



Rea & associates *a brighter way*

# Pearl Academy

## Cuyahoga County, Ohio

### *Audited Financial Statements*

For the Fiscal Year Ended  
June 30, 2015





# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

Board of Directors  
Pearl Academy  
4850 Pearl Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44144

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

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

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

Dave Yost  
Auditor of State

May 9, 2016

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**PEARL ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

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December 28, 2015

To the Board of Directors  
Pearl Academy  
Cuyahoga County, Ohio  
4850 Pearl Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44144

## **Independent Auditor's Report**

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

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Pearl Academy, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the "School") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes 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.

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

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements 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 entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

***Opinion***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the School, as of June 30, 2015, and the changes in its financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

***Emphasis of a Matter***

As described in Note 3, the School restated the June 30, 2014 net position balance to account for the implementation of Governmental Accounting Standard Board (GASB) Statement No. 68, "*Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*", and GASB Statement No. 71, "*Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date – An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 68*." Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

***Other Matters***

***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the *Management's Discussion and Analysis* and the *Schedule of the School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability*, and *Schedule of School Contributions* on pages 4-9, 29-30, and 31-32, respectively, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

***Other Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements. The *Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards*, as required by the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations* is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.



The *Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards* is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the *Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards* is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

**Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 28, 2015 on our consideration of the School's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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 internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Rea & Associates, Inc.*

Medina, Ohio

**PEARL ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

The discussion and analysis of the Pearl Academy's (the School) financial performance provides an overall review of the School's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the School's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the financial statements and the notes to the financial statements to enhance their understanding of the School's financial performance.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is an element of the reporting model adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in their **Statement No. 34 Basic Financial Statements – and Management's Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments** issued June 1999. Certain comparative information between the current year and the prior year is required to be presented in the MD&A.

**Financial Highlights**

- In total, net position increased \$129,572, which represents a 4.1 percent increase from 2014. This is primarily due to an increase pension deferred outflows and decrease in net pension liability.
- Total assets decreased \$48,489, which represents a 36.2 percent decrease from 2014. This decrease was primarily due to a decrease in grant funding receivable.
- Liabilities decreased \$592,977, which represents an 17.5 percent decrease from 2014. This decrease was primarily due to a decrease in net pension liability
- Deferred outflows of resources increased \$85,748, which represents a 70.0 percent change from 2014. This change represents contractually required amounts due to GASB 68.
- Deferred inflows of resources increased \$500,664, which is the first year in which it has been recorded. This change is due to the implementation of GASB 68.

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

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

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

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

**PEARL ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

**Financial Highlights (continued)**

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

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

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

As a result of implementing GASB 68, the School is reporting a net pension liability and deferred inflows/outflows of resources related to pension on the accrual basis of accounting. This implementation also had the effect of restating net position at June 30, 2014, from \$35,195 to (\$3,131,313).

**PEARL ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

**Financial Highlights (continued)**

The information necessary to restate the 2014 beginning balances and the 2014 pension expense amounts for the effects of the initial implantation of GASB 68 is not available. Therefore, 2014 functional expenses still include pension expense of \$122,540 computed under GASB 27. GASB 27 required recognizing pension expense equal to the contractually required contributions to the plan. Under GASB 68, pension expense represents additional amounts earned, adjusted by deferred inflows and deferred outflows. The contractually required contribution is no longer a component of pension expense. Under GASB 68, the 2015 statements report pension expense of \$76,040. Consequently, in order to compare 2015 total program expenses to 2014, the following adjustments are needed:

Total 2015 program expenses under GASB 68	\$ 3,442,167
Pension expense under GASB 68	(76,040)
2015 contractually required contribution	<u>182,202</u>
Adjusted 2015 program expenses	3,548,329
Total 2014 program expenses under GASB 27	<u>3,334,824</u>
Increase in program expenses not related to pension	<u><u>\$ 213,505</u></u>

**Using this Financial Report**

This report consists of three parts, the required supplementary information, the financial statements, and notes to the financial statements. The financial statements include a Statement of Net Position, a Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position, and a Statement of Cash Flows.

