



Dave Yost • Auditor of State



STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY

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# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Stepstone Academy  
Cuyahoga County  
2121 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

To the Board of Directors:

### ***Report on the Financial Statements***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Stepstone Academy, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the School), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for preparing and fairly presenting these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to opine on these financial statements based on our audit. We audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the financial audit standards in the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. Those standards require us to plan and perform the audit to reasonably assure the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit requires obtaining evidence about financial statement amounts and disclosures. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including assessing the risks of material financial statement misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In assessing those risks, we consider internal control relevant to the School's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not to the extent needed to opine on the effectiveness of the School's internal control. Accordingly, we express no opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of management's accounting policies and the reasonableness of their significant accounting estimates, as well as our evaluation of overall financial statement presentation.

We believe the audit evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to support our opinion.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Stepstone Academy, Cuyahoga County as of June 30, 2014, and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Emphasis of Matter**

As discussed in Note 13 to the financial statements, the School experienced financial difficulties at June 30, 2014. The difficulties have resulted in a deficit net position. Management's corrective action plan is described in Note 14 to the financial statements. The financial statements do not include any adjustments that might result from the outcome of this uncertainty. This matter does not affect our opinion on these financial statements.

**Other Matters**

*Required Supplementary Information*

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require this presentation to include *Management's discussion and analysis*, listed in the table of contents, to supplement the basic financial statements. Although this information is not part of the basic financial statements, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board considers it essential for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, consisting of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries to the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not opine or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to opine or provide any other assurance.

**Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards**

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 6, 2015, on our consideration of the School's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. That report describes the scope of our internal control testing over financial reporting and compliance, and the results of that testing, and does not opine on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



**Dave Yost**  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

January 6, 2015

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014  
(UNAUDITED)**

The discussion and analysis of the Stepstone Academy (the School) financial performance provides an overall review of the School's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the School's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the School's financial performance.

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

**FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

Key Financial Highlights for the School for the 2013-14 school year are as follows:

- Total assets increased by \$6,996.
- Total liabilities decreased by (\$342,639)
- Total net position increased by \$312,694.
- Total operating and non-operating revenues were \$2,852,351. Total operating expenses were \$2,539,658.

**USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT**

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

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Change in Net Position reflect how the School did financially during fiscal year 2014. These statements include all assets and deferred outflows and liabilities and deferred inflows using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting includes all of the current year revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

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

The School uses enterprise presentation for all of its activities.

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014  
(UNAUDITED)**

**Statement of Net Position**

The Statement of Net Position answers the question of how the School did financially during 2014. This statement includes all assets and deferred outflows and liabilities and deferred inflows, both financial and capital, and short-term and long-term using the accrual basis of accounting and economic resource focus, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all revenues and expenses during the year, regardless of when the cash is received or paid.

Table 1 provides a summary of the School's Net Position for fiscal years 2014 and 2013.

**Table 1  
Statement of Net Position**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets	\$ 217,636	\$ 336,824
Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	379,271	253,087
Total Assets	596,907	589,911
 <b>Liabilities</b>		
Current Liabilities	910,817	1,253,456
Total Liabilities	910,817	1,253,456
 <b>Deferred Inflows</b>	73,293	36,352
 <b>Net Position</b>		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	379,271	253,087
Unrestricted	(766,474)	(952,984)
Total Net Position	\$ (387,203)	\$ (699,897)

Over time, net position can serve as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. At June 30, 2014, the School's net position totaled \$(387,203).

Current assets represent cash and cash equivalents, intergovernmental receivable, accounts receivable, grants receivable and other assets. Current liabilities represent advances payable to the management company and accrued expenses at fiscal year-end.

Current liabilities decreased \$342,639 or 27% from the prior fiscal year as the School repaid advances payable to the management company.

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014  
(UNAUDITED)**

**Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Position**

Table 2 shows the change in net position for fiscal years 2014 and 2013, as well as a listing of revenues and expenses. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader that, for the School as a whole, the financial position of the School has improved or diminished. The cause of this may be the result of many factors, some financial, some not. Non-financial factors include the current laws in Ohio restricting revenue growth, facility conditions, required educational programs and other factors.

