



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**ROSS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUTLER COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2024**

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**ROSS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUTLER COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2024**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Ross Local School District
Butler County
3371 Hamilton Cleves Road
Ross, Ohio 45013

To the Board of Education:

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Ross Local School District, Butler County, Ohio (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 financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Ross Local School District, Butler County, Ohio as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the 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.

Required Supplementary Information

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

Supplementary information

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

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards 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 January 22, 2026, 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
Ohio Auditor of State



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

January 22, 2026

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Ross Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

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

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for 2024 are as follows:

- Net Position of governmental activities increased \$4,488,043 which represents a 31% increase from 2023.
- General revenues accounted for \$34,028,400 in revenue or 84% of all revenues. Program specific revenues in the form of charges for services and sales, grants and contributions accounted for \$6,548,396 or 16% of total revenues of \$40,576,796.
- The District had \$36,088,753 in expenses related to governmental activities; \$6,548,396 of these expenses were offset by program specific charges for services, grants or contributions. General revenues of \$34,028,400 were also used to provide for these programs.

Overview of the Financial Statements

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

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

Government-wide Financial Statements

While this document contains the large number of funds used by the District to provide programs and activities, the view of the District as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, "How did we do financially during 2024?" The Government-wide Financial Statements answer this question. These statements include *all assets and deferred outflows of resources, and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources* using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all of the current year's revenues and expenses regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

These two statements report the District's *net position* and changes in net position. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader that, for the District as a whole, the financial position has improved or diminished. The causes of this change may be the result of many factors, both financial and non-financial. Non-financial factors include the District's property tax base, current property tax laws in Ohio restricting revenue growth, facility conditions, required educational programs and other factors.

In the Government-wide Financial Statements, the overall financial position of the District is presented as Governmental Activities. The District's programs and services include instruction, support services, operation of non-instructional services, extracurricular activities, and interest and fiscal charges.

Fund Financial Statements

The analysis of the District's major funds are presented in the Fund Financial Statements. Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the District's major funds. The District uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions. However, these fund financial statements focus on the District's most significant funds.

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

Fiduciary Funds. Fiduciary funds are used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the government. Fiduciary funds are not reflected in the government-wide financial statements because the resources of those funds are not available to support the District's own programs. The accounting used for fiduciary funds is similar to proprietary funds.

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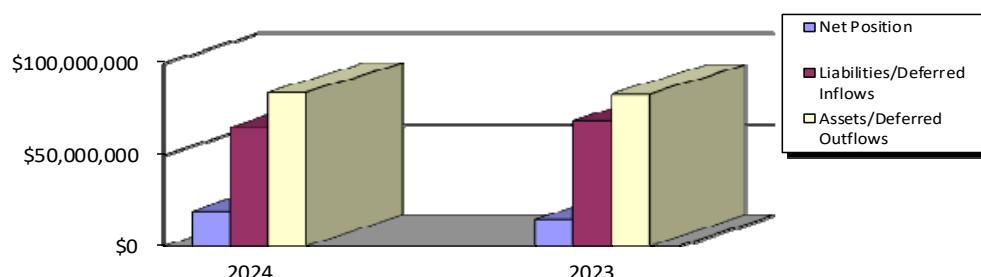
Ross Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

The District as a Whole

As stated previously, the Statement of Net Position looks at the District as a whole. Table 1 provides a summary of the District's net position for 2024 compared to 2023:

Table 1
Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Assets:		
Current and Other Assets	\$28,968,338	\$24,343,542
Net OPEB Asset	1,984,942	2,712,501
Capital Assets	<u>45,611,227</u>	<u>47,268,786</u>
Total Assets	<u>76,564,507</u>	<u>74,324,829</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources:		
Deferred Charge on Refunding	29,489	58,984
OPEB	1,248,252	887,873
Pension	<u>5,781,811</u>	<u>7,388,581</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>7,059,552</u>	<u>8,335,438</u>
Liabilities:		
Other Liabilities	2,678,369	3,229,374
Long-Term Liabilities	<u>42,537,848</u>	<u>45,497,077</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>45,216,217</u>	<u>48,726,451</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources:		
Property Taxes	12,874,328	11,841,019
Revenue in Lieu of Taxes	550,000	441,696
OPEB	3,388,981	4,218,963
Pension	<u>2,744,602</u>	<u>3,070,250</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>19,557,911</u>	<u>19,571,928</u>
Net Position:		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	35,006,496	35,079,595
Restricted	6,293,029	6,059,791
Unrestricted	<u>(22,449,594)</u>	<u>(26,777,498)</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$18,849,931</u>	<u>\$14,361,888</u>



Over time, net position can serve as a useful indicator of a government's financial position. At June 30, 2024, the District's assets and deferred outflows of resources exceeded liabilities and deferred inflows of resources by \$18,849,931.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

At year-end, capital assets represented 60% of total assets. Capital assets include land, land improvements, buildings and improvements, equipment, and vehicles. Capital assets, net of related debt to acquire the assets at June 30, 2024, was \$35,006,496. These capital assets are used to provide services to the students and are not available for future spending. Although the District's investment in capital assets is reported net of related debt, it should be noted that the resources to repay the debt must be provided from other sources, since capital assets may not be used to liquidate these liabilities.

A portion of the District's net position, \$6,293,029 represents resources that are subject to external restriction on how they must be used. The external restriction will not affect the availability of fund resources for future use.

Capital Assets decreased mainly due to current year additions were less than current year depreciation expense. Long-Term Liabilities decreased mainly due to a decrease in Net Pension Liability.

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for fiscal years 2024 and 2023.

Table 2
Changes in Net Position

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Revenues:		
Program Revenues		
Charges for Services	\$2,512,067	\$2,861,432
Operating Grants, Contributions	4,036,329	3,791,291
General Revenues:		
Income Taxes	6,555,097	6,533,332
Property Taxes	14,696,070	11,216,740
Grants and Entitlements	11,535,765	10,856,179
Other	<u>1,241,468</u>	<u>865,958</u>
Total Revenues	<u>40,576,796</u>	<u>36,124,932</u>
Program Expenses:		
Instruction	19,616,669	19,418,445
Support Services:		
Pupil and Instructional Staff	2,405,969	2,505,850
School Administrative, General		
Administration, Fiscal, and Business	3,783,187	3,707,074
Operations and Maintenance	4,598,142	3,856,054
Pupil Transportation	2,455,794	2,320,876
Central	61,559	19,684
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	1,662,166	1,543,182
Extracurricular Activities	1,183,537	1,154,944
Payment to Ohio Facilities Construction Commission	109,537	0
Interest and Fiscal Charges	<u>212,193</u>	<u>252,626</u>
Total Program Expenses	<u>36,088,753</u>	<u>34,778,735</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>4,488,043</u>	<u>1,346,197</u>
Net Position - Beginning of Year	<u>14,361,888</u>	<u>13,015,691</u>
Net Position - End of Year	<u><u>\$18,849,931</u></u>	<u><u>\$14,361,888</u></u>

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

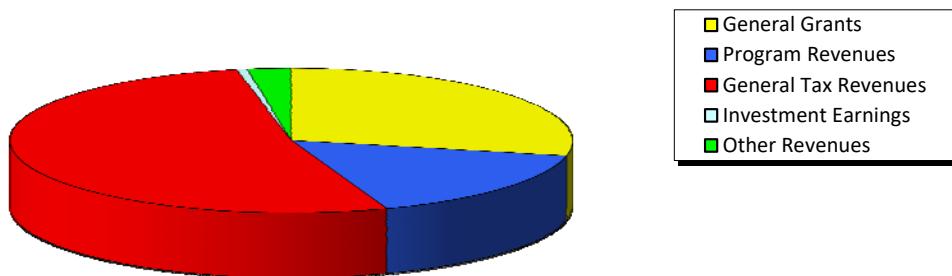
The District revenues are mainly from two sources. Property taxes levied for general, debt service, and capital project purposes and grants and entitlements comprised 65% of the District's revenues for governmental activities.

The District depends greatly on property taxes as a revenue source. The unique nature of property taxes in Ohio creates the need to routinely seek voter approval for operating funds. The overall revenues generated by a levy will not increase solely as a result of inflation. As an example, a homeowner with a home valued at \$100,000 and taxed at 1.0 mill would pay \$35.00 annually in taxes. If three years later the home were reappraised and increased to \$200,000 (and this inflationary increase in value is comparable to other property owners) the effective tax rate would become .5 mills and the owner would still pay \$35.00.

Thus, Ohio districts dependent upon property taxes are hampered by a lack of revenue growth and must regularly return to the voters to maintain a constant level of service. Property taxes made up 36% of revenue for governmental activities for the District in fiscal year 2024.

