

**BUCKEYE ONLINE
SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

SINGLE AUDIT

**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2024**



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Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

Members of the Governing Board
Buckeye Online School for Success
119 East Fifth Street
East Liverpool, Ohio 43920

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Buckeye Online School for Success, Columbiana County, prepared by Julian & Grube, Inc., for the audit period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

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

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

May 30, 2025

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**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

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Independent Auditor's Report

Buckeye Online School for Success
Columbiana County
119 East Fifth Street
East Liverpool, Ohio 43920

To the Members of the Governing Board:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Buckeye Online School for Success, Columbiana County, Ohio, as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Buckeye Online School for Success' basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position Buckeye Online School for Success, as of June 30, 2024, and the changes in financial position, and cash flows thereof for the fiscal year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America 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 Buckeye Online School for Success and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards 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 generally accepted auditing standards 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 Buckeye Online School for Success' 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 Buckeye Online School for Success' ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, and schedules of net pension and other postemployment benefit assets and liabilities and pension and other postemployment benefit contributions, listed in the table of contents be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with 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 an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Buckeye Online School for Success' basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards, as required by Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* 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 February 26, 2025, on our consideration of the Buckeye Online School for Success' internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Buckeye Online School for Success' 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 Buckeye Online School for Success' internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Julian & Grube, Inc.
February 26, 2025

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for 2024 are as follows:

- In total, net position was a deficit of \$2,079,437 at June 30, 2024.
- The School had operating revenues of \$4,708,475 and operating expenses of \$5,268,252 for fiscal year 2024. The School also received \$1,218,732 in Federal and State grants and contributions, \$51,946 in interest revenue, had \$2,941 in interest and fiscal charges, and incurred a \$363,033 loss on disposal of capital assets during fiscal year 2024. The total change in net position for the fiscal year was an increase of \$344,927.

Using these Basic 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 School's financial activities. The *statement of net position* and *statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position* provide information about the activities of the School, including all short-term and long-term financial resources and obligations.

Reporting the School Financial Activities

Statement of Net Position, Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position and the Statement of Cash Flows

These documents look at all financial transactions and ask the question, "How did we do financially during 2024?" The statement of net position and the statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position answer this question. These statements include *all assets plus deferred outflows, liabilities plus deferred inflows, revenues and expenses* using the *accrual basis of accounting* similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting will take into account all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report the School's *net position* and changes in net position. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader that, for the School as a whole, the *financial position* of the School has improved or diminished. The causes of this change may be the result of many factors, some financial, some not.

The statement of cash flows provides information about how the School finances and is meeting the cash flow needs of its operations.

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

The notes provide additional information that is essential to a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements.

Required Supplementary Information

In addition to the basic financial statements and accompanying notes, this report presents certain required supplementary information concerning the School's net pension liability and net OPEB liability and pension and OPEB contributions.

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

The table below provides a summary of the School's net position for fiscal years 2024 and 2023.

Net Position		
	2024	2023
<u>Assets</u>		
Current assets	\$ 3,219,391	\$ 2,301,995
Net OPEB asset	335,429	439,552
Capital assets, net	<u>179,530</u>	<u>983,342</u>
Total assets	<u>3,734,350</u>	<u>3,724,889</u>
<u>Deferred outflows of resources</u>	<u>1,072,812</u>	<u>1,183,520</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Current liabilities	831,462	817,786
Non-current liabilities:		
Net pension liability	4,615,407	4,715,159
Net OPEB liability	253,379	235,215
Other amounts	<u>90,433</u>	<u>16,648</u>
Total liabilities	<u>5,790,681</u>	<u>5,784,808</u>
<u>Deferred inflows of resources</u>	<u>1,095,918</u>	<u>1,547,965</u>
<u>Net Position</u>		
Net investment in capital assets	11,181	955,496
Restricted	335,984	501
Unrestricted (deficit)	<u>(2,426,602)</u>	<u>(3,380,361)</u>
Total net position (deficit)	<u>\$ (2,079,437)</u>	<u>\$ (2,424,364)</u>

Over time, net position can serve as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. At June 30, 2024, the School's net position totaled a deficit of \$2,079,437. The cash balance of the school increased \$765,326 from \$2,075,857 to \$2,841,183. Capital assets (net) decreased during fiscal year 2024 due to the School selling their building and vehicle. The overall change in net position was an increase of \$344,927.

The net pension liability (NPL) is the largest single liability reported by the School at June 30, 2024 and is reported pursuant to GASB Statement 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions—an Amendment of GASB Statement 27." For fiscal year 2024, the School adopted GASB Statement 75, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions," which significantly revises accounting for costs and liabilities related to other postemployment benefits (OPEB). For reasons discussed below, many end users of this financial statement will gain a clearer understanding of the School's actual financial condition by adding deferred inflows related to pension and OPEB, the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability to the reported net position and subtracting deferred outflows related to pension and OPEB.

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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

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

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

GASB notes that pension and OPEB obligations, whether funded or unfunded, are part of the "employment exchange" – that is, the employee is trading his or her labor in exchange for wages, benefits, and the promise of a future pension and other postemployment benefits. GASB noted that the unfunded portion of this promise is a present obligation of the government, part of a bargained-for benefit to the employee, and should accordingly be reported by the government as a liability since they received the benefit of the exchange. However, the School is not responsible for certain key factors affecting the balance of these liabilities. In Ohio, the employee shares the obligation of funding pension benefits with the employer. Both employer and employee contribution rates are capped by State statute. A change in these caps requires action of both Houses of the General Assembly and approval of the Governor. Benefit provisions are also determined by State statute. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require, the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients. The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits.

The employee enters the employment exchange with the knowledge that the employer's promise is limited not by contract but by law. The employer enters the exchange also knowing that there is a specific, legal limit to its contribution to the retirement system. In Ohio, there is no legal means to enforce the unfunded liability of the pension/OPEB plan *as against the public employer*. State law operates to mitigate/lessen the moral obligation of the public employer to the employee, because all parties enter the employment exchange with notice as to the law. The retirement system is responsible for the administration of the pension and OPEB plans.

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

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

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

The table below shows the changes in net position for fiscal years 2024 and 2023.

