



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2024**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center
Richland County
890 West 4th Street, Suite 100
Mansfield, Ohio 44906

To the Board of Governors:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center, Richland County, Ohio (the ESC), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the ESC's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the ESC, as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position thereof for the year then ended in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2.

Basis for Opinions

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

Emphasis of Matter - Accounting Basis

Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the ESC to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 2, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible 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 ESC's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

- exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the ESC'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 ESC'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.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted to opine on the financial statements as a whole that collectively comprise the ESC's basic financial statements.

The Schedule of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual (Budgetary Basis) presents additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements.

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the 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 to 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, these schedules are 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 June 9, 2025, on our consideration of the ESC's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the ESC'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 ESC's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



Tiffany L. Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

June 9, 2025

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**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

**STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - CASH BASIS
JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets:	
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 13,240,835</u>
Net position:	
Restricted for:	
State funded programs	10,970
Federally funded programs	34,555
Other purposes	37,125
Unrestricted	<u>13,158,185</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 13,240,835</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - CASH BASIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	Disbursements	Program Receipts		Net Receipts (Disbursements) and Changes in Net Position	
		Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	
Governmental activities:					
Instruction:					
Special	\$ 2,650,904	\$ 2,325,603	\$ 769,836	\$ 444,535	
Other	190,025	-	-	(190,025)	
Support services:					
Pupil	6,937,835	6,290,517	317,435	(329,883)	
Instructional staff	3,345,105	2,669,240	656,221	(19,644)	
Board of education	42,264	550	-	(41,714)	
Administration	1,550,298	1,481,059	-	(69,239)	
Fiscal	1,054,781	-	98,284	(956,497)	
Business	221,513	919	-	(220,594)	
Operations and maintenance	1,301,376	330,202	-	(971,174)	
Central	535,673	-	52,230	(483,443)	
Operation of non-instructional services:					
Other non-instructional services	127,642	-	125,626	(2,016)	
Extracurricular activities	1,792	13,800	1,757	13,765	
Totals	\$ 17,959,208	\$ 13,111,890	\$ 2,021,389	(2,825,929)	
General receipts:					
Grants and entitlements not restricted to specific programs				3,927,778	
Investment earnings				123,037	
Total general receipts				4,050,815	
Change in net position				1,224,886	
Net position at beginning of year				12,015,949	
Net position at end of year				\$ 13,240,835	

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND FUND CASH BALANCES - CASH BASIS
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2024**

	General	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:			
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	\$ 13,413,897	\$ (173,062)	<u>\$ 13,240,835</u>
Fund balances:			
Restricted:			
State funded programs	\$ -	\$ 10,970	\$ 10,970
Federally funded programs	-	34,555	34,555
Other purposes	-	37,125	37,125
Committed:			
Capital improvements	102,775	-	102,775
Technology maintenance	26,100	-	26,100
Assigned:			
Services provided to districts	451,262	-	451,262
Preschool programs	201,191	-	201,191
After school programs	7,250,635	-	7,250,635
Special education programs	145,068	-	145,068
Other purposes	616,549	-	616,549
Unassigned (deficit)	4,620,317	(255,712)	<u>4,364,605</u>
Total fund balances	<u>\$ 13,413,897</u>	<u>\$ (173,062)</u>	<u>\$ 13,240,835</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

**STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - CASH BASIS
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	General	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receipts:			
Intergovernmental	\$ 4,335,280	\$ 1,608,697	\$ 5,943,977
Investment earnings	123,037	-	123,037
Tuition and fees	7,991,945	-	7,991,945
Extracurricular	13,800	1,500	15,300
Rental income	349,157	-	349,157
Charges for services	4,696,587	-	4,696,587
Contributions and donations	550	5,190	5,740
Miscellaneous	58,351	-	58,351
Total receipts	<u>17,568,707</u>	<u>1,615,387</u>	<u>19,184,094</u>
Disbursements:			
Current:			
Instruction:			
Special	2,238,236	412,668	2,650,904
Other	190,025	-	190,025
Support services:			
Pupil	6,584,595	353,240	6,937,835
Instructional staff	2,667,541	677,564	3,345,105
Board of education	42,264	-	42,264
Administration	1,550,298	-	1,550,298
Fiscal	948,771	106,010	1,054,781
Business	219,932	1,581	221,513
Operations and maintenance	1,301,376	-	1,301,376
Central	475,024	60,649	535,673
Operation of non-instructional services			
Other non-instructional services	-	127,642	127,642
Extracurricular activities	-	1,792	1,792
Total disbursements	<u>16,218,062</u>	<u>1,741,146</u>	<u>17,959,208</u>
Net change in fund balances	1,350,645	(125,759)	1,224,886
Fund balances (deficit) at beginning of year	12,063,252	(47,303)	12,015,949
Fund balances (deficit) at end of year	\$ 13,413,897	\$ (173,062)	\$ 13,240,835

