



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**BLANCHESTER LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CLINTON COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2024**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
Independent Auditor's Report	1
Prepared by Management:	
Management's Discussion and Analysis	5
Basic Financial Statements:	
Government-wide Financial Statements:	
Statement of Net Position as of June 30, 2024.....	13
Statement of Activities – For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024.....	14
Fund Financial Statements:	
Balance Sheet	
Governmental Funds June 30, 2024	15
Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to Net Position of Governmental Activities as of June 30, 2024	16
Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance Governmental Funds - For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024.....	17
Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities - For the Fiscal Year Ended June 20, 2024.....	18
Statement of Fund Net Position	
Proprietary Funds June 30, 2024	19
Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Fund Net Position Proprietary Funds - For the Fiscal Year End June 30, 2024.....	20
Statement of Cash Flows	
Proprietary Funds – For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024.....	21
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements	22
Required Supplementary Information:	
Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability School Employees Retirement System of Ohio – Last Ten Fiscal Years	57
Schedule of District's Contributions for Net Pension Liability School Employees Retirement System of Ohio – Last Ten Fiscal Years	58
Schedule of District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio – Last Ten Fiscal Years	59
Schedule of District's Contributions for Net Pension Liability State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio – Last Ten Fiscal Years.....	60

**BLANCHESTER LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CLINTON COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2024**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS
(Continued)**

TITLE	PAGE
Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability School Employees Retirement System of Ohio – Last Eight Fiscal Years	61
Schedule of the District's Contributions for Net OPEB Liability School Employees Retirement System of Ohio – Last Nine Fiscal Years	62
Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)/Liability State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio – Last Eight Fiscal Years	63
Schedule of District's Contributions for Net OPEB (Asset)/Liability State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio – Last Nine Fiscal Years	64
Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis) General Fund- For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024	65
Notes to Required Supplementary Information	66
Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	77
Notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards	78
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Required by <i>Government Auditing Standards</i>	79
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements Applicable to Each Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance.....	81
Schedule of Findings.....	85



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Blanchester Local School District
Clinton County
951 Cherry St.
Blanchester, Ohio 45107

To the Board of Education:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Blanchester Local School District, Clinton County, Ohio (District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District'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 respective financial position of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Blanchester Local School District, Clinton County, Ohio as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position and, where applicable, cash flows thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the District, 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 opinions.

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 District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District'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 District'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, required budgetary comparison schedule, and schedules of net pension and other post-employment benefit liabilities and pension and other post-employment benefit contributions 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 auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

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

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 4, 2025, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District'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 District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio
March 4, 2025

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Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

The discussion and analysis of Blanchester Local School District's financial performance provides an overall review of the District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the District's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the notes to the basic financial statements and basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the District's performance.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for 2024 are as follows:

- Net position of governmental activities increased \$2,585,956 which represents a 50% increase from 2023.
- General revenues accounted for \$17,208,034 in revenue or 79% of all revenues. Program specific revenues in the form of charges for services and sales, grants and contributions accounted for \$4,516,144 or 21% of total revenues of \$21,724,178.
- The District had \$19,138,222 in expenses related to governmental activities; \$4,516,144 of these expenses were offset by program specific charges for services, grants or contributions. General revenues of \$17,208,034 were also used to provide for these programs.

Overview of the Financial Statements

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. These statements are organized so the reader can understand the District as a financial whole, an entire operating entity. The statements then proceed to provide an increasingly detailed look at specific financial activities.

The *Statement of Net Position* and *Statement of Activities* provide information about the activities of the whole District, presenting both an aggregate view of the District's finances and a longer-term view of those finances. Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. For governmental funds, these statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. The fund financial statements also look at the District's most significant funds with all other nonmajor funds presented in total in one column. The General Fund is the only major fund of the District.

Government-wide Financial Statements

While this document contains the large number of funds used by the District to provide programs and activities, the view of the District as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, "How did we do financially during 2024?". The Government-wide Financial Statements answer this question. These statements include *all assets and deferred outflows* and *liabilities and deferred inflows* using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the District's *net position* and changes in net position. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader that, for the District as a whole, the financial position has improved or diminished. The causes of this change may be the result of many factors, both financial and non-financial. Non-financial factors include the District's property tax base, current property tax laws in Ohio restricting revenue growth, facility conditions, required educational programs and other factors.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

In the Government-wide Financial Statements, the overall financial position of the District is presented in the following manner:

- **Governmental Activities** – Most of the District's programs and services are reported here including instruction, support services, operation of non-instructional services, extracurricular activities, and interest and fiscal charges.

Fund Financial Statements

The analysis of the District's major funds is presented in the Fund Financial Statements. Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the District's major fund. The District uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions. However, these fund financial statements focus on the District's most significant fund.

Governmental Funds Most of the District's activities are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using an accounting method called *modified accrual* accounting, which measures cash and all other *financial assets* that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed *short-term view* of the District's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance educational programs. The relationship (or differences) between governmental *activities* (reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) and governmental *funds* is reconciled in the financial statements.

Proprietary Funds The District maintains one proprietary internal service fund. Internal service funds are an accounting device used to accumulate and allocate costs internally among the District's various functions. The District's internal service fund accounts for self insurance of the District's workers' compensation benefits.

The District as a Whole

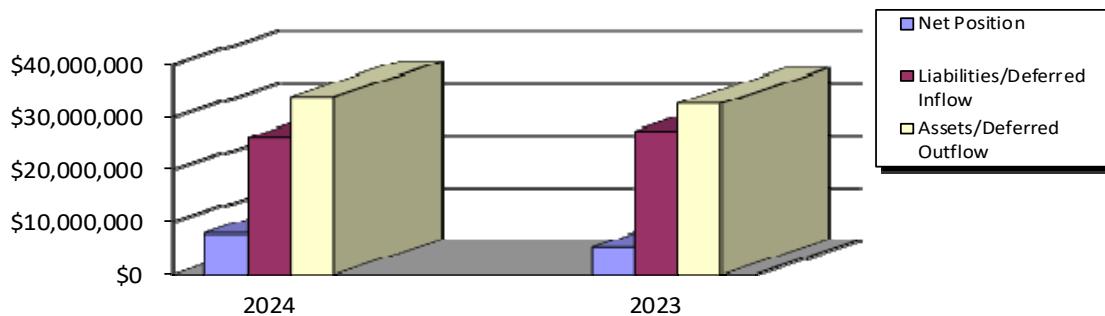
As stated previously, the Statement of Net Position looks at the District as a whole. Table 1 provides a summary of the District's net position for 2024 compared to 2023:

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Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Table 1
Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Assets:		
Current and Other Assets	\$14,434,364	\$11,995,857
Net OPEB Asset	925,617	1,328,771
Capital Assets	<u>15,294,774</u>	<u>15,669,167</u>
Total Assets	<u>30,654,755</u>	<u>28,993,795</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources:		
OPEB	521,022	299,153
Pension	<u>2,666,021</u>	<u>3,239,077</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>3,187,043</u>	<u>3,538,230</u>
Liabilities:		
Other Liabilities	2,256,220	2,404,079
Long-Term Liabilities	<u>15,192,545</u>	<u>16,432,175</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>17,448,765</u>	<u>18,836,254</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources:		
Property Taxes	5,041,545	4,231,012
OPEB	1,789,516	2,338,100
Pension	<u>1,773,736</u>	<u>1,924,379</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>8,604,797</u>	<u>8,493,491</u>
Net Position:		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	14,737,091	14,935,590
Restricted	2,231,092	2,578,738
Unrestricted	<u>(9,179,947)</u>	<u>(12,312,048)</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$7,788,236</u>	<u>\$5,202,280</u>



Over time, net position can serve as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. At June 30, 2024, the District's assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$7,788,236.

At year-end, capital assets represented 50% of total assets. Capital assets include land, buildings and improvements, and equipment. Capital assets, net of related debt to acquire the assets at June 30, 2024,

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

were \$14,737,091. These capital assets are used to provide services to the students and are not available for future spending. Although the District's investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources to repay the debt must be provided from other sources, since capital assets may not be used to liquidate these liabilities.

A portion of the District's net position, \$2,231,092 represents resources that are subject to external restriction on how they must be used. The external restriction will not affect the availability of fund resources for future use.

Capital Assets decreased mainly due to current year depreciation expense exceeding current year additions. Long-term liabilities decreased due primarily to a decrease in net pension liability.

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for fiscal years 2024 and 2023.

Table 2
Changes in Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Revenues:		
Program Revenues		
Charges for Services and Sales	\$849,081	\$812,423
Operating Grants and Contributions	3,667,063	3,665,493
General Revenues:		
Income Tax	503,675	0
Property Taxes	4,838,916	3,954,314
Grants and Entitlements, Not Restricted	11,310,206	11,087,829
Other Revenues	555,237	418,369
Total Revenues	<u>21,724,178</u>	<u>19,938,428</u>
Program Expenses:		
Instruction	11,416,651	11,261,012
Support Services:		
Pupil and Instructional Staff	1,187,533	954,807
School Administrative, General		
Administration, Fiscal and Business	1,930,118	2,253,113
Operations and Maintenance	1,634,460	1,589,214
Pupil Transportation	1,173,040	1,505,147
Central	336,791	284,758
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	824,066	786,188
Extracurricular Activities	623,747	621,282
Interest and Fiscal Charges	11,816	8,213
Total Program Expenses	<u>19,138,222</u>	<u>19,263,734</u>
Change in Net Position	2,585,956	674,694
Net Position - Beginning of Year	<u>5,202,280</u>	<u>4,527,586</u>
Net Position - End of Year	<u>\$7,788,236</u>	<u>\$5,202,280</u>

The District revenues are mainly from two sources. Property taxes levied for general purposes and grants and entitlements (not restricted) comprised 74% of the District's revenues for governmental activities.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

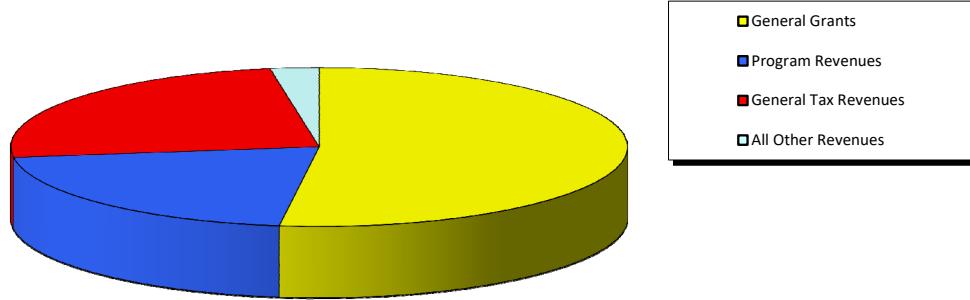
The District depends greatly on property taxes as a revenue source. The unique nature of property taxes in Ohio creates the need to routinely seek voter approval for operating funds. The overall revenues generated by a levy will not increase solely as a result of inflation. As an example, a homeowner with a home valued at \$100,000 and taxed at 1.0 mill would pay \$35.00 annually in taxes. If three years later the home were reappraised and increased to \$200,000 (and this inflationary increase in value is comparable to other property owners) the effective tax rate would become .5 mills and the owner would still pay \$35.00.

Thus, Ohio districts dependent upon property taxes are hampered by a lack of revenue growth and must regularly return to the voters to maintain a constant level of service. Property and income taxes made up 25% of revenue for governmental activities for the District in fiscal year 2024.

