

GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF  
OHIO  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

*REGULAR AUDIT*

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED  
JUNE 30, 2023



Rea & associates

[www.reacpa.com](http://www.reacpa.com)



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
KEITH FABER



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Board of Directors  
Gateway Online Academy of Ohio  
4 Summit Park Drive  
Independence, Ohio 44131

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Gateway Online Academy of Ohio, Cuyahoga County, prepared by Rea & Associates, Inc., for the audit period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. 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 Gateway Online Academy of Ohio is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Faber".

Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

February 02, 2024

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**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO  
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors  
Gateway Online Academy of Ohio  
4 Summit Park Drive  
Independence, OH 44131

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Opinion***

We have audited the financial statements of Gateway Online Academy of Ohio, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, (the "Academy"), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Academy's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Gateway Online Academy of Ohio, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, as of June 30, 2023, 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.

#### ***Basis for Opinion***

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

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

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

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

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

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

***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis and Pension and Other Post-Employment Benefit Schedules, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, 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 GAAS, 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 Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated December 28, 2023 on our consideration of the Academy'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 solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Academy's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Academy's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*Rea & Associates, Inc.*

Rea & Associates, Inc.  
Medina, Ohio  
December 28, 2023

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## **GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

### **MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 (UNAUDITED)**

The discussion and analysis of the Gateway Online Academy of Ohio’s (the “Academy”) financial performance provides an overall review of the Academy’s financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the Academy’s’ financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the Academy’s financial performance.

The Management’s Discussion and Analysis (the 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. Certain comparative information between the current fiscal year and the prior fiscal year is required to be presented in the MD&A. However, because this is the first year of financial reporting for the Academy comparative prior year fiscal information does not exist. Subsequent reports will include the comparative information.

### **FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

Key highlights for fiscal year 2023 are as follows:

- Net position was of \$176,937.
- Total Assets were \$1,591,485.
- Total Liabilities were \$1,621,629.
- Total Operating and Non-Operating Revenues were \$2,400,557.
- Total Operating and Non-Operating Expenses were \$2,223,620.
- Fiscal Year 2023 was the first year of operations.

### **USING THIS ANNUAL REPORT**

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

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Change in Net Position reflect how the Academy did financially during fiscal year 2023. These statements include all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources, using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting includes all of the current year revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

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

The Academy uses enterprise presentation for all of its activities.

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 (UNAUDITED)**

***Statement of Net Position*** - The Statement of Net Position answers the question of how the Academy did financially during 2023. This statement includes all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources, both financial and capital, and short-term and long-term using the accrual basis of accounting and economic resource focus, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all revenues and expenses during the year, regardless of when the cash is received or paid.

Table 1 provides a summary of the Academy’s Net Position for fiscal year 2023. This is the Academy’s first year of operations. Therefore, comparative information is not available:

	<u>2023</u>
<b>Assets</b>	
Current Assets	<u>\$ 1,591,485</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,591,485</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	
	<u>207,081</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current Liabilities	<u>1,621,629</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>1,621,629</u>
<b>Net Position</b>	
Unrestricted	<u>176,937</u>
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$ 176,937</u></u>

Current assets represents cash and cash equivalents and other receivables. Current liabilities represents accounts payable and intergovernmental payables.

At June 30, 2023, the School recorded an intergovernmental payable of \$1,287,223 due to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) for the overpayment on student enrollments. The payable will be repaid, or deducted from future state payments, beginning July 2023 in 12 equal installments. In addition to the intergovernmental payable, the School has also recorded adjustments to the current year management fees and sponsor fees as receivables at June 30, 2023. These receivables will be collected over 12 months beginning July 2023.

## GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 (UNAUDITED)

The Academy has adopted GASB Statement 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions—an Amendment of GASB Statement 27," and GASB Statement 75, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions," which significantly revises accounting for costs and liabilities related to other postemployment benefits (OPEB). For reasons discussed below, many end users of this financial statement will gain a clearer understanding of the Academy's actual financial condition by adding deferred inflows related to pension and OPEB, the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability to the reported net position and subtracting deferred outflows related to pension and OPEB and net OPEB asset.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board standards are national and apply to all government financial reports prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Prior accounting for pensions (GASB 27) and postemployment benefits (GASB 45) focused on a funding approach. This approach limited pension and OPEB costs to contributions annually required by law, which may or may not be sufficient to fully fund each plan's *net pension liability* or *net OPEB asset/liability*. GASB 68 and GASB 75 take an earnings approach to pension and OPEB accounting; however, the nature of Ohio's statewide pension/OPEB plans and state law governing those systems requires additional explanation in order to properly understand the information presented in these statements.

