



**bhm cpa group, inc.**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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SOUTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PERRY COUNTY

SINGLE AUDIT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024





65 East State Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
[ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov](mailto:ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov)  
800-282-0370

Board of Education  
Southern Local School District  
10390 State Route 155 SE  
Corning, Ohio 43730

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

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

Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

December 24, 2024

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**SOUTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

*For the Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Southern Local School District  
Perry County  
10390 State Route 155 SE  
Corning, Ohio 43730-9710

To the Board of Education:

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

#### ***Opinions***

We have audited the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Southern Local School District, Perry County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements 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, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the District, as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position thereof and the budgetary comparison for the General fund 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 District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

#### ***Emphasis of Matter - Accounting Basis***

Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the District 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 District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

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

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

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

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

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

***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted to opine on the financial statements as a whole that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is (are) presented for purposes of additional analysis and is (are) 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, this schedule is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

***Other Information***

We applied no procedures to management's discussion & analysis as listed in the table of contents. Accordingly, we express no opinion or any other assurance on it.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated November 21, 2024, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*BHM CPA Group*

BHM CPA Group, Inc.  
Circleville, Ohio  
November 21, 2024

**Southern Local School District**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*  
*Unaudited*

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

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

**Key financial highlights for the fiscal year 2024 are as follows:**

- Net position of governmental activities increased \$951,728.
- General cash receipts accounted for \$10,499,400 or 76% of all cash receipts. Program cash receipts in the form of charges for services and sales, grants, and contributions, accounted for \$3,313,827 or 24% of total cash receipts of \$13,813,227.
- The District had \$12,861,499 in cash disbursements related to governmental activities; only \$3,313,827 of these cash disbursements were offset by program specific charges for services and sales, grants, and contributions.

## **USING THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

This annual report is presented in a format consistent with the presentation requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 34, as applicable to the District's cash basis of accounting.

## **REPORT COMPONENTS**

The *Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis* and *Statement of Activities – Cash Basis* provide information about the cash activities of the District as a whole.

Fund financial statements provide a greater level of detail. Funds are created and maintained on the financial records of the District as a way to segregate money whose use is restricted to a particular specific purpose. These statements present financial information by fund, presenting funds with the largest balances or most activity in separate columns.

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of the government-wide and fund financial statements and provide expanded explanation and detail regarding the information reported in the basic financial statements.

## **BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

The basis of accounting is a set of guidelines that determine when financial events are recorded. The District has elected to present its financial statements on a cash basis of accounting. This basis of accounting is a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. Under the District's cash basis of accounting, receipts and disbursements are recorded when cash is received or paid.

As a result of using the cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable) are not recorded in the financial statements. Therefore, when reviewing the financial information and discussion within this report, the reader must keep in mind the limitations resulting from the use of the cash basis of accounting.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*  
*Unaudited*

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## **REPORTING THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE**

### *Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities*

The statement of net position and the statement of activities reflect how the District did financially during 2024, within the limitations of the cash basis of accounting. The statement of net position presents the cash balances and investments of the governmental activities of the District at year end. The statement of activities compares cash disbursements with program receipts for each governmental program. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services and grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts. The comparison of cash disbursements with program receipts identifies how each governmental function draws from the District's general receipts.

These statements report the District's cash position and the changes in cash position. It is important to note that fiduciary funds are not included in these statements. Keeping in mind the limitations of the cash basis of accounting, you can think of these changes as one way to measure the District's financial health. Over time, increases or decreases in the District's cash position is one indicator of whether the District's financial health is improving or deteriorating. When evaluating the District's financial condition, you should also consider other non-financial factors as well such as the District's property tax base, the condition of the District's capital assets and infrastructure, the extent of the District's debt obligations, the reliance on non-local financial resources for operations and the need for continued growth in the major local revenue sources such as property taxes.

In the statement of net position and the statement of activities, the District has one type of activity; governmental.

### *Reporting the District's Most Significant Funds*

#### *Fund Financial Statements*

Fund financial statements provide detailed information about the District's major funds – not the District as a whole. The District uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions. However, these fund financial statements focus on the District's most significant funds. The District's major governmental funds are the General Fund, the Permanent Improvement Capital Projects Fund, and the School Facilities Project Capital Projects Fund.

**Governmental Funds** Most of the District's activities are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at fiscal year end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using the cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the District's general governmental operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer cash basis financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance educational programs.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*  
*Unaudited*

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**Proprietary Funds** Proprietary fund reporting focuses on the determination of operating receipts over (under) operating disbursements and changes in net position. Proprietary funds are classified as enterprise or internal service and the District only has an internal service fund which is used to account for their self-insurance program for employee vision claims. This fund is reported using the cash basis of accounting.

**Fiduciary Funds** Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds, and custodial funds. The District has private purpose trust funds used to account for college scholarships for graduated students.

## THE DISTRICT AS A WHOLE

Recall that the Statement of Net Position provides the perspective of the District as a whole. Table 1 provides a summary of the District's net position for 2024 compared to 2023.

Table 1  
Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>		
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 9,304,532	\$ 8,352,804
Total Assets	<u>9,304,532</u>	<u>8,352,804</u>
<b>Net Position</b>		
Restricted	3,113,087	2,946,911
Unrestricted	6,191,445	5,405,893
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 9,304,532</u>	<u>\$ 8,352,804</u>

Total assets of the District increased in the amount of \$951,728. This increase is due to cash receipts exceeding cash disbursements, which will be further discussed under Table 2 on the following page.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*  
*Unaudited*

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Table 2 shows the changes in net position for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, as compared to 2023.

Table 2  
 Changes in Net Position

<b>Cash Receipts</b>	<b>Governmental Activities</b>	
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Program Cash Receipts		
Charges for Services and Sales	\$ 208,682	\$ 169,240
Operating Grants and Contributions	<u>3,105,145</u>	<u>3,002,716</u>
Total Program Cash Receipts	<u>3,313,827</u>	<u>3,171,956</u>
General Cash Receipts		
Property Taxes	1,553,793	1,376,919
Grants and Entitlements, Not Restricted	8,409,115	8,110,727
Interest	266,812	179,640
Miscellaneous	266,185	254,755
Gifts and Donations, Not Restricted	<u>3,495</u>	<u>4,570</u>
Total General Cash Receipts	<u>10,499,400</u>	<u>9,926,611</u>
Total Cash Receipts	<u>13,813,227</u>	<u>13,098,567</u>
<b>Program Cash Disbursements</b>		
Instruction:		
Regular	4,884,121	4,773,938
Special	2,277,509	2,194,728
Vocational	170,239	152,515
Support Services:		
Pupils	334,592	358,290
Instructional Staff	235,295	213,880
Board of Education	89,436	112,092
Administration	1,130,986	1,089,100
Fiscal	333,263	381,222
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,436,572	1,337,403
Pupil Transportation	645,898	700,321
Central	162,029	165,571
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	534,360	545,942
Extracurricular Activities	315,192	271,448
Capital Outlay	-	27,165
Principal Retirement	260,752	257,510
Interest and Fiscal Charges	<u>51,255</u>	<u>66,406</u>
Total Cash Disbursements	<u>12,861,499</u>	<u>12,647,531</u>
Changes in Net Position	<u>951,728</u>	<u>451,036</u>
Net Position, Beginning of Year	<u>8,352,804</u>	<u>7,901,768</u>
Net Position, End of Year	<u>\$ 9,304,532</u>	<u>\$ 8,352,804</u>

Cash receipts increased \$714,660. The increase is primarily due to increases in operating grants, property taxes, and interest.

Cash disbursements increased \$213,968 which was mainly due to an increase in Instruction and Operation and Maintenance of Plant.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*  
*Unaudited*

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Table 3 shows the total cost of services and the net cost of services. That is, it identifies the cost of those services supported by tax revenue and unrestricted state entitlements.