Governmental Activities

Revenue Sources

Revenue Sources	2024	Percent of Total
General Grants	\$11,310,206	52.1%
Program Revenues	4,516,144	20.8%
General Tax Revenues	5,342,591	24.6%
All Other Revenues	555,237	2.6%
Investment Revenues	<u><u>\$21,724,178</u></u>	<u><u>100.0%</u></u>



Instruction comprises 60% of governmental program expenses. Support services expenses were 33% of governmental program expenses. All other expenses and interest expense was 7%. Interest expense was attributable to the outstanding bond and borrowing for capital projects.

General Grants increased in fiscal year 2024 as compared to fiscal year 2023, which was mainly due to an increase in intergovernmental revenue received. Total expenses decreased in fiscal year 2024, mainly due to changes related to net pension liability and other post employment benefits liability.

Governmental Activities

The Statement of Activities shows the cost of program services and the charges for services and grants offsetting those services. Table 3 shows, for government activities, the total cost of services and the net cost of services. That is, it identifies the cost of these services supported by tax revenue and unrestricted State entitlements.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Table 3
Governmental Activities

	Total Cost of Services		Net Cost of Services	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Instruction	\$11,416,651	\$11,261,012	(\$9,096,503)	(\$8,496,239)
Support Services:				
Pupil and Instructional Staff	1,187,533	954,807	(803,988)	(709,670)
School Administrative, General				
Administration, Fiscal and Business	1,930,118	2,253,113	(1,895,879)	(2,244,276)
Operations and Maintenance	1,634,460	1,589,214	(917,948)	(1,279,380)
Pupil Transportation	1,173,040	1,505,147	(1,043,857)	(1,271,680)
Central	336,791	284,758	(330,799)	(279,358)
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	824,066	786,188	(189,563)	(157,544)
Extracurricular Activities	623,747	621,282	(331,725)	(339,458)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	11,816	8,213	(11,816)	(8,213)
Total Expenses	<u>\$19,138,222</u>	<u>\$19,263,734</u>	<u>(\$14,622,078)</u>	<u>(\$14,785,818)</u>

The District's Funds

The District has one major governmental funds: the General Fund. Assets of this fund comprised \$12,235,844 (85%) of the total \$14,425,837 governmental fund assets.

General Fund: Fund balance at June 30, 2024 was \$5,222,629, an increase in fund balance of \$2,218,235.

General Fund Budgeting Highlights

The District's budget is prepared according to Ohio law and is based on accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements and encumbrances. The most significant budgeted fund is the General Fund.

During the course of fiscal year 2024 the District amended its general fund budget. The District uses site-based budgeting and the budgeting systems are designed to tightly control total site budgets but provide flexibility for site management. During the course of the year, the District revised the Budget in an attempt to deal with unexpected changes in revenues and expenditures.

For the General Fund, final budget basis revenue was \$17,728,954, compared to original budget estimates of \$16,655,830. Of the \$1,073,124 difference, most was due to an increase in budgeted intergovernmental revenues. Actual budget basis revenue was \$17,883,251, compared to final budgeted revenue of \$17,728,954. Of the \$154,297 difference, most was due to an increase in actual intergovernmental receipts over the budgeted amounts.

Actual budget basis expenditures were \$16,160,372, compared to final budgeted expenditures of \$17,433,167. Of the \$1,272,795 difference, most was due to a decrease in instruction expenditures compared with the final budgeted amounts. Final budgeted expenditures were \$17,433,167, compared to original budgeted expenditures of \$17,105,344. Of the \$327,823 difference, most was due to an increase in budgeted instruction expenditures.

The District's ending unobligated cash balance for the General Fund was \$5,165,254.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

At the end of fiscal year 2024, the District had \$15,294,774 invested in land, buildings and improvements, and equipment. Table 4 shows fiscal year 2024 balances compared to fiscal year 2023:

Table 4
Capital Assets at Year End
(Net of Depreciation)

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Land	\$546,830	\$546,830
Construction in Progress	144,858	0
Buildings and Improvements	12,584,613	13,195,871
Equipment	2,018,473	1,926,466
Total Net Capital Assets	<u>\$15,294,774</u>	<u>\$15,669,167</u>

Overall, capital assets decreased due to depreciation expense exceeding current year additions.

See Note 6 to the Basic Financial Statements for further details on the District's capital assets.

Debt

At June 30, 2024, the District had \$557,683 in outstanding debt, \$175,000 due within one year. Table 5 summarizes bonds outstanding at year end.

Table 5
Outstanding Debt at Year End

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
2013 Certificate of Participation	\$540,000	\$710,000
Premium on 2013 Certificate of Participation	17,683	23,578
Total Outstanding Debt at Year End	<u>\$557,683</u>	<u>\$733,578</u>

See Note 7 to the Basic Financial Statements for further details on the District's long-term obligations.

Economic Outlook

Public school districts in Ohio use a combination of state funds, local sources (such as property taxes) and federal funds. The amount of state funds that a district receives is based on a formula that takes into account the student enrollment and the property wealth of the district.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Amended House Bill 49 (HB49) addressed the state foundation funding for FY18 and FY19. There are numerous components and variables that make up the calculation for foundation funding. As a result, there are numerous reasons why an individual school district will experience changes in foundation funding across fiscal years or why one district receives more state funds than another.

The interaction of formula changes, changing characteristics of a district, and the effects of caps/guarantees can cause unexpected results. When "caps" or "guarantees" are used, the outcomes of any formula are suppressed. Because guarantees have been in place without interruption for many years, the guarantee is not necessarily to last year's amount, but perhaps to a formula calculation from a number of years prior. This means that guaranteed/capped funding amounts are often based upon district factors, such as student population and/or property values, which are dramatically different from what currently exists. Therefore, funding levels for a district relative to prior year might be due to the impact of lessening those constraints that short-circuit formulas.

Blanchester remains concerned about the instability of the state and local economy and the political ramifications of new funding models. Management is required to plan carefully and prudently the resources to meet student needs over the next several years. All of the District's financial abilities will be needed to meet the challenges of the future. With careful planning and monitoring of the District's finances, the District's management is confident that the District can continue to provide a quality education for our students and provide a secure financial future.

Contacting the District's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, and investors and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to show the District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Treasurer at Blanchester Local School District, 957 Cherry Street, Blanchester, Ohio 45107.

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Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
 Statement of Net Position
 June 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities
Assets:	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments	\$7,777,803
Receivables (Net):	
Taxes	5,915,529
Accounts	712
Interest	12,935
Intergovernmental	601,590
Prepaid	125,795
Net OPEB Asset	925,617
Nondepreciable Capital Assets	691,688
Depreciable Capital Assets, Net	<u>14,603,086</u>
Total Assets	<u>30,654,755</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources:	
Pension	2,666,021
OPEB	<u>521,022</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>3,187,043</u>
Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	447,681
Accrued Wages and Benefits	1,585,670
Contracts Payable	189,315
Accrued Interest Payable	1,314
Unearned Revenue	32,240
Long-Term Liabilities:	
Due Within One Year	227,386
Due In More Than One Year:	
Net Pension Liability	13,298,768
Net OPEB Liability	930,922
Other Amounts	<u>735,469</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>17,448,765</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources:	
Property Taxes	5,041,545
Pension	1,773,736
OPEB	<u>1,789,516</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>8,604,797</u>
Net Position:	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	14,737,091
Restricted for:	
Debt Service	25,506
Capital Projects	807,225
Locally Funded Programs	14,788
Student Activities	116,742
State Funded Programs	501
Federally Funded Programs	70,830
Scholarships	150,087
Food Service	119,796
Net OPEB Asset	925,617
Unrestricted	<u>(9,179,947)</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$7,788,236</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
 Statement of Activities
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position Governmental Activities
		Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions	
Governmental Activities:				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$7,890,595	\$342,249	\$545,981	(\$7,002,365)
Special	3,389,301	28,552	1,336,703	(2,024,046)
Vocational	0	0	66,663	66,663
Other	136,755	0	0	(136,755)
Support Services:				
Pupil	948,837	0	133,851	(814,986)
Instructional Staff	238,696	0	249,694	10,998
General Administration	79,653	0	0	(79,653)
School Administration	1,374,131	0	34,239	(1,339,892)
Fiscal	476,334	0	0	(476,334)
Operations and Maintenance	1,634,460	0	716,512	(917,948)
Pupil Transportation	1,173,040	0	129,183	(1,043,857)
Central	336,791	0	5,992	(330,799)
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	824,066	186,258	448,245	(189,563)
Extracurricular Activities	623,747	292,022	0	(331,725)
Interest on Long-Term Debt	11,816	0	0	(11,816)
Totals	\$19,138,222	\$849,081	\$3,667,063	(14,622,078)
General Revenues:				
Income Taxes				503,675
Property Taxes Levied for:				
General Purposes				4,838,916
Grants and Entitlements, Not Restricted				11,310,206
Unrestricted Contributions				11,596
Investment Earnings				375,545
Other Revenues				168,096
Total General Revenues				17,208,034
Change in Net Position				2,585,956
Net Position - Beginning of Year				5,202,280
Net Position - End of Year				\$7,788,236

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio

Balance Sheet

Governmental Funds

June 30, 2024

	General	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:			
Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments	\$5,677,201	\$1,740,010	\$7,417,211
Receivables (Net):			
Taxes	5,915,529	0	5,915,529
Accounts	630	82	712
Interest	12,379	556	12,935
Intergovernmental	223,979	377,611	601,590
Interfund	340,453	11,612	352,065
Prepaid	65,673	60,122	125,795
Total Assets	12,235,844	2,189,993	14,425,837
Liabilities:			
Accounts Payable	242,070	205,611	447,681
Accrued Wages and Benefits	1,394,140	191,530	1,585,670
Compensated Absences	10,539	0	10,539
Contracts Payable	0	189,315	189,315
Interfund Payable	0	352,065	352,065
Unearned Revenue	0	32,240	32,240
Total Liabilities	1,646,749	970,761	2,617,510
Deferred Inflows of Resources:			
Property Taxes	5,259,567	0	5,259,567
Income Taxes	96,921	0	96,921
Grants and Other Taxes	0	99,851	99,851
Investment Earnings	9,978	448	10,426
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	5,366,466	100,299	5,466,765
Fund Balances:			
Nonspendable	65,673	60,122	125,795
Restricted	0	1,257,548	1,257,548
Committed	11,000	0	11,000
Assigned	320,629	0	320,629
Unassigned	4,825,327	(198,737)	4,626,590
Total Fund Balances	5,222,629	1,118,933	6,341,562
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows and Fund Balances	\$12,235,844	\$2,189,993	\$14,425,837

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
 Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balance to
 Net Position of Governmental Activities
 June 30, 2024

Total Governmental Fund Balance \$6,341,562

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.

Capital assets used in the operation of Governmental Funds	15,294,774
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Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds.

Income Taxes	96,921
Delinquent Property Taxes	218,022
Interest	10,426
Intergovernmental	<u>99,851</u>

425,220

An internal service fund is used by management to charge back costs to individual funds. The assets and liabilities of the internal service fund are included in governmental activities in the statement of net position.

Internal Service Net Position	360,592
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In the statement of net position interest payable is accrued when incurred; whereas, in the governmental funds interest is reported as a liability only when it will require the use of current financial resources.

(1,314)

Some liabilities reported in the statement of net position do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as liabilities in governmental funds.

Compensated Absences	(394,633)
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Deferred outflows and inflows or resources related to pensions and OPEB are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.

Deferred outflows of resources related to pensions	2,666,021
Deferred inflows of resources related to pensions	(1,773,736)
Deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB	521,022
Deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB	<u>(1,789,516)</u>

(376,209)

Long-term liabilities and net OPEB assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.