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

**STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - CASH BASIS
FIDUCIARY FUND
JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>Custodial</u>
Assets:	
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ (216,432)</u>
Net position:	
Restricted for individuals, organizations and other government:	<u>\$ (216,432)</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION - CASH BASIS
FIDUCIARY FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

	<u>Custodial</u>
Additions:	
Amounts received as fiscal agent	\$ 587,887
Deductions:	
Distributions as fiscal agent	<u>849,463</u>
Change in net position	(261,576)
Net position at beginning of year	<u>45,144</u>
Net position (deficit) at end of year	<u>\$ (216,432)</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE ENTITY

The Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center (the "ESC") is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio. The ESC was formed from the consolidation of the former Crawford County, Morrow County, and Richland County Educational Service Centers on July 1, 1996. Educational Service Centers were formed as a result of Senate Bill 9 as amended by Am. Sub. H.B. 117.

The ESC maintains its central office in Richland County. The Governing Board consists of seven members elected by the voters of each county. This Governing Board acts as the authorizing body for disbursements, policy and procedures, and approves all financial activities. The ESC is staffed by 58 non-certified employees, 133 certified employees, and 14 administrators to provide services to approximately 18,595 students throughout Crawford, Morrow, and Richland Counties. The ESC is also a sponsor for GOAL Digital Academy and the Tomorrow Center.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As discussed further in Note 2.B., these financial statements are presented on the cash basis of accounting. The cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). GAAP includes all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements. In cases where these cash basis statements contain items that are the same as, or similar to, those items in financial statements prepared in conformity with GAAP, similar informative disclosures are provided.

A. Reporting Entity

The reporting entity has been defined in accordance with GASB Statement No. 14, "The Financial Reporting Entity" as amended by GASB Statement No. 39, "Determining Whether Certain Organizations Are Component Units" and GASB Statement No. 61, "The Financial Reporting Entity: Omnibus an amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 34". The reporting entity is composed of the primary government and component units. The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards and agencies that are not legally separate from the ESC. For the ESC, this includes general operations and student related activities of the ESC.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the ESC is financially accountable. The ESC is financially accountable for an organization if the ESC appoints a voting majority of the organization's Governing Board and (1) the ESC is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the ESC is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; or (3) the ESC is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or (4) the ESC is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the ESC in that the ESC approves the budget, the issuance of debt or the levying of taxes. Certain organizations are also included as component units if the nature and significance of the relationship between the primary government and the organization is such that exclusion by the primary government would render the primary government's financial statements incomplete or misleading. Based upon the application of these criteria, the ESC has no component units. The basic financial statements of the reporting entity include only those of the ESC (the primary government).

The ESC is fiscal agent for the Business Advisory Council (the "Council") and the Succeed & Prosper through Education-Ashland, Richland, Morrow and Crawford Counties ("SPARC"). The ESC is responsible for receiving and disbursing funds at the direction of the Council and SPARC. These entities are legally separate from the ESC. The ESC is the fiscal agent and custodian for the Council and SPARC, but is not accountable. The operations of SPARC have been included as a custodial fund in the ESC's cash basis basic financial statements. The funds invested on behalf of SPARC have been included in the cash basis basic financial statements as "equity in pooled cash and cash investments."

**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

The following organizations are discussed due to their relationship to the ESC:

JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

Heartland Council of Governments/Northeast Ohio Network for Educational Technology (the “COG”)

The COG is a jointly governed organization among 15 school districts, 1 educational service center and a career center. The COG was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with computers and other electronic technology to aid administrative and instructional functions. Each member district supports the COG based on a per pupil charge, dependent upon the software package utilized. The COG is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of superintendents of the member school districts. The degree of control exercised by any school district is limited to its representation on the Board. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 14, the ESC does not have any equity interest in the COG. Financial information can be obtained from Linda Schumacher, Treasurer of the Pioneer Career and Technology Center, who serves as fiscal agent, at 27 Ryan Road, Shelby, Ohio 44875-0309.

Ohio Business Advisory Councils

Under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 3313.174 and ORC 3313.82, all school districts and educational service centers (ESC's) are required to appoint a Business Advisory Council (BAC). An ESC's BAC may also serve as the BAC for any school district that has entered into a service agreement with an ESC under ORC 3313.843 or 3313.845 “if the school district and the educational service center agree that the educational service center's council will represent the business of the district.”

BAC's must advise and provide recommendations to the ESC governing board on all matters specified by the ESC governing board including but not limited to:

- the delineation of employment skills and the development of curriculum to instill these skills;
- changes in the economy and in the job market, and the types of employment in which future jobs are most likely to be available;
- and suggestions for developing a working relationship among businesses, labor organizations, and educational personnel.