**PEARL ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

**Statement of Net Position**

The Statement of Net Position answers the question of how the School performed financially during 2015. This statement includes all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position, both financial and capital and current and long-term, using the accrual basis of accounting, which is the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all revenues and expenses during the year, regardless of when the cash is received or expended.

Table 1 provides a summary of the School's Net Position for fiscal year 2015 and fiscal year 2014.

(Table 1)  
**Statement of Net Position**

	2015	Restated 2014
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets	\$ 85,644	\$ 134,133
Total Assets	85,644	134,133
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>		
Pension System	208,288	122,540
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current Liabilities	27,039	98,938
Long Term Liabilities	2,767,970	3,289,048
Total Liabilities	2,795,009	3,387,986
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>		
Pension System	500,664	-
<b>Net Position</b>		
Unrestricted	(3,001,741)	(3,131,313)
Total Net Position	\$ (3,001,741)	\$ (3,131,313)

Total assets decreased \$48,489. This decrease is primarily due to the decrease in grant funding receivable. Deferred outflows of resources increased \$85,748. Liabilities decreased by \$592,977. This decrease is the result of the decrease in the school's net pension liability. Deferred inflows of resources increased \$500,664. The changes in deferred outflows and inflows of resources were impacted by the implementation of GASB 68. The School operates under a management agreement with Seneca Community School, LLC. Under the terms of the management agreement, Seneca Community School, LLC is paid a 100% of the School's grant funding that is received (see notes to the financial statements, note 8).

**PEARL ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

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

Table 2 shows the changes in Net Position for fiscal year 2015 and fiscal year 2014, as well as a listing of revenues and expenses.

(Table 2)

**Change in Net Position**

	2015	2014
<b>Operating Revenue</b>		
State Aid	\$ 2,907,086	\$ 2,807,754
Total Operating Revenue	2,907,086	2,807,754
<b>Non-Operating Revenues</b>		
Grants	656,643	556,029
Miscellaneous	8,010	34
Total Revenues	3,571,739	3,363,817
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
Management Fees	2,765,645	2,672,359
Mgmt Fee Contra - Pension Funding	(182,202)	-
Grant Programs	656,643	556,029
Pension Expense	76,040	-
Sponsorship Fees	85,750	82,775
Board of Education	15,122	8,856
Legal	4,438	1,605
Advertising	623	1,251
Insurance	7,172	7,010
Auditing and Accounting	12,936	4,879
Miscellaneous	-	60
Total Operating Expenses	3,442,167	3,334,824
Change in Net Position	\$ 129,572	\$ 28,993

The primary reason for the increase in overall revenues is primarily due to the increase in grant funding from 2014. The School's most significant expenses, "Management fees" are a result of the management agreement in place between the School and Seneca Community School, LLC. The agreement provides that specific percentages of the revenues received by the School will be paid to Seneca Community School, LLC to fund operations (see notes to the financial statements, note 8).

**Capital Assets**

At the end of fiscal year 2015 the School had no capital assets.

**PEARL ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

**Current Financial Issues**

Pearl Academy received revenue for 352 students in 2015. State law governing community schools allows for the School to have open enrollment across traditional school district boundaries.

The School receives its support almost entirely from state aid. Per pupil revenue from state aid for the School averaged \$8,259 in fiscal year 2015. The School receives additional revenues from grant subsidies.

Although there is a possibility that state aid will be cut in future years due to the economic climate, the School feels that the relationship with the management company will insulate them from any significant change.

**Contacting the School's Financial Management**

This financial report is designed to provide our readers with a general overview of the School's finances and to show the School's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact the Fiscal Officer at 3320 West Market Street, Suite 300, Fairlawn, Ohio 44333.

**PEARL ACADEMY  
 CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
 STATEMENT OF NET POSITION  
 JUNE 30, 2015**

**ASSETS**

Current assets

Cash & cash equivalents	\$	44,781
Continuing fees receivable		890
Undeposited Funds		523
Grant funding receivable		39,450
		39,450

**Total assets**

85,644

**DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

Pension system		208,288
		208,288

**LIABILITIES**

Current Liabilities

Accounts payable		2,706
Continuing fees payable		199
Federal grant funding payable		19,451
State grant funding payable		4,683
		4,683

Total current liabilities

27,039

Long term liabilities

Net pension liability		2,767,970
		2,767,970

**Total liabilities**

2,795,009

**DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

Pension system		500,664
		500,664

**NET POSITION**

Unrestricted net position		(3,001,741)
		(3,001,741)

**Total net position**

\$ (3,001,741)

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.