Net OPEB Asset	925,617
Net Pension Liability	(13,298,768)
Net OPEB Liability	(930,922)
Other Amounts	<u>(557,683)</u>
	<u>(13,861,756)</u>

Net Position of Governmental Activities

\$7,788,236

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
 Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
 Governmental Funds
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	General	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:			
Property and Other Taxes	\$4,795,162	\$0	\$4,795,162
Income Taxes	406,754	0	406,754
Tuition and Fees	370,801	0	370,801
Investment Earnings	363,189	3,788	366,977
Intergovernmental	12,539,492	2,468,134	15,007,626
Extracurricular Activities	0	292,022	292,022
Charges for Services	0	186,258	186,258
Other Revenues	67,495	103,465	170,960
Total Revenues	18,542,893	3,053,667	21,596,560
Expenditures:			
Current:			
Instruction:			
Regular	6,641,754	587,598	7,229,352
Special	3,150,205	313,266	3,463,471
Other	135,113	1,642	136,755
Support Services:			
Pupil	692,903	277,199	970,102
Instructional Staff	174,410	66,027	240,437
General Administration	80,578	0	80,578
School Administration	1,335,082	36,094	1,371,176
Fiscal	483,744	500	484,244
Operations and Maintenance	876,349	825,783	1,702,132
Pupil Transportation	1,183,556	182,019	1,365,575
Central	331,300	5,491	336,791
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	6,757	837,692	844,449
Extracurricular Activities	318,807	323,037	641,844
Capital Outlay	0	279,790	279,790
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	170,000	0	170,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	18,100	0	18,100
Total Expenditures	15,598,658	3,736,138	19,334,796
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	2,944,235	(682,471)	2,261,764
Other Financing Sources (Uses):			
Proceeds from Sale of Capital Assets	0	16,450	16,450
Transfers In	0	755,399	755,399
Transfers (Out)	(726,000)	(29,399)	(755,399)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(726,000)	742,450	16,450
Net Change in Fund Balance	2,218,235	59,979	2,278,214
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	3,004,394	1,058,954	4,063,348
Fund Balance - End of Year	\$5,222,629	\$1,118,933	\$6,341,562

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
 Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes
 in Fund Balance of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Net Change in Fund Balance - Total Governmental Funds \$2,278,214

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Governmental funds report capital asset additions as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount of the difference between capital asset additions and depreciation in the current period.

Capital assets used in governmental activities	805,178
Depreciation Expense	<u>(1,171,851)</u>
	(366,673)

Governmental funds only report the disposal of assets to the extent proceeds are received from the sale. In the statement of activities, a gain or loss is reported for each disposal. The amount of the proceeds must be removed and the gain or loss on the disposal of capital assets must be recognized. This is the amount of the difference between the proceeds and the gain or loss. (7,720)

Governmental funds report pension and OPEB contributions as expenditures. However in the Statement of Activities, the cost of pension and OPEB benefits earned net of employer contributions is reported as pension and OPEB expense.

Pension Contributions	1,271,127
Pension Expense	(504,988)
OPEB Contributions	39,484
OPEB Expense	<u>220,368</u>
	1,025,991

Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.

Income Taxes	96,921
Delinquent Property Taxes	43,754
Interest	8,568
Intergovernmental	<u>(30,355)</u>
	118,888

Repayment of bond principal, and accreted interest is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position. 170,000

In the statement of activities interest expense is accrued when incurred; whereas, in governmental funds an interest expenditure is reported when due. 389

Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.

Compensated Absences	(44,183)
Amortization of Bond Premium	<u>5,895</u>
	(38,288)

The internal service fund used by management to charge back costs to individual funds is not reported in the entity-wide statement of activities. Governmental fund expenditures and the related internal service fund revenues are eliminated. The net revenue (expense) of the internal service fund is allocated among the governmental activities.

Change in Net Position - Internal Service Funds	<u>(594,845)</u>
Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities	<u>\$2,585,956</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio

Statement of Net Position

Proprietary Fund

June 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities- Internal Service Fund
Current Assets:	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments	<u>\$360,592</u>
Total Assets	<u>360,592</u>
Net Position:	
Unrestricted	<u>360,592</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$360,592</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Statement of Revenues, Expenses
and Changes in Fund Net Position
Proprietary Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities- Internal Service Fund
Operating Revenues:	
Charges for Services	<u>\$1,844,786</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>1,844,786</u>
Operating Expenses:	
Claims Expense	<u>2,439,631</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>2,439,631</u>
Change in Net Position	(594,845)
Net Position - Beginning of Year	<u>955,437</u>
Net Position - End of Year	<u><u>\$360,592</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Statement of Cash Flows
Proprietary Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities- Internal Service Fund
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:	
Cash Received from Interfund Services	\$1,844,786
Cash Payments for Claims	<u>(2,486,865)</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	<u>(642,079)</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(642,079)
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	<u>1,002,671</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year	<u>360,592</u>
Reconciliation of Operating Income (Loss) to	
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	
Operating Income (Loss)	(594,845)
Changes in Assets & Liabilities:	
Increase (Decrease) in Claims Payables	<u>(47,234)</u>
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	<u>(\$642,079)</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 1 - Description of the District

The Blanchester Local School District (“District”) was originally organized in 1854 and known as Blanchester Village School. On July 1, 1959 Blanchester Village School, Jefferson Township School and Edenton Local School District became Blanchester Local School District. In 1853 State Laws were enacted to create local boards of education. Today, the District operates under current standards prescribed by the Ohio State Board of Education as provided in division (D) of Section 3301.07 and Section 119.01 of the Ohio Revised Code.

The District operates under a locally elected, five-member board form of government and provides educational services as authorized by its charter or further mandated by state and/or federal agencies. This board controls the District's four instructional and support facilities staffed by 74 classified, 89 certified and 14 administrative employees to provide service to 1,165 students and other community members.

Reporting Entity

The financial reporting entity consists of a primary government. The District is a primary government because it is a special-purpose government that has a separately elected governing body, is legally separate, and is fiscally independent of other state and local governments.

There are no component units combined with the District for financial statement presentation purposes, and it is not included in any other governmental reporting entity. Consequently, the District's financial statements include only the funds of those organizational entities for which its elected governing body is financially accountable. The District's major operations include education, pupil transportation, food service, and maintenance of District facilities.

Note 2 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements of the District 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 most significant of the District's accounting policies are described below.

Measurement Focus

Government-wide Financial Statements

The government-wide statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. All assets and liabilities associated with the operation of the District are included on the statement of net position. Fiduciary Funds are not included in entity-wide statements. The activity of the internal service funds is eliminated to avoid doubling up revenues and expenses.

The government-wide statement of activities presents a comparison for each function or program of the District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues which are not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues of the District, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the District.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Fund Financial Statements

All governmental funds are accounted for using a flow of current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities generally are included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

Fund Accounting

The District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the fiscal year. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid management by segregating transactions related to certain District functions or activities. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The various funds of the District are grouped into the categories governmental, and proprietary.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds focus on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between governmental fund assets and deferred outflows and liabilities and deferred inflows is reported as fund balance. The following is the District's major governmental fund:

General Fund – The general fund is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The general fund balance is available for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Proprietary Funds

Proprietary funds are used to account for the District's ongoing activities which are similar to those often found in the private sector where the determination of net income is necessary or useful to sound financial administration. The District has no enterprise funds. The following is a description of the District's internal service fund:

Internal Service Fund - The internal service fund is used to account for the financing of goods or services provided by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of the district, or to other governments, on a cost-reimbursement basis. The internal service fund of the District accounts for a self-insurance program which provides workers' compensation benefits to employees.

Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. Government-wide financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

accounting. Governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Proprietary and fiduciary funds also use the accrual basis of accounting. Differences in the actual and the modified accrual basis of accounting arise in the recognition of revenue, the recording of deferred inflows, and in the presentation of expenses versus expenditures.

Revenues – 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. On a modified accrual basis, revenue is recorded in the fiscal year in which the resources are measurable and become available. Available means that the resources will be collected within the current fiscal year or are expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current fiscal year. For the District, available means expected to be received within sixty days of fiscal year end.

Nonexchange transactions, in which the District receives value without directly giving equal value in return, included property taxes, grants, entitlements and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which the taxes are levied. 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 year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the District must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the District on a reimbursement basis. On a modified accrual basis, revenue from nonexchange transactions must also be available before it can be recognized.

Under the modified accrual basis, the following revenue sources are considered to be both measurable and available at year end: property taxes available for advance, grants and interest.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows 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, represents a consumption of net asset that applies to a future periods and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The deferred outflows related to pension and OPEB are reported on the governmental-wide statement of net position. For more pension and OPEB related information, see Note 8 and Note 9.

In addition to liabilities, the statements of financial position report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net asset that applies to a future periods and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. For the District, deferred inflows of resources include property taxes, income taxes, grants and other taxes, investment earnings, OPEB and pension. Property taxes represent amounts for which there is an enforceable legal claim as of June 30, 2024, but which were levied to finance year 2025 operations. These amounts have been recorded as deferred inflows on both the government-wide statement of net position and the governmental fund financial statements. Grants and investment earnings have been recorded as deferred inflows on the governmental fund financial statements. Deferred inflows related to pension and OPEB are reported on the government-wide statement of net position. For more pension and OPEB related information, see Notes 8 and 9.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Expenses/Expenditures

On the accrual basis of accounting, expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred. The fair value of donated commodities used during the year is reported in the operating statement as an expense with a like amount reported as donated commodities revenue.

The measurement focus of governmental fund accounting is on decreases in net financial resources (expenditures) rather than expenses. Expenditures are generally recognized in the accounting period in which the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable. Allocations of cost, such as depreciation and amortization, are not recognized in the governmental funds.

Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments

Cash received by the District is pooled for investment purposes. Interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments" on the financial statements.

Investments are reported at fair value which is based on quoted market prices.

Interest revenue credited to the general fund during fiscal year 2024 amounted to \$363,189 and interest revenue credited to other governmental funds amounted to \$3,788.

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the internal service portion of pooled cash and investments is considered a cash equivalent because the District is able to withdraw resources from the internal service funds without prior notice or penalty.

Prepaid Items

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond June 30, 2024 are recorded as prepaid items using the consumption method. A current asset for the prepaid amount is recorded at the time of purchase and expenditure/expense is reported in the year in which services are consumed.

Capital Assets

All capital assets are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their acquisition values as of the date received. The District maintains a capitalization threshold of five hundred dollars (\$5,000). The District does not possess any infrastructure. Improvements are capitalized; 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.

All reported capital assets are depreciated, except land. Improvements are depreciated over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets. Depreciation is allocated using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Lives</u>
Building Improvements	20-40 years
Equipment	3-15 years

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB 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.

Compensated Absences

The District reports compensated absences in accordance with the provisions of GASB Statement No. 16, "Accounting for Compensated Absences." Vacation benefits are accrued as a liability as the benefits are earned if the employees' rights to receive compensation are attributable to services already rendered and it is probable that the District will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means. The District records a liability for accumulated unused vacation time, when earned, for all employees with more than one year of service.

Sick leave benefits are accrued as a liability using the vested payment method. The entire compensated absence liability is reported on the government-wide financial statements.

For governmental fund financial statements, the amount recorded as compensated absences is the amount due at year end. These amounts are recorded in the account "compensated absences payable" in the fund from which the employees who have accumulated unpaid leave are paid. The entire amount of compensated absences is reported as a fund liability in proprietary funds.