The District's reliance upon tax revenues is demonstrated in the following graph:

Revenue Sources	2024	Percent of Total
General Grants	\$11,535,765	28.4%
Program Revenues	6,548,396	16.1%
General Tax Revenues	21,251,167	52.4%
Investment Earnings	252,371	0.6%
Other Revenues	989,097	2.5%
Total Revenue Sources	<u>\$40,576,796</u>	<u>100.0%</u>



Total expenses increased mainly due to an increase in Instruction and support services expenses.

Instruction comprises 54% of governmental program expenses. Support services expenses were 37% of governmental program expenses. All other expenses including interest expense were 9%. Interest expense was attributable to the outstanding bond and borrowing for capital projects.

The Statement of Activities shows the cost of program services and the charges for services and grants offsetting those services. Table 3 shows, for governmental activities, the total cost of services and the net cost of services. That is, it identifies the cost of these services supported by tax revenue and unrestricted State entitlements.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

Table 3
Governmental Activities

	Total Cost of Services		Net Cost of Services	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Instruction	\$19,616,669	\$19,418,445	(\$16,375,518)	(\$16,734,530)
Support Services:				
Pupil and Instructional Staff	2,405,969	2,505,850	(1,572,744)	(1,718,983)
School Administrative, General				
Administration and Fiscal	3,783,187	3,707,074	(3,758,632)	(3,531,587)
Operations and Maintenance	4,598,142	3,856,054	(4,526,609)	(3,784,866)
Pupil Transportation	2,455,794	2,320,876	(2,406,579)	(2,145,045)
Central	61,559	19,684	(61,559)	(19,684)
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	1,662,166	1,543,182	(95,357)	127,050
Extracurricular Activities	1,183,537	1,154,944	(421,629)	(65,741)
Payment to Ohio Facilities Construction Commission	109,537	0	(109,537)	0
Interest and Fiscal Charges	212,193	252,626	(212,193)	(252,626)
Total Expenses	<u>\$36,088,753</u>	<u>\$34,778,735</u>	<u>(\$29,540,357)</u>	<u>(\$28,126,012)</u>

The District's Funds

The District has two major governmental funds: the General Fund, and the Debt Service Fund. Assets of these funds comprised \$24,652,415 (84%) of the total \$29,193,861 governmental funds' assets.

General Fund: Fund balance at June 30, 2024 was \$6,503,717, an increase in fund balance of \$1,815,962 from 2023. The fund balance increased due to revenues exceeding expenditures during the year.

Debt Service Fund: Fund balance at June 30, 2024 was \$1,563,090, a decrease in fund balance of \$1,221 from 2023. The primary reason for the decrease in fund balance was due to expenditures exceeding revenues during the year.

General Fund Budgeting Highlights

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

During the course of fiscal year 2024, the District amended its general fund budget. The District uses site-based budgeting and the budgeting systems are designed to tightly control total site budgets but provide flexibility for site management.

For the General Fund, the original budget basis revenue was \$29,891,715, compared to final budget estimates of \$31,459,891. The difference between the original budget basis and final budget was \$1,568,176.

The District's ending unobligated cash balance was \$5,544,848.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

At the end of fiscal year 2024, the District had \$45,611,227 invested in land, land improvements, construction in progress, buildings and improvements, equipment, and vehicles. Table 4 shows fiscal year 2024 balances compared to fiscal year 2023:

Table 4
Capital Assets, Net of Depreciation

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
Land	\$1,262,525	\$1,262,525
Land Improvements	323,076	203,468
Building and Improvements	42,604,965	44,319,697
Equipment	494,266	427,072
Vehicles	774,978	753,190
Lease Asset-Equipment	<u>151,417</u>	<u>302,834</u>
Total Net Capital Assets	<u>\$45,611,227</u>	<u>\$47,268,786</u>

Capital Assets decreased mainly due to current year depreciation expense and disposals exceeding current year additions. See Note 8 to the basic financial statements for further details on the District's capital assets.

Debt

At June 30, 2024, the District had \$10,634,220 in debt outstanding and \$1,775,897 due within one year. Table 5 summarizes outstanding debt at year end.

Table 5
Outstanding Debt

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
2022 Energy Conservation Loan	\$1,671,256	\$1,671,256
2021 Notes Payable #1	1,217,000	1,217,000
2021 Notes Payable #2	0	32,285
2012 Refunding:		
Current Interest	1,445,000	2,800,000
Premium	32,846	65,695
2016 Refunding:		
Current Interest	5,905,000	5,905,000
Premium	<u>211,221</u>	<u>253,465</u>
Total Bonds and Notes Payable	<u>10,482,323</u>	<u>11,944,701</u>
Lease Liability	<u>151,897</u>	<u>303,474</u>
Long-Term Debt	<u>\$10,634,220</u>	<u>\$12,248,175</u>

See Note 9 to the basic financial statements for further details on the District's outstanding debt.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

For the Future

House Bill 33, the current state budget, implements what has been referred to as the Fair School Funding Plan (FSFP) for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. The FSFP has made significant changes to how foundation revenues are calculated for school districts. Basic aid is now calculated on a base cost methodology with funding students where educated. Coupled with this is direct funding for students who are educated outside of the district of residence. The new funding model was proposed as a six-year phase-in process. This budget bill funded the first two years of this plan. Fully funding this new FSFP will be considered for the next biennial budget process.

The District has made several significant reductions in personnel and programming that have resulted in significant savings. This coupled with additional funding from both the state and an increase of property tax funding has made the district's five-year forecast in a much better place than previous years.

Contacting the District's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, and investors and creditors with a general overview of the District's finances and to show the District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Treasurer's office at the Ross Local School District, 3371 Hamilton Cleves Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45013.

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Ross Local School District, Ohio
 Statement of Net Position
 June 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities
Assets:	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments	\$9,993,595
Restricted Cash and Investments	324,996
Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments with Fiscal Agent	240,541
Receivables (Net):	
Taxes	17,456,846
Interest	15,454
Intergovernmental	882,306
Prepaid Items	29,859
Inventory	24,741
Net OPEB Asset	1,984,942
Nondepreciable Capital Assets	1,262,525
Depreciable Capital Assets, Net	<u>44,348,702</u>
Total Assets	<u>76,564,507</u>
Deferred Outflows of Resources:	
Deferred Charge on Refunding	29,489
Pension	5,781,811
OPEB	<u>1,248,252</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>7,059,552</u>
Liabilities:	
Accounts Payable	33,394
Accrued Wages and Benefits	2,475,345
Accrued Interest Payable	34,638
Unearned Revenue	134,992
Long-Term Liabilities:	
Due Within One Year	2,035,036
Due In More Than One Year	
Net Pension Liability	28,455,047
Net OPEB Liability	1,969,005
Other Amounts	<u>10,078,760</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>45,216,217</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources:	
Property Taxes	12,874,328
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	550,000
Pension	2,744,602
OPEB	<u>3,388,981</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>19,557,911</u>
Net Position:	
Net Investment in Capital Assets	35,006,496
Restricted for:	
Debt Service	1,678,721
Capital Projects	1,162,953
Locally Funded Programs	69,328
Classroom Facilities Maintenance	645,060
Student Activities	296,310
Federally Funded Programs	35
Scholarships	40,008
Food Service Operations	415,772
Net OPEB Asset	1,984,842
Unrestricted	<u>(22,449,594)</u>
Total Net Position	<u>\$18,849,931</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
 Statement of Activities
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

		Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position
	Expenses	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities:				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$15,672,665	\$778,382	\$482,459	(\$14,411,824)
Special	3,880,674	154,214	1,826,096	(1,900,364)
Other	63,330	0	0	(63,330)
Support Services:				
Pupil	1,977,790	0	380,669	(1,597,121)
Instructional Staff	428,179	0	452,556	24,377
General Administration	64,517	0	0	(64,517)
School Administration	2,684,909	0	14,798	(2,670,111)
Fiscal	1,033,121	0	9,757	(1,023,364)
Business	640	0	0	(640)
Operations and Maintenance	4,598,142	12,896	58,637	(4,526,609)
Pupil Transportation	2,455,794	0	49,215	(2,406,579)
Central	61,559	0	0	(61,559)
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	1,662,166	805,470	761,339	(95,357)
Extracurricular Activities	1,183,537	761,105	803	(421,629)
Payment to Ohio Facilities Construction Commission	109,537	0	0	(109,537)
Interest on Long-Term Debt	212,193	0	0	(212,193)
Totals	\$36,088,753	\$2,512,067	\$4,036,329	(29,540,357)

General Revenues:	
Income Taxes	6,555,097
Property Taxes Levied for:	
General Purposes	11,651,048
Debt Service Purposes	1,495,112
Capital Projects Purposes	1,549,910
Grants and Entitlements, Not Restricted	11,535,765
Revenue in Lieu of Taxes	559,452
Unrestricted Contributions	2,665
Investment Earnings	252,371
Other Revenues	426,980
 Total General Revenues	 34,028,400
 Change in Net Position	 4,488,043
 Net Position - Beginning of Year	 14,361,888
 Net Position - End of Year	 \$18,849,931

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Ross Local School District, Ohio