GASB 68 and GASB 75 require the net pension liability and the net OPEB asset/liability to equal the Academy's proportionate share of each plan's collective:

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

GASB notes that pension and OPEB 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 and other postemployment benefits. GASB noted that the unfunded portion of this promise is a present obligation of the government, part of a bargained-for benefit to the employee, and should accordingly be reported by the government as a liability since they received the benefit of the exchange. However, the Academy is not responsible for certain key factors affecting the balance of these liabilities. 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 Ohio revised Code permits, but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients. The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits.

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 (UNAUDITED)**

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 retirement system. In Ohio, there is no legal means to enforce the unfunded liability of the pension/OPEB plan *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 retirement system is responsible for the administration of the pension and OPEB plans

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 or the net OPEB asset/liability. As explained above, changes in benefits, contribution rates, and return on investments affect the balance of these liabilities, 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 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 and the net OPEB liability are satisfied, these liabilities are separately identified within the long-term liability section of the statement of net position.

In accordance with GASB 68 and GASB 75, the Academy’s statements prepared on an accrual basis of accounting include an annual pension expense and an annual OPEB expense for their proportionate share of each plan’s *change* in net pension liability and net OPEB asset/liability, respectively, not accounted for as deferred inflows/outflows.

Due to the Academy not being in operations during the measurement period for GASB 68/75 (fiscal year 2022), the Academy is only reporting a deferred outflow of resources for the contributions subsequent to the measurement date.

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**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 (UNAUDITED)**

***Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position*** - Table 2 shows the changes in Net Position for fiscal year 2023, as well as a listing of revenues and expenses. This change in Net Position is important because it tells the reader that, for the Academy as a whole, the financial position of the Academy has improved or diminished. The cause of this may be the result of many factors, some financial, some not. Non-financial factors include the current laws in Ohio restricting revenue growth, facility conditions, required educational programs and other factors.

Table 2 reflects the changes in net position for fiscal year 2023:

**Table 2  
Change in Net Position**

	<b>2023</b>
<b>Operating Revenues:</b>	
State Aid	\$ 2,273,287
Other Revenue	5,272
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>2,278,559</b>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>	
Purchased Services: Management Fees	2,044,383
Sponsor Fees	71,747
Legal	70,000
Accounting Fees	21,528
Other Purchased Services	9,223
Other Expenses	6,739
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>2,223,620</b>
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>54,939</b>
<b>Non-Operating Revenues:</b>	
Federal and State Restricted Grants	118,284
Interest Income	3,714
<b>Total Nonoperating Revenues</b>	<b>121,998</b>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 176,937</b>

As previously noted, no prior year information is available as fiscal year 2023 was the initial year of operations for the Academy. Therefore, comparative information will be available in future years.

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 (UNAUDITED)**

**CAPITAL ASSETS**

At the end of fiscal year 2023, the Academy had no investment in capital assets.

**LONG TER OBLIGATIONS**

At June 30, 2023, the Academy had no long term obligations.

**CURRENT FINANCIAL ISSUES**

The School is a community School and is funded through the State of Ohio Foundation Program. The School relies on this, as well as, State and Federal funds as its primary source of revenue. In 2023, the State replaced the existing funding formula with a new formula that was implemented in January 2022 as a result of changes in Ohio law under the passage of HB110. Under the new formula, community schools are funded directly with no deductions or transfers from the student’s district of residence. The funding calculation for community schools uses several concepts and formulas, some of which also apply to traditional school districts. These primarily include Base Cost, Special Education, Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid, English Learners and Career Technical Education. Combined, these elements make up the Core Foundation Funding and the change in calculated amounts compared to the funding received in Fiscal Year 2020 are being phased-in at 16.67% in fiscal year 2022 and 33.33% in fiscal year 2023. The phase-in amount will increase to 50.00% in fiscal year 2024. Another key provision of HB 110 provided a guarantee that no school would receive less per pupil in Fiscal Year 2022 than it did in Fiscal Year 2021 as a result of implementing this formula change.

The full-time equivalent enrollment of the Academy for the year ended June 30, 2023 was 305.

**REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizen’s, taxpayers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the Academy’s finances and to demonstrate accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information contact the Academy’s Fiscal Officer, C. David Massa, CPA, of Massa Financial Solutions, LLC, 4 Summit Park Drive, Independence, OH 44131.



**Gateway Online Academy of Ohio - Cuyahoga County**  
**Statement of Net Position**  
**June 30, 2023**

**Assets:**

***Current Assets:***

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 290,214
Other Receivable	1,301,271
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,591,485</b>

**Total Assets** 1,591,485

**Deferred Outflows of Resources:**

Pension (STRS & SERS)	206,517
OPEB (STRS & SERS)	564
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>207,081</b>

**Liabilities:**

***Current Liabilities:***

Accounts Payable	334,406
Intergovernmental Payable	1,287,223
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>1,621,629</b>

**Total Liabilities** 1,621,629

**Net Position:**

Unrestricted Net Position	176,937
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 176,937</b>