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Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

The District's policies regarding compensated absences are determined by the state laws and/or negotiated agreements. In summary, the policies are as follows:

<u>Vacation</u> How Earned	<u>Certified</u> Not Eligible	<u>Administrators</u> Per Contract	<u>Non-Certificated</u> 10-20 days for each service year depending on length of service
Maximum Accumulation	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Vested Termination Entitlement	Not Applicable	As Earned	As Earned
<u>Sick Leave</u> How Earned	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Maximum Accumulation Vested	1 1/4 days per month of employment (15 days per year)	1 1/4 days per month of employment (15 days per year)	1 1/4 days per month of employment (15 days per year)
Termination Entitlement	228 days As Earned	Per Contract As Earned	228 days As Earned
	Per Contract	Per Contract	Per Contract

Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets and deferred outflows of resources, and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowings used for the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments.

The District applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available. Of the District's \$2,231,092 in restricted net position, none were restricted by enabling legislation.

Interfund Activity

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as revenues in the seller funds and as expenditures/expenses in the purchaser funds. Flows of cash or goods from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular expenditures/expenses to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented on the financial statements.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

On the fund financial statements, receivables and payables resulting from short-term interfund loans are classified as “interfund receivables” and “interfund payables”. These amounts are eliminated in the governmental activities column of the statement of net position.

As a general rule, the effect of interfund (internal) activity has been eliminated from the government-wide statement of activities. The interfund services provided and used are not eliminated in the process of consolidation.

Fund Balance

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting*, the District classifies its fund balance based on the purpose for which the resources were received and the level of constraint placed on the resources. The following categories are used:

Nonspendable – resources that are not in spendable form (inventory) or have legal or contractual requirements to maintain the balance intact.

Restricted – resources that have external purpose restraints imposed on them by providers, such as creditors, grantors, or other regulators.

Committed – resources that are constrained for specific purposes that are internally imposed by the government at its highest level of decision making authority, the Board of Education.

Assigned – resources that are intended to be used for specific purposes as approved through the District’s formal purchasing procedure by the Treasurer.

Unassigned – residual fund balance within the General Fund that is not restricted, committed, or assigned. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance resulting from incurred expenses for specific purposes exceeding amounts which had been restricted, committed or assigned for said purposes.

The District applies restricted resources first when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which either restricted or unrestricted (committed, assigned, and unassigned) amounts are available. Similarly, within unrestricted fund balance, committed amounts are reduced first followed by assigned, and then unassigned amounts when expenditures are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the primary activity of the proprietary fund. For the District, these revenues are for the self-insurance program (internal service fund) which provides workers’ compensation benefits to employees. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the good or service that is the primary activity of the fund.

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.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 3 - Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments

The District maintains a cash and investment pool used by all funds. Each fund type's portion of this pool is displayed on the combined balance sheet as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments."

State statute requires the classification of monies held by the District into three categories:

Active Monies - Those monies required to be kept in a "cash" or "near cash" status for immediate use by the District. Such monies must by law be maintained either as cash in the District treasury, in depository accounts payable or withdrawable on demand.

Inactive Monies – Those monies not required for use within the current two year period of designated depositories. Ohio law permits inactive monies to be deposited or invested as certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designated depositories, or as savings or deposit accounts, including, but not limited to passbook accounts.

Interim Monies – Those monies which are not needed for immediate use but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories.

Those monies held by the District can be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States.
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligation or security issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and Government National Mortgage Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities.
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days.
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and with certain limitations including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met.
5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.
6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio).
8. Certain bankers' acceptances for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days) and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met.

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

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

Deposits

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the District will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. As of June 30, 2024, \$961,622 of the District's bank balance of \$1,211,622 was exposed to custodial credit risk because it was uninsured and collateralized.

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

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

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

Investments

As of June 30, 2024, the District had the following investments:

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Fair Value	Fair Value Hierarchy	Weighted Average Maturity (Years)
Federal Farm Credit Banks	\$299,310	Level 2	4.34
Federal Home Loan Bank	231,621	Level 2	2.40
Commercial Paper	586,777	Level 2	0.41
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation	110,033	Level 2	3.80
Federal National Mortgage Assoc.	249,835	Level 2	2.81
U.S. Treasury Notes	314,902	Level 2	3.66
Negotiable CDs	1,246,032	Level 2	1.55
Star Ohio	3,854,684	N/A	0.13
Money Market Funds	111,535	N/A	0.00
Total Fair Value	<u>\$7,004,729</u>		
Portfolio Weighted Average Maturity			0.97

The District categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The Hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets. Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs. Inputs to the valuation techniques used in fair the measurement for Level 2 include quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets, inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability, or inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means. Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs. The above table identifies the District's recurring fair value measurements as of June 30, 2024.

Interest Rate Risk - In accordance with the investment policy, the District manages its exposure to declines in fair values by limiting the weighted average maturity of its investment portfolio to three years.

Credit Risk – It is the District's policy to limit its investments that are not obligations of the U.S. Government or obligations explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. Government to investments which have the highest quality rating issued by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations. The District's investments in negotiable CDs and money market funds were not rated.

Concentration of Credit Risk – The District's investment policy allows investments in government sponsored enterprise (GSE) securities. The District has 18% of its investments in Negotiable CDs, 55% in Star Ohio, 4% in Federal Farm Credit Banks, 3% in Federal Home Loan Banks, 8% in Commercial Paper, 2% in Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, 4% in Federal National Mortgage Association, 4% in U.S. Treasury Notes, and 2% in Money Market Funds.

Custodial Credit Risk is the risk that in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the District will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. All of the District's securities are either insured and registered in the name of the District or at least registered in the name of the District.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 4 - Property Taxes

Property taxes are levied and assessed on a calendar year basis. Second half distributions occur in a new fiscal year. Property taxes include amounts levied against all real and public utility property located in the District. Real property taxes are levied after April 1 on the assessed value listed as of the prior January 1, the lien date. Public utility property taxes attached as a lien on December 31 of the prior year, were levied April 1 and are collected with real property taxes. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State law at 35 percent of appraised market value. All property is required to be revalued every six years. Public utility property taxes are assessed on real property at 35 percent of true value.

Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semi-annually, the first payment is due December 31 with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established. The District receives property taxes from Clinton County. The County Auditor periodically advances to the District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2024, are available to finance fiscal year 2025 operations. The amount available for advance can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent.

Accrued property taxes receivable represents delinquent taxes outstanding and real property and public utility taxes that became measurable as of June 30, 2024. Although total property tax collections for the next fiscal year are measurable, only the amount available as an advance at June 30 is intended to finance current fiscal year operations. The receivable is therefore offset by a credit to deferred inflows of resources for that portion not intended to finance \$200,188 in the General Fund. There were no taxes receivable amounts in any other governmental funds.

The assessed values upon which the fiscal year 2024 taxes were collected are:

	<u>Amount</u>
Agricultural/Residential	
and Other Real Estate	\$239,824,380
Public Utility Personal	<u>32,035,770</u>
Total	<u>\$271,860,150</u>

Income Tax

The District levies a voted tax of 1.00% Earned Income Tax for general operations. The tax was approved in 2023, effective beginning in January 2024. Employers of residents are required to withhold income tax on compensation and remit the tax to the State. Taxpayers are required to file an annual return. The State makes quarterly distributions to the District after withholding amounts for administrative fees and estimated refunds. Income tax revenue is credited to the General Fund.

Note 5 – Receivables

Receivables at June 30, 2024, consisted of taxes, accounts, interest, intergovernmental grants, and interfund. All receivables are considered collectible in full due to the ability to foreclose for the nonpayment of taxes, the stable condition of State programs, and the current year guarantee of federal funds.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 6 - Capital Assets

Capital asset activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, was as follows:

	Beginning Balance	Additions	Deletions	Ending Balance
Governmental Activities				
<i>Capital Assets, not being depreciated:</i>				
Land	\$546,830	\$0	\$0	\$546,830
Construction in Progress	0	144,858	0	144,858
<i>Capital Assets, being depreciated:</i>				
Buildings and Improvements	33,635,857	238,312	0	33,874,169
Equipment	8,076,009	422,008	98,131	8,399,886
Totals at Historical Cost	<u>42,258,696</u>	<u>805,178</u>	<u>98,131</u>	<u>42,965,743</u>
<i>Less Accumulated Depreciation:</i>				
Buildings and Improvements	20,439,986	849,570	0	21,289,556
Equipment	6,149,543	322,281	90,411	6,381,413
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>26,589,529</u>	<u>1,171,851</u>	<u>90,411</u>	<u>27,670,969</u>
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$15,669,167</u>	<u>(\$366,673)</u>	<u>\$7,720</u>	<u>\$15,294,774</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to governmental functions as follows:

Instruction:	
Regular	\$825,704
Special	73,713
Support Services:	
Pupil	518
Instructional Staff	205
School Administration	73,709
Fiscal	161
Operations and Maintenance	74,516
Pupil Transportation	109,328
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	5,344
Extracurricular Activities	8,653
Total Depreciation Expense	<u>\$1,171,851</u>

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Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 7 - Long-Term Liabilities

	Beginning Balance	Issued	Retired	Ending Balance	Due In One Year
Governmental Activities:					
2013 Certificate of Participation	\$710,000	\$0	\$170,000	\$540,000	\$175,000
Premium on 2013 Certificate of Participation	23,578	0	5,895	17,683	0
2016 Refunding Bonds	0	0	0	0	0
Premium on 2016 Refunding Bonds	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Certificate of Participation and Bonds	733,578	0	175,895	557,683	175,000
Compensated Absences	387,801	61,135	43,764	405,172	52,386
Subtotal Certificate of Participation, Bonds, and Other Amounts	1,121,379	61,135	219,659	962,855	227,386
Net Pension Liability	14,487,320	0	1,188,552	13,298,768	0
Net OPEB Liability	823,476	107,446	0	930,922	0
Total Long-Term Obligations	\$16,432,175	\$168,581	\$1,408,211	\$15,192,545	\$227,386

The refunding bonds will be paid from the debt service fund and certificates of participation will be paid from the general fund. Compensated absences will be paid from the fund from which the person is paid.

There is no repayment schedule for the net pension liability and net OPEB liability; however, employer pension and OPEB contributions are made from the fund benefitting from their service.

Principal and interest requirements to retire debt outstanding at year end are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Certificate of Participation	
	Principal	Interest
2025	\$175,000	\$13,356
2026	180,000	8,250
2027	185,000	2,775
Total	\$540,000	\$24,381

Note 8 - Defined Benefit Pension Plans

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

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

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) represent the District's proportionate share of each pension/OPEB plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension/OPEB plan's fiduciary net position. The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies,

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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

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

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 9 for the required OPEB disclosures.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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. 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 percent and with a floor of 0 percent. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. The Retirement Board approved a 2.5 percent COLA for calendar year 2023.

Funding Policy

Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the District 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, 2024, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.0 percent. For fiscal year 2024, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$307,863 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount \$28,170 is reported as accrued wages and benefits.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description

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

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

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0 percent upon a determination by its actuary that it was necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients' base benefit and past cost-of living increases are not affected by this change. Effective July 1, 2022, a one-time ad-hoc COLA of 3 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2023 as long as

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

they retired prior to July 1, 2018. Effective July 1, 2023, a one-time ad-hoc COLA of 1 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2024 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2019. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3307.67(E) the STRS Ohio Retirement Board may adjust the COLA upon a determination by the board's actuary that a change will not materially impair the fiscal integrity of the system or is necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the system. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 34 years of service credit at any age.

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

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 11.09 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. The member determines how to allocate the member and employer money among various investment choices offered by STRS. The remaining 2.91 percent of the 14 percent employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

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

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

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

Funding Policy

Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The 2024 employer and employee contribution rate of 14 percent was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For 2024, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

The District's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$963,264 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount \$160,544 is reported as accrued wages and benefits.