Balance Sheet

Governmental Funds

June 30, 2024

	General	Debt Service	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:				
Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments	\$5,803,950	\$1,545,061	\$2,644,584	\$9,993,595
Restricted Cash and Investments	324,996	0	0	324,996
Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments with Fiscal Agent	240,541	0	0	240,541
Receivables (Net):				
Taxes	14,377,740	1,541,433	1,537,673	17,456,846
Interest	15,454	0	0	15,454
Intergovernmental	550,000	0	332,306	882,306
Interfund	225,523	0	0	225,523
Prepaid Items	27,717	0	2,142	29,859
Inventory	0	0	24,741	24,741
Total Assets	21,565,921	3,086,494	4,541,446	29,193,861
Liabilities:				
Accounts Payable	23,546	0	9,848	33,394
Accrued Wages and Benefits	2,280,746	0	194,599	2,475,345
Compensated Absences	76,650	0	0	76,650
Interfund Payable	0	0	225,523	225,523
Unearned Revenue	0	0	134,992	134,992
Total Liabilities	2,380,942	0	564,962	2,945,904
Deferred Inflows of Resources:				
Property Taxes	11,639,403	1,523,404	1,449,634	14,612,441
Income Taxes	480,780	0	12,682	493,462
Grants and Other Taxes	0	0	107,157	107,157
Payments in Lieu of Taxes	550,000	0	0	550,000
Investment Earnings	11,079	0	0	11,079
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	12,681,262	1,523,404	1,569,473	15,774,139
Fund Balances:				
Nonspendable	65,297	0	2,142	67,439
Restricted	0	1,563,090	2,522,073	4,085,163
Assigned	809,157	0	0	809,157
Unassigned	5,629,263	0	(117,204)	5,512,059
Total Fund Balances	6,503,717	1,563,090	2,407,011	10,473,818
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows and Fund Balances	\$21,565,921	\$3,086,494	\$4,541,446	\$29,193,861

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
 Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balance to
 Net Position of Governmental Activities
 June 30, 2024

Total Governmental Fund Balance \$10,473,818

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.

Capital assets used in the operation of Governmental Funds 45,611,227

Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and, therefore, are deferred in the funds.

Income Taxes	493,462
Delinquent Property Taxes	1,738,113
Interest	11,079
Intergovernmental	<u>107,157</u>
	2,349,811

In the statement of net position interest payable is accrued when incurred; whereas, in the governmental funds interest is reported as a liability only when it will require the use of current financial resources. (34,638)

Some liabilities reported in the statement of net position do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as liabilities in governmental funds.

Compensated Absences (1,402,926)

Deferred charge on refunding associated with long-term liabilities that are not reported in the funds. 29,489

Deferred outflows and inflows or resources related to pensions and OPEB are applicable to future periods and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.

Deferred outflows of resources related to pensions	5,781,811
Deferred inflows of resources related to pensions	(2,744,602)
Deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB	1,248,252
Deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB	<u>(3,388,981)</u>
	896,480

Long-term liabilities and net OPEB assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.

Net OPEB Asset	1,984,942
Net Pension Liability	(28,455,047)
Net OPEB Liability	(1,969,005)
Other Amounts	<u>(10,634,220)</u>
	(39,073,330)

Net Position of Governmental Activities \$18,849,931

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
 Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
 Governmental Funds
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	General	Debt Service	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:				
Property and Other Taxes	\$10,444,349	\$1,396,935	\$1,420,046	\$13,261,330
Income Taxes	6,295,385	0	224,095	6,519,480
Tuition and Fees	926,593	0	0	926,593
Investment Earnings	246,006	0	0	246,006
Intergovernmental	12,812,804	197,785	2,475,517	15,486,106
Extracurricular Activities	333,375	0	433,734	767,109
Charges for Services	0	0	818,136	818,136
Revenue in Lieu of Taxes	559,452	0	0	559,452
Other Revenues	189,108	0	240,766	429,874
Total Revenues	31,807,072	1,594,720	5,612,294	39,014,086
Expenditures:				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	14,411,212	0	134,638	14,545,850
Special	3,001,919	0	941,289	3,943,208
Other	64,103	0	0	64,103
Support Services:				
Pupil	1,962,002	0	19,623	1,981,625
Instructional Staff	365,595	0	68,700	434,295
General Administration	64,719	0	0	64,719
School Administration	2,695,220	0	13,926	2,709,146
Fiscal	974,565	18,703	28,354	1,021,622
Business	640	0	0	640
Operations and Maintenance	3,382,721	0	530,516	3,913,237
Pupil Transportation	2,143,056	0	197,210	2,340,266
Central	61,559	0	0	61,559
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	41	0	1,667,930	1,667,971
Extracurricular Activities	703,934	0	483,821	1,187,755
Payment to Ohio Facilities Construction Commission	0	0	109,537	109,537
Capital Outlay	0	0	722,572	722,572
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	151,577	1,355,000	32,285	1,538,862
Interest and Fiscal Charges	8,247	222,238	15,316	245,801
Total Expenditures	29,991,110	1,595,941	4,965,717	36,552,768
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	1,815,962	(1,221)	646,577	2,461,318
Other Financing Sources (Uses):				
Transfers In	0	0	119,058	119,058
Transfers (Out)	0	0	(119,058)	(119,058)
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	0	0	0	0
Net Change in Fund Balance	1,815,962	(1,221)	646,577	2,461,318
Fund Balance - Beginning of Year	4,687,755	1,564,311	1,760,434	8,012,500
Fund Balance - End of Year	\$6,503,717	\$1,563,090	\$2,407,011	\$10,473,818

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
 Reconciliation of the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes
 in Fund Balance of Governmental Funds to the Statement of Activities
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Net Change in Fund Balance - Total Governmental Funds \$2,461,318

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:

Governmental funds report capital asset additions as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. This is the amount of the difference between capital asset additions and depreciation in the current period.

Capital assets used in governmental activities	672,823
Depreciation Expense	<u>(2,330,382)</u>
	(1,657,559)

Governmental funds report district pension and OPEB contributions as expenditures. However in the Statement of Activities, the cost of pension and OPEB benefits earned net of employer contributions are reported as pension and OPEB expense.

Pension Contributions	2,687,413
Pension Expense	<u>(2,338,758)</u>
OPEB Contributions	78,353
OPEB Expense	<u>213,129</u>
	640,137

Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.

Income Taxes	35,617
Delinquent Property Taxes	<u>1,434,740</u>
Interest	6,366
Intergovernmental	<u>85,987</u>
	1,562,710

Repayment of bond and lease principal, current refundings and the deferred charges and premiums associated with the old bonds are an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities in the statement of net position.

1,538,862

In the statement of activities interest expense is accrued when incurred; whereas, in governmental funds an interest expenditure is reported when due.

(11,990)

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

Compensated Absences	(91,033)
Amortization of Bond Premium	75,093
Amortization of Deferred Charge on Refunding	<u>(29,495)</u>
	(45,435)

Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities \$4,488,043

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position
Fiduciary Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	Custodial
Additions:	
Extracurricular Collections for OHSAA	<u>\$27,621</u>
Total Additions	<u>27,621</u>
Deductions:	
Extracurricular Distributions to OHSAA	<u>27,621</u>
Total Deductions	<u>27,621</u>
Change in Net Position	0
Net Position - Beginning of Year	<u>5,797</u>
Net Position - End of Year	<u><u>\$5,797</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Statement of Fiduciary Net Position
Fiduciary Fund
June 30, 2024

	<u>Custodial</u>
Assets:	
Receivables (Net):	
Accounts	<u>\$5,797</u>
Total Assets	<u>5,797</u>
Net Position:	
Restricted for Individuals, Organizations, and Other Governments	<u>5,797</u>
Total Net Position	<u><u>\$5,797</u></u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Description of the School District

The Ross Local School District (the “School District”) is organized under Sections 2 and 3, Article VI, of the Constitution of the State of Ohio and Chapters 3311 and 3315 of the Ohio Revised Code. Under existing statutes, the Ross Local Board of Education, on behalf of the School District, has the authority to acquire, maintain and dispose of school property; develop and adopt school programs; and establish, organize and operate schools.

The financial statements of the Ross Local School District have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

Reporting Entity

The financial reporting entity is composed of the School District (primary government). The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards and agencies that are not legally separate from the School District. Potential component units were reviewed for possible inclusion in the financial statements. Component units are legally separate organizations for which the School District would be financially accountable. The School District would be financially accountable for an organization if the School District appointed a voting majority of the organization's governing board and (1) the School District was able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the School District was legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; the School District was legally obligated or had otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of or provided financial support to, the organization; or the School District was 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. There were no component units included in the reporting entity.

The School District participates in two jointly governed organizations, one insurance purchasing pool, and a public entity risk pool. These organizations are:

Jointly Governed Organizations:

Southwest Ohio Computer Association
Butler Technology and Career Development Schools

Insurance Purchasing Pool:

Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber Worker's Compensation GRP

Public Entity Risk Pool:

Medical Mutual of Ohio

These organizations are described in Notes 12, 16, and 17.