	Change in Net Position	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>Operating Revenues:</u>		
Foundation revenue	\$ 3,687,455	\$ 3,399,403
Special education	1,018,685	1,117,086
Other	<u>2,335</u>	<u>1,762</u>
Total operating revenue	<u>4,708,475</u>	<u>4,518,251</u>
<u>Operating Expenses:</u>		
Salaries and wages	3,016,770	3,110,704
Fringe benefits	723,341	619,828
Purchased services	1,011,794	1,095,766
Materials and supplies	262,096	326,733
Depreciation/amortization	35,550	56,938
Other	<u>218,701</u>	<u>202,709</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>5,268,252</u>	<u>5,412,678</u>
<u>Non-operating revenues (expenses):</u>		
Federal and State grants and contributions	1,218,732	1,314,062
Interest revenue	51,946	18,549
Interest and fiscal charges	(2,941)	(1,220)
Loss on disposal of capital assets	<u>(363,033)</u>	-
Total non-operating revenues (expenses)	<u>904,704</u>	<u>1,331,391</u>
Change in net position	344,927	436,964
Net position (deficit) at beginning of year	<u>(2,424,364)</u>	<u>(2,861,328)</u>
Net position (deficit) at end of year	<u>\$ (2,079,437)</u>	<u>\$ (2,424,364)</u>

Overall, operating revenues and operating expenses remained comparable to fiscal year 2023 with revenues having an increase of 4.21% and a decrease in expenses of 2.67%.

The revenue generated by community schools are heavily dependent upon per-pupil allotment given by the State foundation program and federal entitlement programs. Foundation payments and special education payments attributed to 78.71% of total operating and non-operating revenues during fiscal year 2024. The School's foundation revenue combined with the special education payments increased \$189,651 between 2024 and 2023.

Capital Assets

At June 30, 2024, the School had \$179,530 invested in furniture and equipment and intangible right to use assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization. During fiscal year 2024, the School sold their building and vehicle, which is primarily the reason for the decrease in capital assets from fiscal year 2023 to fiscal year 2024. See Note 6 in the notes to the basic financial statements for more detail on capital assets.

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Debt Administration

At June 30, 2024 the School had \$168,349 in leases outstanding, of which \$77,916 is due within one year. See Note 7 in the notes to the basic financial statements for more detail on long-term obligations. The table that follows summarizes the long-term obligations outstanding.

Outstanding Debt, at June 30

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Leases payable	\$ 168,349	\$ 27,846
Total	<u>\$ 168,349</u>	<u>\$ 27,846</u>

Current Financial Related Activities

During the 2023-2024 school year, there were 515 students enrolled in the School.

The School receives its finances mostly from State aid. In order to continually provide learning opportunities to the School's students, the School will apply resources to best meet the needs of its students. It is the intent of the School to apply for State and Federal funds that are made available to finance its operations.

Contacting the School's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our clients and creditors with a general overview of the School's finances and to show the School's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information contact: Ms. Jeannette Bailey, Executive Director, 119 East Fifth Street, East Liverpool, Ohio 43920.

**BASIC
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2024**

Assets:

Current assets:

Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,841,183
Receivables:	
Intergovernmental	341,646
Prepayments	36,562
	<hr/>
Total current assets	3,219,391
Non-current assets:	
Net OPEB asset	335,429
Capital assets being depreciated/amortized, net	179,530
	<hr/>
Total non-current assets	514,959
	<hr/>
Total assets	3,734,350

Deferred outflows of resources:

Pension	931,713
OPEB	141,099
	<hr/>
Total deferred outflows of resources	1,072,812

Liabilities:

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable	9,656
Accrued wages and benefits	522,769
Pension and postemployment obligation payable	77,162
Intergovernmental payable	128,725
Unearned revenue	15,078
Accrued interest payable	156
Long-term liabilities due in one year	<hr/> 77,916
	<hr/>
Total current liabilities	831,462

Non-current liabilities:

Net pension liability	4,615,407
Net OPEB liability	253,379
Other amounts	<hr/> 90,433
	<hr/>

Total non-current liabilities	4,959,219
	<hr/>

Total liabilities

	5,790,681
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Deferred inflows of resources:

Pension	492,558
OPEB	603,360
	<hr/>

Total deferred inflows of resources

1,095,918

Net position:

Net investment in capital assets	11,181
Restricted for federal programs	555
Restricted for OPEB	335,429
Unrestricted (deficit)	<hr/> (2,426,602)
	<hr/>
Total net position (deficit)	\$ (2,079,437)

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND
CHANGES IN NET POSITION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Operating revenues:

Foundation revenue	\$ 3,687,455
Special education	1,018,685
Other	2,335
Total operating revenues	4,708,475

Operating expenses:

Salaries and wages	3,016,770
Fringe benefits	723,341
Purchased services	1,011,794
Materials and supplies	262,096
Depreciation/amortization	35,550
Other	218,701
Total operating expenses	5,268,252
Operating loss	(559,777)

Non-operating revenues (expenses):

Federal and State grants and contributions	1,218,732
Interest revenue	51,946
Interest and fiscal charges	(2,941)
Loss on disposal of capital assets	(363,033)
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses)	904,704
Change in net position	344,927
Net position (deficit) at beginning of year	(2,424,364)
Net position (deficit) at end of year	\$ (2,079,437)

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Cash flows from operating activities:

Cash received from state foundation	\$ 3,637,705
Cash received from special education	1,018,685
Cash received from other operations	2,335
Cash payments for salaries and wages	(3,026,965)
Cash payments for fringe benefits	(1,044,968)
Cash payments for contractual services	(1,046,851)
Cash payments for materials and supplies	(272,270)
Cash payments for other expenses	(204,289)
 Net cash used in operating activities	 <u>(936,618)</u>

Cash flows from noncapital financing activities:

Federal and state grants and contributions	<u>1,107,087</u>
Net cash provided by noncapital financing activities	<u>1,107,087</u>

Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:

Proceeds on sale of capital assets	587,595
Interest and fiscal charges	(2,821)
Principal retirement on leases	(31,723)
Acquisition of capital assets	(10,140)
 Net cash provided by capital and related financing activities	 <u>542,911</u>

Cash flows from investing activities:

Interest received	<u>51,946</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>51,946</u>

Net increase in cash and cash equivalents

765,326

Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year

2,075,857

Cash and cash equivalents at end of year

\$ 2,841,183

Reconciliation of operating loss to net cash used in operating activities:

Operating loss	\$ (559,777)
Adjustments:	
Depreciation/amortization	35,550
Changes in assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities and deferred inflows of resources:	
(Increase) in intergovernmental receivable	(6,572)
(Increase) in prepayments	(18,775)
(Decrease) in accounts payable	(8,533)
(Decrease) in accrued wages and benefits	(9,048)
(Decrease) in intergovernmental payable	(62,458)
Increase in pension and postemployment obligation payable	11,799
Decrease in deferred outflows - pension	173,986
(Increase) in deferred outflows - OPEB	(63,278)
(Decrease) in deferred inflows - pension	(250,527)
(Decrease) in deferred inflows - OPEB	(201,520)
(Decrease) in net pension liability	(99,752)
Decrease in net OPEB asset	104,123
Increase in net OPEB liability	18,164
 Net cash used in operating activities	 <u>\$ (936,618)</u>

Non-cash transactions:

During fiscal year 2024, the School acquired the right to use equipment and the right to use building in the amount of \$172,226 via a lease agreement.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL

Buckeye Online School for Success (the “School”) is a nonprofit corporation established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapters 3314 and 1702. The School’s mission is to provide student-centered education in a professional and compassionate manner, utilizing appropriately licensed/certified staff to individualize educational strategies that will empower each student to succeed. The School, which is part of the State’s education program, is independent of any school district and is nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices and all other operations. The School may acquire facilities as needed and contract for any services necessary for the operation of the School.

