



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**SOUTHWEST OHIO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
WARREN COUNTY**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments
Warren County
1879 Deerfield Road
Lebanon, Ohio 45036

To the Board of Directors:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the cash-basis financial statements of the Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County, Ohio (the Council), as of and for the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Council's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash-basis financial position of the Council, as of June 30, 2022 and 2021, and the changes in cash-basis financial position and where applicable cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2.

Basis for Opinion

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

Emphasis of Matter - Accounting Basis

We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note 10 to the financial statements, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the Council. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated January 3, 2023, on our consideration of the Council's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Council's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio
January 3, 2023

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis
June 30, 2022

	<u>Southwest Ohio Council of Governments</u>
Assets:	
Current Assets:	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$1,597,810</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,597,810</u>
Net Position:	
Unrestricted	<u>1,597,810</u>
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$1,597,810</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Net Position - Cash Basis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

	Southwest Ohio Council of Governments
Operating Receipts:	
Charges for Services	\$12,980,104
Total Operating Receipts	<u>12,980,104</u>
Operating Disbursements:	
Salaries	9,788,189
Fringe Benefits	3,085,784
Purchased Services	296,391
Other Disbursements	<u>149,175</u>
Total Operating Disbursements	<u>13,319,539</u>
Change in Net Position	(339,435)
Net Position - Beginning of Year	<u>1,937,245</u>
Net Position - End of Year	<u><u>\$1,597,810</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Statement of Cash Flows - Cash Basis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

	Southwest Ohio Council of Governments
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:	
Cash Received from Member Districts	\$12,980,104
Cash Payments to Employees	(9,788,189)
Cash Payments to Fringe Benefits	(3,085,784)
Cash Payments to Suppliers	(296,391)
Cash Payments for Other Disbursements	(149,175)
	<hr/>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	(339,435)
	<hr/>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(339,435)
	<hr/>
Cash and Cash Equivalents Beginning of Year	1,937,245
	<hr/>
Cash and Cash Equivalents End of Year	1,597,810
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Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to	
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	
Operating Income (Loss)	(339,435)
	<hr/>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	(\$339,435)
	<hr/> <hr/>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

Note 1 - Description of the COG and Reporting Entity

Description of the COG

The Southwest Ohio Council of Governments (the "COG"), is a body Corporate and Politic established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 167, by agreement of its members. The COG is a jointly governed organization of the Warren County Educational Service Center and the Warren County Commissioners. The COG is currently providing services for eighteen member school districts and other entities in southwest Ohio, principally providing substitute teachers and substitute classified personnel. Warren County Educational Service Center acts as a fiscal officer for the COG.

The governing authority of Southwest Ohio Council of Governments (COG) is the COG Board, which is comprised of five board members. There are three Warren County ESC representatives including the treasurer, and two Warren County Commissioner representatives. The Warren County ESC superintendent is the current board president. The Officer positions of the COG Board are President and Treasurer.

Reporting Entity

A reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the COG consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the COG. For the COG, this is the general operation.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the COG is financially accountable. The COG is financially accountable for an organization if the COG appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board and (1) the COG is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the COG is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the COG is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the COG is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the COG in that the COG approves the budget, the issuance of debt, or the levying of taxes. The COG has no component units.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. The cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. Following are the more significant of the COG's accounting policies:

Basis of Presentation

The COG's basic financial statements consist of a statement of net position – cash basis, a statement of receipts, disbursements, and changes in net position – cash basis, and a statement of cash flows – cash basis.

The COG uses a single enterprise presentation for its financial records. Enterprise reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position and financial position.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

Measurement Focus

The COG uses a cash basis of accounting for reporting purposes. Receipts are recognized when they are received, and disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

Basis of Accounting

The COG's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the COG's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when the liability is incurred.

As a result of the cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related receipts (such as accounts receivable and receipt billed for provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities (such as accounts payable and disbursements for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued disbursements and liabilities) are not recorded in these financial statements. If the COG utilized the basis of accounting recognized as generally accepted, the fund and all government-wide financial statements would be presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

To improve cash management, cash received by the COG is pooled. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through COG records. Each fund's interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents" on the financial statements.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Directors has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. No interest receipts were credited during Fiscal Year 2022.

Capital Assets

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

Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the COG or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws, or regulations of other governments.

The COG applies restricted resources when a disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

Operating Receipts and Disbursements

Operating receipts are those receipts that are generated directly from the primary activity of the COG. Operating disbursements are necessary costs incurred to provide the good or service that is the primary activity of the COG. All receipts and disbursements not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

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

Note 3 - Deposits and Investments

State statutes classify monies held by the COG into three categories.