The purpose of the BAC is to foster cooperation among schools, businesses, and the communities they serve. This work of educators aligns with the needs of businesses. This cooperation can make a local education system more aware of the local labor market, promote work-based experiences within businesses, and help students prepare for successful learning and employment opportunities.

The BAC membership will reflect area businesses, including large and small employers, community service organizations, higher education leaders, government agencies, K-12 educational leaders, and labor organization representatives.

The Superintendent of the ESC will facilitate two-way communication between schools and business, industry, and community service organizations. The BAC will develop a written plan that will be updated annually. The plan will be filed with the Ohio Department of Education. The BAC shall meet at least quarterly and shall file a joint statement no later than March 1 each school year describing how the ESC and its business advisory council has fulfilled required responsibilities pursuant to section 3313.82 of the Revised Code.

The ESC has no financial interest or financial responsibility to the BAC.

**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

Pioneer Career and Technology Center

The Pioneer Career and Technology Center (the “Center”), is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio, operated under the direction of an eleven-member Board of Education, which consists of one representative from each of the participating school district’s elected board. The Center possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. Financial information is available from Gavyn Bazley, Treasurer of the Pioneer Career and Technology Center at 27 Ryan Road, Shelby, Ohio 44875. The ESC has no ongoing financial interest or financial responsibility to the Center.

Tri-Rivers Career Center

The Tri-Rivers Career Center (the “Center”) is a political subdivision of the State of Ohio. The Center is operated under the direction of a thirteen-member Board of Education, which consists of one representative from each of the participating school districts’ elected boards. The Center possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. Financial information is available from Tammi Cowell, Treasurer of the Tri-Rivers Career Center, at 2222 Marion/Mt. Gilead Road, Marion, Ohio 43302. The ESC has no ongoing financial interest or financial responsibility to the Center.

PUBLIC ENTITY RISK POOLS

Risk Sharing Pool

The Stark County Schools Council of Governments Health Benefit Plan is a shared risk pool created pursuant to State statute for the purpose of administering health care benefits. The consortium is governed by an assembly which consists of one representative from each participating school district (usually the superintendent or designee). The assembly elects officers for one year terms to serve on the Board of Directors. The assembly exercises control over the operation of the Consortium. All Consortium revenues are generated from charges for services. See Note 6.B. for further information.

Ohio School Boards Association Workers’ Compensation Group Rating Plan

The ESC participates in the Ohio School Boards Association Workers’ Compensation Group Rating Plan (the “Plan”), an insurance purchasing pool. The Plan was established under Section 4123.29 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Plan’s business and affairs are conducted by a three-member Board of directors consisting of the President, the President-Elect and the Immediate Past President of the OSBA. The Executive Director of the OSBA, or his designee, serves as coordinator of the program. Each year, the participating school districts pay an enrollment fee to the Plan to cover the costs of administering the program. See Note 6.C. for further information pertaining to this insurance purchasing pool.

Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority

The ESC participates in the Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority Board (SORSA), an insurance purchasing pool. SORSA’s business affairs are conducted by a nine-member Board of directors consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and five delegates. SORSA was created to provide joint self-insurance coverage and to assist members to prevent and reduce losses and injuries to the ESC’s property and person. It is intended to provide liability and property insurance at reduced premiums for the participants. SORSA is organized as a nonprofit corporation under provisions of Ohio Revised Code 2744. See Note 6.A. for further information.

B. Basis of Accounting

Although required by Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with GAAP, the ESC chooses to prepare its financial statements and notes on the cash basis of accounting. The cash basis of accounting is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than GAAP. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in the preceding paragraph.

C. Fund Accounting

The ESC uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. There are three categories of funds: governmental, proprietary and fiduciary. The ESC does not have proprietary funds.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

The ESC classifies funds financed primarily from intergovernmental receipts (e.g. grants) and other non-exchange transactions as governmental funds. The following is the ESC's major governmental fund:

General fund - The general fund is used to account for and report all financial resources not accounted for and reported in another fund. The general fund balance is available for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Other governmental funds of the ESC are used to account for:

Nonmajor special revenue funds - Special revenue funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects.

FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position - cash basis and changes in net position - cash basis. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private-purpose trust funds and custodial funds. Trust funds are used to account for assets held by the ESC under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments and are therefore not available to support the ESC's own programs. The ESC has no trust funds. Custodial funds account for monies held on behalf of others that do not meet the definition of a trust fund. The ESC's custodial fund accounts for various resources held as fiscal agent for other organizations and individuals, including Succeed & Prosper through Education - Ashland, Richland, Morrow and Crawford Counties ("SPARC").