See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

**Gateway Online Academy of Ohio - Cuyahoga County**  
**Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

<b>Operating Revenues:</b>	
State Aid	\$ 2,273,287
Other Revenue	5,272
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<u>2,278,559</u>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>	
Purchased Services: Management Fees	2,044,383
Sponsor Fees	71,747
Legal	70,000
Accounting Fees	21,528
Other Purchased Services	9,223
Other Expenses	6,739
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<u>2,223,620</u>
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	54,939
<b>Non-Operating Revenues:</b>	
Federal and State Restricted Grants	118,284
Interest Income	3,714
<b>Total Non-operating Revenues</b>	<u>121,998</u>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	176,937
<b>Net Position - Beginning of Year</b>	-
<b>Net Position - End of Year</b>	<u>\$ 176,937</u>

See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

**Gateway Online Academy of Ohio - Cuyahoga County**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**

**CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

State Aid Receipts	\$ 2,259,239
Other Receipts	5,272
Cash Payments to Suppliers for Goods and Services	(2,096,295)
Net Cash Provided By (Used For) Operating Activities	168,216

**CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES**

Federal and State Grant Receipts	118,284
Net Cash Provided By Noncapital Financing Activities	118,284

**CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES**

Interest Income Receipts	3,714
Net Cash Provided By Investing Activities	3,714

**Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents** 290,214

<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of the Year</b>	-
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents - Ending of the Year</b>	\$ 290,214

See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

**Gateway Online Academy of Ohio - Cuyahoga County**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023**  
**(Continued)**

**Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to Net Cash Provided By (Used For) Operating Activities**

Operating Income (Loss)	\$	54,939
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**Adjustments to Reconcile Operating Income (Loss) to  
Net Cash Provided By (Used For) Operating Activities:**

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

(Increase)/ Decrease in Other Receivables		(1,301,271)
(Increase)/ Decrease in Deferred Outflows Pension		(207,081)
Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable, Trade		334,406
Increase/(Decrease) in Intergovernmental Payable		1,287,223

<b>Net Cash Provided By (Used For) Operating Activities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>168,216</u></b>
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See Accompanying Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO  
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF ACADEMY**

The Gateway Online Academy of Ohio (the Academy) is a nonprofit corporation established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3314. The Academy offers education for Ohio children in grades 9-12. The Academy is independent of any Academy and is nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operation. The Academy may lease or acquire facilities as needed and contract for any services necessary for the operation of the Academy.

The Academy was approved for operation under a contract with the St. Aloysius (the Sponsor) for a period of six academic years commencing after July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2028. The Sponsor is responsible for evaluating the performance of the Academy and has the authority to deny renewal of the contract at its expiration or terminate the contract prior to its expiration.

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

The Academy contracts with Accel Online Ohio LLC for management services including management of personnel and human resources, the program of instruction, marketing data management, purchasing, strategic planning, public relation, financial reporting, recruiting, compliance issues, budgets, contracts, and equipment and facilities.

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

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

***Basis of Presentation*** - The Academy's basic financial statements consist of a Statement of Net Position; a Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position; and a Statement of Cash Flows. The Academy uses a single enterprise presentation for its financial records. Enterprise reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position, financial position, and cash flows.

***Measurement Focus*** - The enterprise activity is accounted for using a flow of economic resources measurement focus. All assets, liabilities, deferred inflows/ outflows of resources associated with the operation of the Academy are included on the Statement of Net Position. The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position presents increases (e.g. revenues) and decreases (e.g. expenses) in net position. The Statement of Cash Flows reflects how the Academy finances meet its cash flow needs.

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**  
**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

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

**Budgetary Process** - Community schools are statutorily required to adopt a budget by Ohio Revised Code 3314.032(C). However, unlike traditional public schools located in the State of Ohio, community schools are not required to follow the specific budgetary process and limits set forth in the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705, unless specifically provided in the contract between the School and its Sponsor. The contract between the Academy and its Sponsor does not require the Academy to follow the provisions Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705; therefore, no budgetary information is presented in the basic financial statements.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents** - Cash received by the Academy is reflected as "Cash and Cash Equivalents" on the statement of net position. All cash received by the Academy is maintained in a demand deposit account and a money market account. Investments of the Academy are considered to be cash and cash equivalents for financial reporting purposes. During fiscal year 2023, investments included a money market account.

**Prepaid Items** - The Academy records payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond June 30, 2023, as prepaid items using the consumption method. A current asset for the prepaid amount is recorded at the time of the purchase and an expense is reported in the year in which services are consumed.

**Capital Assets** - The Academy's capital assets during fiscal year 2023 consisted of computers and software, furniture, leasehold improvements and other equipment. All capital assets are capitalized at cost and updated for additions and retirements during the fiscal year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their acquisition value as of the date received. The Academy maintains a capitalization threshold of five thousand dollars. The Academy does not have any infrastructure. The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend an asset's life are not capitalized.

All capital assets, except for construction in progress are depreciated. Improvements are depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method.