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

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

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

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

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

1. United States Treasury Notes, Bills, Bonds, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States.
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality, including but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities.
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above, provided that the fair value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to fair value daily, and that the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and with certain limitations including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met.
5. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) of this section, and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions.
6. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio).
7. Certain bankers' acceptance for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met
8. Under limited circumstances, corporate debt interests rated in either of the two highest rating classifications by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements, and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage, and short selling are also prohibited. Except as noted above, an investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the COG, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the Fiscal officer or qualified trustee or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

Deposits

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the COG will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. At June 30, 2022, the carrying amount of all COG deposits was \$1,597,810. As of June 30, 2022, the COG's bank balance of \$1,609,478 was covered by FDIC or collateralized as discussed below.

The COG has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or be protected by:

Eligible securities pledged to the COG and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured; or

Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102% of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

Investments

As of June 30, 2022, the COG did not have any investments.

Note 4 - Risk Management

The COG 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. The COG carries insurance coverage with the following companies.

<u>COVERAGE</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>
Educators Legal Liability	The Argonaut Insurance Company
General Liability	The Argonaut Insurance Company

Limits and deductible amounts for the above policies vary accordingly.

<u>COVERAGE</u>	<u>LIMITS</u>	<u>DEDUCTIBLE</u>
Educators Legal Liability	\$1,000,000 each occurrence \$3,000,000 general aggregate	\$2,500 each wrongful act
General Liability	\$1,000,000 each occurrence \$3,000,000 general aggregate	

The COG pays the State of Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

Settled claims have not exceeded the commercial coverage in any of the past three years. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from last year.

Note 5 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

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

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

Ohio Revised Code limits the COG’s obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The COG cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the COG

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

does receive the benefit of employees' services in exchange for compensation including pension and OPEB.

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

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

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 6 for the required OPEB disclosures.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

Annual retirement benefits are calculated based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service; 2.20% for the first thirty years of service and 2.50% for years of service credit over 30. Final average salary is the average of the highest three years of salary.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. New benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. The COLA is indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.50% and with a floor of 0.00%. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. The Retirement Board approved a 0.50% COLA for calendar year 2021 and 2.5% for 2022.

Funding Policy

Plan members are required to contribute 10.00% of their annual covered salary and the COG is required to contribute 14.00% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS' Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10.00% for plan members and 14.00% 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, 2022, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.00%. For fiscal year 2022, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The COG's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$681,120 for fiscal year 2022.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description

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

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

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.20% of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0.00% to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients' base benefit and past cost-of living increases are not affected by this change. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2026, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit and at least age 60.

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

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 9.53% of the 14.00% employer

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

contributions into an investment account. The member determines how to allocate the member and employer money among various investment choices offered by STRS. The remaining 4.47% of the 14.00% employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, 12.00% of the 14.00% member rate is deposited into the member's DC account and the remaining 2.00% is applied to the DB Plan. Member contributions to the DC Plan are allocated among investment choices by the member, and contributions to the DB Plan from the employer and the member are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined Plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of service. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity at age 50 and after termination of employment.

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

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

Funding Policy

Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The fiscal year 2022 employer and employee contribution rate of 14.00% was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For fiscal year 2022, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The COG's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$665,380 for fiscal year 2022.

Net Pension Liability

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2021, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The COG's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the COG'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:

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$4,385,538	\$3,564,638	\$7,950,176
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.11885860%	0.02787945%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.11840530%	0.03280556%	
Change in Proportionate Share	0.00045330%	-0.00492611%	

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of 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, 2021, compared with June 30, 2020, are presented below:

	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020
Inflation	2.40%	3.00%
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25% to 13.58%	3.50% to 18.20%
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.00%, on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement	2.50%
Investment Rate of Return	7.00% net of system expenses	7.50% net of investments expense, including inflation
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)

Mortality rates for 2021 were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set

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forward 5 years and adjusted 103.30% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.80% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

Mortality rates for 2020 were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five year age set-back for both males and females. Mortality among service retired members, and beneficiaries were based upon the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120.00% of male rates, and 110.00% of female rates. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90.00% for male rates and 100.00% for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement.

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

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00%	-0.33%
US Equity	24.75%	5.72%
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50%	6.55%
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75%	8.54%
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00%	1.14%
Private Equity	11.00%	10.03%
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00%	5.41%
Multi-Asset Strategy	4.00%	3.47%
Private Debt/Private Credit	3.00%	5.28%
Total	100.00%	

Discount Rate

The total pension liability for 2021 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%. The discount rate for 2020 was 7.50%. 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 earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.00%). 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 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 7.00%, 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 (6.00%), or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current rate.