D. Basis of Presentation

Government-Wide Financial Statements - The statement of net position - cash basis and the statement of activities - cash basis display information about the ESC as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds.

The government-wide statement of activities - cash basis compares disbursements with program receipts for each function or program of the ESC's governmental activities. These disbursements are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and are therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Receipts which are not classified as program receipts are presented as general receipts of the ESC. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each business segment or governmental function is self-financing on the cash basis or draws from the general receipts of the ESC.

**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

Fund Financial Statements - Fund financial statements report detailed information about the ESC. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type. Each major fund is presented in a separate column, and all nonmajor funds are aggregated into one column. Fiduciary funds are reported by fund type.

E. Budgets

Educational service centers do not have the authority to adopt annual legally-adopted appropriation budgets. However, the ESC has chosen to adopt an appropriation resolution for internal control purposes. Therefore, even though a statement or schedule of budgetary results is not required to be presented, the ESC has chosen to present a budgetary schedule as supplementary information.

F. Cash and Investments

To improve cash management, cash received by the ESC is pooled. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through the ESC's records. Each fund's interest in the pool is presented as "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents" on the cash basis basic financial statements.

During fiscal year 2024, investments were limited to State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio ("STAR Ohio"), negotiable certificates of deposit, U.S. Government money market accounts, and federal agency securities. Investments are reported at cost.

STAR Ohio is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Statement No. 79, "Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants." The ESC measures their investment in STAR Ohio at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

There were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, 24 hours notice in advance of all deposits and withdrawals exceeding \$100 million is encouraged. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$250 million, requiring the excess amount to be transacted the following business day(s), but only to the \$250 million limit. All accounts of the participant will be combined for these purposes.

Under existing Ohio statutes all investment earnings are assigned to the general fund unless statutorily required to be credited to a specific fund or by policy of the Governing Board. Interest revenue credited to the general fund during fiscal year 2024 amounted to \$123,037, which does not include any amounts assigned from other funds.

For presentation on the cash basis basic financial statements, investments of the cash management pool and investments with original maturities of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the ESC are considered to be cash equivalents. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months are reported as investments.

G. Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment purchased are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements under the cash basis of accounting. Depreciation has not been reported for any capital assets.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES - (Continued)

H. Unpaid Vacation and Sick Leave

Employees are entitled to cash payments for unused vacation and sick leave in certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment. Unpaid vacation and sick leave are not reflected as liabilities under the cash basis of accounting.

I. Long-Term Obligations

The ESC's cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for long-term obligations. Since recording a capital asset (including the intangible right to use) when entering into a lease, financed purchase transaction or SBITA is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay disbursement is reported at inception. Lease and SBITA payments and financed purchase payments are reported when paid.

J. Leases

The ESC is the lessee in various leases related to equipment under noncancelable leases. Lease payables are not reflected under the ESC's cash basis of accounting. Lease disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

K. Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs)

The ESC has Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs) under noncancelable arrangements. SBITA payables are not reflected under the ESC's cash basis of accounting. SBITA disbursements are recognized when they are received/paid.

L. Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the ESC is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable - The nonspendable fund balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally required to be maintained intact.

Restricted - Fund balance is reported as restricted when constraints are placed on the use of resources that are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments, or imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation.

Committed - The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the ESC Board of Governors (the highest level of decision-making authority). Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the ESC Board of Governors removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

Assigned - Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the ESC for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted nor committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the ESC Board of Governors, which includes giving the Treasurer the authority to constrain monies for intended purposes.

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

Unassigned - Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is only used to report a deficit fund balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

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

M. Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when enabling legislation or creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments have imposed limitations on its use. The ESC applies restricted resources first when a disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available. As of June 30, 2024, there was no net position restricted by enabling legislation.

N. Interfund Activity

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

O. Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB liability and net OPEB asset, 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.

P. Extraordinary and Special Items

Extraordinary items are transactions or events that are both unusual in nature and infrequent in occurrence. Special items are transactions or events that are within the control of the Governing Board and that are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence. Neither type of transaction occurred during fiscal year 2024.

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

A. Change in Accounting Principles

For fiscal year 2024, the ESC has implemented certain paragraphs of 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 the financial statements of the ESC.

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NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE - (Continued)

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 ESC.

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 ESC.

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 ESC.

B. Compliance

Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(B) requires the ESC to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. However, the ESC prepared its basic financial statements on a cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The accompanying basic financial statements omit assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, net position/fund balances, and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time. The ESC can be fined and various other administrative remedies may be taken against the ESC.