The School was approved for operation under a contract with the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West (the “Sponsor”) for a period of five years, for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2018. This contract was renewed for an additional period of three years, from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021. This contract was amended to include one additional year, from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, amended again to include one additional year, from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, and amended again to include one additional year, from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. The contract was renewed for an additional period of four years, from July 1, 2024 and ending on June 30, 2028. The Sponsor is responsible for evaluating the performance of the School and has the authority to deny renewal of the contract at its expiration or terminate the contract prior to its expiration.

The School operates under the direction of a Governing Board. The Governing Board is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the contract, which include, but are not limited to, State-mandated provisions regarding student population, curriculum, academic goals, performance standards, admission standards and qualifications of teachers. The Governing Board controls the School’s one instructional/support facility staffed by 15 non-certified and 54 certified full-time teaching personnel who provide services to 515 students.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The basic financial statements (BFS) of the School have been prepared in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (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 School's significant accounting policies are described below.

A. Basis of Presentation

The School’s basic financial statements consist of a statement of net position, a statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, and a statement of cash flows. Enterprise fund reporting focuses on the determination of the change in net position, financial position and cash flows.

B. Measurement Focus

Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets plus deferred outflows and all liabilities plus deferred inflows are included on the statements of net position. The statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position presents increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in net total position. The statement of cash flows provides information about how the School finances and meets the cash flow needs of its enterprise activities.

C. Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recognized in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. The School’s financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting.

Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place.

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

Revenue resulting from nonexchange transactions, in which the School receives value without directly giving equal value in return, such as grants and entitlements, are recognized in the period in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the period when the resources are required to be used or the period when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the School must provide local resources to be used for a specific purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the School on a reimbursement basis.

Expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred.

D. Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense) until then. See Notes 9 and 10 for deferred outflows of resources related to net pension liability/asset and net OPEB liability/asset, respectively.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. See Notes 9 and 10 for deferred inflows of resources related to net pension liability/asset and net OPEB liability/asset, respectively.

E. Budgetary Process

Unlike other public schools located in the State of Ohio, community schools are not required to follow budgetary provisions set forth in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705, unless specifically provided in the contract between the School and its Sponsor. The contract between the School and its Sponsor does prescribe an annual budget requirement in addition to preparing a five-year forecast, which is to be updated on a semi-annual basis, in May and November.

F. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash held by the School is reflected as “equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents” on the Statement of Net Position. The School did not have any investments at June 30, 2024.

G. Capital Assets and Depreciation

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 School’s capitalization threshold is \$5,000 for all asset classes. The School 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.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

All reported capital assets except land are depreciated/amortized. Depreciation/amortization is computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Lives (in years)</u>
Land improvements	5
Buildings and Improvements	7 - 40
Furniture and equipment	5
Intangible leased assets	2 - 5
Vehicles	5

The School is reporting intangible right to use assets related to leased copier equipment and a leased building. The intangible assets are being amortized in a systematic and rational manner of the shorter of the lease term or the useful life of the underlying asset.

H. Intergovernmental Revenues

The School currently participates in the State Foundation Program, State Special Education Program, American Rescue Plan (ARP) ESSER, IDEA, Title I, Title I-A, IDEA-B, IDEA Early Childhood, Title II-A, and Title IV-A. Revenues from the State foundation program and State special education program are recognized as operating revenue in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements had been met. Revenues received from the remaining programs are recognized as non-operating revenues in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

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

I. 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 the purchase and an expense is reported in the year in which services are consumed.

J. Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets and deferred outflows and liabilities and deferred inflows. The net position component "net investment in capital assets," consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets. Deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources that are attributable to the acquisition, construction or improvement of those assets or related debt also should be included in this component of net position. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the School or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments.

The School applies restricted resources first when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

K. Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP 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.

L. Operating Revenues and Expenses

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

M. Federal Tax Exempt Status

On August 23, 2007, the School was granted status as an exempt organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and is exempt from federal income taxes. Management is not aware of any course of action or series of events that have occurred that might adversely affect the School's tax exempt status.

N. Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB liability, net OPEB asset, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related 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.

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

Change in Accounting Principles

For fiscal year 2024, the School has implemented certain paragraphs from GASB Implementation Guide No. 2021-1, certain paragraphs of GASB Statement No. 99, "Omnibus 2022", GASB Statement No. 100, "Accounting Changes and Error Corrections - an amendment of GASB Statement No. 62" and Implementation Guide No. 2023-1.

GASB Implementation Guide 2021-1 provides clarification on issues related to previously established GASB guidance. The implementation of GASB Implementation Guide 2021-1 did not have an effect on balances previously reported by the School.

GASB Statement No. 99 is to enhance comparability in accounting and financial reporting and to improve the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing (1) practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements and (2) accounting and financial reporting for financial guarantees. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 99 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School.

GASB Statement No. 100 is to enhance 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 School.

GASB Implementation Guide 2023-1 provides clarification on issues related to previously established GASB guidance. The implementation of GASB Implementation Guide 2023-1 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS

Deposits with Financial Institutions

At June 30, 2024, the carrying amount of all School deposits was \$2,841,183. Based on the criteria described in GASB Statement No. 40, “Deposits and Investment Risk Disclosures”, as of June 30, 2024, \$2,354,256 of the School’s bank balance of \$2,878,191 was covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and \$523,935 was exposed to custodial risk as discussed below.

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of bank failure, the School will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The School has no deposit policy for custodial credit risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or protected by (1) eligible securities pledged to the School and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose fair value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured, or (2) 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 fair value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State. Although all statutory requirements for the deposit of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the School to a successful claim by the FDIC.