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

**OPERATING REVENUES**

State basic aid	\$	2,863,847
Facilities aid		26,228
Casino revenue		17,011
		17,011
<b>Total operating revenues</b>		2,907,086

**OPERATING EXPENSES**

Management fees		2,765,645
Management fees (contra- recharacterizing pension funding)		(182,202)
Federal grant programs		651,960
State grant programs		4,683
Sponsorship fees		85,750
Pension expense		76,040
Board of education		15,122
Legal		4,438
Advertising		623
Accounting & auditing		12,936
Bank fees		-
Insurance: D&O & liability		7,172
		7,172
<b>Total operating expenses</b>		3,442,167
<b>Operating loss</b>		(535,081)

**NON-OPERATING REVENUE**

Federal grants		651,960
State grants		4,683
Miscellaneous		8,010
		8,010
<b>Total non-operating revenue</b>		664,653
<b>Change in net position</b>		129,572
<b>Net position, June 30, 2014 (restated - see note 3)</b>		(3,131,313)
<b>Net position, June 30, 2015</b>	\$	(3,001,741)

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**PEARL ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

**INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

**CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Cash received from state aid	\$	2,827,554
Cash payments to suppliers for goods and services		(3,542,109)
		(714,555)

**CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES**

Cash received from grant programs		736,175
Cash received from miscellaneous sources		8,010
		744,185
Net cash received from noncapital financing activities		744,185
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		29,630
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		15,151
		44,781
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$	44,781

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

Operating loss	\$	(535,081)
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**ADJUSTMENTS TO RECONCILE OPERATING LOSS TO NET  
CASH USED FOR OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Changes in assets, liabilities, and deferred outflows/inflows of resources:		
Continuing fees receivable		(890)
Undeposited funds		(523)
Pension deferred outflows		(85,748)
Pension deferred inflows		500,664
Net pension liability		(521,078)
Accounts payable		2,751
Continuing fees payable		199
Grants funding payable		(79,532)
State grants funding payable		4,683
		(179,474)
Total adjustments		(179,474)
Net cash used for operating activities	\$	(714,555)

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**PEARL ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

**1. DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL AND REPORTING ENTITY**

Pearl Academy (the School) is a federal 501(c)(3) tax-exempt, state nonprofit corporation established pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code Chapters 3314 and 1702 to maintain and provide a school exclusively for any educational, literary, scientific and related teaching service. The School, which is part of the State's education program, is independent of any school district. The School may sue and be sued, acquire facilities as needed, and contract for any services necessary for the operation of the School.

The School contracts with Seneca Community School, LLC for most of its functions (see note 8). Seneca Community School, LLC is under ownership of White Hat Ventures, LLC. During the year, ownership of Seneca Community School LLC transferred to ACCEL Schools Ohio LLC. This transfer of ownership did not have an effect on the relationship between the School and Seneca Community School (see note 14).

The School signed a contract with Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (Sponsor) to operate for a period from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2015, which has been extended another five years. The School operates under a self-appointing, five-member Board of Directors (the Board). The School's Code of Regulations specify that vacancies that arise on the Board will be filled by the appointment of a successor director by a majority vote of the then existing directors. The Board is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the contract with the Sponsor, which include, but are not limited to, state-mandated provisions regarding student population, curriculum, academic goals, performance standards, admission standards, and qualifications of teachers. The School has one instructional/support facility, which is leased by Seneca Community School, LLC. The facility is staffed with teaching personnel employed by Seneca Community School, LLC, who provide services to 352 students.

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

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

**A. Basis of Presentation**

The School's financial statements consist of a Statement of Net Position, a Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position, and a Statement of Cash Flows. Enterprise fund reporting focuses on the determination of the change in Net Position, financial position and cash flows.

