

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

SINGLE AUDIT REPORT

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

Zupka & Associates
Certified Public Accountants



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Members of the Board
Great Western Academy
310 North Wilson Road
Columbus, Ohio 43204

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Great Western Academy, Franklin County, prepared by Zupka & Associates, 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 Great Western Academy is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

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

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

May 29, 2025

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**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO
AUDIT REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Great Western Academy
Franklin County
310 North Wilson Road
Columbus, Ohio 43204

To the Members of the Board:

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Great Western Academy, Franklin County, Ohio, (the Academy) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Academy's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

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

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* (*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 Academy, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

Required Supplementary Information

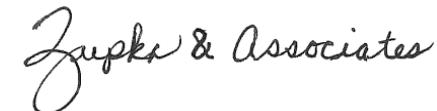
Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis and Schedules of Net Pension and Postemployment Benefit Liabilities and Pension and Postemployment Benefit Contributions, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with 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 Academy's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 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 25, 2025, on our consideration of the Academy's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Academy's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Academy's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Zupka & Associates
Certified Public Accountants

February 25, 2025

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**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for 2024 are as follows:

- In total, net position was a deficit \$5,506,732 at June 30, 2024.
- The Academy had operating revenues of \$7,589,287, operating expenses of \$11,975,569, non-operating revenues of \$4,761,038 and non-operating expenses of \$10,392 for fiscal year 2024. Total change in net position for the fiscal year was an increase of \$364,364.

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 Academy'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 Academy, including all short-term and long-term financial resources and obligations.

Reporting the Academy's 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 statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position answer this question. These statements include all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, 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 Academy's *net position* and changes in net position. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader that, for the Academy as a whole, the *financial position* of the Academy has improved or diminished. The 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 Academy finances and meets the cash flow needs of its operations.

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

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

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

Table 1 below provides a summary of the Academy's net position for fiscal year 2024 and 2023.

**Table 1
Net Position**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>Assets</u>		
Current assets	\$ 2,076,584	\$ 860,176
Non-current assets	<u>763,665</u>	<u>870,022</u>
Total assets	<u>2,840,249</u>	<u>1,730,198</u>
<u>Deferred outflows of resources</u>	<u>2,541,674</u>	<u>1,959,079</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Current liabilities	1,683,536	754,177
Long-term liabilities	<u>7,820,035</u>	<u>7,035,891</u>
Total liabilities	<u>9,503,571</u>	<u>7,790,068</u>
<u>Deferred inflows of resources</u>	<u>1,385,084</u>	<u>1,770,305</u>
<u>Net position</u>		
Net investment in capital assets	(3,733)	(16,506)
Restricted	526,189	160,644
Unrestricted (deficit)	<u>(6,029,188)</u>	<u>(6,015,234)</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ (5,506,732)</u>	<u>\$ (5,871,096)</u>

The net pension liability is reported pursuant to Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 68, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions - an Amendment of GASB Statement 27." The net other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liability/asset is reported pursuant to GASB Statement 75, "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions." For reasons discussed below, many end users of this financial statement will gain a clearer understanding of the Academy's actual financial condition by adding deferred inflows related to pension and OPEB, the net pension liability, and the net OPEB liability to the reported net position and subtracting deferred outflows related to pension and OPEB and the net OPEB asset.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board standards are national and apply to all government financial reports prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Prior accounting for pensions (GASB 27) and postemployment benefits (GASB 45) focused on a funding approach. This approach limited pension and OPEB costs to contributions annually required by law, which may or may not be sufficient to fully fund each plan's *net pension liability* or *net OPEB 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/asset to equal the Academy's proportionate share of each plan's collective:

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

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

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 Academy’s statements 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/asset, respectively, not accounted for as deferred inflows/outflows.

Over time, net position can serve as a useful indicator of a government’s financial position. At June 30, 2024 and 2023, the Academy’s net position totaled deficits of (\$5,506,732) and (\$5,871,096), respectively.

Current assets represent cash, accounts and intergovernmental receivables. Current liabilities represent accounts and intergovernmental payables for professional services. Refer to Notes 2.H, Note 5 and Note 11.B. for detail on the current receivables and payables.

Non-current assets at fiscal year-end include a net OPEB asset reported by the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) and capital assets (intangible right to use, leased building). See Notes 6 and 9 for more detail.

Long-term liabilities represent the lease liability, net pension liability (see Note 8 for detail) and the net OPEB liability (see Note 9 for detail). Refer to Note 7 for a summary of the changes in the Academy’s long-term obligations during fiscal year 2024.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

**Table 2
Changes in Net Position**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>Operating revenues:</u>		
State foundation	\$ 7,589,287	\$ 6,349,657
Total operating revenue	<u>7,589,287</u>	<u>6,349,657</u>
<u>Operating expenses:</u>		
Purchased services:		
Management fees	11,360,739	10,079,609
Sponsorship fees	226,261	190,732
Legal	65,335	72,621
Professional services	42,247	47,592
Amortization	224,878	224,878
Other	<u>56,109</u>	<u>11,798</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>11,975,569</u>	<u>10,627,230</u>
<u>Non-operating revenues (expenses):</u>		
Federal and State grants	3,924,473	4,556,216
Private contributions	809,818	-
Other non-operating revenue	26,747	-
Interest expense	<u>(10,392)</u>	<u>(26,194)</u>
Total non-operating revenues	<u>4,750,646</u>	<u>4,530,022</u>
Change in net position	364,364	252,449
Net position (deficit) at beginning of year	<u>(5,871,096)</u>	<u>(6,123,545)</u>
Net position (deficit) at end of year	<u>\$ (5,506,732)</u>	<u>\$ (5,871,096)</u>

The revenue generated by a community school is almost entirely dependent on per-pupil allotment given by the State foundation and from Federal entitlement programs. Student enrollment increased from 655 students in fiscal year 2023 to 677 students in fiscal year 2024. The revenue generated by a community school is almost entirely dependent on per-pupil allotment given by the State foundation and from Federal entitlement programs. The Academy relies on State foundation revenues for operations, with 61.45 percent and 58.22 percent of total revenues coming from State foundation for fiscal years 2024 and 2023, respectively.

