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NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY

REGULAR AUDIT

For the Year Ended June 30, 2015  
Fiscal Year Audited Under GAGAS: 2015





# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Board of Directors  
Nexus Academy of Columbus  
4689 Hilton Corporate Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43232

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Nexus Academy of Columbus, Franklin County, prepared by Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc., for the audit period July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Yost".

Dave Yost  
Auditor of State

April 14, 2016

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NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

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# Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

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## Independent Auditor's Report

Nexus Academy of Columbus  
Franklin County  
4689 Hilton Corporate Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43232

To the Board:

### Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Nexus Academy of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio, (the Academy), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Academy'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 Academy'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 Academy'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 the overall financial statement presentation.

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

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Nexus Academy of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio, as of June 30, 2015, and the changes in its financial position and cash flows thereof 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 3 to the financial statements, during the year ended June 30, 2015, the Academy adopted Governmental Accounting Standard No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 27* and also GASB Statement No. 71, *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date*. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

### **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* and schedules of net pension liabilities and pension contributions 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 15, 2016, on our consideration of the Academy'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 Academy's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs*

Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.  
Piketon, Ohio  
January 15, 2016

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015  
(Unaudited)**

The discussion and analysis of the financial performance of the Nexus Academy of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio (the Academy), provides an overview of the Academy's financial activities for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2015. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the Academy's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the notes to the basic financial statements and financial statements to enhance their understanding of the Academy's financial performance.

**Financial Highlights**

- Total assets were \$156,266.
- Total liabilities were \$917,969.
- Total net position was (\$836,079).

**USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT**

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements. These statements are organized so the reader can understand the financial position of the Academy. Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and deferred outflows of resources and all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are included on the statement of net position. The statement of net position represents the basic statement of position for the Academy. The statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position presents increases (e.g., revenues) and decreases (e.g., expenses) in net total net position. The statement of cash flows reflects how the Academy finances and meets its cash flow needs. Finally, the notes to the basic financial statements provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided on the basic financial statements.

**REPORTING THE ACADEMY AS A WHOLE**

The view of the Academy as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks, "How did we do financially during 2015?" The statement of net position and the statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position answer this question. These statements include all assets and deferred outflows of resources and all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting considers all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the Academy's net position and change in that position. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader that, for the Academy as a whole, the financial position of the Academy has improved or diminished. The cause of this may be the result of many factors, some financial, some not. Non-financial factors include the current laws in Ohio restricting revenue growth, facility conditions, required educational programs and other factors.

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015  
(Unaudited)**

**FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

The Academy is not required to present government-wide financial statements as the Academy is engaged in only business-type activities. Therefore, no condensed financial information derived from government-wide financial statements is included in the discussion and analysis.

The following tables represent the Academy's condensed financial information derived from the statement of net position and the statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position.

Table 1 provides a summary of the Academy's net position for fiscal years 2015 and 2014:

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014*</b>
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets	\$ 149,033	\$ 95,529
Non-current assets	7,233	10,033
Total assets	<u>156,266</u>	<u>105,562</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<u>67,197</u>	<u>46,525</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current liabilities	146,232	94,980
Noncurrent liabilities	771,737	916,143
Total liabilities	<u>917,969</u>	<u>1,011,123</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<u>141,573</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Net Position</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	7,233	10,033
Unrestricted	(843,312)	(869,069)
Total net position	<u>\$ (836,079)</u>	<u>\$ (859,036)</u>

\*As restated

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015  
(Unaudited)**

During fiscal year 2015, the Academy adopted GASB Statement 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions—an Amendment of GASB Statement 27," which significantly revises accounting for pension costs and liabilities. For reasons discussed below, many end users of this financial statement will gain a clearer understanding of the Academy's actual financial condition by adding deferred inflows related to pension and the net pension liability to the reported net position and subtracting deferred outflows related to pension.

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

Under the new standards required by GASB 68, the net pension liability equals the Academy's proportionate share of each plan's collective:

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

GASB notes that pension obligations, whether funded or unfunded, are part of the "employment exchange" – that is, the employee is trading his or her labor in exchange for wages, benefits, and the promise of a future pension. GASB noted that the unfunded portion of this pension promise is a present obligation of the government, part of a bargained-for benefit to the employee, and should accordingly be reported by the government as a liability since they received the benefit of the exchange. However, the Academy is not responsible for certain key factors affecting the balance of this liability. In Ohio, the employee shares the obligation of funding pension benefits with the employer. Both employer and employee contribution rates are capped by State statute. A change in these caps requires action of both Houses of the General Assembly and approval of the Governor. Benefit provisions are also determined by State statute. The employee enters the employment exchange with the knowledge that the employer's promise is limited not by contract but by law. The employer enters the exchange also knowing that there is a specific, legal limit to its contribution to the pension system. In Ohio, there is no legal means to enforce the unfunded liability of the pension system *as against the public employer*. State law operates to mitigate/lessen the moral obligation of the public employer to the employee, because all parties enter the employment exchange with notice as to the law. The pension system is responsible for the administration of the plan.