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

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$3,049,653	\$10,249,114	\$13,298,768
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.05519220%	0.04759296%	
Prior Measurement Date	<u>0.05693440%</u>	<u>0.05131714%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	-0.00174220%	-0.00372418%	
Pension Expense	\$129,019	\$375,969	\$504,988

At June 30 2024, reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	SERS	STRS	Total
<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$131,081	\$373,661	\$504,742
Changes of assumptions	21,602	844,070	865,672
Changes in employer proportionate share of net pension liability	0	24,480	24,480
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>307,863</u>	<u>963,264</u>	<u>1,271,127</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$460,546</u>	<u>\$2,205,475</u>	<u>\$2,666,021</u>
<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$0	\$22,744	\$22,744
Changes of assumptions	0	635,342	635,342
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	42,865	30,717	73,582
Changes in employer proportionate share of net pension liability	<u>166,286</u>	<u>875,782</u>	<u>1,042,068</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$209,151</u>	<u>\$1,564,585</u>	<u>\$1,773,736</u>

\$1,271,127 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	SERS	STRS	Total
2025	(\$99,131)	(\$393,580)	(\$492,711)
2026	(139,749)	(584,991)	(724,740)
2027	180,139	864,589	1,044,728
2028	2,273	(208,392)	(206,119)
Total	(\$56,468)	(\$322,374)	(\$378,842)

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. Future benefits for all current plan members were projected through 2137.

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, 2023 and compared with June 30, 2022, are presented below:

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.40%	2.40%
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25% to 13.58%	3.25% to 13.58%
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.00%, on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement	2.00%, on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement
Investment Rate of Return	7.00% net of system expenses	7.00% net of system expenses
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)

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 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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 percent for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

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

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined by using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS' Statement of Investment Policy. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating an arithmetic weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. As of June 30, 2023:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00%	0.75%
US Equity	24.75%	4.82%
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50%	5.19%
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75%	5.98%
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00%	2.24%
Private Equity	12.00%	7.49%
Real Estate/Real Assets	17.00%	3.70%
Private Debt/Private Credit	5.00%	5.64%
Total	<u><u>100.00%</u></u>	

Discount Rate

The total pension liability for 2023 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The discount rate determination did not use a municipal bond rate. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employers would contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate of projected compensation over the remaining 21-year amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The actuarially determined contribution rate for fiscal year 2023 was 14 percent. Projected inflows from investment earnings 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. The annual money weighted rate of return, calculated as the internal rate of return on pension plan investments, for fiscal year 2023 was 6.90 percent.

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

Net pension liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact the following table presents the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent, as well as what each plan's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current rate.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	1% Decrease 6.00%	Current Discount Rate 7.00%	1% Increase 8.00%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$4,501,132	\$3,049,653	\$1,827,059

Changes Between the Measurement Date and the Report Date

Governor DeWine signed HB33 in July 2023 authorizing SERS to implement a Contribution Based Benefit Cap beginning August 1, 2024. Any effect on the net pension liability is unknown.

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2023, actuarial valuation compared to those used in the June 30, 2022, actuarial valuation are presented below:

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%
Projected Salary Increases	From 2.50% to 8.50% based on service	From 2.50% to 8.50% based on age
Investment Rate of Return	7.00% net of investments expense, including inflation	7.00% net of investments expense, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00%	7.00%
Payroll Increases	3.00%	3.00%
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0.00%	0.00%

Post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110 percent 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 percent 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, 2023, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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:

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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	<u>1.00%</u>	1.00%
Total	<u><u>100.00%</u></u>	

* Final target weights reflected October 1, 2022.

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

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with rate increases described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS' fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2023. 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, 2023.

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

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

	1% Decrease 6.00%	Current Discount Rate 7.00%	1% Increase 8.00%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$15,760,869	\$10,249,114	\$5,587,678

Changes Between the Measurement Date and the Report Date

In March 2024, the STRS Board made the eligibility rule requiring 34 years of service for an unreduced retirement permanent, effective June 1, 2024. Eligibility for a reduced retirement benefit has been lowered from 30 to 29 years of service. The effect of these changes on the net pension liability is currently unknown.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 9 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans

See Note 8 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description

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

The Health Care program is financed through a combination of employer contributions, recipient premiums, investment returns, and any funds received on behalf of SERS' participation in Medicare programs. The System's goal is to maintain a health care reserve account with a 20-year solvency period in order to ensure that fluctuations in the cost of health care do not cause an interruption in the program. However, during any period in which the 20-year solvency period is not achieved, the System shall manage the Health Care Fund on a pay-as-you-go basis.

Access to health care for retirees and beneficiaries is permitted in accordance with Section 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. 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 2024, no allocation was made to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2024, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the District's surcharge obligation was \$39,484.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

The surcharge, added to the allocated portion of the 14.00% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$39,484 for fiscal year 2024.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description

The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) administers a cost-sharing Health Plan administered for eligible retirees who participated in the defined benefit or combined pension plans offered by STRS. Ohio law authorizes STRS to offer this plan. Benefits include hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs and partial reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. Health care premiums were reduced by a Medicare Part B premium credit beginning in 2023. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting www.strsoh.org or by calling (888) 227-7877.

Funding Policy

Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. All benefit recipients pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14 percent of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

Net OPEB Liabilities (Assets), OPEB Expense (Income), and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

The net OPEB liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on the District's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and OPEB expense:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$930,922	\$0	\$930,922
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	0	(925,617)	(925,617)
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/Asset:			
Current Measurement Date	0.05650700%	0.04759296%	
Prior Measurement Date	<u>0.05865170%</u>	<u>0.05131714%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	-0.00214470%	-0.00372418%	
OPEB Expense	(\$185,470)	(\$34,899)	(\$220,369)

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

At June 30 2024, reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	SERS	STRS	Total
<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$1,939	\$1,443	\$3,382
Changes of assumptions	314,772	136,357	451,129
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	7,215	1,652	8,867
Changes in employer proportionate share of net OPEB liability	0	18,160	18,160
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	39,484	0	39,484
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$363,410	\$157,612	\$521,022
<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$480,111	\$141,181	\$621,292
Changes of assumptions	264,391	610,709	875,100
Changes in employer proportionate share of net OPEB liability	281,908	11,216	293,124
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$1,026,410	\$763,106	\$1,789,516

\$39,484 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability (adjustment to net OPEB asset) in the year ending June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	SERS	STRS	Total
2025	(\$224,483)	(\$276,496)	(\$500,979)
2026	(188,466)	(124,737)	(313,203)
2027	(115,864)	(45,510)	(161,374)
2028	(73,207)	(62,145)	(135,352)
2029	(57,190)	(56,523)	(113,713)
Thereafter	(43,274)	(40,083)	(83,357)
Total	(\$702,484)	(\$605,494)	(\$1,307,978)

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.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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

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

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2023, compared with June 30, 2022, are presented below:

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.40%	2.40%
Future Salary Increases, Including Inflation	3.25% to 13.58%	3.25% to 13.58%
Investment Rate of Return	7.00% net of investment expense	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
Fiduciary Net Position is Projected to be Depleted	2048	2044
Municipal Bond Index Rate:		
Measurement Date	3.86%	3.69%
Prior Measurement Date	3.69%	1.92%
Single Equivalent Interest Rate (SEIR), net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:		
Measurement Date	4.27%	4.08%
Prior Measurement Date	4.08%	2.27%
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	6.75% to 4.40%	7.00% to 4.40%

Mortality rates among healthy retirees were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Mortality rates for contingent survivors were based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Contingent Survivor mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 105.5 percent for males and adjusted 122.5 percent for females. Mortality rates for actives is based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table. Mortality rates are projected using a fully generational projection with Scale MP-2020.

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

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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 2016 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board on April 15, 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 long-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected return, net of investment expense and inflation) 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 assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. As of June 30, 2023:

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00%	0.75%
US Equity	24.75%	4.82%
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50%	5.19%
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75%	5.98%
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00%	2.24%
Private Equity	12.00%	7.49%
Real Estate/Real Assets	17.00%	3.70%
Private Debt/Private Credit	5.00%	5.64%
Total	<u>100.00%</u>	

Discount Rate

The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2023, was 4.27 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2023, was 4.08 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 contribution rate of 1.50 percent of projected covered 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 be depleted in 2048 by SERS' actuaries. The Fidelity General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index Rate was used in the determination of the single equivalent interest rate for both the June 30, 2022, and the June 30, 2023, 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 was 3.86 percent at June 30, 2023, and 3.69 percent at June 30, 2022.

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

The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability of SERS, what SERS' net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.27%) and higher (5.27%) than the current discount rate (4.27%). Also shown is what SERS' net OPEB liability would be based on health care

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (5.75% decreasing to 3.40%) and higher (7.75% decreasing to 5.40%) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (3.27%)	Current Discount Rate (4.27%)	1% Increase (5.27%)
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$1,189,984	\$930,922	\$726,640
	1% Decrease (5.75% decreasing to 3.40%)	Current Trend Rate (6.75% decreasing to 4.40%)	1% Increase (7.75% decreasing to 5.40%)
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$683,916	\$930,922	\$1,258,238

Changes Between Measurement Date and Reporting Date

In September 2023, the SERS Board changed minimum compensation to \$30,000 from \$25,000 for purposes of the surcharge. Any effect on the net OPEB liability is unknown.

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2023, actuarial valuation compared to the prior year are presented below:

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%
Investment Rate of Return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3.00%	3.00%
Discount Rate of Return	7.00%	7.00%
Health Care Cost Trends:		
Medical		
Pre-Medicare	7.50% initial, 4.14% ultimate	7.50% initial, 3.94% ultimate
Medicare	-10.94% initial, 4.14% ultimate	-68.78% initial, 3.94% ultimate
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	-11.95% initial, 4.14% ultimate	9.00% initial, 3.94% ultimate
Medicare	1.33% initial, 4.14% ultimate	-5.47% initial, 3.94% ultimate

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

Healthy retirees post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110 percent 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 percent 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.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2023, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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	<u>1.00%</u>	1.00%
Total	<u><u>100.00%</u></u>	

* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

** 10 year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25%, and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS' investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the 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, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed STRS continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2023. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected health care costs to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023.

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

The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2023, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00 percent, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent) or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
Proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset)	(\$783,414)	(\$925,617)	(\$1,049,461)
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
Proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset)	(\$1,055,208)	(\$925,617)	(\$769,527)

Changes Between the Measurement Date and the Reporting date

In March, 2024, the STRS Board made changes to the eligibility for the maximum health care premium subsidy, going into effect initially with the January 2025 benefit. In May, 2024, the Board aligned the eligibility for the health care premium subsidy with the changes to pension eligibility made in March 2024. The effect on the net OPEB liability (asset) is unknown at this time.

Note 10 - Contingent Liabilities

Foundation Funding

District foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is legislatively required to adjust/reconcile funding as enrollment information is updated by schools throughout the State, which can extend past the fiscal year end. As of the date of this report, additional ODE adjustments for fiscal year 2023 are not finalized. As a result, the impact of future FTE adjustments on the fiscal year 2024 financial statements is not determinable, at this time. Management believes this may result in either an additional receivable to, or a liability of, the District.

Grants

The District receives significant financial assistance from numerous federal, state and local 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 is subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the General Fund or other applicable funds.

However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material effect on any of the financial statements of the individual fund types included herein or on the overall financial position of the District as of June 30, 2024.

Litigation

The District's attorney estimates that all other potential claims against the District not covered by insurance resulting from all other litigation would not materially affect the financial statements of the District.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 11 - Jointly Governed Organizations

The Miami Valley Educational Computer Association (MVECA) is a jointly governed organization consisting of 27 school districts. The jointly governed organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among member districts. Each of the governments of these schools supports MVECA and shares in a percentage of equity based on the resources provided. MVECA is governed by a board of directors consisting of superintendents and treasurers of the member school districts. The degree of control exercised by any participating school district is limited to its representation on the board. The District paid approximately \$38,489 to MVECA in 2024. To obtain financial information write to: the Director, 330 East Enon Road, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387.