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	1% Decrease <u>6.00%</u>	Current Discount Rate <u>7.00%</u>	1% Increase <u>8.00%</u>
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$7,296,458	\$4,385,538	\$1,930,632

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2021, actuarial valuation compared to those used in the June 30, 2020, actuarial valuation are presented below:

Inflation	2.50%	2.50%
Projected Salary Increases	12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65	12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65
Investment Rate of Return	7.00% net of investments expense, including inflation	7.45% net of investments expense, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00%	7.45%
Payroll Increases	3.00%	3.00%
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0.00%	0.00%

Post-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50.00% of rates through age 69, 70.00% of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90.00% of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100.00% of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Table with 90.00% of rates for males and 100.00% of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2021, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016.

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

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Rate of Return *</u>
Domestic Equity	28.00%	7.35%
International Equity	23.00%	7.55%
Alternatives	17.00%	7.09%
Fixed Income	21.00%	3.00%
Real Estate	10.00%	6.00%
Liquidity Reserves	<u>1.00%</u>	2.25%
Total	<u><u>100.00%</u></u>	

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

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 2021, and was 7.45% as of June 30, 2020. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with rate increases described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS’ fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2021. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.00% was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2021.

Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following table presents the COG's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the COG's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (6.00%) or one-percentage-point higher (8.00%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease 6.00%	Current Discount Rate 7.00%	1% Increase 8.00%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$6,675,232	\$3,564,638	\$936,192

Changes Between the Measurement Date and the Reporting date

In February 2022, the Board approved changes to demographic measures that will impact the June 30, 2022, actuarial valuation. These demographic measures include retirement, salary increase, disability/termination and mortality assumptions. In March 2022, the STRS Board approved benefit plan changes to take effect on July 1, 2022. These changes include a one-time three percent cost-of-living increase (COLA) to be paid to eligible benefit recipients and the elimination of the age 60 requirement for retirement age and service eligibility that was set to take effect in 2026. The effect on the net pension liability is unknown.

Note 6 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans

The net OPEB liability (asset) is disclosed as a commitment and not reported on the face of the financial statements as a liability or asset because of the use of the cash basis framework.

See Note 5 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description

The COG contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 75 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. SERS’ Health Care Plan provides healthcare benefits to eligible

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

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

Funding Policy

State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14.00% of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2022, no allocation was made to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2022, this amount was \$25,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2.00% of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.50% of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2022, the COG's surcharge obligation was \$88,240.

The surcharge, added to the allocated portion of the 14.00% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The COG's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$88,240 for fiscal year 2022.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description

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

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Funding Policy

Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. All benefit recipients pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14.00% of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

The net OPEB liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2021, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The COG's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on the COG's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$2,221,732	\$0	\$2,221,732
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	0	(587,815)	(587,815)
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability/Asset:			
Current Measurement Date	0.11739160%	0.02787945%	
Prior Measurement Date	<u>0.12017790%</u>	<u>0.03280556%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.00278630%</u>	<u>-0.00492611%</u>	

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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

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Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2021, compared with June 30, 2020, are presented below:

	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020
Inflation	2.40%	3.00%
Future Salary Increases, Including Inflation		
Wage Increases	3.25% to 13.58%	3.50% to 18.20%
Investment Rate of Return	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation	7.50% net of investment expense, including inflation
Municipal Bond Index Rate:		
Measurement Date	1.92%	2.45%
Prior Measurement Date	2.45%	3.13%
Single Equivalent Interest Rate (SEIR), net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:		
Measurement Date	2.27%	2.63%
Prior Measurement Date	2.63%	3.22%
Medical Trend Assumption:		
Medicare	5.125% to 4.40%	5.25% to 4.75%
Pre-Medicare	6.75% to 4.40%	7.00% to 4.75%

For 2021, mortality rates among healthy retirees were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.30% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.80% for females. Mortality rates for contingent survivors were based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Contingent Survivor mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 105.50% for males and adjusted 122.50% for females. Mortality rates for actives is based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table.

For 2020, mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and Scale BB, 120.00% of male rates and 110.00% of female rates. RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table with 90.00% for male rates and 100.00% for female rates set back five years.

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

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial five-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2015 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board in 2021. Several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.00%, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The capital market assumptions developed by the investment consultant are intended for use over a 10-year horizon and may not be useful in setting the long-term rate of return for funding pension plans which covers a longer timeframe. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change

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absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00%	-0.33%
US Equity	24.75%	5.72%
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50%	6.55%
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75%	8.54%
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00%	1.14%
Private Equity	11.00%	10.03%
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00%	5.41%
Multi-Asset Strategy	4.00%	3.47%
Private Debt/Private Credit	3.00%	5.28%
Total	100.00%	

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2021 was 2.27%. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2021, was 2.63%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the contribution rate of 1.50% of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50% payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to become insufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current System members by SERS actuaries. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is used in the determination of the SEIR for both the June 30, 2020 and the June 30, 2021 total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is 1.92% at June 30, 2021 and 2.45% at June 30, 2020.

Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates

The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability of SERS, what SERS' net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (1.27%) and higher (3.27%) than the current discount rate (2.27%). Also shown is what SERS' net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (5.75% decreasing to 3.4%) and higher (7.75% decreasing to 5.4%) than the current rate.

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	1% Decrease 1.27%	Current Discount Rate 2.27%	1% Increase 3.27%
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$2,752,995	\$2,221,732	\$1,797,322
	1% Decrease (6.00% decreasing to 3.75%)	Current Trend Rate (7.00% decreasing to 4.75%)	1% Increase (8.00% decreasing to 5.75%)
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$1,710,552	\$2,221,732	\$2,904,512

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2021, actuarial valuation and the June 30, 2020 actuarial valuation are presented below:

	June 30, 2021	June 30, 2020
Projected salary increases	12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65	12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65
Investment Rate of Return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.45%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3.00%	3.00%
Discount Rate of Return	7.00%	7.45%
Health Care Cost Trends:		
Medical		
Pre-Medicare	5.00% initial, 4.00% ultimate	5.00% initial, 4.00% ultimate
Medicare	-16.18% initial, 4.00% ultimate	-6.69% initial, 4.00% ultimate
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	6.50% initial, 4.00% ultimate	6.50% initial, 4.00% ultimate
Medicare	29.98% initial, 4.00% ultimate	11.87% initial, 4.00% ultimate

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

For healthy retirees the mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50.00% of rates through age 69, 70.00% of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90.00% of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100.00% of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Table with 90.00% of rates for males and 100.00% of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2021, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016.

The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2022 from 2.055% to 2.10% per year of service. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2022. The Medicare Part D Subsidy was updated to reflect it is expected to be negative in CY 2022. The

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Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Rate of Return*
Domestic Equity	28.00%	7.35%
International Equity	23.00%	7.55%
Alternatives	17.00%	7.09%
Fixed Income	21.00%	3.00%
Real Estate	10.00%	6.00%
Liquidity Reserves	1.00%	2.25%
Total	100.00%	

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

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 2021, and was 7.45% as of June 30, 2020. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes STRS continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2021. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care plan investments of 7.00% was used to measure the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2021.

Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset) to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate

The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2021, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	1% Decrease 6.00%	Current Discount Rate 7.00%	1% Increase 8.00%
Proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset)	(\$496,025)	(\$587,815)	(\$664,492)
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
Proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset)	(\$661,385)	(\$587,815)	(\$496,839)

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Changes Between the Measurement Date and the Reporting date

In February 2022, the Board approved changes to demographic measures that will impact the June 30, 2022, actuarial valuation. The effect on the net OPEB liability (asset) is unknown.

Note 7 - Jointly Governed Organizations

Southwestern Ohio Computer Association

The Southwestern Ohio Computer Association (SWOCA) is a governmental jointly governed organization. SWOCA is an association of public school districts within the boundaries of Warren, Preble, and Butler counties and involves all cities that have school districts within these counties. The organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among member districts. SWOCA is governed by a board of directors consisting of one representative from each of the participating members. The COG paid SWOCA a fee for services provided during the year. Financial information may be obtained from Donna Davis Norris at SWOCA, 3611 Hamilton-Middletown Road, Hamilton, Ohio.

Note 8 – Contingencies

Litigation

The COG is not currently party to legal proceedings.

Note 9 – Implementation of New Accounting Principles

For fiscal year 2022, the COG implemented GASB Statement No. 87, Leases and related guidance from (GASB) Implementation Guide No. 2019-3, and GASB Statement No. 89, Accounting for Interest Cost Incurred Before the End of a Construction Period.

GASB Statement No. 87 sets out to improve the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases by governments. This Statement increases the usefulness of governments' financial statements by requiring recognition of certain lease assets and liabilities for leases that previously were classified as operating leases and recognized as inflows of resources or outflows of resources based on the payment provisions of the contract. It establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. Under this Statement, a lessee is required to recognize a lease liability and an intangible right-to-use lease asset, and a lessor is required to recognize a lease receivable and a deferred inflow of resources, thereby enhancing the relevance and consistency of information about governments' leasing activities. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 87 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the COG.

GASB Statement No. 89 establishes accounting requirements for interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period. Such interest cost includes all interest that previously was accounted for in accordance with the requirements of paragraphs 5–22 of Statement No. 62, Codification of Accounting and Financial Reporting Guidance Contained in Pre-November 30, 1989 FASB and AICPA Pronouncements, which are superseded by this Statement. This Statement requires that interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period be recognized as an expense in the period in which the cost is incurred for financial statements prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. As a result, interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period will not be included in the

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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022

historical cost of a capital asset reported in a business-type activity or enterprise fund. This Statement also reiterates that in financial statements prepared using the current financial resources measurement focus, interest cost incurred before the end of a construction period should be recognized as an expenditure on a basis consistent with governmental fund accounting principles. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 89 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the COG.