NOTE 5 - RECEIVABLES

Receivables at June 30, 2024, consisted of intergovernmental receivables arising from grants and entitlements receivable. All receivables are considered collectable in full. A summary of the intergovernmental receivables follows:

Intergovernmental Receivables:	Amount
Medicaid	\$ 8,204
School Employees Retirement System	6,572
ESSER	75,924
IDEA-Part B	85,254
Each Child on Track	20,000
Title I	38,723
Title I-A	85,312
Expanding Opportunities	19,435
Title IV-A	<u>2,222</u>
Total	<u>\$ 341,646</u>

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**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
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**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:

	<u>Balance</u>			<u>Balance</u>
	<u>06/30/23</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deductions</u>	<u>06/30/24</u>
Governmental activities:				
<i>Capital assets, being depreciated/amortized:</i>				
Buildings and improvements	\$ 1,644,762	\$ -	\$ (1,644,762)	\$ -
Furniture and equipment	245,367	10,140	(229,290)	26,217
Intangible right to use - leased equipment	49,108	36,883	-	85,991
Intangible right to use - leased building	-	135,343	-	135,343
Vehicles	23,939	-	(23,939)	-
Total capital assets, being depreciated/amortized	<u>1,963,176</u>	<u>182,366</u>	<u>(1,897,991)</u>	<u>247,551</u>
<i>Less: accumulated depreciation/amortization:</i>				
Buildings and improvements	(694,677)	-	694,677	-
Furniture and equipment	(238,980)	(3,151)	228,747	(13,384)
Intangible right to use - leased equipment	(22,238)	(12,348)	-	(34,586)
Intangible right to use - leased building	-	(20,051)	-	(20,051)
Vehicles	(23,939)	-	23,939	-
Total accumulated depreciation/amortization	<u>(979,834)</u>	<u>(35,550)</u>	<u>947,363</u>	<u>(68,021)</u>
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 983,342</u>	<u>\$ 146,816</u>	<u>\$ (950,628)</u>	<u>\$ 179,530</u>

NOTE 7 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

A. The changes in the School's long-term obligations during the fiscal year consist of the following:

	<u>Balance at</u>			<u>Balance at</u>		<u>Due Within</u>
	<u>06/30/23</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>06/30/24</u>		<u>One Year</u>
Governmental activities:						
<i>Leases payable</i>						
Leases payable	\$ 27,846	\$ 172,226	\$ (31,723)	\$ 168,349	\$ 77,916	
<i>Net pension liability</i>						
Net pension liability	4,715,159	-	(99,752)	4,615,407		-
<i>Net OPEB liability</i>						
Net OPEB liability	235,215	18,164	-	253,379		-
Total long-term obligations	<u>\$ 4,978,220</u>	<u>\$ 190,390</u>	<u>\$ (131,475)</u>	<u>\$ 5,037,135</u>	<u>\$ 77,916</u>	

See Note 9 for details on the net pension liability.

See Note 10 for details on the net OPEB liability.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 7 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS - (Continued)

B. Leases payable – The School has entered into lease agreements for the right to use leased equipment and a leased building.

The following is a schedule of future lease payments under the lease agreements:

<u>Fiscal Year Ending June 30,</u>	<u>Leases Payable</u>		
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 77,916	\$ 5,316	\$ 83,232
2026	68,707	2,212	70,919
2027	7,389	736	8,125
2028	7,690	434	8,124
2029	6,647	122	6,769
Total	\$ 168,349	\$ 8,820	\$ 177,169

NOTE 8 - RISK MANAGEMENT

A. Insurance Coverage

The School is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During fiscal year 2024, the School contracted with Selective Insurance for commercial general liability and automobile liability insurance.

<u>Coverage</u>	<u>Limits of Coverage</u>
General liability:	
Each occurrence	\$ 1,000,000
General aggregate	3,000,000
Products-completed operations aggregate limit	3,000,000
Personal & advertising injury	1,000,000
Personal property	453,455

Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years. There were no significant reductions in coverage except for Building, which was eliminated due to the School selling its main academic building and opting to lease space instead.

B. Workers' Compensation

The School pays the State Worker's Compensation System a premium for employee injury coverage. The premium is calculated by multiplying the monthly total gross payroll by a factor that is calculated by the State.

C. Employee Medical, Dental and Vision Benefits

The School has contracted through independent agents to provide employee medical, dental, life, and vision insurance to its full time employees. The School pays a portion (between 90 and 92% depending on the policy option selected) of the monthly premiums for medical and all of the premium for dental, vision and life insurance. Employees opting out of the medical, dental and vision insurance receive a \$300 per month stipend. Employees opting out of just the medical insurance receive a \$150 stipend.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability/Asset

The net pension liability and the net OPEB liability/asset reported on the statement of net position represents a liability or asset to employees for pensions and OPEB, respectively.

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 obligation to sacrifice resources for pensions is a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that already have occurred.

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

The Ohio Revised Code limits the School's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The School cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the School 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 10 for the required OPEB disclosures.

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

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

	Eligible to Retire on or before August 1, 2017*	Eligible to Retire 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; or Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age 62 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 60 with 25 years of service credit

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

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

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. Beginning April 1, 2018, new benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. Upon resumption of the COLA, it will be indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5% and with a floor of 0%. In 2023, the Board of Trustees approved a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for eligible retirees and beneficiaries in 2024.

Funding Policy - Plan members are required to contribute 10.00% of their annual covered salary and the School is required to contribute 14.00% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS' Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10.00% for plan members and 14.00% for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System's funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.00%. For fiscal year 2024, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The School's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$91,771 for fiscal year 2024.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

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

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.20% of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. 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 35 years of service credit and at least age 60.

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

The DC Plan allows members to place all of their member contributions and 9.53% of the 14% employer contributions into an investment account. The member determines how to allocate the member and employer money among various investment choices offered by STRS. The remaining 4.47% of the 14% 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% of the 14% member rate goes to the DC Plan and the remaining 2% 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 after termination of employment at age 50 and after termination of employment.

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

A DB or Combined Plan member with five or more years of credited service, who is determined to be disabled, may qualify for a disability benefit. New members, on or after July 1, 2013, must have at least ten years of qualifying service credit 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 fiscal year 2024 employer and employee contribution rate of 14% was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For fiscal year 2024, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The School's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$320,618 for fiscal year 2024.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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 School's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the School's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the net pension liability prior measurement date	0.017406600%	0.016975500%	
Proportion of the net pension liability current measurement date	<u>0.016311500%</u>	<u>0.017246910%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>-0.001095100%</u>	<u>0.000271410%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 901,296	\$ 3,714,111	\$ 4,615,407
Pension expense	\$ 25,856	\$ 210,240	\$ 236,096

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

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deferred outflows of resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 38,739	\$ 135,410	\$ 174,149
Changes of assumptions	6,384	305,876	312,260
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	-	32,915	32,915
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>91,771</u>	<u>320,618</u>	<u>412,389</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 136,894</u>	<u>\$ 794,819</u>	<u>\$ 931,713</u>

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deferred inflows of resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ 8,244	\$ 8,244
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	12,666	11,129	23,795
Changes of assumptions	-	230,237	230,237
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	<u>70,374</u>	<u>159,908</u>	<u>230,282</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u><u>\$ 83,040</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 409,518</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 492,558</u></u>

\$412,389 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from School contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal 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:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2025	\$ (36,141)	\$ (143,161)	\$ (179,302)
2026	(49,761)	(157,360)	(207,121)
2027	47,312	377,018	424,330
2028	<u>673</u>	<u>(11,814)</u>	<u>(11,141)</u>
Total	<u>\$ (37,917)</u>	<u>\$ 64,683</u>	<u>\$ 26,766</u>

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 terminations). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

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

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022, are presented below:

Wage inflation:

Current measurement date	2.40%
Prior measurement date	2.40%

Future salary increases, including inflation:

Current measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Prior measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%

COLA or ad hoc COLA:

Current measurement date	2.00%
Prior measurement date	2.00%

Investment rate of return:

Current measurement date	7.00% net of system expenses
Prior measurement date	7.00% net of system expenses

Discount rate:

Current measurement date	7.00%
Prior measurement date	7.00%

Actuarial cost method

Entry age normal (level percent of payroll)

In 2023, mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

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

The most recent experience study was completed 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*. Ohio Revised Code Section 3309.15 and the Board-adopted Investment Policy govern investment activity at SERS. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted 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.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

The target allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table:

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 - Total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%. 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 of fiscal year 2023 was 14%. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return, 7.00%. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability. 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%.