The Ohio region 14 state Support Team (Hopewell) is a jointly governed organization created by the Ohio Department of Education at the request of the participating school districts to offer direct and related services to low incidence handicapped students of the region. Seventeen local, city and exempted village school districts receive services from Hopewell. Hopewell is operated under regulations and policies established by the Ohio Department of Education, and its own governing board. The governing board is made up of superintendents from the seventeen school districts plus county board of education, developmental disabilities, and joint vocational school superintendents, as well as three parents of handicapped children in the region. The Southern Ohio Educational Service District acts as fiscal agent. Hopewell receives funding from contracts with each of the member school districts and from Federal and State grants. To obtain financial information write to: the Treasurer, Southern Ohio Educational Service District, 3321 Airborne Road, Wilmington, Ohio 45177.

Note 12 - Related Organization

Public Library - The Blanchester Public Library is a district political subdivision of the State of Ohio created under Chapter 3375 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Library is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Blanchester School District Board of Education. The Board of Trustees possesses its own contracting and budgeting authority, hires and fires personnel and does not depend on the District for operational subsidies. Although the District does serve as the taxing authority and may issue tax-related debt on behalf of the Library, its role is limited to a ministerial function. The determination to request approval of a tax, the rate and the purpose are discretionary decisions made solely by the Board of Trustees. Financial information can be obtained from the Blanchester Public Library, the Clerk/Treasurer, at 110 North Broadway, Blanchester, Ohio 45107.

Note 13 - Risk Management

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft, damage to or destruction of assets, errors and omissions, employee injuries, and natural disasters. The District addresses these risks by maintaining a comprehensive risk management program through the purchase of various types of liability, inland marine, and property insurance from private carriers. Settled claims have not exceeded commercial coverage in any of the past four years.

As a benefit for employees of the Blanchester Local School District, the District makes available health, dental, and term life insurance for all qualifying employees who desire coverage.

The claims liability of \$0 reported at June 30, 2024 is based on the requirements of GASB Statement No. 10, which requires that a liability for claims be reported if information prior to the issuance of the financial

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

statements and the amounts of the loss can be reasonably estimated. Changes in the fund's claims liability amount for the past year is as follows:

Fiscal Year	Balance at Beginning of Year	Current Year			Balance at End of Year
		Claims and Changes in Estimates	Claims Payments	Payments	
2024	\$47,234	\$2,439,631	\$2,486,865		\$0
2023	47,923	3,986,027	3,986,716		47,234

Note 14 – Accountability

The following individual funds had a deficit in fund balance at year end:

	<u>Deficit</u>
Other Governmental Funds:	
Summer Intervention	\$5,124
Vocational Education Enhancement	1,876
Alternative Schools	27,777
Miscellaneous Federal Grants	4,197
Classroom Facilities Maintenance	5
Title I	62,338
Title V	9,564
Improving Teacher Quality	23,929
American Rescue Plan Act	4,226

The deficit fund balance in these special revenue funds was primarily due to accruals in GAAP. The general fund is liable for any deficit in these funds and will provide operating transfers when cash is required not when accruals occur.

Note 15 - Set-Asides

The District is required by State statute to annually set aside in the general fund an amount based on a statutory formula for the acquisition and construction of capital improvements. Amounts not spent by year-end or offset by similarly restricted resources received during the year must be held in cash at year-end and carried forward to be used for the same purposes in future years.

The following cash basis information describes the change in the year-end set-aside amounts for capital acquisition. Disclosure of this information is required by State statute.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	<u>Capital Acquisition</u>
Set Aside Reserve Balance as of June 30, 2023	\$0
Current Year Set Aside Requirements	256,945
Qualified Disbursements	(30,540)
Current Year Offsets	(226,405)
Set Aside Reserve Balance as of June 30, 2024	<u><u>\$0</u></u>
Restricted Cash as of June 30, 2023	\$0

Offset credits for capital activity during the year exceeded the amount required for the set-aside, resulting in offset credits of \$17,002,277 available for carryover to offset capital acquisition requirements of future years.

Note 16 - Interfund Transactions

Interfund transactions at June 30, 2024, consisted of the following interfund receivable and payable:

	Interfund		Transfers	
	Receivable	Payable	In	Out
General Fund	\$340,453	\$0	\$0	\$726,000
Other Governmental Funds	11,612	352,065	755,399	29,399
Total All Funds	<u><u>\$352,065</u></u>	<u><u>\$352,065</u></u>	<u><u>\$755,399</u></u>	<u><u>\$755,399</u></u>

Interfund balance/transfers are used to move revenues from the fund that statute or budget requires to collect them to the fund that statute or budget requires to expend them and unrestricted revenues collected in the general fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budget authorizations; to segregate and to return money to the fund from which it was originally provided once a project is completed.

Note 17 – Fund Balances

Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the government funds. The constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental funds and all other governmental funds are presented below:

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Fund Balances	Other Governmental Funds		
	General		Total
Nonspendable:			
Prepays	<u>\$65,673</u>	<u>\$60,122</u>	<u>\$125,795</u>
Restricted for:			
Local Grants	0	14,788	14,788
Student Activity	0	80,312	80,312
Data Communication	0	501	501
Special Education	0	6,152	6,152
Drug Free Schools	0	2,089	2,089
Student Activity	0	36,430	36,430
Food Service	0	134,906	134,906
Special Trust/Endowment	0	149,639	149,639
Debt Service	0	25,506	25,506
Permanent Improvement	<u>0</u>	<u>807,225</u>	<u>807,225</u>
Total Restricted	<u>0</u>	<u>1,257,548</u>	<u>1,257,548</u>
Committed to:			
Permanent Improvements	<u>11,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11,000</u>
Assigned to:			
Public School Support	47,213	0	47,213
Encumbrances	<u>273,416</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>273,416</u>
Total Assigned	<u>320,629</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>320,629</u>
Unassigned (Deficit)	<u>4,825,327</u>	<u>(198,737)</u>	<u>4,626,590</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>\$5,222,629</u>	<u>\$1,118,933</u>	<u>\$6,341,562</u>

Note 18 – Implementation of New Accounting Principles

New Accounting Principles

For fiscal year 2024, the District implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 100, Accounting Changes and Error Corrections; and portions of GASB Statement No. 99, Omnibus 2022.

GASB Statement No. 100 enhances accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessing accountability. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 100 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

GASB Statement No. 99 addresses a variety of topics and includes clarification of provisions related to accounting and reporting of leases under GASB Statement No. 87, provides extension of the period which the London Interbank Offered Rate is considered appropriate benchmark interest rate, guidance on disclosure of nonmonetary transaction, accounting for pledges of future revenues when resources are not received by the pledging government under GASB Statement No. 48, and terminology updates

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

related to certain provisions of GASB Statement No. 63 and No. 53. These topics under GASB Statement No. 99 provisions were implemented in a prior year.

Other topics in GASB Statement No. 99 includes classification of other derivative instruments within the scope of GASB Statement No. 53, clarification of provisions related to accounting and reporting of Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships under GASB Statement No. 94, and clarification of provisions to accounting and reporting of subscription-based information technology arrangements under GASB Statement No. 96. These topics under GASB Statement No. 99 provisions were implemented and did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

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REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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

Year	District's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	District's Covered Payroll	District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2024	0.05519220%	\$3,049,653	\$2,104,950	144.88%	76.06%
2023	0.05693440%	3,079,455	2,211,493	139.25%	75.82%
2022	0.06229270%	2,298,420	2,150,186	106.89%	82.86%
2021	0.06374620%	4,216,308	2,155,707	195.59%	68.55%
2020	0.06886450%	4,120,284	2,353,874	175.04%	70.85%
2019	0.07476590%	4,281,982	2,525,356	169.56%	71.36%
2018	0.07731710%	4,619,526	2,475,364	186.62%	69.50%
2017	0.07440200%	5,445,540	2,310,650	235.67%	62.98%
2016	0.07379590%	4,210,866	3,009,476	139.92%	69.16%
2015	0.07609400%	3,851,074	2,779,913	138.53%	71.70%

(1) Amounts presented as of the District's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Blanchester Local School District
 Required Supplementary Information
 Schedule of the District's Contributions for Net Pension Liability
 School Employees Retirement System of Ohio
 Last Ten Fiscal Years

Year	District's Contractually Required Contribution	District's Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	District's Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	District's Covered Payroll	District's Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$307,863	(\$307,863)	\$0	\$2,199,021	14.00%
2023	294,693	(294,693)	0	2,104,950	14.00%
2022	309,609	(309,609)	0	2,211,493	14.00%
2021	301,026	(301,026)	0	2,150,186	14.00%
2020	301,799	(301,799)	0	2,155,707	14.00%
2019	317,773	(317,773)	0	2,353,874	13.50%
2018	340,923	(340,923)	0	2,525,356	13.50%
2017	346,551	(346,551)	0	2,475,364	14.00%
2016	323,491	(323,491)	0	2,310,650	14.00%
2015	396,649	(396,649)	0	3,009,476	13.18%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Blanchester Local School District

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability

State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio

Last Ten Fiscal Years (1)

Year	District's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	District's Covered Payroll	District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2024	0.04759296%	\$10,249,114	\$6,031,257	169.93%	80.02%
2023	0.05131714%	11,407,865	7,206,343	158.30%	78.88%
2022	0.05107164%	6,529,969	5,875,200	111.14%	87.78%
2021	0.05335336%	12,909,615	6,138,600	210.30%	75.50%
2020	0.05488657%	12,137,835	7,008,429	173.19%	77.40%
2019	0.05701563%	12,536,456	6,849,771	183.02%	77.30%
2018	0.05787880%	13,749,233	6,118,286	224.72%	75.30%
2017	0.05549579%	18,576,114	5,917,457	313.92%	66.80%
2016	0.05428084%	15,001,636	5,692,550	263.53%	72.10%
2015	0.05407496%	13,152,902	6,386,862	205.94%	74.70%

(1) Amounts presented as of the District's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Blanchester Local School District
 Required Supplementary Information
 Schedule of the District's Contributions for Net Pension Liability
 State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio
 Last Ten Fiscal Years

Year	District's Contractually Required Contribution	District's Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	District's Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	District's Covered Payroll	District's Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$963,264	(\$963,264)	\$0	\$6,880,457	14.00%
2023	844,376	(844,376)	0	6,031,257	14.00%
2022	1,008,888	(1,008,888)	0	7,206,343	14.00%
2021	822,528	(822,528)	0	5,875,200	14.00%
2020	859,404	(859,404)	0	6,138,600	14.00%
2019	981,180	(981,180)	0	7,008,429	14.00%
2018	958,968	(958,968)	0	6,849,771	14.00%
2017	856,560	(856,560)	0	6,118,286	14.00%
2016	828,444	(828,444)	0	5,917,457	14.00%
2015	796,957	(796,957)	0	5,692,550	14.00%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Blanchester Local School District
 Required Supplementary Information
 Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability
 School Employees Retirement System of Ohio
 Last Eight Fiscal Years (1) (2)

Year	District's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	District's Covered Payroll	District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability
2024	0.05650700%	\$930,922	\$2,104,950	44.23%	30.02%
2023	0.05865170%	823,476	2,211,493	37.24%	30.34%
2022	0.06431760%	1,217,263	2,150,186	56.61%	24.08%
2021	0.06506840%	1,414,149	2,155,707	65.60%	18.17%
2020	0.07011940%	1,763,355	2,353,874	74.91%	15.57%
2019	0.07555640%	2,096,139	2,525,356	83.00%	13.57%
2018	0.07776160%	2,086,917	2,475,364	84.31%	12.46%
2017	0.07492256%	2,135,570	2,310,650	92.42%	11.49%

(1) The schedule is intended to show information for the past 10 years and the additional years' information will be displayed as it becomes available. Information prior to 2017 is not available.