Table 3  
 Governmental Activities

	Total Cost of Services 2024	Net Cost of Services 2024	Total Cost of Services 2023	Net Cost of Services 2023
<b>Program Cash Disbursements</b>				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$ 4,884,121	\$ 4,371,435	\$ 4,773,938	\$ 4,294,799
Special	2,277,509	1,039,094	2,194,728	984,804
Vocational	170,239	112,009	152,515	94,307
Support Services:				
Pupils	334,592	173,438	358,290	270,749
Instructional Staff	235,295	97,577	213,880	84,200
Board of Education	89,436	88,187	112,092	110,911
Administration	1,130,986	946,263	1,089,100	894,825
Fiscal	333,263	328,683	381,222	377,142
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,436,572	1,070,546	1,337,403	1,005,243
Pupil Transportation	645,898	620,466	700,321	684,080
Central	162,029	159,808	165,571	163,746
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	534,360	(79,150)	545,942	(60,215)
Extracurricular Activities	315,192	307,309	271,448	219,903
Capital Outlay	-	-	27,165	27,165
Principal Retirement	260,752	260,752	257,510	257,510
Interest and Fiscal Charges	51,255	51,255	66,406	66,406
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 12,861,499</b>	<b>\$ 9,547,672</b>	<b>\$ 12,647,531</b>	<b>\$ 9,475,575</b>

**Southern Local School District**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*  
*Unaudited*

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## **THE DISTRICT FUNDS**

The District's governmental funds are accounted for using the cash basis of accounting. All governmental funds had total cash receipts and other financing sources of \$14,333,795 and cash disbursements and other financing uses of \$13,384,659.

For the General Fund, cash receipts and other financing sources increased \$762,639 and cash disbursements and other financing uses increased \$15,017 from the prior year. The most significant changes in revenue were to intergovernmental and property tax receipts. Overall disbursements and other financing uses remained fairly stable with the prior year.

The School Facilities Project Fund had a decrease in fund balance of \$198,299 due to principal and interest payments.

The Permanent Improvement Fund had a transfer in of \$500,000 and cash disbursements of \$126,844 resulting in an increase in fund balance of \$373,156..

### ***General Fund Budgeting Highlights***

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

During 2024, there were revisions to the General Fund budget. The final budget cash receipts of \$11,106,495 increased \$405,902 from original budgeted cash receipts. This increase is due to an increase in tax revenues. Actual cash receipts of \$11,441,599 were \$355,104 more than the final estimate.

Final budget cash disbursements of \$16,279,318 increased \$395,927 from original budgeted cash disbursements. Actual cash disbursements of \$10,850,619 were \$5,428,699 less than the final estimate. The General fund's ending unobligated cash balance was \$5,931,928.

## **CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEBT ADMINISTRATION**

### ***Capital Assets***

The District does not record capital assets in the accompanying basic financial statements, but records payments for capital assets as disbursements. The District had \$0 in capital outlay disbursements during 2024.

### ***Debt***

Under the cash basis of accounting the District does not report long term obligations in the accompanying cash basis financial statements. However, in order to provide information to the readers of this report, we are providing the following detailed information about bonds, financed purchases, lease obligations and long-term notes. At June 30, 2024 the District had \$1,285,268 in long term obligations outstanding. For additional information regarding long term obligations, please see Note 6 to the basic financial statements.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*  
*Unaudited*

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Table 4 summarizes long term obligations outstanding for Governmental Activities for the past two years:

Table 4  
Outstanding Long Term Obligations at June 30  
Governmental Activities

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Financed Purchases	\$1,215,000	\$1,370,000
Energy Conservation Improvement Notes	48,961	142,051
Lease Obligation	<u>21,307</u>	<u>33,969</u>
 Totals	 <u>\$1,285,268</u>	 <u>\$1,546,020</u>

#### **CONTACTING THE DISTRICT'S FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to show the District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Brooke Champ, Treasurer at Southern Local School District, 10397 State Route 155 SE, Corning, Ohio 43730.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*June 30, 2024*

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	Governmental Activities
<b>ASSETS:</b>	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 9,304,532</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>9,304,532</u>
<b>NET POSITION:</b>	
Restricted for Debt Service	264,867
Restricted for Capital Outlay	2,369,584
Restricted for Other Purposes	478,636
Unrestricted	<u>6,191,445</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>\$ 9,304,532</u>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Statement of Activities - Cash Basis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

	Program Cash Receipts			Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position			
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities			
<b>Governmental Activities:</b>							
<b>Instruction:</b>							
Regular	\$ 4,884,121	\$ 60,788	\$ 451,898	\$ (4,371,435)			
Special	2,277,509	26,369	1,212,046		(1,039,094)		
Vocational	170,239	2,359	55,871		(112,009)		
<b>Support Services:</b>							
Pupils	334,592	3,192	157,962		(173,438)		
Instructional Staff	235,295	555	137,163		(97,577)		
Board of Education	89,436	1,249	-		(88,187)		
Administration	1,130,986	13,323	171,400		(946,263)		
Fiscal	333,263	4,580	-		(328,683)		
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,436,572	13,323	352,703		(1,070,546)		
Pupil Transportation	645,898	8,188	17,244		(620,466)		
Central	162,029	2,221	-		(159,808)		
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	534,360	64,652	548,858		79,150		
Extracurricular Activities	315,192	7,883	-		(307,309)		
<b>Debt Service:</b>							
Principal Retirement	260,752	-	-		(260,752)		
Interest and Fiscal Charges	51,255	-	-		(51,255)		
<i>Total Governmental Activities</i>	<u><u>\$ 12,861,499</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 208,682</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 3,105,145</u></u>		<u><u>(9,547,672)</u></u>		
 <b>General Cash Receipts:</b>							
<b>Property Taxes Levied for:</b>							
General Purposes					1,518,203		
Debt Service					35,590		
Grants and Entitlements, Not Restricted to Specific Programs					8,409,115		
Interest					266,812		
Miscellaneous					266,185		
Gifts and Donations					<u><u>3,495</u></u>		
<i>Total General Cash Receipts</i>					<u><u>10,499,400</u></u>		
<i>Change in Net Position</i>					951,728		
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>					<u><u>8,352,804</u></u>		
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>					<u><u>\$ 9,304,532</u></u>		

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Statement of Assets and Fund Balances - Cash Basis*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*June 30, 2024*

	General	Permanent Improvement	School Facilities Project	All Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>ASSETS:</b>					
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 6,230,389	\$ 1,004,396	\$ 1,365,186	\$ 583,495	\$ 9,183,466
<i>Total Assets</i>	<i><u>\$ 6,230,389</u></i>	<i><u>\$ 1,004,396</u></i>	<i><u>\$ 1,365,186</u></i>	<i><u>\$ 583,495</u></i>	<i><u>\$ 9,183,466</u></i>
<b>FUND BALANCES:</b>					
Nonspendable	\$ 15,042	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,042
Restricted	- -	1,004,396	- -	743,505	1,747,901
Committed	- -	- -	1,365,186	- -	1,365,186
Assigned	6,157,661	- -	- -	- -	6,157,661
Unassigned	57,686	- -	- -	(160,010)	(102,324)
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<i><u>\$ 6,230,389</u></i>	<i><u>\$ 1,004,396</u></i>	<i><u>\$ 1,365,186</u></i>	<i><u>\$ 583,495</u></i>	<i><u>\$ 9,183,466</u></i>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to  
Net Position of Governmental Activities*  
June 30, 2024

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<b>Total Governmental Fund Balances</b>	\$ 9,183,466
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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

An internal service fund is used by management to account for their self-insurance program for employee dental and vision claims. The cash basis assets of the internal service fund are included in governmental activities in the statement of net position.