C. Deficit Fund Balances

Fund balances at June 30, 2024 included the following individual fund deficits:

<u>Nonmajor governmental funds</u>	<u>Deficit</u>
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER)	\$ 93,789
21st Century	153,819
Miscellaneous Federal Grants	8,104
<u>Custodial fund</u>	
District agency	216,432

The deficit fund balances resulted from a lag between disbursements made by the ESC and reimbursements from grantors and are allowable under Ohio Revised Code Section 3315.20.

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

State statutes classify monies held by the ESC into three categories.

Active deposits are public deposits necessary to meet current demands on the treasury. Such monies must be maintained either as cash in the ESC treasury, in commercial accounts payable or withdrawable on demand, including negotiable order of withdrawal (NOW) accounts, or in money market deposit accounts.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

Inactive deposits are public deposits that the Governing Board has identified as not required for use within the current five-year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those monies which are not needed for immediate use, but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories. Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts including passbook accounts.

Interim monies may be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligation or security issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and Government National Mortgage Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and with certain limitations including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirement have been met;
5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio); and
8. Certain bankers' acceptances (for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days) and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met.

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

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

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage and short selling are also prohibited. Except as noted above, an investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the ESC and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity. Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the Treasurer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

A. Deposits with Financial Institutions

At June 30, 2024, the carrying amount of all ESC deposits was \$3,810,384 and the bank balance of all ESC deposits was \$4,105,756. Of the bank balance, \$3,864,526 was covered by the FDIC and \$241,230 was covered by the Ohio Pooled Collateral System.

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of bank failure, the ESC will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The ESC has no deposit policy for custodial credit risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or protected by (1) eligible securities pledged to the ESC and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose fair value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured, or (2) participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total fair value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a reduced rate set by the Treasurer of State.

B. Investments

As of June 30, 2024, the ESC had the following investments and maturities:

<u>Investment type</u>	<u>Carrying Value</u>	<u>NAV/ Fair Value</u>	Investment Maturities				
			<u>6 months or less</u>	<u>7 to 12 months</u>	<u>13 to 18 months</u>	<u>19 to 24 months</u>	<u>Greater than 24 months</u>
Negotiable CD's	\$ 5,416,018	\$ 5,351,135	\$ -	\$ 240,969	\$ -	\$ 441,578	\$ 4,668,588
FFCB	795,995	790,484	-	-	-	-	790,484
FHLB	1,307,940	1,297,083	-	-	-	-	1,297,083
FHLMC	399,250	397,845	98,921	-	-	298,924	-
U.S. Government							
Money Market	82,043	82,043	82,043	-	-	-	-
STAR Ohio	1,212,773	1,212,773	1,212,773	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 9,214,019	\$ 9,131,363	\$ 1,393,737	\$ 240,969	\$ -	\$ 740,502	\$ 6,756,155

The weighted average maturity of investments is 3.14 years.

Interest Rate Risk: Interest rate risk arises when potential purchasers of debt securities will not agree to pay face value for those securities if interest rates subsequently increase. As a means of limiting its exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates and according to state law, the ESC's investment policy limits investment portfolio maturities to five years or less.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

Credit Risk: Standard & Poor's has assigned STAR Ohio an AAAm money market rating. Ohio law requires that STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. The federal agency securities (FFCB, FHLB, FHLMC) are rated AA+ by Standard & Poor's and Aaa by Moody's Investor Services. The U.S. government money market mutual fund was rated AAA by Standard & Poor's. Ratings for the negotiable CDs were not available. The ESC has no investment policy dealing with investments credit risk beyond the requirements in State statutes.

Custodial Credit Risk: For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the ESC will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The federal agency securities are exposed to custodial credit risk in that they are uninsured, unregistered and held by the counterparty's trust department or agent, but not in the ESC's name. The ESC has no investment policy dealing with investment custodial risk beyond the requirement in State statute that prohibits payment for investments prior to the delivery of the securities representing such investments to the Treasurer or qualified trustee.

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

The following table includes the percentage of each investment type held by the ESC at June 30, 2024:

<u>Investment type</u>	<u>Carrying Value</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Negotiable CD's	\$ 5,416,018	58.78
FFCB	795,995	8.64
FHLB	1,307,940	14.20
FHLMC	399,250	4.33
U.S. Government		
Money Market	82,043	0.89
STAR Ohio	<u>1,212,773</u>	<u>13.16</u>
Total	<u>\$ 9,214,019</u>	<u>100.00</u>

C. Reconciliation of Cash and Investments to the Statement of Net Position

The following is a reconciliation of cash and investments as reported in the note above to cash and investments as reported on the statement of net position as of June 30, 2024:

Cash and investments per note

Carrying amount of deposits	\$ 3,810,384
Investments	<u>9,214,019</u>
Total	<u>\$ 13,024,403</u>

Cash and investments per statement of net position

Governmental activities	\$ 13,240,835
Custodial fund	<u>(216,432)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 13,024,403</u>

NOTE 5 - LONG-TERM DEBT

The ESC does not have any long-term debt obligations at June 30, 2024.