(2) Amounts presented as of the District's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Blanchester Local School District
 Required Supplementary Information
 Schedule of the District's Contributions for Net OPEB Liability
 School Employees Retirement System of Ohio
 Last Nine Fiscal Years (1) (2)

Year	District's Contractually Required Contribution (2)	District's Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	District's Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	District's Covered Payroll	District's Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$39,484	(\$39,484)	\$0	\$2,199,021	1.80%
2023	39,765	(39,765)	0	2,104,950	1.89%
2022	40,532	(40,532)	0	2,211,493	1.83%
2021	41,714	(41,714)	0	2,150,186	1.94%
2020	36,689	(36,689)	0	2,155,707	1.70%
2019	52,444	(52,444)	0	2,353,874	2.23%
2018	47,142	(47,142)	0	2,525,356	1.87%
2017	39,156	(39,156)	0	2,475,364	1.58%
2016	35,869	(35,869)	0	2,310,650	1.55%

(1) The schedule is intended to show information for the past 10 years and the additional years' information will be displayed as it becomes available. Information prior to 2016 is not available.

(2) Includes surcharge.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Blanchester Local School District

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)/Liability

State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio

Last Eight Fiscal Years (1) (2)

Year	District's Proportion of the Net OPEB (Asset)/Liability	District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)/Liability	District's Covered Payroll	District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)/Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB (Asset)/Liability
2024	0.04759296%	(\$925,617)	\$6,031,257	(15.35%)	168.52%
2023	0.05131714%	(1,328,771)	7,206,343	(18.44%)	230.73%
2022	0.05107164%	(1,076,804)	5,875,200	(18.33%)	174.73%
2021	0.05335336%	(937,685)	6,138,600	(15.28%)	182.13%
2020	0.05488657%	(909,053)	7,008,429	(12.97%)	174.74%
2019	0.05701563%	(916,183)	6,849,771	(13.38%)	176.00%
2018	0.05787880%	2,258,217	6,118,286	36.91%	47.10%
2017	0.05549579%	2,967,929	5,917,457	50.16%	37.30%

(1) The schedule is intended to show information for the past 10 years and the additional years' information will be displayed as it becomes available. Information prior to 2017 is not available.

(2) Amounts presented as of the District's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Blanchester Local School District
 Required Supplementary Information
 Schedule of the District's Contributions for Net OPEB (Asset)/Liability
 State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio
 Last Nine Fiscal Years (1)

Year	District's Contractually Required Contribution	District's Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	District's Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	District's Covered Payroll	District's Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,880,457	0.00%
2023	0	0	0	6,031,257	0.00%
2022	0	0	0	7,206,343	0.00%
2021	0	0	0	5,875,200	0.00%
2020	0	0	0	6,138,600	0.00%
2019	0	0	0	7,008,429	0.00%
2018	0	0	0	6,849,771	0.00%
2017	0	0	0	6,118,286	0.00%
2016	0	0	0	5,917,457	0.00%

(1) The schedule is intended to show information for the past 10 years and the additional years' information will be displayed as it becomes available. Information prior to 2016 is not available.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio

Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance

Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis)

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	General Fund			
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance from Final Budget
Revenues:				
Taxes	\$4,510,658	\$4,801,277	\$4,843,063	\$41,786
Tuition and Fees	345,351	367,602	370,801	3,199
Investment Earnings	299,609	318,912	321,688	2,776
Intergovernmental	11,470,235	12,209,255	12,315,513	106,258
Other Revenues	29,977	31,908	32,186	278
Total Revenues	16,655,830	17,728,954	17,883,251	154,297
Expenditures:				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	7,400,941	7,542,780	6,992,082	550,698
Special	3,357,078	3,421,416	3,171,619	249,797
Other	143,384	146,132	135,463	10,669
Support Services:				
Pupil	751,568	765,972	710,048	55,924
Instructional Staff	194,435	198,162	183,694	14,468
General Administration	91,582	93,338	86,523	6,815
School Administration	1,403,941	1,430,847	1,326,381	104,466
Fiscal	539,078	549,409	509,297	40,112
Operations and Maintenance	1,064,905	1,085,314	1,006,075	79,239
Pupil Transportation	1,248,647	1,272,577	1,179,666	92,911
Central	378,656	385,912	357,737	28,175
Extracurricular Activities	332,030	338,393	313,687	24,706
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	179,941	183,389	170,000	13,389
Interest and Fiscal Charges	19,158	19,526	18,100	1,426
Total Expenditures	17,105,344	17,433,167	16,160,372	1,272,795
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(449,514)	295,787	1,722,879	1,427,092
Other Financing Sources (Uses):				
Transfers (Out)	(768,453)	(783,180)	(726,000)	57,180
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	(768,453)	(783,180)	(726,000)	57,180
Net Change in Fund Balance	(1,217,967)	(487,393)	996,879	1,484,272
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year (includes prior year encumbrances appropriated)	4,168,375	4,168,375	4,168,375	0
Fund Balance - End of Year	\$2,950,408	\$3,680,982	\$5,165,254	\$1,484,272

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 1 – Budgetary Process

All funds, except custodial funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the appropriations resolution and the certificate of estimated resources which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amount that the Board of Education may appropriate. The appropriation resolution is the Board's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on expenditures plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Board. The legal level of control has been established by the Board at the fund level. Any budgetary modifications at this level may only be made by resolution of the Board.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in revenue are identified by the District Treasurer. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the certificate of estimated resources when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements reflect the amounts on the final amended certificate of estimated resources issued during the fiscal year 2024.

The appropriation resolution is subject to amendment by the Board throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation resolution for that fund that covered the entire year, including amounts automatically carried forward from prior years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the Board during the year.

Any budgetary modifications at the fund and function level may only be made by resolution of the Board of Education. The Treasurer is authorized to further allocate appropriations to the function and object level for all funds.

Tax Budget

Prior to January 15, the Superintendent and Treasurer submit to the Board of Education a proposed operating budget for the fiscal year commencing the following July 1. The budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing for all funds. Public hearings are publicized and conducted to obtain taxpayers' comments. The express purpose of this budget document is to reflect the need for existing (or increased) tax rates. By no later than January 20, the Board-adopted budget is filed with the County Budget Commission for rate determination.

Estimated Resources

Prior to April 1, the Board accepts, by formal resolution, the tax rates as determined by the County Budget Commission and receives the Commission's certificate of estimated resources which states the projected revenue of each fund. Prior to June 30, the District must revise its budget so that total contemplated expenditures from any fund during the ensuing year will not exceed the amount stated in the certificate of estimated resources. The revised budget then serves as the basis for the appropriation measure. On or about July 1, the certificate is amended to include any unencumbered cash balances from the preceding year. The certificate may be further amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in revenue are identified by the District Treasurer. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts in the budgetary statements reflect the amounts in the amended certificate when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts in the budgetary statements reflect the amounts in the final amended certificate issued during fiscal year 2024.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Appropriations

Upon receipt from the County Auditor of an amended certificate of estimated resources based on final assessed values and tax rates or a certificate saying no new certificate is necessary, the annual appropriation resolution must be legally enacted by the Board of Education at the fund and function level of expenditures, which are the legal levels of budgetary control. Prior to the passage of the annual appropriation measure, the Board may pass a temporary appropriation measure to meet the ordinary expenses of the District. The appropriation resolution, by fund, must be within the estimated resources as certified by the County Budget Commission and the total of expenditures and encumbrances may not exceed the appropriation totals at any level of control.

Any revisions that alter the total of any fund appropriation or alter total function appropriations within a fund, must be approved by the Board of Education. The Board may pass supplemental fund appropriations so long as the total appropriations by fund does not exceed the amounts set forth in the most recent Certificate of Estimated Resources. During the year, several supplemental appropriations were legally enacted. The budget figures, which appear in the statements of budgetary comparisons, represent the final appropriation amounts, including all supplemental appropriations. Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year for all funds, other than agency funds, consistent with statutory provisions.

Encumbrances

As part of formal budgetary control, purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded as the equivalent of expenditures on the non-GAAP budgetary basis in order to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriations and to determine and maintain legal compliance. On the GAAP basis, encumbrances outstanding at fiscal year end are reported as an assignment of fund balance for subsequent year expenditures for governmental funds.

Lapsing of Appropriations

At the close of each year, the unencumbered balance of each appropriation reverts to the respective fund from which it was appropriated and becomes subject to future appropriation. Encumbered appropriations are carried forward to the succeeding fiscal year and are not reappropriated.

While the District is reporting financial position, results of operations and changes in fund balance on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements and encumbrances. The Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis) presented on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The major differences between the budget basis and GAAP basis are as follows:

1. Revenues are recorded when received in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP basis).
2. Expenditures are recorded when paid in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when the liability is incurred (GAAP basis).
3. Encumbrances are treated as expenditures for all funds (budget basis) rather than as an assignment of fund balance for governmental fund types and expendable trust funds (GAAP basis).

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

4. Advances in and advances out are operating transactions (budget basis) as opposed to balance sheet transactions.
5. Some funds are reported as part of the general fund (GAAP basis) as opposed to the general fund being reported alone (budget basis).

The following table summarizes the adjustments necessary to reconcile the GAAP basis to the budgetary basis for the General Fund.

Net Change in Fund Balance

	<u>General</u>
GAAP Basis	\$2,218,235
Revenue Accruals	(659,642)
Expenditure Accruals	(52,198)
Encumbrances	(509,516)
Budget Basis	<u><u>\$996,879</u></u>

Note 2 - Net Pension Liability

School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Changes in Benefit Terms:

2023-2024: There were no changes in benefit terms since the prior measurement period.

2022: Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) increased from 0.50% to 2.50%.

2020-2021: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for this fiscal year.

2019: With the authority granted the Board under Senate Bill 8, the Board has enacted a three year COLA delay for future benefit recipients commencing benefits on or after April 1, 2018.

2018: SERS changed from a fixed 3.00% annual increase to a Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) based on the change in the Consumer Price Index Index (CPI-W), with a cap of 2.50% and a floor of 0.00%.

2014-2017: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for these fiscal years.

Changes in Assumptions:

2023-2024: The following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

(1) Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) was increased from 2.00% to 2.50% for calendar year 2024.

2022: The following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

(1) The assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.00% to 2.40%,

(2) Payroll growth assumption was reduced from 3.50% to 1.75%,

(3) Assumed real wage growth was increased from 0.50% to 0.85%,

(4) Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) was reduced from 2.50% to 2.00%,

(5) The discount rate was reduced from 7.50% to 7.00%,

(6) Rates of withdrawal, compensation, participation, spouse coverage assumption, retirement, and

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

disability were updated to reflect recent experience, and,

- (7) Mortality among active members, service retirees and beneficiaries, and disabled members were updated.

2018-2021: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

2017: The following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- (1) The assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%,
- (2) Payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.00% to 3.50%,
- (3) Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75% to 0.50%,
- (4) Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience,
- (5) 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,
- (6) Mortality among service retired members, and beneficiaries was updated to the following RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120% of male rates, and 110% of female rates,
- (7) Mortality among disabled members was updated to RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90% for male rates and 100% for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement, and
- (8) The discount rate was reduced from 7.75% to 7.50%.

2014-2016: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Changes in Benefit Terms:

2019-2024: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for these fiscal years.