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121,066

<b>Net Position of Governmental Activities</b>	<u>\$ 9,304,532</u>
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The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balances - Cash Basis*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

	General	Permanent Improvement	School Facilities Project	All Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>CASH RECEIPTS:</b>					
Property Taxes	\$ 1,518,203	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,590	\$ 1,553,793
Intergovernmental	9,299,922	- -	- -	2,214,338	11,514,260
Interest	266,812	- -	- -	- -	266,812
Tuition and Fees	130,367	- -	- -	- -	130,367
Extracurricular Activities	8,417	- -	- -	61,469	69,886
Gifts and Donations	1,895	- -	- -	1,600	3,495
Customer Sales and Services	- -	- -	- -	8,429	8,429
Miscellaneous	237,062	- -	- -	29,123	266,185
<i>Total Cash Receipts</i>	<i>11,462,678</i>	<i>- -</i>	<i>- -</i>	<i>2,350,549</i>	<i>13,813,227</i>
<b>CASH DISBURSEMENTS:</b>					
Current:					
Instruction:					
Regular	4,381,220	- -	- -	504,428	4,885,648
Special	1,896,510	- -	- -	381,711	2,278,221
Vocational	170,239	- -	- -	- -	170,239
Support Services:					
Pupils	225,491	- -	- -	109,101	334,592
Instructional Staff	35,595	- -	- -	199,700	235,295
Board of Education	89,436	- -	- -	- -	89,436
Administration	958,800	- -	- -	172,539	1,131,339
Fiscal	332,241	- -	- -	1,022	333,263
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	956,205	83,589	- -	396,778	1,436,572
Pupil Transportation	585,269	43,255	- -	17,374	645,898
Central	162,029	- -	- -	- -	162,029
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	- -	- -	- -	534,360	534,360
Extracurricular Activities	192,621	- -	- -	122,571	315,192
Debt Service:					
Principal Retirement	105,752	- -	155,000	- -	260,752
Interest and Fiscal Charges	7,956	- -	43,299	- -	51,255
<i>Total Cash Disbursements</i>	<i>10,099,364</i>	<i>126,844</i>	<i>198,299</i>	<i>2,439,584</i>	<i>12,864,091</i>
<i>Excess of Cash Receipts Over (Under) Cash Disbursements</i>	<i>1,363,314</i>	<i>(126,844)</i>	<i>(198,299)</i>	<i>(89,035)</i>	<i>949,136</i>
<b>OTHER FINANCING SOURCES AND USES:</b>					
Transfers In	5,568	500,000	- -	15,000	520,568
Transfers Out	(515,000)	- -	- -	(5,568)	(520,568)
<i>Total Other Financing Sources and Uses</i>	<i>(509,432)</i>	<i>500,000</i>	<i>- -</i>	<i>9,432</i>	<i>- -</i>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	<i>853,882</i>	<i>373,156</i>	<i>(198,299)</i>	<i>(79,603)</i>	<i>949,136</i>
<i>Fund Balances at 6/30/2023 (as previously presented)</i>	<i>5,376,507</i>	<i>- -</i>	<i>1,563,485</i>	<i>1,294,338</i>	<i>8,234,330</i>
Change within financial reporting entity (due to major fund reclass)	- -	631,240	- -	(631,240)	- -
<i>Fund Balances at 6/30/2023 (as adjusted)</i>	<i>5,376,507</i>	<i>631,240</i>	<i>1,563,485</i>	<i>663,098</i>	<i>8,234,330</i>
<i>Fund Balances at End of Year</i>	<i>\$ 6,230,389</i>	<i>\$ 1,004,396</i>	<i>\$ 1,365,186</i>	<i>\$ 583,495</i>	<i>\$ 9,183,466</i>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Southern Local School District**

*Reconciliation of the Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes  
in Fund Balances of Governmental Funds - Cash Basis to the Statement of Activities - Cash Basis  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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<b>Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds</b>	\$ 949,136
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Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

The internal service fund used by management to account for their self-insurance program for employee dental and vision claims is not reported in the government-wide statement of activities. Governmental fund disbursements and the related internal service fund receipts are eliminated. The net receipt (disbursement) of the internal service fund is allocated among the governmental activities.

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2,592

<b>Net Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities</b>	<u>\$ 951,728</u>
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The notes to the basic financial statement are an integral part of this statement.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes*  
*In Fund Balance - Budget (Budgetary Basis) and Actual*  
*General Fund*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
Total Cash Receipts and Other Financing Sources	\$ 10,700,593	\$ 11,106,495	\$ 11,441,599	\$ 335,104
Total Cash Disbursements and Other Financing Uses	<u>15,883,391</u>	<u>16,279,318</u>	<u>10,850,619</u>	<u>5,428,699</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	(5,182,798)	(5,172,823)	590,980	5,763,803
Fund Balance at Beginning of Year	5,183,097	5,183,097	5,183,097	-
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	<u>157,851</u>	<u>157,851</u>	<u>157,851</u>	<u>-</u>
Fund Balance at End of Year	<u>\$ 158,150</u>	<u>\$ 168,125</u>	<u>\$ 5,931,928</u>	<u>\$ 5,763,803</u>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*Governmental Activities - Internal Service Fund*  
*June 30, 2024*

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	<u>Internal Service</u>
<b>ASSETS:</b>	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 121,066</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>121,066</u>
<b>NET POSITION:</b>	
Unrestricted	<u>121,066</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u><u>\$ 121,066</u></u>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Southern Local School District**

*Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*Governmental Activities - Internal Service Fund*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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	<u>Internal Service</u>
<b>OPERATING RECEIPTS:</b>	
Charges for Services	\$ 8,020
<i>Total Operating Receipts</i>	<u>8,020</u>
<b>OPERATING DISBURSEMENTS:</b>	
Purchased Services	1,363
Claims	<u>4,065</u>
<i>Total Operating Disbursements</i>	<u>5,428</u>
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	2,592
<i>Net Position at Beginning of Year</i>	<u>118,474</u>
<i>Net Position at End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 121,066</u>

The notes to the basic financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Statement of Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*Fiduciary Funds*  
*June 30, 2024*

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	<b>Private Purpose Trust</b>
<b>Assets:</b>	
Current assets:	
Equity in pooled cash and investments	\$ <u>19,950</u>
<b>Net Position:</b>	
Held in trust for scholarships	<u>\$ 19,950</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis*  
*Fiduciary Funds*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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	<b>Private Purpose Trust</b>
<b>Additions:</b>	
Gifts and donations	<u>\$ 1,400</u>
<b>Deductions:</b>	
Noninstructional services	<u>\$ -</u>
Change in fiduciary net position	1,400
Net position at beginning of year	<u>18,550</u>
Net position at end of year	<u><u>\$ 19,950</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**1. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENTITY**

The Southern Local School District, Perry County (the District), is a body politic and corporate established for the purpose of exercising the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The District is a local school district as defined by Ohio Revised Code Section 3311.03. The District operates under an elected Board of Education (five members) and is responsible for the provision of public education to residents of the District. Average daily membership (ADM) was 661. The District employed 65 certificated employees/administrators and 37 non-certificated employees/administrators.

**Reporting Entity**

A reporting entity is composed of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the District consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the District. For the District, this includes general operations, food service and student related activities.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the District is financially accountable. The District is financially accountable for an organization if the District appoints a voting majority of the organizations' governing board and (1) the District is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the District is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organizations' resources; the District is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or the District is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the District in that the District approves the budget, the issuance of debt, or the levying of taxes. There are no component units of the District.

The District is associated with the Metropolitan Educational Technology Association (META) Solutions and the Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools, which are defined as jointly governed organizations, the Ohio School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program, an insurance purchasing pool, and the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program, a cooperative purchasing pool. The organizations are presented in Notes 10 and 11, respectively.