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015  
(Unaudited)**

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

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

As a result of implementing GASB 68, the Academy is reporting a net pension liability and deferred inflows/outflows of resources related to pension on the accrual basis of accounting. This implementation also had the effect of restating net position at June 30, 2014, from \$10,582 to a balance of (\$859,036).

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**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015  
(Unaudited)**

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for fiscal years 2015 and 2014:

**Table 2  
Change in Net Position**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
<b>Operating revenues</b>		
Foundation payments - regular	\$ 724,224	\$ 596,828
Foundation payments - special education	112,550	101,823
<b>Total operating revenues</b>	836,774	698,651
<b>Operating expenses</b>		
Purchased services	2,002,738	1,776,861
Pension expense	36,321	-
Depreciation	2,800	2,800
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	2,041,859	1,779,661
Operating loss	(1,205,085)	(1,081,010)
<b>Non-operating revenues</b>		
Federal subsidies	88,958	49,271
Management company credits	1,138,992	1,011,958
Interest earnings	92	1,286
<b>Total non-operating revenues</b>	1,228,042	1,062,515
<b>Change in net position</b>	\$ 22,957	\$ (18,495)

The Academy operates as a one business-type enterprise fund; therefore, analysis of balances and transactions of individual funds are not included in the discussion and analysis. Results of fiscal year 2015 operations indicate ending net position of (\$836,079), an increase of \$22,957 from 2014.

The information necessary to restate the 2014 beginning balances and the 2014 pension expense amounts for the effects of the initial implementation of GASB 68 is not available. Therefore, 2014 functional expenses still include pension expense of \$46,525 computed under GASB 27. GASB 27 required recognizing pension expense equal to the contractually required contributions to the plan. Under GASB 68, pension expense represents additional amounts earned, adjusted by deferred inflows/outflows. The contractually required contribution is no longer a component of pension expense. Under GASB 68, the 2015 statements report pension expense of \$36,321.

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015  
(Unaudited)**

Consequently, in order to compare 2015 total program expenses to 2014, the following adjustments are needed:

Total 2015 program expenses under GASB 68	\$2,041,859
Pension expense under GASB 68	(36,321)
2015 contractually required contributions	59,826
Adjusted 2015 program expenses	2,065,364
Total 2014 program expenses under GASB 27	1,779,661
Increase in program expenses not related to pension	\$285,703

**BUDGET**

The contract between the Academy and its Sponsor prescribes an annual budget requirement in addition to preparing a 5-year forecast, which is to be updated on an annual basis. Chapter 5705.391 of the Ohio Revised Code also requires the Academy to prepare a 5-year forecast, update it annually and submit it to the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Ohio Department of Education.

**CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION**

The Academy used Grant funds to purchase computers. This represents the only capital assets owned by the Academy. Capital asset information is summarized in Note 5 to the basic financial statements. The Academy has not issued any debt.

**OTHER INFORMATION**

Management is currently unaware of any known facts, decisions, or conditions that are expected to have a significant effect on financial position or results of operations.

**CONTACTING THE ACADEMY'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

The financial report is designated to provide our citizens, taxpayers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the Academy's finances and to demonstrate accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional information contact C. David Massa, CPA, of Massa Financial Solutions, LLC, 4717 Hilton Corporate Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43232 or email at [dave@massasolutionsllc.com](mailto:dave@massasolutionsllc.com).

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
AS OF JUNE 30, 2015**

**Assets:**

**Current Assets:**

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 78,214
Federal Grants Receivable	14,099
Prepays	20,333
Other Receivable	36,387
Total Current Assets	<u>149,033</u>

**Non-Current Assets**

Capital Assets (Net of Accumulated Depreciation)	<u>7,233</u>
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<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>156,266</u>
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**Deferred Outflows of Resources:**

Pension	<u>67,197</u>
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<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<u>67,197</u>
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**Liabilities:**

**Current Liabilities:**

Contracts Payable	82,116
Accounts Payable	64,116
Total Current Liabilities	<u>146,232</u>

**Noncurrent Liabilities:**

Net Pension Liability	<u>771,737</u>
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<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>917,969</u>
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**Deferred Inflows of Resources:**

Pension	<u>141,573</u>
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<b>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	<u>141,573</u>
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**Net Position:**

Net Investment in Capital Assets	7,233
Unrestricted	(843,312)
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<u>\$ (836,079)</u>

See the Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements.