Auditor of State of Ohio Bulletin No. 2000-005 requires the presentation of all financial activity to be reported within one enterprise fund for year-end reporting purposes. Enterprise accounting is used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent is that the costs (expenses) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

**PEARL ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015  
(Continued)**

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

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

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and deferred outflows of resources as well as all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are included on the Statement of Net Position. Operating statements present increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in Net Position. The accrual basis of accounting is utilized for reporting purposes. Revenues are recognized when they are earned, and expenses are recognized when they are incurred.

**C. Budgetary Process**

Unlike traditional public schools located in the State of Ohio, community schools are not required to follow budgetary provisions set forth in Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705, unless specifically provided in the School's contract with its Sponsor. The contract between the School and its Sponsor requires a detailed school budget for each year of the contract. In addition, the Board adopted an operating budget at the beginning of fiscal year 2015. However, the budget does not have to follow the provisions of Ohio Rev. Code Section 5705, except for section 5705.391 as it relates to five-year forecasts.

**D. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

All cash received by the School is maintained in a demand deposit account.

**E. Intergovernmental Revenues**

The School currently participates in the State Foundation Program and casino tax distributions, which are reflected under "operating revenues" on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position. Revenues received from these programs are recognized as operating revenue in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the School receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlements, and contributions. Grants, entitlements, and contributions are recognized as non-operating revenues in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted; matching requirements, in which the School must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose; and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the School on a reimbursement basis. Amounts awarded under the above programs for the 2015 school year totaled \$3,563,729.

**F. Capital Assets and Depreciation**

For purposes of recording capital assets, the Board has a capitalization threshold of \$5,000.

As of June 30, 2015, the School had no capital assets.

**PEARL ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015  
(Continued)**

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

**G. Use of Estimates**

In preparing the financial statements, management is sometimes required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**H. Operating Revenues and Expenses**

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the School's primary activities. For the School, these revenues are primarily state aid payments. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the goods and services that are the primary activities of the School. Revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

**I. Pensions**

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

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

In addition to assets, the statements of the financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. For the School, deferred outflows of resources are reported on the statement of net position for pension. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension are explained in note 11.

In addition to liabilities, the statements of financial position report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net position that applied to a future period and will not be recognized until that time. For the School, deferred inflows of resources include pension. Deferred inflows of resources related to pension are reported on the statement of net position. (See note 11)

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**3. CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES AND RESTATEMENT OF NET POSITION**

For fiscal year 2015, the School implemented the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions" and GASB Statement No. 71, "Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date—an amendment of GASB Statement No. 68." GASB 68 established standards for measuring and recognizing pension liabilities, deferred outflows of resources deferred inflows of resources and expense/expenditure. GASB Statement No. 71 amends paragraph 137 of GASB Statement No. 68 to require that, at transition, a government recognize a beginning deferred outflow of resources for its pension contributions, if any, made subsequent to the measurement date of the beginning net pension liability. The provisions of this Statement are required to be applied simultaneously with the provisions of Statement 68. See below for the effect on net position as previously reported. The implementation of these pronouncements had the following effect on net position as reported June 30, 2014:

Net position June 30, 2014	\$35,195
Adjustments:	
Net Pension Liability	(3,289,048)
Deferred Outflow - Payments Subsequent to Measurement Date	122,540
Restated Net Position June 30, 2014	(\$3,131,313)

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

**4. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

**A. Deposits with Financial Institutions**

At June 30, 2015, the carrying amount of all School deposits was \$44,781. Based on the criteria described in GASB Statement No. 40, "Deposits and Investment Risk Disclosures", as of June 30, 2015, none of the School's bank balance of \$44,781 was exposed to custodial risk as discussed below, since all of the bank balance was covered by the Federal Depository Insurance Corporation.

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of bank failure, the School's deposits may not be returned. All deposits are collateralized with eligible securities in amounts equal to at least 105% of the carrying value of the deposits. Such collateral, as permitted by the Ohio Revised Code, is held in single financial institution collateral pools at Federal Reserve Banks, or at member banks of the federal reserve system, in the name of the respective depository bank and pledged as a pool of collateral against all of the public deposits it holds or as specific collateral held at the Federal Reserve Bank in the name of the School.

**B. Investments**

As of June 30, 2015, the School had no investments.

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**5. GRANTS FUNDING RECEIVABLE/PAYABLE**

The School has recorded "Grants funding receivable" in the amount of \$39,450 to account for the remainder of State and Federal awards allocated to the School, but not received as of June 30, 2015.