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**  
**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**Net Position** - Net position represents the difference between assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the Academy or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. The Academy applies restricted resources first when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available. The board has not adopted any enabling legislation restricted any resources. The Statement of Net Position presents net investments in capital assets, which represents capital assets net of accumulated depreciation.

**Exchange and Non-Exchange Transactions** - Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place. Non-exchange transactions, in which the Academy receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlements and donations. Revenue from grants, entitlements and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the Academy must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditures requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Academy on a reimbursement basis.

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

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

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

The Academy also participates in various federal programs passed through the Ohio Department of Education. Under the above programs the Academy recorded \$2,278,559 this fiscal year from the State Foundation Program and Casino Tax Revenues and \$118,284 from Federal and State Grants.

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

**Deferred Outflows of Resources** - In addition to assets, the statements of 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/expenditure) until then. For the Academy, deferred outflows of resources are reported on statement of net position for pension and OPEB. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are explained in Notes 6 and 7.

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

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

**NOTE 3 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

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

The Academy maintains its cash balances at Huntington Bank in Ohio. The balances are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to \$250,000, per qualifying account. At June 30, 2023, the book amount of the Academy’s deposits was \$19,977 and the bank balance was \$19,977. All of the bank balance was covered by Federal Depository Insurance.

Investments- As of June 30, 2023 the School had the following investment:

<u>Investment Type</u>	<u>Measurement Value</u>	<u>Investment Maturity 3 Months or Less</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
Money Market Account	<u>\$ 270,237</u>	<u>\$ 270,237</u>	<u>100%</u>

Interest Rate Risk- As a means of limiting exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates according to state law, the School’s investment policy limits investment portfolio maturities to five years or less.

Credit Risk- The School has no policy limiting investments based on credit risk other than those established by State law. The money market account is rated AAAM by Standard and Poor’s.

Concentration of Credit Risk- The School places no limit on the amount that may be invested in any one issuer.

Custodial Credit Risk- For investments, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of failure of the counterparty, the School will not be able to recover the value of its investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. \$250,000 of the money market account was covered FDIC insurance, and the remaining balance was uninsured and uncollateralized.



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**NOTE 4 – RECEIVABLES**

At June 30, 2023, the Academy had other receivables of \$1,301,271. These receivables represent monies due from the management company of \$1,261,478 and the Sponsor of \$38,617 and other receivable of \$1,176. The receivables from the management company and the Sponsor are related to the ODEs adjustment to student FTEs and related revenues. All receivables are expected to be collected within one year.

**NOTE 5 – RISK MANAGEMENT**

***Property & Liability*** - The Academy is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023, the Academy contracted with Philadelphia Insurance Company for nonprofits and maintained general liability insurance with a \$1,000,000 single occurrence limit and \$2,000,000 annual aggregate. Settled claims have not exceeded this coverage in the past year, nor has there been any significant reduction in insurance coverage during the year.

**NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLAN**

**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 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.

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

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

**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 60 with 5 years of service credit	Age 67 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 57 with 30 years of service credit
Actuarially Reduced Benefits	Age 60 with 5 years of service credit Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age 62 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 60 with 25 years of service credit

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

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

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. Beginning April 1, 2018, new benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. The COLA is indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5% and with a floor of 0.0%.

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A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for calendar years 2018, 2019, and 2020. The Retirement Board approved a 2.5% COLA for calendar year 2023.

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, 2023, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was the entire 14.0 percent.

The School's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$44,945 for fiscal year 2023.

**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 is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2026, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit and at least age 60. Eligibility changes for DB plan members who retire with actuarially reduced benefits will be phased in until August 1, 2023 when retirement eligibility will be five years of qualifying service credit and age 60, or 30 years or service credit at any age.

The DC Plan allows members to place all of their member contributions and 9.53 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. Investment allocation decisions are determined by the member. The remaining 4.47 percent of the 14 percent employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

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The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, 12.0 of the 14.0 percent member rates goes to the DC Plan and the remaining 2.0 percent goes to the DB plan. Member contributions to the DC plan are allocated among investment choices by the member, and contributions to the DB plan from the employer and the member are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined Plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of services. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity after termination of employment at age 50 or later.

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 in the GASB 68 schedules of employer allocation and pension amounts by employer.

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. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, plan members were required to contribute 14 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 2023 contribution rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates.

The School’s contractually required contributions to STRS was \$161,572 for fiscal year 2023.

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

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources (with the exception of deferred outflows of resources related to Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date) and Deferred Inflows of Resources related to Pensions are not applicable to the Academy at June 30, 2023 due to the Academy not being in operation during the measurement period. At June 30, 2023, the Academy reported deferred outflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>			
Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date	\$ 44,945	\$ 161,572	\$ 206,517
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 44,945</u>	<u>\$ 161,572</u>	<u>\$ 206,517</u>

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\$206,517 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

**Actuarial Assumptions - SERS**

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

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

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

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2022, are presented below:

Wage Inflation	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.0 percent, on and after April 1, 2018, COLA's for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of System expenses
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal

Mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Mortality among disable members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

The most recent experience study was completed June 30, 2020.