**Table 2  
Change in Net Position**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b>Operating Revenue</b>		
State Aid	\$ 1,619,645	\$ 848,266
Intergovernmental Revenue	10,647	5,175
Other	390	4,726
	<u>1,630,682</u>	<u>858,167</u>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Purchased Services	2,236,537	2,329,297
State Retirement	134,430	82,711
Sponsor Fees	48,051	25,448
Depreciation	120,639	75,969
	<u>2,539,657</u>	<u>2,513,425</u>
Operating (Loss)	(908,975)	(1,655,258)
<b>Non-Operating Revenues</b>		
Federal Grants	356,244	106,706
Other Intergovernmental Revenue	210,027	174,785
Fundraising Revenue	655,398	673,870
	<u>1,221,669</u>	<u>955,361</u>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<u>\$ 312,694</u>	<u>\$ (699,897)</u>

State Aid increased by \$771,379 due to an increase in full-time equivalent enrollment of approximately 98 students. Federal grant funds increased as a result of the increase in enrollments and utilization of prior year funds that were carried over from the prior fiscal year.

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014  
(UNAUDITED)**

**BUDGETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Unlike other public schools located in the State of Ohio, community schools are not required to follow budgetary provisions set forth in Ohio Rev. Code Chapter 5705 (with the exception section 5705.391 – Five Year Forecasts), unless specifically provided in the community school's contract with its Sponsor.

The contract between the School and its Sponsor does prescribe a budgetary process. The School must prepare and submit a detail budget for every fiscal year to the Board of Directors and its Sponsor. The five-year forecast is also submitted to the Ohio Department of Education, annually.

**CAPITAL ASSETS**

At fiscal year end, the School's net capital asset balance was \$379,271. This balance represents current year additions of \$265,323, including a transfer of \$18,550 from construction-in-progress, offset by current year depreciation of \$120,639. For more information on capital assets, see Note 5 of the Basic Financial Statements.

**CURRENT FINANCIAL ISSUES**

The School is a community school and is funded through the State of Ohio Foundation Program. The School relies on this, as well as, State and Federal funds as its primary source of revenue. In fiscal year 2014, the State raised the base per pupil funding to \$5,800, which is up from the \$5,745 in the previous year.

The full-time equivalent enrollment of the School for the years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013 was 205.93 and 108.35, respectively

Overall, the School will continue to provide learning opportunities and apply resources to best meet the needs of students.

**CONTACTING THE SCHOOL'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizen's, taxpayers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the School's finances and to demonstrate accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information contact C. David Massa, CPA, of Massa Financial Solutions, LLC, 2121 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 or e-mail at [dave@massasolutionsllc.com](mailto:dave@massasolutionsllc.com).

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**Statement of Net Position  
At June 30, 2014**

	<b>2014</b>
<b>Assets</b>	
<i>Current Assets:</i>	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 27,282
Intergovernmental Receivable	5,117
Accounts Receivable	152,259
Grants Receivable	20,107
Other Assets	12,871
Total Current Assets	217,636
<i>Noncurrent Assets:</i>	
<i>Capital Assets:</i>	
Depreciable Capital Assets, net	379,271
Total Noncurrent Assets	379,271
Total Assets	\$ 596,907
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<i>Current Liabilities:</i>	
Advances Payable	\$ 868,979
Accrued Expenses	41,838
Total Liabilities	\$ 910,817
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	\$ 73,293
<b>Net Position</b>	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	379,271
Unrestricted	(766,474)
Total Net Position	\$ (387,203)

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**Statement of Revenues,  
Expenses and Change in Net Position  
For the Year Ending June 30, 2014**

