – The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2024, was 4.88 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2024, was 4.27 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the contribution rate of 1.50 percent of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is projected to be depleted in 2059 by SERS' actuaries. The Fidelity General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index Rate was used in the determination of the single equivalent interest rate for both the June 30, 2023 and the June 30, 2024 total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate was 3.93 percent at June 30, 2024 and 3.86 percent at June 30, 2023.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates – The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the proportionate share of the net OPEB liability, what the proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.88 percent) and higher (5.88 percent) than the current discount rate (4.88 percent). Also shown is what the proportionate share of the net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (6.00 percent decreasing to 3.40 percent) and higher (8.00 percent decreasing to 5.40 percent) than the current rate (7.00 percent decreasing to 4.40 percent).

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	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 639,541	\$ 479,609	\$ 352,521

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Trend Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 324,197	\$ 479,609	\$ 683,884

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

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

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

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

Healthy retirees post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110 percent for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020; pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95 percent for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP2020. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2024 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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(Continued)

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation*	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return **
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.90 %
International Equity	22.00	7.70
Alternatives	19.00	9.10
Fixed Income	22.00	4.50
Real Estate	10.00	5.10
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	2.40
Total	100.00 %	

* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

**10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.40 percent and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS' investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

Discount Rate – The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 2024. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed STRS continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on those assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2024. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected health care costs to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2024.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate – The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2024, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00 percent, as well as what the proportionate share of the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent) or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current assumption. Also shown is the proportionate share of the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 606,351	\$ 745,759	\$ 867,074

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 875,269	\$ 745,759	\$ 590,007

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

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

NOTE 12 – SET ASIDE REQUIREMENTS

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

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

	<u>Capital Improvements</u>
Set-aside balance June 30, 2024	
Current year set-aside requirement	\$ 215,060
Current year offsets	<u>(2,689,019)</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ (2,473,959)</u></u>

NOTE 13 – JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative – The District is a participant in the Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative (NOACSC) which is a computer consortium. NOACSC is an association of public school districts within the boundaries of Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Seneca, Van Wert, Wood, and Wyandot Counties, and the cities of St. Marys and Wapakoneta. The organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology, with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment, to administrative and instructional functions among member educational entities. The governing board of NOACSC consists of two representatives from each county elected by majority vote of all charter member entities within each county plus one representative from the fiscal agent school district. Financial information can be obtained from Ben Thaxton, who serves as director, at 4277 East Road, Elida, Ohio 45807.

State Support Team Region 1 – The State Support Team Region 1 (SSTR1) provides specialized core work related to building regional capacity for district, building, and community school implementation of the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) at a high level. The service region of the SSTR1 includes Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood Counties. The fiscal agent for the SSTR1 is the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West. The SSTR1 Executive Director and Single Point of Contact is Lynn McKahan. Contact information is available at www.sstr1.org.

Vantage Career Center – Vantage Career Center is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio operated under the direction of a Board consisting of one representative from each of the participating school districts' elected boards, which possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. To obtain financial information, write to the Vantage Career Center, Denise Mooney, who serves as Treasurer, at 818 North Franklin Street, Van Wert, Ohio 45891.

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

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

NOTE 14 – GROUP PURCHASING POOLS

Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council – The District participates in the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council, a Council of Governments, defined as a purchasing pool (the Program). The Program has an eleven-member Executive Board. All members of the Executive Board are elected from Superintendents, Administrators, Business Managers and Treasurers of active members of the Program. The Program is an unincorporated nonprofit association of its members, which enables the participants to provide for a formalized joint purchasing program to maintain adequate insurance protection and provide risk management programs and other administrative services for medical and dental insurance coverage to the employees of the participants.

The District also uses the bus bidding services and educational supply bidding services of the Program. The health program that is offered is with Anthem and the dental program offered is with Delta Dental and the Life Plan is with Securian Life Insurance. For more information please contact Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council, Ken Swink, Director, at 303 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 208, Vandalia, Ohio 45377.

Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority – The District participates in the Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA), which was established in 2002 pursuant to Articles of Incorporation filed under Chapter 1702 of the Ohio Revised Code – Non-Profit Corporations and functioning under authority granted by Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code. SORSA's purpose is to provide a joint self-insurance pool to assist member school districts in preventing and reducing losses and injuries to property and persons which might result in claims being made against members of SORSA, their employees or officers.

A nine-person Board of Directors manages the business and affairs of SORSA and is elected annually by the members of the pool. The Board of Directors consists of superintendents, treasurers, or business managers from the participating school districts. The District works with UIS Insurance and Investments, a local agent as a liaison between SORSA and the District. SORSA employs an Executive Director, Program Manager Risk Control Manager, and Claims Manager. Claims are handled in-hours by Claims Manager, Greg Gilliam. Additional information can be obtained from SORSA at 555 Metro Place North, Suite 645, Dublin, Ohio 43017 or by calling 866-767-7299.

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

TIPS Purchasing Cooperative – The Interlocal Purchasing System, known as TIPS Purchasing Cooperative began in 2002. They service school districts in improving student performance and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of school operations. The governing board consists of a seven-member Board of Directors, elected by local school board members, and an Executive Director, appointed by the Board of Directors located in Texas. Ohio permits agreements with Interlocal Purchasing System. TIPS has a strict Competitive Procurement Process. For more information about TIPS please visit their website at <https://www.tips-usa.com/index.cfm>.

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

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

NOTE 15 – INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS

- A.** Interfund transfers for the year ended June 30, 2025, consisted of the following, as reported on the fund statements:

<u>Transfers from the General Fund to:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Permanent Improvement Fund	\$ 2,689,019
Capital Projects Fund	2,000,000
Nonmajor Governmental Fund	80,000
Total	<u>\$ 4,769,019</u>

Transfers are used to move revenues from the fund that statute or budget required to collect them to the fund that statute or budget requires to expend them and to use unrestricted revenues collected in the General Fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorizations. Interfund transfers between governmental funds are eliminated on the government-wide financial statements.

- B.** Advances for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, as reported on the fund statements, consist of the following:

<u>Advances from General Fund to:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Nonmajor Governmental Funds	\$ 239,449
<u>Advances from Nonmajor Governmental Funds to:</u>	
General Fund	208,637
Total advances	<u>\$ 448,086</u>

Interfund balances at June 30, 2025, consisted of \$239,449 advanced to Nonmajor Governmental Funds to provide working capital for operation or projects. The interfund receivables/payables are expected to be repaid within one year. Interfund advances between governmental funds are eliminated on the government-wide financial statements, therefore, no advances are reported on the statement of activities.

NOTE 16 – CONTINGENCIES

A. Grants

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

B. Litigation

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

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

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

NOTE 17 – COMMITMENTS

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

Fund	Year-end Encumbrances
General Fund	\$ 151,463
Permanent Improvement Fund	355,665
Nonmajor Governmental Fund	56,977
Total	<u>\$ 564,105</u>

NOTE 18 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In October 2025, the Board approved a contract with Ameresco for the repair/replacement of building automation systems for HVAC for three District buildings in the amount of \$1,734,539. The project is to be paid out of the Permanent Improvement Fund.

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

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

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts	Variance with
	Original	Final	Budgetary Basis	Final Budget - Over (Under) Actual Amounts
Budgetary receipts and other financing sources	\$ 16,899,626	\$ 17,137,614	\$ 17,137,614	
Budgetary disbursements and other financing uses				
Salaries and wages	7,041,024	7,204,083	7,204,083	
Fringe benefits	3,650,784	3,585,336	3,585,336	
Purchased services	2,866,568	3,105,583	3,105,583	
Materials and supplies	680,000	565,770	565,770	
Other operating expenses	382,301	349,913	349,913	
Other uses of funds	2,250,000	5,311,384	5,311,384	
Total budgetary disbursements and other financing uses	16,870,677	20,122,069	20,122,069	
Net change in fund balance	28,949	(2,984,455)	(2,984,455)	
Budgetary fund balance at beginning of year	8,411,816	8,411,816	8,411,816	
Prior year encumbrances appropriated	44,312	44,312	44,312	
Budgetary fund balance at end of year	<u>\$ 8,485,077</u>	<u>\$ 5,471,673</u>	<u>\$ 5,471,673</u>	