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

NOTE 6 - RISK MANAGEMENT

A. Comprehensive Insurance

The ESC 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. The ESC maintains comprehensive insurance coverage with private carriers for real property, building contents and vehicles. Vehicle policies include liability coverage for bodily injury and property damage. Real property and contents are fully insured. During fiscal year 2024, the ESC contracted with the Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA).

Coverages are as follows:

Building contents - replacement cost (\$1,000 deductible)	\$21,881,575
General liability per occurrence/excess	5,000,000 / 10,000,000

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

B. Health Benefits

For fiscal year 2024, the ESC has contracted with the Stark County Schools Council of Governments (a shared risk pool) (Note 2.A.) to provide employee medical/surgical benefits. Rates are set through an annual calculation process. The ESC pays a monthly contribution which is placed in a common fund from which claim payments are made for all participating entities. The ESC's Governing Board pays a percentage of the premiums. For fiscal year 2024, the monthly premium for medical/prescription was \$2,417.48 for family coverage and \$995.27 for single coverage, the Board pays 85% and 90% respectively; dental was \$254.83 for family coverage and \$103.37 for single coverage, the Board pays 85% and 90% respectively; vision was \$52.33 for family coverage and \$20.98 for single coverage, with nothing paid by the Board; and life insurance was \$3.75 for family or single coverage and the Board pays 100%.

Postemployment health care is provided to plan participants or their beneficiaries through the respective retirement systems discussed in Note 8.

C. Workers' Compensation

For fiscal year 2024, the ESC participated in the Ohio School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (the "Plan") (Note 2.A.), an insurance purchasing pool. The intent of the Plan is to achieve the benefit of a reduced premium for the ESC by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the Plan. The workers' compensation experience of the participating entities is calculated as one experience and a common premium rate is applied to all entities in the Plan. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the Plan rather than its individual rate. Total savings are then calculated and each participant's individual performance is compared to the overall savings of the Plan. A participant will then either receive money from or be required to contribute to the "equity pooling fund". This "equity pooling" arrangement ensures that each participant shares equally in the overall performance of the Plan. Participation in the Plan is limited to entities that can meet the Plan's selection criteria. The firm of Sedgwick provides administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the Plan.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability/Asset

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

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) represent the ESC'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 ESC's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The ESC cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the ESC 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 net pension/net OPEB liability (asset) are not reported on the face of the financial statements, but rather are disclosed in the notes because of the use of the cash basis framework.

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 8 for the required OPEB disclosures.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

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

Funding Policy - Plan members are required to contribute 10.00% of their annual covered salary and the ESC 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 ESC's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$270,189 for fiscal year 2024.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

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

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NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.20% of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit and at least age 60.

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

The DC Plan allows members to place all of their member contributions and 9.53% of the 14% employer contributions into an investment account. The member determines how to allocate the member and employer money among various investment choices offered by STRS Ohio. The remaining 4.47% of the 14% employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, 12% of the 14% member rate goes to the DC Plan and the remaining 2% is applied to the DB Plan. Member contributions to the DC Plan are allocated among investment choices by the member, and contributions to the DB Plan from the employer and the member are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined Plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of service. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity after termination of employment at age 50 and after termination of employment.

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

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

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 ESC's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$1,134,197 for fiscal year 2024.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Net Pension Liability

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

Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the net pension liability prior measurement date	0.041027200%	0.048683100%	
Proportion of the net pension liability current measurement date	<u>0.046537800%</u>	<u>0.055863160%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>0.005510600%</u>	<u>0.007180060%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 2,571,454	\$ 12,030,098	\$ 14,601,552

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan (the plan as understood by the employers and plan members) and include the types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing benefit costs between the employers and plan members to that point. The projection of benefits for financial reporting purposes does not explicitly incorporate the potential effects of legal or contractual funding limitations. Future benefits for all current plan members were projected through 2137.

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

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

NOTE 7 - 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 the SERS' *Statement of Investment Policy*. Ohio Revised Code Section 3309.15 and the Board-adopted Investment Policy govern investment activity at SERS. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 7 - 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>100.00 %</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 ESC'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 Discount Rate		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
ESC's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 3,795,333	\$ 2,571,454	\$ 1,540,567

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

NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

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

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount rate of return	7.00%	7.00%
Payroll increases	3.00%	3.00%
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%	0.00%

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

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

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

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

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

* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 7 - 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 ESC'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
ESC's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 18,499,626	\$ 12,030,098	\$ 6,558,645

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 8 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

See Note 7 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

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

NOTE 8 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14% of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, SERS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2024, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2% of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5% of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the ESC's surcharge obligation was \$32,103.