The Academy received Federal grant monies through the Child Nutrition Lunch & Breakfast, American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER), ARP Homeless Round II, ARP IDEA Part B, ARP IDEA Early Childhood Education, Title I-A, Expanding Opportunities for Each Child, Title II-A, Title IV-A, IDEA-B Special Education, and IDEA Early Childhood Special Education programs during fiscal year 2024. During fiscal year 2024, the Academy was designated a Community School of Quality, and was eligible to receive up to \$1,750 in each fiscal year for each pupil identified as economically disadvantaged and up to \$1,000 in each fiscal year for all other pupils. The Academy received \$1,024,020 from the Quality Community School support program in fiscal year 2024. The Academy did not receive this funding for fiscal year 2024. The Academy received \$809,818 in private contributions from Imagine Schools, Inc. during fiscal year 2024 to subsidize operating expenses.

Expenses in fiscal year 2024 compared to 2023 vary due to pension and OPEB expense being reported. The Academy contracted with Imagine Schools, Inc. for management services for fiscal years 2024 and 2023 (see Note 11.B to the notes to the financial statements for detail). Management fees increased as additional state and federal funding was received in fiscal year 2024.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

Capital Assets

The Academy reported capital assets, net of depreciation/amortization in the amount of \$237,476 at June 30, 2024. Capital assets consist of equipment and intangible right to use, leased building. See Note 6 for detail.

Debt

The Academy had a lease payable in the amount of \$241,209 at June 30, 2024, of which the entire amount is due within one year. The Academy entered into a lease amendment to extend its lease with Schoolhouse Finance, LLC through June 30, 2025. See Note 7 for detail.

Restrictions and Other Limitations

The future financial stability of the Academy is not without challenges.

The Academy does not receive any funds from taxes. The primary source of funding is the State foundation program. An economic slowdown in the state could result in budgetary cuts to education, which would have a negative impact on the Academy.

Contacting the Academy's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizen's, taxpayers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the Academy's finances and to show the Academy's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information please contact Mr. Dan Lamb, Treasurer, Charter School Specialists, 310 North Wilson Road, Columbus, Ohio.

**BASIC
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

Assets:

Current assets:

Cash	\$ 400,075
Receivables:	
Accounts	51,364
Intergovernmental	1,625,145
Total current assets	<u>2,076,584</u>
Non-current assets:	
Net OPEB asset	526,189
Capital assets, net of amortization	237,476
Total non-current assets	<u>763,665</u>
Total assets	<u>2,840,249</u>

Deferred outflows of resources:

Pension	2,264,561
OPEB	<u>277,113</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>2,541,674</u>

Liabilities:

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable	1,631,936
Intergovernmental payable	51,364
Accrued interest payable	236
Total current liabilities	<u>1,683,536</u>

Long-term liabilities:

Due within one year	241,209
Due within more than one year:	
Net pension liability	7,189,536
Net OPEB liability	389,290
Total long-term liabilities	<u>7,820,035</u>
Total liabilities	<u>9,503,571</u>

Deferred inflows of resources:

Pension	558,039
OPEB	<u>827,045</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>1,385,084</u>

Net position:

Net investment in capital assets	(3,733)
Restricted for:	
OPEB	526,189
Unrestricted (deficit)	<u>(6,029,188)</u>
Total net position (deficit)	<u>\$ (5,506,732)</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

Operating revenues:	
State foundation	\$ 7,589,287
Total operating revenues	<u>7,589,287</u>
 Operating expenses:	
Purchased services:	
Management fees	11,360,739
Sponsorship fees	226,261
Legal	65,335
Professional services	42,247
Amortization	224,878
Other	56,109
Total operating expenses	<u>11,975,569</u>
 Operating (loss)	<u>(4,386,282)</u>
 Non-operating revenues (expenses)	
Federal and State grants	3,924,473
Private contributions	809,818
Other non-operating revenue	26,747
Interest expense	(10,392)
Total non-operating revenues (expenses)	<u>4,750,646</u>
 Change in net position	364,364
 Net position (deficit) at beginning of year	<u>(5,871,096)</u>
 Net position (deficit) at end of year	<u>\$ (5,506,732)</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

Cash flows from operating activities:

Cash received from State foundation	\$ 7,584,192
Cash payments for purchased services:	
Management fees	(9,644,593)
Sponsorship fees	(226,251)
Legal fees	(72,392)
Professional services	(42,247)
Cash payments for other expenses	<u>(56,083)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>(2,457,374)</u>

Cash flows from noncapital financing activities:

Cash received from Federal and State grants	2,691,965
Cash received from other non-operating revenue	<u>26,747</u>
Net cash provided by noncapital financing activities	<u>2,718,712</u>

Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:

Principal retirement on lease	(237,651)
Interest expense on lease	<u>(11,750)</u>
Net cash used in capital and related financing activities	<u>(249,401)</u>