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

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
School's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 1,330,264	\$ 901,296	\$ 539,969

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2022, actuarial valuation are presented below:

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%
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
Discount rate of return	7.00%	7.00%
Payroll increases	3.00%	3.00%
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%	0.00%

For the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

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

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 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 Real Rate of Return **
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.60 %
International Equity	22.00	6.80
Alternatives	19.00	7.38
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75
Real Estate	10.00	5.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	1.00
Total	<u><u>100.00 %</u></u>	

* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 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 the rates described previously. 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% was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2023.

Sensitivity of the School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate - The following table represents the net pension liability as of June 30, 2023, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current assumption:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 5,711,481	\$ 3,714,111	\$ 2,024,883

Assumption and Benefit Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - The discount rate remained at 7.00% for June 30, 2023 valuation. Demographic assumptions were changed based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021.

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

See Note 9 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14% of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, SERS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment 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% of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5% of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the School's surcharge obligation was \$1,871.

The surcharge added to the allocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The School's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$1,871 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount, \$1,871 is reported as pension and postemployment obligation payable.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

Funding Policy - Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. Nearly all health care plan enrollees, for the most recent year, pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14% 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, 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/asset used to calculate the net OPEB liability/asset was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The School's proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset was based on the School's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Following is information related to the proportionate share and OPEB expense:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset prior measurement date	0.016753100%	0.016975500%	
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset current measurement date	<u>0.015380100%</u>	<u>0.017246910%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>-0.001373000%</u>	<u>0.000271410%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 253,379	\$ -	\$ 253,379
Proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ -	\$ (335,429)	\$ (335,429)
OPEB expense	\$ (65,916)	\$ (74,724)	\$ (140,640)

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred outflows of resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 530	\$ 523	\$ 1,053
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	1,965	598	2,563
Changes of assumptions	85,674	49,413	135,087
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	-	525	525
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>1,871</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,871</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 90,040</u>	<u>\$ 51,059</u>	<u>\$ 141,099</u>
Deferred inflows of resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 130,677	\$ 51,165	\$ 181,842
Changes of assumptions	71,962	221,314	293,276
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	<u>106,752</u>	<u>21,490</u>	<u>128,242</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>\$ 309,391</u>	<u>\$ 293,969</u>	<u>\$ 603,360</u>

\$1,871 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from School contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability/asset in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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	\$ (66,346)	\$ (117,641)	\$ (183,987)
2026	(52,573)	(45,598)	(98,171)
2027	(36,019)	(17,892)	(53,911)
2028	(24,760)	(23,575)	(48,335)
2029	(18,922)	(21,549)	(40,471)
Thereafter	<u>(22,602)</u>	<u>(16,655)</u>	<u>(39,257)</u>
Total	<u>\$ (221,222)</u>	<u>\$ (242,910)</u>	<u>\$ (464,132)</u>

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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

Wage inflation:

Current measurement date	2.40%
Prior measurement date	2.40%

Future salary increases, including inflation:

Current measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Prior measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%

Investment rate of return:

Current measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Prior measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation

Municipal bond index rate:

Current measurement date	3.86%
Prior measurement date	3.69%

Single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Current measurement date	4.27%
Prior measurement date	4.08%

Medical trend assumption:

Current measurement date	6.75 to 4.40%
Prior measurement date	7.00 to 4.40%

In 2023, the following mortality assumptions were used:

Healthy Retirees - PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females.

Disabled Retirees - PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females.

Contingent Survivors - PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Contingent Survivor mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 105.5% for males and adjusted 122.5% for females.

Actives - PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table.

Mortality Projection - Mortality rates are projected using a fully generational projection with Scale MP-2020.

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

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

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

The long-term expected rate of return is reviewed as part of the regular experience studies prepared every five years for SERS. The most recent five-year experience study was performed for the period covering 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%, 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.

The target asset allocation and best estimates of arithmetic real rates of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

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	100.00 %	

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2023, was 4.27%. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2023, was 4.08%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the contribution rate of 1.50% of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50% payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is 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% at June 30, 2023 and 3.69% at June 30, 2022.

Sensitivity of the School's 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, what the 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 the net OPEB liability would be based on health care 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 (6.75% decreasing to 4.40%).

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
School's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 323,890	\$ 253,379	\$ 197,777
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 186,149	\$ 253,379	\$ 342,468

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation, compared with June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation, are presented below:

	June 30, 2023		June 30, 2022	
Inflation	2.50%		2.50%	
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%	
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%		0.00%	
Discount rate of return	7.00%		7.00%	
Blended discount rate of return	N/A		N/A	
Health care cost trends		Initial	Ultimate	Initial
Medical		Initial	Ultimate	Initial
Pre-Medicare	7.50%	4.14%	7.50%	3.94%
Medicare	-10.94%	4.14%	-68.78%	3.94%
Prescription Drug		Initial	Ultimate	Initial
Pre-Medicare	-11.95%	4.14%	9.00%	3.94%
Medicare	1.33%	4.14%	-5.47%	3.94%

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

For the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation, for healthy retirees the post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020; pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 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.

Assumption Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - The discount rate remained unchanged at 7.00% for the June 30, 2023 valuation.

Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience as well as benefit changes effective January 1, 2024.

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 Real Rate of Return **
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.60 %
International Equity	22.00	6.80
Alternatives	19.00	7.38
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75
Real Estate	10.00	5.75
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	1.00
Total	<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 actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 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 those 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 fund investments of 7.00% was applied to all periods of projected health care costs to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023.

Sensitivity of the School's 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%, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
School's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 283,896	\$ 335,429	\$ 380,308
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 382,390	\$ 335,429	\$ 278,864

NOTE 11 - PURCHASED SERVICES

For fiscal year 2024, purchased services expenses were payments for services rendered by various vendors, as follows:

	Amount
Professional and technical	\$ 798,553
Property services	47,488
Travel and meeting expenses	9,992
Communications	81,449
Utilities	34,309
Tuition	30,134
Other	9,869
Total	<u>\$ 1,011,794</u>

NOTE 12 - CONTINGENCIES

A. Grants

The School received financial assistance from federal and State agencies in the form of grants. The expenditure of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the general fund or other applicable funds. However, the effect of any such disallowed claims on the overall financial position of the School at June 30, 2024, if applicable, cannot be determined at this time.