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

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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 asset 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	2.00 %	(0.45) %
US Equity	24.75	5.37
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	6.22
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	8.22
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	1.20
Private Equity	11.00	10.05
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00	4.87
Multi-Asset Strategies	4.00	3.39
Private Debt/Private Credit	3.00	5.38
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

**Discount Rate** The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 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 (7.00 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.

**Actuarial Assumptions – STRS**

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the July 1, 2022, actuarial valuation.

Inflation	2.50 percent
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.5% to 8.5%
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent
Payroll Increases	3 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustments	0.0 percent

Post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Disable Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021.

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

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation *</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return **</u>
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.60 %
International Equity	22.00	6.80
Alternatives	19.00	7.38
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75
Real Estate	10.00	5.75
Liquidity Reserves	<u>1.00</u>	1.00
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

\* Target allocation percentage is effective as of July 1, 2022. Target weights were phased in over a 3-month period concluding on October 1, 2022.

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

**Discount Rate** The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 2022. 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. 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, 2022. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2022.

**Assumption and Benefit Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date** - Demographic assumptions were changed based on the actuarial experience study for the July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021. STRS approved a one-time 1.00% cost-of-living adjustment to eligible benefit recipients effective July 1, 2023.

**NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS**

***Net OPEB Liability/Asset***

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

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

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

GASB 75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because they benefit from employee services. OPEB contributions come from these employers and health care plan enrollees which pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. The Ohio revised Code permits, but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients. Any change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net OPEB liability and net OPEB asset. Resulting adjustments to the net OPEB liability and net OPEB asset would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits.

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

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

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



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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2023, there was no contribution made to health care. A health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2023, this amount was \$25,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge.

The surcharge, is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The School's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$564 for fiscal year 2023.

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

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

Funding Policy – Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. Nearly all health care plan enrollees, for the most recent year, pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14 percent of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

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***OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Asset, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB***

OPEB Liabilities, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources (with the exception of deferred outflows of resources related to Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date) and Deferred Inflows of Resources related to OPEB are not applicable to the Academy at June 30, 2023 due to the Academy not being in operation during the measurement period. At June 30, 2023, the Academy reported deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>			
Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date	\$ 564	\$ -	\$ 564
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 564</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 564</u>

\$564 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

***Actuarial Assumptions - SERS***

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

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

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

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO  
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2022, are presented below:

Wage Inflation	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investments expense, including inflation
Municipal Bond Index Rate:	
Measurement Date	3.69 percent
Prior Measurement Date	1.92 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation	
Measurement Date	4.08 percent
Prior Measurement Date	2.27 percent
Medical Trend Assumption	7.00 to 4.40 percent
Prior Measurement Date	

Base Mortality: Healthy Retirees - PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Disabled Retirees - PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Contingent Survivors - PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Contingent Survivor mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 105.5% for males and adjusted 122.5% for females. Actives - PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table.

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

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

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO  
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

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

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Cash	2.00 %	(0.45) %
US Equity	24.75	5.37
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	6.22
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	8.22
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	1.20
Private Equity	11.00	10.05
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00	4.87
Multi-Asset Strategy	4.00	3.39
Private Debt/Private Credit	3.00	5.38
 Total	 <u>100.00 %</u>	

**Discount Rate** The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2022 was 4.08 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2022 was 2.27 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the state statute contribution rate of 1.50 percent of projected covered employee payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to become insufficient to make future benefit payments of current System members by SERS actuaries. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is used in the determination for the SEIR for both the June 30, 2022 and the June 30, 2021 total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index rate is 3.69% at June 30, 2022 and 1.92% at June 30, 2021.

**Actuarial Assumptions – STRS**

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2022, actuarial valuation is presented below:

Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent	
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation	
Payroll Increases	3 percent	
Cost-of-Living Adjustments	0 percent	
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent	
Health Care Cost Trends	Initial	Ultimate
Medical		
Pre-Medicare	7.50 percent	3.94 percent
Medicare	-68.78 percent	3.94 percent
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	9.00 percent	3.94 percent
Medicare	5.47 percent	3.94 percent

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

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO  
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

For healthy retirees the post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020; pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 valuation is based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021.

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation *	Long-Term Expected Rate of Return **
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.60 %
International Equity	22.00	6.80
Alternatives	19.00	7.38
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75
Real Estate	10.00	5.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	1.00
Total	100.00 %	

\* Target allocation percentage is effective July 1, 2022. Target weights were phased in over a 3-month period concluding October 1, 2022.

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

**Discount Rate** The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes STRS Ohio continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care plan investments of 7.00 percent was used to measure the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2022.

**Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date**

Salary increase rates were updated based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021 and were changed from age based to service based. Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience.

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO  
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 8 - CONTINGENCIES**

***Grants*** - The Academy received financial assistance from federal and state agencies in the form of grants. The disbursement of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the Academy. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material adverse effect on the overall financial position of the Academy at June 30, 2023.

***Litigation*** - There are currently no matters in litigation with the Academy as defendant.

**NOTE 9 - SPONSOR**

The Academy was approved for operation under a contract with the St. Aloysius (the Sponsor) through June 30, 2028. As part of this contract, the Sponsor is entitled to a maximum of 3% of foundation revenues. Total amount due and paid for fiscal year 2023 was \$71,747. At June 30, the School recorded a receivable due from the Sponsor for FTE adjustments totaling \$38,617.

**NOTE 10 – MANAGEMENT COMPANY**

The Academy entered into an agreement with Accel Online Ohio LLC, a management company, to provide legal, financial, and other management support services for fiscal year 2023. The agreement was for a period of five years beginning July 1, 2022, with an automatic extension for ten years if agree to by both parties. Management fees are calculated as retaining the first \$90,000 of the qualified gross revenues and then paying the sponsor fee of 2% of the qualified gross revenues, the Academy shall pay 98% of the qualified gross revenues as a monthly management, consulting and operation fee. The total amount due from the Academy for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 was \$2,044,383 and is included under “Purchased Services” on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position. At June 30, the School recorded a receivable due from the management company for FTE adjustments totaling \$1,261,478. At June 30, the school also has unpaid fees to the management company of \$317,306.

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**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO  
NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

The following is a summary of the management company expenses during fiscal year 2023:

Gateway Academy	Regular Instruction (1100 Function Codes)	Special Instruction (1200 Function Codes)	Support Services (2000 Function Codes)	Non-Instructional (3000 through 7000 Function Codes)	Total
	1100	1200	2000	3000-7000	
<b>Direct Expenses:</b>					
Salaries & Wages (100 Object Codes)	\$ 248,862	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 248,862
Employees' Benefits (200 Object Codes)	350,366	74,782	220,565	-	645,713
Professional & Technical Services (410 Object Codes)	10,175	63,493	62,704	-	136,372
Property Services (420 Object Codes)	-	-	1,800	-	1,800
Other direct costs (All other Object Codes)	1,156,837	-	1,066,088	-	2,222,925
<b>Indirect Expenses:</b>					
Overhead	-	-	529,987	-	529,987
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,766,240</b>	<b>\$ 138,275</b>	<b>\$ 1,881,144</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 3,785,659</b>

Accel Schools charges expenses benefiting more than one school (i.e. overhead) are pro-rated based on full time equivalent (FTE) head count as of June 30, 2023 by each school it manages.

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

Required Supplementary Information  
Schedule of Academy Contributions - Pension  
School Employees Retirement System of Ohio  
Current Fiscal Year (1)

	<u>2023</u>
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 44,945
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(44,945)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>
Academy Covered Payroll	\$ 321,036
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	14.00%

(1) Information prior to 2023 is not available. Schedule is intended to show ten years of information, and additional information will be displayed as it becomes available.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information



**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

Required Supplementary Information  
 Schedule of Academy Contributions - Pension  
 State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio  
 Current Fiscal Year (1)

	2023
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 161,572
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(161,572)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>
Academy Covered Payroll	\$ 1,154,086
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	14.00%

(1) Information prior to 2023 is not available. Schedule is intended to show ten years of information, and additional information will be displayed as it becomes available.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

Required Supplementary Information  
 Schedule of Academy Contributions - OPEB  
 School Employees Retirement System of Ohio  
 Current Fiscal Year (2)

	2023
Contractually Required Contribution (1)	\$ 564
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	(564)
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	-
Academy Covered Payroll	\$ 321,036
OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (1)	0.18%

(1) Includes Surcharge

(2) Information prior to 2023 is not available. Schedule is intended to show ten years of information, and additional information will be displayed as it becomes available.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

Required Supplementary Information  
 Schedule of Academy Contributions - OPEB  
 State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio  
 Current Fiscal Year (1)

	<u>2023</u>
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ -
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>-</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>
Academy Covered Payroll	\$ 1,154,086
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	0.00%

(1) Information prior to 2023 is not available. Schedule is intended to show ten years of information, and additional information will be displayed as it becomes available.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**  
**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

**NOTE 1 - NET PENSION LIABILITY**

There were no changes in assumptions or benefit terms for the fiscal years reported unless otherwise stated below:

Changes in Assumptions - SERS

For fiscal year 2022, the SERS Board adopted the following assumption changes:

- Assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.00 percent to 2.40 percent
- Payroll growth assumption was reduced from 3.50 percent to 1.75 percent
- Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.50 percent to 0.85 percent
- Discount rate was reduced from 7.50 percent to 7.00 percent
- Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience.
- Mortality among active members, service retirees and beneficiaries, and disabled members were updated.