	<u>2014</u>
<b><u>Operating Revenues</u></b>	
State Aid	\$ 1,619,645
Intergovernmental Revenue	10,647
Other	<u>390</u>
Total Operating Revenues	1,630,682
<b><u>Operating Expenses</u></b>	
Purchased Services	2,236,537
State Retirement	134,430
Sponsor Fees	48,051
Depreciation	<u>120,639</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>2,539,657</u>
<b>Operating (Loss)</b>	(908,975)
<b><u>Non-Operating Revenues</u></b>	
Federal Grants	356,244
Other Intergovernmental Revenue	210,027
Fundraising Revenue	<u>655,398</u>
Total Non-Operating Revenues	<u>1,221,669</u>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	312,694
<b>Net Position, Beginning of Year</b>	<u>(699,897)</u>
<b>Net Position, End of Year</b>	<u><u>\$ (387,203)</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**Statement of Cash Flows  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014**

**Cash Flows from Operating Activities**

Cash Received from State of Ohio	\$ 1,644,417
Cash Received from Other Operating Sources	8,710
Cash Payments to Suppliers for Goods and Services	<u>(2,391,058)</u>
Net Cash (Used for) Operating Activities	(737,931)

**Cash Flows from Non-capital Financing Activities**

Cash Received from Federal Grants	379,846
Cash Advances from Fundraising	788,297
Cash Received from Cleveland Municipal School District	<u>193,504</u>
Net Cash Provided by Non-capital Financing Activities	1,361,647

**Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities**

Cash Payments for Capital Acquisitions	(246,823)
Cash Advances from Guidestone	1,676,681
Cash Payments to Guidestone	<u>(2,034,818)</u>
Net Cash (Used for) Capital Financing Activities	(604,960)

**Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents** 18,756

**Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year** 8,526

**Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year** \$ 27,282

**(Continued)**

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**Statement of Cash Flows  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014  
(Continued)**

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

<b>Operating Loss</b>	\$ (908,975)
Depreciation	120,639
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:	
(Increase)/ Decrease in Intergovernmental Receivable	19,654
(Increase)/ Decrease in Other Assets	8,924
Increase/ (Decrease) in Accrued Expenses	<u>21,827</u>
Net Cash (Used for) Operating Activities	<u>(737,931)</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014**

**1. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENTITY**

Stepstone Academy, (the School) is a nonprofit corporation established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapters 3314 and 1702. The School's mission is to provide an orderly and supportive environment whereby students experience preparations for college, career and life. The School operates on a foundation, which fosters character building for all students, parents and staff members. The School, which is part of the State's education program, is independent of any school district and is nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations. The School may acquire facilities as needed and contract for any services necessary for the operation of the School.

The School was approved for operation under a contract with Ohio Council of Community Schools, ("OCCS") (the Sponsor) for a five year period commencing on July 1, 2012. The Sponsor is responsible for evaluating the performance of the School and has the authority to deny renewal of the contract at its expiration or terminate the contract prior to its expiration.

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

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

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

**A. Basis of Presentation**

The School's basic financial statements consist of a Statement of Net Position, a Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Change in Net Position, and a Statement of Cash Flows. Enterprise fund reporting focuses on the determination of the changes net position, financial position and cash flows.

The Government Accounting Standards Board identifies the presentation of all financial activity to be reported within one enterprise fund for year-ending reporting purposes. Enterprise accounting is used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprise where the intent is that the cost (expense) of providing goods and services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

**B. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting**

The accounting and financial reporting treatment is determined by measurement focus. Under this measurement focus, all assets and deferred outflows and all liabilities and deferred inflows are included on the balance sheet. The operating statement presents increases (e.g., revenues) and decreases (e.g., expenses) in net total position.

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**B. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting (Continued)**

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting is used for reporting purposes. Revenues are recognized when they are earned, and expenses are recognized when they are incurred.

**C. Budgetary Process**

Unlike other public schools located in the state of Ohio, community schools are not required to follow budgetary provisions set forth in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705 (with the exception section 5705.391 – Five Year Forecasts), unless specifically provided for in the School’s sponsorship agreement. The contract between the School and its Sponsor requires a detailed budget for each year of the contract.

**D. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash received by the School is reflected as “Cash and Cash Equivalents” on the Statement of Net Position. The School did not have any investments during the period ended June 30, 2014.