B. Litigation

The School is not involved in any litigation that, in the opinion of management, would have a material effect on the financial statements.

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**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 13 - DEFICIT NET POSITION

The School had a deficit net position of \$2,079,437 at June 30, 2024. The deficit net position is primarily due to the net pension liability of \$4,615,407, net OPEB liability of \$253,379, net OPEB asset of \$335,429, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to the net pension liability and net OPEB liability/asset of \$1,072,812 and \$1,095,918, respectively, at June 30, 2024. The net pension liability, net OPEB liability/asset and related deferred outflows and deferred inflows of resources are required to be reported in accordance with GASB Statements No. 68 and 71, as described in Note 9 and GASB Statement No. 75, as described in Note 10.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**SCHEDULE OF THE SCHOOL'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF
THE NET PENSION LIABILITY AND
SCHOOL PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO**

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

Fiscal Year (1)	School's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	School's Covered Payroll	School'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	0.016311500%	\$ 901,296	\$ 647,079	139.29%	76.06%
2023	0.017406600%	941,484	650,150	144.81%	75.82%
2022	0.018897300%	697,256	652,650	106.83%	82.86%
2021	0.019978000%	1,321,387	700,386	188.67%	68.55%
2020	0.020203500%	1,208,811	693,096	174.41%	70.85%
2019	0.020698200%	1,185,424	694,326	170.73%	71.36%
2018	0.023899700%	1,427,954	773,086	184.71%	69.50%
2017	0.030287900%	2,216,795	940,629	235.67%	62.98%
2016	0.032351800%	1,846,025	973,961	189.54%	69.16%
2015	0.033608000%	1,700,882	976,573	174.17%	71.70%

Fiscal Year	Contractually Required Contributions	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	School's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$ 91,771	\$ (91,771)	\$ -	\$ 655,507	14.00%
2023	90,591	(90,591)	-	647,079	14.00%
2022	91,021	(91,021)	-	650,150	14.00%
2021	91,371	(91,371)	-	652,650	14.00%
2020	98,054	(98,054)	-	700,386	14.00%
2019	93,568	(93,568)	-	693,096	13.50%
2018	93,734	(93,734)	-	694,326	13.50%
2017	108,232	(108,232)	-	773,086	14.00%
2016	131,688	(131,688)	-	940,629	14.00%
2015	128,368	(128,368)	-	973,961	13.18%

(1) Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the School's measurement date which is the prior year-end.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**SCHEDULE OF THE SCHOOL'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF
THE NET PENSION LIABILITY AND
SCHOOL PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS
STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO**

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

Fiscal Year (1)	School's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	School's Covered Payroll	School'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	0.017246910%	\$ 3,714,111	\$ 2,329,514	159.44%	80.02%
2023	0.016975500%	3,773,675	2,206,893	170.99%	78.88%
2022	0.016874981%	2,157,618	1,816,321	118.79%	87.78%
2021	0.017584630%	4,254,855	2,364,586	179.94%	75.48%
2020	0.019601850%	4,334,831	2,353,157	184.21%	77.40%
2019	0.193280200%	4,249,798	2,197,271	193.41%	77.31%
2018	0.022511800%	5,347,726	2,474,893	216.08%	75.30%
2017	0.027422870%	9,179,261	2,885,414	318.13%	66.80%
2016	0.296684100%	8,199,481	3,095,400	264.89%	72.10%
2015	0.029678530%	7,218,846	3,032,331	238.06%	74.70%

Fiscal Year	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions		Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	School's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
	Contractually Required Contributions	Contractually Required Contributions			
2024	\$ 320,618	\$ (320,618)	\$ -	\$ 2,290,129	14.00%
2023	326,132	(326,132)	-	2,329,514	14.00%
2022	308,965	(308,965)	-	2,206,893	14.00%
2021	254,285	(254,285)	-	1,816,321	14.00%
2020	331,042	(331,042)	-	2,364,586	14.00%
2019	329,442	(329,442)	-	2,353,157	14.00%
2018	307,618	(307,618)	-	2,197,271	14.00%
2017	346,485	(346,485)	-	2,474,893	14.00%
2016	403,958	(403,958)	-	2,885,414	14.00%
2015	433,356	(433,356)	-	3,095,400	14.00%

(1) Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the School's measurement date which is the prior year-end.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**SCHEDULE OF THE SCHOOL'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF
THE NET OPEB LIABILITY AND
SCHOOL OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS
SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO**

LAST EIGHT AND TEN FISCAL YEARS

Fiscal Year (1) (2)	School's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	School's Covered Payroll	School'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	0.015380100%	\$ 253,379	\$ 647,079	39.16%	30.02%
2023	0.016753100%	235,215	650,150	36.18%	30.34%
2022	0.018170500%	343,892	652,650	52.69%	24.08%
2021	0.018721200%	406,873	700,386	58.09%	18.17%
2020	0.018976100%	477,209	693,096	68.85%	15.57%
2019	0.019443900%	539,426	694,326	77.69%	13.57%
2018	0.022649100%	607,842	773,086	78.63%	12.46%
2017	0.027935960%	796,278	940,629	84.65%	11.49%

Fiscal Year	Contractually Required Contributions	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	School's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$ 1,871	\$ (1,871)	\$ -	\$ 655,507	0.29%
2023	3,666	(3,666)	-	647,079	0.57%
2022	5,594	(5,594)	-	650,150	0.86%
2021	5,601	(5,601)	-	652,650	0.86%
2020	2,519	(2,519)	-	700,386	0.36%
2019	6,947	(6,947)	-	693,096	1.00%
2018	7,073	(7,073)	-	694,326	1.02%
2017	4,927	(4,927)	-	773,086	0.64%
2016	2,305	(2,305)	-	940,629	0.25%
2015	12,441	(12,441)	-	973,961	1.28%

(1) Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the School's measurement date which is the prior year-end.

(2) Information prior to 2017 is not available. Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years.

Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**SCHEDULE OF THE SCHOOL'S PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF
THE NET OPEB LIABILITY/(ASSET) AND
SCHOOL OPEB CONTRIBUTIONS
STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO**

LAST EIGHT AND TEN FISCAL YEARS

Fiscal Year (1) (2)	School's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	School's Covered Payroll	School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability/(Asset)
2024	0.017246910%	\$ (335,429)	\$ 2,329,514	14.40%	168.52%
2023	0.016975500%	(439,552)	2,206,893	19.92%	230.73%
2022	0.016874981%	(355,795)	1,816,321	19.59%	174.73%
2021	0.017584630%	(309,050)	2,364,586	13.07%	182.10%
2020	0.019601850%	(324,654)	2,353,157	13.80%	174.74%
2019	0.019328020%	(310,582)	2,197,271	14.13%	176.00%
2018	0.022511800%	878,327	2,474,893	35.49%	47.10%
2017	0.027422870%	1,466,582	2,885,414	50.83%	37.30%

Fiscal Year	Contractually Required Contributions	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	School's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,290,129	0.00%
2023	-	-	-	2,329,514	0.00%
2022	-	-	-	2,206,893	0.00%
2021	-	-	-	1,816,321	0.00%
2020	-	-	-	2,364,586	0.00%
2019	-	-	-	2,353,157	0.00%
2018	-	-	-	2,197,271	0.00%
2017	-	-	-	2,474,893	0.00%
2016	-	-	-	2,885,414	0.00%
2015	-	-	-	3,095,400	0.00%

(1) Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the School's measurement date which is the prior year-end.

(2) Information prior to 2017 is not available. Schedule is intended to show information for 10 years.

Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 1 - PENSIONS & OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

PENSION

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO

Change in benefit terms:

- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2016.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, SERS changed from a fixed 3% annual increase to a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) based on the changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W), with a cap of 2.5% and a floor of 0%.
- For 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.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2021.
- For fiscal year 2022, SERS changed from a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 2.5% to 2.0%.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2023.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2024.

Change in assumptions:

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2016.
- For fiscal year 2017, the following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%, (b) payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.00% to 3.50%, (c) assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75% to 0.50%, (d) rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience, (e) 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, (f) 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, (g) 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 (h) the discount rate was reduced from 7.75% to 7.50%.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2018.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2019.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2021.
- For fiscal year 2022, the following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) wage inflation decreased from 3.00% to 2.40%, (b) future salary increases changed from 3.50%-18.20% to 3.25%-13.58%, (c) investment rate of return decreased from 7.50% to 7.00%, (d) discount rate decreased from 7.50% to 7.00% and (e) mortality tables changed from the RP-2014 Blue Collar mortality table to the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table.

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 1 - PENSIONS & OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) - (Continued)

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2023.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2024.

STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO

Change in benefit terms:

- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2016.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, STRS decreased the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to zero.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2019.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2021.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2022.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2023.

Changes in assumptions:

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2016.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, the following changes of assumption affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the long-term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%, (b) the inflation assumption was lowered from 2.75% to 2.50%, (c) the payroll growth assumption was lowered to 3.00%, (d) 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, (e) the healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the RP-2014 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2016 and (f) rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2019.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2021.
- For fiscal year 2022, the following changes of assumption affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the long-term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00% and (b) the discount rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00%.
- For fiscal year 2023, the following changes of assumption affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: the projected salary increases went from 12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65 to varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2024.

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 1 - PENSIONS & OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) - (Continued)

OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO

Change in benefit terms:

- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2017.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2018.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2019.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2021.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2022.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2023.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2024.

Change in assumptions:

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%, (b) payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.00% to 3.50%, (c) assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75% to 0.50%, (d) rates of withdrawal, retirement, and disability were updated to reflect recent experience, (e) mortality among active members was updated to the following: RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five-year age set-back for both males and females, (f) 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, (g) mortality among disabled members was updated to the following: 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, (h) the municipal bond index rate increased from 2.92% to 3.56% and (i) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation increased from 2.98% to 3.63%.
- For fiscal year 2019, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate increased from 3.63% to 3.70%, (b) the health care cost trend rates for Medicare were changed from a range of 5.50%-5.00% to a range of 5.375%-4.75% and Pre-Medicare were changed from a range of 7.50%-5.00% to a range of 7.25%-4.75%, (c) the municipal bond index rate increased from 3.56% to 3.62% and (d) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation increased from 3.63% to 3.70%.
- For fiscal year 2020, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate decreased from 3.70% to 3.22%, (b) the health care cost trend rates for Medicare were changed from a range of 5.375%-4.75% to a range of 5.25%-4.75% and Pre-Medicare were changed from a range of 7.25%-4.75% to a range of 7.00%-4.75%, (c) the municipal bond index rate decreased from 3.62% to 3.13% and (d) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation decreased from 3.70% to 3.22%.
- For fiscal year 2021, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate decreased from 3.22% to 2.63% and (b) the municipal bond index rate decreased from 3.13% to 2.45%, and (c) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation decreased from 3.22% to 2.63%.

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 1 - PENSIONS & OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) - (Continued)

- For fiscal year 2022, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) wage inflation decreased from 3.00% to 2.40%, (b) future salary increases changed from 3.50%-18.20% to 3.25%-13.58%, (c) investment rate of return decreased from 7.50% to 7.00%, (d) discount rate decreased from 7.50% to 7.00% and (e) mortality tables changed from the RP-2014 Blue Collar mortality table to the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table.
- For fiscal year 2023, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) municipal bond index rate went from 1.92% to 3.69%, (b) single equivalent interest rate went from 2.27% to 4.08% and (c) medical trend assumptions went from 5.125% to 4.40% Medicare and 6.75% to 4.40% Pre-Medicare to 7.00% to 4.40%.
- For fiscal year 2024, the following changes of assumptions affect the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) municipal bond index rate went from 3.69% to 3.86%, (b) single equivalent interest rate went from 4.08% to 4.27% and (c) medical trend assumptions went from 7.00% to 4.40% to 6.75% to 4.40%.

STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO

Change in benefit terms:

- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, STRS reduced the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients from 2.1% to 1.9% per year of service. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were discontinued for certain survivors and beneficiaries and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 2019.
- For fiscal year 2019, STRS increased the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients from 1.9% to 1.944% per year of service effective January 1, 2019. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased January 1, 2019 and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 1, 2020.
- For fiscal year 2020, STRS increased the subsidy percentage from 1.944% to 1.984% 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.
- For fiscal year 2021, 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.
- For fiscal year 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 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.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2023.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2024.