The following entities which perform activities within the District's boundaries for the benefit of its residents are excluded from the accompanying financial statements because the District is not financially accountable for these entities nor are they fiscally dependent on the District:

- Tri-County Career Center
- Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center

**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of Accounting**

Although required by Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(B) to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), the District chooses to prepare its financial statements in accordance with 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. Budgetary presentations report budgetary disbursements when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved). These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, in accordance with the basis of accounting described above.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

As a result of the use of the cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and revenue for billed or provided services not yet collected) and liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and expenses for goods or services received but not yet paid and accrued expenses and liabilities) are not recorded in these financial statements. Therefore, when reviewing the financial information and discussion within this annual report, the reader should keep in mind the limitations resulting from the use of the cash basis of accounting.

**Fund Accounting**

The District's accounts are maintained on the basis of funds, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid management by segregating transactions related to specific functions or activities. The operation of each fund is accounted for within a separate set of self-balancing accounts. The District classifies each fund as either governmental, proprietary, or fiduciary.

**Governmental Funds**

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions typically are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purpose for which they may or must be used. Cash disbursements are assigned to the fund from which they are paid. The following are the District's major governmental funds:

*General Fund*

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

*Permanent Improvement Fund*

This fund accounts for the receipts and expenditures for one or more capital projects.

*School Facilities Project Fund*

This fund accounts for the receipts and expenditures for one or more capital projects.

The other governmental funds of the District account for grants and other resources, debt service and capital projects, whose use is restricted to a particular purpose.

**Proprietary Fund Type**

Proprietary fund reporting focuses on the determination of operating cash receipts over/(under) cash disbursements, changes in net position, and cash basis financial position. Proprietary funds are classified as enterprise or internal service; the District has no enterprise funds.

*Internal Service Fund* The internal service fund accounts for the financing of services provided by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of the District on a cost reimbursement basis. The District's only internal service fund accounts for the District's self-insurance program for employee vision claims.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**Fiduciary Funds**

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. 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 District under a trust agreement for individuals, private organizations, or other governments and therefore not available to support the District's own programs. The District only reports private purpose trust funds which are used to account for college scholarships for graduated students.

**Basis of Presentation**

The District uses the provisions of GASB 34 for financial reporting on a cash basis, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and GASB 38, for certain financial statement note disclosures. The District's basic financial statements consist of government-wide statements, including a statement of net position and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements that provide a more detailed level of financial information.

**Government-wide Financial Statements**

The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds.

The statement of net position-cash basis presents the cash basis financial condition of governmental activities of the District at year-end. The statement of activities-cash basis presents a comparison between direct cash disbursements and program cash receipts for each program or function of the District's governmental activities. Direct cash disbursements are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program cash 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. Cash receipts which are not classified as program cash receipts are presented as general cash receipts of the District. The comparison of direct cash disbursements with program cash receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general cash receipts of the District.

**Fund Financial Statements**

During the fiscal year, the District segregates transactions related to certain District functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the District at this more detailed level. The focus of fund financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Non-major funds are aggregated and presented in a single column.

**Cash Receipts – Exchange and Non-exchange Transactions**

Cash receipts resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the cash basis when the exchange takes place. On a cash basis, receipts are recorded in the year in which the resources are received.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

Non-exchange transactions, in which the District receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include property taxes, grants, entitlements and donations. On a cash basis, receipts from property taxes are recognized in the year in which the taxes are received. Receipts from grants, entitlements and donations are recognized in the year in which the monies have been received.

**Cash Disbursements**

On the cash basis of accounting, disbursements are recognized at the time payments are made.

**Budgetary Process**

All funds are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the appropriation resolution, and the certificate of estimated resources, which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amounts that the Board of Education may appropriate. The appropriation resolution is the Board's authorization to spend resources and set annual limits on expenditures plus encumbrances at a level of control selected by the Board. The legal level of control has been established by the Board of Education at the fund level. Budgetary allocations at the function and object level within all funds are made by the Treasurer.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the fiscal year if projected increases or decreases in revenue are identified by the District Treasurer. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts in the budgetary statement are based on estimates made before the end of the prior fiscal year. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts in the budgetary statement reflect the amounts in the amended certificate in effect when final appropriations for the fiscal year were passed by the Board.

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

**Operating Receipts and Disbursements**

Operating receipts are those receipts that are generated directly from the primary activity of the proprietary funds. For the District, these receipts are charges for services to the various funds to cover the costs of the self insurance program. Operating disbursements are necessary costs incurred to provide the goods and/or services that are the primary activity of the fund.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents and Investments**

Cash and cash equivalents consist of the total of fund cash balances of all funds as of June 30, 2024. Individual fund balance integrity is maintained through the District's records. Balances of all funds are maintained in these accounts or are temporarily used to purchase certificates of deposit or investments. All interest receipts are reported in the General Fund except those specifically related to those funds deemed appropriate according to School Board policy. For fiscal year 2024, interest receipts amounted to \$266,812 which was recorded in the General Fund.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**Capital Assets and Depreciation**

Capital assets acquired or constructed for the District are recorded as disbursements at the time of acquisition. However, under the cash basis of accounting, capital assets and the related depreciation are not reported separately on the financial statements.

**Compensated Absences**

Vacation and sick leave benefits are not accrued under the cash basis of accounting as previously described. All leave will either be absorbed by time off from work, or within certain limitations, be paid to the employees.

**Long-Term Obligations**

In general, bonds, long-term loans, and financed purchases are not accrued, but rather are recorded as cash disbursements in the basic financial statements when paid.

**Net Position**

Net cash position represents the cash assets held by the District at year end. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws or regulations of other governments. Restricted for Other Purposes is comprised of net position restricted for state and federal programs. The District applies restricted resources when a cash disbursement is made for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available. As of June 30, 2024, of the District's \$3,113,087 in restricted net position, none was restricted by enabling legislation.

**Leases**

The School District is the lessee in a lease related to copiers under noncancelable leases. Lease payables are not reflected in the accompanying financial statements under the School District's cash basis of accounting but are disclosed as an obligation in these notes to the financial statements. Lease disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

**Fund Balance**

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the District 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 the spendable form, or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

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

**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 District Board of Education. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the District Board of Education 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.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)**

**Assigned** Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or 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 District Board of Education or a School District official delegated by that authority by resolution or by State statute. State statute authorizes the School District's Treasurer to assign fund balance for purchases on order provided such amounts have been lawfully appropriated.

**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 used only to report a deficit balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

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

**Interfund Transactions**

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as cash receipts in the seller funds and as cash 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 cash disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented on the financial statements. In the government-wide financial statements transfers within governmental activities are eliminated.

Flows of cash from one fund to another with a requirement for repayment are reported as advances in and out. Advances between governmental activities are eliminated in the statement of activities. The District had no advances during the fiscal year.

**Pensions and Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)**

For purposes of measuring the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability (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 systems. 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 systems report investments at fair value. Under the District's current basis of accounting, no assets, liabilities, deferred outflows of resources or deferred inflows of resources for these items are recorded in the accompanying financial statements.

**3. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

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

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

Inactive deposits are public deposits that the Board of Education 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.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**3. DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (Continued)**

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 that 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 that the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and with certain limitations including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met;
5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio);
8. Certain bankers' acceptances (for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days) and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met.

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

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 qualified trustee or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

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

The District held no investments at June 30, 2024.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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**4. BUDGETARY BASIS FUND BALANCES**

The budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on the basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The statement of cash receipts, disbursements and changes in fund balance – budget and actual (budgetary basis) presented for the General Fund is prepared on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The following table summarized the adjustments necessary to reconcile the cash basis and the budgetary basis statement for the General Fund:

	<u>General</u>
Cash Basis (as reported)	\$853,882
Perspective Difference:	
Activity of Funds Reclassified	
for Cash Reporting Purposes	(10,136)
Encumbrances	(252,766)
Budget Basis	<u><u>\$590,980</u></u>

**5. PROPERTY TAX**

Property taxes are levied and assessed on a calendar year basis while the District fiscal year runs from July through June. First half tax collections are received by the District in the second half of the fiscal year. Second half tax distributions occur in the first half of the following fiscal year.