Net increase in cash

11,937

Cash at beginning of year

388,138

Cash at end of year

\$ 400,075

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

Operating loss	\$ (4,386,282)
Adjustments:	
Amortization	224,878
Private contributions	809,818
Changes in assets, deferred outflows, liabilities, and deferred outflows	
Decrease in accounts receivable	41,501
(Increase) in intergovernmental receivable	(13,464)
Decrease in net OPEB asset	81,475
(Increase) in deferred outflows - pensions	(453,523)
(Increase) in deferred outflows - OPEB	(129,072)
Increase in accounts payable	972,428
(Decrease) in intergovernmental payable	(41,711)
Increase in net pension liability	734,676
Increase in net OPEB liability	87,123
(Decrease) in deferred inflows - pensions	(276,116)
(Decrease) in deferred inflows - OPEB	<u>(109,105)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities	<u>\$ (2,457,374)</u>

Non-cash transactions:

During fiscal year 2024, the Academy entered into a lease amendment in the amount of \$199,996 to extend the lease term. Refer to Note 7 in the notes to the basic financial statements for details.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE ACADEMY AND REPORTING ENTITY

Great Western Academy (the “Academy”) is a nonprofit corporation established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapters 3314 and 1702 to address the needs of students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The Academy, which is part of the State’s education program, is independent of any school district and is nonsectarian in its programs, admissions policies, employment practices, and all other operations. The Academy may sue and be sued, acquire facilities as needed, and contract for any services necessary for the operation of the Academy.

The Academy contracted with Imagine Schools, Inc. for most of its functions beginning February 14, 2006 (See Note 11.B). The Academy was approved for operation under contract with the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW, the Sponsor) for a period of five years commencing July 1, 2002. On May 30, 2007, the Academy entered into a sponsorship contract with the Lucas County Educational Service Center for a period of five years ending on May 14, 2012. On March 9, 2010, an amendment was made to extend the sponsorship contract through June 30, 2012. On May 21, 2012, the Academy signed a contract with a new sponsor, Buckeye Community Hope Foundation, to operate for the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015. The contract with the Sponsor was renewed for an additional five-year period commencing July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020. On June 19, 2020, the contract with the Sponsor was renewed for an additional five-year period commencing July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025. The Sponsor is responsible for evaluating the performance of the Academy and has the authority to deny renewal of the contract at its expiration or terminate the contract prior to its expiration.

The Academy operates under the direction of a Governing Board which shall consist of not less than five members. 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 the qualifications of teachers. The Governing Board controls the Academy’s instructional/support facility staffed by employees of the management company who provide services to 677 students.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

A. Basis of Presentation

The Academy’s basic financial statements consist of a statement of net position, a statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position, and a statement of cash flows. The Academy uses a single enterprise presentation. Enterprise reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position, financial position, and cash flows.

B. Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and deferred outflows of resources and all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are included on the statement of net position. The statement of changes in net position presents increases and decreases in net total position.

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. The accrual basis of accounting is used for reporting purposes. 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. Revenues resulting from non-exchange transactions, in which the Academy received value without directly giving equal value in return, such as grants, entitlements, and donations are recognized in the period in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
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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)

C. 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/expenditure) until then. See Notes 8 and 9 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 8 and 9 for deferred inflows of resources related to net pension liability/asset and net OPEB liability/asset, respectively.

D. Budgetary Process

Community schools are statutorily required to adopt a budget by Ohio Revised Code 3314.032(C). However, unlike traditional public schools located in the State of Ohio, community schools are not required to follow the specific budgetary process and limits set forth in the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705, unless specifically provided in the contract between the Academy and its Sponsor. The contract between the Academy and its Sponsor prescribes an annual budget requirement in addition to preparing a 5-year forecast, which is to be updated on an annual basis. Each year, the Academy Governing Board, with the assistance of the Academy's designated fiscal officer, is required to adopt an annual budget by the thirty-first day of October using the format and following the guidelines prescribed by ODEW.

E. Cash

All cash received by the Academy is maintained in a demand deposit account. The Academy did not have any investments during fiscal year 2024.

F. Capital Assets and Depreciation/Amortization

Capital assets are capitalized at cost and updated for additions and retirements during the year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their acquisition values as of the dates received. The Academy maintains a capitalization threshold of five thousand dollars. The Academy does not possess any infrastructure. Improvements are capitalized. The cost of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend an asset's life are not capitalized.

Property, plant and equipment is depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives. Improvements to capital assets are depreciated over the remaining useful life of the related capital assets.

<u>Assets</u>	<u>Years</u>
Furniture and equipment	5
Computer & copier equipment	3
Intangible right to use - leased equipment	5

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

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
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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)

G. Intergovernmental Revenues

The Academy currently participates in the State Foundation, Student Wellness and Success, Special Education, Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid, English Learners Funding, Equity Supplement, and Facilities Programs. Revenue received from these programs is recognized as operating revenues. Amounts awarded under these programs for the 2024 school year totaled \$7,589,287.

Grants and entitlements are recognized as non-operating revenues in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the Academy must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Academy on a reimbursement basis. Amounts recognized under the above programs for the 2024 fiscal year totaled \$3,924,473.

H. Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligation

All payables and other accrued liabilities are reported on the statement of net position. Accrued liabilities include accounts payable (e.g. amounts due to Imagine Schools Inc. as further described in Note 11.B., sponsor fees, and legal fees) and intergovernmental payables (e.g. amounts due to the School Employees Retirement System (SERS) and the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)). Long-term obligations are detailed in Note 7 and include lease payable, net pension liability, and net OPEB liability. Net pension/OPEB liability should be recognized in the governmental funds to the extent that benefit payments are due and payable and the pension/OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is not sufficient for payment of those benefits.

I. Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets plus deferred outflows of resources and liabilities plus deferred inflows of resources. The net position component "net investment in capital assets," consists of capital assets, net of accumulated amortization, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing or liabilities 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 Academy or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments.

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

J. Operating Revenues and Expenses

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

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

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

L. Estimates

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

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

Change in Accounting Principles

For fiscal year 2024, the Academy 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 Academy.

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 Academy.

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 Academy.

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 Academy.

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of bank failure, the Academy's deposits may not be returned. The Academy does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. At June 30, 2024, the carrying amount of the Academy's deposits was \$400,075 and the bank balance was \$432,563. \$250,000 of the bank balance was covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and \$182,563 of the bank balance was exposed to custodial credit risk. There are no significant statutory restrictions regarding the deposit and investment of funds by the non-profit corporation.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of bank failure, the Academy's deposits may not be returned. The Academy has no deposit policy for custodial risk.

NOTE 5 - RECEIVABLES

Receivables at June 30, 2024, consisted of intergovernmental receivables (e.g. grants and entitlements and amounts due from ODEW) and accounts receivable from Imagine Schools, Inc. All receivables are considered collectible in full.

NOTE 6 - CAPITAL ASSETS

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

	Balance July 1, 2023	Additions	Disposals	Balance June 30, 2024
Capital assets, being depreciated/amortized				
Equipment	\$ 30,076	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,076
Intangible right to use:				
Leased building	<u>712,114</u>	<u>199,996</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>912,110</u>
Total capital assets, being depreciated/amortized	<u>742,190</u>	<u>199,996</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>942,186</u>
<i>Less: accumulated depreciation/amortization:</i>				
Equipment	(30,076)	-	-	(30,076)
Intangible right to use:				
Leased building	<u>(449,756)</u>	<u>(224,878)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(674,634)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation/amortization	<u>(479,832)</u>	<u>(224,878)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(704,710)</u>
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 262,358</u>	<u>\$ (24,882)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 237,476</u>

NOTE 7 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

The Academy's long-term obligations activity during fiscal year 2024 consisted of the following.

	Balance July 1, 2023	Additions	Reductions	Balance June 30, 2024	Amounts Due in One Year
Lease payable	\$ 278,864	\$ 199,996	\$ (237,651)	\$ 241,209	\$ 241,209
Net pension liability:					
STRS	<u>5,216,964</u>	<u>609,391</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,826,355</u>	<u>-</u>
SERS	<u>1,237,896</u>	<u>125,285</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,363,181</u>	<u>-</u>
Total net pension liability	<u>6,454,860</u>	<u>734,676</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,189,536</u>	<u>-</u>
Net OPEB liability:					
SERS	<u>302,167</u>	<u>87,123</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>389,290</u>	<u>-</u>
Total long-term obligations	<u>\$ 7,035,891</u>	<u>\$ 1,021,795</u>	<u>\$ (237,651)</u>	<u>\$ 7,820,035</u>	<u>\$ 241,209</u>

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 7 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

Lease Payable

In a prior fiscal year, the Academy entered into a lease agreement for the right to use building for classroom space. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 87, the Academy has reported a capital asset for intangible right to use, leased building and a corresponding liability for the future scheduled payments under the lease agreement.

On September 1, 2006, the Academy entered into an agreement to sublease the facilities at Great Western Shopping Center from SchoolHouse Finance, LLC. The term of the lease commenced September 1, 2006 through August 31, 2016. Effective July 1, 2008, an amendment was made to the sublease agreement to increase the base rent to reflect the cost of improvements made by SchoolHouse Finance, LLC to the premises. On September 8, 2014, the Academy entered into a second amendment to extend the sublease with SchoolHouse Finance, LLC. The term of the sublease was extended upon the same terms and conditions expire on August 31, 2024. The annual minimum rent for the lease years September 1, 2016 through August 28, 2018 shall be \$575,720, and the annual minimum rent for the lease years September 1, 2018 through August 31, 2024 shall be \$249,401. In April 2024, the Academy entered into a third amendment to extend the lease for an additional ten months from September 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The monthly base rent under the extended lease term is \$22,862 and is payable in monthly installments.

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

Fiscal Year	Lease Payable		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$ 241,209	\$ 28,622	\$ 269,831

Net Pension Liability: See Note 8 for information on the Academy's net pension liability.

Net OPEB Liability: See Note 9 for information on the Academy's net OPEB liability.

NOTE 8 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

The Academy has contracted with Imagine Schools, Inc. (see Note 11.B) to provide employee services and to pay those employees. However, these contract services do not relieve the Academy of the obligation for remitting pension contributions. The retirement systems consider the Academy as the Employer-of-Record and the Academy ultimately responsible for remitting retirement contributions to the systems noted below.

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.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 8 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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

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

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

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 intergovernmental payable.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description - The Academy'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.

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.

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

NOTE 8 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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 Academy 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 Academy's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$146,131 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.

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.

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

NOTE 8 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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.

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 Academy's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$555,711 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount, \$46,790 is reported as intergovernmental payable.