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

**Operating Revenues:**

Foundation Payments - Regular	\$ 724,224
Foundation Payments - Special Education	112,550
	<hr/>
Total Operating Revenues	836,774

**Operating Expenses:**

Purchased Services	2,002,738
Pension Expenses	36,321
Depreciation Expense	2,800
	<hr/>
Total Operating Expenses	2,041,859

*Operating Loss* (1,205,085)

**Non-Operating Revenues:**

Federal Grants	88,958
Management Company Credits	1,138,992
Interest Earnings	92
	<hr/>
Total Non-Operating Revenues	1,228,042

*Change in Net Position* 22,957

<i>Net Position Beginning of Year, As Restated</i>	<hr/> (859,036)
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<hr/> <u>\$ (836,079)</u> <hr/>

See the Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements.

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

**Cash Flows from Operating Activities:**

Cash Received for School Foundation Payments	\$ 836,774
Cash Payments to Suppliers for Goods and Services	(823,167)
Cash Payments for Benefits	(59,826)
	<hr/>
<i>Net Cash Used for Operating Activities</i>	<i>(46,219)</i>
	<hr/>

**Cash Flows from Noncapital Financing Activities:**

Federal Subsidies	91,326
Interest	92
	<hr/>

*Net Cash Provided by Noncapital Financing Activities* 91,418

*Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents* 45,199

Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year 33,015

Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year \$ 78,214

**Reconciliation of Operating Loss to Net Cash  
Used for Operating Activities:**

Operating Loss	\$ (1,205,085)
Depreciation Expense	2,800
Management Company Credits	1,138,992

**Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Loss to Net  
Cash Used for Operating Activities:**

Changes in Assets, Deferred Outflows of Resources, Liabilities,  
and Deferred Inflows of Resources:

Other Receivables	(10,673)
Deferred Outflows of Resources	(20,672)
Contracts Payable	49,560
Accounts Payable	1,692
Net Pension Liability	(144,406)
Deferred Inflows of Resources	141,573
Total Adjustments	<hr/> <u>17,074</u>

*Net Cash Used for Operating Activities* \$ (46,219)

**Noncash Transactions:**

Management Company Credits	\$ 1,138,992
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See the Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements.

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015**

**NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF THE ACADEMY AND REPORTING ENTITY**

Nexus Academy of Columbus (the Academy) is a nonprofit corporation established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapters 3314 and 1702. The Academy's mission is to provide top-quality personalized education for students and their families through internet- or computer-based learning outside of the traditional classroom. The Academy will maintain a commitment to excellence in curriculum, instruction, accountability and communication for internet- or computer-based schools and will ensure that its programs follow the principles of parental involvement, individualized instruction and high-quality teaching.

The Academy may sue and be sued, acquire facilities as needed, and contract for any services necessary for the operation of the Academy. The Academy has been approved as an exempt organization under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Management is not aware of any course of action or series of events that have occurred that might adversely affect the Academy's tax-exempt status.

The Academy was approved for operation under a contract with The Ohio Council of Community Schools, the Sponsor. The Sponsor is responsible for evaluating the performance of the Academy and has the authority to deny renewal of the contract at its expiration.

The Academy operates under the direction of a five-member Board of Directors (the Board). The Board of Directors may not be fewer than five nor more than eleven members. At least three Directors will be as follows:

- (a) At least one Director shall be the parent of one or more students enrolled in the Academy,
- (b) At least one Director shall be a generally recognized community leader in the area served by the Academy, and
- (c) At least one Director shall be an educator or have experience in education.

Additionally, the Academy entered into a five-year contract on June 30, 2012, with Connections Academy of Ohio, LLC for curriculum, school management services, instruction, technology and other services, with an expiration date of June 30, 2017 (see note 11).

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015**

**NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The financial statements of the Academy 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 Academy's accounting policies are described below.

**A. Basis of Presentation**

**Enterprise Accounting**

The Academy's basic financial statements consist of a statement of net position; a statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position; and a statement of cash flows.