Basis of Presentation - Fund Accounting

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 financial activities of the primary government except for fiduciary funds. The effect of interfund activity has been removed

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

from these statements. The statements distinguish between those types of activities of the School District that are governmental and those that are considered to be business-type activities. The School District has no business type activities.

The government-wide statements are prepared using the economic resources measurement focus, which differs from the manner in which the governmental fund financial statements are prepared. Therefore, the governmental fund financial statements include reconciliations with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

The government-wide statement of activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each function of the School District's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program, or department and are, therefore, identifiable to a particular function. Program revenues include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by a program and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operations or capital requirements of a particular program. Revenues which are not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues of the School District, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct expenses with program revenues identifies the extent to which each government function is self-financing or draws from the general revenues of the School District.

Fund Financial Statements – Fund financial statements report detailed information about the School District. The focus of governmental financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Non-major funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. Fiduciary funds are reported by fund type.

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. All governmental fund types are accounted for using a flow of current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets, deferred outflows of resources, current liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are generally included on the balance sheet. Operating statements of these funds present sources (i.e. revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e. expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources.

The School District uses funds to report on its financial position and the results of its operations. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid in financial management by segregating transactions related to certain School District functions or activities. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The funds of the School District are grouped into the categories governmental and fiduciary.

The following fund types are used by the School District:

Governmental Funds - Governmental funds focus on the sources, uses, and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. Current liabilities are assigned to the fund from which they will be paid. The difference between governmental fund assets and deferred outflows of resources, and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources is reported as fund balance.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

The following are the School District's major governmental funds:

General Fund - This 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.

Debt Service Fund - The debt service fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources and payment of general obligation bond principal and interest from governmental resources when the government is obligated in some manner for payment.

Fiduciary Funds - Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds and custodial funds. Trust funds are distinguished from custodial funds by the existence of a trust agreement or equivalent arrangements that have certain characteristics. Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund. The District has an OHSAA events fund to account for assets and liabilities of OHSAA athletic events of the District.

Note 2 - Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements and relates to the timing of the measurements made.

The modified accrual basis of accounting is used by the governmental funds. On a modified accrual basis, revenue is recorded in the fiscal year in which the resources are measurable and become available. "Measurable" means the amount of the transaction can be determined and "available" means collectible within the current fiscal year or soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current fiscal year. The available period for the School District is sixty days after fiscal year-end. Under the modified accrual basis, the following revenue sources are deemed both measurable and available: property taxes available for advance, income taxes, interest, tuition, student fees and grants.

The measurement focus of governmental fund accounting is on decreases in net financial resources (expenditures) rather than expenses. Expenditures are generally recognized in the accounting period in which the related fund liability is incurred. However, debt service expenditures, as well as expenditures related to compensated absences, are recorded only when payment is due. Allocations of cost, such as depreciation, are not recognized in governmental funds.

Government-wide financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting. Also, fiduciary funds use accrual accounting. Revenues are recognized when earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

Revenues – Exchange and Non-exchange Transactions

Revenues resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, are recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the School District receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include property and income taxes, grants, entitlements, and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property and income taxes is recognized in the fiscal year for

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

which the taxes are levied. Revenue from grants, entitlements, and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used of the fiscal year in which use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the School District must provide local resources to be used for specific purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the School District on a reimbursement basis. On a modified accrual basis, revenue from non-exchange transactions must also be available before it can be recognized.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statements of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources, represents a consumption of net assets that applies to a future periods and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The deferred outflows of resources related to a deferred charge on refunding, OPEB, and pension are reported on the governmental-wide statement of net position. For more OPEB and pension related information, see Notes 13 and 14.

In addition to liabilities, the statements of financial position report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future periods and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. For the School District, deferred inflows of resources include property taxes, revenue in lieu of taxes, OPEB, pension, grants and other taxes, income taxes, and investment earnings. Property taxes represent amounts for which there is an enforceable legal claim as of June 30, 2024, but which were levied to finance year 2025 operations. These amounts have been recorded as deferred inflows on both the government-wide statement of net position and the governmental fund financial statements. Revenue in lieu of taxes (other taxes) has been recorded as deferred inflows on both the government-wide statement of net position and the governmental fund financial statements. Grants, income taxes, and investment earnings have been recorded as deferred inflows on the governmental fund financial statements. Deferred inflows of resources related to pension and OPEB are reported on the government-wide statement of net position. For more OPEB and pension related information, see Notes 13 and 14.

Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments

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

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 31 (GASB 31), "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Investments and for External Investment Pools," requires that investments, with certain exceptions, be recorded at their fair value and that changes in the fair value are reported in the operations statements. The School District recorded investments held at June 30, 2024 at fair value.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Education has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Restricted Assets

Restricted assets in the general fund represent equity in pooled cash and investments set aside for the budget stabilization and retainage owed to contractors.

Prepaid Items

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

Lease Assets

A lease asset is a lessee's right to use an asset over the life of a lease. The asset is calculated as the initial amount of the lease liability, plus any lease payments made to the lessor before the lease commencement date, plus any initial direct costs incurred, minus any lease incentives received. The amortization period of the lease asset is from the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the lease term or the end of the useful life of the asset. At the termination of the lease, the lease asset and associated lease liability are removed from the books of the lessee. The difference between the two amounts is accounted for as a gain or loss at that time.

Capital Assets

Capital assets, which include property, plant and equipment, are reported in the government-wide financial statements but are not reported in the governmental fund financial statements. The School District defines capital assets as those with an individual cost of more than \$5,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. All capital assets are reported at cost or estimated historical cost. Donated capital assets are stated at their estimated acquisition value when received. The School District does not possess any infrastructure. Improvements are capitalized; the costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend an asset's life are not capitalized.

When capital assets are purchased, they are capitalized and depreciated in the government-wide statements. Capital assets are reported as expenditures of the current period in the governmental fund financial statements.

All reported capital assets except land and construction in progress are depreciated. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimated Lives</u>
Buildings and Improvements	30-50 years
Land Improvements	10-20 years
Furniture and Equipment	5-20 years
Vehicles	10 years

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Compensated Absences

Vacation benefits are accrued as a liability as the benefits are earned if the employees' rights to receive compensation are attributable to services already rendered and it is probable that the School District will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means. The School District records a liability for accumulated unused vacation time when earned for all employees with more than one year of service. Sick leave benefits are accrued as a liability using the vesting method. The liability includes the employees who are currently eligible to receive termination benefits and those the School District has identified as probable of receiving payment in the future. The amount is based on accumulated sick leave and employees' wage rates at fiscal year end, taking into consideration any limits specified in the School District's termination policy.

The entire compensated absences liability is reported on the government-wide financial statements. For governmental fund financial statements, a liability is recorded only for the portion of unpaid compensated absences that has matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements.

Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligations

All payables, accrued liabilities and long-term obligations are reported in the government-wide financial statements. Governmental fund payables and accrued liabilities are reported as obligations of the funds regardless of whether they will be liquidated with current resources with the exception of compensated absences as noted above. Net pension/OPEB liability should be recognized in the governmental funds to the extent that benefit payments are due and payable and the pension/OPEB plan's fiduciary net position is not sufficient for payment of those benefits.

Pension/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

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

Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets and liabilities. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowings used for the acquisition, construction or improvements of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on its use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the School District or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws and regulations of other governments. The School District applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available. Of the School District's \$6,293,029 in restricted net position, none were restricted for enabling legislation.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Interfund Transactions

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as revenues in the seller funds and as expenditures/expenses in the purchaser funds. Flows of cash or goods from one fund to another without a requirement for repayment are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds.

On fund financials, receivables and payables resulting from short-term interfund loans are classified as "interfund receivable/payable." These amounts are eliminated in the governmental activities column of the statement of net position.

Fund Balance

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions, the School District classifies its fund balance based on the purpose for which the resources were received and the level of constraint placed on the resources. The following categories are used:

Nonspendable – resources that are not in spendable form (inventory) or have legal or contractual requirements to maintain the balance intact.

Restricted – resources that have external purpose restraints imposed on them by providers, such as creditors, grantors, or other regulators.

Committed – resources that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (board resolution) of the School District's Board of Education. The Board of Education is the highest level of decision making authority for the School District. Those committed resources cannot be used for any other purpose unless the School District's Board of Education removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (board resolution) it employed to previously commit those resources.

Assigned – resources intended to be used by the School District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In the general fund, assigned amounts are intended to be used for specific purposes as approved through the School District's formal purchase order procedure by the Superintendent and the Treasurer. The adoption of the board appropriation resolution is the established policy, which gives the authorization to assign resources for a specific purpose.

Unassigned – residual fund balance within the General Fund that is not restricted, committed, or assigned. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance resulting from incurred expenses for specific purposes exceeding amounts which had been restricted, committed or assigned for said purposes.

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

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Estimates

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

Note 3 – Deficit Fund Balances

At June 30, 2024, the following funds had a deficit fund balance:

Fund	Deficit
<hr/>	
Other Governmental Funds:	
Title I	\$25,377
Auxiliary Service	9,845
IDEA Part B	77,674
Improving Teacher Quality	2,807

These deficit balances were created by the application of generally accepted accounting principles. The General Fund provides transfers to cover deficit balances; however, this is done when cash is needed rather than when accruals occur.

Note 4 - Equity in Pooled Cash and Investments

State statute requires the classification of monies held by the School District into three categories:

Active Deposits - Those monies required to be kept in a "cash" or "near cash" status for immediate use by the School District. Such monies must by law 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 - Those monies not required for use within the current two-year period of designated depositories. Ohio law permits inactive monies to be deposited or invested as certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designated depositories or as savings or deposit accounts, including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

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

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

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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

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

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

The following information classifies deposits and investments by categories of risk as defined in GASB Statement No. 3, "Deposits with Financial Institutions, Investments and Reverse Repurchase Agreements" and amended by GASB Statement No. 40 "Deposit and Investment Risk Disclosures":

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Deposits

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the School District will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. As of June 30, 2024, \$6,257,869 of the School District's bank balance of \$6,757,869 was exposed to custodial credit risk because it was uninsured and collateralized.

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 be 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% 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% of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

Investments

The School District's investments at June 30, 2024 are as summarized as follows:

Investment Type	Value	Fair Value Hierarchy	Weighted Average Maturity (Years)
U.S. Treasury Notes	\$1,099,948	Level 2	3.63
Federal Home Loan Bank	825,178	Level 2	2.85
Federal Home Loan Mortgage	491,248	Level 2	1.62
Federal Farm Credit Bank	393,082	Level 2	1.86
US Treasury Bills	199,768	Level 2	0.02
Commercial Paper	876,668	Level 2	0.48
Negotiable CDs	39,275	Level 2	1.02
U.S. Money Market Funds	45,519	N/A	0.00
Total Investments	<u>\$3,970,686</u>		
Portfolio Weighted Average Maturity			2.10

The School District categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by generally accepted accounting principles. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted prices in active markets for identical assets. Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs. Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs. The above table identifies the School District's recurring fair value measurements as of June 30, 2024.

Credit Risk – It is the School District's policy to limit its investments that are not obligations of the U.S. Government or obligations explicitly guaranteed by the U.S. Government to investments which have a credit quality rating of the top 2 ratings by nationally recognized statistical rating organizations. The School District's investments in U.S. Treasury Notes, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage, and Federal Farm Credit Bank were rated AAA by Standard & Poor's and Aaa by Moody's Investors Service. The School District's investments in Negotiable CDs, and U.S. Money Market Funds were not rated.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Custodial Credit Risk – Custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a failure of a counter party, the School District will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The School District's investment securities are registered in the name of the School District.

Interest Rate Risk – In accordance with the investment policy, the School District manages its exposure to declines in fair value by limiting the weighted average maturity of its investment portfolio to five years.

Concentration of Credit Risk – The School District's investment policy does not place any limit on investments in any single issuer. The School District's investments are in the following:

Investments	Percent
U.S. Treasury Notes	28%
Federal Home Loan Bank	21%
Federal Home Loan Mortgage	12%
Federal Farm Credit Bank	10%
US Treasury Bills	5%
Commercial Paper	22%
Negotiable CDs	1%
U.S. Money Market Funds	1%

Note 5 – Property Taxes

Property taxes are levied and assessed on a calendar year basis. Distributions from the second half of the calendar year occur in the subsequent fiscal year and are intended to finance the operations of that year, except monies available to be advanced against such distributions which may be appropriated and used in the current fiscal year. Property taxes include amounts levied against real and public utility property located within the School District.

Real property taxes and public utility taxes are levied after April against the assessed value listed as of the prior January 1, the lien date. Assessed values are established by State law at 35 percent of appraised value.

The School District receives property taxes from the Butler County Auditor, who periodically advances to the School District its portion of taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2024 are available to finance fiscal year 2025 operations.

Accrued property taxes receivable represents delinquent taxes outstanding and real property and public utility taxes that became measurable as of June 30, 2024. Although total property tax collections for the next fiscal year are measurable, only the amount available as an advance at June 30 is intended to finance current fiscal year operations. The receivable is therefore offset by a credit to deferred inflows of resources for that portion not intended to finance current year operations. The assessed values upon which fiscal year taxes were collected are:

	Amount
Agricultural/Residential and Other	
Real Estate	\$575,576,800
Public Utility/Personal Property	63,591,630
Total Assessed Value	<u>\$639,168,430</u>

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 6 – Interfund Transactions

Interfund transactions at June 30, 2024 consisted of the following interfund receivables and payables, and transfers in and out:

	Interfund		Transfers	
	Receivable	Payable	In	Out
General	\$225,523	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Governmental Funds	0	225,523	119,058	119,058
Total	<u><u>\$225,523</u></u>	<u><u>\$225,523</u></u>	<u><u>\$119,058</u></u>	<u><u>\$119,058</u></u>

Interfund balance/transfers are used to move revenues from the fund that statute or budget requires to collect them to the fund that statute or budget requires to expend them and unrestricted revenues collected in the general fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budget authorizations; to segregate and to return money to the fund from which it was originally provided once a project is completed.

The transfer in and out of the Other Governmental Funds for \$119,058 were made to close out the Classroom Facilities Project Fund (Fund 010) into the Permanent Improvement Fund (Fund 003). The transfer was authorized by the Board after the District received the certificate of completion of the project agreement for the Classroom Facilities Assistance Program related to the Classroom Facilities Project Fund (Fund 010).

Note 7 – Income Tax

The School District levies a voted tax of 1.25 percent for general operations on the earned income of residents and estates. The voted levy is for a continuous term. 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 and the Classroom Facilities Maintenance Fund. The State requires the School District to set aside a certain amount of money for maintaining classrooms. This is being funded with income tax as allowed by law.

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Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 8 – Capital Assets

A summary of the changes in capital assets for governmental activities during the fiscal year is as follows:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Deletions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Governmental Activities				
<i>Capital Assets, not being depreciated:</i>				
Land	\$1,262,525	\$0	\$0	\$1,262,525
<i>Capital Assets, being depreciated:</i>				
Land Improvements	2,309,106	188,821	0	2,497,927
Buildings and Improvements	85,551,539	134,551	0	85,686,090
Equipment	1,074,902	152,241	0	1,227,143
Vehicles	2,956,967	197,210	0	3,154,177
Totals at Historical Cost	<u>93,155,039</u>	<u>672,823</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>93,827,862</u>
Less Accumulated Depreciation:				
Land Improvements	2,105,638	69,213	0	2,174,851
Buildings and Improvements	41,231,842	1,849,283	0	43,081,125
Equipment	647,830	85,047	0	732,877
Vehicles	2,203,777	175,422	0	2,379,199
Total Accumulated Depreciation	<u>46,189,087</u>	<u>2,178,965</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>48,368,052</u>
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$46,965,952</u>	<u>(\$1,506,142)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$45,459,810</u>
Lease Assets:				
Equipment	605,668	0	0	605,668
Total Lease Asset, being depreciated	<u>605,668</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>605,668</u>
Less: Accumulated Amortization	302,834	151,417	0	454,251
Total Lease Asset, net	<u>302,834</u>	<u>(151,417)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>151,417</u>
Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net	<u>\$47,268,786</u>	<u>(\$1,657,559)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$45,611,227</u>

Depreciation expenses were charged to governmental functions as follows:

Instruction:	
Regular	\$1,486,511
Support Services:	
School Administration	22,984
Operations and Maintenance	689,434
Pupil Transportation	113,112
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	5,879
Extracurricular Activities	12,462
Total Depreciation Expense	<u>\$2,330,382</u>

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 9 – Long-Term Obligations

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

	Interest Rate	Beginning Balance	Issued	Retired	Ending Balance	Due In One Year
Governmental Activities:						
General Obligation Bonds and Notes Payable:						
2022 Energy Conservation Loan	0.25%	\$1,671,256	\$0	\$0	\$1,671,256	\$0
2021 Notes Payable #1	2.46%	1,217,000	0	0	1,217,000	179,000
2021 Notes Payable #2	2.14%	32,285	0	(32,285)	0	0
2012 Refunding:						
Current Interest	2.0-3.0%	2,800,000	0	(1,355,000)	1,445,000	1,445,000
Premium		65,695	0	(32,849)	32,846	0
2016 Refunding:						
Current Interest	1.0-3.0%	5,905,000	0	0	5,905,000	0
Premium		253,465	0	(42,244)	211,221	0
Total Bonds and Notes Payable		11,944,701	0	(1,462,378)	10,482,323	1,624,000
Compensated Absences		1,366,393	322,905	(209,722)	1,479,576	259,139
Lease Liability		303,474	0	(151,577)	151,897	151,897
Subtotal Bonds and Other Amounts		13,614,568	322,905	(1,823,677)	12,113,796	2,035,036
Net Pension Liability		30,084,824	0	(1,629,777)	28,455,047	0
Net OPEB Liability		1,797,685	171,320	0	1,969,005	0
Total Long-Term Obligations		\$45,497,077	\$494,225	(\$3,453,454)	\$42,537,848	\$2,035,036

The School District issued \$24,900,000 in School Improvement Bonds in fiscal year 2003 that was originally scheduled to mature in fiscal year 2025, for the construction of a high school and improvements to the School District's elementary schools. The original issue included current interest serial bonds and capital appreciation bonds. The School District advanced refunded \$16,105,000 of this issuance in fiscal years 2007 and 2012. The remaining current interest serial bonds fully matured in 2017. The refunded bonds were not included in the School District's outstanding debt since the School District has satisfied its obligations through the advance refunding.

The School District issued \$6,690,000 in Series 2012 Refunding Bonds that mature in December 2024, for the partial advance refunding of \$6,690,000 in Series 2003 School Improvement Bonds. These bonds include serial bonds that will mature in December 2024 and capital appreciation bonds that matured in December 2019. The maturity amount of the capital appreciation bonds is \$320,000.

On August 23, 2016 the School District issued \$8,715,000 in General Obligation Bonds with an interest rate between 1.00% and 3.00% which was used to current refund \$8,975,000 of the outstanding 2006 Refunding Bonds with an interest rate between 4.00% and 4.375%. The net proceeds of \$9,264,173 (after payment of underwriting fees, insurance and other issuance costs) were used to purchase U.S. government securities. Those securities were deposited into an irrevocable trust with an escrow agent on September 13, 2016 and the securities matured and were paid off on December 1, 2016, within 90 days of purchase. The remainder of the current interest bonds will mature in December 2028.

The District issued \$1,468,000 in notes payable #1 that mature in June 2035. The notes payable is for the building of a bus garage and has an interest rate of 2.46%.

The District issued \$296,193 in notes payable #2 that mature in December 2023. The notes payable is for the purchase of buses and has an interest rate of 2.143%.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

The District issued \$1,671,256 in Energy Conservation Loan that will mature in October 2035. The Energy Conservation Loan is for the purchase of various energy saving items (LED lighting, window replacement, etc.) throughout the District and has an interest rate of 0.25%.

All general obligation debt is supported by the full faith and credit of the School District. The School Improvement and Refunding Bonds are paid from the Debt Service Fund. Compensated absences and the STRS early retirement incentive are generally paid by the General Fund and Special Revenue funds. There is no repayment schedule for the net pension liability and net OPEB liability; however, employer pension and OPEB contributions are made from the fund benefitting from their service.

Principal and interest requirements to retire the School District's long-term general obligation bonds and notes payable outstanding at June 30, 2024 are shown in the table below.

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Current Interest Bonds			Notes Payable		
	Principal	Interest	Total	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$1,445,000	\$183,625	\$1,628,625	\$179,000	\$57,712	\$236,712
2026	1,395,000	141,025	1,536,025	93,000	25,535	118,535
2027	1,440,000	98,500	1,538,500	95,000	23,247	118,247
2028	1,520,000	61,700	1,581,700	97,000	20,910	117,910
2029	1,550,000	23,250	1,573,250	100,000	18,523	118,523
2030-2034	0	0	0	537,000	54,563	591,563
2035	0	0	0	116,000	2,854	118,854
Total	<u>\$7,350,000</u>	<u>\$508,100</u>	<u>\$7,858,100</u>	<u>\$1,217,000</u>	<u>\$203,344</u>	<u>\$1,420,344</u>

Fiscal Year Ending June 30	Energy Conservation Loan		
	Principal	Interest	Total
2025	\$0	\$3,501	\$3,501
2026	0	3,198	3,198
2027	0	2,893	2,893
2028	0	2,586	2,586
2029	0	2,279	2,279
2030-2034	0	6,720	6,720
2035	<u>1,671,256</u>	<u>480</u>	<u>1,671,736</u>
Total	<u>\$1,671,256</u>	<u>\$21,657</u>	<u>\$1,692,913</u>

Note 10 - Lease Liability – Lease Assets

The District has entered into contracts that convey the control of the right to use their nonfinancial assets (the underlying assets) for computers as specified in the contracts for a period of time. The basis and terms of the each contract is 5 years.

During the period, there were no outflows of resources recognized for variable payments not previously included in the measurement of the lease liability. Also, there were no outflows of resources recognized for other payments, such as residual value guarantees or termination penalties, not previously included in the measurement of the lease liability during the period. There were no commitments under leases before the commencement of the lease term.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Principal and interest amounts for the next two years are as follows:

Fiscal Year	Principal	Interest	Total
Ending June 30, 2025	\$151,897	\$321	\$152,218

Note 11 – Other Employee Benefits

Accumulated Unpaid Vacation

School District classified employees earn vacation leave at varying rates based upon negotiated agreements and State laws. In the case of death or retirement, an employee (or his estate) is paid for his unused vacation leave.

Accumulated Unpaid Sick Leave

School District employees may accumulate sick leave. Upon retirement, payment is made for 26.5% of the total unused sick leave balance up to a maximum of sixty-eight days for certified and classified employees.

Note 12 – Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber Worker’s Comp Program

The School District participates in the Group Retrospective Program of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, an insurance purchasing pool. Each year, the participating school districts pay an enrollment fee to cover the costs of administering the program.

Note 13 - 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) represent the District’s proportionate share of each pension/OPEB plan’s collective actuarial present value of projected benefit payments attributable to past periods of service, net of each pension/OPEB plan’s fiduciary net position. The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting these estimates annually.

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

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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 remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 14 for the required OPEB disclosures.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description

District non-teaching employees participate in SERS, a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by SERS. SERS provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits, and death benefits to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3309. SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about SERS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by visiting the SERS website at www.ohsers.org 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 on or after August 1, 2017
Full Benefits	Any age with 30 years of service credit	Age 67 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 57 with 30 years of service credit
Actuarially Reduced Benefits	Age 60 with 5 years of service credit Age 55 with 25 years of service credit	Age 62 with 10 years of service credit; or Age 60 with 25 years of service credit

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

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

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. New benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. The COLA is indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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 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 District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$682,693 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount \$153,341 is reported as accrued wages and benefits.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description

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.

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. In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0 percent upon a determination by its actuary that it was necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients' base benefit and past cost-of living increases are not affected by this change. Effective July 1, 2022, a one-time ad-hoc COLA of 3 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2023 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2018. Effective July 1, 2023, a one-time ad-hoc COLA of 1 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2024 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2019. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3307.67(E) the STRS Ohio Retirement Board may adjust the COLA upon a determination by the board's actuary that a change will not materially impair the fiscal integrity of the system or is necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the system. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 34 years of service credit at any age.

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

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

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

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

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

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 District's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$2,004,720 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount \$334,120 is reported as accrued wages and benefits.

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

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

of the net pension liability was based on the District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and pension expense:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$6,476,313	\$21,978,734	\$28,455,047
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.11720740%	0.10206082%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.12567090%	0.10475678%	
Change in Proportionate Share	-0.00846350%	-0.00269596%	
Pension Expense	\$602,180	\$1,736,577	\$2,338,758

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
<u>Deferred Outflows of Resources</u>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$278,367	\$801,298	\$1,079,665
Changes of assumptions	45,875	1,810,068	1,855,943
Changes in employer proportionate share of net pension liability	59,746	99,044	158,790
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	682,693	2,004,720	2,687,413
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$1,066,681</u>	<u>\$4,715,130</u>	<u>\$5,781,811</u>
<u>Deferred Inflows of Resources</u>			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$0	\$48,771	\$48,771
Changes of assumptions	0	1,362,461	1,362,461
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	91,030	65,871	156,901
Changes in employer proportionate share of net pension liability	331,074	845,395	1,176,469
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$422,104</u>	<u>\$2,322,498</u>	<u>\$2,744,602</u>

\$2,687,413 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	SERS	STRS	Total
2025	(\$11,386)	(\$405,385)	(\$416,771)
2026	(365,791)	(1,049,792)	(1,415,583)
2027	334,236	2,072,024	2,406,260
2028	4,825	(228,935)	(224,110)
Total	<u>(\$38,116)</u>	<u>\$387,912</u>	<u>\$349,796</u>

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Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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

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

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.40%	2.40%
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25% to 13.58%	3.25% to 13.58%
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.00%, on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement	2.00%, on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement
Investment Rate of Return	7.00% net of system expenses	7.00% net of system expenses
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)

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

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

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined by using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS' Statement of Investment Policy. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating an arithmetic weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. As of June 30, 2023:

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

Discount Rate

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

Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

Net pension liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate, and to illustrate the potential impact the following table presents the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent, as well as what each plan's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease 6.00%	Current Discount Rate 7.00%	1% Increase 8.00%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$9,558,706	\$6,476,313	\$3,879,983

Changes Between the Measurement Date and the Report Date

Governor DeWine signed HB33 in July 2023 authorizing SERS to implement a Contribution Based Benefit Cap beginning August 1, 2024. Any effect on the net pension liability is unknown.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
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For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

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

	<u>June 30, 2023</u>	<u>June 30, 2022</u>
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%
Projected Salary Increases	From 2.50% to 8.50% based on service	From 2.50% to 8.50% based on age
Investment Rate of Return	7.00% net of investments expense, including inflation	7.00% net of investments expense, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00%	7.00%
Payroll Increases	3.00%	3.00%
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0.00%	0.00%

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

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

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

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

* Final target weights reflected October 1, 2022.

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

Ross Local School District, Ohio
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For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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 Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate

The following table presents the 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 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 6.00%	Current Discount Rate 7.00%	1% Increase 8.00%
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$33,798,428	\$21,978,734	\$11,982,507

Changes Between the Measurement Date and the Report Date

In March 2024, the STRS Board made the eligibility rule requiring 34 years of service for an unreduced retirement permanent, effective June 1, 2024. Eligibility for a reduced retirement benefit has been lowered from 30 to 29 years of service. The effect of these changes on the net pension liability is currently unknown.

Note 14 - Defined Benefit OPEB Plans

See Note 13 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description

The 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

Ross Local School District, Ohio
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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.

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

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

Funding Policy

State statute permits SERS to fund 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 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the District's surcharge obligation was \$78,353.

The surcharge, added to the allocated portion of the 14.00% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$78,353 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. Health care premiums were reduced by a Medicare Part B premium credit beginning in 2023. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting www.strsoh.org or by calling (888) 227-7877.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
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Funding Policy

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

Net OPEB Liabilities (Assets), OPEB Expense (Income), and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$1,969,005	\$0	\$1,969,005
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	0	(1,984,942)	(1,984,942)
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/Asset:			
Current Measurement Date	0.11951870%	0.10206082%	
Prior Measurement Date	<u>0.12803930%</u>	<u>0.10475678%</u>	
Change in Proportionate Share	-0.00852060%	-0.00269596%	
OPEB Expense	(\$153,565)	(\$59,564)	(\$213,129)

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$4,103	\$3,094	\$7,197
Changes of assumptions	665,779	292,411	958,190
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	15,260	3,542	18,802
Changes in employer proportionate share of net OPEB liability	133,384	52,326	185,710
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>78,353</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>78,353</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$896,879</u>	<u>\$351,373</u>	<u>\$1,248,252</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$1,015,489	\$302,756	\$1,318,245
Changes of assumptions	559,216	1,309,637	1,868,853
Changes in employer proportionate share of net OPEB liability	<u>201,665</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>201,883</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$1,776,370</u>	<u>\$1,612,611</u>	<u>\$3,388,981</u>

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\$78,353 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability (adjustment to net OPEB asset) in the year ending June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	SERS	STRS	Total
2025	(\$273,616)	(\$547,811)	(\$821,427)
2026	(257,640)	(260,793)	(518,433)
2027	(159,058)	(99,150)	(258,208)
2028	(104,680)	(136,150)	(240,830)
2029	(83,352)	(124,449)	(207,801)
Thereafter	<u>(79,498)</u>	<u>(92,885)</u>	<u>(172,383)</u>
Total	<u>(\$957,844)</u>	<u>(\$1,261,238)</u>	<u>(\$2,219,082)</u>

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

The total OPEB liability is determined by SERS' actuaries in accordance with GASB Statement No. 74, as part of their annual actuarial valuation for each retirement plan. 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, compared with June 30, 2022, are presented below:

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For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.40%	2.40%
Future Salary Increases, Including Inflation	3.25% to 13.58%	3.25% to 13.58%
Investment Rate of Return	7.00% net of investment expense	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
Fiduciary Net Position is Projected to be Depleted	2048	2044
Municipal Bond Index Rate:		
Measurement Date	3.86%	3.69%
Prior Measurement Date	3.69%	1.92%
Single Equivalent Interest Rate (SEIR), net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:		
Measurement Date	4.27%	4.08%
Prior Measurement Date	4.08%	2.27%
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	6.75% to 4.40%	7.00% to 4.40%

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

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

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

The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating a weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. As of June 30, 2023:

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

Discount Rate

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

Sensitivity of the Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates

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

	1% Decrease (3.27%)	Current Discount Rate (4.27%)	1% Increase (5.27%)
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$2,516,952	\$1,969,005	\$1,536,927
	1% Decrease (5.75% decreasing to 3.40%)	Current Trend Rate (6.75% decreasing to 4.40%)	1% Increase (7.75% decreasing to 5.40%)
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$1,446,560	\$1,969,005	\$2,661,316

Changes Between Measurement Date and Reporting Date

In September 2023, the SERS Board changed minimum compensation to \$30,000 from \$25,000 for purposes of the surcharge. Any effect on the net OPEB liability is unknown.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

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

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%
Investment Rate of Return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3.00%	3.00%
Discount Rate of Return	7.00%	7.00%
Health Care Cost Trends:		
Medical		
Pre-Medicare	7.50% initial, 4.14% ultimate	7.50% initial, 3.94% ultimate
Medicare	-10.94% initial, 4.14% ultimate	-68.78% initial, 3.94% ultimate
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	-11.95% initial, 4.14% ultimate	9.00% initial, 3.94% ultimate
Medicare	1.33% initial, 4.14% ultimate	-5.47% initial, 3.94% ultimate

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:

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Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

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

* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

** 10 year annualized geometric nominal returns, which include the real rate of return and inflation of 2.25%, and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS' investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actual 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 Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset) to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate

The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2023, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00 percent, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent) or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	1%	Current	1%
	Decrease (6.00%)	Discount Rate (7.00%)	Increase (8.00%)
Proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset)	(\$1,679,994)	(\$1,984,942)	(\$2,250,520)
	1%	Current	1%
	Decrease	Trend Rate	Increase
Proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset)	(\$2,262,844)	(\$1,984,942)	(\$1,650,214)

Changes Between the Measurement Date and the Reporting date

In March, 2024, the STRS Board made changes to the eligibility for the maximum health care premium subsidy, going into effect initially with the January 2025 benefit. In May, 2024, the Board aligned the eligibility for the health care premium subsidy with the changes to pension eligibility made in March 2024. The effect on the net OPEB liability (asset) is unknown at this time.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 15 – Fund Balances

Fund balance is 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 the governmental funds. The constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental funds and all other governmental funds are presented below:

Fund Balances	General	Debt Service	Other Governmental Funds	Total
Nonspendable:				
Unclaimed Funds	\$37,580	\$0	\$0	\$37,580
Prepays	27,717	0	2,142	29,859
Total Nonspendable	65,297	0	2,142	67,439
Restricted for:				
Other Local Grants	0	0	69,328	69,328
Classroom Facilities Maintenance	0	0	632,378	632,378
Athletics	0	0	253,185	253,185
Special Revenue	0	0	40,008	40,008
Food Service	0	0	446,633	446,633
Student Activity	0	0	43,125	43,125
Debt Service	0	1,563,090	0	1,563,090
Capital Improvements	0	0	1,037,416	1,037,416
Total Restricted	0	1,563,090	2,522,073	4,085,163
Assigned to:				
Public School Support	164,364	0	0	164,364
Encumbrances	644,793	0	0	644,793
Total Assigned	809,157	0	0	809,157
Unassigned (Deficit)	5,629,263	0	(117,204)	5,512,059
Total Fund Balance	\$6,503,717	\$1,563,090	\$2,407,011	\$10,473,818

Note 16 – Jointly Governed Organizations

Southwest Ohio Computer Association

The Southwest Ohio Computer Association (SWOCA) is a jointly governed organization among a three county consortium of Ohio school districts. The jointly governed organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to the administrative and instructional functions of the member school districts. Each member school district appoints a representative to the Board of Directors which is the legislative and managerial body of SWOCA. The degree of control exercised by any participating member school district is limited to its representation on the Board.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Butler Technology and Career Development Schools

The Butler Technology and Career Development Schools (BTCDS), a jointly governed organization, is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio operated under the direction of a Board, consisting of one representative from each of the participating school districts' elected board. The Board possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority as a separate body politic and corporate, established by the Ohio Revised Code. BTCDS was formed for the purpose of providing vocational education opportunities to the students of the member school districts which includes the students of the School District.

The School District has no ongoing financial interest in or responsibility for BTCDS. To obtain financial information, write to BTCDS, at 3603 Hamilton-Middletown, Hamilton, Ohio 45011.

Note 17 – 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. During the fiscal year, the School District contracted with commercial insurance carriers for property and general liability insurance and boiler and machinery insurance.