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 1 - PENSIONS & OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) - (Continued)

Change in assumptions:

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) 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), (b) the long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%, (c) valuation year per capita health care costs were updated, and the salary scale was modified, (d) 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 and (e) the assumed mortality, disability, retirement, withdrawal and future health care cost trend rates were modified along with the portion of rebated prescription drug costs.
- For fiscal year 2019, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability/asset since the prior measurement date: (a) 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) and (b) decrease in health care cost trend rates from 6.00%-11.00% initial; 4.50% ultimate down to Medical Pre-Medicare 6.00% and Medicare 5.00% initial; 4.00% ultimate and Prescription Drug Pre-Medicare 8.00% and Medicare (5.23%) initial; 4.00% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2020, health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: medical pre-Medicare from 6.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 5.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate; medical Medicare from 5.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 4.93% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug pre-Medicare from 8.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 7.73% initial - 4.00% ultimate and (5.23%) initial - 4.00% ultimate up to 9.62% initial - 4.00% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2021, health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: medical pre-Medicare from 5.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 5.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate; medical Medicare from 4.93% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to -6.69% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug pre-Medicare from 7.73% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 6.50% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug Medicare from 9.62% initial - 4.00% ultimate up to 11.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2022, the following changes of assumption affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the long-term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00%, (b) the discount rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00% and (c) health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: medical Medicare from -6.69% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to -16.18% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug Medicare from 11.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate up to 29.98% initial - 4.00% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2023, the following changes of assumption affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) projected salary increase went from 12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65 to varies by services from 2.50% to 8.50% and (b) health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: Pre-Medicare from 5.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate to 7.50% initial - 3.94% ultimate; medical Medicare from -16.18% initial - 4.00% ultimate to -68.78% initial - 3.94% ultimate; prescription drug Pre-Medicare from 6.50% initial - 4.00% ultimate to 9.00% initial - 3.94% ultimate; Medicare from 29.98% initial - 4.00% ultimate to -5.47% initial - 3.94% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2024, the following changes of assumption affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: Pre-Medicare from 7.50% initial - 3.94% ultimate to 7.50% initial - 4.14% ultimate; medical Medicare from -68.78% initial - 3.94% ultimate to -10.94% initial - 4.14% ultimate; prescription drug Pre-Medicare from 9.00% initial - 3.94% ultimate to -11.95% initial - 4.14% ultimate; Medicare from -5.47% initial - 3.94% ultimate to 1.33% initial - 4.14% ultimate.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

FEDERAL GRANTOR/ PASS THROUGH GRANTOR/ PROGRAM/CLUSTER TITLE	ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER	PASS-THROUGH ENTITY IDENTIFYING NUMBER / ADDITIONAL AWARD IDENTIFICATION	TOTAL FEDERAL EXPENDITURES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION			
Passed Through the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce			
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	84.010A, 2023	\$ 10,433
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	84.010A, 2024	228,626
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies - Expanding Opportunities for Each Child Non-Competitive Grant	84.010A	84.010A, 2023	3,485
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies - Expanding Opportunities for Each Child Non-Competitive Grant	84.010A	84.010A, 2024	29,138
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies - Non-Competitive, Supplemental School Improvement	84.010A	84.010A, 2023	9,279
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies - Non-Competitive, Supplemental School Improvement	84.010A	84.010A, 2024	66,316
Total Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies			347,277
Special Education Cluster (IDEA)			
Special Education-Grants to States (IDEA, Part B)	84.027A	84.027A, 2023	31,449
Special Education-Grants to States (IDEA, Part B)	84.027A	84.027A, 2024	166,714
Special Education-Grants to States -SSIP Each Child On Track	84.027A	84.027A, 2024	20,000
Total Special Education-Grants to States (IDEA, Part B)			218,163
Total Special Education Cluster (IDEA)			
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367A	84.367A, 2024	10,868
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424A	84.424A, 2023	773
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424A	84.424A, 2024	13,381
Total Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program			14,154
COVID-19 - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II) Fund	84.425D	COVID-19, 84.425D, 2023	26,589
COVID-19 - American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund	84.425U	COVID-19, 84.425U, 2023	144,445
COVID-19 - American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) Fund	84.425U	COVID-19, 84.425U, 2024	307,510
Total Education Stabilization Fund			478,544
Total U.S. Department of Education			1,069,006
Total Federal Expenditures			\$ 1,069,006

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR § 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 1 – BASIS OF PRESENTATION & SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of the Buckeye Online School for Success under programs of the federal government for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024 and is prepared in accordance with the cash basis of accounting. 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 Buckeye Online School for Success, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of the Buckeye Online School for Success. Such expenditures are recognized following cost principles contained in Uniform Guidance wherein certain types of expenditures may or may not be limited as to reimbursement.

NOTE 2 – DE MINIMIS COST RATE

CFR Section 200.414 of the Uniform Guidance allows a non-federal entity that has never received a negotiated indirect cost rate to charge a de minimis rate of 10% of modified total direct costs to indirect costs. The Buckeye Online School for Success has not elected to use the 10% de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

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

Buckeye Online School for Success
Columbiana County
119 East Fifth Street
East Liverpool, Ohio 43920

To the Members of the Governing Board:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of the Buckeye Online School for Success, Columbiana County, Ohio, as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Buckeye Online School for Success' basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated February 26, 2025.

Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Buckeye Online School for Success' 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 Buckeye Online School for Success' internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Buckeye Online School for Success' 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 Buckeye Online School for Success' 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.

Buckeye Online School for Success
Columbiana County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance With *Government Auditing Standards*

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Buckeye Online School for Success' 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 Buckeye Online School for Success' internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Buckeye Online School for Success' internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Julian & Grube, Inc.
February 26, 2025

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance

Buckeye Online School for Success
Columbiana County
119 East Fifth Street
East Liverpool, Ohio 43920

To the Members of the Governing Board:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the Buckeye Online School for Success' 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 each of the Buckeye Online School for Success' major federal programs for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The Buckeye Online School for Success' major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

In our opinion, the Buckeye Online School for Success complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and 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 Buckeye Online School for Success 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 each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Buckeye Online School for Success' compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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 Buckeye Online School for Success' federal programs.

Buckeye Online School for Success
Columbiana County
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program
and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance

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 Buckeye Online School for Success' 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 generally accepted auditing standards, *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 Buckeye Online School for Success' compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, *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 Buckeye Online School for Success' 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 Buckeye Online School for Success' 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 Buckeye Online School for Success' 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 a 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.

Buckeye Online School for Success

Columbiana County

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program
and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance

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 that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julian & Grube, Inc." The signature is cursive and fluid, with a small ampersand between "Julian" and "Grube".

Julian & Grube, Inc.

February 26, 2025

BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS
COLUMBIANA COUNTY, OHIO

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS		
(d)(1)(i)	<i>Type of Financial Statement Opinion</i>	Unmodified
(d)(1)(ii)	<i>Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?</i>	No
(d)(1)(ii)	<i>Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?</i>	None reported
(d)(1)(iii)	<i>Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?</i>	No
(d)(1)(iv)	<i>Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?</i>	No
(d)(1)(iv)	<i>Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?</i>	None reported
(d)(1)(v)	<i>Type of Major Program's Compliance Opinion</i>	Unmodified
(d)(1)(vi)	<i>Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR §200.516(a)?</i>	No
(d)(1)(vii)	<i>Major Program(s) (listed):</i>	COVID-19 – Educational Stabilization Fund (ALN 84.425)
(d)(1)(viii)	<i>Dollar Threshold: Type A/B Programs</i>	Type A: > \$750,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	<i>Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR § 200.520?</i>	Yes

2. FINDINGS RELATED TO THE BASIC 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



BUCKEYE ONLINE SCHOOL FOR SUCCESS

COLUMBIANA 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 6/12/2025

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

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