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real and public utility (used in business) located in the District. Real property tax revenue received in calendar year 2024 represents collections of calendar year 2023 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 1 were levied after April 1, 2023, on the assessed value listed as of January 1, 2023, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State law at thirty-five percent of appraised market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semi-annually, the first payment is due December 31 with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established.

Public utility property tax revenue received in calendar year 2024 represents collections of calendar year 2023 taxes. Public utility real and tangible personal property taxes received in calendar year 2024 became a lien on December 31, 2023, were levied after April 1, 2024, and are collected in 2024 with real property taxes. Public utility real property is assessed at thirty-five percent of true value; public utility tangible personal property currently is assessed at varying percentages of true value.

	2023 Second-Half Collections		2024 First-Half Collections	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
<b>Real Property</b>				
Resident/Agricultural	\$ 53,896,280	77.53%	\$ 65,866,360	75.56%
Commercial/Industrial	3,441,710	4.95%	3,856,070	4.42%
Public Utilities	323,710	0.47%	352,160	0.40%
Minerals	1,168,180	1.68%	1,183,770	1.36%
<b>Tangible Personal Property</b>				
Public Utilities	10,686,370	15.37%	15,908,630	18.25%
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 69,516,250</u></b>	<b><u>100.00%</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 87,166,990</u></b>	<b><u>100.00%</u></b>

The Perry and Hocking County Treasurers collect property taxes on behalf of all taxing districts within their respective County. The Perry and Hocking County Auditors periodically remit to the taxing districts their portion of taxes collected.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**6. DEBT OBLIGATIONS**

Debt outstanding at June 30, 2024, consisted of the following:

Debt	Beginning Balance 6/30/2023	Additions	Payments	Ending Balance 6/30/2024	Due in One Year
Financed Purchase, 3.35%	\$ 1,370,000	\$ -	\$ 155,000	\$ 1,215,000	\$ 155,000
Energy Conservation					
Improvement Notes, 4.5% to 5.5%	142,051	-	93,090	48,961	48,961
Lease Obligation	33,969	-	12,662	21,307	13,422
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,546,020</u></b>	<b><u>\$ -</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 260,752</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,285,268</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 217,383</u></b>

The Energy Conservation Improvement Notes were issued in the amount of \$998,947 in 2010 for the purpose of purchasing and installing energy conservation measures. The notes are direct obligations of the District for which its full faith, credit and resources are pledged. Payments are made from the General fund.

The Financed Purchase (previously reported as Lease Purchase Financing Agreement) was issued in the amount of \$2,300,000 in May 2016 for the purpose of constructing, enlarging, improving, furnishing and equipping of school facilities. This obligation was evaluated in accordance with GASB Statement No. 87 and is being classified as a financed purchase. Payments are made from the School Facilities Project fund.

The lease obligation is being recognized due to the implementation of GASB Statement No. 87 and is more fully described in Note 20 to the financial statements. The lease obligation is being amortized over the remaining life of the lease and payments on the lease are recorded as debt service expenditures in the accompanying financial statements. Payments are made from the General fund.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**6. DEBT OBLIGATIONS (Continued)**

The annual requirements to amortize debt outstanding as of June 30, 2024 are as follows:

Year Ending June 30	Improvement Notes		Financed Purchases	
	Principal	Interest	Principal	Interest
2025	48,961	1,011	155,000	38,106
2026	-	-	165,000	32,746
2027	-	-	165,000	14,991
2028	-	-	175,000	12,228
2029	-	-	180,000	15,577
2030-2031	-	-	375,000	34,171
Total	<u><u>\$ 48,961</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,011</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,215,000</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 147,819</u></u>

The District's overall legal debt margin was \$8,060,935 with an unvoted debt margin of \$87,167 at June 30, 2024.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets, errors and omissions, injuries to employees and natural disasters. During the year ended June 30, 2024, the District contracted with the Liberty Mutual Insurance for property insurance and boiler and machinery coverage. Buildings and contents are 100 percent coinsured.

Vehicles are covered by Liberty Mutual Insurance Company and include deductibles of \$500. Vehicle liability has a \$1,000,000 single occurrence limit. Professional and general liability is covered through Liberty Mutual Insurance Company with a \$1,000,000 single occurrence limit and a \$2,000,000 aggregate limit.

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

The District pays the State Workers' Compensation System a premium based on a rate per \$100 salaries. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

The District has chosen to establish a risk financing fund for risks associated with the employee vision insurance plan. The risk financing fund is accounted for as an Internal Service Fund where assets are set aside for claims and assessments. Trustmark acts as a third-party administrator for the payment of claims. A premium is charged to each fund that accounts for part-time and full-time employees. The premium charge is allocated to each of the funds based on trends in actual claims expense and the percentage of each fund's current year payroll expense to the total payroll expense of the District. Under the cash basis of accounting the District does not record a claims liability at fiscal year end, nor do they report claims liability information for previous years.

A comparison of Self Insurance Fund Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents to the estimated or actuarially-measured liability follows:

	2024	2023
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$121,066	\$118,474
Estimated claims liabilities	\$1,022	\$1,022

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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## **8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS**

The net pension liability is disclosed as a commitment and not reported on the face of the financial statements as a liability because of the use of the cash basis framework.

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 and OPEB are provided to an employee on a deferred-payment basis as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period.

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) represents the School District's proportionate share of each pension/OPEB plan's collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension and 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.

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

GASB 68/75 assume 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 the 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 pension plans 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.

Since the School District is using the cash basis of accounting, there is no accrued pension/OPEB liability (asset) or related deferred inflows or outflows of resources reported in the accompanying financial statements.

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

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

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

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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## 8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (Continued)

### Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS) (Continued)

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

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

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

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. New benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. The COLA is indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5 percent and with a floor of 0 percent. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. The Retirement Board approved a 2.5 Percent COLA for calendar year 2024.

**Funding Policy** – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the School District is required to contribute 14 percent of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS’ Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10 percent for plan members and 14 percent for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System’s funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.0 percent. For fiscal year 2024, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The School District’s contractually required contribution to SERS was \$201,838 for fiscal year 2024.

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

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

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

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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## **8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (Continued)**

### **Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) (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 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0 percent upon a determination by its actuary that it was necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients' base benefit and past cost-of living increases are not affected by this change. Effective July 1, 2022, an ad-hoc COLA of 3 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2023 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2018. Effective August 1, 2023, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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## **8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (Continued)**

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

The District's contractually required contribution to STRS Ohio was \$606,327 for fiscal year 2024.

#### **Net Pension Liability**

The net pension liability disclosed as current year below was measured as of June 30, 2024, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The School District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the School District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the projected contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability - Current Year	0.0352825%	0.032282000%	
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability - Prior Year	<u>0.0358871%</u>	<u>0.031354110%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.0006046%</u>	<u>0.000927890%</u>	
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	\$1,949,539	\$6,951,910	\$8,901,449

#### **Actuarial Assumptions - SERS**

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

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

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

**Southern Local School District**  
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**8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (Continued)**

**Actuarial Assumptions – SERS (Continued)**

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

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.4 percent	2.4 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.0 percent, on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement	2.0 percent, on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of system expenses	7.00 percent net of system expenses
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)

Mortality rates for both 2023 and 2022 were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

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

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

**Southern Local School District**  
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**8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (Continued)**

**Actuarial Assumptions – SERS (Continued)**

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	3.00 %	0.76%
US Equity	22.00	6.20
Non-US Equity Developed	12.00	6.91
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.00	8.92
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	18.00	2.46
Private Equity	14.00	10.3
Real Estate/Real Assets	20.00	5.01
Private Debt/Private Credit	<u>5.00</u>	6.42
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

**Discount Rate** The total pension liability for 2023 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.00 percent). Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

**Sensitivity of the School District'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 percent, as well as what each plan's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$2,877,421	\$1,949,539	\$1,167,977

**Changes in Benefit Terms and Assumptions since the prior measurement date** There were not changes in benefit terms. The cost-of-living adjustments was increased from 2.00% to 2.50% for calendar year 2024.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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**8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (Continued)**

**Actuarial Assumptions - STRS**

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

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.50 percent	2.50 percent
Salary increases	From 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent based on age	From 2.5 percent to 12.5 percent based on age
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent	7.00 percent
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent	3.00 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0.0 percent, effective July 1, 2017	0.0 percent, effective July 1, 2017

For 2023 and 2022, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110 percent for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95 percent for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Disable Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

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

**Southern Local School District**  
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**8. DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS (Continued)**

**Actuarial Assumptions – STRS (Continued)**

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation *	Long-Term Expected Rate of Return**
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.60 %
International Equity	22.00	6.80 %
Alternatives	19.00	7.38 %
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75 %
Real Estate	10.00	5.75 %
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	1.00 %
Total	<u>100.00 %</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 pension liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with rate increases described above. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS' fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2023. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2023.

