



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**





**UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BELMONT COUNTY  
JUNE 30, 2024**

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UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BELMONT COUNTY  
JUNE 30, 2024

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Union Local School District  
Belmont County  
66779 Belmont-Morristown Road  
Belmont, Ohio 43718

To the Board of Education:

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### ***Opinions***

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Union Local School District, Belmont County, Ohio (School District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements as listed in the Table of Contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Union Local School District, Belmont County, Ohio as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis for Opinions***

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

#### ***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 School District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

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

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

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

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

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

### ***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.

***Supplementary information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Schedule is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 17, 2025, on our consideration of the School District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the School District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

March 17, 2025

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

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

### **Financial Highlights**

Key financial highlights for fiscal year 2024 are as follows:

- The School District's total net position decreased \$2,337,002.
- The School District's net pension liabilities decreased by more than \$1.1 million, due in part to decreases in differences between expected and actual experience and changes of assumptions.
- The School District's governmental cash balance decreased, driven by decreases in revenues for charges for services, property taxes and grants and entitlements. While governmental activities revenues decreased overall expenditures remained consistent compared to prior year.
- Total capital assets decreased \$748,078, due to current year depreciation and amortization outpacing capital asset additions.

### **Using this Annual Financial Report**

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. The statements are organized so the reader can understand Union Local School District as a financial whole, an entire operating entity. The statements then proceed to provide an increasingly detailed look at specific financial activities and concerns.

The Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities provide information about the activities of the whole School District, presenting both an aggregate view of the School District's finances and a longer-term view of those finances. Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. For governmental funds, these statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. The fund financial statements also look at the School District's most significant funds with all other non-major funds presented in total in one column.

### **Reporting the School District as a Whole**

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

While this document contains information about the large number of funds used by the School District to provide programs and activities for students, the view of the School District as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, "How did we do financially during fiscal year 2024?" The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities answer this question. These statements include all assets and liabilities using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

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

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These two statements report the School District's net position and changes in those assets. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader that, for the School District as a whole, the financial position of the School District has improved or diminished. The causes of this change may be the result of many factors, some financial, some not. Non-financial factors include the School District's property tax base, current property tax laws in Ohio restricting revenue growth, facility conditions, required educational programs, and other factors.

In the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities, all of the School District's activities are reported as Governmental Activities including: instruction, support services, operation of non-instructional services, debt, food service operations, and extracurricular activities.

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

#### *Fund Financial Statements*

The analysis of the School District's major fund begins on page 10. Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the School District's major fund. The School District uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions. However, these fund financial statements focus on the School District's most significant funds. The School District's major governmental fund is the General Fund.

**Governmental Funds** Most of the School District's activities are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using an accounting method called modified accrual accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can readily be converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the School District's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps you determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance educational programs. The relationship (or differences) between governmental activities (reported in the Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities) and governmental funds is reconciled in the financial statements.

### **Reporting the District's Fiduciary Responsibilities**

The School District is the trustee, or fiduciary, for a scholarship program. This activity is presented as a private purpose trust fund. The School District also acts in a trustee capacity as an agent for individuals, private organizations, and other government units. These activities are reported as custodial funds. There was no reported custodial activity for fiscal year 2024. The School District's fiduciary activities are reported in a separate Statement of Net Position and Statement of Changes in Net Position. These activities are excluded from the School District's other financial statements because the assets cannot be utilized by the School District to finance its operations.

### **The School District as a Whole**

Recall that the Statement of Net Position provides the perspective of the School District as a whole.

Table 1 provides a summary of the School District's net position for fiscal year 2024 compared to fiscal year 2023, which has been restated. See Note 3 for more information on the restatement.

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

Table 1  
Net Position  
Governmental Activities

	2024	2023	Change
<b>Assets</b>			
Current and Other Assets	\$12,005,205	\$13,064,938	(\$1,059,733)
Net OPEB Asset	1,226,681	1,711,075	(484,394)
Capital Assets	10,077,744	10,825,822	(748,078)
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>23,309,630</u>	<u>25,601,835</u>	<u>(2,292,205)</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>			
Pension	3,566,941	4,656,707	(1,089,766)
OPEB	689,452	475,978	213,474
<i>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</i>	<u>4,256,393</u>	<u>5,132,685</u>	<u>(876,292)</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current and Other Liabilities	3,343,840	2,766,746	577,094
Long-Term Liabilities:			
Due Within One Year	213,537	217,158	(3,621)
Due in More Than One Year:			
Net Pension Liability	17,130,217	18,320,662	(1,190,445)
Net OPEB Liability	1,075,979	958,596	117,383
Other Amounts	1,800,536	1,898,744	(98,208)
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>23,564,109</u>	<u>24,161,906</u>	<u>(597,797)</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>			
Property Taxes	8,135,476	7,849,517	285,959
Pension	1,686,208	1,661,590	24,618
OPEB	2,107,896	2,652,171	(544,275)
<i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>	<u>11,929,580</u>	<u>12,163,278</u>	<u>(233,698)</u>
<b>Net Position (Deficit)</b>			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	9,051,501	9,641,201	(589,700)
Restricted	1,981,495	1,319,789	661,706
Unrestricted (Deficit)	<u>(18,960,662)</u>	<u>(16,551,654)</u>	<u>(2,409,008)</u>
<i>Total Net Position (Deficit)</i>	<u>(\$7,927,666)</u>	<u>(\$5,590,664)</u>	<u>(\$2,337,002)</u>

The net pension liability (NPL) is the largest single liability reported by the School District at June 30, 2024. GASB notes that pension and OPEB obligations, whether funded or unfunded, are part of the “employment exchange” – that is, the employee is trading his or her labor in exchange for wages, benefits, and the promise of a future pension and other postemployment benefits. GASB noted that the unfunded portion of this promise is a present obligation of the government, part of a bargained-for benefit to the employee, and should accordingly be reported by the government as a liability since they received the benefit of the exchange. However, the School District 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.

**Union Local School District**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
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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.

Total assets decreased from the prior year. Notable decreases in current and other assets from the prior year include cash and cash equivalents. Cash and cash equivalents decreases were due in part to charges for services, property taxes and grants and entitlements revenue decreases while expenditures remained consistent compared to prior fiscal year. The decrease in capital assets is due primarily to annual depreciation/amortization of tangible capital assets exceeding additions.

In total, liabilities decreased during fiscal year 2024, with decreases in long-term liabilities exceeding the increases in current and other liabilities. The decrease in long-term liabilities was primarily due to decreases in net pension liability. The net pension liability represents the County's proportionate share of the respective pension plans' unfunded benefits, predominantly the OPERS traditional plan. Changes in assumptions were primarily responsible for the proportionate decrease in the School District's net pension liability. Current and other liabilities increased due to accrued wages and benefits payable increasing related to increases in staffing, wages and the occurrence of a 27<sup>th</sup> pay period in fiscal year 2024. The School District continues to pay down its existing debt balances.

The School District's deferred inflows of resources decreased, primarily due to the previously mentioned change in the net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments, inversely related to the change in the net pension liability.

In order to further understand what makes up the changes in net position for the current year, the following tables gives readers further details regarding the results of activities for 2024 and 2023.

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

Table 2  
Changes in Net Position  
Governmental Activities

	2024	2023	Change
<b>Revenues</b>			
<i>Program Revenue</i>			
Charges for Services	\$1,164,088	\$1,525,527	(\$361,439)
Operating Grants and Contributions	2,222,288	2,050,547	171,741
<b>Total Program Revenue</b>	<b>3,386,376</b>	<b>3,576,074</b>	<b>(189,698)</b>
<i>General Revenue</i>			
Property Taxes	7,355,205	7,748,057	(392,852)
Grants and Entitlements	8,367,590	8,524,220	(156,630)
Gifts and Donations	6,266	122,586	(116,320)
Investments Earnings/Interest	113,001	62,839	50,162
Miscellaneous	57,003	74,060	(17,057)
<b>Total General Revenue</b>	<b>15,899,065</b>	<b>16,531,762</b>	<b>(632,697)</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>19,285,441</b>	<b>20,107,836</b>	<b>(822,395)</b>
<b>Program Expenses</b>			
Instruction:			
Regular	8,449,825	8,968,735	(518,910)
Special	3,687,013	3,591,703	95,310
Vocational	810,757	882,387	(71,630)
Support Services:			
Pupil	1,009,803	1,041,226	(31,423)
Instructional Staff	824,746	579,638	245,108
Board of Education	86,913	126,052	(39,139)
Administration	1,830,123	1,642,038	188,085
Fiscal	588,333	601,342	(13,009)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,899,336	1,959,345	(60,009)
Pupil Transportation	1,180,051	1,070,142	109,909
Central	19,260	10,000	9,260
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	0	1,234	(1,234)
Food Service Operations	536,576	516,147	20,429
Extracurricular Activities	684,226	530,636	153,590
Interest	15,481	24,455	(8,974)
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>21,622,443</b>	<b>21,545,080</b>	<b>77,363</b>
Change in Net Position	(2,337,002)	(1,437,244)	(899,758)
Net Position (Deficit) Beginning of Year	(5,590,664)	(4,153,420)	(1,437,244)
<b>Net Position (Deficit) End of Year</b>	<b>(\$7,927,666)</b>	<b>(\$5,590,664)</b>	<b>(\$2,337,002)</b>

Total revenues of governmental activities decreased from 2023. During fiscal year 2024, the School District reported decreases in program revenues from charges for services related to decreases in tuition and fees, rent and food services. This decrease was offset by a slight increase in operating grants and contributions.

General revenue decreased primarily due to decreases in unrestricted grants and entitlements received from the State, as well as property taxes. This decrease was slightly offset by an increase in investments earnings due to improved market conditions.

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

Program expenses remained consistent with the prior fiscal year. Overall program expenses increased \$77,363, from the prior year, primarily related to increases in support services and extracurricular activities offset by reductions to instruction.

The Statement of Activities shows the cost of program services and the charges for services, grants, and contributions offsetting those services. Table 3 shows the total cost of services and the net cost of services for fiscal year 2024 compared to fiscal year 2023. In other words, it identifies the cost of those services supported by tax revenue and unrestricted entitlements.

Table 3  
Governmental Activities

	Total Cost of Services		Net Cost of Services	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Instruction:				
Regular	\$8,449,825	\$8,968,735	\$7,490,159	\$7,834,342
Special	3,687,013	3,591,703	2,603,854	2,594,502
Vocational	810,757	882,387	682,944	749,546
Support Services				
Pupil	1,009,803	1,041,226	878,367	930,750
Instructional Staff	824,746	579,638	796,210	497,170
Board of Education	86,913	126,052	86,913	126,052
Administration	1,830,123	1,642,038	1,754,188	1,515,211
Fiscal	588,333	601,342	588,333	601,342
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,899,336	1,959,345	1,592,976	1,750,415
Pupil Transportation	1,180,051	1,070,142	1,142,400	1,058,683
Central	19,260	10,000	19,034	10,000
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	0	1,234	0	791
Food Service Operations	536,576	516,147	125,323	29,842
Extracurricular Activities	684,226	530,636	459,885	245,905
Interest	15,481	24,455	15,481	24,455
Total Expenses	<u>\$21,622,443</u>	<u>\$21,545,080</u>	<u>\$18,236,067</u>	<u>\$17,969,006</u>

The dependence upon tax revenues and state subsidies for governmental activities is apparent. Approximately 85 percent of program expenses are supported through taxes and other general revenues.

### The School District's Funds

Information about the School District's major fund starts on page 15. These funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. The School District has one major fund, the General Fund. The General Fund had revenues in the amount of \$17,417,270 and expenditures in the amount of \$19,041,467. Overall, including other financing uses, the General Fund's balance decreased \$1,650,860. Increases in expenditures related to support services were primarily responsible for the decrease in fund balance. Decreases in revenue sources, property taxes, State Funding, oil and gas extraction royalties, also contributed to the decrease in fund balance.

