



**bhm cpa group, inc.**

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY

REGULAR AUDIT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024





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

Board of Directors  
Steel Academy  
1570 Creighton Avenue  
Akron, Ohio 44310

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of Steel Academy, Summit 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. Steel Academy is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

KEITH FABER  
Ohio Auditor of State

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

**July 10, 2025**

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**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Steel Academy  
Summit County  
1814 South Main Street  
Akron, Ohio 44301

To the Board of Directors:

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

#### ***Opinion***

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

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

#### ***Basis for Opinion***

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

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the *management's discussion and analysis* and schedules of net pension and other post-employment benefit liabilities and pension and other post-employment benefit contributions be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 27, 2025, on our consideration of the Academy'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 Academy's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Academy's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

*BHM CPA Group*

BHM CPA Group, Inc.  
Portsmouth, Ohio  
February 27, 2025

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

### **Financial Highlights**

Key financial highlights for 2024 are as follows:

- In total, net position was a deficit of \$1,844,095 at June 30, 2024.
- The Academy had operating revenues of \$1,936,503, operating expenses of \$2,888,419, non-operating revenues of \$468,719 and non-operating expenses of \$44,081 for fiscal year 2024. The Academy’s change in net position was a decrease of \$527,278.
- The Academy’s cash balance increased \$60,076 to \$60,586. The decrease in net position of \$527,278 was due to a changes in the net pension liability, net OPEB liability and the associated deferred inflows and deferred outflows of resources.

### **Using these Basic Financial Statements**

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. These statements are organized so the reader can understand the Academy’s financial activities. The *statement of net position* and *statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position* provide information about the activities of the Academy, including all short-term and long-term financial resources and obligations.

### **Reporting the Academy’s Financial Activities**

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

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

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

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

#### ***Notes to the Basic Financial Statements***

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

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

***Required Supplementary Information***

The required supplementary information provides detailed information regarding the Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability and net OPEB liability/asset of the retirement systems and a schedule of the Academy's contributions to the retirement systems to fund pension and OPEB obligations.

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

<b>Net Position</b>		
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b><u>Assets</u></b>		
Current assets	\$ 143,515	\$ 127,362
Net OPEB asset	105,562	113,929
Land	65,030	65,030
Depreciable/amortizable capital assets, net	<u>1,358,468</u>	<u>1,564,325</u>
Total assets	<u>1,672,575</u>	<u>1,870,646</u>
<b><u>Deferred outflows of resources</u></b>	<u>1,408,006</u>	<u>738,007</u>
<b><u>Liabilities</u></b>		
Current liabilities	563,570	252,611
Non-current liabilities:		
Due within one year	201,492	188,980
Due in more than one year	1,180,749	1,382,241
Net pension liability	2,219,763	1,491,641
Net OPEB liability	<u>304,488</u>	<u>137,440</u>
Total liabilities	<u>4,470,062</u>	<u>3,452,913</u>
<b><u>Deferred inflows of resources</u></b>	<u>454,614</u>	<u>472,557</u>
<b><u>Net Position</u></b>		
Investment in capital assets	41,257	58,134
Restricted	113,062	-
Unrestricted (deficit)	<u>(1,998,414)</u>	<u>(1,374,951)</u>
Total net position (deficit)	<u>\$ (1,844,095)</u>	<u>\$ (1,316,817)</u>

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

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Over time, net position can serve as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. At June 30, 2024 and 2023, the Academy's net position totaled deficits of (\$1,844,095) and (\$1,316,817), respectively.

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

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

**Change in Net Position**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b><u>Operating Revenues:</u></b>		
State foundation	\$ 1,918,624	\$ 1,885,754
Other	<u>17,879</u>	<u>12,122</u>
Total operating revenue	<u>1,936,503</u>	<u>1,897,876</u>
<b><u>Operating Expenses:</u></b>		
Purchased services	1,996,801	2,047,530
Fringe benefits	381,367	108,909
Depreciation/amortization	229,230	224,697
Materials and supplies	254,765	202,531
Other	<u>26,256</u>	<u>20,376</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>2,888,419</u>	<u>2,604,043</u>
<b><u>Non-operating Revenues:</u></b>		
Federal and state grants	468,719	610,617
Interest and fiscal charges	<u>(44,081)</u>	<u>(68,945)</u>
Total non-operating revenues	<u>424,638</u>	<u>541,672</u>
Change in net position	(527,278)	(164,495)
Net position (deficit) at beginning of year	<u>(1,316,817)</u>	<u>(1,152,322)</u>
Net position (deficit) at end of year	<u>\$ (1,844,095)</u>	<u>\$ (1,316,817)</u>

Overall operating expenses remained relatively stable between fiscal year 2023 and 2024, with an increase of \$284,376 primarily due to an increase in fringe benefit expenses. This increase was the result of an increase in expenses incurred at the pension system level for the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS) and the School Employees Retirement System (SERS).

During fiscal year 2024, the Academy provided services to 127 students, a decrease from the 152 students in fiscal year 2023. Student enrollment directly impacts the amount of State Foundation revenue the Academy receives, which is based on a per pupil funding formula. The Academy relies on State foundation revenues for operations, with 79.77 percent of total revenues coming from State foundation for fiscal year 2024. Federal and state grants include monies received from the Federal breakfast and lunch programs, Title IA, Title II A, ESSER, Title IV-A, Supporting Effective Instruction and IDEA.

The decrease in federal grants was a result of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funding in fiscal year 2023, related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Academy contracted with The Educational Empowerment Group for management services for fiscal year 2024.

***Debt***

At the end of fiscal year 2024, the Academy had \$1,382,241 in lease obligations outstanding. Of this amount, \$201,492 is due within one year. See Note 11 to the basic financial statements for detail on the Academy's outstanding debt.

***Capital Assets***

At the end of fiscal year 2024, the Academy had \$1,423,498 invested in land, furniture, fixtures and equipment, leasehold improvements and intangible right to use assets.