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

	Current		
	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$10,690,497	\$6,951,910	\$3,790,086

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

**Southern Local School District**  
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## **9. DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS**

The net OPEB liability is disclosed as a commitment and not reported on the face of the financial statements as a liability because of the use of the cash basis framework.

See Note 8 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset). The District reports on the cash basis of accounting, so there is no net OPEB liability(asset) recorded in the accompanying financial statements.

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

Health Care Plan Description - The School District contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 75 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. SERS' Health Care Plan provides healthcare benefits to eligible individuals receiving retirement, disability, and survivor benefits, and to their eligible dependents. Members who retire after June 1, 1986, need 10 years of service credit, exclusive of most types of purchased credit, to qualify to participate in SERS' health care coverage. The following types of credit purchased after January 29, 1981 do not count toward health care coverage eligibility: military, federal, out-of-state, municipal, private school, exempted, and early retirement incentive credit. In addition to age and service retirees, disability benefit recipients and beneficiaries who are receiving monthly benefits due to the death of a member or retiree, are eligible for SERS' health care coverage. Most retirees and dependents choosing SERS' health care coverage are over the age of 65 and therefore enrolled in a fully insured Medicare Advantage plan; however, SERS maintains a traditional, self-insured preferred provider organization for its non-Medicare retiree population. For both groups, SERS offers a self-insured prescription drug program. Health care is a benefit that is permitted, not mandated, by statute. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at [www.ohsers.org](http://www.ohsers.org) under Employers/Audit Resources.

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2023, no allocation of covered payroll was made to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2024, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the School District's surcharge obligation was \$23,238.

The surcharge, added to the allocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The School District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$23,238 for fiscal year 2024.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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**9. DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - CONTINUED**

**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 Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org) or by calling (888) 227-7877.

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

**Net Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) (Asset) Liability**

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset) Liability - Current Year	0.0358786%	0.032282000%	
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset) Liability - Prior Year	<u>0.0366264%</u>	<u>0.031354110%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.0007478%</u>	<u>0.000927890%</u>	
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	\$591,079	\$0	\$591,079
Proportion of the Net OPEB (Asset)	\$0	(\$627,840)	(\$627,840)

**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.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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## 9. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (Continued)

### Actuarial Assumptions – SERS (Continued)

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

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation are presented below:

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.40 percent	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation		
Wage Increases	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expense, including inflation	7.00 percent net of investment expense, including inflation
Fiduciary Net Position is Projected to be Depleted	2048	2044
Municipal Bond Index Rate:		
Measurement Date	3.86 percent	3.69 percent
Prior Measurement Date	3.69 percent	1.92 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation		
Measurement Date	4.27 percent	4.08 percent
Prior Measurement Date	4.08 percent	2.27 percent
Health Care Cost Trend Rate		
Medicare	5.125 to 4.40 percent	5.125 to 4.40 percent
Pre-Medicare	6.75 to 4.40 percent	6.75 to 4.40 percent
Medical Trend Assumption	7.00 to 4.40 percent	7.00 to 4.40 percent

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

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

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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## 9. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (Continued)

### Actuarial Assumptions – SERS (Continued)

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial five-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2016 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board in 2021. Several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a long-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.00 percent, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The capital market assumptions developed by the investment consultant are intended for use over a 10-year horizon and may not be useful in setting the long-term rate of return for funding pension plans which covers a longer timeframe. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	3.00	0.76%
US Equity	22.00	6.20
Non-US Equity Developed	12.00	6.91
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.00	8.92
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	18.00	2.46
Private Equity	14.00	10.3
Real Estate/Real Assets	20.00	5.01
Private Debt/Private Credit	<u>5.00</u>	6.42
Total	<u>100.00</u>	%

**Discount Rate** The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2023 was 4.27 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability at June 30, 2022 was 4.08 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the contribution rate of 1.50 percent of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to become insufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current System members by SERS actuaries. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is used in the determination of the SEIR for both the June 30, 2023, and the June 30, 2022 total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is 3.86 percent at June 30, 2023 and 3.69 percent at June 30, 2022.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**9. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (Continued)**

**Actuarial Assumptions – SERS (Continued)**

***Sensitivity of the School District'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 of SERS, what SERS' net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.27%) and higher (5.27%) than the current discount rate (4.27%). Also shown is what SERS' net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (5.75% decreasing to 3.40%) and higher (7.75% decreasing to 5.40%) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease (3.27%)	Current Discount Rate (4.27%)	1% Increase (5.27%)
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$755,570	\$591,079	\$461,374
	1% Decrease in Trend Rates	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase in Trend Rates
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$434,246	\$591,079	\$798,907

***Assumption and Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date*** The discount rate was changed from 4.08% to 4.27%. Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience. Effective January 1, 2024, the non-Medicare disability health care subsidy amounts will change to reflect amounts equal to that of service retirees by years of service.

**Actuarial Assumptions - STRS**

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

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent	Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3 percent	3 percent
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent	7.00 percent
Health Care Cost Trends		
Medical		
Pre-Medicare	7.50 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	7.50 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate
Medicare	-10.94 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	-68.78 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	-11.95 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	9.00 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate
Medicare	1.33 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	-5.47 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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## **9. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (Continued)**

### **Actuarial Assumptions – STRS (Continued)**

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

For 2023 and 2022, healthy retirees post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110 percent for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020; pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95 percent for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

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

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation *	Long-Term Expected Rate of Return**
Domestic Equity	26.00 %	6.60 %
International Equity	22.00	6.80 %
Alternatives	19.00	7.38 %
Fixed Income	22.00	1.75 %
Real Estate	10.00	5.75 %
Liquidity Reserves	1.00	1.00 %
Total	<u>100.00 %</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 percent as of June 30, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed STRS continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2023. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected health care costs to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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## 9. POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (Continued)

### Actuarial Assumptions – STRS (Continued)

**Sensitivity of the School District'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, 2022, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00 percent, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent) or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	1% Decrease in Discount Rate (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase in Discount Rate (8.00%)
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset) liability	(\$531,385)	(\$627,840)	\$711,843
<hr/>			
	1% Decrease in Trend Rates	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase in Trend Rates
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset) liability	(\$715,741)	(\$627,840)	(\$521,965)

**Assumption and Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date** The discount rate remained unchanged at 7.00% for the June 30, 2023 valuation. Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience as well as benefit changes effective January 1, 2024.

## 10. JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

### Metropolitan Educational Technology Association (META) Solutions

META is an educational solutions partner providing services across Ohio. META provides cost-effective fiscal, network, technology and student services, a purchasing cooperative, and other individual services based on each client's needs.