For fiscal year 2017, the SERS Board adopted the following assumption changes:

- Assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25 percent to 3.00 percent
- Payroll Growth Assumption was reduced from 4.00 percent to 3.50 percent
- Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75 percent to 0.50 percent
- Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience.
- Mortality among active members was updated to RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five year age set-back for both males and females.
- Mortality among service retired members, and beneficiaries was updated to RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120 percent of male rates, and 110 percent of female rates.
- Mortality among disabled members was updated to RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90 percent for male rates and 100 percent for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement.

Changes in Benefit Terms - SERS

For fiscal year 2022, cost-of-living adjustments were increased from 2.00 percent to 2.50 percent.

For fiscal year 2021, cost-of-living adjustments were reduced from 2.50 percent to 2.00 percent.

For fiscal year 2018, the cost-of-living adjustment was changed from a fixed 3.00 percent to a cost-of-living adjustment that is indexed to CPI-W not greater than 2.50 percent with a floor of zero percent beginning January 1, 2018. In addition, with the authority granted the Board under HB 49, the Board has enacted a three-year COLA suspension for benefit recipients in calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Changes in Assumptions – STRS

For fiscal year 2022, the Retirement Board approved several changes to the actuarial assumptions. The salary increases were where changed from 12.50 percent at age 20 to 2.50 percent at age 65 to varying by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 percent. The healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the Pub-2010 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2020.

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO  
 NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

For fiscal year 2021, the long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.45 percent to 7.00 percent.

For fiscal year 2018, the Retirement Board approved several changes to the actuarial assumptions in 2017. The long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75 percent to 7.45 percent, the inflation assumption was lowered from 2.75 percent to 2.50 percent, the payroll growth assumption was lowered to 3.00 percent, and total salary increases rate was lowered by decreasing the merit component of the individual salary increases, in addition to a decrease of 0.25 percent due to lower inflation. The healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the RP-2014 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2016. Rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.

Changes in Benefit Terms – STRS - For fiscal year 2018, the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was reduced to zero.

**NOTE 2 - NET OPEB LIABILITY (ASSET)**

Changes in Assumptions – SERS

Amounts reported incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented as follows:

Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Fiscal year 2023	3.69 percent
Fiscal year 2022	1.92 percent
Fiscal year 2021	2.45 percent
Fiscal year 2020	3.13 percent
Fiscal year 2019	3.62 percent
Fiscal year 2018	3.56 percent
Fiscal year 2017	2.92 percent

Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Fiscal year 2023	4.08 percent
Fiscal year 2022	2.27 percent
Fiscal year 2021	2.63 percent
Fiscal year 2020	3.22 percent
Fiscal year 2019	3.70 percent
Fiscal year 2018	3.63 percent
Fiscal year 2017	2.98 percent

Pre-Medicare Trend Assumption

Fiscal year 2023	6.75 percent initially, decreasing to 4.40 percent
Fiscal year 2022	6.75 percent initially, decreasing to 4.40 percent
Fiscal year 2021	7.00 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2020	7.00 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2019	7.25 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2018	7.50 percent initially, decreasing to 4.00 percent

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO  
NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

Medicare Trend Assumption

Fiscal year 2023	7.00 percent initially, decreasing to 4.40 percent
Fiscal year 2022	5.125 percent initially, decreasing to 4.40 percent
Fiscal year 2021	5.25 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2020	5.25 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2019	5.375 percent initially, decreasing to 4.75 percent
Fiscal year 2018	5.50 percent initially, decreasing to 5.00 percent

Changes in Benefit Terms - SERS

There have been no changes to the benefit provisions.

Changes in Assumptions – STRS

For fiscal year 2022, the healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the RPub-2010 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2020. Rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.

For fiscal year 2022, the following changes were made to the actuarial assumptions:

- Projected salary increases from 3.25 to 10.75 percent, including wage inflation to varying by service from 2.50 to 8.50 percent
- Medicare medical health care cost trends from -16.18 percent initial to -68.78 percent initial and 4.00 percent ultimate to 3.94 percent ultimate
- Medicare prescription drug health care cost trends from 29.98 percent initial to -5.47 percent initial and 4.00 percent ultimate to 3.94 percent ultimate

For fiscal year 2021, valuation year per capita health care costs were updated. Health care cost trend rates ranged from -5.20 percent to 9.60 percent initially for fiscal year 2020 and changed for fiscal year 2021 to a range of -6.69 percent to 11.87 percent, initially.

For fiscal year 2019, the discount rate was increased from the blended rate of 4.13 percent to the long-term expected rate of return of 7.45 percent. Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated. Health care cost trend rates ranged from 6.00 percent to 11 percent initially and a 4.50 percent ultimate rate for fiscal year 2018 and changed for fiscal year 2019 to a range of -5.20 percent to 9.60 percent, initially and a 4.00 ultimate rate.