Additionally, under the terms of the management agreement (see note 8), the School has recorded a liability to Seneca Community School, LLC in the amount of \$24,134 for 100 percent of any State and Federal monies uncollected or unpaid to Seneca Community School, LLC as of June 30, 2015.

**6. CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION**

For the year ended June 30, 2015, the School had no capital assets.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

**Property and Liability** - The School is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft or damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. As part of its management agreement with Seneca Community School, LLC, Seneca Community School, LLC has contracted with an insurance company for property and general liability insurance pursuant to the management agreement (see note 8). There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the prior year and claims did not exceed coverage over the past three years.

**Director and Officer** - Coverage has been purchased by the School with a \$1,000,000 aggregate limit and a \$5,000, \$15,000, or \$25,000 deductible, depending on the claim.

**8. AGREEMENT WITH SENECA COMMUNITY SCHOOL, LLC**

Effective March 2, 2011, the School entered into a management agreement (Agreement) with Seneca Community School, LLC, which is an educational consulting and management company. The term of the Agreement with Seneca Community School, LLC is for 5 years and will renew for two additional, successive five (5) year terms unless one party notifies the other party on or before the February 1<sup>st</sup> prior to the expiration of the then-current term of its intention to not renew the Agreement. Substantially all functions of the School have been contracted to Seneca Community School, LLC. Seneca Community School, LLC is responsible and accountable to the School's Board of Directors for the administration and operation of the School. The School is required to pay Seneca Community School, LLC a monthly continuing fee of 96 percent (amended to 95 percent effective May 2013) of the School's "Qualified Gross Revenues", defined in the Agreement as, all revenues and income received by the School except for charitable contributions and Seneca Community School, LLC shall receive 100 percent of any and all grants or funding of any kind generated by Seneca Community School, LLC, and its affiliates beyond the regular per pupil state funding received by the School, subject to any terms and conditions attached to the grants, if any. The continuing fee is paid to Seneca Community School, LLC based on the qualified gross revenues.

The School had management fee (including grant programs) expenses for the year ended June 30, 2015, to Seneca Community School, LLC, of \$3,422,288 of which \$24,333 was payable to Seneca Community School, LLC at June 30, 2015. Seneca Community School, LLC will be responsible for all costs incurred in providing the educational program at the School, which include but are not limited to, salaries and benefits of all personnel, curriculum materials, textbooks, library books, computers and other equipment, software, supplies, building payments, maintenance, capital, and insurance.

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**9. SPONSORSHIP FEES**

Included in the sponsor contract, the School will pay the Sponsor three percent (3%) of all state funds received each year, in consideration for the time, organization, oversight, fees and costs of the Sponsor. Such fees are paid to the Sponsor monthly. As indicated on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position, the School incurred \$85,750 in sponsorship fees to the Sponsor.

**10. MANAGEMENT COMPANY EXPENSES**

During fiscal year ended 2015, Seneca Community School, LLC and its affiliates incurred the following expenses on behalf of the School, under the ownership of White Hat Ventures LLC.

	<b>2015</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b>Direct Expenses:</b>		
Salaries and wages	\$	989,437
Employees' benefits		301,251
Professional and technical services		749,050
Property services		232,184
Travel		1,301
Communications		34,308
Utilities		69,934
Transportation		200,660
Books, periodicals, and films		68,139
Food and related supplies		184,580
Other supplies		79,285
Depreciation		30,344
Other direct costs		42,728
<b>Indirect Expenses:</b>		
Overhead		475,008
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$	<b>3,458,209</b>

Overhead charges are assigned to the School based on a percentage of revenue. These charges represent the indirect cost of services provided in the operation of the School. Such services include, but are not limited to facilities management, equipment, operational support services, management and management consulting, board relations, human resources management, training and orientation, financial reporting and compliance, purchasing and procurement, education services, technology support, marketing and communications.

**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS**

**A. Net Pension Liability**

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

The net pension liability represents the School's proportionate share of each pension plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension liability calculation



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**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**A. Net Pension Liability (continued)**

is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting this estimate annually.

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

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

The proportionate share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a long-term *net pension liability* on the accrual basis of accounting.

**B. Plan Description – School Employees Retirement System (SERS)**

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**B. Plan Description – School Employees Retirement System (SERS)(continued)**

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

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

The School's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$41,451 for fiscal year 2015. Of this amount \$0 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

**C. Plan Description – State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)**

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

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

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 9.5 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. Investment allocation decisions are determined by the member. The remaining 4.5 percent of the 14 percent employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

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**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**C. Plan Description – State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) (continued)**

The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, member contributions are allocated among investment choices by the member, and employer contributions are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined Plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of services. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity at age 50.

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

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

**Funding Policy** – Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The statutory maximum employee contribution rate was increased one percent July 1, 2014, and will be increased one percent each year until it reaches 14 percent on July 1, 2016. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015, plan members were required to contribute 12 percent of their annual covered salary. The School was required to contribute 14 percent; the entire 14 percent was the portion used to fund pension obligations. The fiscal year 2015 contribution rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates.

The School's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$140,751 for fiscal year 2015. Of this amount \$0 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

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

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

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$503,108	\$2,264,862	\$2,767,970
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.009941%	0.00931143%	
Pension Expense	\$11,887	\$64,153	\$76,040

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

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$4,282	\$21,804	\$26,086
School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>41,451</u>	<u>140,751</u>	<u>182,202</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$45,733</u>	<u>\$162,555</u>	<u>\$208,288</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>			
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	<u>\$81,656</u>	<u>\$419,008</u>	<u>\$500,664</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$81,656</u>	<u>\$419,008</u>	<u>\$500,664</u>

\$182,202 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from School contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending June 30, 2016. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
2016	(\$19,344)	(\$99,301)	(\$118,645)
2017	(19,344)	(99,301)	(118,645)
2018	(19,344)	(99,301)	(118,645)
2019	<u>(19,342)</u>	<u>(99,301)</u>	<u>(118,643)</u>
Total	<u>(\$77,374)</u>	<u>(\$397,204)</u>	<u>(\$474,578)</u>

**E. Actuarial Assumptions – SERS**

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

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**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**E. Actuarial Assumptions – SERS (continued)**

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

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

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2014, are presented below:

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

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

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

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**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**E. Actuarial Assumptions – SERS (continued)**

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

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

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

**Sensitivity of the School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate** Net pension liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact the following table presents the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.75 percent, as well as what each plan's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.75 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.75 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.75%)	Current Discount Rate (7.75%)	1% Increase (8.75%)
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$717,786	\$503,108	\$322,546

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**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**F. Actuarial Assumptions – STRS**

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

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

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

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

The 10 year expected real rate of return on pension plan investments was determined by STRS' investment consultant by developing best estimates of expected future real rates of return for each major asset class. The target allocation and best estimates of geometric real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

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

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**11. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (continued)**

**F. Actuarial Assumptions – STRS (continued)**

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

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

	1% Decrease (6.75%)	Current Discount Rate (7.75%)	1% Increase (8.75%)
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$3,242,397	\$2,264,862	\$1,438,196

**G. Social Security System**

Effective July 1, 1991, all employees not otherwise covered by the School Employees Retirement System or the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio have an option to choose Social Security or the School Retirement System. The contribution rate is 6.2 percent of wages. As of June 30, 2015, there were no members that elected Social Security.

**12. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS**

**A. School Employee Retirement System**

**Health Care Plan Description** – On behalf of the School, Seneca Community School LLC contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 45 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing, multiple-employer, defined benefit other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. The Health Care Plan includes hospitalization and physicians' fees through several types of plans including HMO's, PPO's, Medicare Advantage, and traditional indemnity plans as well as a prescription drug program. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org) under Employers/Audit Resources.

Access to health care for retirees and beneficiaries is permitted in accordance with Section 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Health Care Fund was established and is administered in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 105(e). SERS' Retirement Board reserves



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**12. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (continued)**

**A. School Employee Retirement System (continued)**

the right to change or discontinue any health plan or program. Health care is financed through a combination of employer contributions and retiree premiums, copays and deductibles on covered health care expenses, investment returns, and any funds received as a result of SERS' participation in Medicare programs. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. Retirees and their beneficiaries are required to pay a health care premium that varies depending on the plan selected, the number of qualified years of service, Medicare eligibility and retirement status.