The Academy uses enterprise accounting to track and report on its financial activities. The Academy uses enterprise accounting to maintain its financial records during the fiscal year. Enterprise accounting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position, financial position, and cash flows. Enterprise accounting may be used to account for any activity for which a fee is charged to external users for goods or services.

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

Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and deferred outflows of resources and all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are included on the statement of net position. The statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position presents increases (e.g., revenues) and decreases (e.g., expenses) in net position. The statement of cash flows reflects how the Academy finances and meets its cash flow needs.

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

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015**

**NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**C. Budgetary Process**

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705.391, the Academy prepares and adopts an annual budget which includes estimated revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year and a five year forecast of revenues and expenditures. The Academy will from time to time adopt budget revisions as necessary. The contract between the Academy and its Sponsor does not prescribe any other budgetary process for the Academy.

**D. Cash and Investments**

Cash held by the Academy is reflected as “Cash and Cash Equivalents” on the statement of net position. Unless otherwise noted, all monies received by the Academy are pooled and deposited in a central bank account as demand deposits. Investments with an initial maturity of more than 3 months are reported as investments. During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015 the Academy had no investments.

**E. Intergovernmental Revenues**

The Academy currently participates in the State Foundation Program and the State Special Education Program. Foundation and Special Education payments are recognized as operating revenues in the accompanying financial statements. Federal grants awarded and received in fiscal year 2015 totaled \$80,594. Grants and entitlements are recognized as non-operating revenues in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met. When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Academy’s policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

**F. Other Revenue**

Other revenue consists primarily of contributed products and services from Connections Academy of Ohio, LLC as described in the contract between the Academy and Connections Academy of Ohio, LLC (see note 11).

**G. Capital Assets**

Capital assets are capitalized at cost and updated for additions and reductions during the fiscal year. The Academy maintains a capitalization threshold of \$1,000 dollars. The Academy does not have any infrastructure. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend an asset’s life are not capitalized.

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015**

**NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

All capital assets are depreciated. Improvements are depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Computers	3 years
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**H. Net Position**

Net position represents the difference between assets and deferred outflows of resources and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balance of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the Academy or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. The Academy did not have any restricted net position in fiscal year 2015.

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

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. For the Academy, deferred outflows of resources have been reported for the following two items related the Academy's net pension liability: (1) the difference between expected and actual experience of the pension systems, and (2) the Academy's contributions to the pension systems subsequent to the measurement date.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. For the Academy, deferred inflows of resources include the net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments related to the Academy's net pension liability.

**J. 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.

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**NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**K. Operating Revenues and Expenses**

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

**L. Pensions**

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

**NOTE 3 – ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE**

**Change in Accounting Principles**

For fiscal year 2015, the Academy has implemented GASB Statement No. 68, “Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions - an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27” and GASB Statement No. 71, “Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date - an Amendment of GASB Statement No. 68”.

GASB Statement No. 68 improves the accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for pensions. It also improves information provided by state and local governmental employers about financial support for pensions that is provided by other entities. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 68 affected the Academy’s pension plan disclosures, as presented in Note 16, and added required supplementary information which is presented after the notes to the financial statements.

GASB Statement No. 71 improves the accounting and financial reporting by addressing an issue in GASB Statement No. 68, concerning transition provisions related to certain pension contributions made to defined benefit pension plans prior to implementation of that Statement by employers and nonemployer contributing entities.

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**NOTE 3 – ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE (CONTINUED)**

A net position restatement is required in order to implement GASB Statement No 68 and 71. The governmental activities at July 1, 2014 have been restated as follows:

Net Position as Previously Reported	\$10,582
Deferred Outflow-Payments Subsequent to Measurement Date	46,525
Net Pension Liability	<u>(916,143)</u>
Restated Net Position at July 1, 2014	(\$859,036)

Other than employer contributions subsequent to the measurement date, the Academy made no restatement for deferred inflows/outflows of resources as the information needed to generate these restatements was not available.

**NOTE 4 – DEPOSITS**

**Deposits with Financial Institutions**

The Academy’s financial institution deposits for the year ended June 30, 2015 are as follows:

	<u>2015</u>
Carrying Amount of Deposits	<u>\$ 78,214</u>
Bank Balance	<u>\$ 79,974</u>

Based on the criteria described in GASB Statement No. 40, *Deposits and Investment Risk Disclosure*, \$0 was exposed to custodial credit risk as discussed below for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, while \$79,974 was covered by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

*Custodial Credit Risk:* is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the Academy’s investments may not be returned. The Academy has no policy regarding custodial credit risk. In addition, state law does not require security for public deposits and investments to be maintained in the Academy’s name.