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

The following table shows June 30, 2024 balances compared to June 30, 2023.

**Capital Assets at June 30  
(Net of Depreciation/Amortization)**

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Land	\$ 65,030	\$ 65,030
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	30,314	14,723
Leasehold improvements	46,148	48,642
Intangible right to use:		
Buildings	1,251,999	1,460,665
Equipment	<u>30,007</u>	<u>40,295</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 1,423,498</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 1,629,355</u></b>

See Note 12 to the basic financial statements for detail on the Academy's capital assets.

**Restrictions and Other Limitations**

The future stability of the Academy is not without challenges. The Academy does not receive any funds from taxes. The primary source of funding is the State foundation program. An economic slowdown in the State could result in budgetary cuts to education, which would have a negative impact on the Academy.

**Current Financial Related Activities**

The Academy is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Education. The Academy is reliant upon State foundation monies and Federal and State Grants to offer quality, educational services to students.

In order to continually provide learning opportunities to the Academy's students, the Academy will apply resources to best meet the needs of its students. It is the intent of the Academy to apply for other State and Federal funds that are made available to finance its operations.

**Contacting the Academy's Financial Management**

This financial report is designed to provide our clients and creditors with a general overview of the Academy's finances and to show the Academy's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information contact Mr. Dan Lamb, Treasurer, Steel Academy, 40 Hill Road South, Pickerington, Ohio 43147.

**BASIC  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

**Assets:**

Current assets:

Cash . . . . .	\$ 60,586
Receivables:	
Intergovernmental receivable . . . . .	63,834
Prepayments . . . . .	19,095
	143,515
Total current assets . . . . .	143,515
Non-current assets:	
Net OPEB asset . . . . .	105,562
Land. . . . .	65,030
Depreciable/amortizable capital assets, net . . .	1,358,468
	1,529,060
Total non-current assets. . . . .	1,529,060
	1,672,575
Total assets. . . . .	1,672,575

**Deferred outflows of resources:**

Pension . . . . .	980,145
OPEB . . . . .	427,861
Total deferred outflows of resources . . . . .	1,408,006

**Liabilities:**

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable. . . . .	550,512
Intergovernmental payable . . . . .	9,602
Accrued interest payable . . . . .	3,456
	563,570

Non-current liabilities:

Due within one year . . . . .	201,492
Due in more than one year . . . . .	1,180,749
Net pension liability. . . . .	2,219,763
Net OPEB liability. . . . .	304,488
	3,906,492
Total non-current liabilities . . . . .	3,906,492
	4,470,062

**Deferred inflows of resources:**

Pension . . . . .	105,803
OPEB . . . . .	348,811
Total deferred inflows of resources . . . . .	454,614

**Net position:**

Investment in capital assets. . . . .	41,257
Restricted for state programs . . . . .	7,500
Restricted for OPEB. . . . .	105,562
Unrestricted (deficit) . . . . .	(1,998,414)
	\$ (1,844,095)

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

**Operating revenues:**

State foundation . . . . .	\$ 1,918,624
Other . . . . .	17,879
Total operating revenues . . . . .	<u>1,936,503</u>

**Operating expenses:**

Fringe benefits. . . . .	381,367
Purchased services. . . . .	1,996,801
Depreciation/amortization. . . . .	229,230
Materials and supplies . . . . .	254,765
Other. . . . .	26,256
Total operating expenses. . . . .	<u>2,888,419</u>

Operating loss . . . . .	<u>(951,916)</u>
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**Non-operating revenues:**

Federal and State grants. . . . .	468,719
Interest and fiscal charges . . . . .	(44,081)
Total nonoperating revenues (expenses) . . . . .	<u>424,638</u>

Change in net position . . . . .	<u>(527,278)</u>
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<b>Net position (deficit) at beginning of year . . .</b>	<u>(1,316,817)</u>
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<b>Net position (deficit) at end of year . . . . .</b>	<u><b>\$ (1,844,095)</b></u>
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SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

**Cash flows from operating activities:**

Cash received from State foundation . . . . .	\$ 1,925,093
Cash received from other sources. . . . .	17,879
Cash payments for purchased services. . . . .	(1,717,963)
Cash payments for fringe benefits. . . . .	(204,242)
Cash payments for materials and supplies . . . . .	(206,213)
Cash payments for other expenses . . . . .	<u>(26,256)</u>

Net cash used in operating activities . . . . . (211,702)

**Cash flows from noncapital financing activities:**

Cash received from Federal and State grants. . . . .	<u>528,683</u>
Net cash provided by noncapital financing activities. . . . .	<u>528,683</u>

**Cash flows from capital and related financing activities:**

Interest and fiscal charges . . . . .	(44,552)
Principal retirement on lease obligations . . . . .	(188,980)
Acquisition of capital assets . . . . .	<u>(23,373)</u>
Net cash used in capital and related financing activities. . . . .	<u>(256,905)</u>
Net increase in cash . . . . .	60,076

**Cash at beginning of year** . . . . . **510**

**Cash at end of year** . . . . . **\$ 60,586**

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

Operating loss . . . . .	\$ (951,916)
<b>Adjustments:</b>	
Depreciation/Amortization . . . . .	229,230
<b>Changes in assets, deferred outflows, liabilities and deferred inflows:</b>	
Intergovernmental receivable. . . . .	(15,484)
Prepayments. . . . .	(557)
Accounts payable. . . . .	328,156
Intergovernmental payable. . . . .	(16,726)
Net OPEB liability. . . . .	167,048
Net OPEB asset . . . . .	8,367
Net pension liability. . . . .	728,122
Deferred inflows - OPEB. . . . .	69,010
Deferred inflows - pension. . . . .	(86,953)
Deferred outflows - OPEB. . . . .	(245,837)
Deferred outflows - pension. . . . .	<u>(424,162)</u>
Net cash used in operating activities. . . . .	<u>\$ (211,702)</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

**NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE ACADEMY**

Steel Academy (the “Academy”) is a nonprofit corporation established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapters 3314 and 1702. The Academy’s objective is to offer a nontraditional approach to education for students with learning differences who have had difficulty finding success in other school environments. The Academy is focused on students in grades 6-12 with ADHD, autism spectrum disorders and gifted students who need to be challenged. The Academy prepares students for college or post-graduate careers and to be happy, productive lifelong learners. The Academy, which is part of the State’s education program, is independent of any school district and is nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices, and all other operations. The Academy may sue and be sued, acquire facilities as needed, and contract for any services necessary for the operation of the Academy.