Note 10 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June of 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. During fiscal year 2022, the COG received COVID-19 funding. The financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing recovery measures will impact subsequent periods of the COG. The impact on the COG's future operating costs, revenues, and additional recovery from funding, either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

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Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis
June 30, 2021

	<u>Southwest Ohio Council of Governments</u>
Assets:	
Current Assets:	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$1,937,245</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,937,245</u>
Net Position:	
Unrestricted	<u>1,937,245</u>
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$1,937,245</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Net Position - Cash Basis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

	Southwest Ohio Council of Governments
Operating Receipts:	
Charges for Services	\$11,222,886
Total Operating Receipts	<u>11,222,886</u>
Operating Disbursements:	
Salaries	7,657,143
Fringe Benefits	2,709,762
Purchased Services	323,376
Other Disbursements	<u>145,186</u>
Total Operating Disbursements	<u>10,835,467</u>
Change in Net Position	387,419
Net Position - Beginning of Year	<u>1,549,826</u>
Net Position - End of Year	<u><u>\$1,937,245</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Statement of Cash Flows - Cash Basis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

	Southwest Ohio Council of Governments
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:	
Cash Received from Member Districts	\$11,222,886
Cash Payments to Employees	(7,657,143)
Cash Payments to Fringe Benefits	(2,709,762)
Cash Payments to Suppliers	(323,376)
Cash Payments for Other Disbursements	<u>(145,186)</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	<u>387,419</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	387,419
Cash and Cash Equivalents Beginning of Year	<u>1,549,826</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents End of Year	<u><u>1,937,245</u></u>
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>387,419</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	<u><u>\$387,419</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

Note 1 - Description of the COG and Reporting Entity

Description of the COG

The Southwest Ohio Council of Governments (the "COG"), is a body Corporate and Politic established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 167, by agreement of its members. The COG is a jointly governed organization of the Warren County Educational Service Center and the Warren County Commissioners. The COG is currently providing services for eighteen member school districts and other entities in southwest Ohio, principally providing substitute teachers and substitute classified personnel. Warren County Educational Service Center acts as a fiscal officer for the COG.

The governing authority of Southwest Ohio Council of Governments (COG) is the COG Board, which is comprised of five board members. There are three Warren County ESC representatives including the treasurer, and two Warren County Commissioner representatives. The Warren County ESC superintendent is the current board president. The Officer positions of the COG Board are President and Treasurer.

Reporting Entity

A reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the COG consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the COG. For the COG, this is the general operation.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the COG is financially accountable. The COG is financially accountable for an organization if the COG appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing board and (1) the COG is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the COG is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the COG is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the COG is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the COG in that the COG approves the budget, the issuance of debt, or the levying of taxes. The COG has no component units.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

These financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. The cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. Following are the more significant of the COG's accounting policies:

Basis of Presentation

The COG's basic financial statements consist of a statement of net position – cash basis, a statement of receipts, disbursements, and changes in net position – cash basis, and a statement of cash flows – cash basis.

The COG uses a single enterprise presentation for its financial records. Enterprise reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position and financial position.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

Measurement Focus

The COG uses a cash basis of accounting for reporting purposes. Receipts are recognized when they are received, and disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

Basis of Accounting

The COG's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the COG's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when the liability is incurred.

As a result of the cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related receipts (such as accounts receivable and receipt billed for provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities (such as accounts payable and disbursements for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued disbursements and liabilities) are not recorded in these financial statements. If the COG utilized the basis of accounting recognized as generally accepted, the fund and all government-wide financial statements would be presented on the accrual basis of accounting.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

To improve cash management, cash received by the COG is pooled. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through COG records. Each fund's interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents" on the financial statements.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Directors has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. No interest receipts were credited during Fiscal Year 2021.

Capital Assets

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

Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the COG or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws, or regulations of other governments.

The COG applies restricted resources when a disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

Operating Receipts and Disbursements

Operating receipts are those receipts that are generated directly from the primary activity of the COG. Operating disbursements are necessary costs incurred to provide the good or service that is the primary activity of the COG. All receipts and disbursements not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

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

Note 3 - Deposits and Investments

State statutes classify monies held by the COG into three categories.