**E. Estimates**

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

**F. Capital Assets and Depreciation**

Capital assets are capitalized at cost. Donated capital assets are recorded at their fair market values as of the date received. The costs of additions are capitalized and expenditures for repairs and maintenance are expensed when incurred. When property is sold or retired, the related costs and accumulated depreciation are removed from the financial records and any gain or loss is included in additions to or deductions from net position. Capital assets were \$379,271 as of June 30, 2014, net of accumulated depreciation. Depreciation of capital assets is calculated utilizing the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets which are as follows:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Useful Life</u>
Computers & Technology Assets	3 years
Leasehold Improvements	5 years
Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment	5 years
Textbooks	3 years

The School’s policy for asset capitalization threshold is \$5,000. Assets or certain asset groups not meeting the capitalization threshold are not capitalized and are not included in the assets represented in the accompany statement of net position.

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**G. Intergovernmental Revenues**

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

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

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

The School also participates in various federal programs passed through the Ohio Department of Education.

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

Under the above programs the School recorded \$1,619,645 this fiscal year from the State Foundation Program, \$356,244 from Federal Grants and \$210,027 from CMSD property taxes distributions.

**H. Compensated Absences**

Vacation is taken in a manner which corresponds with the school calendar; therefore the School does not accrue vacation time as a liability.

Sick/personal leave benefits are earned by full-time employees at the rate of eight days per year and cannot be carried into the subsequent years. No accrual for sick time is made since unused time is not paid to employees upon employment termination.

**I. Accrued Liabilities**

Obligations incurred but unpaid at June 30 are reported as accrued liabilities in the accompanying financial statements. These liabilities consisted of advances from the management company of \$868,979 and accrued expenses of \$41,838 at June 30, 2014.

**J. Exchange and Non-Exchange Transactions**

Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place. Non exchange transactions, in which the School receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlements and donations. Revenue from grants, entitlements and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted,

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**J. Exchange and Non-Exchange Transactions (Continued)**

matching requirements, in which the School must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditures requirements, in which the resources are provided to the School on a reimbursement basis.

**K. Deferred Inflows and Deferred Outflows of Resources**

A deferred inflow of resources is an acquisition of net position by the School that is applicable to a future reporting period. A deferred outflow of resources is a consumption of net position by the School that is applicable to a future reporting period. Other revenues received in advance of the fiscal year for which they were intended to finance, have been recorded as deferred inflows. Grants not received within the available period, grants and entitlements received before the eligibility requirements are met due at June 30, 2014 are recorded as deferred inflows. Receivables that will not be collected within the available period have been reported as deferred inflows of resources. The School has recorded \$73,293 of deferred inflows and has no deferred outflows of resources at June 30, 2014.

**L. Net Position**

Net position represents the difference between assets and deferred outflows and liabilities and deferred inflows. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use through external restriction imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws and regulations of other governments. The School applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available. Net position invested in capital assets consist of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowings used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets or related debt also should be included in this component of net position.

**M. Operating Revenues and Expenses**

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the primary activities of the School. For the School, these revenues are primarily the State Foundation program. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the good or service that is the primary activity of the School. All revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating. There were no non-operating expenses reported at June 30, 2014.

**N. Change in Accounting Principles**

In fiscal year 2014, the School implemented GASB Statement No. 65, "*Items Previously Reported as Assets and Liabilities*". GASB Statement No. 65 establishes accounting and financial reporting standards that reclassify, as *deferred outflows of resources or deferred inflows of resources*, certain items that were previously reported as assets and liabilities and recognizes, as outflows of resources or inflows of resources, certain items that were previously reported as assets and liabilities. GASB Statement No. 65 also provides other financial reporting guidance related to the impact of the financial statement elements *deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources*, such as changes in the determination of the major fund calculations and limiting the use of the term *deferred* in

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014**

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**N. Change in Accounting Principles (Continued)**

financial statement presentations. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 65 had no effect on beginning net position/fund balance.

**3. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

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

The School maintains its cash balances at one financial institution, PNC Bank, located in Ohio. The balances are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to \$250,000, per qualifying account. At June 30, 2014, the book amount of the School's deposits was \$27,282 and the bank balance was \$31,281.