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**NOTE 8 – PREPAID EXPENSES**

The Academy has made lease payments in advance. As a result, a prepaid asset is booked in the amounts of \$20,333 at June 30, 2015.

**NOTE 9 – RISK MANAGEMENT**

**Liability**

The Academy is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries and natural disasters. For fiscal year 2015, the Academy contracted with Connections Academy of Ohio, LLC to provide insurance in the following amounts through being included as an additional insured on their policy with Diversified Insurance Services for the following coverage:

Commercial general liability: \$2,000,000 general aggregate with a \$1,000,000 single occurrence limit along with \$21,000,000 in excess liability coverage for both aggregate and single occurrence.

There were no settlements in excess of insurance coverage over the past two fiscal years.

**NOTE 10 – FISCAL AGENT AND PAYMENTS TO SPONSOR**

The sponsorship agreement with Ohio Council of Community Schools requires that the Academy shall have a designated fiscal officer who shall meet all the requirements as set forth by law including:

- A. Maintain the financial records of the Academy in the same manner as are financial records of school districts, pursuant to rules of the Auditor of State;
- B. Comply with the policies and procedures regarding internal financial control of the Academy;
- C. Comply with the requirements and procedures for financial audits by the Auditor of the State.

The Academy shall pay to the Sponsor 3 percent of all base per pupil cost payments received from the state in consideration for the time, organization, oversight, fees and costs of the Sponsor in overseeing the Academy. The Academy's Fiscal Agent during the audit period was Massa Financial Solutions, LLC.

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**NOTE 11 – MANAGEMENT CONSULTING CONTRACT/PURCHASED SERVICES**

The Academy entered into a five-year contract on June 30, 2012 with Connections Academy of Ohio, LLC. In the agreement, which expires on June 30, 2017, Connections Academy of Ohio, LLC agrees to provide curriculum, instruction, technology and other school management services. Under the contract, the following terms were agreed upon:

Connections Academy of Ohio, LLC will provide direct materials/services or procurement and payment services for the following:

1. Instructional materials as approved by the Board and the Sponsor.
2. Various educational protocols and assessments.
3. Administrative personnel, including health and other benefits, as approved by the Board and the Sponsor where required.
4. Teaching staff, including health and other benefits, as approved by the Board.
5. Educational support services for participating families.
6. Training and other professional development as approved by the Board.
7. Hardware and software as approved by the Board.
8. Technical support for any hardware and software provided under the contract.
9. Maintenance of student records.
10. Services to special needs students as required by law.
11. Administrative services including expenditures for a facility and capital, both of which require Board approval.
12. Financial, treasury and other reporting as required by law.
13. Student recruiting and community education.
14. General school management.

For the services listed above, the Academy is required to reimburse certain actual expenses, pay a fee based on enrollment statistics and pay a school management fee to Connections Academy of Ohio, LLC. The total expense on an accrual basis under this contract for fiscal year 2015 totaled \$1,930,860. Of this amount, \$82,116 represents a contract payable at June 30, 2015.

For the period ended June 30, 2015, Connections Academy of Ohio, LLC, incurred the following expenses on behalf of the Academy:

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**NOTE 11 – MANAGEMENT CONSULTING CONTRACT/PURCHASED SERVICES  
(Continued)**

<b>Direct Expenses</b>	<u><b>2015</b></u>
Salaries & wages	\$ 519,143
Employees' benefits	84,205
Professional & technical services	49,153
Property services	288,034
Travel	12,710
Communications	31,754
Utilities	23,433
Contracted craft or trade services	5,370
Other purchased services	52,751
Other supplies	12,819
Other direct costs - Allocated	76,256
<b>Indirect Expenses:</b>	
Overhead	<u>583,747</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u><u>\$ 1,739,375</u></u>

The Management Company incurs a variety of costs including general and administrative costs, marketing costs, software development costs, curriculum development costs, enrollment and placement costs, fulfillment and asset tracking costs, legal costs, and other costs associated with providing services to more than one school. These costs are not charged directly to the schools but are allocated internally by the Management Company pro rata based on the number of total students that have enrolled in each school.

**NOTE 12 - CONTINGENCIES**

**A. Grants**

The Academy received financial assistance from federal and state agencies in the form of grants. The disbursement of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the Academy. However, in the opinion of management, the Academy has complied with all grant requirements.