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

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

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

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

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

1. United States Treasury Notes, Bills, Bonds, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States.
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality, including but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities.
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above, provided that the fair value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to fair value daily, and that the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and with certain limitations including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met.
5. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) of this section, and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions.
6. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio).
7. Certain bankers' acceptance for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met
8. Under limited circumstances, corporate debt interests rated in either of the two highest rating classifications by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements, and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage, and short selling are also prohibited. Except as noted above, an investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the COG, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the Fiscal officer or qualified trustee or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

Deposits

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the COG will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. At June 30, 2021, the carrying amount of all COG deposits was \$1,937,245. As of June 30, 2021, the COG's bank balance of \$2,053,093 was covered by FDIC or collateralized as discussed below.

The COG has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or be protected by:

Eligible securities pledged to the COG and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured; or

Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102% of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

Investments

As of June 30, 2021, the COG did not have any investments.

Note 4 - Risk Management

The COG 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. The COG carries insurance coverage with the following companies.

<u>COVERAGE</u>	<u>COMPANY</u>
Educators Legal Liability	The Argonaut Insurance Company
General Liability	The Argonaut Insurance Company

Limits and deductible amounts for the above policies vary accordingly.

<u>COVERAGE</u>	<u>LIMITS</u>	<u>DEDUCTIBLE</u>
Educators Legal Liability	\$1,000,000 each occurrence \$3,000,000 general aggregate	\$2,500 each wrongful act
General Liability	\$1,000,000 each occurrence \$3,000,000 general aggregate	

The COG pays the State of Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 of salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

Settled claims have not exceeded the commercial coverage in any of the past three years. There have been no significant reductions in insurance coverage from last year.

Note 5 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

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

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

Ohio Revised Code limits the COG’s obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The COG cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the COG

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

does receive the benefit of employees' services in exchange for compensation including pension and OPEB.

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

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

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 6 for the required OPEB disclosures.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. Beginning April 1, 2018, new benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. A three-year COLA suspension is in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. Upon resumption of the COLA, it will be indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5 percent and with a floor of 0 percent. In 2020, the Board of Trustees approved a 0.5 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for eligible retirees and beneficiaries in 2021.

Funding Policy

Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the COG 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, 2021, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.0 percent. For fiscal year 2021, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The COG's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$574,377 for fiscal year 2021.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description

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

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

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0 percent to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients' base benefit and past cost-of living increases are not affected by this change. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2026, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five year of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit and at least age 60.

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

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 9.53 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. The member determines how to allocate the member and employer money among various investment choices offered by STRS. The remaining 4.47 percent of the 14 percent employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

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

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

A DB or Combined Plan member with five or more years of credited service who is determined to be disabled may qualify for a disability benefit. New members 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. Eligible survivors of members who die before service retirement may qualify for monthly benefits. If a member of the DC Plan dies before retirement benefits begin, the member's designated beneficiary is entitled to receive the member's account balance.

Funding Policy

Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The fiscal year 2021 employer and employee contribution rate of 14 percent was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For fiscal year 2021, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The COG's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$478,432 for fiscal year 2021.

Net Pension Liability

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2020, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The COG's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the COG'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:

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$7,831,576	\$7,937,778	\$15,769,354
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.11840530%	0.03280556%	
Prior Measurement Date	<u>0.10607310%</u>	<u>0.04118830%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	0.01233220%	-0.00838274%	

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of 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, 2020, are presented below:

Inflation	3.00%
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.50% - 18.20%
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.50%
Investment Rate of Return	7.50% net of investments expense, including inflation
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five year age set-back for both males and females. Mortality among service retired members, and beneficiaries were based upon the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120 percent of male rates, and 110 percent of female rates. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90 percent for male rates and 100 percent for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement. The most recent experience study was completed for the five year period ended June 30, 2015.

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined by using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS' *Statement of Investment Policy*. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating an arithmetic weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalanced uncorrelated asset classes.

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00%	1.85%
US Stocks	22.50%	5.75%
Non-US Stocks	22.50%	6.50%
Fixed Income	19.00%	2.85%
Private Equity	12.00%	7.60%
Real Assets	17.00%	6.60%
Multi-Asset Strategies	5.00%	6.65%
Total	100.00%	

Discount Rate

The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.50 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 earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.50 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 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 7.50 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 (6.50 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.50 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease 6.50%	Current Discount Rate 7.50%	1% Increase 8.50%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$10,728,303	\$7,831,576	\$5,401,167

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the July 1, 2020, actuarial valuation are presented below:

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

Inflation	2.50%
Projected salary increases	12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65
Investment Rate of Return	7.45%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.45%
Payroll Increases	3.00%
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0%, effective July 1, 2017

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

Actuarial assumptions used in the July 1 2020, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016.