The School had no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirement of state statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or be protected by eligible securities pledged to and deposited either with the School or a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment or by a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee to secure repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution whose market value shall be at least 105% of deposits being secured. At June 30, 2014, none of the bank balance was exposed to custodial credit risk.

**4. RECEIVABLES**

**A. Accounts Receivable**

The School has accounts receivables totaling \$152,259 at June 30, 2014. These receivables represented monies earned, but not received as of June 30, 2014.

**B. Intergovernmental Receivable**

The School has intergovernmental receivables totaling \$5,117 at June 30, 2014. These receivables represented monies due to the School from government sources, but not received as of June 30, 2014.

**C. Grants Receivable**

The School had grant receivable balances of federal grant monies totaling \$20,107 at June 30, 2014.

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014**

**5. CAPITAL ASSETS**

For the period ending June 30, 2014, the School's capital assets consisted of the following:

	<u>Balance</u> <u>06/30/13</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>06/30/14</u>
<b>Capital Assets:</b>				
Leasehold Improvements	\$ 5,200	\$ 13,420	\$ -	\$ 18,620
Computers & Technology Assets	165,715	22,829	-	188,544
Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment	127,542	214,208	-	341,750
Textbooks	12,099	-	-	12,099
Construction-in-Progress	18,500	14,866	(18,500)	14,866
<b>Total Capital Assets</b>	<b>329,056</b>	<b>265,323</b>	<b>(18,500)</b>	<b>575,879</b>
<b>Less Accumulated Depreciation:</b>				
Leasehold Improvements	(614)	(1,137)	-	(1,751)
Computers & Technology Assets	(49,634)	(62,332)	-	(111,966)
Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment	(22,118)	(53,092)	-	(75,210)
Textbooks	(3,603)	(4,078)	-	(7,681)
<b>Total Accumulated Depreciation</b>	<b>\$ (75,969)</b>	<b>\$ (120,639)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (196,608)</b>
<b>Capital Assets, Net</b>	<b>\$ 253,087</b>	<b>\$ 144,684</b>	<b>\$ (18,500)</b>	<b>\$ 379,271</b>

**6. ADVANCES PAYABLE**

The School received advances from the management company. The total amount of advances outstanding at June 30, 2014 was \$869,979.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

**Property & Liability**

The School is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014, the School contracted with The Cincinnati Insurance Company for nonprofits and maintained general liability insurance with a \$1,000,000 single occurrence limit and \$2,000,000 annual aggregate and a combined policy aggregate coverage for various liability coverage in the amount of \$10,000,000.

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014**

**8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSIONS PLANS**

**A. School Employees Retirement System (SERS Ohio)**

**Plan Description** – The School contributes to the School Employees Retirement System (SERS), a cost-sharing multiple employer pension plan. SERS provides retirement, disability, and survivor benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Chapter 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information. That report may be obtained by contacting School Employees Retirement System, 300 East Broad Street, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3746, or by calling toll free 1-800-878-5853. It is also posted at the SERS' website at [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org) under Employer/Audit Resources.

**Funding Policy** - Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the School is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current School rate is 14 percent of annual covered payroll. A portion of the School's contribution is used to fund pension obligations with the remainder being used to fund health care benefits. For fiscal year 2014, 13.05 percent and 0.05 percent of annual covered salary was the portion used to fund pension obligations and death benefits, respectively. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS' Retirement Board up to a statutory maximum amount of 10 percent for plan members and 14 percent for employers. Chapter 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions. The School's required contributions for pension obligations and death benefits to SERS for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013 was \$21,821 and \$7,200, respectively, which equaled the required contributions for each year or 100%.

**B. State Teachers Retirement System (STRS Ohio)**

**Plan Description** - The School participates in the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS Ohio), a cost-sharing, multiple-employer public employee retirement plan. STRS Ohio provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. STRS Ohio issues a stand-alone financial report that may be obtained by writing to STRS Ohio, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771, by calling (888) 227-7877, or by visiting the STRS Ohio Web site at [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org).