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

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

NOTE 8 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the net pension liability prior measurement date	0.02288680%	0.02346799%	
Proportion of the net pension liability current measurement date	<u>0.02467070%</u>	<u>0.02705536%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>0.00178390%</u>	<u>0.00358737%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 1,363,181	\$ 5,826,355	\$ 7,189,536
Pension expense	\$ 97,568	\$ 609,311	\$ 706,879

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred outflows of resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 58,594	\$ 212,418	\$ 271,012
Changes of assumptions	9,657	479,832	489,489
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	72,861	729,357	802,218
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>146,131</u>	<u>555,711</u>	<u>701,842</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 287,243</u>	<u>\$ 1,977,318</u>	<u>\$ 2,264,561</u>
	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred inflows of resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ 12,927	\$ 12,927
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	19,160	17,460	36,620
Changes of assumptions	-	361,175	361,175
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	<u>40,059</u>	<u>107,258</u>	<u>147,317</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>\$ 59,219</u>	<u>\$ 498,820</u>	<u>\$ 558,039</u>

\$701,842 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

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

NOTE 8 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ (2,235)	\$ 88,675	\$ 86,440
2026	(24,200)	(25,957)	(50,157)
2027	107,310	735,015	842,325
2028	<u>1,018</u>	<u>125,054</u>	<u>126,072</u>
Total	<u>\$ 81,893</u>	<u>\$ 922,787</u>	<u>\$ 1,004,680</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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**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 8 - 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.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 8 - 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 Academy'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
Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 2,011,989	\$ 1,363,181	\$ 816,688

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**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 8 - 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	<hr/> <hr/> 100.00 %	

* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 8 - 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 Academy'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:

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 8,959,644	\$ 5,826,355	\$ 3,176,449

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 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

The Academy has contracted with Imagine Schools, Inc. (see Note 11.B) to provide employee services and to pay those employees. However, these contract services do not relieve the Academy of the obligation for remitting OPEB contributions. The retirement systems consider the Academy as the Employer-of-Record and the Academy ultimately responsible for remitting retirement contributions to the systems noted below.

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

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

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**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

Access to health care for retirees and beneficiaries is permitted in accordance with Section 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Health Care Fund was established and is administered in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 105(e). SERS' Retirement Board reserves 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 Academy's surcharge obligation was \$4,574.

The surcharge added to the allocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The Academy's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$4,574 for fiscal year 2024 AND is reported in intergovernmental 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.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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 Academy's proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset was based on the Academy's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset prior measurement date	0.02152170%	0.02346799%	
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset current measurement date	<u>0.02362990%</u>	<u>0.02705536%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>0.00210820%</u>	<u>0.00358737%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 389,290	\$ -	\$ 389,290
Proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ -	\$ (526,189)	\$ (526,189)
OPEB expense	\$ (55,325)	\$ (9,680)	\$ (65,005)

At June 30, 2024, the Academy 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	\$ 811	\$ 820	\$ 1,631
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	3,017	938	3,955
Changes of assumptions	131,630	77,515	209,145
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	51,803	6,005	57,808
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>4,574</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,574</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 191,835</u>	<u>\$ 85,278</u>	<u>\$ 277,113</u>

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deferred inflows of resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 200,770	\$ 80,256	\$ 281,026
Changes of assumptions	110,565	347,169	457,734
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	<u>74,567</u>	<u>13,718</u>	<u>88,285</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u><u>\$ 385,902</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 441,143</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 827,045</u></u>

\$4,574 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from Academy 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.

Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2025	\$ (69,545)	\$ (150,608)	\$ (220,153)
2026	(60,091)	(73,258)	(133,349)
2027	(40,574)	(28,995)	(69,569)
2028	(25,579)	(38,518)	(64,097)
2029	(14,869)	(35,361)	(50,230)
Thereafter	<u>12,017</u>	<u>(29,125)</u>	<u>(17,108)</u>
Total	<u>\$ (198,641)</u>	<u>\$ (355,865)</u>	<u>\$ (554,506)</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.

GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

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

NOTE 9 - 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:

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.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 9 - 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	<u>100.00 %</u>	

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.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Sensitivity of the Academy'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%).

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 497,624	\$ 389,290	\$ 303,864
	Current		
	1% Decrease	Trend Rate	1% Increase
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 285,998	\$ 389,290	\$ 526,166

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	Ultimate
Medical				
Pre-Medicare	7.50%	4.14%	7.50%	3.94%
Medicare	-10.94%	4.14%	-68.78%	3.94%
Prescription Drug				
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.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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.

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.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 9 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Sensitivity of the Academy'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.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 445,350	\$ 526,189	\$ 596,592
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 599,858	\$ 526,189	\$ 437,456

NOTE 10 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Academy is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During fiscal year 2024, the Academy maintained the following coverage with Argonaut Insurance Co.

<u>Coverage</u>	<u>Limits of Coverage</u>
General Liability:	
Each occurrence	\$ 1,000,000
General aggregate	3,000,000
Products	3,000,000
Personal & advertising injury	1,000,000
Damages to rented premises	500,000
Automobile Liability:	
Combined single limit	1,000,000
Workers Compensation and Employers' Liability:	
Each accident	1,000,000
Each employee	1,000,000
Each disease	1,000,000
Excess/Umbrella Liability:	
Each occurrence	9,000,000
Aggregate limit	9,000,000
Property Liability:	
Blanket contents	3,901,035

Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years. There has been no significant reduction in coverage from the prior year.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 11 - CONTRACTS

A. Sponsor Contract

On May 21, 2012, the Academy signed into a contract with Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (the Sponsor), to operate for the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2015. The contract with the Sponsor was renewed for an additional five-year period commencing July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020. On June 19, 2020, the contract with the Sponsor was renewed for an additional five-year period commencing July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2025.