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

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Rate of Return *</u>
Domestic Equity	28.00%	7.35%
International Equity	23.00%	7.55%
Alternatives	17.00%	7.09%
Fixed Income	21.00%	3.00%
Real Estate	10.00%	6.00%
Liquidity Reserves	<u>1.00%</u>	2.25%
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

*10 Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25%, but does not include investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS' investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.45 percent as of June 30, 2020. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with rate increases described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS' fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2020. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.45 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

total pension liability as of June 30, 2020.

Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following table presents the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.45 percent, as well as what the County's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one-percentage-point lower (6.45 percent) or one-percentage-point higher (8.45 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease 6.45%	Current Discount Rate 7.45%	1% Increase 8.45%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$11,302,014	\$7,937,778	\$5,086,868

Note 6 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans

The net OPEB liability (asset) is disclosed as a commitment and not reported on the face of the financial statements as a liability or asset because of the use of the cash basis framework.

See Note 5 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description

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

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

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

Funding Policy

State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2021, no allocation was made to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2021, this amount was \$23,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2021, the COG's surcharge obligation was \$51,556.

The surcharge, added to the allocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The COG's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$51,556 for fiscal year 2021.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description

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

Funding Policy

Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. All benefit recipients pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14 percent of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

The net OPEB liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2020, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The COG's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on the COG's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$2,611,859	\$0	\$2,611,859
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	0	(576,557)	(576,557)
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/Asset:			
Current Measurement Date	0.12017790%	0.03280556%	
Prior Measurement Date	<u>0.10880990%</u>	<u>0.04118830%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	0.01136800%	-0.00838274%	

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2020, are presented below:

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

Inflation	3.00%
Wage Increases	3.50% to 18.20%
Investment Rate of Return	7.50% net of investment expense, including inflation
Municipal Bond Index Rate:	
Measurement Date	2.45%
Prior Measurement Date	3.13%
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:	
Measurement Date	2.63%
Prior Measurement Date	3.22%
Medical Trend Assumption:	
Medicare	5.25% to 4.75%
Pre-Medicare	7.00% to 4.75%

Mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and Scale BB, 120 percent of male rates and 110 percent of female rates. RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table with 90 percent for male rates and 100 percent for female rates set back five years.

The most recent experience study was completed for the five year period ended June 30, 2015.

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial five-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2010 through 2015, and was adopted by the Board on April 21, 2016. Several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.50 percent, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The capital market assumptions developed by the investment consultant are intended for use over a 10-year horizon and may not be useful in setting the long-term rate of return for funding pension plans which covers a longer timeframe. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class, as used in the June 30, 2015 five-year experience study, are summarized as follows:

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00%	1.85%
US Stocks	22.50%	5.75%
Non-US Stocks	22.50%	6.50%
Fixed Income	19.00%	2.85%
Private Equity	12.00%	7.60%
Real Assets	17.00%	6.60%
Multi-Asset Strategies	5.00%	6.65%
Total	100.00%	

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2020 was 2.63 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability at June 30, 2019, was 3.22 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the state statute contribution rate of 2.00 percent of projected covered employee payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent payroll surcharge and 0.50 percent of contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to become insufficient to make future benefit payments during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on OPEB plan assets was used to present value the projected benefit payments through the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024, and the Fidelity General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index rate of 2.45 percent, as of June 30, 2020 (i.e. municipal bond rate), was used to present value the projected benefit payments for the remaining years in the projection. The total present value of projected benefit payments from all years was then used to determine the single rate of return that was used as the discount rate. The projection of future benefit payments for all current plan members was until the benefit payments ran out.

Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates

The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability of SERS, what SERS' net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (1.63%) and higher (3.63%) than the current discount rate (2.63%). Also shown is what SERS' net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (6.00% decreasing to 3.75%) and higher (8.00% decreasing to 5.75%) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (1.63%)	Current Discount Rate (2.63%)	1% Increase (3.63%)
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$3,196,851	\$2,611,859	\$2,146,792
	1% Decrease (6.00% decreasing to 3.75%)	Current Trend Rate (7.00% decreasing to 4.75%)	1% Increase (8.00% decreasing to 5.75%)
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$2,056,640	\$2,611,859	\$3,354,329

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2020, actuarial valuation are presented below:

Inflation	2.50%
Projected salary increases	12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65
Investment Rate of Return	7.45%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3.00%
Discount Rate of Return	7.45%
Health Care Cost Trends:	
Medical	
Pre-Medicare	5.00% initial, 4% ultimate
Medicare	-6.69% initial, 4% ultimate
Prescription Drug	
Pre-Medicare	6.50% initial, 4% ultimate
Medicare	11.87% initial, 4% ultimate

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

For healthy retirees the mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50 percent of rates through age 69, 70 percent of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90 percent of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100 percent of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Table with 90 percent of rates for males and 100 percent of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2020, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016.