**Plan Options** - New members have a choice of three retirement plans, a Defined Benefit (DB) Plan, a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan and a Combined Plan. The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary times a percentage that varies based on years of service, or an allowance based on a member's lifetime contributions and earned interest matched by STRS Ohio funds divided by an actuarially determined annuity factor. The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and employer contributions equal to 10.5 percent of earned compensation into an investment account. Investment decisions are made by the member. 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 DC Plan and the DB Plan. In the Combined Plan, member contributions are invested by the member, and employer contributions are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The DB portion of the Combined Plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60; the DC portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity at age 50. Benefits are established by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code.

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014**

**8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSIONS PLANS (Continued)**

**B. State Teachers Retirement System (STRS Ohio) (Continued)**

A DB or Combined Plan member with five or more years credited service who becomes disabled may qualify for a disability benefit. Eligible spouses and dependents of these active members who die before retirement may qualify for survivor benefits. Members in the DC Plan who become disabled are entitled only to their account balance. 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** - For fiscal year 2014, plan members were required to contribute 11 percent of their annual covered salaries. The Schools was required to contribute 14 percent; 13 percent was the portion used to fund pension obligations. Contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board, upon recommendations of its consulting actuary, not to exceed statutory maximum rates of 11 percent for members and 14 percent for employers. Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code provides statutory authority for member and employer contributions.

The School's required contributions for pension obligations to STRS Ohio for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014 and 2013 was \$123,981 and \$81,585, respectively, which equaled the required contributions for the each year or 100%. There were no contributions to the DC and Combined Plans for fiscal year 2014.

**9. POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

**A. School Employee Retirement System (SERS Ohio)**

**Plan Description** - The School participates in two cost-sharing, multiple employer postemployment benefit plans administered by the School Employees Retirement System (SERS) for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries, a Health Care Plan and a Medicare Part B Plan. The Health Care Plan includes hospitalization and physicians' fees through several types of plans including HMO's, PPO's, Medicare Advantage, and traditional indemnity plans. A prescription drug program is also available to those who elect health coverage. SERS employs two third-party administrators and a pharmacy benefit manager to manage the self-insurance and prescription drug plans, respectively. The Medicare Part B Plan reimburses Medicare Part B premiums paid by eligible retirees and beneficiaries as set forth in Chapter 3309.69 of the Ohio Revised Code. Qualified benefit recipients who pay Medicare Part B premiums may apply for and receive a monthly reimbursement from SERS. The reimbursement amount is limited by statute to the lesser of the January 1, 1999 Medicare Part B premium or the current premium. The Medicare Part B premium for calendar year 2014 was \$104.90 and SERS' reimbursement to retirees was \$45.50. Benefit provisions and the obligations to contribute are established by the System based on authority granted by State statute. The financial reports of both Plans are included in the SERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which is available by contacting SERS at 300 East Broad St., Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3746. It is also posted on the SERS' Ohio website, [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org), under Employers/Audit Resources.

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014**

**9. POST EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (Continued)**

**A. School Employee Retirement System (SERS Ohio) (Continued)**

**Funding Policy** - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required benefits, the Retirement Board allocates the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund. The Health Care Fund was established and is administered in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 105(e). For 2014, .14 percent of covered payroll was allocated to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated according to service credit earned. Statute provides that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2.0 percent of the employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2014, the actuarially determined amount was \$20,250.

Active members do not contribute to the postemployment benefit plans. The Retirement Board establishes 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.

The School's contribution for health care (including surcharge) for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013 was \$1,196 and \$963, respectively, 100 percent has been contributed for each fiscal year.

The Retirement Board, acting with advice of the actuary, allocates a portion of the employer contribution to the Medicare B Fund. For fiscal year 2014, this actuarially required allocation was 0.76 percent of covered payroll. The School's contribution for Medicare Part B for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013 was \$1,266, and \$407, respectively, 100 percent has been contributed for each fiscal year.

**B. State Teachers Retirement System (STRS Ohio)**

**Plan Description** - The School contributes to the cost sharing, multiple employer defined benefit Health Plan (the "Plan") administered by the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS Ohio) for eligible retirees who participated in the defined benefit or combined pension plans offered by STRS Ohio. Benefits include hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs and reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. The Plan is included in the report of STRS Ohio which may be obtained by visiting [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org) or by calling (888) 227-7877.