The Academy was approved under contract on June 30, 2014, with the Ohio Department of Education (the “Sponsor”) for an initial 5-year term commencing on July 1, 2014 and ending on June 30, 2019. This contract was renewed through June 30, 2028. The Sponsor is responsible for evaluating the performance of the Academy and has the authority to terminate the contract or deny renewal of the contract at its expiration.

The Academy operates under the direction of a Board of Directors which is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the contract, which include, but are not limited to, State-mandated provisions regarding student population, curriculum, academic goals, performance standards, admission standards and qualification of teachers. The Board of Directors controls the Academy’s instructional/support facility staffed by employees of the management company who provide services to 127 students.

**NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

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

**A. Basis of Presentation**

The Academy's basic financial statements consist of a Statement of Net Position, a Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position, and a Statement of Cash Flows.

The Academy uses a single enterprise presentation. Enterprise reporting focuses on the determination of operating income, changes in net position, financial position, and cash flows.

**B. Measurement Focus**

Enterprise activity is accounted for using a flow of economic resources measurement focus. All assets and deferred outflows of resources and all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources associated with the operation of the Academy are included on the Statement of Net Position. The Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position presents increases (e.g. revenues) and decreases (e.g. expenses) in total net position. The Statement of Cash Flows reflects how the Academy's finances meet its cash flow needs.

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

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

**C. Basis of Accounting**

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recognized in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. The Academy's financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place. Revenue resulting from non-exchange transactions, in which the Academy receives value without directly giving equal value in return, such as grants and entitlements, are recognized in the period in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the period when the resources are required to be used or the period when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the Academy must provide local resources to be used for a specific purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Academy on a reimbursement basis. Expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred.

**D. Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources**

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. See Notes 6 and 7 for deferred outflows of resources related to net pension liability/asset and net OPEB liability/asset, respectively.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position will report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. See Notes 6 and 7 for deferred inflows of resources related to net pension liability/asset and net OPEB liability/asset, respectively.

**E. Budgetary Process**

The contract between the Academy and its Sponsor prescribes an annual budget requirement in addition to preparing a 5-year forecast, which is to be updated on an annual basis. Chapter 5705.391 of the Ohio Revised Code also requires the Academy to prepare a 5-year forecast, update it annually and submit it to the Superintendent of Public Instruction at the Ohio Department of Education.

**F. Cash**

Cash received by the Academy is reflected as "cash" on the Statement of Net Position. Unless otherwise noted, all monies received by the Academy are pooled and deposited in a central bank account as demand deposits. The Academy did not have any investments during fiscal year 2024.

**G. Capital Assets**

Capital assets are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the fiscal year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their acquisition values as of the date received. The Academy does not have any infrastructure. Improvements are capitalized; the costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend an asset's life are not. All reported capital assets, except land, are depreciated. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method and the useful lives for furniture, fixtures and equipment is 3-10 years.

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

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

**H. Net Position**

Net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the Academy or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments.

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

**I. Intergovernmental Revenues**

The Academy currently participates in the State Foundation, Special Education, Disadvantaged Pupil Impact Aid, Student Wellness and Success, Career Technical Education, Pupil Transportation and Facilities Programs. Revenue received from these programs is recognized as operating revenues. Amounts awarded under these programs for the 2024 school year totaled \$1,918,624.

Grants and entitlements are recognized as non-operating revenues in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met. Eligibility includes timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted; matching requirements, in which the Academy must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose; and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Academy on a reimbursement basis. Federal and State grant revenue received during fiscal year 2024 was \$468,719.

**J. Accrued Liabilities**

The Academy has recognized certain expenses due, but unpaid as of June 30, 2024. These expenses are reported as accrued liabilities in the accompanying financial statements.

**K. Operating Revenues and Expenses**

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

**L. Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)**

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

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

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

**M. Estimates**

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

**N. Economic Dependency**

The Academy receives approximately 99.26 percent of its operating revenue from the Ohio Department of Education. Due to the significance of this revenue source, the Academy is considered to be economically dependent on the Ohio Department of Education.

**NOTE 3 – CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES**

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

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

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

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

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

**NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS**

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of bank failure, the Academy’s deposits may not be returned. The Academy does not have a deposit policy for custodial credit risk. At June 30, 2024, the carrying amount of the Academy’s deposits was \$60,586 and the bank balance of the Academy’s deposits was \$104,294. The entire bank balance was covered by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). There are no significant statutory restrictions regarding the deposit and investment of funds by the non-profit corporation.

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

**NOTE 5 - RECEIVABLES**

Receivables at June 30, 2024, consisted of intergovernmental receivables arising from grants and entitlements and amounts due from other governments. All receivables are considered collectible in full. A summary of the intergovernmental receivables follows:

<b>Receivables:</b>	<b>Amount</b>
State Foundation revenue	\$ 112
SERS	1,602
STRS	13,770
IDEA Part B	9,791
Title I	29,660
ESSER	6,697
Title IV A	2,202
Total	<u><u>\$ 63,834</u></u>

**NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS**

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

***Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability/Asset***

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

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

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

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

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

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

**NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 7 for the required OPEB disclosures.

The proportionate share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a long-term *net pension/OPEB liability (asset)* on the accrual basis of accounting.