The surcharge added to the allocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The ESC's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$32,103 for fiscal year 2024.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

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

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

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

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

Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the net OPEB			
liability/asset prior measurement date	0.041692200%	0.048683100%	
Proportion of the net OPEB			
liability/asset current measurement date	<u>0.047413500%</u>	<u>0.055863160%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>0.005721300%</u>	<u>0.007180060%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net			
OPEB liability	\$ 781,112	\$ -	\$ 781,112
Proportionate share of the net			
OPEB asset	\$ -	\$ (1,086,461)	\$ (1,086,461)

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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

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

NOTE 8 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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

Wage inflation:	
Current measurement date	2.40%
Prior measurement date	2.40%
Future salary increases, including inflation:	
Current measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Prior measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Investment rate of return:	
Current measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Prior measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Municipal bond index rate:	
Current measurement date	3.86%
Prior measurement date	3.69%
Single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:	
Current measurement date	4.27%
Prior measurement date	4.08%
Medical trend assumption:	
Current measurement date	6.75 to 4.40%
Prior measurement date	7.00 to 4.40%

In 2023, the following mortality assumptions were used:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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

Sensitivity of the ESC'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
ESC's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 998,484	\$ 781,112	\$ 609,704
	Current		
	1% Decrease	Trend Rate	1% Increase
ESC's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 573,856	\$ 781,112	\$ 1,055,754

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.

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 8 - 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.

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RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 8 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Sensitivity of the ESC'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.

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
ESC's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 919,547	\$ 1,086,461	\$ 1,231,826
ESC's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	Current Trend Rate		
	1% Decrease	1% Increase	
	\$ 1,238,571	\$ 1,086,461	\$ 903,248

NOTE 9 - CONTINGENCIES

A. Grants

The ESC receives significant financial assistance from numerous federal, State and local agencies in the form of grants. The disbursement of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the ESC. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material effect on the financial position of the ESC.

B. Litigation

The ESC is involved in no material litigation as either plaintiff or defendant.

NOTE 10 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Brenda Miller became the new Treasurer effective August 1, 2024.

The ESC started sponsoring Findlay Digital Academy on July 1, 2024.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULE OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BUDGETARY BASIS)
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts Budgetary Basis	Variance with Final Budget - Over (Under) Actual Amounts
	Original	Final		
Budgetary receipts and other financing sources	\$ 17,627,282	\$ 17,645,682	\$ 18,908,773	\$ 1,263,091
Budgetary disbursements and other financing uses	<u>16,443,366</u>	<u>16,464,366</u>	<u>17,565,707</u>	<u>1,101,341</u>
Net change in fund balance	1,183,916	1,181,316	1,343,066	161,750
Budgetary fund balance at beginning of year	12,049,788	12,049,788	12,049,788	-
Budgetary fund balance at end of year	<u>\$ 13,233,704</u>	<u>\$ 13,231,104</u>	<u>\$ 13,392,854</u>	<u>\$ 161,750</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE A - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICY

The ESC has chosen to prepare its financial statements and notes on the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

The ESC also prepares its budget on the cash basis of accounting. The differences between the schedule of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances - budget and actual (budgetary basis) (the "schedule") and the statement of receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balances (the "statement") are the reclassification of various receipts and disbursements made on the statement and not made on the schedule. In addition, certain funds that are legally budgeted in separate special revenue funds are considered part of the general fund on the statement. This includes a portion of the special rotary fund.

The following table summarizes the adjustments necessary to reconcile the cash basis statement to the budgetary basis schedule.

Net Change in Fund Cash Balance		General Fund
Budget basis		\$ 1,343,066
Funds budgeted elsewhere		<u>7,579</u>
Cash basis		<u><u>\$ 1,350,645</u></u>

**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY**

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

FEDERAL GRANTOR Passed Through Grantor Program / Cluster Title	Federal AL Number	Total Federal Expenditures
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</u>		
<i>Passed through the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce</i>		
Child Nutrition Cluster:		
School Breakfast Program	10.553	\$ 135,909
National School Lunch Program	10.555	239,666
Total Child Nutrition Cluster		<u>375,575</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		<u>375,575</u>
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</u>		
<i>Passed through the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce</i>		
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	143,775
Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers	84.287C	488,350
Comprehensive Literacy Development	84.371C	235,522
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund:		
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund (ARP-ESSER)	84.425U	785,838
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund (ARP-Homeless Round II)	84.425W	2,723
Total COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund		<u>788,561</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education		<u>1,656,208</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS		<u>\$ 2,031,783</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY**

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

NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

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

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

NOTE C – INDIRECT COST RATE

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

The ESC utilizes indirect cost rate (ICR) to recover administrative and operational expenses associated with managing grants. This rate varies yearly and is approved by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW).