The governing board of META consists of a president, vice president and six board members who represent the members of META. The board works with META's Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Financial Officer to manage operations and ensure the continued progress of the organization's mission, vision, and values. The Board exercises total control over the operations of the Council including budgeting, appropriating, contracting and designating management. Each member's degree of control is limited to its representation on the Board. The District paid META \$35,953 for services provided during the fiscal year. Financial information can be obtained from the Chief Financial Officer, at 100 Executive Drive, Marion, Ohio 43302.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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**10. JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS (Continued)**

**The Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools**

The Coalition of Rural and Appalachian Schools is a jointly governed organization of 136 school districts in the 35-county region of Ohio designated as Appalachia. The Coalition is operated by a Board which is composed of fifteen members. The Board members are composed of one superintendent from each County elected by the school districts within that County. The Coalition provides various services for school district administrative personnel; gathers data regarding conditions of education in the region; cooperates with other professional groups to assess and develop programs designed to meet the needs of member districts; and provides staff development programs for school district personnel. The Coalition is not dependent upon the continued participation of the District and the District does not maintain an equity interest in or a financial responsibility for the Coalition. The District paid membership fees totaling \$400 in 2024. The financial information for the Coalition can be obtained from the Executive Director, at McCracken Hall, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio 45701.

**11. PURCHASING POOLS**

**Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program**

The District participates in the Ohio School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program (GRP), an insurance purchasing pool. The GRP'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 GRP to cover the costs of administering the program.

The District participates in the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchasing Program, a cooperative purchasing pool. The Program, created by the Cooperative Purchasing Act of 1985, offers Ohio counties, townships, municipalities, school districts, public libraries, regional transit authorities, park districts, and other authorities and instrumentalities cost savings and convenience by empowering members to buy supplies and services through state government contracts. Each year, the participating entities pay a membership fee to cover the costs of administering the program.

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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## **12. STATUTORY RESERVES**

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

	<u>Capital Acquisition</u>
Set-Aside Reserve Cash Balance as of June 30, 2023	\$ -
Current Year Set-Aside Requirement	128,868
Qualifying Disbursements	<u>(128,868)</u>
Totals	<u>-</u>
Set-Aside Reserve Cash Balance as of June 30, 2024	<u>\$ -</u>

The amount presented for Prior Year Offset from Bond Proceeds is limited to an amount needed to reduce the reserve for capital improvements to zero. The District is responsible for tracking the amount of the bond proceeds that may be used as an offset in future periods, which was \$2,388,974 at June 30, 2024.

## **13. CONTINGENCIES**

### **A. Grants**

The District received financial assistance from federal and State agencies in the form of grants. The expenditure of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies.

### **B. Litigation**

There are currently no matters in litigation with the District as defendant.

### **C. School Foundation**

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

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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**14. INTERFUND ACTIVITY**

**Interfund Transfers**

Transfers made during the year ended June 30, 2024, were as follows:

Funds:	Transfer To:	Transfer
		From:
Major Funds		
General Fund	\$ 5,568	\$ 515,000
Permanent Improvement	500,000	-
Non-Major Funds		
Student Activities	-	5,568
Athletic Fund	15,000	-
Total	<u>\$ 520,568</u>	<u>\$ 520,568</u>

Transfers are made to move unrestricted balances to support programs and projects accounted for in other funds. The Transfer from the Student Activities Fund to the General Fund was to close out unused monies in those funds.

**15. COMPLIANCE**

Although required by Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(B) to prepare its financial report in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP), the District chooses to prepare its financial statements and notes in accordance with the cash basis of accounting. This is not in compliance with Ohio law.

**16. SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENTS**

**A. Encumbrances**

Encumbrances are commitments related to unperformed contracts for goods or services. Encumbrance account is utilized to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. At year-end the amount of encumbrances expected to be honored upon performance by the vendor in the next fiscal year were as follows:

<u>Governmental Funds</u>	
General	\$255,070
Other Governmental Funds	673,776
Total Governmental Funds	<u>\$928,846</u>

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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**17. ACCOUNTABILITY**

The following funds had deficit fund balances at June 30, 2024.

21st Century FY24 Elementary	(\$587)
Title I	(21,594)
Title VI-B	(2,274)
Drug Free	(351)
Early Childhood Education Grant	(1)
Title II-A/Title VI-R	(1,485)
Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief	(116,488)
Title IV-B 21st Century	<u>(17,230)</u>
	<u>(\$160,010)</u>

These deficits were created as these funds are awaiting receipts of requested grant funds.

**18. FUND BALANCES**

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

Fund Balances	General	Permanent Improvement	School Facilities Project	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Nonspendable</b>					
Unclaimed Monies	<u>\$15,042</u>	\$0	\$0	\$0	<u>\$15,042</u>
<b>Restricted for</b>					
Other Purposes	0	0	0	478,636	478,636
Lunchroom	0	0	0	0	0
Student Wellness and Success	0	0	0	0	0
Debt Services Payments	0	0	0	264,867	264,867
Capital Projects	<u>0</u>	<u>1,004,396</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1,004,398</u>
Total Restricted	<u>0</u>	<u>1,004,396</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>743,505</u>	<u>1,747,901</u>
<b>Committed to</b>					
Capital Projects	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,365,186</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,365,186</u>
<b>Assigned to</b>					
Susequent Appropriations	5,902,591	0	0	0	5,902,591
Other Purposes	<u>255,070</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>255,070</u>
Total Assigned	<u>6,157,661</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,157,661</u>
<b>Unassigned (Deficit)</b>					
	<u>57,686</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(160,010)</u>	<u>(102,324)</u>
Total Fund Balances	<u>\$6,230,389</u>	<u>\$1,004,396</u>	<u>\$1,365,186</u>	<u>\$583,495</u>	<u>\$9,183,466</u>

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**19. COVID-19**

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio's state of emergency ended in June 2021 while the national state of emergency continues. The impact on the District's future operating costs, revenues, and recovery from emergency funding (if any), either federal or state, cannot be estimated.

During fiscal year 2024, the District did receive Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding.

**20. LEASE**

During December of 2020 the District entered into a lease for various copiers for 60 months. In prior fiscal years, this lease had been treated as an operating lease. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 87, the District evaluated this lease and determined that this lease meets the criteria for recording it as an obligation for footnote reporting purposes. The District calculated the liability for disclosure in the footnotes based on the present value of the future lease payments as of July 1, 2021. The District is then recording future reductions of the liability by amortizing the payments over the remaining life of the lease. During the fiscal year the District made net lease payments (after deducting usage and related maintenance costs) of \$14,700. The annual principal and interest requirements to make net lease payments as of June 30, 2024 are as follows:

Year Ending June 30	Annual Payment	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 14,701	\$ 13,422	\$ 1,279
2026	8,357	7,885	472
Total	<u>\$ 23,058</u>	<u>\$ 21,307</u>	<u>\$ 1,751</u>

**21. NEW ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES**

For fiscal year 2024, the School District has implemented GASB Statement No. 100, “Accounting Changes and Error Corrections”, certain questions and answers of GASB Implementation Guide 2023-1 and certain paragraphs of GASB Statement No. 99, “*Omnibus 2022*”.

GASB Statement No. 100 enhances accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessing accountability. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 100 resulted in a change in presentation within the financial statements of the School District.