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

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

The Academy's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$81,132 for fiscal year 2024.

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**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

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

Plan Description - Licensed teachers participate in STRS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer public employee retirement system administered by STRS. STRS provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. STRS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about STRS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by writing to STRS, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771, by calling (888) 227-7877, or by visiting the STRS website at [www.strsoh.org](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 (CO) Plan. Benefits are established by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eligible survivors of members who die before service retirement may qualify for monthly benefits. If a member of the DC Plan dies before retirement benefits begin, the member's designated beneficiary is entitled to receive the member's account balance.

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

**NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

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

The Academy's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$92,683 for fiscal year 2024.

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

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

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

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the net pension liability prior measurement date	0.009494400%	0.004399930%	
Proportion of the net pension liability current measurement date	<u>0.019019000%</u>	<u>0.005427750%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>0.009524600%</u>	<u>0.001027820%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 1,050,900	\$ 1,168,863	\$ 2,219,763
Pension expense	\$ 291,013	\$ 99,809	\$ 390,822

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

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Deferred outflows of resources</b>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 45,169	\$ 42,613	\$ 87,782
Changes of assumptions	7,444	96,262	103,706
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	419,879	194,963	614,842
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>81,132</u>	<u>92,683</u>	<u>173,815</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 553,624</u>	<u>\$ 426,521</u>	<u>\$ 980,145</u>

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

**NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Deferred inflows of resources</b>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ 2,594	\$ 2,594
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	14,770	3,501	18,271
Changes of assumptions	- -	72,457	72,457
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	- -	12,481	12,481
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>\$ 14,770</u>	<u>\$ 91,033</u>	<u>\$ 105,803</u>

\$173,815 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

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

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 190,740	\$ 52,506	\$ 243,246
2026	100,247	(2,286)	97,961
2027	165,953	157,477	323,430
2028	782	35,108	35,890
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$ 457,722</u>	<u>\$ 242,805</u>	<u>\$ 700,527</u>

***Actuarial Assumptions - SERS***

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

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

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

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

**NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

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

Wage inflation:

Current measurement date	2.40%
Prior measurement date	2.40%

Future salary increases, including inflation:

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

COLA or ad hoc COLA:

Current measurement date	2.00%
Prior measurement date	2.00%

Investment rate of return:

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

Discount rate:

Current measurement date	7.00%
Prior measurement date	7.00%

Actuarial cost method

Entry age normal (level percent of payroll)

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

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

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

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

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

**NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

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

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

**Discount Rate** - Total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00%. The discount rate determination did not use a municipal bond rate. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employers would contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate of projected compensation over the remaining 21-year amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The actuarially determined contribution rate of fiscal year 2023 was 14%. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return, 7.00%. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability. The annual money weighted rate of return, calculated as the internal rate of return on pension plan investments, for fiscal year 2023 was 6.90%.

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

	Current Discount Rate		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 1,551,071	\$ 1,050,900	\$ 629,597

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

**NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

*Actuarial Assumptions - STRS*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

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

**NOTE 6 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)**

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

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

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

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
Academy's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 1,797,452	\$ 1,168,863	\$ 637,248

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

**NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS**

***Net OPEB Liability/Asset***

See Note 6 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

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

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

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

**NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14% of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, SERS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2024, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2% of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5% of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the Academy's surcharge obligation was \$2,901.

The surcharge added to the allocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The Academy's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$2,901 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount, \$2,901 is reported as intergovernmental payable.

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

Plan Description - The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) administers a cost-sharing Health Plan administered for eligible retirees who participated in the defined benefit or combined pension plans offered by STRS. Ohio law authorizes STRS to offer this plan. Benefits include hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs and partial reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting [www.strsoh.org](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. Nearly all health care plan enrollees, for the most recent year, pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14% of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

***Net OPEB Liabilities/Assets, OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB***

The net OPEB liability/asset was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total OPEB liability/asset used to calculate the net OPEB liability/asset was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Academy's proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset was based on the Academy's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

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

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

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset prior measurement date	0.009789100%	0.004399930%	
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset current measurement date	<u>0.018482400%</u>	<u>0.005427750%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>0.008693300%</u>	<u>0.001027820%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 304,488	\$ -	\$ 304,488
Proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ -	\$ (105,562)	\$ (105,562)
OPEB expense	\$ 5,378	\$ (3,889)	\$ 1,489

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

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Deferred outflows of resources</b>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 635	\$ 167	\$ 802
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	2,358	192	2,550
Changes of assumptions	102,954	15,552	118,506
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	302,654	448	303,102
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	2,901	-	2,901
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 411,502</u>	<u>\$ 16,359</u>	<u>\$ 427,861</u>
<b>Deferred inflows of resources</b>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 157,033	\$ 16,104	\$ 173,137
Changes of assumptions	86,477	69,648	156,125
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	7,002	12,547	19,549
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>\$ 250,512</u>	<u>\$ 98,299</u>	<u>\$ 348,811</u>

\$2,901 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability/asset in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

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

**NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS – (Continued)**

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

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	SERS	STRS	Total
2025	\$ 811	\$ (38,940)	\$ (38,129)
2026	6,032	(16,082)	(10,050)
2027	12,100	(5,760)	6,340
2028	17,865	(7,844)	10,021
2029	22,762	(7,212)	15,550
Thereafter	<u>98,519</u>	<u>(6,102)</u>	<u>92,417</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$ 158,089</u></b>	<b><u>\$ (81,940)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 76,149</u></b>

***Actuarial Assumptions – SERS***

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

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

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

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SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

**NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

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

Wage inflation:

Current measurement date	2.40%
Prior measurement date	2.40%

Future salary increases, including inflation:

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

Investment rate of return:

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

Municipal bond index rate:

Current measurement date	3.86%
Prior measurement date	3.69%

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

Current measurement date	4.27%
Prior measurement date	4.08%

Medical trend assumption:

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

In 2023, the following mortality assumptions were used:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

The long-term expected rate of return is reviewed as part of the regular experience studies prepared every five years for SERS. The most recent five-year experience study was performed for the period covering fiscal years 2016 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board on April 15, 2021. Several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a long-normal distribution analysis in which best estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected return, net of investment expense and inflation) were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.00%, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

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

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

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

**Discount Rate** - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2023, was 4.27%. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2023, was 4.08%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the contribution rate of 1.50% of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50% payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is projected to be depleted in 2048 by SERS' actuaries. The Fidelity General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index Rate was used in the determination of the single equivalent interest rate for both the June 30, 2022 and the June 30, 2023 total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate was 3.86% at June 30, 2023 and 3.69% at June 30, 2022.