NOTE D - CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

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

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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

Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center
Richland County
890 West 4th Street, Suite 100
Mansfield, Ohio 44906

To the Board of Governors:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center, Richland County, Ohio, (the ESC) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the ESC's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated June 9, 2025, wherein we noted the ESC uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the ESC's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the ESC's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the ESC'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 ESC's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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

Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center
Richland County
Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters
Required by Government Auditing Standards
Page 2

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the ESC's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matter that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2024-001.

ESC's Response to Findings

Government Auditing Standards requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the ESC's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying corrective action plan. The ESC's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

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

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



Tiffany L Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

June 9, 2025



65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS
APPLICABLE TO EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER
COMPLIANCE REQUIRED BY THE UNIFORM GUIDANCE**

Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center
Richland County
890 West 4th Street, Suite 100
Mansfield, Ohio 44906

To the Board of Governors:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center's, Richland County, Ohio, (the ESC) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of Mid-Ohio Education Service Center's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center's major federal programs are identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

In our opinion, Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

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

We are required to be independent of the ESC and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the ESC's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center

Richland County

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements

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

Required by the Uniform Guidance

Page 2

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the ESC's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material, if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the ESC'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 the ESC's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of the ESC's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the ESC'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.

Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center

Richland County

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements

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

Required by the Uniform Guidance

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

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



Tiffany L Ridenbaugh, CPA, CFE, CGFM
Chief Deputy Auditor

June 9, 2025

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MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2024

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	Yes
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(v)	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?	No
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Programs (list):	AL #84.425 – COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund AL #84.287 – Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A\B Programs	Type A: > \$ 750,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR §200.520?	No

MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER
RICHLAND COUNTY

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS
2 CFR § 200.515
JUNE 30, 2024
(Continued)

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

FINDING NUMBER 2024-001

**Material Noncompliance
GAAP Reporting**

Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 provides that each public office shall file a financial report for each fiscal year. The Auditor of State may prescribe forms by rule or may issue guidelines, or both, for such reports. If the Auditor of State has not prescribed a rule regarding the form for the report, the public office shall submit its report on the form utilized by the public office.

Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(B) requires the Entity to file annual financial reports which are prepared using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

The ESC prepared financial statements that, although formatted similar to financial statements prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, report on the cash basis of accounting rather than GAAP. The accompanying financial statements and notes omit certain assets, liabilities, deferred inflows/outflows of resources, fund equities/net position, and disclosures that, while presumed material, cannot be determined at this time.

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 the ESC may be fined for its failure to file the required financial report. Failure to report on a GAAP basis compromises the ESC's ability to evaluate and monitor the overall financial condition of the ESC. To help provide the users with more meaningful financial statements, the ESC should prepare its annual financial statements according to generally accepted accounting principles.

Officials' Response:

Refer to Corrective Action Plan.

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None



Kevin Kimmel
Superintendent

Brenda Miller
CFO/Treasurer

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

2 CFR 200.511(b)

JUNE 30, 2024

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2023-001 2022-001	Material Noncompliance: Ohio Revised Code Section 117.38 and Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(B) required the ESC to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with GAAP, however, the ESC prepared its annual financial report in accordance with the cash basis of accounting in a report format similar to the requirements in GASB Statement No. 34. This finding first occurred in fiscal year 2007.	Not Corrected	Repeated as finding 2024-001 as the ESC prepared its annual financial report in accordance with the cash basis of accounting.
2023-002	Material Weakness – Financial Reporting	Corrective Action Taken and Finding is Fully Corrected	

**CONFIDENTLY LEADING THROUGH
COLLABORATION, CUSTOMIZATION AND CREATIVITY**

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Kevin Kimmel
Superintendent

Brenda Miller
CFO/Treasurer

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
2 CFR § 200.511(c)
JUNE 30, 2024

Finding Number: 2024-001

Planned Corrective Action: The Educational Service Center (ESC) has conducted a cost-benefit analysis and determined that the advantages of preparing GAAP-basis financial statements do not outweigh the associated increased costs. These include both the preparation expenses and the higher audit fees that result from filing GAAP statements.

In alignment with the ESC's ongoing commitment to fiscal responsibility, priority continues to be placed on cost containment efforts. This approach helps minimize the financial burden passed on to both client and non-client districts and agencies.

At this time, the ESC does not anticipate preparing or filing GAAP statements in the future.

Anticipated Completion Date: N/A

Responsible Contact Person: Brenda D. Miller, Treasurer

**CONFIDENTLY LEADING THROUGH
COLLABORATION, CUSTOMIZATION AND CREATIVITY**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



MID-OHIO EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

RICHLAND 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 7/1/2025

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