The Sponsor shall carry out the responsibilities established by law, including:

- Monitor the Academy's compliance with the laws applicable to the Academy and with the terms of this contract;
- Monitor and evaluate the academic and fiscal performance and the organization of the Academy on at least an annual basis;
- Report annually the results of its evaluation to ODEW;
- Provide reasonable technical assistance to the Academy in complying with this contract and with applicable laws (provided, however, the Sponsor shall not be obligated to give legal advice to the Academy);
- Take steps to intervene as deemed necessary in the Academy's operation to correct problems with overall performance (including but not limited to exercising its right to place the Academy on probation under Ohio Revised Code Section 3314.073, or to non-renew, suspend, or terminate the Academy under Ohio Revised Code Section 3314.07 or 3314.072);
- Prepare and assist with contingency plans in the event the Academy experiences financial difficulties or losses before the end of the school year;
- Provide in writing annual assurances to ODEW no less than ten business days prior to the first day of school under Ohio Revised Code Section 3314.19;
- Adhere to and comply with this contract with ODEW even if those provisions affect the Academy, and the Academy consents to such obligations of the Sponsor;
- Acknowledge the obligations in ODEW's closing guidance and consent to the authority to carry out those obligations if needed.

The Academy paid the Sponsor \$226,261 for services during fiscal year 2024. At June 30, 2024, \$70 in accounts payable due to the Sponsor has been reported in accordance with the sponsorship contract.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 11 - CONTRACTS - (Continued)

B. Management Contract

The Academy entered into a management contract with Imagine Schools, Inc. for management consulting services. Imagine Schools, Inc. is required to provide the following services:

- Personnel & human resources administration
- Program of instruction
- Purchasing & contracts
- Budgeting, financial reporting and audit preparation
- Compliance issues
- Curriculum research and development
- Marketing and publicity
- Equipment and facilities
- Grant preparation and management

For the services listed above, the Academy is required to pay a fee to Imagine Schools, Inc. The fee is equal to approximately 95 percent of the total per pupil allowance received from the State of Ohio and 100 percent of State and/or Federal grant funds received by the Academy for the creation and operation of its school. In the event that the year end reconciliation results in a difference between the total amount paid and the agreed fee, with a balance owed, the Imagine Schools, Inc. has the right to suspend collection until such time as the Academy determines that cash flow permits such payment. The total expenses paid under this contract for fiscal year 2024 totaled \$11,360,739.

At June 30, 2024, the Academy reported accounts payable to Imagine Schools, Inc. in the amount of \$1,625,027. This payable consists of intergovernmental receivables (grants) to be transferred to Imagine Schools, Inc. to cover expenses incurred by Imagine Schools, Inc. on the School's behalf, in accordance with the operating contract.

At June 30, 2024, the Academy had accounts receivable of \$51,364 from Imagine Schools, Inc. to cover the intergovernmental payables related to the STRS/SERS liabilities, in accordance with the operating contract.

C. Service Contract

The Academy entered into a service contract for a period of twelve months, commencing on July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2024, with Charter School Specialists, LLC (CSS) to provide fiscal services. The Academy paid CSS \$32,097 during fiscal year 2024 for services.

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**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 12 - MANAGEMENT COMPANY EXPENSES

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, Imagine Schools, Inc. and its affiliates incurred the following expenses (reported on cash-basis) on behalf of the Academy:

Expenses (Object Code)	Regular Instruction (1100 Function) Codes)	Special Instruction (1200 Function) Codes)	Other Instruction (1400 & 1900 Function) Codes)	Support Services (2000 Function) Codes)	Non-Instructional* (3000 - 7000 Function) Codes)	Total
<i>Direct expenses:</i>						
Salaries and wages (100)	\$ 2,337,973	\$ 552,210	\$ -	\$ 2,093,396	\$ -	\$ 4,983,579
Employees' benefits (200)	924,645	86,706	-	560,544	-	1,571,895
Professional & technical services (410)	92,327	16,489	220,670	751,101	383,862	1,464,449
Property services (420)	-	-	-	232,699	-	232,699
Travel (430)	-	-	-	5,519	-	5,519
Communications (440)	-	-	-	147,307	-	147,307
Utilities (450)	-	-	-	102,948	-	102,948
Contracted craft or trade services (460)	-	-	-	1,486	431,667	433,153
Transportation (480)	1,266	-	-	1,712	-	2,978
Supplies (500)	515,029	15,486	-	213,696	72,490	816,701
Equipment (640, 644 & 645)	-	-	-	16,854	-	16,854
Other direct costs (all other object codes)	549	-	455,052	469,328	800	925,729
Total direct expenses	\$ 3,871,789	\$ 670,891	\$ 675,722	\$ 4,596,590	\$ 888,819	\$ 10,703,811

*Amounts reported in non-instructional include lease payments made to Schoolhouse Finance, LLC.

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

NOTE 13 - CONTINGENCIES

A. Grants

The Academy 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. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material adverse effect on the overall financial position of the Academy at June 30, 2024.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 13 - CONTINGENCIES - (Continued)

B. Litigation

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

C. Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Enrollment Review

Foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. However, there is an important nexus between attendance and enrollment for Foundation funding purposes. Community schools must provide documentation that clearly demonstrates students have participated in learning opportunities. ODEW is legislatively required to adjust/reconcile funding as enrollment information is updated by schools throughout the State, which can extend past the fiscal year end.

Under Ohio Rev. Code Section 3314.08, ODEW may also perform a FTE review for the fiscal year that may result in an additional adjustment to the enrollment information as well as claw backs of Foundation funding due to a lack of evidence to support student participation and other matters of noncompliance.

As a result of the fiscal year 2024 reviews, the Academy is due \$2,381 from ODEW. This amount has been recorded as an intergovernmental receivable at June 30, 2024.