**STEEL ACADEMY  
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**NOTES TO BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

***Sensitivity of the Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates*** - The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability, what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.27%) and higher (5.27%) than the current discount rate (4.27%). Also shown is what the net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (5.75% decreasing to 3.40%) and higher (7.75% decreasing to 5.40%) than the current rate (6.75% decreasing to 4.40%).

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 389,222	\$ 304,488	\$ 237,671
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 223,696	\$ 304,488	\$ 411,546

***Actuarial Assumptions - STRS***

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

	June 30, 2023		June 30, 2022		
Inflation	2.50%		2.50%		
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%		Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%		
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation		7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation		
Payroll increases	3.00%		3.00%		
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%		0.00%		
Discount rate of return	7.00%		7.00%		
Blended discount rate of return	N/A		N/A		
Health care cost trends		Initial	Ultimate	Initial	Ultimate
Medical					
Pre-Medicare	7.50%	4.14%	7.50%	3.94%	
Medicare	-10.94%	4.14%	-68.78%	3.94%	
Prescription Drug					
Pre-Medicare	-11.95%	4.14%	9.00%	3.94%	
Medicare	1.33%	4.14%	-5.47%	3.94%	

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

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

***Discount Rate*** - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.00% as of June 30, 2023. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed STRS continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on those assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2023. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care fund investments of 7.00% was applied to all periods of projected health care costs to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2023.

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

**NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)**

***Sensitivity of the Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate*** - The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2023, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 89,345	\$ 105,562	\$ 119,686
Academy's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
	\$ 120,341	\$ 105,562	\$ 87,761

**NOTE 8 - RISK MANAGEMENT**

The Academy is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During fiscal year 2024, the Academy maintained the following coverage: general liability through RSUI Indemnity Company:

<u>Coverage</u>	<u>Limits of Coverage</u>
General liability:	
Each occurrence	\$1,000,000
General aggregate	1,000,000

Settled claims have not exceeded commercial coverage in the past year.

**NOTE 9 - CONTRACTS**

**A. Sponsor Contract**

The Academy entered into a sponsorship contract commencing on July 1, 2023 ending on June 30, 2028, with the Ohio Department of Education (the "Sponsor"). The Sponsor shall carry out the responsibilities established by law, including:

- Monitor the Academy's compliance with all applicable laws and with the terms of the contract;
- Monitor and evaluate the academic and fiscal performance and the organization of the Academy on at least an annual basis;
- Provide reasonable technical assistance to the Academy in complying with all laws and terms of the contract;
- Conduct site visits as deemed necessary by the Sponsor; and

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

**NOTE 9 - CONTRACTS - (Continued)**

- Take steps to intervene in, correct, declare probationary status of, suspend, terminate or non-renew the status of the Academy as an Ohio Community School, and correct problems in the Academy's performance.

The Academy paid the Sponsor \$54,207 for services during fiscal year 2024.

**B. Operating Contract**

The Academy entered into an operating contract with EEG Steel Academy, LLC ("EEG") for management consulting services. The contract shall continue until termination or expiration without renewal of the charter. EEG is required to provide the following services, which are described in more detail in the operating contract with the Academy:

- Implementation of Education Program
- Strategic Planning
- Education Management Information Systems and State Reporting
- Federal Programs/Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan
- Public Relations/Student Recruitment
- Compliance Management
- Reporting
- Student Records
- Services to Special Needs Students
- Facility/Facility Planning
- Procurement

Per the operating contract, the Academy pays a monthly continuing fee to EEG of sixteen percent of the Academy's qualified gross revenue. Payments to EEG included management fees of \$60,338.

**C. Service Contract**

The Academy entered into a service contract commencing on July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2024, with Charter School Specialists, LLC (CSS), to provide fiscal consulting services. The Academy paid CSS \$33,021 during fiscal year 2024 for these services.

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

**NOTE 10 - OPERATING COMPANY EXPENSES**

For the year ended June 30, 2024, EEG incurred the following expenses on behalf of the Academy:

**Direct Expenses:**

Salaries & Wages					
Regular Instruction	\$	635,641			
Special Instruction		111,781			
Support Services		472,214			
Noninstructional Activities		4,184			
Employees' Benefits					
Noninstructional Activities		6,074			
Professional & Technical Services					
Noninstructional Activities		36,515			
Property Services					
Noninstructional Activities		7,362			
Contracted Services		350			
Supplies					
Noninstructional Activities		5,736			
Other Direct Costs		4,280			
Overhead		<u>153,950</u>			
Total Expenses	\$	<u>1,438,087</u>			

Included in the direct costs are overhead charges of \$153,950. These charges represent the indirect cost of services in the operation of the Academy. Such services include but are not limited to, facilities management, equipment, operational support services, management and management consulting, board relations, human resources, management, training and orientation financial reporting and compliance, purchasing and procurement, education services, technology support and marketing communications.