### General Fund Budgeting Highlights

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

**Union Local School District**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
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*Unaudited*

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During the course of fiscal 2024, the School District amended its General Fund estimated resources and appropriations, and the budgetary statement reflects both the original and final budgeted amounts. The changes between the original and the final budget reflect a slight increase in estimated resources. The final estimate of revenues was amended in anticipation of additional miscellaneous revenue which ultimately was not received during the school year. The School District appropriates the entirety of its resources for both the original and final budgets. The actual results of operations were different than budgeted amounts as spending in almost all categories was lower than budgeted appropriations.

**Capital Assets and Debt Administration**

*Capital Assets*

At the end of fiscal year 2024, the School District had \$10,077,744 invested in land, land improvements, buildings and improvements, furniture and equipment, vehicles, and intangible right to use (lease) equipment, net of depreciation/amortization. Table 4 shows fiscal year 2024 balances compared to 2023:

Table 4  
Capital Assets Net of Depreciation/Amortization  
Government Activities

	2024	2023
Land	\$1,842,760	\$1,842,760
Land Improvements	198,898	256,700
Buildings and Improvements	6,780,915	7,611,666
Furniture and Equipment	816,348	530,122
Vehicles	405,973	540,774
Intangible Right to Use - Equipment	32,850	43,800
Totals	<u>\$10,077,744</u>	<u>\$10,825,822</u>

For more information on capital assets see Note 9 to the basic financial statements.

*Debt*

At June 30, 2024, the School District had \$340,000 outstanding in general obligation bonds with \$57,000 due within one year. At June 30, 2024, the School District had \$651,000 outstanding as a financed purchase with \$90,000 due within one year. The School District also had \$35,243 of a lease payable, with \$10,890 due within one year.

Table 5 summarizes debt outstanding:

**Union Local School District**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
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*Unaudited*

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Table 5  
Outstanding Debt at Year End  
Government Activities

	2024	2023
2021 School Energy Conservation Improvement Refunding Bonds	\$340,000	\$393,000
Financed Purchase	651,000	740,000
Lease Payable	35,243	45,357
Total	<u>\$1,026,243</u>	<u>\$1,178,357</u>

See Note 16 for more detailed information on the School District's long-term obligations, including compensated absences, net pension liability and net OPEB liability.

#### **Economic Factors**

The School District has benefited economically from the continuing expansion of the oil and gas industry in Belmont County. The School District has entered into gas and oil leases on its property located in Goshen, Smith, and Wayne Townships. The School District is currently exploring leases on its property in Union township following the expiration of its previous leases on the properties. The School District has received signing bonuses as part of the lease agreements. In addition, the School District has begun to receive royalty payments in accordance with its leased property in Smith and Goshen Township. See Contingency Note 20 for further details on the School District's oil and gas leases.

#### **Contacting the School District's Financial Management**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizen's, taxpayers, and investors and creditors with a general overview of the School District's finances and to show the School District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Bernie Thompson, Treasurer/CFO at Union Local School District, 66779 Belmont-Morristown Road, Belmont, Ohio 43718.



**Union Local School District**  
*Statement of Net Position*  
June 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities
<b>Assets</b>	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$2,277,408
Accounts Receivable	9,240
Intergovernmental Receivable	777,339
Prepaid Items	21,084
Materials and Supplies Inventory	50,819
Property Taxes Receivable	8,869,315
Net OPEB Asset	1,226,681
Non-Depreciable Capital Assets	1,842,760
Depreciable Capital Assets, Net	8,234,984
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>23,309,630</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	
Pension	3,566,941
OPEB	689,452
<i>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</i>	<u>4,256,393</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Accrued Wages and Benefits Payable	2,387,617
Intergovernmental Payable	719,310
Accounts Payable	90,837
Accrued Interest Payable	5,946
Matured Compensated Balances Payable	46,620
Unearned Revenue	93,510
Long-Term Liabilities:	
Due Within One Year	213,537
Due in More Than One Year:	
Net Pension Liability	17,130,217
Net OPEB Liability	1,075,979
Other Amounts	1,800,536
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>23,564,109</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>	
Property Taxes	8,135,476
Pension	1,686,208
OPEB	2,107,896
<i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>	<u>11,929,580</u>
<b>Net Position (Deficit)</b>	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	9,051,501
Restricted for:	
Classroom Facilities Maintenance	244,625
Local Programs	13,511
Student Activities	68,039
State Programs	413,936
Federal Programs	3,703
Other Purposes	11,000
OPEB Plans	1,226,681
Unrestricted (Deficit)	<u>(18,960,662)</u>
<i>Total Net Position (Deficit)</i>	<u><u>(\$7,927,666)</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**Union Local School District**  
*Statement of Activities*  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

		Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
		Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
<b>Governmental Activities</b>	<b>Expenses</b>			
Instruction:				
Regular	\$8,449,825	\$810,392	\$149,274	(\$7,490,159)
Special	3,687,013	0	1,083,159	(2,603,854)
Vocational	810,757	0	127,813	(682,944)
Support Services:				
Pupil	1,009,803	0	131,436	(878,367)
Instructional Staff	824,746	0	28,536	(796,210)
Board of Education	86,913	0	0	(86,913)
Administration	1,830,123	0	75,935	(1,754,188)
Fiscal	588,333	0	0	(588,333)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,899,336	27,471	278,889	(1,592,976)
Pupil Transportation	1,180,051	0	37,651	(1,142,400)
Central	19,260	0	226	(19,034)
Food Service Operations	536,576	105,386	305,867	(125,323)
Extracurricular Activities	684,226	220,839	3,502	(459,885)
Interest	15,481	0	0	(15,481)
<i>Total Governmental Activities</i>	<u>\$21,622,443</u>	<u>\$1,164,088</u>	<u>\$2,222,288</u>	<u>(18,236,067)</u>
<b>General Revenues</b>				
				7,355,205
				8,367,590
				6,266
				113,001
				57,003
<i>Total General Revenues</i>				<u>15,899,065</u>
Change in Net Position				(2,337,002)
<i>Net Position Beginning (Deficit) of Year</i>				<u>(5,590,664)</u>
<i>Net Position (Deficit) End of Year</i>				<u><u>(\$7,927,666)</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**Union Local School District**  
*Balance Sheet*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*June 30, 2024*

	General	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Assets</b>			
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$1,201,142	\$1,065,266	\$2,266,408
Restricted Assets:			
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	11,000	0	11,000
Receivables:			
Property Taxes	8,869,315	0	8,869,315
Accounts	7,802	1,438	9,240
Intergovernmental	585,632	191,707	777,339
Interfund	434,208	0	434,208
Prepaid Items	19,665	1,419	21,084
Materials and Supplies Inventory	10,654	40,165	50,819
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>\$11,139,418</u>	<u>\$1,299,995</u>	<u>\$12,439,413</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payable	\$52,217	\$38,620	\$90,837
Accrued Wages and Benefits Payable	2,238,867	148,750	2,387,617
Matured Compensated Absences Payable	46,620	0	46,620
Interfund Payable	0	434,208	434,208
Intergovernmental Payable	692,546	26,764	719,310
Unearned Revenue	0	93,510	93,510
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>3,030,250</u>	<u>741,852</u>	<u>3,772,102</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>			
Property Taxes	8,135,476	0	8,135,476
Unavailable Revenue	904,781	191,707	1,096,488
<i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>	<u>9,040,257</u>	<u>191,707</u>	<u>9,231,964</u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>			
Nonspendable:			
Inventories	10,654	40,165	50,819
Prepaid Items	19,665	1,419	21,084
Restricted for:			
Debt Service	0	43	43
Classroom Facilities Maintenance	0	244,625	244,625
Local Programs	0	13,455	13,455
Student Activities	0	68,039	68,039
State Programs	0	385,659	385,659
Underground Storage Tank Premium	11,000	0	11,000
Unassigned (Deficit)	(972,408)	(386,969)	(1,359,377)
<i>Total Fund Balances (Deficit)</i>	<u>(931,089)</u>	<u>366,436</u>	<u>(564,653)</u>
<i>Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$11,139,418</u>	<u>\$1,299,995</u>	<u>\$12,439,413</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

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

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<b>Total Governmental Fund Balances (Deficit)</b>	(\$564,653)
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*Amounts reported for governmental activities in the  
statement of net position are different because*

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.	10,077,744
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Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and therefore are reported as deferred inflows of resources in the funds:

Intergovernmental	191,707	
Property Taxes	368,916	
Tuition and Fees	535,865	
Total	1,096,488	

In the statement of activities, interest is accrued on outstanding obligations, whereas in the governmental funds, an interest expenditure is reported when due.	(5,946)
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Some long-term liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds:

General Obligation Term Bonds	340,000	
Financed Purchases	651,000	
Leases Payable	35,243	
Compensated Absences	987,830	
Total	(2,014,073)	

The net pension liability and the net other postemployment benefits asset/liability are not due and payable in the current period; therefore, the asset/liability and related deferred inflows/outflows are not reported in the governmental funds:

Net OPEB Asset	1,226,681	
Deferred Outflows - Pension	3,566,941	
Deferred Outflows - OPEB	689,452	
Net Pension Liability	(17,130,217)	
Net OPEB Liability	(1,075,979)	
Deferred Inflows - Pension	(1,686,208)	
Deferred Inflows - OPEB	(2,107,896)	
Total	(16,517,226)	

<i>Net Position (Deficit) of Governmental Activities</i>	<u><u>(\$7,927,666)</u></u>
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See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**Union Local School District**  
*Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

	General	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
<b>Revenues</b>			
Property Taxes	\$7,336,840	\$0	\$7,336,840
Intergovernmental	9,058,905	1,376,220	10,435,125
Investment Earnings/Interest	111,932	1,069	113,001
Tuition and Fees	829,050	0	829,050
Extracurricular Activities	3,235	217,604	220,839
Rent and Royalties	27,471	0	27,471
Gifts and Donations	6,266	63,069	69,335
Charges for Services	0	105,386	105,386
Miscellaneous	43,571	13,432	57,003
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>17,417,270</u>	<u>1,776,780</u>	<u>19,194,050</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Current:			
Instruction:			
Regular	7,788,199	152,307	7,940,506
Special	3,051,866	573,558	3,625,424
Vocational	768,092	0	768,092
Support Services:			
Pupil	817,371	160,168	977,539
Instructional Staff	807,565	2,774	810,339
Board of Education	85,895	0	85,895
Administration	1,717,043	81,019	1,798,062
Fiscal	594,812	360	595,172
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,893,169	296,046	2,189,215
Pupil Transportation	1,020,505	38,081	1,058,586
Central	19,031	229	19,260
Food Service Operations	0	503,364	503,364
Extracurricular Activities	310,006	321,177	631,183
Capital Outlay	0	37,995	37,995
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	152,114	0	152,114
Interest	15,799	0	15,799
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>19,041,467</u>	<u>2,167,078</u>	<u>21,208,545</u>
Excess of Revenues Under Expenditures	<u>(1,624,197)</u>	<u>(390,298)</u>	<u>(2,014,495)</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>			
Transfers In	0	26,663	26,663
Transfers Out	(26,663)	0	(26,663)
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(26,663)</u>	<u>26,663</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Change in Fund Balances	(1,650,860)	(363,635)	(2,014,495)
<i>Fund Balances Beginning of Year</i>	<u>719,771</u>	<u>730,071</u>	<u>1,449,842</u>
<i>Fund Balances (Deficit) End of Year</i>	<u><u>(\$931,089)</u></u>	<u><u>\$366,436</u></u>	<u><u>(\$564,653)</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**Union Local School District**  
*Reconciliation of the Changes in Fund Balances  
of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds** (\$2,014,495)

***Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because***

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the Statement of Activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation/amortization expense. This is the amount by which depreciation/amortization exceeded capital outlay in the current period.

Capital Asset Additions	405,259	
Depreciation/Amortization	(1,153,337)	
Total		(748,078)

Revenues in the Statement of Activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenue in the funds:

Intergovernmental	91,684	
Property Taxes	18,365	
Tuition and Fees	(18,658)	
Total		91,391

Repayment of principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the Statement of Net Position.

General Obligation Bonds	53,000	
Financed Purchases	89,000	
Leases Payable	10,114	
Total		152,114

Interest is reported as an expenditure when due in the governmental funds, but is accrued on outstanding obligations on the Statement of Activities.

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Some expenses reported in the Statement of Activities do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.