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

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

NOTE 1 – BUDGETARY PROCESS

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

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

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

	<u>General Fund</u>
Budgetary basis	\$ (2,984,455)
Funds budgeted elsewhere	298,598
Outstanding encumbrances	<u>150,876</u>
Cash basis	<u><u>\$ (2,534,981)</u></u>

As part of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, “Fund Balance Reporting”, certain funds that are legally budgeted in separate Special Revenue Funds are considered part of the General Fund. This includes the Public School Support Fund and Severance and Termination Benefits Fund.

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

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

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>		
<u>Child Nutrition Cluster:</u>		
School Breakfast Program		
Cash Assistance	10.553	\$ 80,032
National School Lunch Program		
Cash Assistance	10.555	215,181
Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution)	10.555	48,368
Total National School Lunch Program		<u>263,549</u>
Total Child Nutrition Cluster		<u>343,581</u>
Direct Program		
Child Nutrition Discretionary Grants Limited Availability	10.579	<u>125,056</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		<u>468,637</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce</i>		
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	139,525
<u>Special Education Cluster:</u>		
Special Education Grants to States	84.027	253,845
Special Education Preschool Grants	84.173	<u>13,610</u>
Total Special Education Cluster		<u>267,455</u>
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	25,133
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	12,686
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund		
American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER III)	84.425U	<u>156,521</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education		<u>601,320</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards		<u>\$ 1,069,957</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR § 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

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

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

NOTE C – INDIRECT COST RATE

The District has elected not to use the 10-percent / 15-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE D – CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

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

NOTE E – FOOD DONATION PROGRAM

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



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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**

Wayne Trace Local School District
Paulding County
4915 U.S. Highway 127
Haviland, Ohio 45851-9738

To the Board of Education:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Wayne Trace Local School District, Paulding County, Ohio (the District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated February 24, 2026, wherein we noted the District uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2025-001.

District's Response to Finding

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

Purpose of This Report

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

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



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

February 24, 2026



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

Wayne Trace Local School District
Paulding County
4915 U.S. Highway 127
Haviland, Ohio 45851-9738

To the Board of Education:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Qualified and Unmodified Opinions

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

Qualified Opinion on Education Stabilization Fund

In our opinion, except for the noncompliance described in the *Basis for Qualified and Unmodified Opinions* section of our report, Wayne Trace Local School District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on Education Stabilization Fund for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Unmodified Opinion on the Other Major Federal Program

In our opinion, Wayne Trace Local School District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its other major federal program identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Basis for Qualified and Unmodified Opinions

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

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

Matter Giving Rise to Qualified Opinion on Education Stabilization Fund

As described in finding 2025-002 in the accompanying schedule of findings, the District did not comply with requirements regarding special tests and provisions – wage rate requirements applicable to its AL #84.425 Education Stabilization Fund major federal program.

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

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

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

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

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

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

Other Matters

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District's response to the noncompliance finding identified in our compliance audit described in the accompanying schedule of findings and corrective action plan. The District'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 2025-002, 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.

Wayne Trace Local School District
Paulding County
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements
Applicable to Each Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over
Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance
Page 4

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District'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 District'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.

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



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

February 24, 2026

**WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PAULDING COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2025**

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	Yes
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any material 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 Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unmodified for all major programs except for Education Stabilization Fund, which we qualified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?	Yes
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Programs (list):	Child Nutrition Cluster Education Stabilization Fund – AL #84.425
(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

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

FINDING NUMBER 2025-001

Noncompliance

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

Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(B) requires the District to file annual financial reports which are prepared using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

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

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

Officials' Response:

See Corrective Action Plan

3. FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

Appendix II to Part 200 Prevailing Wage Requirements

Finding Number:	2025-002
Assistance Listing Number and Title:	AL # 84.425 Education Stabilization Fund
Federal Award Identification Number / Year:	2025
Federal Agency:	U.S. Department of Education
Compliance Requirement:	Special Tests and Provisions – Wage Rate Requirements
Pass-Through Entity:	Ohio Department of Education and Workforce
Repeat Finding from Prior Audit?	No

