





# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

Rise and Shine Academy  
Lucas County  
School Employees Retirement System  
Plante & Moran, PLLC  
3248 Warsaw Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43608

We have examined the census data, including the demographic data of employees' name, last four digits of the social security number, gender, and date of birth, as well as the pensionable compensation and contributions remitted to the School Employees Retirement System (SERS) as of June 30, 2024 and for the year then ended. Rise and Shine Academy, Lucas County(the Academy) management is responsible for reporting complete and accurate census data to SERS in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code and rules established by SERS.

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the census data as described above based on our examination. Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the AICPA and the standards applicable to attestation engagements contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the census data as described above was reported to SERS in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code and rules established by SERS.

An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about whether the census data was reported to SERS in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code and rules established by SERS. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the census data reported to SERS, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our adverse opinion.

We are required to be independent and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the engagement.

Our examination identified errors in enrolling employees in the correct retirement system and remitting the correct contributions for four of the Academy's 29 employees (14 percent). The four employees met the definition of a State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) employee but were incorrectly enrolled in SERS. The Academy incorrectly remitted a total of \$23,404 in employee contributions to SERS instead of contributing \$32,765 to STRS. As a result of these errors, the Academy remitted 38 percent more employee contributions to SERS than necessary, had the employees been correctly enrolled and reported.

In our opinion, because of the significance of the errors described in the preceding paragraph, the census data, including the demographic data of employees' name, last four digits of the social security number, gender, and date of birth, as well as the pensionable compensation and contributions remitted to SERS, were not reported to SERS in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code and rules established by SERS in all material respects as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we are required to report all deficiencies that are considered to be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control; fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements that have a material effect on the accuracy and completeness of the census data and pensionable wages; and any other instances that warrant the attention of those charged with governance. We are also required to obtain and report the views of responsible officials concerning the findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as any planned corrective actions. We performed our examination to express an opinion on whether the census data was reported to SERS in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code and rules established by the School Employees Retirement System and not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the internal control over the accuracy and completeness of the census data provided to the pension system, or on compliance and other matters; accordingly, we express no such opinions. Our examination disclosed certain findings that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and those findings, along with the views of responsible officials, are described in the attached Schedule of Findings.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of Rise and Shine Academy's management, those charged with governance, and School Employees Retirement System management, and plan auditors to provide assurances about whether the census data reported to the School Employees Retirement System is accurate and complete. This report is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

October 24, 2024

**RISE AND SHINE ACADEMY  
LUCAS COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

**FINDING NUMBER 2024-001**

**Noncompliance Material Weakness**

**Ohio Rev. Code § 3309.01(B)** defines a school employee retirement system employee as:

- (1) Any person employed by a public employer in a position for which the person is not required to have a registration, certificate, or license issued pursuant to section 3301.28 or sections 3319.22 to 3319.31 of the Revised Code or a permit issued under section 3319.0812 of the Revised Code;
- (2) Any person who performs a service common to the normal daily operation of an educational unit even though the person is employed and paid by one who has contracted with an employer to perform the service, and the contracting board or educational unit shall be the employer for the purposes of administering the provisions of this chapter;
- (3) Any person, not a faculty member, employed in any school or college or other institution wholly controlled and managed, and wholly or partly supported by the state or any political subdivision thereof, the board of trustees, or other managing body of which shall accept the requirements and obligations of this chapter.

Four of twenty-two (18 percent) employees enrolled in the School Employee Retirement System of Ohio (SERS), not meeting the definition of a school employee retirement system employee, were erroneously enrolled in SERS instead of the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS). The Academy incorrectly remitted a total of \$23,404 in employee contributions to SERS instead of contributing \$32,765 to STRS. As a result of these errors, the Academy remitted 38 percent more in employee contributions to SERS than necessary, had the employees been correctly enrolled and reported.

Management did not fully understand the requirements related to enrolling employees and reporting information to the applicable retirement system.

Failure to enroll employees in the proper retirement system has resulted in inaccurate and incomplete submissions of census data to the applicable retirement system.

The Academy should design and implement sufficient controls to ensure employees are enrolled in the correct retirement system and earnings and contributions are properly reported and remitted. Additionally, we recommend the Academy contact both SERS and STRS to ensure all employees are enrolled in the correct retirement system and to correct errors in reporting earnings and remitting the related contributions.

**Official's Response:**

The Academy will ensure requirements are met for enrolling employees into the correct retirement system.

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**RISE AND SHINE ACADEMY  
SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM CENSUS DATA EXAMINATION**

**LUCAS 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 11/7/2024**

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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)