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

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

**Southern Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**22. ADJUSTMENTS TO PRIOR YEAR FUND BALANCE**

For fiscal year 2024, the beginning balances of various reporting units were restated or adjusted in accordance with GASB 100. An explanation of these adjustments or restatements are as follows:

<u>Reporting Units Affected by Adjustments to and Restatements of Beginning Balances</u>		
<u>Governmental Funds</u>		
	<u>Permanent Improvement</u>	<u>All Other Governmental Funds</u>
<i>Fund Balances at 6/30/2023 (as previously presented)</i>	\$ -	\$ 1,294,338
<i>Change within financial reporting entity (due to major fund reclass)</i>	631,240	(631,240)
<i>Fund Balances at 6/30/2023 (as adjusted)</i>	<u>\$ 631,240</u>	<u>\$ 663,098</u>

**SOUTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
PERRY COUNTY**

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

<b>FEDERAL GRANTOR</b> <i>Pass Through Grantor</i> <b>Program / Cluster Title</b>	<b>ALN</b>	<b>Pass Through Entity Identifying Number</b>	<b>Provided Through to Subrecipients</b>	<b>Total Federal Expenditures</b>
<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</b>				
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education:</i>				
Child Nutrition Cluster:				
Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution):				
National School Lunch Program	10.555	N/A	\$ -	\$ 37,263
Cash Assistance:				
School Breakfast Program	10.553	N/A	-	187,543
COVID-19 National School Lunch Program	10.555	N/A	-	19,131
National School Lunch Program	10.555	N/A	-	327,684
Cash Assistance Subtotal			- - -	534,358
Total Child Nutrition Cluster			- - -	571,621
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			- - -	<b>571,621</b>
<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b>				
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education:</i>				
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	N/A	-	33,258
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	N/A	- -	258,025
Total Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies			- - -	291,283
Special Education Cluster:				
Special Education Grants to States	84.027A	N/A	-	12,126
Special Education Grants to States	84.027A	N/A	- -	169,632
Special Education Grants to States - ARP	84.027X	N/A	- - -	6,229
Total Special Education Grants to States			- - -	187,987
Special Education Preschool Grants	84.173A	N/A	- -	828
Total Special Education Preschool Grants			- - -	828
Total Special Education Cluster				188,815
Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers	84.287	N/A	32,936	34,265
Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers	84.287	N/A	73,952	126,990
Total Twenty-First Century Community Learning Centers			106,888	161,255
Title VI-B Rural & Low Income	84.358	N/A	- -	13,358
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	N/A	- -	150
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	N/A	- - -	32,441
Total Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants			- - -	32,591
Title IV-Student Support Academic Enrichment Support	84.424	N/A	- -	1,149
Title IV-Student Support Academic Enrichment Support	84.424	N/A	- - -	20,256
Total Title IV-Student Support Academic Enrichment Support			- - -	21,405
Education Stabilization Fund:				
Emergency Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425D	N/A	- -	567,249
American Rescue Plan-Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER)	84.425U	N/A	- -	327,814
American Rescue Plan-Homeless (ARP ESSER)	84.425U	N/A	- - -	3,259
Total Education Stabilization Fund				898,322
Total U.S. Department of Education			106,888	<b>1,607,029</b>
<b>Total Receipts and Expenditures of Federal Awards</b>			<b>\$ 106,888</b>	<b>\$ 2,178,650</b>

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

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

**NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Receipts and expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the cash basis of accounting. 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 District has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

**NOTE D - SUBRECIPIENTS**

The District passes certain federal awards received from the U.S. Department of Education to other governments or not-for-profit agencies (subrecipients). As Note B describes, the District reports expenditures of Federal awards to subrecipients when paid in cash.

As a subrecipient, the District has certain compliance responsibilities, such as monitoring its subrecipients to help assure they use these subawards as authorized by laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and that subrecipients achieve the award's performance goals.

**NOTE E - CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER**

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

**NOTE F – FOOD DONATION PROGRAM**

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



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

Southern Local School District  
Perry County  
10390 State Route 155 SE  
Corning, Ohio 43730-9710

To the Board of Education:

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Southern Local School District, Perry County, (the District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated November 21, 2024, wherein we noted the District 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 District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purposes of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

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

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

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

***Report on Compliance and Other Matters***

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

***District's Response to Findings***

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the District's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and corrective action plan. The District'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***

This purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

*BHM CPA Group*

BHM CPA Group, Inc.  
Circleville, Ohio  
November 21, 2024



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

Southern Local School District  
Perry County  
10390 State Route 155 SE  
Corning, Ohio 43730-9710

To the Board of Education:

**Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program**

***Opinion on the Major Federal Program***

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

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

***Basis for Opinion on the Major Federal Program***

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

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

***Responsibilities of Management for Compliance***

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

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above occurred, whether due to fraud or error, and express an opinion on the District's compliance based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, *Government Auditing Standards*, and the Uniform Guidance will always detect material noncompliance when it exists. The risk of not detecting material noncompliance resulting from fraud is higher than for that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Noncompliance with the compliance requirements referred to above is considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, it would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user of the report on compliance about the District's compliance with the requirements of 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 District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.
- obtain an understanding of the District's internal control over compliance relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with the Uniform Guidance, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over compliance. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

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

### ***Report on Internal Control Over Compliance***

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

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

Southern Local School District

Perry County

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements

Applicable to The Major Federal Program and on Internal Control over Compliance

Required by the Uniform Guidance

Page 3

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

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

*BHM CPA Group*

BHM CPA Group, Inc.

Circleville, Ohio

November 21, 2024

**Southern Local School District  
Perry County, Ohio**

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 control weaknesses reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any other 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 internal control weaknesses reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any other significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(v)	Type of Major Program's Compliance Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under 2CFR § 200.515(a)?	No
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Programs (list):	Education Stabilization Fund ALN 84.425D, 84.425U
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A\B Programs	Type A: > \$750,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee?	No

**Southern Local School District  
Perry County, Ohio**

Schedule of Findings  
2 CFR § 200.515  
June 30, 2024

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

**FINDING NUMBER 2024-001**

**Material Noncompliance Citation**

**Ohio Revised 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 Administrative Code § 117-2-03, which further clarifies the requirements of Ohio Revised Code § 117.38 requires the District to file annual financial reports which are prepared using generally accepted accounting principles.

The District 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 District may be fined and subject to various other administrative remedies for its failure to file the required financial report. Failure to report on a GAAP basis compromises the District's ability to evaluate and monitor the overall financial condition of the District. To help provide the users with more meaningful financial statements, the District should prepare its annual financial statements according to generally accepted accounting principles.

*Officials' Response:* See Corrective Action Plan.

**3. FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS AND QUESTIONED COSTS**

**None**

**Southern Local School District  
Perry County, Ohio**

**Schedule of Prior Audit Findings  
June 30, 2024**

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<b>Finding Number</b>	<b>Finding Summary</b>	<b>Fully Corrected?</b>	<b>Not Corrected, Partially Corrected; Significantly Different Corrective Action Taken; or Finding No Longer Valid; Explain:</b>
2023-001	Material Non-Compliance: OAC 117-2-03(B) the District is required to file its annual financial report in accordance with GAAP.	No	Reissued as finding 2024-001

# Southern Local Schools

*The Mission of Southern Local Schools is to Provide an excellent student-centered environment that prepares all students to become active learners and responsible citizens.*

## Annette Losco, Superintendent

10397 State Route 155 SE #1, Corning, OH 43730

(740) 721-0520 FAX (740) 394-2083

### Board of Education

M. Clarissa Reynolds  
President

Sean Bartley  
Vice President

Jessica Dorsey  
Jim Palmer  
Albert Siemer

Brooke Champ  
Treasurer  
740-721-0520

**Miller High School**  
Anthony Losco  
Principal  
740-721-0521

**Millcreek Elementary**  
Sara Puckett  
Principal  
740-721-0522

### Corrective Action Plan for Finding 2024-001:

#### Finding Control Number: 2024-001

**Summary of Finding:** The Ohio Administrative Code requires the District to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. However, the District prepares its financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting in a report format similar to the requirements of GASB Statement No. 34.

**Statement of Concurrence:** District officials do not believe preparing GAAP statements is cost beneficial to the District.

**Corrective Action:** District officials do not believe preparing GAAP statements is cost beneficial to the District.

**Contact Person:** The official responsible for completing the corrective action is listed below:

Brooke Champ  
Southern Local School District Treasurer  
Phone: (740) 721-0520  
Email: brooke.champ@southernlocal.org



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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



SOUTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

PERRY 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 1/7/2025

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](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)