**NOTE 11 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS**

During fiscal year 2024, the following activity occurred in the long-term obligations:

	Balance June 30, 2023	Additions	Reductions	Balance June 30, 2024	Due in One Year
<b><u>Long-term liabilities</u></b>					
Net pension liability	\$ 1,491,641	\$ 728,122	\$ -	\$ 2,219,763	\$ -
Net OPEB liability	137,440	167,048	-	304,488	-
Lease obligation	1,571,221	-	(188,980)	1,382,241	201,492
Total long-term liability	<u>\$ 3,200,302</u>	<u>\$ 895,170</u>	<u>\$ (188,980)</u>	<u>\$ 3,906,492</u>	<u>\$ 201,492</u>

**Net Pension Liability:** See Note 6 for information on the Academy's net pension liability.

**Net OPEB Liability:** See Note 7 for information on the Academy's net OPEB liability.

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

**NOTE 11 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS – (Continued)**

*Lease Payable:* In a prior fiscal year, the Academy entered into a lease agreement for the right to use buildings for classroom space and the right to use equipment for copier equipment. In accordance with GASB Statement No. 87, the Academy has reported an intangible capital asset and corresponding liability for the future scheduled payments under the lease agreements.

The Academy has entered into lease agreements for copier equipment and buildings at varying years and terms as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Lease Commencement Date</u>	<u>Years</u>	<u>Lease End Date</u>	<u>Payment Method</u>
Copier Equipment	2022	5	2027	Monthly
Building Lease	2021	9	2030	Monthly
Building Lease	2022	8	2030	Monthly

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

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Lease Payable</u>		
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 201,492	\$ 38,712	\$ 240,204
2026	214,592	32,488	247,080
2027	227,363	25,863	253,226
2028	231,393	18,999	250,392
2029	246,035	11,857	257,892
2030	261,366	4,267	265,633
Total	<u>\$ 1,382,241</u>	<u>\$ 132,186</u>	<u>\$ 1,514,427</u>

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**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

**NOTE 12 - CAPITAL ASSETS**

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

	Balance 06/30/23	Additions	Deductions	Balance 06/30/24
Capital assets, not depreciated/amortized:				
Land	\$ 65,030	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65,030
Capital assets, being depreciated:				
Leasehold improvements	57,139	4,846	-	61,985
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	22,002	18,527	-	40,529
Intangible right to use:				
Leased buildings	1,804,920	-	-	1,804,920
Leased equipment	<u>51,440</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>51,440</u>
Total capital assets being depreciated/amortized	<u>1,935,501</u>	<u>23,373</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,958,874</u>
Less: accumulated depreciation/amortization				
Leasehold improvements	(8,497)	(7,340)	-	(15,837)
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	(7,279)	(2,936)	-	(10,215)
Intangible right to use:				
Leased buildings	(344,255)	(208,666)	-	(552,921)
Leased equipment	<u>(11,145)</u>	<u>(10,288)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(21,433)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation/amortization	<u>(371,176)</u>	<u>(229,230)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(600,406)</u>
Capital assets, net	<u>\$ 1,629,355</u>	<u>\$ (205,857)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,423,498</u>

**NOTE 13 - CONTINGENCIES**

**A. Grants**

The Academy received financial assistance from federal and state agencies in the form of grants. The expenditure of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material adverse effect on the overall financial position of the Academy at June 30, 2024.

**B. Litigation**

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

**REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

<b>Fiscal Year (1)</b>	<b>Academy's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability</b>	<b>Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability</b>	<b>Academy's Covered Payroll</b>	<b>Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll</b>	<b>Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability</b>
2024	0.019019000%	\$ 1,050,900	\$ 801,379	131.14%	76.06%
2023	0.009494400%	513,531	354,671	144.79%	75.82%
2022	0.071616000%	264,242	247,200	106.89%	82.86%
2021	0.006599100%	436,478	222,814	195.89%	68.55%
2020	0.005086200%	304,316	183,022	166.27%	70.85%
2019	0.002392800%	137,040	77,704	176.36%	71.36%
2018	0.005093500%	304,325	170,079	178.93%	69.50%
2017	0.005359600%	392,273	166,450	235.67%	62.98%
2016	0.004598200%	262,378	138,429	189.54%	69.16%

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions</b>		<b>Contribution Deficiency (Excess)</b>	<b>Academy's Covered Payroll</b>	<b>Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll</b>
2024	\$ 81,132	\$ (81,132)	\$ -	\$ 579,514	14.00%
2023	112,193	(112,193)	-	801,379	14.00%
2022	49,654	(49,654)	-	354,671	14.00%
2021	34,608	(34,608)	-	247,200	14.00%
2020	31,194	(31,194)	-	222,814	14.00%
2019	24,708	(24,708)	-	183,022	13.50%
2018	10,490	(10,490)	-	77,704	13.50%
2017	23,811	(23,811)	-	170,079	14.00%
2016	23,303	(23,303)	-	166,450	14.00%
2015	18,245	(18,245)	-	138,429	13.18%

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

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

<b>Fiscal Year (1)</b>	<b>Academy's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability</b>	<b>Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability</b>	<b>Academy's Covered Payroll</b>	<b>Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll</b>	<b>Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability</b>
2024	0.005427750%	\$ 1,168,863	\$ 733,144	159.43%	80.02%
2023	0.004399930%	978,110	572,014	170.99%	78.88%
2022	0.004338388%	554,702	535,329	103.62%	87.78%
2021	0.004466330%	1,080,693	539,014	200.49%	75.48%
2020	0.003825350%	845,953	449,114	188.36%	77.40%
2019	0.005411100%	1,189,779	615,150	193.41%	77.31%
2018	0.006444720%	1,530,957	708,514	216.08%	75.30%
2017	0.004930880%	1,650,514	518,821	318.13%	66.80%
2016	0.003712740%	1,026,093	367,464	279.24%	72.10%