Compensated Absences		(50,285)
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Contractually required contributions are reported as expenditures in the governmental funds; however, the Statement of Net Position reports these amounts as deferred outflows.

Pension	1,578,360	
OPEB	44,552	
Total		1,622,912

Except for amounts reported as deferred inflows/outflows, changes in net pension liability and net OPEB asset/liability are reported as pension/OPEB expense in the Statement of Activities.

Pension	(1,502,299)	
OPEB	111,420	
Total		(1,390,879)

***Changes in Net Position of Governmental Activities***

**(\$2,337,002)**

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**Union Local School District**  
*Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes*  
*In Fund Balance - Budget (Non-GAAP Basis) and Actual*  
*General Fund*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget
<b>Revenues</b>				
Property Taxes	\$7,678,075	\$7,625,731	\$7,625,731	\$0
Intergovernmental	8,759,844	9,046,894	9,046,894	0
Interest	62,500	102,846	111,932	9,086
Tuition and Fees	844,731	829,050	829,050	0
Extracurricular Activities	6,195	3,235	3,235	0
Rent and Royalties	185,220	26,663	26,663	0
Gifts and Donations	2,190	6,266	6,266	0
Miscellaneous	315,804	650,858	45,433	(605,425)
<i>Total Revenues</i>	<u>17,854,559</u>	<u>18,291,543</u>	<u>17,695,204</u>	<u>(596,339)</u>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	7,143,506	7,780,169	7,694,267	85,902
Special	2,310,295	3,268,910	3,268,844	66
Vocational	706,511	824,272	764,080	60,192
Support Services:				
Pupil	598,307	1,033,275	824,115	209,160
Instructional Staff	344,530	830,361	822,174	8,187
Board of Education	18,525	116,556	111,411	5,145
Administration	1,416,534	1,622,213	1,622,213	0
Fiscal	395,236	659,011	601,697	57,314
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	1,185,745	1,936,094	1,925,092	11,002
Pupil Transportation	754,648	1,063,279	990,801	72,478
Central	0	19,031	19,031	0
Extracurricular Activities	83,107	335,829	315,933	19,896
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	142,000	142,000	142,000	0
Interest	12,744	12,773	12,773	0
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<u>15,111,688</u>	<u>19,643,773</u>	<u>19,114,431</u>	<u>529,342</u>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>2,742,871</u>	<u>(1,352,230)</u>	<u>(1,419,227)</u>	<u>(66,997)</u>
<b>Other Financing Sources (Uses)</b>				
Advances In	183,315	183,315	183,315	0
Advances Out	0	0	(434,205)	(434,205)
Transfers Out	(5,299,611)	(1,203,724)	(26,663)	1,177,061
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(5,116,296)</u>	<u>(1,020,409)</u>	<u>(277,553)</u>	<u>742,856</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	(2,373,425)	(2,372,639)	(1,696,780)	675,859
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	<u>1,849,873</u>	<u>1,849,873</u>	<u>1,849,873</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated</i>	<u>528,822</u>	<u>528,822</u>	<u>528,822</u>	<u>0</u>
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$5,270</u></u>	<u><u>\$6,056</u></u>	<u><u>\$681,915</u></u>	<u><u>\$675,859</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**Union Local School District**  
*Statement of Net Position*  
*Fiduciary Funds*  
*June 30, 2024*

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	<u>Private Purpose Trust Fund</u>
<b>Assets</b>	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$41,068</u>
<b>Net Position</b>	
Held in Trust for Scholarships	<u><u>\$41,068</u></u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u><u>\$41,068</u></u>
See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements	



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

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	<u>Private Purpose Trust Fund</u>
<b>Additions</b>	
Gifts and Contributions	\$21,500
<b>Deductions</b>	
Payments in Accordance with Trust Agreements	<u>16,250</u>
Change in Net Position	5,250
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	<u>35,818</u>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<u><u>\$41,068</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

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

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**NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND REPORTING ENTITY**

The Union Local School District (the "School District") is organized under Article VI, Sections 2 and 3 of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. The School District operates under a locally-elected board form of government consisting of five members elected at-large for staggered four year terms. The School District provides educational services as authorized by State statute and federal guidelines.

The School District was established in 1952 through the consolidation of the Union Township, Smith Local, Belmont, Bethesda, Lafferty, and Holloway schools. In 1968, the new Union Local School District was formed when the Flushing School District joined the consolidation. The combined high school, Union Local High School, was built in 1958, with the first class graduating in 1960. In the fall of 1998, the School District finished construction of a new high school. In the fall of 1999, construction of a new elementary school was complete, as well as renovations to the old high school which was converted into the middle school. It is located in Belmont County, and includes all of the Villages of Morristown, Belmont, Centerville, Bethesda, and Flushing. It is staffed by 62 non-certificated employees, 103 certificated full-time teaching personnel, and 21 administrative employees who provide services to 1,311 students. The School District currently operates two instructional/administrative buildings, one garage and one maintenance building.

*Reporting Entity:*

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

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

The School District is involved with the Ohio Mid-Eastern Regional Educational Service Agency Information Technology Center Regional Council of Governments (OME-RESA), and the Belmont-Harrison Vocational School District, which are defined as jointly governed organizations, the Manufacturing Works Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Program (Program) which is defined as an insurance purchasing pool, and the Stark County Schools' Council of Governments Health Benefits Program (Council), which is defined as a shared risk insurance purchasing pool. These organizations are presented in Notes 17 and 18 to the financial statements.

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

The financial statements of the Union Local School District have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (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 more significant of the School District's accounting policies are described as follows.

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

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***Basis of Presentation***

The School District's general purpose financial statements consist of government-wide statements, including a Statement of Net Position and a Statement of Activities, and fund financial statements which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

***Government-wide Financial Statements*** The Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities display information about the School District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds. These statements usually distinguish between those activities of the School District that are governmental (primarily supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues) and those that are considered business-type activities (primarily supported by fees and charges). The School District, however, has no business-type activities.

The Statement of Net Position presents the financial condition of the governmental activities of the School District at year-end. The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each program or function of the School District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program, grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program and interest earned on grants that is required to be used to support a particular program. Revenues which are not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues of the School District. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the School District.

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

***Fund Accounting***

The School District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. There are three categories of funds: governmental, proprietary and fiduciary.

***Governmental Funds*** Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions typically are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between governmental fund assets and liabilities is reported as fund balance. The following is the School District's major governmental fund.

***General Fund*** - The General Fund is the operating fund of the School District and is used to account for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The General Fund balance is available to the School District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

The other governmental funds of the School District account for grants and other resources whose use is restricted to a particular purpose.

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

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***Fiduciary Funds*** Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into the following four classifications: pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, investment trust funds, private-purpose trust funds and custodial funds. Trust funds are distinguished from custodial funds by the existence of a trust agreement or equivalent arrangements that has certain characteristics. The School District has a private purpose trust fund which accounts for various college scholarships for students. Custodial Funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund.

***Measurement Focus***

***Government-wide Financial Statements*** The government-wide financial statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus. All assets and all liabilities associated with the operation of the School District are included on the Statement of Net Position. The Statement of Activities presents increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in the total net position.

***Fund Financial Statements*** All governmental funds are accounted for using a flow of current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and current liabilities generally are included on the Balance Sheet. The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances reports on the sources (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

Like the government-wide statements, all proprietary and fiduciary funds are accounted for on 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 these funds are included on the statement of fund net position. In fiduciary funds, a liability to the beneficiaries of fiduciary activity is recognized when an event has occurred that compels the government to disburse fiduciary resources. Fiduciary fund liabilities other than those to beneficiaries are recognized using the economic resources measurement focus.

Fiduciary funds present a statement of changes in fiduciary net position which reports additions to and deductions from investment trust, private purpose trust funds, and custodial funds.

***Basis of Accounting***

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. Government-wide financial statements and the statements presented for proprietary and fiduciary funds are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Governmental funds use the modified accrual basis of accounting. Differences in the accrual and modified accrual basis of accounting arise in the recognition of revenue, in the recording of deferred outflows/inflows of resources, and in the presentation of expenses versus expenditures.

***Revenues - Exchange and Non-Exchange Transactions*** 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. On a modified accrual basis, revenue is recorded in the fiscal year in which the resources are measurable and become available. Available means that the resources will be collected within the current fiscal year or are expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current fiscal year. For the School District, available means expected to be received within 60 days of fiscal year-end.

**Union Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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Non-exchange transactions, in which the School District receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include property taxes, grants, entitlements and donations. On the accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for which taxes are levied (See Note 6). Revenue from grants, entitlements, and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the School District must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the School District on a reimbursement basis. On a modified accrual basis, revenue from nonexchange transactions must also be available before it can be recognized.

Under the modified accrual basis, the following revenue sources are considered to be both measurable and available at fiscal yearend: property taxes available as an advance, interest, tuition, grants, student fees and rentals.

***Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources*** In addition to assets, the statements of financial position will sometimes 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. For the School District, deferred outflows of resources are reported on the government-wide Statement of Net Position for pension and OPEB plans. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are explained in Notes 11 and 12.

In addition to liabilities, the statements of financial position 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 until that time. For the School District, deferred inflows of resources include property taxes, pension, OPEB plans and unavailable revenue. Property taxes represent amounts for which there is an enforceable legal claim as of June 30, 2024, but which were levied to finance fiscal year 2025 operations. These amounts have been recorded as a deferred inflow on both the government-wide Statement of Net Position and governmental fund financial statements. Unavailable revenue is reported only on the governmental funds Balance Sheet, and represents receivables which will not be collected within the available period. For the School District, unavailable revenue includes delinquent property taxes, intergovernmental grants, and tuition and fees. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period the amounts become available. The details of these unavailable revenues are identified on the Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to Net Position of Governmental Activities fund on page 16. Deferred inflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are reported on the government-wide Statement of Net Position. (See Notes 11 and 12)

***Expenses/Expenditures*** On the accrual basis of accounting, expenses are recognized at the time they are incurred.

The measurement focus of governmental fund accounting is on decreases in net financial resources (expenditures) rather than expenses. Expenditures are generally recognized in the accounting period in which the related fund liability is incurred, if measurable. Allocations of cost, such as depreciation and amortization, are not recognized in the governmental funds.

***Cash and Cash Equivalents***

To improve cash management, all cash received by the School District is pooled. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through School District records. Interest in the pool is presented as “Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents.”

During fiscal year 2024, the School District had no investments.

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Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Education has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Investment Earnings/Interest revenue credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2024 amounted to \$111,932 which includes \$77,358 assigned from other School District funds.

Investments of the cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the School District are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents.

***Restricted Assets***

Assets are reported as restricted assets when limitations on their use change the normal understanding of the availability of the asset. Such constraints are either externally imposed by creditors, contributors, grantors, or laws of other governments or are imposed by law through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation. Restricted assets in governmental funds represent cash restricted for insurance premiums related to the underground storage tank.

***Prepaid Items***

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond June 30, 2024, are recorded as prepaid items using the consumption method. A current asset for the prepaid amount is recorded at the time of the purchase and an expenditure/expense is reported in the year in which services are consumed.

***Inventory***

Inventories are presented at cost on a first-in, first-out basis and are expended/expensed when used. Inventory consists of expendable supplies held for consumption and purchased and donated food held for resale.

***Capital Assets***

All capital assets of the School District are general capital assets. These assets generally- result from expenditures in the governmental funds. These assets are reported in the governmental activities column of the government-wide Statement of Net Position but are not reported in the fund financial statements.

All capital assets (except for intangible right-to-use lease assets which are discussed below) are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their acquisition values as of the date received. The School District was able to estimate the historical cost for the initial reporting of infrastructure by backtrending (i.e. estimating the current replacement cost of the infrastructure to be capitalized and using an appropriate price level index to deflate the cost to the acquisition year or estimated acquisition year). The School District maintains a capitalization threshold of \$5,000. 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 are depreciated/amortized except for land. Improvements are depreciated/amortized over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets. Depreciation/amortization is computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

Description	Estimated Lives
Land	N/A
Land Improvements	20 Years
Buildings and Improvements	5 - 50 Years
Furniture and Equipment	5-20 Years
Vehicles	5-20 Years
Intangible Right to Use Lease - Equipment	5 Years

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The School District is reporting intangible right to use assets related to lease assets. The lease assets include equipment and represent nonfinancial assets which are being utilized for a period of time through leases from another entity. These intangible right to use assets are being amortized in a systematic and rational manner over the shorter of the lease/subscription term or the useful life of the underlying asset.