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required basic benefits, the Retirement Board allocates the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund. For fiscal year 2015, 0.82 percent of covered payroll was allocated to health care. In addition, employers pay a surcharge for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated according to service credit earned. For fiscal year 2015, this amount was \$20,450. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. Seneca Community School, LLC's contributions on behalf of the School assigned to health care for the year ending June 30, 2015, 2014 and 2013 was \$2,369, \$6,146 and \$3,386, respectively.

**B. State Teachers Retirement System**

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

Funding Policy – Ohio law authorizes STRS Ohio to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS Ohio. Active employee members do not contribute to the Plan. All benefit recipients pay a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions. For 2015, STRS Ohio allocated employer contributions equal to 1 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Stabilization Fund. The School's contribution for health care for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2015, 2014 and 2013 was \$0, \$7,732, and \$6,290; 100 percent has been contributed for the fiscal years.

**13. CONTINGENCES**

**Grants**

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

**PEARL ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015  
(Continued)**

**13. CONTINGENCES (continued)**

**Enrollment FTE**

School Foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. Effective for the 2014-2015 school year, traditional school districts must comply with minimum hours of instruction, instead of a minimum number of school days each year. The funding formula the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is legislatively required to follow will continue to adjust as enrollment information is updated by the school, which can extend past the fiscal year end. As of the date of this report, ODE has not finalized the impact of enrollment adjustments to the June 30, 2015 Foundation funding for the school; therefore, the financial statement impact is not determinable at this time. ODE and management believe this will result in either a receivable to or liability of the School.

**14. Change in Management Company Ownership**

Effective May 31, 2015, the ownership of Seneca Community School LLC, (the School's management company) was transferred from White Hat Ventures, LLC to ACCEL Schools Ohio, LLC. With this change in ownership, ACCEL Schools Ohio, LLC assumed the management agreement between the School and Seneca Community School, LLC. The agreement and management of School functions (as provided in note 8) was not impacted by the change in ownership.

**PEARL ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

*Required Supplementary Information  
Schedule of the School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability  
School Employees Retirement System of Ohio  
Last Two Fiscal Years (1)*

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	2014	2013
School's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.009941%	0.009941%
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 503,108	\$ 591,159
School's Covered-Employee Payroll	\$ 162,799	\$ 193,194
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered-Employee Payroll	309.04%	305.99%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	71.70%	65.52%

(1) Information prior to 2013 is not available.

Amounts presented as of the School's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

**Pearl Academy, Ohio**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability*  
*State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio*  
*Last Two Fiscal Years (1)*

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
School's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.00931143%	0.00931143%
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 2,264,862	\$ 2,697,889
School's Covered-Employee Payroll	\$ 823,723	\$ 483,838
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered-Employee Payroll	274.95%	557.60%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	74.70%	69.30%

(1) Information prior to 2013 is not available.

Amounts presented as of the School's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

**Pearl Academy, Ohio**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of School Contributions*  
*School Employee Retirement System of Ohio*  
*Last Four Fiscal Years(1)*

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	2015	2014	2013	2012
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 41,451	\$ 22,564	\$ 26,738	\$ 19,412
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	(41,451)	(22,564)	(26,738)	(19,412)
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
School Covered-Employee Payroll	\$ 314,499	\$ 162,799	\$ 193,194	\$ 144,327
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll	13.18%	13.86%	13.84%	13.45%

(1) Information prior to 2012 is not available.

**Pearl Academy, Ohio**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of School Contributions*  
*State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio*  
*Last Four Fiscal Years(1)*

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 140,751	\$ 99,976	\$ 62,899	\$ 69,198
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(140,751)</u>	<u>(99,976)</u>	<u>(62,899)</u>	<u>(69,198)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
School Covered-Employee Payroll	\$ 1,005,364	\$ 823,723	\$ 483,838	\$ 532,292
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered-Employee Payroll	14.00%	13.00%	13.00%	13.00%

(1) Information prior to 2012 is not available.