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**NOTE 12 – CONTINGENCIES (Continued)**

**B. Full Time Equivalency**

The Ohio Department of Education conducts reviews of enrollment data and full-time equivalency (FTE) calculations made by the Academy. These reviews are conducted to ensure the Academy is reporting accurate student enrollment data to the State, upon which state foundation funding is calculated. The conclusions of this review could result in state funding being adjusted. According to the FTE review conducted by the State for fiscal year 2015, the Academy was overpaid by \$10,546. This amount is included in accounts payable in the Statement of Net Position.

**C. Litigation**

The Academy is not involved in any additional litigation that, in the opinion of management, would have a material effect on the financial statements at June 30, 2015.

**NOTE 13 – TAX EXEMPT STATUS**

The Academy is a nonprofit corporation established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapters 3314 and 1702. Management is not aware of any course of action or series of events that have occurred that might adversely affect the Academy's nonprofit status.

**NOTE 14 – MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Academy had an operating loss of \$1,205,085 and an increase in net position of \$22,957 at the end of fiscal year June 30, 2015. The Academy is projecting an increase in net position balance for fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

Connections Academy provided \$1,138,992 worth of credits to the Academy for services provided during fiscal year 2015, to ensure contract compliance in order that the Academy would maintain a positive balance in net position, prior to the effects of GASB 68.

**NOTE 15 – MANAGEMENT COMPANY**

The Academy has contracted with Connections Academy of Ohio, LLC to provide employee services and to pay those employees. However, these contract services do not relieve the school of the obligation for remitting pension contributions. The retirement systems consider the Academy as the Employer-of-Record and the school ultimately is responsible for remitting retirement contributions to the State Teachers Retirement System and the School Employees Retirement System.

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
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**NOTE 16 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS**

**Net Pension Liability**

The net pension liability reported on the statement of net position represents a liability to employees for pensions. Pensions are a component of exchange transactions—between an employer and its employees—of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions are provided to an employee—on a deferred-payment basis—as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period. The obligation to sacrifice resources for pensions is a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that already have occurred.

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

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

GASB 68 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires all funding to come from these employers. All contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). State statute requires the pension plans to amortize unfunded liabilities within 30 years. If the amortization period exceeds 30 years, each pension plan's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension liability. Resulting adjustments to the net pension liability would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable.

The proportionate share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a long-term *net pension liability* on the accrual basis of accounting. Any liability for the contractually-required pension contribution outstanding at the end of the year is included in *pension obligation payable* on both the accrual and modified accrual bases of accounting.

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
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**NOTE 16 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS Ohio)**

Plan Description – Academy non-teaching employees participate in SERS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by SERS. SERS provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits, annual cost-of-living adjustments, 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](http://www.ohsers.org) under Employers/Audit Resources.

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

Annual retirement benefits are calculated based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on year 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.

One year after an effective benefit date, a benefit recipient is entitled to a three percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). This same COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit.

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the Academy is required to contribute 14 percent of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS’ Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10 percent for plan members and 14 percent for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System’s funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 13.18 percent. The remaining 0.82 percent of the 14 percent employer contribution rate was allocated to the Health Care Fund.

The Academy’s contractually required contribution to SERS was \$8,851 for fiscal year 2015.

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
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**NOTE 16 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS Ohio)**

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

New members have a choice of three retirement plans; a Defined Benefit (DB) Plan, a Defined Contribution (DC) Plan and a Combined Plan. Benefits are established by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307. The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation will be 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. With certain exceptions, the basic benefit is increased each year by two percent of the original base benefit. For members retiring August 1, 2013, or later, the first two percent is paid on the fifth anniversary of the retirement benefit. Members are eligible to retire at age 60 with five years of qualifying service credit, or age 55 with 25 years of service, or 30 years of service regardless of age. Age and service requirements for retirement will increase effective August 1, 2015, and will continue to increase periodically until they reach age 60 with 35 years of service or age 65 with five years of service on August 1, 2026.

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 9.5 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. Investment allocation decisions are determined by the member. The remaining 4.5 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, member contributions are allocated among investment choices by the member, and employer contributions 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 services. 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.

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.

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
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**NOTE 16 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

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. Eligible survivors of members who die before service retirement may qualify for monthly benefits. New members on or after July 1, 2013, must have at least ten years of qualifying service credit that apply for disability 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 – Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The statutory maximum employee contribution rate was increased one percent July 1, 2014, and will be increased one percent each year until it reaches 14 percent on July 1, 2016. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, plan members were required to contribute 12 percent of their annual covered salary. The Academy was required to contribute 14 percent; the entire 14 percent was the portion used to fund pension obligations. The fiscal year 2015 contribution rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates.