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Contractually Required Contributions</b>	<b>Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions</b>	<b>Contribution Deficiency (Excess)</b>	<b>Academy's Covered Payroll</b>	<b>Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll</b>
2024	\$ 92,683	\$ (92,683)	\$ -	\$ 662,021	14.00%
2023	102,636	(102,636)	-	733,114	14.00%
2022	80,082	(80,082)	-	572,014	14.00%
2021	74,946	(74,946)	-	535,329	14.00%
2020	75,462	(75,462)	-	539,014	14.00%
2019	62,876	(62,876)	-	449,114	14.00%
2018	86,121	(86,121)	-	615,150	14.00%
2017	99,192	(99,192)	-	708,514	14.00%
2016	72,635	(72,635)	-	518,821	14.00%
2015	51,445	(51,445)	-	367,464	14.00%

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

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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

LAST EIGHT AND TEN FISCAL YEARS

Fiscal Year (1) (2)	Academy's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	Academy's Covered Payroll	Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability
2024	0.018482400%	\$ 304,488	\$ 801,379	38.00%	30.02%
2023	0.009789100%	137,440	354,671	38.75%	30.34%
2022	0.006847900%	129,602	247,200	52.43%	24.08%
2021	0.006842600%	148,712	222,814	66.74%	18.17%
2020	0.005016100%	126,144	183,022	68.92%	15.57%
2019	0.002330100%	64,643	77,704	83.19%	13.57%
2018	0.005156900%	138,398	170,079	81.37%	12.46%
2017	0.005157370%	147,004	166,450	88.32%	11.49%

Fiscal Year	Contractually Required Contributions	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Academy's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$ 2,901	\$ (2,901)	\$ -	\$ 579,514	1.00%
2023	7,640	(7,640)	-	801,379	0.95%
2022	6,807	(6,807)	-	354,671	1.92%
2021	1,921	(1,921)	-	247,200	0.78%
2020	4,371	(4,371)	-	222,814	1.96%
2019	3,057	(3,057)	-	183,022	1.67%
2018	1,215	(1,215)	-	77,704	1.56%
2017	2,756	(2,756)	-	170,079	1.62%
2016	1,434	(1,434)	-	166,450	0.86%
2015	1,135	(1,135)	-	138,429	0.82%

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

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

Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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

LAST EIGHT AND TEN FISCAL YEARS

Fiscal Year (1) (2)	Academy's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	Academy's Covered Payroll	Academy's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability/(Asset)
2024	0.005427750%	\$ (105,562)	\$ 733,144	14.40%	168.52%
2023	0.004399930%	(113,929)	572,014	19.92%	230.73%
2022	0.004338388%	(91,471)	535,329	17.09%	174.73%
2021	0.004466330%	(78,496)	539,014	14.56%	182.10%
2020	0.003825350%	(63,357)	449,114	14.11%	174.74%
2019	0.005411100%	(86,951)	615,150	14.13%	176.00%
2018	0.006444720%	251,449	708,514	35.49%	47.10%
2017	0.004930880%	263,705	518,821	50.83%	37.30%

Fiscal Year	Contractually Required Contributions	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	Academy's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 662,021	0.00%
2023	-	-	-	733,114	0.00%
2022	-	-	-	572,014	0.00%
2021	-	-	-	535,329	0.00%
2020	-	-	-	539,014	0.00%
2019	-	-	-	449,114	0.00%
2018	-	-	-	615,150	0.00%
2017	-	-	-	708,514	0.00%
2016	-	-	-	518,821	0.00%
2015	-	-	-	367,464	0.00%

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

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

Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

**PENSION**

*SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO*

*Change in benefit terms:*

- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2016.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, SERS changed from a fixed 3% annual increase to a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) based on the changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W), with a cap of 2.5% and a floor of 0%.
- For fiscal year 2019, with the authority granted the Board under Senate Bill 8, the Board has enacted a three year COLA delay for future benefit recipients commencing benefits on or after April 1, 2018.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2021.
- For fiscal year 2022, SERS changed from a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 2.5% to 2.0%.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2023.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2024.

*Change in assumptions:*

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2016.
- For fiscal year 2017, the following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%, (b) payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.00% to 3.50%, (c) assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75% to 0.50%, (d) rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience, (e) mortality among active members was updated to RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five year age set-back for both males and females, (f) mortality among service retired members and beneficiaries was updated to the following RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120% of male rates and 110% of female rates, (g) mortality among disabled members was updated to RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90% for male rates and 100% for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement and (h) the discount rate was reduced from 7.75% to 7.50%.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2018.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2019.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2021.
- For fiscal year 2022, the following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) wage inflation decreased from 3.00% to 2.40%, (b) future salary increases changed from 3.50%-18.20% to 3.25%-13.58%, (c) investment rate of return decreased from 7.50% to 7.00%, (d) discount rate decreased from 7.50% to 7.00% and (e) mortality tables changed from the RP-2014 Blue Collar mortality table to the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table.

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

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

*STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO*

*Change in benefit terms:*

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

*Changes in assumptions:*

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2016.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, the following changes of assumption affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the long-term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%, (b) the inflation assumption was lowered from 2.75% to 2.50%, (c) the payroll growth assumption was lowered to 3.00%, (d) total salary increases rate was lowered by decreasing the merit component of the individual salary increases, in addition to a decrease of 0.25% due to lower inflation, (e) the healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the RP-2014 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2016 and (f) rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2019.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2021.
- For fiscal year 2022, the following changes of assumption affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the long-term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00% and (b) the discount rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00%.
- For fiscal year 2023, the following changes of assumption affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date: the projected salary increases went from 12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65 to varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%.
- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2024.