NOTE 14 - TAX EXEMPT STATUS

The Academy was approved under §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a tax exempt organization on December 7, 1999. Management is not aware of any course of action or series of events that might adversely affect the Academy's tax exempt status.

NOTE 15 - MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Academy had an increase of \$364,364 in net position during fiscal year 2024 and deficit net position of \$5,506,732 at June 30, 2024. The deficit net position is primarily due to the net pension liability of \$7,189,536, net OPEB liability of \$389,290, deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to the net pension liability and net OPEB liability/asset of \$2,541,674 and \$1,385,084, respectively, and the lease payable exceeding the right to use intangible capital assets-leased building by \$3,733, at June 30, 2024. The net pension liability, net OPEB liability and related deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources are required to be reported in accordance with GASB Statements No. 68 and 71, as described in Note 8 and GASB Statement No. 75, as described in Note 9. Management intends to continue to increase Academy enrollment and improve operating efficiencies.

NOTE 16 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Imagine Schools, Inc. and Schoolhouse Finance, LLC are both subsidiaries of Imagine Schools Non-Profit, Inc.

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

Fiscal Year (1)	Academy's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	Academy's Covered Payroll	Academy'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	0.02467070%	\$ 1,363,181	\$ 1,011,071	134.83%	76.06%
2023	0.02288680%	1,237,896	928,286	133.35%	75.82%
2022	0.02525160%	931,711	802,079	116.16%	82.86%
2021	0.02630170%	1,739,650	873,764	199.10%	68.55%
2020	0.02537020%	1,517,944	988,200	153.61%	70.85%
2019	0.02441720%	1,398,418	798,237	175.19%	71.36%
2018	0.02517270%	1,504,013	831,543	180.87%	69.50%
2017	0.02197760%	1,608,558	682,543	235.67%	62.98%
2016	0.02146020%	1,224,540	646,062	189.54%	69.16%
2015	0.02375700%	1,202,328	690,332	174.17%	71.70%

Fiscal Year	Contractually Required Contributions	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Academy's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$ 146,131	\$ (146,131)	\$ -	\$ 1,043,793	14.00%
2023	141,550	(141,550)	-	1,011,071	14.00%
2022	129,960	(129,960)	-	928,286	14.00%
2021	112,291	(112,291)	-	802,079	14.00%
2020	122,327	(122,327)	-	873,764	14.00%
2019	133,407	(133,407)	-	988,200	13.50%
2018	107,762	(107,762)	-	798,237	13.50%
2017	116,416	(116,416)	-	831,543	14.00%
2016	95,556	(95,556)	-	682,543	14.00%
2015	85,151	(85,151)	-	646,062	13.18%

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

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

Fiscal Year (1)	Academy's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	Academy's Covered Payroll	Academy'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	0.02705536%	\$ 5,826,355	\$ 4,130,357	141.06%	80.02%
2023	0.02346799%	5,216,964	2,997,757	174.03%	78.88%
2022	0.02225386%	2,845,356	2,733,071	104.11%	87.78%
2021	0.02305420%	5,578,296	2,678,286	208.28%	75.48%
2020	0.02364934%	5,229,909	2,755,421	189.80%	77.40%
2019	0.02405146%	5,288,376	2,664,143	198.50%	77.31%
2018	0.02304045%	5,473,308	2,533,014	216.08%	75.30%
2017	0.02031175%	6,798,955	2,137,186	318.13%	66.80%
2016	0.02158007%	5,964,100	2,281,721	261.39%	72.10%
2015	0.02027923%	4,932,611	2,071,977	238.06%	74.70%

Fiscal Year	Contractually Required Contributions	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Academy's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$ 555,711	\$ (555,711)	\$ -	\$ 3,969,364	14.00%
2023	578,250	(578,250)	-	4,130,357	14.00%
2022	419,686	(419,686)	-	2,997,757	14.00%
2021	382,630	(382,630)	-	2,733,071	14.00%
2020	374,960	(374,960)	-	2,678,286	14.00%
2019	385,759	(385,759)	-	2,755,421	14.00%
2018	372,980	(372,980)	-	2,664,143	14.00%
2017	354,622	(354,622)	-	2,533,014	14.00%
2016	299,206	(299,206)	-	2,137,186	14.00%
2015	319,441	(319,441)	-	2,281,721	14.00%

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

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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

LAST EIGHT AND TEN FISCAL YEARS

Fiscal Year (1) (2)	Academy's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	Academy's Covered Payroll	Academy'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	0.02362990%	\$ 389,290	\$ 1,011,071	38.50%	30.02%
2023	0.02152170%	302,167	928,286	32.55%	30.34%
2022	0.02293050%	433,979	802,079	54.11%	24.08%
2021	0.02434770%	529,155	873,764	60.56%	18.17%
2020	0.02312820%	581,626	988,200	58.86%	15.57%
2019	0.02288430%	634,872	798,237	79.53%	13.57%
2018	0.02295060%	615,934	831,543	74.07%	12.46%
2017	0.02038535%	581,058	682,543	85.13%	11.49%

Fiscal Year	Contractually Required Contributions	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Academy's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$ 4,574	\$ (4,574)	\$ -	\$ 1,043,793	0.00%
2023	7,799	(7,799)	-	1,011,071	0.77%
2022	4,438	(4,438)	-	928,286	0.48%
2021	384	(384)	-	802,079	0.05%
2020	1,710	(1,710)	-	873,764	0.20%
2019	5,601	(5,601)	-	988,200	0.57%
2018	7,974	(7,974)	-	798,237	1.00%
2017	511	(511)	-	831,543	0.06%
2016	2,221	(2,221)	-	682,543	0.33%
2015	6,641	(6,641)	-	646,062	1.03%