The Academy’s contractually required contribution to STRS was \$50,975 for fiscal year 2015.

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

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2014, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Academy's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Academy's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$52,937	\$718,800	\$771,737
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.001046%	0.00295517%	
Pension Expense	\$3,113	\$33,208	\$36,321

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**NOTE 16 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

At June 30, 2015, the Academy reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$451	\$6,920	\$7,371
The Academy contributions subsequent to measurement date	<u>8,851</u>	<u>50,975</u>	<u>59,826</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$9,302</u>	<u>\$57,895</u>	<u>\$67,197</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>			
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	<u>\$8,592</u>	<u>\$132,981</u>	<u>\$141,573</u>

\$59,826 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending June 30, 2016. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30:</u>	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
2016	(\$2,035)	(\$31,515)	(\$33,550)
2017	(2,035)	(31,515)	(33,550)
2018	(2,035)	(31,515)	(33,550)
2019	<u>(2,036)</u>	<u>(31,516)</u>	<u>(33,552)</u>
Total	<u>(\$8,141)</u>	<u>(\$126,061)</u>	<u>(\$134,202)</u>

**Actuarial Assumptions - SERS**

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

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**NOTE 16 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

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 pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2014, are presented below:

Wage Inflation	3.25 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	4.00 percent to 22 percent
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	3 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.75 percent net of investments expense, including inflation
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal

For post-retirement mortality, the table used in evaluating allowances to be paid is the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Table set back one year for both men and women. Special mortality tables are used for the period after disability retirement.

The most recent experience study was completed June 30, 2010.

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS’ Statement of Investment Policy. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted averaged of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes.

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**NOTE 16 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

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

<b>Asset Class</b>	<b>Target Allocation</b>	<b>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</b>
Cash	1.00 %	0.00 %
US Stocks	22.50	5.00
Non-US Stocks	22.50	5.50
Fixed Income	19.00	1.50
Private Equity	10.00	10.00
Real Assets	10.00	5.00
Multi-Asset Strategies	15.00	7.50
<b>Total</b>	<u>100.00 %</u>	

**Discount Rate** The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.75 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earning were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.75 percent). Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

**Sensitivity of the Academy'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 net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.75 percent, as well as what each plan's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.75 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.75 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.75%)	Current Discount Rate (7.75%)	1% Decrease (8.75%)
Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$75,525	\$52,937	\$33,938

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
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**NOTE 16 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Actuarial Assumptions - STRS**

The total pension liability in the June 30, 2014, actuarial valuation was determined using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement:

Inflation		2.75 percent
Projected salary increases		2.75 percent at age 70 to 12.25 percent at age 20
Investment Rate of Return		7.75 percent, net of investment expenses
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)		2 percent simple applied as follows: for members retiring before August 1, 2013, 2 percent per year; for members retiring August 1, 2013, or later, 2 percent COLA paid on fifth anniversary of retirement date.

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table (Projection 2022—Scale AA) for Males and Females. Males’ ages are set-back two years through age 89 and no set-back for age 90 and above. Females younger than age 80 are set back four years, one year set back from age 80 through 89 and not set back from age 90 and above.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2014, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study, effective July 1, 2012.

The 10 year expected real rate of return on pension plan investments was determined by STRS’ investment consultant by developing best estimates of expected future real rates of return for each major asset class.

The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Domestic Equity	31.00 %	8.00 %
International Equity	26.00	7.85
Alternatives	14.00	8.00
Fixed Income	18.00	3.75
Real Assets	10.00	6.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	3.00
<b>Total</b>	<u>100.00 %</u>	

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 16 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (CONTINUED)**

**Discount Rate** The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.75 percent as of June 30, 2014. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with rate increases described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Projected employer contributions that are intended to fund the service costs of future plan members and their beneficiaries, as well as projected contributions from future plan members, are not 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, 2014. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.75 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2014.

**Sensitivity of the Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate** The following table presents the Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.75 percent, as well as what the Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (6.75 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (8.75 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease (6.75%)	Current Discount Rate (7.75%)	1% Increase (8.75%)
Academy’s proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$1,029,041	\$718,800	\$456,441

**Social Security System**

Effective July 1, 1991, all employees not otherwise covered by the School Employees Retirement System or the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio have an option to choose Social Security or the School Retirement System. The contribution rate is 6.2 percent of wages.

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015**

**NOTE 17 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

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

Health Care Plan Description - The Academy contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 45 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit other postemployment benefit (OPEB) 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 as well as a prescription drug program. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org) under Employers/Audit Resources.