For fiscal year 2018, the blended discount rate was increased from 3.26 percent to 4.13 percent. Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated, and the salary scale was modified. The percentage of future retirees electing each option was updated based on current data and the percentage of future disabled retirees and terminated vested participants electing health coverage were decreased. The assumed mortality, disability, retirement, withdrawal and future health care cost trend rates were modified along with the portion of rebated prescription drug costs.

Changes in Benefit Terms – STRS

**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO – CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**  
**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**  
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

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

For fiscal year 2020, there was no change to the claims costs process. Claim curves were trended to the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020 to reflect the current price renewals. The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2020 from 1.944 percent to 1.984 percent per year of service. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2020. The Medicare subsidy percentages were adjusted effective January 1, 2021 to 2.1 percent for the Medicare plan. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed to January 1, 2021

For fiscal year 2019, the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was increased from 1.9 percent to 1.944 percent per year of service effective January 1, 2019. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2019 and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 1, 2020.

For fiscal year 2018, the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was reduced from 2.1 percent to 1.9 percent per year of service. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were discontinued for certain survivors and beneficiaries and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 2019. This was subsequently extended, see above paragraph.

**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***

To the Board of Directors  
Gateway Online Academy of Ohio  
4 Summit Park Drive  
Independence, Ohio 44131

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 (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of Gateway Online Academy of Ohio, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the “School”), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, 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, 2023.

**Report on 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) as a basis for designing 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 or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.



### **Report on 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 financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

### **Purpose of this Report**

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 School'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 School's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*Rea & Associates, Inc.*

Rea & Associates, Inc.  
Medina, Ohio  
December 28, 2023

## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Gateway Online Academy of Ohio  
Cuyahoga County  
4 Summit Park Drive  
Independence, OH 44131

To the Board of Directors:

Ohio Rev. Code § 117.53 states “the auditor of state shall identify whether the school district or community school has adopted an anti-harassment policy in accordance with Section 3313.666 of the Revised Code. This determination shall be recorded in the audit report. The auditor of state shall not prescribe the content or operation of any anti-harassment policy adopted by a school district or community school.”

Accordingly, we have performed the procedures enumerated below solely to assist the Board in evaluating whether Gateway Online Academy of Ohio (the Academy) has adopted an anti-harassment policy in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 3313.666 and Ohio Rev. Code § 3314.03(a)(11)(d) for the period ended June 30, 2023. Management is responsible for complying with this requirement.

The Board has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of whether the Academy has adopted an anti-harassment policy in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 3313.666. Additionally, the Auditor of State has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet their purposes. No other party acknowledged the appropriateness of the procedures. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of the report and may not meet the needs of all users of the report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the Board. Consequently; we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

1. We inspected the Board minutes and observed that the Board adopted an anti-harassment policy at its meeting on May 9, 2022.

Ohio Rev. Code § 3313.666(B) and Ohio Rev. Code § 3314.03(a)(11)(d) specifies the following requirements must be included in anti-harassment policies. We inspected the policy for proper inclusion of these requirements:

1. A statement prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying of any student on academy property, on a school bus, or at academy-sponsored events and expressly providing for the possibility of suspension of a student found responsible for harassment, intimidation, or bullying by an electronic act;
2. A definition of harassment, intimidation, or bullying that includes the definition in division (A) of Ohio Rev. Code § 3313.666. The act defines that term as “any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both (1) causes mental or physical harm to the other student, (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student,” and violence within a dating relationship.;

3. A procedure for reporting prohibited incidents;
4. A requirement that academy personnel report prohibited incidents of which they are aware to the academy principal or other administrator designated by the principal;
5. A requirement that the custodial parent or guardian of any student involved in a prohibited incident be notified and, to the extent permitted by section 3319.321 of the Revised Code and the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974," 88 Stat. 571, 20 U.S.C. 1232q, as amended, have access to any written reports pertaining to the prohibited incident;
6. A procedure for documenting any prohibited incident that is reported;
7. A procedure for responding to and investigating any reported incident;
8. A strategy for protecting a victim from new or additional harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and from retaliation following a report, including a means by which a person may report an incident anonymously;
9. A disciplinary procedure for any student guilty of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, which shall not infringe on any student's rights under the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States;
10. A statement prohibiting students from deliberately making false reports of harassment, intimidation, or bullying and a disciplinary procedure for any student responsible for deliberately making a false report of that nature;
11. A requirement that the administration semiannually provide the president of the district board a written summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on its web site, if the district has a web site, to the extent permitted by section 3319.321 of the Revised Code and the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974," 88 Stat. 571, 20 U.S.C. 1232q, as amended.

We were engaged by the Academy to perform this agreed-upon procedure engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the AICPA and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on compliance with the anti-harassment policy. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the Academy and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the ethical requirements established by the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* related to our agreed upon procedures engagement.

*Rea & Associates, Inc.*

Rea & Associates, Inc.  
Medina, Ohio  
December 28, 2023

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**GATEWAY ONLINE ACADEMY OF OHIO**

**CUYAHOGA 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 2/15/2024**

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

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