(1) Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the Academy'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

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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

LAST EIGHT AND TEN FISCAL YEARS

Fiscal Year (1) (2)	Academy's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)		Academy's Covered Payroll	Academy'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)
		Academy's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)			
2024	0.02705536%	\$ (526,189)	\$ 4,130,457		12.74%	168.52%
2023	0.02346799%	(607,664)	2,997,757		20.27%	230.73%
2022	0.02225386%	(469,204)	2,733,071		17.17%	174.73%
2021	0.02305420%	(405,177)	2,678,286		15.13%	182.10%
2020	0.02364934%	(391,690)	2,755,421		14.22%	174.74%
2019	0.02405146%	(386,482)	2,664,143		14.51%	176.00%
2018	0.02304045%	898,953	2,533,014		35.49%	47.10%
2017	0.02031175%	1,086,278	2,137,186		50.83%	37.30%

Fiscal Year	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions		Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Academy's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	
	Contractually Required Contributions	Contractually Required Contributions				
2024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,969,364		0.00%
2023	-	-	-	4,130,357		0.00%
2022	-	-	-	2,997,757		0.00%
2021	-	-	-	2,733,071		0.00%
2020	-	-	-	2,678,286		0.00%
2019	-	-	-	2,755,421		0.00%
2018	-	-	-	2,664,143		0.00%
2017	-	-	-	2,533,014		0.00%
2016	-	-	-	2,137,186		0.00%
2015	-	-	-	2,281,721		0.00%

(1) Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the Academy'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

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN 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.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN 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.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN 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%.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN 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.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN 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.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Federal Grantor/ Pass-Through Grantor/ Program or Cluster Title	Assistance Listing Number	Federal Expenditures
<u>U.S. Department of Agriculture</u>		
<i>Passed through Ohio Department of Education</i>		
Child Nutrition Cluster:		
School Breakfast Program	10.553	\$ 153,063
National School Lunch Program	10.555	320,184
Total Child Nutrition Cluster		473,247
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		473,247
<u>U.S. Department of Education</u>		
<i>Passed through Ohio Department of Education</i>		
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	<u>488,985</u>
Special Education Cluster (IDEA)		
Special Education Grants to States	84.027	158,968
Special Education - Preschool Grants	84.173	3,426
Total Special Education Cluster (IDEA)		162,394
English Language Acquisition State Grants	84.365	<u>35,648</u>
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	<u>61,456</u>
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	<u>51,057</u>
Education Stabilization Fund -		
COVID 19 - ARP ESSER	84.425U	2,002,937
COVID 19 - ARP Homeless	84.425W	2,396
Total ALN #84.425		2,005,333
Total U.S. Department of Education		2,804,873
TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS		\$ 3,278,120

See accompanying notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**
NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE 1: BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of the Great Western Academy under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2024. The information in this Schedule is presented 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 Great Western Academy, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of Great Western Academy.

NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the cash basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.

NOTE 3: INDIRECT COST RATE

The Great Western Academy has elected not to use the 10 percent de minimis indirect cost rate allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE 4: CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

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

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

Great Western Academy
Franklin County
310 North Wilson Road
Columbus, Ohio 43204

To the Members of the 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 Great Western Academy, Franklin County, Ohio, (the Academy) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Academy's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated February 25, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

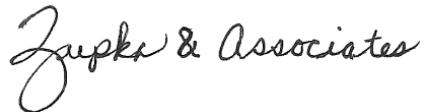
Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Academy's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Great Western Academy
Franklin 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
Page 2

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 Academy's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Academy's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Zupka & Associates
Certified Public Accountants

February 25, 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE

Great Western Academy
Franklin County
310 North Wilson Road
Columbus, Ohio 43204

To the Members of the Board:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Great Western Academy, Franklin County, Ohio's (the Academy) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the *OMB Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on the Academy's major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2024. The Academy's major federal program is identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

In our opinion, Great Western Academy complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on its major federal program for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We conducted an audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS); the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*); and the audit requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements 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 Great Western Academy, 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 Great Western Academy's 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 to Great Western Academy's federal programs.

Great Western Academy
Franklin County
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program
and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance
Page 2

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 Great Western Academy's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about Great Western Academy's compliance with the requirements of each major federal program as a whole.

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material noncompliance, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding Great Western Academy's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of Great Western Academy's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Great Western Academy's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

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

Great Western Academy
Franklin County
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program
and on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance
Page 3

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.

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.



Zupka & Associates
Certified Public Accountants

February 25, 2025

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
UNIFORM GUIDANCE
JUNE 30, 2024**

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

2024(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unmodified
2024(ii)	Were there any material control weaknesses reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
2024(ii)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
2024(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
2024(iv)	Were there any material internal control weaknesses reported for major federal programs?	No
2024(iv)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
2024(v)	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinions	Unmodified
2024(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR 200.516(a)?	No
2024(vii)	Major Programs (list): Education Stabilization Fund - COVID-19 - ARP ESSER - ALN #84.425U COVID-19 - ARP Homelesss - ALN #84.425W	
2024(viii)	Dollar Threshold: A/B Program	Type A: \$750,000 Type B: All Others
2024(ix)	Low Risk Auditee?	No

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

None.

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None.

**GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**
SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

The prior audit report, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, included no findings or management letter recommendations.

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



GREAT WESTERN ACADEMY

FRANKLIN 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 6/10/2025

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