Noncompliance and Material Weakness

Appendix II to **2 CFR Part 200** states, in part, all contracts made by the non-Federal entity under the Federal award must contain provisions covering the following: (D) Davis-Bacon Act, as amended (40 U.S.C. 3141-3148). When required by Federal program legislation, all prime construction contracts in excess of \$2,000 awarded by non-Federal entities must include a provision for compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 3141-3144, and 3146-3148) as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR Part 5, "Labor Standards Provisions Applicable to Contracts Covering Federally Financed and Assisted Construction"). In accordance with the statute, contractors must be required to pay wages to laborers and mechanics at a rate not less than the prevailing wages specified in a wage determination made by the Secretary of Labor. In addition, contractors must be required to pay wages not less than once a week. The non-Federal entity must place a copy of the current prevailing wage determination issued by the Department of Labor in each solicitation. The decision to award a contract or subcontract must be conditioned upon the acceptance of the wage determination. The non-Federal entity must report all suspected or reported violations to the Federal awarding agency. The contracts must also include a provision for compliance with the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (40 U.S.C. 3145), as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations (29 CFR Part 3, "Contractors and Subcontractors on Public Building or Public Work Financed in Whole or in Part by Loans or Grants from the United States"). The Act provides that each contractor or subrecipient must be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the construction, completion, or repair of public work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he or she is otherwise entitled. The non-Federal entity must report all suspected or reported violations to the Federal awarding agency.

Lack of effective controls led to the District expending \$124,621 to Lakeside Interior Contractors, Inc. for a noncompliant project of American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER III) AL #84.425U which did not meet the requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act. The District had work completed subject to the wage rate requirements with a contractor that did not contain a provision to ensure the contractor complied with those requirements and the DOL regulations (29 CFR Part 5).

Failure to have effective controls in place over wage-rate requirements may result in the District and its contractors failing to pay prevailing wages when required by Federal law and could result in reduction of future Federal funding or other sanctions imposed by Federal grantors.

When required by Federal grant legislation, the District should ensure prime construction contracts in excess of \$2,000 paid with Federal grant monies contain provisions that require the contractor to comply with wage rate requirements and the DOL regulations (29 CFR Part 5).

Officials' Response:

See Corrective Action Plan



**Wayne Trace Local
School District
Lori Davis, Treasurer
4915 US Route 127
Haviland, OH 45851**

Phone: 419-263-2415, 399-4113 or 622-6300
Fax: 419-263-2377



**SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.511(b)
JUNE 30, 2025**

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2024-001	This finding was first reported in 2004. Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code § 117-2-03(B) for reporting on a basis other than generally accepted accounting principles.	Not corrected and reissued as Finding 2025-001 in this report.	At this time, the Wayne Trace Board of Education feels it is more cost effective to file the OCBOA statement in lieu of the GAAP statement.

Building a Strong Future on the Foundation of a Solid Past

ONE DISTRICT – ONE MISSION – ONE VISION



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School District
Lori Davis, Treasurer
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**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
2 CFR § 200.511(c)
JUNE 30, 2025**

Finding Number:	2025-001
Planned Corrective Action:	At this time, the Wayne Trace Board of Education feels it is more cost effective to file the OCBOA statement in lieu of the GAAP statement. The District is aware that it may be subject to a fine for not complying with the requirement of filing the District's financial reports based on GAAP.
Anticipated Completion Date:	N/A
Responsible Contact Person:	Lori Davis, Treasurer
Finding Number:	2025-002
Planned Corrective Action:	The District will implement procedures to ensure that Davis-Bacon language is included for future projects with contractors or subcontractors to work on projects in excess of \$2,000 financed by federal assistance funds.
Anticipated Completion Date:	June 30, 2026
Responsible Contact Person:	Lori Davis, Treasurer

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



WAYNE TRACE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PAULDING 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 3/12/2026

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