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

**OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)**

***SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO***

*Change in benefit terms:*

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

*Change in assumptions:*

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%, (b) payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.00% to 3.50%, (c) assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75% to 0.50%, (d) rates of withdrawal, retirement, and disability were updated to reflect recent experience, (e) mortality among active members was updated to the following: RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five-year age set-back for both males and females, (f) mortality among service retired members and beneficiaries was updated to the following: RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120% of male rates, and 110% of female rates, (g) mortality among disabled members was updated to the following: RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90% for male rates and 100% for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement, (h) the municipal bond index rate increased from 2.92% to 3.56% and (i) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation increased from 2.98% to 3.63%.
- For fiscal year 2019, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate increased from 3.63% to 3.70%, (b) the health care cost trend rates for Medicare were changed from a range of 5.50%-5.00% to a range of 5.375%-4.75% and Pre-Medicare were changed from a range of 7.50%-5.00% to a range of 7.25%-4.75%, (c) the municipal bond index rate increased from 3.56% to 3.62% and (d) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation increased from 3.63% to 3.70%.
- For fiscal year 2020, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate decreased from 3.70% to 3.22%, (b) the health care cost trend rates for Medicare were changed from a range of 5.375%-4.75% to a range of 5.25%-4.75% and Pre-Medicare were changed from a range of 7.25%-4.75% to a range of 7.00%-4.75%, (c) the municipal bond index rate decreased from 3.62% to 3.13% and (d) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation decreased from 3.70% to 3.22%.
- For fiscal year 2021, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate decreased from 3.22% to 2.63% and (b) the municipal bond index rate decreased from 3.13% to 2.45%, and (c) the single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation decreased from 3.22% to 2.63%.

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

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

**STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO**

*Change in benefit terms:*

- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, STRS reduced the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients from 2.1% to 1.9% per year of service. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were discontinued for certain survivors and beneficiaries and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 2019.
- For fiscal year 2019, STRS increased the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients from 1.9% to 1.944% per year of service effective January 1, 2019. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased January 1, 2019 and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 1, 2020.
- For fiscal year 2020, STRS increased the subsidy percentage from 1.944% to 1.984% effective January 1, 2020. The Medicare subsidy percentages were adjusted effective January 1, 2021 to 2.1% for the Medicare plan. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed to January 1, 2021.
- For fiscal year 2021, the non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2021 from 1.984% to 2.055% per year of service. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2021. The Medicare subsidy percentages were adjusted effective January 1, 2021 to 2.1% for the AMA Medicare plan. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.
- For fiscal year 2022, the non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2022 from 2.055% to 2.100%. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2022. The Medicare Part D subsidy was updated to reflect it is expected to be negative in CY2022. The Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2023.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2024.

**STEEL ACADEMY  
SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

*Change in assumptions:*

- There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate was increased from 3.26% to 4.13% based on the methodology defined under GASB Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB), (b) the long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%, (c) valuation year per capita health care costs were updated, and the salary scale was modified, (d) the percentage of future retirees electing each option was updated based on current data and the percentage of future disabled retirees and terminated vested participants electing health coverage were decreased and (e) the assumed mortality, disability, retirement, withdrawal and future health care cost trend rates were modified along with the portion of rebated prescription drug costs.
- For fiscal year 2019, the following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability/asset since the prior measurement date: (a) the discount rate was increased from the blended rate of 4.13% to the long-term expected rate of return of 7.45% based on the methodology defined under GASB Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB) and (b) decrease in health care cost trend rates from 6.00%-11.00% initial; 4.50% ultimate down to Medical Pre-Medicare 6.00% and Medicare 5.00% initial; 4.00% ultimate and Prescription Drug Pre-Medicare 8.00% and Medicare (5.23%) initial; 4.00% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2020, health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: medical pre-Medicare from 6.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 5.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate; medical Medicare from 5.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 4.93% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug pre-Medicare from 8.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 7.73% initial - 4.00% ultimate and (5.23%) initial - 4.00% ultimate up to 9.62% initial - 4.00% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2021, health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: medical pre-Medicare from 5.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 5.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate; medical Medicare from 4.93% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to -6.69% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug pre-Medicare from 7.73% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to 6.50% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug Medicare from 9.62% initial - 4.00% ultimate up to 11.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2022, the following changes of assumption affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) the long-term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00%, (b) the discount rate of return was reduced from 7.45% to 7.00% and (c) health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: medical Medicare from -6.69% initial - 4.00% ultimate down to -16.18% initial - 4.00% ultimate; prescription drug Medicare from 11.87% initial - 4.00% ultimate up to 29.98% initial - 4.00% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2023, the following changes of assumption affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) projected salary increase went from 12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65 to varies by services from 2.50% to 8.50% and (b) health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: Pre-Medicare from 5.00% initial - 4.00% ultimate to 7.50% initial - 3.94% ultimate; medical Medicare from -16.18% initial - 4.00% ultimate to -68.78% initial - 3.94% ultimate; prescription drug Pre-Medicare from 6.50% initial - 4.00% ultimate to 9.00% initial - 3.94% ultimate; Medicare from 29.98% initial - 4.00% ultimate to -5.47% initial - 3.94% ultimate.
- For fiscal year 2024, the following changes of assumption affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date: (a) health care cost trend rates were changed to the following: Pre-Medicare from 7.50% initial - 3.94% ultimate to 7.50% initial - 4.14% ultimate; medical Medicare from -68.78% initial - 3.94% ultimate to -10.94% initial - 4.14% ultimate; prescription drug Pre-Medicare from 9.00% initial - 3.94% ultimate to -11.95% initial - 4.14% ultimate; Medicare from -5.47% initial - 3.94% ultimate to 1.33% initial - 4.14% ultimate.

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

Steel Academy  
Summit County  
1814 South Main Street  
Akron, Ohio 44301

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of Steel Academy, Summit County, (the Academy) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Academy's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated February 27, 2025.

***Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting***

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

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

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

Steel Academy

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

***Purpose of This Report***

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

*BHM CPA Group*

BHM CPA Group, Inc.

Portsmouth, Ohio

February 27, 2025

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



STEEL ACADEMY

SUMMIT COUNTY

## AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



Certified for Release 7/22/2025

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)