Since the prior measurement date, there was no change to the claims costs process. Claim curves were updated to reflect the projected fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 premium based on June 30, 2020 enrollment distribution. The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2021 from 1.984 percent to 2.055 percent per year of service. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2021. The Medicare subsidy percentages were adjusted effective January 1, 2021 to 2.1 percent for the AMA Medicare plan. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

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

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Rate of Return*
Domestic Equity	28.00%	7.35%
International Equity	23.00%	7.55%
Alternatives	17.00%	7.09%
Fixed Income	21.00%	3.00%
Real Estate	10.00%	6.00%
Liquidity Reserves	1.00%	2.25%
Total	100.00%	

**10 Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25%, but does not include investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS' investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.45 percent as of June 30, 2020. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes STRS continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2020. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care plan investments of 7.45 percent was used to measure the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2020.

Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset) to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate

The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2020, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.45 percent, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.45 percent) or one percentage point higher (8.45 percent) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	1% Decrease (6.45%)	Current Discount Rate (7.45%)	1% Increase (8.45%)
Proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset)	(\$501,642)	(\$576,557)	(\$640,120)
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
Proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset)	(\$636,174)	(\$576,557)	(\$503,935)

Since the Prior Measurement Date

There was no change to the claims costs process. Claim curves were updated to reflect the projected fiscal year end 2021 premium based on June 30, 2020 enrollment distribution. The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2021 from 1.984% to 2.055% per year of service. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2021. The Medicare

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

subsidy percentages were adjusted effective January 1, 2021 to 2.1% for the AMA Medicare plan. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

Note 7 - Jointly Governed Organizations

Southwestern Ohio Computer Association

The Southwestern Ohio Computer Association (SWOCA) is a governmental jointly governed organization. SWOCA is an association of public school districts within the boundaries of Warren, Preble, and Butler counties and involves all cities that have school districts within these counties. The organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among member districts. SWOCA is governed by a board of directors consisting of one representative from each of the participating members. The COG paid SWOCA a fee for services provided during the year. Financial information may be obtained from Donna Davis Norris at SWOCA, 3611 Hamilton-Middletown Road, Hamilton, Ohio.

Note 8 – Contingencies

Litigation

The COG is not currently party to legal proceedings.

Note 9 – Implementation of New Accounting Principles

For fiscal year 2021, the COG implemented GASB Statement No. 84, Fiduciary Activities and related guidance from (GASB) Implementation Guide No. 2019-2, Fiduciary Activities, GASB Statement No. 88, Certain Disclosures Related to Debt, including Direct Borrowings and Direct Placements, and GASB Statement No. 90, Majority Equity Interests – An Amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and GASB Statements No. 61.

GASB Statement No. 88 sets out to improve the information that is disclosed in notes to government financial statements related to debt, including direct borrowings and direct placements. It also clarifies which liabilities governments should include when disclosing information related to debt. The Statement defines debt for purposes of disclosure in notes to financial statements as a liability that arises from a contractual obligation to pay cash (or other assets that may be used in lieu of cash) in one or more payments to settle an amount that is fixed at the date the contractual obligation is established. This Statement requires that additional essential information related to debt be disclosed in notes to financial statements, including unused lines of credit; assets pledged as collateral for the debt; and terms specified in debt agreements related to significant events of default with finance-related consequences, significant termination events with finance-related consequences, and significant subjective acceleration clauses. For notes to financial statements related to debt, this Statement also requires that existing and additional information be provided for direct borrowings and direct placements of debt separately from other debt. If applicable, GASB Statement No. 88 has been implemented in the notes to financial statements.

GASB Statement No. 84 established specific criteria for identifying activities that should be reported as fiduciary activities and clarifies whether and how business type activities should report their fiduciary activities. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 84 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the COG.

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021

GASB Statement No. 90 improves consistency in the measurement and comparability of the financial statement presentation of majority equity interests in legally separate organizations. This Statement also provides guidance for reporting a component unit if a government acquires a 100 percent equity interest in that component unit. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 90 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the COG.

Note 10 – COVID-19

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June of 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. During fiscal year 2021, the COG received Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding. Additional funding has been made available through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, passed by Congress on December 21, 2020 and/or the American Rescue Plan Act, passed by Congress on March 11, 2021.

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



88 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
(800) 282-0370

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

Southwest Ohio Council of Governments
Warren County
1879 Deerfield Road
Lebanon, Ohio 45036

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the cash-basis financial statements of the Southwest Ohio Council of Governments, Warren County, (the Council) as of and for the years ended June 30, 2022 and 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Council's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated January 3, 2023, wherein we noted the Council uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles. We also noted the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures which may impact subsequent periods of the Council.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

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

Purpose of this Report

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



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio
January 3, 2023

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



SOUTHWEST OHIO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

WARREN COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

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



Certified for Release 1/19/2023

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

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