***Interfund Balances***

On fund financial statements, receivables and payables resulting from short-term interfund loans are classified as "interfund receivables/payables." These amounts are eliminated on the Statement of Net Position.

***Compensated Absences***

Vacation benefits are accrued as a liability as the benefits are earned if the employees' rights to receive compensation are attributable to services already rendered and it is probable that the employer will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means. The School District records a liability for accumulated unused vacation time when earned for vacation eligible employees with more than one year of service.

Sick leave benefits are accrued as a liability using the termination method. An accrual for earned sick leave is made to the extent it is probable that benefits will result in termination payments. The liability is an estimate based on the School District's past experience of making termination payments.

The entire sick leave benefit liability is reported on the government-wide financial statements.

On the government fund financial statements, sick leave benefits are recognized as liabilities and expenditures as payments come due each period upon the occurrence of employee resignations and retirements. These amounts are recorded in the account "matured compensated absences payable" in the fund from which the employee will be paid.

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

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

***Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligations***

All payables, accrued liabilities and long-term obligations are reported in the government-wide financial statements.

In general, governmental fund payables and accrued liabilities that, once incurred, are paid in a timely manner and in full from current financial resources, are reported as obligations of the funds. However, claims and judgements and compensated absences that will be paid from governmental funds are reported as a liability in the fund financial statements only to the extent that they are due for payment during the current year. Net pension/OPEB liability should be recognized in the governmental funds to the extent that benefit payments are due and payable and the pension/OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is not sufficient for payment of those benefits. Bonds, leases, and financed purchases are recognized as a liability on the governmental fund financial statements when due.



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***Bond Premiums, Bond Discounts, and Bond Issuance Costs***

On the government wide financial statements, bond insurance premiums, bond premiums and bond discounts are amortized over the term of the bonds using the straight line method, which approximates the effective interest method. Bonds payable are reported net of the applicable bond premium or discount. On the governmental fund financial statements bond insurance premiums, bond premiums, bond discounts and bond issuance costs are recognized in the period in which the bonds are issued.

Under Ohio law, premiums on the original issuance of debt are to be deposited to the bond retirement fund to be used for debt retirement and are precluded from being applied to the project fund. Ohio law does allow premiums on refunding debt to be used as part of the payment to the bond escrow agent.

Bond issuance costs are expensed in in the funds in the period the bonds are issued.

***Lease Payable***

The School District serves as a lessee in a noncancellable lease which is accounted for as follows:

***Lessee*** At the commencement of a lease, the School District initially measures the lease liability at the present value of payments expected to be made during the lease term. Subsequently, the lease liability is reduced by the principal portion of lease payments made. The lease asset is initially measured as the initial amount of the lease liability, adjusted for lease payments made at or before the lease commencement date, plus certain initial direct costs. Subsequently, the lease asset is amortized in a systematic and rational manner over the shorter of the lease term or the useful life of the underlying asset. Lease assets are reported with other capital assets and lease liabilities are reported with long-term debt on the Statement of Net Position.

***Internal Activity***

Transfers within government activities on the government-wide financial statements are reported in the same manner as general revenue.

Internal allocations of overhead expenses from one function to another or within the same function are eliminated on the Statement of Activities. Payments for interfund services provided and used are not eliminated.

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

***Fund Balance***

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

**Non-spendable:** The non-spendable fund balance category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The “not in spendable form” includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

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**Restricted:** The restricted fund balance category includes amounts that can be spent only for the specific purposes stipulated by State constitution or external resource providers. Fund balance is reported as restricted when constraints/ placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors, or laws or regulations of other governments; or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

**Committed:** The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the School District Board of Education. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board of Education removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. In contrast to fund balance that is restricted by enabling legislation, committed fund balance classification may be redeployed for other purposes with appropriate due process. Constraints imposed on the use of committed amounts are imposed by the School District Board of Education, separate from the authorization to raise the underlying revenue; therefore, compliance with these constraints is not considered to be legally enforceable. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

**Assigned:** Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the School District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the General Fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the School District Board of Education or a School District official delegated that authority by resolution or by State Statute.

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

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

### ***Unearned Revenue***

Unearned revenue arises when assets are recognized before revenue recognition criteria have been satisfied. The School District recognizes unearned revenue for intergovernmental revenue from grants received before the eligibility requirement are met.

### ***Net Position***

Net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. Net investment in capital assets, consist of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowings used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. Restricted net position for OPEB plan represent the corresponding restricted asset amounts held in trust by the OPEB plan for future benefits.

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

***Estimates***

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

***Budgetary Data***

All funds, except for custodial funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the appropriation resolution and the certificate of estimated resources, which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amounts that the Board of Education may appropriate. The appropriation resolution is the Board's authorization to spend resources and set annual limits on expenditures plus encumbrances at a level of control selected by the Board. The legal level of control has been established by the Board of Education at the fund level for all funds of the School District. Any budgetary modifications at this level may only be made by resolution of the Board of Education. The treasurer is given the authority to further allocate fund appropriations within all funds. Advances in/out are not required to be budgeted since they represent a temporary cash flow resource and are intended to be repaid.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in revenue are identified by the School District Treasurer. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts in the budgetary statements reflect the amounts in the certificate when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts in the budgetary statements reflect the amounts in the amended certificate in effect when the final appropriations were passed by the Board.

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

**NOTE 3 - CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLE**

For fiscal year 2024, the School District implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*, and related guidance from GASB Implementation Guide No. 2023-1, *Implementation Guidance Update — 2023*. The School District also implemented Question 5.1 from GASB Implementation Guide No. 2021-1, *Implementation Guidance Update — 2021*.

GASB 100 will improve the clarity of the accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections, which will result in greater consistency in application in practice. In turn, more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information will be provided to financial statement users for making decisions or assessing accountability. In addition, the display and note disclosure requirements will result in more consistent, decision-useful, understandable, and comprehensive information for users about accounting changes and error corrections.

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Question 5.1 from Implementation Guide 2021-1 addresses the collective significance of applying the capitalization threshold to individual items in a group of assets. The School District reviewed its capital asset groupings and determined there were no asset groups where individually the assets were under the capitalization threshold yet were significant collectively.

The implementation of this GASB Statement No. 100 and GASB Implementation Guides 2021-1 and 2023-1 did not have any effect on beginning balances.

In an effort to promote comparability with other governments, the School District updated its calculation of net position restricted for OPEB plans for fiscal year 2024. This change had no impact on beginning net position, but rather impacted the amounts presented as net position restricted for OPEB plans and unrestricted net position.

**NOTE 4 - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING**

While the School District is reporting financial position, results of operations, and changes in fund balance on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances - Budget and Actual (Non GAAP Basis) - General Fund is presented on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget.

The major differences between the budget basis and GAAP basis are that:

1. Revenues are recorded when received in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP basis).
2. Expenditures are recorded when paid in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when the liability is incurred (GAAP basis).
3. Encumbrances are treated as expenditures (budget basis) rather than restricted, committed, or unassigned fund balance (GAAP basis).
4. Advances in and advances out are operating transactions (budget basis) as opposed to Balance Sheet transactions (GAAP basis).

The following table summarizes the adjustments necessary to reconcile the GAAP and budgetary basis statements for the General Fund.

Net Change in Fund Balance	
	<u>General</u>
GAAP Basis	(\$1,650,860)
Revenue Accruals	277,934
Advances In	183,315
Expenditure Accruals	457,263
Advances Out	(434,205)
Encumbrances	<u>(530,227)</u>
Budget Basis	<u><u>(\$1,696,780)</u></u>

**NOTE 5 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

Monies held by the School District are classified by State statute into three categories.

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

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

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

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

Interim monies held by the School District can be deposited or invested in the following securities:

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

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8. Certain bankers' acceptances for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days) and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met. The investment in commercial paper notes of a single issuer shall not exceed in the aggregate five percent of interim moneys available for investment at the time of purchase.

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

#### **NOTE 6 - PROPERTY TAXES**

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

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

Public utility property tax revenue received in calendar year 2024 represents collections of calendar year 2023 taxes. Public utility real and tangible personal property taxes received in calendar year 2024 became a lien December 31, 2022, were levied after April 1, 2023 and are collected with real property taxes. Public utility real property is assessed at thirty-five percent of true value; public utility tangible personal property currently is assessed at varying percentages of true value.

The School District receives property taxes from Belmont County and Harrison County. The County Auditors periodically advances to the School District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2024, are available to finance fiscal year 2024 operations. The amount available to be advanced can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent.

The amount available as an advance at June 30, 2024 was \$364,923 in the General Fund. The amount available as an advance at June 30, 2023 was \$653,814 in the General Fund.

Accrued property taxes receivable includes real property and public utility property taxes which were measurable as of June 30, 2024 and for which there is an enforceable legal claim. Although total property tax collections for the next fiscal year are measurable, only the amount of real property taxes available as an advance at June 30 was levied to finance current fiscal year operations and is reported as revenue at fiscal year end. The portion of the receivable not levied to finance current fiscal year operations is offset by a credit to deferred inflows of resources – property taxes.

On an accrual basis, collectible delinquent property taxes have been recorded as a receivable and revenue, while on a modified accrual basis the revenue has been reported as deferred inflows of resources – unavailable revenue.

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The assessed values upon which the fiscal year 2024 taxes were collected are:

	2023 Second Half Collections		2024 First Half Collections	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Real Estate	\$297,725,890	74.04%	\$304,598,800	74.75%
Public Utility Personal	104,408,160	25.96%	102,911,990	25.25%
	<u>\$402,134,050</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>\$407,510,790</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
 Tax Rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation	 \$27.75		 \$27.75	

**NOTE 7 - RECEIVABLES**

Receivables at June 30, 2024, consisted of property taxes, tuition and fees, interfund, and intergovernmental grants. All receivables are considered collectible in full due to the ability to foreclose for the nonpayment of taxes, the stable condition of State programs, and the current year guarantee of federal funds. Delinquent property taxes deemed collectible by the County Auditor and recorded as a receivable in the amount of \$368,916 may not be collected within one year. All other receivables are expected to be collected within one year. A summary of the principal items of intergovernmental receivables follows:

<b><u>Governmental Activities:</u></b>	<b><u>Amounts</u></b>
Early Childhood Education Grant	\$28,094
Early Childhood Special Education Grant	1,272
Title I Grant	42,812
Title II-A Grant	11,385
Title IV-A Grant	34,710
IDEA B Grant	61,204
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Grant	12,230
Medicaid	49,767
Ohio Department of Education	240,344
Excess Costs from Other School Districts	295,521
Total Intergovernmental Receivable	<u>\$777,339</u>

**NOTE 8 - INTERFUND BALANCES AND TRANSFERS**

***Interfund Balances***

Interfund balances at June 30, 2024 consisted of the following individual interfund receivables and payables:

	<u>Interfund Receivable</u>
<u>Intrrfund Payable</u>	<u>General Fund</u>
Other Governmental Funds	<u>\$434,208</u>

The loans made to the Food Service, the Miscellaneous Local, the Miscellaneous State, the Miscellaneous Federal Grants, the Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief, and the Title I Special Revenue Funds and

**Union Local School District**  
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Permanent Improvement Capital Projects Funds were made to support the programs until grant monies and other resources are received to operate the programs.

***Transfers***

Interfund transfers for the year ended June 30, 2024 consisted of the following:

	<u>Transfers Out</u>
<u>Transfers In</u>	<u>General Fund</u>
Other Governmental Funds	<u>\$26,663</u>

The General Fund made transfers to the Permanent Improvement Capital Projects Fund to accumulate resources for future capital projects.

**NOTE 9 - CAPITAL ASSETS**

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



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	Balance 6/30/23	Additions	Reductions	Balance 6/30/24
<b>Governmental Activities</b>				
<b><i>Nondepreciable Capital Assets</i></b>				
Land	\$1,842,760	\$0	\$0	\$1,842,760
<b><i>Depreciable Capital Assets</i></b>				
<b><i>Tangible Assets</i></b>				
Land Improvements	646,120	0	0	646,120
Buildings and Improvements	24,237,880	0	0	24,237,880
Furniture and Equipment	1,015,554	405,259	0	1,420,813
Vehicles	1,428,637	0	0	1,428,637
<b><i>Total Tangible Assets</i></b>	<b>27,328,191</b>	<b>405,259</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,733,450</b>
<b><i>Intangible Right to Use</i></b>				
<b><i>Lease Assets</i></b>				
Intangible Right to Use - Equipment	54,750	0	0	54,750
<b><i>Total Depreciable/Amortizable Capital Assets</i></b>	<b>27,382,941</b>	<b>405,259</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,788,200</b>
<b><i>Less Accumulate Depreciation/Amortization</i></b>				
<b><i>Depreciation</i></b>				
Land Improvements	(389,420)	(57,802)	0	(447,222)
Buildings and Improvements	(16,626,214)	(830,751)	0	(17,456,965)
Furniture and Equipment	(485,432)	(119,033)	0	(604,465)
Vehicles	(887,863)	(134,801)	0	(1,022,664)
<b><i>Total Depreciation</i></b>	<b>(18,388,929)</b>	<b>(1,142,387)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(19,531,316)</b>
<b><i>Amortization</i></b>				
<b><i>Intangible Right to Use</i></b>				
<b><i>Lease Assets</i></b>				
Intangible Right to Use - Equipment	(10,950)	(10,950)	0	(21,900)
<b><i>Total Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization</i></b>	<b>(18,399,879)</b>	<b>(1,153,337)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(19,553,216)</b>
<b>Total Depreciable/Amortizable Capital Assets, Net</b>	<b>8,983,062</b>	<b>(748,078)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,234,984</b>
<b>Governmental Capital Assets, Net</b>	<b>\$10,825,822</b>	<b>(\$748,078)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,077,744</b>

Depreciation/amortization expense was charged to governmental activities as follows:

	Depreciation	Amortization	Total
Instruction:			
Regular	\$541,519	\$5,475	\$546,994
Special	98,268	0	98,268
Vocational	29,401	0	29,401
Support Services:			
Pupil	33,610	0	33,610
Instructional Staff	24,434	0	24,434
Administration	24,434	5,475	29,909
Fiscal	12,217	0	12,217
Operation of Maintenance and Plant	131,619	0	131,619
Pupil Transportation	150,660	0	150,660
Extracurricular	45,356	0	45,356
Food Service Operations	50,869	0	50,869
<b>Total Depreciation Expense</b>	<b>\$1,142,387</b>	<b>\$10,950</b>	<b>\$1,153,337</b>

**Union Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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**NOTE 10 - RISK MANAGEMENT**

***Property, Fleet and Liability Insurance***

The School District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The School District contracts with SORSA consortium Insurance for general liability, errors and omissions, property, and fleet insurance.

The general liability coverage has limits of liability of \$15,000,000 for each occurrence and an annual aggregate of \$17,000,000. The errors and omissions coverage has limits of liability of \$1,000,000 for each wrongful act with an annual aggregate of \$1,000,000. The property coverage carries a \$5,000 deductible with total coverage of \$54,100,286. The fleet coverage has limits of liability of \$15,000,000 for each accident with a \$2,500 deductible.

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

***Employee Benefits***

The School District has contracted with the Stark County Schools' Council of Government Health Benefits Program (Council) to provide employee medical/surgical and dental, and vision benefits. The Council's Health Benefits Program is a shared risk pool comprised of over 100 member school districts, educational service centers and related agencies, see Note 18 for further information about the Council. Rates are set through an annual calculation process. The School District pays a monthly contribution which is paid in a common fund from which claim payments are made for all participants regardless of claims flow. The board of directors has the right to return monies to an existing school district subsequent to the settlements of all expenses and claims. Premiums for medical coverage are \$1,052.55 for individual coverage per month and \$2,556.93 for family coverage per month. Employees contribute \$105.26 per month for single coverage and \$255.69 per month for family coverage, with the Board paying the balance of the premium. The premium is paid from the fund that pays the salary of the covered employee. Dental premiums are \$109.25 for individual coverage per month and \$269.55 for family coverage per month. Employees contribute \$10.93 per month for single coverage and \$26.96 per month for family coverage, with the Board paying the balance of the premium. Premiums for the vision coverage are \$22.54 for individual coverage per month and \$55.33 for family coverage per month. Employees contribute \$2.25 per month for single coverage and \$5.53 month for family coverage, with the Board paying the balance of the premium.

***Workers' Compensation***

During fiscal year 2024 the School District participated in the Manufacturing Works Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Program (Program), an insurance purchasing pool (Note 18). The intent of the Program is to achieve the benefit of a reduced premium for the School District by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the Program. The workers' compensation experience of the participating school districts is calculated as one experience and a common premium rate is applied to all school districts in the Program. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the Program rather than its individual rate. Participation in the Program is limited to school districts that can meet the Program's selection criteria. Minutemen (MMHR) provides administrative, cost control and actuarial services to the Program.

**NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS**

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

**Union Local School District**  
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***Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)***

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

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

GASB 68/75 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, healthcare plan enrollees pay a portion of the healthcare costs in the form of a monthly premium. State statute requires the retirement systems to amortize unfunded pension liabilities within 30 years. If the pension amortization period exceeds 30 years, each retirement system's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension/OPEB liability (asset). Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio Revised Code permits, but does not require, the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients.

The proportionate share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a *net OPEB asset* or long-term *net pension/OPEB liability* on the accrual basis of accounting. Any liability for the contractually required pension/OPEB contribution outstanding at the end of the fiscal year is included in *intergovernmental payable* on both the accrual and modified accrual bases of accounting. The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 15 for the required OPEB disclosures.

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

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

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Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. New benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. The COLA is indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5 percent and with a floor of 0 percent. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. The Retirement Board approved a 2.5 percent COLA for calendar year 2023.

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

The School District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$359,510 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount, \$10,963 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

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

Plan Description – School District licensed teachers and other faculty members participate in STRS Ohio, a cost-sharing multiple-employer public employee system administered by STRS. STRS provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries.

STRS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information, and detailed information about STRS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by writing to STRS, 275 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771, by calling (888) 227-7877, or by visiting the STRS Web site at [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org).

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

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on the final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service.

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*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2 percent of the final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0 percent upon a determination by its actuary that it was necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients' base benefit and past cost-of-living increases are not affected by this change. Effective July 1, 2022, a one-time ad-hoc COLA of 3 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2023 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2018. Effective July 1, 2023, a one-time ad-hoc COLA of 1 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2024 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2019. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3307.67(E) the STRS Ohio Retirement Board may adjust the COLA upon a determination by the board's actuary that a change will not materially impair the fiscal integrity of the system or is necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the system. 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 34 years of service credit at any age.

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

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

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

A DB or Combined Plan member with five or more years of credited service who is determined to be disabled may qualify for a disability benefit.

New members on or after July 1, 2013, must have at least ten years of qualifying service credit 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.

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

The School District's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$1,218,850 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount, \$208,814 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

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

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The School District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the School District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.06420240%	0.06307287%	
Prior Measurement Date	<u>0.06712460%</u>	<u>0.06608168%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.00292220%</u>	<u>-0.00300881%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net			<u>Total</u>
Pension Liability	\$3,547,513	\$13,582,704	\$17,130,217
Pension Expense	\$263,735	\$1,238,564	\$1,502,299

At June 30, 2024, the School District 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	\$152,480	\$495,197	\$647,677
Changes of assumptions	25,129	1,118,609	1,143,738
Changes in proportionate Share and difference between Entity contributions and proportionate share of contributions	0	197,166	197,166
Entity contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>359,510</u>	<u>1,218,850</u>	<u>1,578,360</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$537,119</u>	<u>\$3,029,822</u>	<u>\$3,566,941</u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$0	\$30,140	\$30,140
Changes of assumptions	0	841,991	841,991
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	49,864	40,708	90,572
Changes in Proportionate Share and Difference between Entity contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>179,706</u>	<u>543,799</u>	<u>723,505</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$229,570</u>	<u>\$1,456,638</u>	<u>\$1,686,208</u>

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\$1,578,360 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from School District 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:	SERS	STRS	Total
2024	(\$79,163)	(\$116,400)	(\$195,563)
2025	(\$175,755)	(533,664)	(709,419)
2026	200,314	1,213,186	1,413,500
2027	2,643	(208,788)	(206,145)
Total	<u>(\$51,961)</u>	<u>\$354,334</u>	<u>\$302,373</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 termination). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

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

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

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

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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 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members was based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

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

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined by using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS' *Statement of Investment Policy*. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating an arithmetic weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. As of June 30, 2024.

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
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 total pension liability for 2023 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. 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 for fiscal year 2023 was 14 percent.

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

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



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	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$5,235,948	\$3,547,513	\$2,125,328

***Actuarial Assumptions - STRS***

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

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

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

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

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:

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*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation *</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Rate of Return **</u>
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>	

\* Target allocation percentage is effective July 1, 2022.

Target weights were phased in over a 3 month period  
concluding on October 1, 2022

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

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

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

	<u>1% Decrease (6.00%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (7.00%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (8.00%)</u>
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$20,887,191	\$13,582,704	\$7,405,105

**NOTE 12 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS**

See Note 11 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

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

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

The Health Care program is financed through a combination of employer contributions, recipient premiums, investment returns, and any funds received on behalf of SERS' participation in Medicare programs. The System's goal is to maintain a health care reserve account with a 20-year solvency period in order to ensure that fluctuations in the cost of health care do not cause an interruption in the program. However, during any period in which the 20-year solvency period is not achieved, the System shall manage the Health Care Fund on a pay-as-you-go basis.

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund healthcare benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2024, no allocation was made to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2024, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the School District's surcharge obligation was \$44,552.

The surcharge, added to the allocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The School District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$44,552 for fiscal year 2024; all are reported as an intergovernmental payable.

**Union Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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***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. Health care premiums were reduced by a Medicare Part B premium credit beginning in 2023. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org) or by calling (888) 227-7877.

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

***OPEB Liability (Asset), 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 used to calculate the net OPEB liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The School District’s proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on the School District’s share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and OPEB expense:

	SERS	STRS	
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.06531200%	0.06307287%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.06827560%	0.06608168%	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.00296360%</u>	<u>-0.00300881%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the:			Total
Net OPEB Liability	\$1,075,979	\$0	\$1,075,979
Net OPEB (Asset)	\$0	(\$1,226,681)	(\$1,226,681)
OPEB Expense	(\$71,126)	(\$40,294)	(\$111,420)

**Union Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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At June 30, 2024, the School District's 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	\$2,242	\$1,912	\$4,154
Changes of assumptions	363,821	180,708	544,529
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	8,339	2,189	10,528
Changes in proportionate Share and difference between Entity contributions and proportionate share of contributions	52,523	33,166	85,689
Entity contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>44,552</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>44,552</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u><u>\$471,477</u></u>	<u><u>\$217,975</u></u>	<u><u>\$689,452</u></u>
<b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$554,922	\$187,099	\$742,021
Changes of assumptions	305,589	809,345	1,114,934
Changes in Proportionate Share and Difference between Entity contributions and proportionate share of contributions	<u>250,039</u>	<u>902</u>	<u>250,941</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u><u>\$1,110,550</u></u>	<u><u>\$997,346</u></u>	<u><u>\$2,107,896</u></u>

\$44,552 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from School District's contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability in the year ending June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2024	(\$182,017)	(\$342,808)	(\$524,825)
2025	(176,642)	(160,226)	(336,868)
2026	(115,548)	(60,525)	(176,073)
2027	(77,994)	(83,527)	(161,521)
2028	(66,190)	(76,363)	(142,553)
Thereafter	<u>(65,234)</u>	<u>(55,922)</u>	<u>(121,156)</u>
Total	<u><u>(\$683,625)</u></u>	<u><u>(\$779,371)</u></u>	<u><u>(\$1,462,996)</u></u>

***Actuarial Assumptions - SERS***

The total OPEB liability is determined by SERS' actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 74, as part of their annual actuarial valuation for each retirement plan.

**Union Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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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.

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

	<u>June 30, 2023</u>
Inflation	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expense
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
Fiduciary Net Position is Projected to be Depleted	2048
Municipal Bond Index Rate:	
Measurement Date	3.86 percent
Prior Measurement Date	3.69 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate,	
Measurement Date	4.27 percent
Prior Measurement Date	4.08 percent
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	
Medical Trend Assumption	
Measurement Date	6.75 to 4.40 percent
Prior Measurement Date	7.00 to 4.40 percent

**Union Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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Mortality rates among healthy retirees were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members was based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females.

Mortality rates for contingent survivors were based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Contingent Survivor mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 105.5 percent for males and adjusted 122.5 percent for females. Mortality rates for actives is based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table. Mortality rates are projected using a fully generational projection with Scale MP-2020.

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

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

The SERS health care plan follows the same asset allocation and long-term expected real rate of return for each major asset class as the pension plan, see Note 11.

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

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

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

	1% Decrease (3.08%)	Current Discount Rate (4.08%)	1% Increase (5.08%)
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$1,375,409	\$1,075,979	\$839,867
	1% Decrease (6.00 % decreasing to 3.40%)	Trend Rate (7.00 % decreasing to 4.40%)	1% Increase (8.00 % decreasing to 5.40%)
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$790,485	\$1,075,979	\$1,454,298

***Actuarial Assumptions – STRS***

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

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

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



**Union Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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Healthy retirees post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110 percent for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020; pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95 percent for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

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

The STRS health care plan follows the same asset allocation and long-term expected real rate of return for each major asset class as the pension plan, see Note 11.

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

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

	1% Decrease (6.00%)	Current Discount Rate (7.00%)	1% Increase (8.00%)
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	(\$1,038,224)	(\$1,226,681)	(\$1,390,805)
		Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	(\$1,398,421)	(\$1,226,681)	(\$1,019,821)

### **NOTE 13 - OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

#### ***Compensated Absences***

The criteria for determining vacation and sick leave benefits are derived from negotiated agreements and State laws. Classified employees earn five to twenty-five days of vacation per fiscal year, depending upon length of service. Current policy permits vacation leave to be accumulated up to one year. Accumulated, unused vacation time is paid to classified employees and administrators upon termination of employment. Teachers and administrators who work less than 260 days do not earn vacation time. Teachers, administrators, and classified employees earn sick leave at the rate of one and one-fourth days per month. Sick leave may be accumulated up to a maximum of 300 days for all certified employees and 280 days for all classified employees. Upon retirement, payment is made for thirty percent of accrued, but unused sick leave credit to a maximum of 90 days for certificated employees provided such certified staff member has been continuously employed by the School District for nine years.

**Union Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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Additionally, certified employees who have accumulated thirty-five years of service, twenty-five of which with the School District, shall receive a payment equal to forty percent of accrued, but not used sick leave credit to a maximum of 120 days. Teachers who are a rehired retiree for the school year immediately following retirement may opt to retain and carryover ten (10) days of unused sick leave. Upon retirement, payment is made for one-fourth of accrued, but unused sick leave credit to a maximum of 70 days for classified employees provided such classified employee has been continuously employed by the School District for seven years.

***Other Insurance Benefits***

The School District provides life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance to all eligible employees through Consumers Life Insurance Company in the amount of \$40,000 per employee.

**NOTE 14 - COMMITMENTS**

***Encumbrances***

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

General	\$530,227
Other Governmental	<u>240,641</u>
Total	<u>\$770,868</u>

**NOTE 15 - ACCOUNTABILITY**

At June 30, 2024, the School District had the following deficit fund balances:

General Fund	\$931,089
Permanent Improvement	41,397
Miscellaneous Federal Grants	105,196
Food Service	144,317
Title I	42,552
Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief	<u>12,161</u>
Total	<u>\$1,276,712</u>

These deficits are the result of the recognition of payables in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles as well as short-term interfund loans from the General Fund needed for operations until the receipt of grant monies. The General Fund provides transfers to cover deficit balances; however, this is done when cash is needed rather than when accruals occur. Management will monitor the deficit in the General Fund.

**Union Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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**NOTE 16 - LONG - TERM OBLIGATIONS**

The changes in the School District's long-term obligations during fiscal year 2024 were as follows:

	Outstanding 6/30/2023	Additions	Reductions	Outstanding 6/30/2024	Amounts Due Within One Year
<b>Governmental Activities:</b>					
General Obligation Bonds					
2021 School Energy Conservation Improvement Refunding Bonds					
Term Bond \$495,000 @ 1.2%	\$393,000	\$0	\$53,000	\$340,000	\$57,000
Financed Purchase	740,000	0	89,000	651,000	90,000
Lease Payable	45,357	0	10,114	35,243	10,890
Net Pension Liability					
SERS	3,630,620	0	83,107	3,547,513	0
STRS	14,690,042	0	1,107,338	13,582,704	0
Total Net Pension Liability	18,320,662	0	1,190,445	17,130,217	0
Net OPEB Liability					
SERS	958,596	117,383	0	1,075,979	0
Compensated Absences	937,545	194,308	144,023	987,830	55,647
Total Long-Term Liabilities	\$21,395,160	\$311,691	\$1,486,582	\$20,220,269	\$213,537

*2021 School Energy Conservation Improvement Refunding Bonds* – On June 23, 2021, Union Local School District issued \$495,000 of general obligation term bonds. The bonds were issued to refund the 2015 Energy Conservation and School Improvement Bonds. The 2021 Energy Conservation Improvement Refunding Bonds were issued for a 8 year period with final maturity at December 1, 2029. There was no refunding difference on the issuance. The 2021 Energy Conservation Improvement Refunding Bonds resulted in a debt service savings of \$31,752, and a difference between the net carrying amount of the debt and the acquisition price of \$39,799. Payments are made from the General Fund.

The Term Bonds maturing on December 1, 2029 are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption at the redemption price of 100 percent of the principal amount to be redeemed, plus accrued interest to the date of redemption, on December 1 of the and in the respective principal amounts as follows:

Redemption Date (December 1)	Principal Amount to be Redeemed
2021	\$49,000
2022	53,000
2023	53,000
2024	57,000
2025	56,000
2026	55,000
2027	59,000
2028	57,000

The remaining principal amount of such Term Bonds (\$56,000) will mature at stated maturity on December 1, 2029. Bond payments are made from the General Fund.

**Union Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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Principal and interest requirements to retire the 2021 School Energy Conservation Improvement Refunding Bonds outstanding at June 30, 2024 are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$57,000	\$3,738	\$60,738
2026	56,000	3,060	59,060
2027	55,000	2,394	57,394
2028	59,000	1,710	60,710
2029	57,000	1,014	58,014
2030	56,000	336	56,336
Total	<u>\$340,000</u>	<u>\$12,252</u>	<u>\$352,252</u>

*Financed Purchase*— During fiscal year 2021 the School District entered into an agreement to finance improvements and repairs to School District facilities as well as to provide remaining funding for an HVAC improvement project. The agreement transfers ownership to the assets and following the implementation of GASB 87 meets the criteria to be reported as a financed purchase. Payments are reflected as debt service expenditures on the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance for the governmental funds. Payments are made from the General Fund.

Future payments through fiscal year 2031 are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$90,000	\$7,272	\$97,272
2026	91,000	6,186	97,186
2027	92,000	5,088	97,088
2028	93,000	3,978	96,978
2029	94,000	2,856	96,856
2030-2031	191,000	2,298	193,298
Totals	<u>\$651,000</u>	<u>\$27,678</u>	<u>\$678,678</u>

The School District has outstanding agreements to lease copiers. The future lease payments were discounted based on the interest rate implicit in the lease. This discount is being amortized using the interest method over the life of the lease. The lease will be paid from the General Fund. A summary of the principal and interest amounts for the remaining leases/subscriptions is as follows:

Fiscal Year	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$10,890	\$2,250	\$13,140
2026	11,726	1,414	13,140
2027	12,627	513	13,140
Totals	<u>\$35,243</u>	<u>\$4,177</u>	<u>\$39,420</u>

The overall debt margin of the School District as of June 30, 2024 was \$36,676,014 with an unvoted debt margin of \$407,511.

**Union Local School District**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
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There is no repayment schedule for the net pension liability or the net OPEB liability. However, employer pension and postemployment benefit contributions are made from the following funds: General, Food Service, Miscellaneous State Grants, Miscellaneous Federal, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grant and Title I. For additional information related to the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability see Notes 11 and 12 respectively.

Compensated absences will be paid from the General Fund.

**NOTE 17 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS**

*Ohio Mid-Eastern Regional Educational Service Agency Information Technology Center Regional Council of Governments* - The School District participates in the Ohio Mid-Eastern Regional Educational Service Agency Information Technology Center Regional Council of Governments (OME-RESA). OME-RESA was created as a separate regional council of governments pursuant to State Statutes. OME-RESA operates under the direction of a Board comprised of a representative from each participating school district. The Board exercised total control over the operations of OME-RESA including budgeting, appropriating, contracting, and designating management. Each participant's control is limited to its representation on the Board. OME-RESA provides information technology and internet access to member districts, as well as cooperative purchasing programs. During fiscal year 2024, the total amount paid to OME-RESA from the School District was \$52,867 for technology services, in-service and co-op costs, financial accounting services and educational management information. To obtain financial information write to Ohio Mid-Eastern Regional Educational Service Agency, Treasurer, at 2023 Sunset Blvd., Steubenville, Ohio 43952.

*Belmont-Harrison Vocational School District* - The Belmont-Harrison Vocational School District is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio operated under the direction of a Board consisting of one representative from each of the seven participating school districts' elected boards. The Board exercises total control over the operations of the District including budgeting, appropriating, contracting, and designating management. Each participants control is limited to its representation on the Board. To obtain financial information write to the Belmont-Harrison Vocational School, Mark Lucas, who serves as Treasurer, at 68090 Hammond Road, St. Clairsville, Ohio 43950.

**NOTE 18 - PUBLIC ENTITY POOLS**

***Insurance Purchasing Pool***

*Manufacturing Works Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Program (Program)* – The School District participates in the Manufacturing Works Workers' Compensation Group Retrospective Rating Program (Program), an insurance purchasing pool. The School District participates in the Program through an affiliation with the Northern Ohio Area Chamber of Commerce. The Program's business and affairs are conducted by Spooner, Inc., an organization determined by the sponsor of the pool. Each year, the participating school districts pay an enrollment fee to the Program to cover the costs of administering the program. The School District's enrollment fee of \$1,400 for policy year 2024 was paid to minutemen (MMHR).

***Shared Risk Insurance Purchasing Pool***

*The Stark County Schools' Council of Government Health Benefits Program (Council)* – The Stark County Schools' Council of Governments (Council) Health Benefits program is a shared risk pool created pursuant to State Statute for the purposes of administering health care benefits. The Council is governed by an assembly which consists of one representative from each participating school district (usually the superintendent or designee). The assembly elects officers for one year terms to serve on the Board of Directors. The assembly exercises control over the operation of the Council. All Council revenues are generated from charges for services received from the participating school districts, based on the established premiums for the insurance plans. Each school district reserves the right to terminate the plan in whole or in part, at any time. If it is terminated, no further contributions will be made, but the benefits under the insurance contract shall be paid in accordance with the terms of the contract.

**Union Local School District**  
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**NOTE 19 - SET-ASIDE CALCULATIONS AND FUND RESTRICTIONS**

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

The following cash basis information describes the change in the year-end set-aside amounts for capital improvements and budget stabilization. Disclosure of this information is required by State statute.

	<u>Capital Improvements</u>
Set-aside Restricted Balance as of June 30, 2023	\$0
Current Year Set-aside Requirement	295,466
Current Year Offsets	(125,214)
Current Year Qualifying Expenditures	(277,641)
Totals	<u>(\$107,389)</u>
Balance Carried Forward to Fiscal Year 2025	<u>\$0</u>
Set-aside Restricted Balance as of June 30, 2024	<u>\$0</u>

The School District had qualifying expenditures and offsets during the fiscal year that reduced the set-aside amount for capital improvements to below zero that may not be carried forward to future years. The School District also has capital expenditures paid from debt proceeds in connection with an energy conservation project that may be carried forward to offset future set-aside requirements.

**NOTE 20 - CONTINGENCIES**

***Grants***

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

***Litigation***

The School District is currently party to legal proceedings. The School District management is of the opinion that the disposition of claims will not have a material effect, if any, on the financial condition of the School District.

***Paid Up Oil and Gas Leases***

*EQT Corp.*, - On December 10, 2013, the Board of Education entered into a "Paid Up" Oil and Gas Lease. The lease is for 6.95 acres of property owned by the Union Local Board of Education in Smith Township, Belmont County, Ohio, with Rice Drilling D, LLC. Subsequently, Rice Drilling D, LLC has been acquired by EQT Corp. In consideration of the execution of this lease, the School District received a signing bonus in the amount of \$43,437. The lease calls for payments to the School District, in addition to the bonus, royalties in the amount of 20 percent for all oil and other liquid hydrocarbons and by-products produced and saved from the land, and all gas and other hydrocarbons and by-products.

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

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*EQT Corp.*, - On June 6, 2017, the Board of Education entered into a “Paid Up” Oil and Gas Lease. The lease is for 0.5 acres of property owned by the Union Local Board of Education in Wayne Township, Belmont County, Ohio, and is effective for a five year period, from the date of the agreement, with Rice Drilling D, LLC. Subsequently, Rice Drilling D, LLC has been acquired by EQT Corp. In consideration of the execution of this lease, the School District received a signing bonus in the amount of \$3,500. The lease calls for payments to the School District, in addition to the bonus, royalties in the amount of 20 percent for all oil and other liquid hydrocarbons and by-products produced and saved from the land, and all gas and other hydrocarbons and by-products.

During fiscal year 2024, the School District received royalty payments of in the amount of \$26,663. As of the date of the financial statements, the full value of any potential royalties cannot be determined.

The total carrying value of the land leased is \$90,093.

**NOTE 21 - COVID-19**

The United States and the State of Ohio declared a state of emergency in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ohio’s state of emergency ended in June 2021, while the national state of emergency ended in April 2023. During fiscal year 2024, the School District received COVID-19 funding. The School District will continue to spend available COVID-19 funding consistent with the applicable program guidelines.

**Union Local School District**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability*  
*School Employees Retirement System of Ohio*  
*Last Ten Fiscal Years\**

	2024	2023	2022	2021
School District's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.06420240%	0.06712460%	0.07064710%	0.06797120%
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$3,547,513	\$3,630,620	\$2,606,673	\$4,495,758
School District's Covered Payroll	\$2,547,079	\$2,507,486	\$2,438,557	\$2,382,914
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered - Payroll	139.28%	144.79%	106.89%	188.67%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	76.06%	75.82%	82.86%	68.55%

\* Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the School District's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.



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2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
0.07199370%	0.07119610%	0.06318110%	0.06105640%	0.05781720%	0.05529900%
\$4,307,510	\$4,077,533	\$3,774,932	\$4,468,766	\$3,299,106	\$2,798,652
\$2,384,030	\$2,375,459	\$1,917,021	\$1,917,657	\$1,744,757	\$1,617,309
180.68%	171.65%	196.92%	233.03%	189.09%	173.04%
70.85%	71.36%	69.50%	62.98%	69.16%	71.70%

**Union Local School District**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability*  
*State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio*  
*Last Ten Fiscal Years\**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
School District's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.06307287%	0.06608168%	0.06473874%	0.06437562%
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$13,582,704	\$14,690,042	\$8,277,431	\$15,576,608
School District's Covered Payroll	\$8,492,700	\$8,716,686	\$7,974,543	\$7,830,593
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	159.93%	168.53%	103.80%	198.92%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	80.00%	78.90%	87.80%	75.50%

\* Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the School District's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

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2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
0.06228412%	0.05959032%	0.05761379%	0.05676709%	0.05542771%	0.05739464%
\$13,773,760	\$13,102,574	\$13,686,279	\$19,001,656	\$15,318,598	\$13,960,363
\$7,392,071	\$6,880,871	\$6,333,307	\$6,006,886	\$5,832,629	\$5,858,631
186.33%	190.42%	216.10%	316.33%	262.64%	238.29%
77.40%	77.30%	75.30%	66.80%	72.10%	74.70%

**Union Local School District**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability*  
*School Employees Retirement System of Ohio*  
*Last Eight Fiscal Years (1) \**

	2024	2023	2022	2021
School District's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	0.06531200%	0.06827560%	0.07261940%	0.07044900%
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$1,075,979	\$958,596	\$1,374,381	\$1,531,087
School District's Covered Payroll	\$2,547,079	\$2,507,486	\$2,438,557	\$2,382,914
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of its Covered - Payroll	42.24%	38.23%	56.36%	64.25%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	30.02%	30.34%	24.08%	18.17%

(1) Although this schedule is intended to reflect information for ten years, information prior to 2017 is not available. An additional column will be added each fiscal year.

\* Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the School District's measurement date, which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

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2020	2019	2018	2017
0.07325690%	0.07176250%	0.06391620%	0.06154800%
\$1,842,257	\$1,990,886	\$1,715,343	\$1,754,346
\$2,384,030	\$2,375,459	\$1,917,021	\$1,917,657
77.27%	83.81%	89.48%	91.48%
15.57%	13.57%	12.46%	11.49%

**Union Local School District**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset) Liability*  
*State Teachers Retirement System*  
*Last Eight Fiscal Years (1) \**

	2024	2023	2022	2021
School District's Proportion of the Net OPEB (Asset) Liability	0.06307287%	0.06608168%	0.06473874%	0.06437562%
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset) Liability	(\$1,226,681)	(\$1,711,075)	(\$1,364,964)	(\$1,131,401)
School District's Covered Payroll	\$8,492,700	\$8,716,686	\$7,974,543	\$7,830,593
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset) Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	-14.44%	-19.63%	-17.12%	-14.45%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	168.50%	230.70%	174.70%	182.10%

(1) Although this schedule is intended to reflect information for ten years, information prior to 2017 is not available.  
An additional column will be added each fiscal year.

\* Amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the School District's measurement date, which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

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2020	2019	2018	2017
0.06228412%	0.05959032%	0.05761379%	0.05676709%
(\$1,031,573)	(\$957,556)	\$2,247,876	\$3,035,919
\$7,392,071	\$6,880,871	\$6,333,307	\$6,006,886
-13.96%	-13.92%	35.49%	50.54%
174.70%	176.00%	47.10%	37.30%

**Union Local School District**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of School District Contributions*  
*School Employees Retirement System of Ohio*  
*Last Ten Fiscal Years*

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
<b>Net Pension Liability</b>					
Contractually Required Contribution	\$359,510	\$356,591	\$351,048	\$341,398	\$333,608
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(359,510)</u>	<u>(356,591)</u>	<u>(351,048)</u>	<u>(341,398)</u>	<u>(333,608)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
School District Covered Payroll (1)	\$2,567,929	\$2,547,079	\$2,507,486	\$2,438,557	\$2,382,914
Pension Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>
<b>Net OPEB Liability</b>					
Contractually Required Contribution (2)	\$44,552	\$43,685	\$42,747	\$45,603	\$44,858
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(44,552)</u>	<u>(43,685)</u>	<u>(42,747)</u>	<u>(45,603)</u>	<u>(44,858)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	<u>1.73%</u>	<u>1.72%</u>	<u>1.70%</u>	<u>1.87%</u>	<u>1.88%</u>
Total Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (2)	<u>15.73%</u>	<u>15.72%</u>	<u>15.70%</u>	<u>15.87%</u>	<u>15.88%</u>

(1) The School District's covered payroll is the same for Pension and OPEB.

(2) Includes Surcharge

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.



2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
\$321,844	\$320,687	\$268,383	\$268,472	\$229,959
(321,844)	(320,687)	(268,383)	(268,472)	(229,959)
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
\$2,384,030	\$2,375,459	\$1,917,021	\$1,917,657	\$1,744,757
13.50%	13.50%	14.00%	14.00%	13.18%
\$54,185	\$48,577	\$33,920	\$29,745	\$44,480
(54,185)	(48,577)	(33,920)	(29,745)	(44,480)
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2.27%	2.04%	1.77%	1.55%	2.55%
15.77%	15.54%	15.77%	15.55%	15.73%

**Union Local School District, Ohio**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of School District Contributions*  
*State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio*  
*Last Ten Fiscal Years*

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>Net Pension Liability</b>					
Contractually Required Contribution	\$1,218,850	\$1,188,978	\$1,220,336	\$1,116,436	\$1,096,283
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(1,218,850)</u>	<u>(1,188,978)</u>	<u>(1,220,336)</u>	<u>(1,116,436)</u>	<u>(1,096,283)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
School District Covered Payroll	\$8,706,071	\$8,492,700	\$8,716,686	\$7,974,543	\$7,830,593
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>

**Net OPEB Liability (Asset) (1)**

(1) Although the covered payroll for the net OPEB liability is the same as the net pension liability, there were no OPEB related required contributions for 2015-2024. STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to postemployment health care; therefore, there is no required supplementary information to present related to the statutorily established employer contribution requirements for the net OPEB liability.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

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<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
\$1,034,890	\$963,322	\$886,663	\$840,964	\$816,568
<u>(1,034,890)</u>	<u>(963,322)</u>	<u>(886,663)</u>	<u>(840,964)</u>	<u>(816,568)</u>
<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
\$7,392,071	\$6,880,871	\$6,333,307	\$6,006,886	\$5,832,629
<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>	<u>14.00%</u>

**Union Local School District, Ohio**  
*Notes to Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**Net Pension Liability**

**Changes in Benefit Terms/Assumptions – SERS**

Beginning in fiscal year 2018, on each anniversary of the initial retirement, the allowance of all retirees and survivors may be increased by the annual rate of increase in the CPI-W measured as of the June preceding the beginning of the applicable calendar year. The annual rate of increase shall not be less than 0 percent nor greater than 2.5 percent. The COLA was suspended for 2018-2020. Prior to 2018, an assumption of 3 percent was used. For 2021, the cost-of-living adjustment was reduced from 2.5 percent to 2 percent. For 2023 and 2024, the cost-of-living adjustment was increased from 2 percent to 2.5 percent.

Amounts reported in 2022 incorporate changes in assumptions used by SERS in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation. These assumptions compared with those used in prior years are presented below:

	<u>Fiscal Year 2022</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2021-2017</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2016 and Prior</u>
Wage Inflation	2.4 percent	3.00 percent	3.25 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent	3.50 percent to 18.20 percent	4.00 percent to 22.00 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.0 percent net of system expenses	7.50 percent net of investments expense, including inflation	7.75 percent net of investments expense, including inflation

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

Amounts reported for 2017 through 2021 use mortality rates that are based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with a fully generational projection and a five-year age set-back for both males and females. Amounts reported for fiscal year 2016 and prior, use mortality assumptions that are based on the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Table set back one year for both men and women. Special mortality tables were used for the period after disability retirement.

**Changes in Assumptions - STRS**

Beginning with fiscal year 2022, amounts reported incorporate changes in assumptions and changes in benefit terms used by STRS in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation. These new assumptions compared with those used in fiscal years 2018-2021 and fiscal years 2017 and prior are presented below:

**Union Local School District, Ohio**  
*Notes to Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

	<u>Fiscal Year 2022</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2021-2018</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2017 and Prior</u>
Inflation	2.50 percent	2.50 percent	2.75 percent
Projected salary increases	Varies by Service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent	12.50 percent at age 20 to 2.50 percent at age 65	12.25 percent at age 20 to 2.75 percent at age 70
Investment Rate of Return	See Below	See Below	See Below
Payroll Increases	3 percent	3 percent	3.5 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)	0.0 percent, effective July 1, 2017	0.0 percent, effective July 1, 2017	2 percent simple applied as follows: for members retiring before August 1, 2013, 2 percent per year; for members retiring after August 1, 2013, or later, COLA commences on fifth anniversary of retirement date.

Investment rate of return:

Fiscal Years 2022 through 2024	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Fiscal Years 2018 through 2021	7.45 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Fiscal Year 2017 and prior	7.75 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation

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

Beginning with fiscal year 2018, post-retirement mortality rates for healthy retirees were based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50 percent of rates through age 69, 70 percent of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90 percent of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100 percent of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Table with 90 percent of rates for males and 100 percent of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

For fiscal years 2017 and prior actuarial valuation, mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table (Projection 2022—Scale AA) for Males and Females. Males' ages are set back two years through age 89 and no set-back for ages 90 and above. Females younger than age 80 are set back four years, one-year set-back from ages 80 through 89, and no setback from ages 90 and above.

**Changes in Benefit Term – STRS Pension**

For 2024, demographic assumptions were changed based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021.

**Union Local School District, Ohio**  
*Notes to Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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For fiscal year 2023, the Board approved a one-time 3 percent COLA effective on the anniversary of a benefit recipient's retirement date for those eligible during fiscal year 2023 and eliminated the age 60 requirement to receive unreduced retirement that was scheduled to go into effect August 1, 2026.

**Net OPEB Liability**

**Changes in Assumptions – SERS**

Beginning with fiscal year 2022, amounts reported incorporate changes in assumptions and changes in benefit terms used by SERS in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation. These new assumptions compared with those used in fiscal year 2021 and prior are presented below:

	2022	2021 and Prior
Inflation	2.40 percent	3.00 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation		
Wage Increases	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent	3.50 percent to 18.20 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expense, including inflation	7.50 percent net of investment expense, including inflation

Amounts reported incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

**Municipal Bond Index Rate:**

Fiscal year 2024	3.86 percent
Fiscal year 2023	3.69 percent
Fiscal year 2022	1.92 percent
Fiscal year 2021	2.45 percent
Fiscal year 2020	3.13 percent
Fiscal year 2019	3.62 percent
Fiscal year 2018	3.56 percent
Fiscal year 2017	2.92 percent

**Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation**

Fiscal year 2024	4.27 percent
Fiscal year 2023	4.08 percent
Fiscal year 2022	2.27 percent
Fiscal year 2021	2.63 percent
Fiscal year 2020	3.22 percent
Fiscal year 2019	3.70 percent
Fiscal year 2018	3.63 percent
Fiscal year 2017	2.98 percent

**Changes in Assumptions – STRS**

For fiscal year 2018, the discount rate was increased from 3.26 percent to 4.13 percent based on the methodology defined under GASB *Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB)*, and the long-term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75 percent to 7.45 percent. Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated, and the salary scale was modified. 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

**Union Local School District, Ohio**  
*Notes to Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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decreased. 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 discount rate was increased from the blended rate of 4.13 percent to the long-term expected rate of return of 7.45.

For fiscal year 2022, the discount rate was decreased from 7.45 percent to the long-term expected rate of return of 7.00.

For fiscal year 2023, the projected salary increases were changed from age-based to service-based. Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience.

**Changes in Benefit Terms – STRS OPEB**

For fiscal year 2018, the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was reduced from 2.1 percent to 1.9 percent 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 2020.

For fiscal year 2019, the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was increased from 1.9 percent to 1.944 percent per year of service effective January 1, 2019. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2019, and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 1, 2020.

For fiscal year 2020, there was no change to the claims costs process. Claim curves were trended to the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to reflect the current price renewals. The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2020, from 1.944 percent to 1.984 percent per year of service. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2020. The Medicare subsidy percentages were adjusted effective January 1, 2021, to 2.1 percent for the Medicare plan. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed to January 1, 2021.

For fiscal year 2021, there was no change to the claims costs process. Claim curves were updated to reflect the projected fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 premium based on June 30, 2020 enrollment distribution. The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2021, from 1.984 percent to 2.055 percent 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 percent for the AMA Medicare plan. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

For fiscal year 2022, there was no change to the claims costs process. Claim curves were updated to reflect the projected fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, premium based on June 30, 2021, enrollment distribution. The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2022, from 2.055 percent to 2.1 percent per year of service. 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 CY 2022. The Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

For fiscal year 2023, healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience.

For fiscal year 2024, healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience as well as benefit changes effective January 1, 2024.

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UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BELMONT COUNTY

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

<b>FEDERAL GRANTOR Pass Through Grantor Program / Cluster Title</b>	<b>Federal AL Number</b>	<b>Pass Through Entity Identifying Number</b>	<b>Provided to Subrecipients</b>	<b>Total Federal Expenditures</b>
<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</b>				
<b>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce</b>				
Child Nutrition Cluster				
Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution)				
National School Lunch Program	10.555	2024	\$0	\$44,483
Cash Assistance:				
School Breakfast Program	10.553	2024	0	78,733
National School Lunch Program	10.555	2024	0	183,247
COVID-19 National School Lunch Program	10.555	2024	0	43,086
Total Cash Assistance:			<u>0</u>	<u>305,066</u>
Total Child Nutrition Cluster			<u>0</u>	<u>349,549</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			0	349,549
<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</b>				
<b>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce</b>				
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	2023	0	49,016
		2024	0	142,020
<b>Passed through to East Central Ohio Educational Service Center</b>				
Title I-D Delinquent		2024	46,470	46,470
Total Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies			<u>46,470</u>	<u>237,506</u>
Special Education Cluster (IDEA):				
Special Education - Grants to States	84.027	2023	0	22,553
		2024	0	231,434
COVID-19 Special Education - Grants to States	84.027X	2023	0	4,188
Total Special Education - Grants to States			<u>0</u>	<u>258,175</u>
Special Education - Preschool Grants	84.173	2024	0	7,051
Total Special Education Cluster			<u>0</u>	<u>265,226</u>
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	2023	0	6,625
		2024	0	32,679
			<u>0</u>	<u>39,304</u>
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	2024	0	22,210
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program - Stronger Connections Grant	84.424X	2024	0	12,500
			<u>0</u>	<u>34,710</u>
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund:				
ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief	84.425U	2023	0	8,774
		2024	0	74,480
ARP Homeless Round II	84.425W	2024	0	16,500
Total COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund:			<u>0</u>	<u>99,754</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education			46,470	676,500
<b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY</b>				
<b>Passed Through Ohio Office of Budget and Management</b>				
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	21.027	2021	0	36,883
		2023	0	151,290
			<u>0</u>	<u>188,173</u>
Total U.S. Department of Treasury			<u>0</u>	<u>188,173</u>
<b>Total Expenditures of Federal Awards</b>			<u><b>\$46,470</b></u>	<u><b>\$1,214,222</b></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this Schedule.

**UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

**NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION**

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

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

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

**NOTE C – INDIRECT COST RATE**

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

**NOTE D - SUBRECIPIENTS**

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

**NOTE E - CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER**

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

**NOTE F – FOOD DONATION PROGRAM**

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

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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800-282-0370

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

Union Local School District  
Belmont County  
66779 Belmont-Morristown Road  
Belmont, Ohio 43718

To the Board of Education:

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 the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Union Local School District, Belmont County, Ohio (the School District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated March 17, 2025.

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

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

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

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

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

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the School District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed 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 School District's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School District's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

March 17, 2025

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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

Union Local School District  
Belmont County  
66779 Belmont-Morristown Road  
Belmont, Ohio 43718

To the Board of Education

### Report on Compliance for the Major Federal Program

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Responsibilities of Management for Compliance***

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Other Matters***

The results of our auditing procedures disclosed an instance of noncompliance which is required to be reported in accordance with Uniform Guidance and which is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 2024-001. Our opinion on the major federal program is not modified with respect to this matter.

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the School District's response to the noncompliance finding identified in our compliance audit described in the accompanying Corrective Action Plan. The School District's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

## Report on Internal Control over Compliance

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance* section above and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in internal control over compliance and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, as discussed below, we did identify a certain deficiency in internal control over compliance that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

A *deficiency in internal control over compliance* exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct, noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. A *material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiency in internal control over compliance described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings as item 2024-001, to be a significant deficiency.

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

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the School District's response to the internal control over compliance finding identified in our audit described in the accompanying Corrective Action Plan. The School District's response was not subjected to the other auditing procedures applied in the audit of compliance and, accordingly, we express no opinion on the response.

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



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio

March 17, 2025

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**UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BELMONT COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS  
2 CFR § 200.515  
JUNE 30, 2024**

**1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS**

<b>(d)(1)(i)</b>	<b>Type of Financial Statement Opinion</b>	Unmodified
<b>(d)(1)(ii)</b>	<b>Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?</b>	No
<b>(d)(1)(ii)</b>	<b>Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?</b>	No
<b>(d)(1)(iii)</b>	<b>Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?</b>	No
<b>(d)(1)(iv)</b>	<b>Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?</b>	No
<b>(d)(1)(iv)</b>	<b>Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?</b>	Yes
<b>(d)(1)(v)</b>	<b>Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion</b>	Unmodified
<b>(d)(1)(vi)</b>	<b>Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?</b>	Yes
<b>(d)(1)(vii)</b>	<b>Major Program (list):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child Nutrition Cluster – CFDA #10.553 / #10.555</li> </ul>	
<b>(d)(1)(viii)</b>	<b>Dollar Threshold: Type A/B Programs</b>	Type A: > \$ 750,000 Type B: all others
<b>(d)(1)(ix)</b>	<b>Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR § 200.520?</b>	Yes

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

None

**UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BELMONT COUNTY**

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

<b>3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS</b>
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**Eligibility**

<b>Finding Number:</b>	<b>2024-001</b>
<b>Assistance Listing Number and Title:</b>	<b>AL #10.553/10.555 Child Nutrition Cluster (includes COVID-19)</b>
<b>Federal Award Identification Number / Year:</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Federal Agency:</b>	<b>US Department of Agriculture</b>
<b>Compliance Requirement:</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>
<b>Pass-Through Entity:</b>	<b>Ohio Department of Education and Workforce</b>
<b>Repeat Finding from Prior Audit?</b>	<b>No</b>

**Noncompliance and Significant Deficiency**

7 CFR Part 245.6(c)(4) requires that the local educational agency must use the income information provided by the household on the application to calculate the household's total current income for determination if the household was eligible for free or reduced-price benefits. When a household submits an application containing complete documentation, as defined in 7 CFR Part 245.2, and the household's total current income is at or below the eligibility limits specified in the Income Eligibility Guidelines as defined in 7 CFR Part 245.2, the children in that household must be approved for free or reduced-price benefits, as applicable.

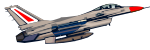
Errors in the eligibility determination were noted with 2 out of 60 individual students tested. Two students selected were receiving free benefits, however, there was no supporting documentation (i.e. application or direct certification) available to support this determination. We noted these students received free benefits in the prior school year. According to 7 CFR 245.6(c)(2), an individual student's eligibility from the previous school year (before July 1) carries over for up to 30 operating days into the new school year, or until a new eligibility determination is made, whichever comes first. Therefore, these students' eligibility would have been appropriately free for the first 30 days of the school year, however, should have been changed to denied when an application was not received, and the students were not directly certified. Therefore, the students' eligibility was incorrectly determined to be free, and this error would have led to the School District receiving less program income from providing meals as well as being over reimbursed for claimed meals relating to these students' actual benefits usage.

The School District should ensure eligibility calculations on submitted applications are properly performed, which could include a secondary review. Additionally, a review of all free/reduced students should be performed to ensure they have an approved application on file or are directly certified. This will help to ensure that the School District properly complies with Federal regulations, properly receives all program income due to the school and is not over reimbursed with federal funding for unallowable claimed free or reduced-price meals.

**Officials' Response:** See Corrective Action Plan.



# UNION LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION



OFFICE OF THE TREASURER  
66779 BELMONT-MORRISTOWN ROAD  
BELMONT OH 43718  
(740) 782-1978



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

Finding Number: 2024-001

Planned Corrective Action: The District will ensure eligibility calculations on submitted applications are properly performed. The District will be more attentive to the list of free and reduced students and will ensure the students have an approved application on file. The District has been in touch with Payschools and both entities are on the same page moving forward.

Anticipated Completion Date: 03/17/2025

Responsible Contact Person: Bernie Thompson

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**UNION LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**BELMONT 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 3/27/2025**

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)