December 28, 2015

To the Board of Directors  
Pearl Academy  
Cuyahoga County, Ohio  
4850 Pearl Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44144

**Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards***

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Pearl Academy, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the "School") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated December 28, 2015, in which we noted the School restated the June 30, 2014 net position to account for the implementation of Governmental Accounting Standard Board (GASB) Statement No. 68, "*Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 27*", and GASB Statement No. 71, "*Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date – An Amendment of GASB Statement No. 68*."

**Internal Control over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the School's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the School'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 entity'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 may exist that have not been identified.

### **Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the School'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 determination of financial statement amounts. 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**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity'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 entity's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Rea & Associates, Inc.*

Medina, Ohio



December 28, 2015

To the Board of Directors  
Pearl Academy  
Cuyahoga County, Ohio  
4850 Pearl Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44144

**Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and  
Report on Internal Control over Compliance Required by OMB Circular A-133**

**Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program**

We have audited the Pearl Academy's, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the "School") compliance with the types of compliance requirements described in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the School's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2015. The School's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs*.

***Management's Responsibility***

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to its federal programs.

***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for each of the School's major federal programs based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-133 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the School's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of the School's compliance.

***Opinion on Each Major Federal Program***

In our opinion, the School complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2015.

**Report on Internal Control over Compliance**

Management of the School is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered the School's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major federal program to determine the auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for each major federal program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control over compliance.

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

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of OMB Circular A-133. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Rea & Associates, Inc.*

Medina, Ohio

**PEARL ACADEMY  
 CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO  
 SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

Federal Grantor/ Pass-Through Grantor/ Program Title	CFDA #	Grant Year	Revenues	Expenses
<b>U. S. Department of Education</b>				
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education:</i>				
Title I	84.010	2015	\$ 393,513	\$ 393,513
Special Education IDEA Part B	84.027	2015	75,706	75,706
Improving Teacher Quality	84.367	2015	3,386	3,386
<i>Total U.S. Department of Education</i>			<u>472,605</u>	<u>472,605</u>
<b>U. S. Department of Agriculture</b>				
<i>Passed Through the Ohio Department of Education:</i>				
Cash Assistance:				
School Breakfast Program	10.553	2015	48,278	48,278
National School Lunch Program	10.555	2015	127,576	127,576
<i>Total Child Nutrition Cluster</i>			<u>175,854</u>	<u>175,854</u>
<i>Total U.S. Department of Agriculture</i>			<u>175,854</u>	<u>175,854</u>
<b>TOTAL FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE</b>			<u>\$ 648,459</u>	<u>\$ 648,459</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**PEARL ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO  
NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

**NOTE A - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards summarizes activity of the School's federal awards programs. This schedule has been prepared using the accrual basis of accounting.

**NOTE B - CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER**

Cash receipts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture are commingled with State grants. It is assumed federal monies are expended first.

**NOTE C - TRANSFERS**

The School generally must spend Federal assistance within 15 months of receipt. However, with Ohio Department of Education (ODE) approval, a School can transfer (carryover) unspent Federal assistance to the succeeding year, thus allowing the school a total of 27 months to spend the assistance. During the fiscal year 2015, ODE did not authorize any transfer.

**PEARL ACADEMY  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS  
OMB CIRCULAR A-133 , SECTION .505  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015**

**1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS**

(d) (1) (i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unmodified
(d) (1) (ii)	Were there any material control weakness conditions reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d) (1) (ii)	Were there any other significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d) (1) (iii)	Was there any reported material non-compliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d) (1) (iv)	Were there any material internal control weakness conditions reported for major federal programs?	No
(d) (1) (iv)	Were there any other significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d) (1) (v)	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unmodified
(d) (1) (vi)	Are there any reportable findings under Section .510?	No
(d) (1) (vii)	Major Programs (list): Title I	CFDA # 84.010
(d) (1) (viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A/B Programs	Type A: > \$300,000 Type B: All others
(d) (1) (ix)	Low Risk Auditee?	No

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

None were noted.

**3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS**

None were noted.

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# Dave Yost • Auditor of State

**PEARL ACADEMY**

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

**CLERK'S CERTIFICATION**

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

*Susan Babbitt*

**CLERK OF THE BUREAU**

**CERTIFIED  
MAY 24, 2016**