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. Health care is financed through a combination of employer contributions and retiree premiums, copays and deductibles on covered health care expenses, investment returns, and any funds received as a result of SERS' participation in Medicare programs. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. Retirees and their beneficiaries are required to pay a health care premium that varies depending on the plan selected, the number of 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 basic benefits, the Retirement Board allocates the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund. For fiscal year 2015, 0.82 percent of covered payroll was allocated to health care. In addition, employers pay a surcharge for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated according to service credit earned. For fiscal year 2015, this amount was \$20,450. 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 2015, the Academy's surcharge obligation was \$0.

The Academy's contributions for health care for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2015, 2014, and 2013 were \$550, \$43, and \$18 respectively. The full amount has been contributed for fiscal years 2015, 2014 and 2013.

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015**

**NOTE 17 - POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (CONTINUED)**

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

Plan Description – The Academy participates in the cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit Health Plan administered by the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) 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 reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org) or by calling (888) 227-7877.

Funding Policy – Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 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. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. All benefit recipients, for the most recent year, pay a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions. For fiscal year 2015, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care. The Academy’s contributions for health care for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2015, 2014, and 2013 were \$0, \$3,288, and \$2,578 respectively. The full amount has been contributed for fiscal years 2015, 2014 and 2013.

**NOTE 18 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS**

The Academy’s long-term obligations during the year consist of the following:

	Restated Balance June 30, 2014	Additions	Reductions	Balance June 30, 2015	Amounts Due In One Year
Net Pension Liability	\$918,431	0	(\$144,406)	\$771,737	0
Total Net Pension Liability	<u>\$918,431</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$144,406)</u>	<u>\$771,737</u>	<u>\$0</u>

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS**

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF THE ACADEMY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF  
THE NET PENSION LIABILITY  
SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO

LAST TWO FISCAL YEARS

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Academy's proportion of the net pension liability	0.001046%	0.001046%
Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 52,937	\$ 62,202
Academy's covered-employee payroll	\$ 31,602	\$ 11,077
Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	167.51%	561.56%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	71.70%	65.52%

Note: Information prior to fiscal year 2013 was unavailable.

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS**

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF THE ACADEMY'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF  
THE NET PENSION LIABILITY  
STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO

LAST TWO FISCAL YEARS

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Academy's proportion of the net pension liability	0.00295517%	0.00295517%
Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 718,800	\$ 856,229
Academy's covered-employee payroll	\$ 252,892	\$ 198,277
Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered-employee payroll	284.23%	431.83%
Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability	74.70%	69.30%

Note: Information prior to fiscal year 2013 was unavailable.

NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF ACADEMY CONTRIBUTIONS  
SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO

LAST THREE FISCAL YEARS

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 8,851	\$ 4,380	\$ 1,533
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>(8,851)</u>	<u>(4,380)</u>	<u>(1,533)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Academy's covered-employee payroll	\$ 67,155	\$ 31,602	\$ 11,077
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	13.18%	13.86%	13.84%

Note: Information prior to 2013 not available.

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS**

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**SCHEDULE OF ACADEMY CONTRIBUTIONS  
STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO**

**LAST THREE FISCAL YEARS**

	<u><b>2015</b></u>	<u><b>2014</b></u>	<u><b>2013</b></u>
Contractually required contribution	\$ 50,975	\$ 32,876	\$ 25,776
Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution	<u>(50,975)</u>	<u>(32,876)</u>	<u>(25,776)</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Academy's covered-employee payroll	\$ 364,107	\$ 252,892	\$ 198,277
Contributions as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	14.00%	13.00%	13.00%

Note: Information prior to 2013 not available.



## Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.

Accounting, Auditing and Consulting Services for Federal, State and Local Governments

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### Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

Nexus Academy of Columbus  
Franklin County  
4689 Hilton Corporate Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43232

To the Board:

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 Nexus Academy of Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio (the Academy), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Academy's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated January 15, 2016, wherein we noted the Academy adopted new accounting guidance in Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 27* and also GASB Statement No. 71, *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date*.

#### Internal Control over Financial Reporting

As part of our financial statement audit, we considered the Academy'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 Academy'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 Academy'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 Academy'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 Academy's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed under *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Academy's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs*  
Balestra, Harr & Scherer, CPAs, Inc.  
Piketon, Ohio  
January 15, 2016

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# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**NEXUS ACADEMY OF COLUMBUS**

**FRANKLIN 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  
APRIL 26, 2016**