2018: STRS decreased the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to zero.

2014-2017: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for these fiscal years.

Changes in Assumptions:

2024: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

2023: The following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- (1) Post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table:
 - a. Adjusted 110.0% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020
- (2) Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table:
 - a. Adjusted 95.0% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020
- (3) Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Disable Annuitant Table:

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

a. Projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020
(4) Projected salary increases changed from 2.50% to 12.50% to 2.50% to 8.50%

2022: There were changes in assumptions since the prior measurement date, which the discount rate was adjusted to 7.00% from 7.45%.

2019-2021: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

2018: The following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- (1) The long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%,
- (2) The inflation assumption was lowered from 2.75% to 2.50%,
- (3) The payroll growth assumption was lowered to 3.00%,
- (4) Total salary increases rate was lowered by decreasing the merit component of the individual salary increases, in addition to a decrease of 0.25% due to lower inflation,
- (5) The healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the RP-2014 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2016, and
- (6) Rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.

2014-2017: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

Note 3 - Net OPEB (Asset)/Liability

School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Changes in Benefit Terms:

2024: Effective January 1, 2024, the non-Medicare disability health care subsidy amounts will change to reflect amounts equal to that of service retirees by years of service.

2017-2023: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for these fiscal years.

Changes in Assumptions:

2024: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

- (1) Discount Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	4.08%
Measurement Date	4.27%
- (2) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.69%
Measurement Date	3.86%
- (3) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	4.08%
Measurement Date	4.27%
- (4) The assumption for percent of pre-Medicare eligible retirees who choose the Wraparound plan increased from 10% to 20%.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

- (5) The health care trend assumption on retiree premiums was updated to not apply trend to the \$35 surcharge.
- (6) The morbidity factors were updated based on the Society of Actuaries' June 2013 research report Health Care Costs—From Birth to Death by Dale Yamamoto and from the ASOP 6 practice note developed by the American Academy of Actuaries.
- (7) An assumption was added to assume that 15% of pre-65 retirees who waive will elect coverage upon Medicare eligibility.

2023: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

- (1) Discount Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	2.27%
Measurement Date	4.08%
- (2) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	1.92%
Measurement Date	3.69%
- (3) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	2.27%
Measurement Date	4.08%
- (4) Health care trend rates were updated.

2022: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

- (1) Discount Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	2.63%
Measurement Date	2.27%
- (2) Investment Rate of Return:

Prior Measurement Date	7.50%
Measurement Date	7.00%
- (3) Assumed Rate of Inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	3.00%
Measurement Date	2.40%
- (4) Payroll Growth Assumption:

Prior Measurement Date	3.50%
Measurement Date	1.75%
- (5) Assumed Real Wage Growth:

Prior Measurement Date	0.50%
Measurement Date	0.85%
- (6) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	2.45%
Measurement Date	1.92%
- (7) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	2.63%
Measurement Date	2.27%
- (8) Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience.
- (9) Rate of health care participation for future retirees and spouses was updated to reflect recent.
- (10) Mortality among active members was updated to the following:
 - a. PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

- (11) Mortality among service retired members was updated to the following:
 - a. 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.
- (12) Mortality among beneficiaries was updated to the following:
 - a. 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.
- (13) Mortality among disabled member was updated to the following:
 - a. 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.
- (14) Mortality rates are projected using a fully generational projection with Scale MP-2020.

2021: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

- (1) Discount Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.22%
Measurement Date	2.63%
- (2) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.13%
Measurement Date	2.45%
- (3) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	3.22%
Measurement Date	2.63%

2020: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

- (1) Discount Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.70%
Measurement Date	3.22%
- (2) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.62%
Measurement Date	3.13%
- (3) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	3.70%
Measurement Date	3.22%

2019: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

- (1) Discount Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.63%
Measurement Date	3.70%
- (2) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.56%
Measurement Date	3.62%
- (3) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	3.63%
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Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Measurement Date	3.70%
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2018: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

(1) Discount Rate:

Fiscal Year 2018	3.63%
Fiscal Year 2017	2.98%

(2) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Fiscal Year 2018	3.56%
Fiscal Year 2017	2.92%

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

Fiscal Year 2018	3.63%
Fiscal Year 2017	2.98%

2017: The following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- (1) The assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%,
- (2) Payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.00% to 3.50%,
- (3) Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75% to 0.50%,
- (4) Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience,
- (5) 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,
- (6) Mortality among service retired members, and beneficiaries was updated to the following RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120% of male rates, and 110% of female rates, and
- (7) Mortality among disabled members was updated to RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90% for male rates and 100% for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement.

State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Changes in Benefit Terms:

2024: Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience as well as benefit changes effective January 1, 2024. The change in the subsidy percentage and the base amount for all retiree Non-Medicare Eligible (NME) participants, from 2.2% per year in last year's valuation to 2.5% per year, capped at 75%, as well as the unfreezing of the NME subsidy, the removal of the 6% cap on the year over year subsidy increase for Medicare Eligible (ME) participants, the changes in deductible and office visits copays for Aetna's Medicare Advantage plan, and updates in the medical and PBM vendor contracts. In addition, there were benefit changes related to the change in eligibility for unreduced Pension benefits.

2023: 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.

2022: The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2022 from 2.055% to 2.100%. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2022. The

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Medicare Part D subsidy was updated to reflect it is expected to be negative in CY2022. The Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

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

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% to 1.984% 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% for the Medicare plan. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed to January 1, 2021.

2019: The subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was increased from 1.900% to 1.944% 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. The Board is extending the current Medicare Part B partial reimbursement program for one year. Under this program, benefit recipients currently enrolled in the STRS Ohio Health Care Program and Medicare Part B receive \$29.90 per month to reimburse a portion of the Medicare Part B premium. The reimbursement was set to be reduced to \$0 beginning January 1, 2020. This impacts about 85,000 benefit recipients.

2018: The subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was reduced from 2.10% to 1.90% 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 1, 2019.

2017: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for this fiscal year.

Changes in Assumptions:

2024: Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience as well as benefit changes effective January 1, 2024. The change in the subsidy percentage and the base amount for all retiree Non-Medicare Eligible (NME) participants, from 2.2% per year in last year's valuation to 2.5% per year, capped at 75%, as well as the unfreezing of the NME subsidy, the removal of the 6% cap on the year over year subsidy increase for Medicare Eligible (ME) participants, the changes in deductible and office visits copays for Aetna's Medicare Advantage plan, and updates in the medical and PBM vendor contracts. In addition, there were benefit changes related to the change in eligibility for unreduced Pension benefits.

2023: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

2022: There were changes in assumptions since the prior measurement date, which the discount rate was adjusted to 7.00% from 7.45%.

Blanchester Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

2021: There were changes in assumptions during the measurement year, which decreased the total OPEB liability by approximately \$0.26 billion. The assumption changes included changes in healthcare costs and trends.

2020: There were changes in assumptions during the measurement year, which increased the total OPEB liability by approximately \$0.04 billion. The assumption changes included changes in healthcare costs and trends.

2019: The discount rate was increased from the blended rate of 4.13% to the long-term expected rate of return of 7.45% based on the methodology defined under GASB Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB). Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated.

2018: The discount rate was increased from 3.26% to 4.13% based on the methodology defined under GASB Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB) and the long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%. 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.

2017: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for this fiscal year.

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BLANCHESTER LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CLINTON COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

FEDERAL GRANTOR
Pass Through Grantor
Program / Cluster Title

		Assistance Listing	Disbursements
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce:</i>			
Child Nutrition Cluster:			
Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution):			
National School Lunch Program	10.555	60,917	
Cash Assistance:			
National School Lunch Program	10.555	293,431	
Covid-19 National School Lunch Program	10.555	33,883	
Total National School Lunch Program		388,231	
National School Breakfast Program	10.553	69,478	
Total Child Nutrition Cluster		457,709	
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		457,709	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce:</i>			
Special Education Cluster:			
Special Education-Grants to States	84.027	291,693	
Covid-19 Special Education-Grants to States (ARP)	84.027	20,841	
Total Special Education-Grants to States		312,534	
Special Education-Preschool Grants	84.173	13,064	
Covid-19 Special Education-Preschool Grants	84.173	1,916	
Total Special Education-Preschool Grants		14,980	
Total Special Education Cluster		327,514	
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	369,460	
Improving Teacher Quality State Grants	84.367	29,603	
Title IV-A - Student Support & Academic Enrichment	84.424	51,725	
COVID-19 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency (ESSER) Fund	84.425D	9,248	
COVID-19 ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief	84.425U	1,014,547	
COVID-19 ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency -Homeless Children and Youth	84.425W	6,417	
Total Education Stabilization Fund		1,030,212	
Total U.S. Department of Education		1,808,514	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Facilities Construction Commission:</i>			
COVID- 19 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	21.027	50,896	
Total U.S. Department of Treasury		50,896	
Total Federal Assistance		\$2,317,119	

The accompanying notes to this schedule are an integral part of this schedule.

BLANCHESTER LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CLINTON COUNTY
NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Blanchester Local School District (the District) under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2024. The information on this Schedule is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of the District.

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the cash basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*, wherein certain types of expenditures may or may not be allowable or may be limited as to reimbursement.

NOTE C – INDIRECT COST RATE

The District has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE D - CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

The District commingles cash receipts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture with similar State grants. When reporting expenditures on this Schedule, the District assumes it expends federal monies first.

NOTE E – FOOD DONATION PROGRAM

The District reports commodities consumed on the Schedule at the fair value. The District allocated donated food commodities to the respective program that benefitted from the use of those donated food commodities.

NOTE F - TRANSFERABILITY

During fiscal year 2024, the District made allowable transfers of \$29,399 from the Title II-A Improving Teacher Quality (84.367) program to the Title I (84.010) program. The Schedule shows the District spent \$32,538 on the Title II-A Improving Teacher Quality program. The amounts reported for the Title II-A Improving Teacher Quality program on the Schedule exclude the amounts transferred to the Title I program. The amounts transferred to the Title I program are included as Title I expenditures when disbursed.



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

Blanchester Local School District
Clinton County
951 Cherry St.
Blanchester, Ohio 45107

To the Board of Education:

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 the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Blanchester Local School District, Clinton County, Ohio (the District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated March 4, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the District'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 District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District'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 District'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.

Blanchester Local School District
Clinton County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by *Government Auditing Standards*
Page 2

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District'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 District'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 District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio
March 4, 2025



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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS
APPLICABLE TO THE MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE**

Blanchester Local School District
Clinton County
951 Cherry St
Blanchester, Ohio 45107

To the Board of Education:

Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We have audited Blanchester Local School District's, Clinton County, (District) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on Blanchester Local School District's major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2024. Blanchester Local School District's major federal program is identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

In our opinion, Blanchester Local School District complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on the Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our responsibilities under those standards and the Uniform Guidance are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section of our report.

We are required to be independent of the District and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with 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 opinion on compliance for the major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

The District's Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements referred to above and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of effective internal control over compliance with the requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules, and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the District's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the District's compliance based on our audit. 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, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the District's compliance with the requirements of the major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance, we:

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, 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 District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of the District's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in internal control over compliance that we identified during the audit.

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

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

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses, as defined above. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance may exist that were not identified.

Blanchester Local School District

Clinton County

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements

Applicable to the Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance

Required by the Uniform Guidance

Page 3

Our audit was not designed for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of this testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 4, 2025

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BLANCHESTER LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
CLINTON COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
June 30, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(v)	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?	No
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Programs (list):	Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A\B Programs	Type A: > \$ 750,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR § 200.520?	No

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

None

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



BLANCHESTER LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

CLINTON 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 3/25/2025

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
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This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov