



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER

A small, thin-lined map of the state of Ohio is positioned to the right of the text, showing the state's outline.

**VAN BUREN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HANCOCK COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2024**

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**VAN BUREN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HANCOCK COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2024**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County
217 South Main Street
Van Buren, Ohio 45889

To the Board of Education:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Van Buren Local School District, Hancock County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

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

Basis for Opinions

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

Emphasis of Matter - Accounting Basis

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting described in Note 2, and for determining that the cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for preparation of the financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements.

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied 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, this 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 20, 2025, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 20, 2025

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Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis
June 30, 2024

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 4,369,460
Cash and Cash Equivalents with Fiscal Agents	<u>154,806</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u><u>\$ 4,524,266</u></u>
Net Position	
Restricted for:	
Capital Outlay	\$ 350,540
Other Purposes	12,475
Restricted for Locally Funded Programs	32,368
Restricted for Student Activities	85,941
Restricted for State Funded Programs	35,000
Restricted for Federally Funded Programs	72,593
Unrestricted	<u>3,935,349</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u><u>\$ 4,524,266</u></u>

Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio
Statement of Activities - Cash Basis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Program Cash Receipts					Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants, Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities	
Governmental Activities						
Instruction:						
Regular	\$ 6,688,093	\$ 181,815	\$ 237,916	\$ -	\$ (6,268,362)	
Special	1,942,321	-	159,144	-	(1,783,177)	
Vocational	411,988	-	4,292	-	(407,696)	
Student Intervention Services	939	-	-	-	(939)	
Other	9,233	-	-	-	(9,233)	
Support Services:						
Pupils	884,146	-	100,890	-	(783,256)	
Instructional Staff	423,231	-	23,871	-	(399,360)	
Board of Education	82,721	-	-	-	(82,721)	
Administration	1,091,532	-	-	-	(1,091,532)	
Fiscal	612,647	-	-	827	(611,820)	
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	2,163,960	-	15,000	3,971	(2,144,989)	
Pupil Transportation	682,747	439	30	-	(682,278)	
Central	85,691	-	5,993	-	(79,698)	
Operation of Non-Instructional Services:						
Food Service Operations	445,914	212,369	161,649	-	(71,896)	
Community Services	82,221	-	100,000	-	17,779	
Extracurricular Activities	862,097	313,323	20,906	-	(527,868)	
Capital Outlay	1,088,685	-	-	21,538	(1,067,147)	
Debt Service:						
Principal Retirement	121,189	-	-	-	(121,189)	
Interest and Fiscal Charges	17,445	-	-	-	(17,445)	
Totals	\$ 17,696,800	\$ 707,946	\$ 829,691	\$ 26,336	(16,132,827)	

General Receipts

Property Taxes Levied for:	
General Purposes	9,312,892
Capital Outlay	384,318
Income Taxes Levied for:	
General Purposes	3,223,508
Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs	2,529,840
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	103,665
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	4,493
Investment Earnings	229,732
Miscellaneous	58,269
Total General Receipts	15,846,717
Change in Net Position	(286,110)
Net Position Beginning of Year	4,810,376
Net Position End of Year	\$ 4,524,266

Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio
Statement of Assets and Fund Balances - Cash Basis
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2024

	<u>General</u>	<u>Other Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Assets			
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 3,780,543</u>	<u>\$ 588,917</u>	<u>\$ 4,369,460</u>
Fund Balances			
Restricted	\$ -	\$ 588,917	\$ 588,917
Assigned	615,052	-	615,052
Unassigned	<u>3,165,491</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,165,491</u>
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$ 3,780,543</u>	<u>\$ 588,917</u>	<u>\$ 4,369,460</u>

**Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio**

*Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to
Net Position of Governmental Activities - Cash Basis*
June 30, 2024

Total Governmental Fund Balances \$ 4,369,460

An internal service fund is used by management to charge the costs of insurance to individual funds. The assets of the internal service fund are included in governmental activities in the statement of net position.

Net Position of Governmental Activities \$ 4,524,266

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

	General	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 9,312,892	\$ 384,318	\$ 9,697,210
Income Taxes	3,223,508	-	3,223,508
Intergovernmental	2,463,658	779,699	3,243,357
Investment Income	226,107	-	226,107
Tuition and Fees	140,484	-	140,484
Extracurricular Activities	122,337	232,756	355,093
Gifts and Donations	66,181	76,329	142,510
Charges for Services	-	212,369	212,369
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	103,665	-	103,665
Miscellaneous	50,899	7,370	58,269
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>15,709,731</u>	<u>1,692,841</u>	<u>17,402,572</u>
Disbursements			
Current:			
Instruction:			
Regular	6,377,696	248,662	6,626,358
Special	1,755,473	176,662	1,932,135
Vocational	403,738	6,225	409,963
Student Intervention Services	939	-	939
Other	9,233	-	9,233
Support Services:			
Pupils	766,749	111,152	877,901
Instructional Staff	395,826	22,426	418,252
Board of Education	82,721	-	82,721
Administration	1,080,094	-	1,080,094
Fiscal	604,523	6,477	611,000
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	2,125,077	31,784	2,156,861
Pupil Transportation	677,880	524	678,404
Central	79,552	5,993	85,545
Extracurricular Activities	587,007	273,574	860,581
Operation of Non-Instructional Services:			
Food Service Operations	-	443,769	443,769
Community Services	-	82,221	82,221
Capital Outlay	920,089	168,596	1,088,685
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	85,496	35,693	121,189
Interest and Fiscal Charges	14,869	2,576	17,445
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>15,966,962</u>	<u>1,616,334</u>	<u>17,583,296</u>
<i>Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Disbursements</i>	<u>(257,231)</u>	<u>76,507</u>	<u>(180,724)</u>
Other Financing Sources (Uses)			
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	4,493	-	4,493
Advances In	-	43,120	43,120
Advances Out	(43,120)	-	(43,120)
<i>Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)</i>	<u>(38,627)</u>	<u>43,120</u>	<u>4,493</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	<u>(295,858)</u>	<u>119,627</u>	<u>(176,231)</u>
<i>Fund Balances Beginning of Year</i>	<u>4,076,401</u>	<u>469,290</u>	<u>4,545,691</u>
<i>Fund Balances End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 3,780,543</u>	<u>\$ 588,917</u>	<u>\$ 4,369,460</u>

**Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio**

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

Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds \$ (176,231)

Internal service funds charge insurance costs to other funds. The entity-wide statements eliminate governmental fund disbursements and related internal service fund charges. Governmental activities report allocated net internal service fund receipts (disbursements).

(109,879)

Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities \$ (286,110)

Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in
Cash Basis Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Budget Basis)
General Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Budgeted Amounts			Variance with Final Budget
	Original	Final	Actual	
Receipts and Other Financing Sources	\$ 15,500,000	\$ 15,551,120	\$ 15,570,228	\$ 19,108
Disbursements and Other Financing Uses	17,795,573	17,234,360	16,041,777	1,192,583
Net Change in Fund Balance	(2,295,573)	(1,683,240)	(471,549)	1,211,691
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	2,722,878	2,722,878	2,722,878	-
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	1,244,573	1,244,573	1,244,573	-
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 1,671,878</u>	<u>\$ 2,284,211</u>	<u>\$ 3,495,902</u>	<u>\$ 1,211,691</u>

Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio
Statement of Fund Net Position - Cash Basis
Proprietary Fund
June 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities
	<hr/>
	Internal Service Fund
	<hr/>
Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalents with Fiscal Agents	<hr/> <hr/> \$ 154,806
Net Position	
Unrestricted	<hr/> <hr/> \$ 154,806

**Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio**

*Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Net Position - Cash Basis
Proprietary Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

	<u>Governmental Activities - Internal Service Fund</u>
Operating Receipts	
Charges for Services	<u>\$ 2,148,434</u>
Operating Disbursements	
Purchased Services	453,963
Claims	<u>1,807,975</u>
<i>Total Operating Disbursements</i>	<u>2,261,938</u>
<i>Operating Income (Loss)</i>	<u>(113,504)</u>
Non-Operating Receipts (Disbursements)	
Interest	<u>3,625</u>
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	<u>(109,879)</u>
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	<u>264,685</u>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 154,806</u>

Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis
Custodial Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Custodial
Additions	
Extracurricular Amounts Collected for Other Governments	<u>\$ 37,155</u>
Deductions	
Extracurricular Distributions to Other Governments	<u>37,155</u>
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	<u>-</u>
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	<u>-</u>
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<u>\$ -</u>

Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND REPORTING ENTITY

Van Buren 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 and federal guidelines.

The School District was established in 1936 and serves an area of approximately forty-eight square miles. It is located in Hancock County and includes all of the Village of Van Buren and Allen Township and portions of Cass, Marion, and Portage Townships.

Reporting Entity

The reporting entity has been defined in accordance with GASB Statement No. 14, *The Financial Reporting Entity* as amended by GASB Statement No. 39, *Determining Whether Certain Organizations Are Component Units* and GASB Statement No. 61, *The Financial Reporting Entity: Omnibus an amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and 34*. A reporting entity is composed of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to insure the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the School District consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the School District. For Van Buren 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; or (3) 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 (4) 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. Certain organizations are also included as component units if the nature and significance of the relationship between the primary government and the organization is such that exclusion by the primary government would render the primary government's financial statements incomplete or misleading. Based upon the application of these criteria, the School District has no component units. The basic financial statements of the reporting entity include only those of the School District (the primary government).

The School District is associated with one jointly governed organization (see Note 12). Three insurance pools, and a public entity risk pool. These organizations are the Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative, Ohio School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan, the Ohio School Plan and Jefferson Health Plan.

Insurance Pools

A. Ohio School Boards Association Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan

The School District participates in a group rating plan for worker's compensation as established under Section 4123.29 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Ohio School Boards Association Workers' compensation Group Rating Plan (GRP) was established through the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) as an insurance purchasing pool.

Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

The GRP's business and affairs are conducted by a three-member Board of Directors consisting of the President, the President-Elect, and the Immediate Past President of the OSBA. The Executive Director and staff designees, who serve as coordinator of the GRP. Each year, the participants pay an enrollment fee to the GRP to cover the costs of administering the program.

B. Ohio School Plan

The School District participates in the Ohio School Plan (OSP), an insurance purchasing pool established under Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code. The OSP is an unincorporated nonprofit association of its members which enables the participants to provide for a formalized joint insurance purchasing program for maintaining adequate insurance protection and provides risk management programs and other administrative services. The OSP's business and affairs are conducted by a twelve-member board consisting of individual representatives from various plan members. Hylant Administrative Services, LLC, 811 Madison Avenue, Toledo, Ohio 43604.

Public Entity Risk Pool

Jefferson Health Plan – The School District participates in The Jefferson Health Plan (the Consortium), a claims servicing pool established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Chapter 167 and Section 9.833. The legislative body of the Consortium is an assembly consisting of a designee from each of its 112 members. The membership of the assembly appoints a nine-member Board of Directors, which acts as the managerial body of the Consortium. The Consortium provides a cooperative program to administer medical, prescription, vision, and dental benefits for employees of participating entities and their eligible dependents. In connection with amendments to Ohio House Bill 64, the Consortium expanded its marketing efforts to other states where permitted by state law. During fiscal year 2018, the Consortium reached an agreement with a member in a state outside of Ohio as permitted by Ohio House Bill 64.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As discussed further in the Basis of Accounting section of this note, these financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. This cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Generally accepted accounting principles include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting. Following are the more significant of the School District's accounting policies.

A. Basis of Presentation

The School District's basic financial statements consist of government-wide financial 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. The activity of the internal service fund is eliminated to avoid "doubling up" receipts and disbursements. These statements usually distinguish between those activities of the School District that are governmental activities (primarily supported by taxes and intergovernmental receipts) and those that are considered business-type activities (primarily supported by fees and charges). However, the School District has no business-type activities.

Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

The statement of net position presents the cash balance of the governmental activities of the School District at fiscal year end. The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct disbursements and program receipts for each program or function of the School District's governmental activities. Direct disbursements are those that are specifically associated with a service program, or department and, therefore, clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program and grants, contributions, and interest that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Receipts which are not classified as program receipts are presented as general receipts of the School District, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing on a cash basis or draws from the general receipts of the School District.

Fund Financial Statements During the fiscal 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. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. The internal service fund is presented in a single column on the face of the proprietary fund financial statements. Fiduciary funds are reported by type.

B. Fund Accounting

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

Governmental Funds The School District classifies funds financed primarily from taxes, intergovernmental receipts (e.g. grants), and other nonexchange transactions as governmental funds. The School District's major fund is the general fund.

General fund The general fund 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 and report grants and other resources whose use is restricted, committed or assigned to a particular purpose.

Proprietary Funds The School District classifies funds financed primarily from user charges for goods or services as proprietary. Proprietary funds are classified as enterprise or internal service; the School District has no enterprise funds. The School District's only proprietary fund is the internal service fund:

Internal Service Fund Internal service funds account for the financing of services provided by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of the School District on a cost reimbursement basis. The internal service fund of the School District accounts for a self-insurance program which provides health benefits to employees.

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. Custodial Funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund.

Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

The School District's only fiduciary fund is a custodial fund. Custodial funds are used to account for assets held by the School District as fiscal agent for the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA).

C. Basis of Accounting

The School District's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the School District's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when liability is incurred.

As a result of the use of the cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and receipt for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and disbursements for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued liabilities and the related disbursements) are not recorded in these financial statements.

D. Budgetary Data

All funds, except custodial funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the certificate of estimated resources, and the appropriations resolution, all of 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 amount the Board of Education may appropriate. The appropriations resolution is the Board's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on cash disbursements plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Board. The legal level of control selected by the Board is at the fund level for all funds. Budgetary allocations at the function and object level for all funds are made by the School District Treasurer.

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

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

E. Cash and Investments

To improve cash management, cash received by the School District is pooled and invested. 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". The School District participates in the Jefferson Health Plan, an insurance consortium for self-insurance. These monies are held separate from the School District's central bank account and are reflected in the basic financial statements as "Cash and Cash Equivalents with Fiscal Agent".

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Under existing Ohio statutes, all investment earnings are assigned to the general fund except for those specifically related to the building capital projects fund (a nonmajor governmental fund), or certain trust funds individually authorized by board resolution. Investment earnings (including fair market value adjustments for investments) credited to the general fund during fiscal year 2024 amounted to \$226,107 which includes \$32,863 assigned from other School District funds.

Investments of the School District's 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. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months that were not purchased from the pool are reported as investments.

F. Inventory and Prepaid Items

The School District reports disbursements for inventory and prepaid items when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

G. Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

H. Accumulated Leave

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

I. Long-Term Obligations

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

J. Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes includes resources restricted for food service operations, music and athletic programs, and federal and state grants.

The School District applies restricted resources when a cash disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

K. Fund Balance

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the School District is

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bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable - The nonspendable fund balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash. It also includes the long-term amount of interfund loans.

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

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 School District Board of Education removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

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 nor committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. These amounts are assigned by the School District's Board of Education. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the School District Board of Education, or a School District official delegated by that authority by resolution or by State Statute. State statute authorizes the School District's Treasurer to assign fund balance for purchase on order provided such amounts have been lawfully appropriated.

Unassigned - Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is only used to report a deficit fund balance.

The School District applies restricted resources first when disbursements are incurred for purposes for which restricted and 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 disbursements are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

L. Interfund Transactions

Transfers within governmental activities are eliminated on the government-wide financial statements. Exchange transactions between funds are reported as receipts in the seller funds and as disbursements in the purchaser funds. Subsidies 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 and as nonoperating receipts/cash disbursements in proprietary funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular cash disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented in the financial statements. Interfund transfers between governmental funds are eliminated on the statement of activities.

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M. Pensions and OPEB

For purposes of measuring the net pension and net other postemployment benefits (OPEB) liability (asset), information about the fiduciary net position of the retirement 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 plans. For this purpose, benefit payments (including refunds of member contributions) are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of the plan. The pension/OPEB plans report investments at fair value.

N. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans

The School District recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 10 and 11, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

O. Leases

The School District is the lessor/lessee (as defined by GASB 87) in various leases related to vehicles and other equipment under noncancelable leases. Lease receivables/payables are not reflected under the School District's modified cash basis of accounting. Lease disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

P. Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA)

The School District is party to various SBITAs; however, liabilities are not reflected under the School District's modified cash basis of accounting. SBITA disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

Q. Operating Receipts and Disbursements

Operating receipts are those receipts that are generated directly from the primary activity of the proprietary fund. For the School District, these receipts are charges for services for self-insurance programs. Operating disbursements are necessary costs incurred to provide the good or service that is the primary activity of the fund. Receipts and disbursements not meeting this determination are reported as non-operating.

NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

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

Active deposits are public deposits necessary to meet current demands on the treasury. Such monies must be maintained either as cash in the 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 of Education has identified as not required for use within the current five year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

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.

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Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts including passbook accounts.

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

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

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage and short selling are also prohibited. Except as noted above, an investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the 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 qualified trustee or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

Cash on Hand – At year-end, the School District had \$589 in undeposited cash on hand which is included as part of “Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents.”

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Deposits - At year-end, \$453,649 of the School District's bank balance of \$704,419 was exposed to custodial credit risk. Although the securities were held by the pledging financial institutions' trust department in the School District's name and all statutory requirements for the investment of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the School District to a successful claim by the FDIC.

Custodial Credit Risk - Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the School District will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party. The School District has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or protected by:

- Eligible securities pledged to the School District and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured; or
- Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

Funds held by Fiscal Agent - At June 30, 2024, the School District's internal service fund had a balance of 154,806 with the Jefferson Health Plan, a public entity, risk sharing, claims servicing and insurance purchasing pool (see Note 1). The money is held by the claims servicing pool in a pooled account, which is representative of numerous entities and therefore cannot be included in the risk disclosures reported by the School District. The classification of cash and cash equivalents for the Jefferson Health Plan as a whole may be obtained from the Plan's fiscal agent, the Jefferson County Educational Service Center. To obtain financial information, write to the Jefferson Health Plan, Treasurer, 2023 Sunset Blvd., Steubenville, Ohio 43952.

Investments

As of June 30, 2024, the School District had the following investments:

S&P Global Ratings	Investment Type	Measurement Amount	Investment Maturities			Percent of Total
			12 Months or Less	12 to 36 Months		
Net Asset Value (NAV):						
N/A	Money Market	\$ 46,488	\$ 46,488	\$ -	-	1.18%
AAAm	Money Market Mutual Fund	1,018,437	1,018,437	-	-	25.84%
Cost Value:						
N/A	Negotiable Certificates of Deposit	2,017,508	2,017,508	-	-	51.19%
Aaa-	U.S. Treasury Notes	858,469	858,469	-	-	21.79%
Total		\$ 3,940,902	\$ 3,940,902	\$ -	-	100.00%

Interest Rate Risk Interest rate risk arises because potential purchasers of debt securities will not agree to pay face value for those securities if interest rates subsequently increase. The School District's investment policy addresses interest rate risk by requiring that the School District's investment portfolio be structured so that securities mature to meet cash requirements for ongoing operations and/or long-term debt payments, thereby avoiding the need to sell securities on the open market prior to maturity, and by investing operating funds primarily in short-term investments.

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Credit Risk The School District's investments at June 30, 2024 are rated as shown above by S & P Global Rating. The School District has no investment policy dealing with investment credit risk beyond the requirements of state statutes.

Concentration of Credit Risk The School District places no limit on the amount that may be invested in any one issuer. The percentage of each investment to total investments is noted above.

NOTE 4 - 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 year 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 35 percent of appraised market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, 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 35 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 Hancock County. The County Auditor 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 for advance at fiscal year-end can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent.

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	\$ 355,137,280	90.89%	\$ 353,553,650	90.20%
Public Utility Personal Property	35,603,890	9.11%	38,407,100	9.80%
Total Assessed Values	\$ 390,741,170	100.00%	\$ 391,960,750	100.00%
 Tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation	 \$ 36.07		 \$ 36.06	

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NOTE 5 - PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES

According to State law, the City of Findlay has entered into agreements with a number of property owners under which the City has granted property tax exemptions to those property owners. The property owners have agreed to make payments to the City which reflect all or a portion of the property taxes which the property owners would have paid if the taxes had not been exempted. The agreements provide for a portion of these payments to be made to the School District. The property owners contractually promise to make these payments in lieu of taxes until the agreement expires. Since fiscal year 2020, the School District has worked with the Board of Revision and has ultimately affected direct payment agreements based on adjusted valuation.

In accordance with agreements related to tax increment financing districts, Hancock County has entered into agreements with a number of property owners under which the County has granted property tax exemptions to those property owners. The property owners have agreed to make payments to the County which reflect all or a portion of the property taxes which the property owners would have paid if the taxes had not been exempted.

The agreements provide for a portion of this payment to be paid to the District. The property owners contractually promise to make these payments in lieu of taxes until the agreement expires.

NOTE 6 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

Changes in long-term obligations of the School District during fiscal year 2024 were as follows:

	Outstanding 6/30/2023	Deductions	Outstanding 6/30/2024	Due In One Year
Governmental Activities				
<i>Direct Borrowing:</i>				
Bus Lease-Purchase	\$ 109,613	\$ 35,693	\$ 73,920	\$ 36,532
Bus Lease-Purchase (Huntington)	270,828	85,496	185,332	90,190
<i>Other Long-Term Liabilities:</i>				
Lease	<u>81,487</u>	<u>26,121</u>	<u>55,366</u>	<u>27,149</u>
<i>Total Governmental Long-Term Liabilities</i>	<u><u>\$ 461,928</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 147,310</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 314,618</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 153,871</u></u>

Bus Lease-Purchase Agreement

During fiscal year 2020, the School District entered into a lease-purchase agreement for two school buses. The lease-purchase will be paid from the permanent improvement fund. In the event of default, as defined by the lease agreement, the amounts payable by the School District may become due. If payments are not made, the lessor may retake possession of the buses and hold the School District liable for amounts payable.

Principal and interest requirements to retire the lease purchase agreement at June 30, 2024 are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Bus Lease-Purchase	
	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 36,532	\$ 1,737
2026	37,388	881
Totals	<u>\$ 73,920</u>	<u>\$ 2,618</u>

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Bus Lease-Purchase (Huntington) Agreement

During fiscal year 2024, the School district entered into a lease-purchase agreement for four school buses. The lease-purchase will be paid from the miscellaneous state grants fund. In the event of default as defined by the lease agreement, the amounts payable by the School District may become due. If payments are not made, the lessor may retake possession of the buses and hold the School District liable for amounts payable.

Principal and interest requirements to retire the lease purchase agreement at June 30, 2024 are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Bus Lease-Purchase (Huntington)	
	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 90,190	\$ 10,175
2026	95,142	5,223
Totals	<u>\$ 185,332</u>	<u>\$ 15,398</u>

Lease-Purchase

In June of 2021, a lease-purchase agreement was entered into with TEQlease Education Finance for furniture and equipment for the food court in the amount of \$135,741, commencing in July of 2021. The lease is for a period of 5 years and the District has the option to purchase the equipment for \$1 at the end of the lease. The lease-purchase will be paid from the permanent improvement fund.

Principal and interest requirements to retire the lease agreement at June 30, 2024 are as follows:

Fiscal Year	TEQ Lease Purchase	
	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 27,149	\$ 2,178
2026	28,217	1,110
Totals	<u>\$ 55,366</u>	<u>\$ 3,288</u>

NOTE 7 - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on the basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – Budgetary Basis presented for the general fund is prepared on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The difference between budgetary basis and the modified cash basis are as follows:

1. Outstanding year end encumbrances are treated as cash disbursements (budgetary basis) rather than as restricted, committed or assigned fund balance (modified cash basis).
2. Outstanding year end advances are treated as an other financing source or use (budgetary basis) rather than as an interfund receivable or payable (modified cash basis).
3. Unreported interest is reported on the statement of modified receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balance (cash basis), but not on the budgetary basis.

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Adjustments necessary to cover the results of operations at the end of the year on the budget basis to the cash basis are as follows:

Net Change in Fund Balance

	<u>General Fund</u>
Cash Basis	\$ (295,858)
Funds budgeted elsewhere**	(19,675)
Adjustment for encumbrances	<u>(156,016)</u>
Budget Basis	<u><u>\$ (471,549)</u></u>

** As part of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting*, certain funds that are legally budgeted in separate special revenue funds are considered part of the general fund on a cash basis. This includes rotary fund – special services, adult education, rotary, public school support, and termination benefits (severance) funds.

NOTE 8 - SET-ASIDES

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

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

	<u>Capital</u> <u>Improvements</u>
Set-aside Balance as of June 30, 2023	\$ -
Current Year Set-aside Requirement	228,414
Current Year Offsets	<u>(410,655)</u>
Totals	<u><u>\$ (182,241)</u></u>
Balance Carried Forward to Fiscal Year 2025	\$ -
Set-aside Balance as of June 30, 2024	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

Although the School District had offsets during the fiscal year that reduced the set-aside amount below zero for the capital improvements set-aside, this amount may not be used to reduce the set-aside requirement for future years. This negative balance is therefore not presented as being carried forward to future fiscal years.

NOTE 9 - RISK MANAGEMENT

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 has a comprehensive property and casualty policy. All vehicles are insured. All board members, administrators and employees are covered under a school district liability policy.

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

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The School District is contracted with the Jefferson Health Plan, a risk-sharing, claims servicing, and insurance purchasing pool, in which monthly premiums are paid to the fiscal agent who in turn pays the claims on the School District's behalf. The plan offers medical, dental, vision and prescription drug coverage on a self-insured basis.

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

Pensions and OPEB are a component of exchange transactions—between an employer and its employees—of salaries and benefits for employee services. Pensions/OPEB are provided to an employee—on a deferred-payment basis—as part of the total compensation package offered by an employer for employee services each financial period.

The 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 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 this estimate annually.

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

The net pension/net OPEB liability (asset) are not reported on the face of the financial statements, but rather are disclosed in the notes because of the use of the modified cash basis framework.

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 11 for the required OPEB disclosures.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description – School District non-teaching employees participate in SERS, a statewide, cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by SERS. SERS provides retirement, disability and

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survivor benefits, to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3309. SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about SERS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by visiting the SERS website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

	Eligible to Retire on or before August 1, 2017 *	Eligible to Retire after August 1, 2017
Full Benefits	Any age with 30 years of service credit	Age 67 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 57 with 30 years of service credit
Actuarially Reduced Benefits	Age 60 with 5 years of service credit 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, may be included in this plan.

Annual retirement benefits are calculated based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on year of service; 2.2 percent for the first 30 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 \$321,453 for fiscal year 2024.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

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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 final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. Eligibility charges 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 50 and after termination of employment.

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

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

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 \$789,759 for fiscal year 2024.

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Net Pension Liability

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.0517771%	0.04060000%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.0513615%	0.04087824%	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>0.0004156%</u>	<u>-0.00027824%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 2,860,953	\$ 8,743,184	\$ 11,604,137

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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

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:

Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
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, including inflation
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.00 percent, on and after April 1, 2018, COLA's for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement

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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 two years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward five years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward three 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 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.

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

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

Discount Rate The total pension liability for 2023 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The discount rate did not use a municipal bond rate. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed employers would contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate of projected compensation over the remaining 21-year amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The actuarially determined contribution rate of fiscal year 2023 was 14.00 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 School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent, as well as what the School District'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	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 4,222,618	\$ 2,860,953	\$ 1,714,007

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

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

Inflation	2.50 percent
Salary Increases	
Current Measurement Period	Varies by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 percent
Prior Measurement Period	
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0.00 percent

Post-retirement mortality rates for healthy retirees 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, were based on the results of the latest available actuarial experience study, which is for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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

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

*Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

**10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25 percent and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS investment consultant indicates that the above

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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:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 13,445,083	\$ 8,743,184	\$ 4,766,665

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

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

See Note 10 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 under Employers/Audit Resources.

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 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 2.00 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.50 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the School District's surcharge obligation was \$33,198. 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 equal to its surcharge obligation for fiscal year 2024.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

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

Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

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:

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	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset):		
Current Measurement Date	0.0534406%	0.04060000%
Prior Measurement Date	0.0525887%	0.04087824%
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>0.0008519%</u>	<u>-0.00027824%</u>
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ 880,405	\$ (789,614)

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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

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

Inflation	2.40 percent
Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expenses, including expenses
Fiduciary Net Position Depletion	Projected to be 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, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation
Prior Measurement Date	4.08 percent, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	
Medicare	5.125 percent - 4.40 percent
Pre-Medicare	6.75 percent - 4.40 percent
Medical Trend Assumption	6.75 percent - 4.40 percent

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

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

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

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	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	100.00 %	

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 plan at the contribution rate of 1.50 percent of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to become insufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current System members by SERS actuaries. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is used in the determination of the SEIR for both the June 30, 2023, and the June 30, 2022, total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index rate is the

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single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is 3.86 percent at June 30, 2023 and 3.69 percent at June 30, 2022.

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

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 1,125,409	\$ 880,405	\$ 687,209
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 646,803	\$ 880,405	\$ 1,189,959

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

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

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Projected Salary Increases	Varies by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 percent	Varies by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 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

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

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

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

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

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

*Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

**10-Year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25 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 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 Rate 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 health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	\$ (668,305)	\$ (789,614)	\$ (895,261)
	1% Decrease	Current	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	\$ (900,164)	\$ (789,614)	\$ (656,459)

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

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

NOTE 12 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATION

Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative – The School District is a participant in the Northwest Ohio Area Computer Services Cooperative (NOACSC), which is a computer consortium. NOACSC is an association of public school districts within the boundaries of Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Seneca, Van Wert, Wyandot, and Wood Counties and the Cities of St. Mary's and Wapakoneta. The organization was founded for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among member school districts. The governing board of NOACSC consists of two representatives from each county and two at large members. Financial information can be obtained from NOACSC, 4277 East Road, Elida, Ohio 45807.

NOTE 13 - CONTINGENCIES

A. 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.

B. Litigation

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

C. School Foundation

School District foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is legislatively required to adjust/reconcile funding as enrollment information is updated by schools throughout the State, which can extend past the fiscal year end. As of the date of this report, ODE adjustments for fiscal year 2024 have been finalized and resulted in a net receivable

Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

to the School District totaling \$17,201. This amount has not been included in the financial statements.

NOTE 14 - OTHER COMMITMENTS

The School District utilizes encumbrance accounting as part of its budgetary controls. Encumbrances outstanding at year end may be reported as part of restricted, committed, or assigned classifications of fund balance. At year end, the School District's commitments for encumbrances in the governmental funds were as follows:

Fund	Amount
General	\$ 157,916
Nonmajor Governmental	<u>69,689</u>
Total	<u>\$ 227,605</u>

NOTE 15 - FUND BALANCE

Fund balance can be classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and/or unassigned 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 constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental funds and all other governmental funds are presented as follows:

	Other Governmental		
	General	Funds	Total
Restricted for:			
Capital Outlay	\$ -	\$ 350,540	\$ 350,540
Student Activities	-	85,941	85,941
Other Purposes	<u>-</u>	<u>152,436</u>	<u>152,436</u>
Total Restricted	-	588,917	588,917
Assigned for:			
Instruction	11,972	-	11,972
Support Services	102,613	-	102,613
Extracurricular	41,431	-	41,431
Capital Outlay	1,900	-	1,900
Subsequent Year Appropriations	333,012	-	333,012
Other Purposes	<u>124,124</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>124,124</u>
Total Assigned	615,052	-	615,052
Unassigned	3,165,491	-	3,165,491
<i>Total Fund Balance</i>	<u>\$ 3,780,543</u>	<u>\$ 588,917</u>	<u>\$ 4,369,460</u>

Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

NOTE 16 - INCOME TAXES

The School District levies a voted tax of 1 percent for general operations on the income of residents and of estates. The tax was levied on January 1, 2021 and will continue for five years. Employers of residents are required to withhold income tax on compensation and remit the tax to the State. Taxpayers are required to file an annual return. The State makes quarterly distributions to the School District after withholding amounts for administrative fees and estimated refunds. Income tax revenue is credited to the general fund.

NOTE 17 – COMPLIANCE

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

NOTE 18 – INTERFUND ACTIVITY

At current fiscal year-end, the General Fund had paid interfund cash advances in the amount of \$43,120, which represents short-term loans made to other funds of the School District. These loans are expected to be repaid within one year.

Interfund balances between governmental funds are eliminated on the governmental-wide financial statements; therefore; no internal balances are reported on the Statement of Net Position at June 30, 2024.

**VAN BUREN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HANCOCK COUNTY**

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

FEDERAL GRANTOR <i>Pass Through Grantor</i> <i>Program / Cluster Title</i>	Federal AL Number	Total Federal Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE <i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce</i>		
Child Nutrition Cluster:		
National School Lunch Program:		
COVID-19 Cash Assistance	10.555	\$45,137
Cash Assistance	10.555	115,840
Non-Cash Assistance (Commodities)	10.555	36,052
Total Child Nutrition Cluster:		<u>197,029</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		<u>197,029</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY <i>Passed Through Ohio Facilities Construction Commission</i>		
COVID-19 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	21.027	<u>82,221</u>
Total U.S. Department of Treasury		<u>82,221</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION <i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce</i>		
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	<u>74,100</u>
Special Education Cluster:		
Special Education Grants to States	84.027A	193,493
COVID-19 Special Education Grants to States	84.027X	<u>541</u>
Total Special Education Grants to States		<u>194,034</u>
COVID-19 Special Education Preschool Grants	84.173X	<u>5,619</u>
Total Special Education Cluster:		<u>199,653</u>
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367A	<u>18,540</u>
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424A	<u>15,894</u>
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund - ARP	84.425U	159,725
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund - ESSER II	84.425D	40,510
Total COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund		<u>200,235</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education		<u>508,422</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards		<u>\$787,672</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**VAN BUREN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HANCOCK COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE FISCAL 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 Van Buren Local School District, Hancock County, Ohio (the District) under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2024. The information on this Schedule is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in net position of the 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 District has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE D – CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

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

NOTE E – FOOD DONATION PROGRAM

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

NOTE F – TRANSFERS BETWEEN PROGRAM YEARS

Federal regulations require schools to obligate certain federal awards by June 30. However, with Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's consent, schools can transfer unobligated amounts to the subsequent fiscal year's program. The District transferred the following amounts from 2024 to 2025 programs:

Program Title	AL Number	Amt. Transferred
Title IIA Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	\$13,950
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	6,873
Special Education Grants to States	84.027A	33,768
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367A	1,711



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

Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County
217 South Main Street
Van Buren, Ohio 45889

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 the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Van Buren Local School District, Hancock County, Ohio (the District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated March 20, 2025, wherein we noted the District uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

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

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

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

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

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which are described in the accompanying schedule of findings as items 2024-001 and 2024-002.

District's Response to Findings

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

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



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 20, 2025



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Columbus, Ohio 43215
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800-282-0370

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

Van Buren Local School District
Hancock County
217 South Main Street
Van Buren, Ohio 45889

To the Board of Education:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

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

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

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

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

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

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

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

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

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

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

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

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

Van Buren Local School District

Hancock County

Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance with Requirements

Applicable to Each Major Federal Program and on Internal Control Over

Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance

Page 3

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

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

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



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

March 20, 2025

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**VAN BUREN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HANCOCK COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

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

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

FINDING NUMBER 2024-001

Noncompliance

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

Ohio Admin. Code 117-2-03(B), which further clarifies the requirements of Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38, requires the District to file annual financial reports which are prepared using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

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

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

Officials' Response:

See Corrective Action Plan

FINDING NUMBER 2024-002

Noncompliance

Ohio Rev. Code § 9.833(C)(2) requires governments that offer self-insurance programs to establish a special fund to reserve funds to cover potential cost of health care benefits for the officers and employees of the political subdivision. **Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.13(A)** permits a school district to accumulate currently available resources in a reserve balance account in the general fund or in an internal service fund to provide for the payment of claims and deductibles. GASB Cod. C50.126 through C50.131 (GASB Statement No. 66) permits the use of governmental funds or internal service funds for this purpose.

The District offers a self-insurance program to provide medical insurance to its employees and belongs to a "claims servicing pool" where the total school district's payments for claims and deductibles are pooled and invested by Jefferson Health Plan. No risk is transferred to the school district over \$75,000. The school district must have either a special fund to cover potential cost of health care benefits for the officers and employees of the political subdivision, or may alternatively use a reserve balance account in the general fund to set aside currently available resources for the payment of claims and deductibles under its self-insurance program. However, due to deficiencies in controls over compliance, the District accounted for the expenses related to its share of claims for its employees in the General and Nonmajor Governmental Funds as claim payments paid directly to Jefferson Health Plan. The District did not establish a reserve balance account in the general fund, an internal service fund, or a special fund. Failing to establish a reserve balance account in the general fund, an internal service fund, or a special fund could result in further noncompliance with Ohio law.

The District should accumulate currently available resources in a reserve balance account in the general fund, an internal service fund, or in a special fund as required by law. In addition, the Treasurer should review Auditor of State Bulletins 2001-005 and 2011-008, to help ensure accurate self-insurance reporting

During their report preparation process, the District's self-insurance activity was reported in an Internal Service fund for financial statement reporting purposes and was correctly reported under GASB requirements, so no adjustments were required to the financial statements. However, failure to establish and maintain a special fund in accordance with Ohio Revised Code § 9.833, a reserve balance account in the general fund under Ohio Revised Code § 5705.13, or an internal service fund under Ohio Revised Code § 5705.13 for setting aside moneys for self-insurance programs could result in future noncompliance with Ohio law.

Officials' Response:

See Corrective Action Plan

3. FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None

VAN BUREN LOCAL SCHOOLS



HOME OF THE BLACK KNIGHTS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

LAURA EBRIGHT
PRESIDENT

LAUREN LOGAN
VICE PRESIDENT

ANDY FISHER
MICHAEL LEIFHEIT
MELINDA WILLIAMS

ADMINISTRATION

JASON INKROTT
SUPERINTENDENT

CATHY SCHULLER
TREASURER

KEVIN SHOUP
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

JENNIFER BARRETT
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

MICHAEL NEWCOMER
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

2 CFR 200.511(b)

JUNE 30, 2024

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2023-001	Ohio Rev. Code §117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code §117-2-03(B) for reporting on a basis other than generally accepted accounting principles. Finding was first reported in fiscal year 2023.	Not corrected and repeated in this report as Finding 2024-001	Effective with fiscal year 2023, the District elected to discontinue the preparation of the annual financial report using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as a cost saving measure.
2023-002	Ohio Rev. Code §9.833 (C)(2) and Ohio Rev. Code §5705.13(A). Finding was first reported in fiscal year 2023.	Not corrected and repeated in this report at Finding 2024-002	The District plans to establish an Internal Service fund to maintain self-insurance financial activity.

VAN BUREN LOCAL SCHOOLS



HOME OF THE BLACK KNIGHTS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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SUPERINTENDENT

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TREASURER

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HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

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MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

MICHAEL NEWCOMER
ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

2 CFR § 200.511(c)
JUNE 30, 2024

Finding Number: 2024-001

Planned Corrective Action:

The Board of Education is aware that by electing to prepare the annual financial statements on a cash basis rather than generally accepted accounting principles, a finding will be issued. However, the Board decided to file on the cash basis as a cost-saving measure.

N/A

Cathy Schuller, Treasurer

Anticipated Completion Date:

Responsible Contact Person:

Finding Number: 2024-002

Planned Corrective Action:

The Internal Service Fund has been established and Board approved for self-insurance financial activity.

June 30, 2025

Cathy Schuller, Treasurer

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



VAN BUREN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HANCOCK 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