**Funding Policy** -Ohio law authorizes STRS Ohio to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS Ohio. Active employee members do not contribute to the Plan. All benefit recipients pay a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions. For 2014, STRS Ohio allocated employer contributions equal to 1 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Stabilization Fund. The School's contribution for health care for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2014 and 2013 was \$8,856 and \$5,827, respectively, 100 percent has been contributed for each fiscal year.

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014**

**10. CONTINGENCIES**

**A. Grants**

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

**B. Litigation**

There are currently no matters in litigation with the School as defendant.

**C. Full-Time Equivalency**

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) conducts reviews of enrollment data and full-time equivalency (FTE) calculations made by the School. These reviews are conducted to ensure the School is reporting accurate student enrollment data to the State, upon which state foundation funding is calculated.

**11. SPONSOR AND MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS**

**Sponsor**

The School contracted with Ohio Council of Community Schools as its sponsor and oversight services as required by law. Sponsorship fees are calculated as a three percent of state funds received by the School from the State of Ohio. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014, the total sponsorship fees paid totaled \$48,051.

**Management Company**

The School entered into an agreement with Guidestone, a local nonprofit management company, to provide legal, financial, and other management support services for fiscal year 2014. The agreement was for a period of five years beginning July 1, 2012. Management fees are calculated as 10% of the total revenues received from the State of Ohio in 2014. The total amount paid by the School for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014 was \$161,964 and is included under "Purchased Services" on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Position. The management company also entered into a five year lease for the facility which ends May 31, 2017, and subleases the facility to the School.

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014**

**12. PURCHASED SERVICES**

For the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, the School made the following purchased services commitments.

Salaries and Wages and Benefits	\$ 1,116,119
Property Services	314,114
Professional and Technical Services	497,575
Curriculum and materials	108,980
Other Direct Costs	<u>199,749</u>
Total Purchased Services	<u><u>\$ 2,236,537</u></u>

**13. FISCAL DISTRESS**

Several factors have caused the School to experience fiscal distress. The School's cash balance at June 30, 2014 was \$27,282. Additionally, the School has significant liabilities at June 30, 2014 which has resulted in a deficit net position of (\$387,203). Overcoming this deficit may be difficult without significant increases to revenues in order to pay off outstanding liabilities and cover ongoing operating costs.

**14. MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The amount owed to Guidestone at June 30, 2014 is for unpaid operating expenses and outstanding advance for the start-up of the School. Guidestone remains committed to the success of the School both academically and financially. During the current year, stronger student recruitment and enrollments and the use of Federal funds improved the financial performance of the School.

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2014**

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# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

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

Stepstone Academy  
Cuyahoga County  
2121 East 32<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*, the financial statements of the Stepstone Academy, Cuyahoga County, (the School) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated January 6, 2015, wherein we noted the School experienced financial difficulties which resulted in a deficit net position.

### ***Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the School's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures appropriate in the circumstances to the extent necessary to support our opinion on the financial statements, but not to the extent necessary to opine on the effectiveness of the School's internal control. Accordingly, we have not opined on it.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, when performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and timely correct misstatements. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or combination of internal control deficiencies resulting in a reasonable possibility that internal control will not prevent or detect and timely correct a material misstatement of the School's financial statements. 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 internal control deficiencies that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider material weaknesses. However, unidentified material weaknesses may exist.

### ***Compliance and Other Matters***

As part of reasonably assuring whether the School's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we tested its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could directly and materially affect the determination of financial statement amounts. However, opining on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters we must report under *Government Auditing Standards*.

***Purpose of this Report***

This report only describes the scope of our internal control and compliance testing and our testing results, and does not opine on the effectiveness of the School's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "D" and "Y".

**Dave Yost**  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

January 6, 2015

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# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**STEPSTONE ACADEMY**

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**CLERK'S CERTIFICATION**

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

*Susan Babbitt*

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU**

**CERTIFIED  
JANUARY 15, 2015**