The School District has elected to provide employee medical, pharmacy, and vision insurance benefits through Medical Mutual of Ohio (MMO) and dental insurance through Superior Dental. The School District pays a monthly premium to the pools for its general insurance coverage. The employees share the cost of the monthly premium for the coverage with the Board.

There were no significant reductions in insurance coverage from the prior year. Also, there were no settlements that exceeded insurance coverage for the past three fiscal years.

Note 18 – Contingencies

School Foundation

School District foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. The Department of Education & Workforce's (DEW) 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. The final adjustment was not material and is not reflected in the accompanying financial statements.

Litigation

The School District's attorney estimates that all potential claims against the School District not covered by insurance resulting from litigation would not materially affect the financial statements of the School District.

Federal and State Funding

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, the effect of any such disallowed claims on the overall financial position of the School District at June 30, 2024, if applicable, cannot be determined at this time.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Note 19 – Statutory Reserves

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

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

	Capital Acquisition	Budget Stabilization
Set Aside Reserve Balance as of June 30, 2023	\$0	\$324,996
Current Year Set Aside Requirements	544,904	0
Current Year Qualifying Expenditures	(759,296)	0
Current Year Offsets	0	0
Set Aside Reserve Balance as of June 30, 2024	<u>(214,392)</u>	<u>324,996</u>
Restricted Cash as of June 30, 2024	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$324,996</u>

The Ohio General Assembly eliminated the requirement for the budget stabilization set-aside and effective April 10, 2001, the Board of Education could choose to eliminate the set-aside with the exception of rebates received from the Bureau of Workers Compensation. The budget stabilization set-aside is no longer required. However, the School District has opted to leave this reserve intact.

Note 20 – Significant Contractual Commitments

The School District utilizes encumbrance accounting to the extent necessary to assure effective budgetary control and accountability and to facilitate effective cash planning and control. The School District's outstanding encumbrance amounts at June 30, 2024 were:

General Fund	\$646,478
Other Governmental Funds	309,234

Note 21 – Implementation of New Accounting Principles

New Accounting Principles

For fiscal year 2024, the District implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 100, Accounting Changes and Error Corrections; and portions of GASB Statement No. 99, Omnibus 2022.

GASB Statement No. 100 enhances accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessing accountability. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 100 is presented on the financial statements of the District.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

GASB Statement No. 99 addresses a variety of topics and includes clarification of provisions related to accounting and reporting of leases under GASB Statement No. 87, provides extension of the period which the London Interbank Offered Rate is considered appropriate benchmark interest rate, guidance on disclosure of nonmonetary transaction, accounting for pledges of future revenues when resources are not received by the pledging government under GASB Statement No. 48, and terminology updates related to certain provisions of GASB Statement No. 63 and No. 53. These topics under GASB Statement No. 99 provisions were implemented in a prior year.

Other topics in GASB Statement No. 99 includes classification of other derivative instruments within the scope of GASB Statement No. 53, clarification of provisions related to accounting and reporting of Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships under GASB Statement No. 94, and clarification of provisions to accounting and reporting of subscription-based information technology arrangements under GASB Statement No. 96. These topics under GASB Statement No. 99 provisions were implemented and did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

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REQUIRED **S**UPPLEMENTARY **I**NFORMATION

Ross Local School District, Ohio

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability

School Employees Retirement System of Ohio

Last Ten Fiscal Years (1)

Year	District's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	District's Covered Payroll	District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2024	0.11720740%	\$6,476,313	\$4,655,336	139.12%	76.06%
2023	0.12567090%	6,797,260	4,694,521	144.79%	75.82%
2022	0.12240870%	4,516,526	4,225,236	106.89%	82.86%
2021	0.11876020%	7,855,050	4,163,471	188.67%	68.55%
2020	0.11982630%	7,169,418	4,110,719	174.41%	70.85%
2019	0.11912910%	6,822,744	3,896,785	175.09%	71.36%
2018	0.10867370%	6,493,014	3,580,629	181.34%	69.50%
2017	0.10761960%	7,876,762	3,687,600	213.60%	62.98%
2016	0.10605500%	6,051,601	4,136,449	146.30%	69.16%
2015	0.10914600%	5,523,817	3,203,608	172.42%	71.70%

(1) Amounts presented as of the District's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Ross Local School District, Ohio

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of the District's Contributions for Net Pension Liability

School Employees Retirement System of Ohio

Last Ten Fiscal Years

Year	District's Contractually Required Contribution	District's Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	District's Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	District's Covered Payroll	District's Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$682,693	(\$682,693)	\$0	\$4,876,379	14.00%
2023	651,747	(651,747)	0	4,655,336	14.00%
2022	657,233	(657,233)	0	4,694,521	14.00%
2021	591,533	(591,533)	0	4,225,236	14.00%
2020	582,886	(582,886)	0	4,163,471	14.00%
2019	554,947	(554,947)	0	4,110,719	13.50%
2018	526,066	(526,066)	0	3,896,785	13.50%
2017	501,288	(501,288)	0	3,580,629	14.00%
2016	516,264	(516,264)	0	3,687,600	14.00%
2015	545,184	(545,184)	0	4,136,449	13.18%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Ross Local School District, Ohio

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability

State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio

Last Ten Fiscal Years (1)

Year	District's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	District's Covered Payroll	District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability
2024	0.10206082%	\$21,978,734	\$14,104,629	155.83%	80.02%
2023	0.10475678%	23,287,565	13,389,986	173.92%	78.88%
2022	0.10821132%	13,835,789	13,880,571	99.68%	87.78%
2021	0.10886033%	26,340,326	13,340,657	197.44%	75.48%
2020	0.10644616%	23,539,928	12,566,571	187.32%	77.40%
2019	0.10241350%	22,518,429	11,613,429	193.90%	77.30%
2018	0.97795460%	23,231,521	10,683,257	217.46%	75.30%
2017	0.09659177%	32,332,177	10,214,657	316.53%	66.80%
2016	0.09402434%	25,985,577	9,786,343	265.53%	72.10%
2015	0.09263936%	22,533,098	10,193,277	221.06%	74.70%

(1) Amounts presented as of the District's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Ross Local School District, Ohio

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of the District's Contributions for Net Pension Liability

State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio

Last Ten Fiscal Years

Year	District's Contractually Required Contribution	District's Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	District's Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	District's Covered Payroll	District's Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$2,004,720	(\$2,004,720)	\$0	\$14,319,429	14.00%
2023	1,974,648	(1,974,648)	0	14,104,629	14.00%
2022	1,874,598	(1,874,598)	0	13,389,986	14.00%
2021	1,943,280	(1,943,280)	0	13,880,571	14.00%
2020	1,867,692	(1,867,692)	0	13,340,657	14.00%
2019	1,759,320	(1,759,320)	0	12,566,571	14.00%
2018	1,625,880	(1,625,880)	0	11,613,429	14.00%
2017	1,495,656	(1,495,656)	0	10,683,257	14.00%
2016	1,430,052	(1,430,052)	0	10,214,657	14.00%
2015	1,370,088	(1,370,088)	0	9,786,343	14.00%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Ross Local School District, Ohio

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability

School Employees Retirement System of Ohio

Last Eight Fiscal Years (1) (2)

Year	District's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	District's Covered Payroll	District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability
2024	0.11951870%	\$1,969,005	\$4,655,336	42.30%	30.02%
2023	0.12803930%	1,797,685	4,694,521	38.29%	30.34%
2022	0.12614780%	2,387,451	4,225,236	56.50%	24.08%
2021	0.12251290%	2,662,606	4,163,471	63.95%	18.17%
2020	0.12222780%	3,073,772	4,110,719	74.77%	15.57%
2019	0.12022740%	3,335,433	3,896,785	85.59%	13.57%
2018	0.11008590%	2,954,416	3,580,629	82.51%	12.46%
2017	0.10900245%	3,106,973	3,687,600	84.25%	11.49%

(1) The schedule is intended to show information for the past 10 years and the additional years' information will be displayed as it becomes available. Information prior to 2017 is not available.

(2) Amounts presented as of the District's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Ross Local School District, Ohio

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of the District's Contributions for Net OPEB Liability

School Employees Retirement System of Ohio

Last Nine Fiscal Years (1) (2)

Year	District's Contractually Required Contribution (2)	District's Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	District's Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	District's Covered Payroll	District's Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$78,353	(\$78,353)	\$0	\$4,876,379	1.61%
2023	81,500	(81,500)	0	4,655,336	1.75%
2022	81,262	(81,262)	0	4,694,521	0.84%
2021	80,709	(80,709)	0	4,225,236	1.91%
2020	75,279	(75,279)	0	4,163,471	1.81%
2019	92,484	(92,484)	0	4,110,719	2.25%
2018	81,642	(81,642)	0	3,896,785	2.10%
2017	59,108	(59,108)	0	3,580,629	1.65%
2016	54,908	(54,908)	0	3,687,600	1.49%

(1) The schedule is intended to show information for the past 10 years and the additional years' information will be displayed as it becomes available. Information prior to 2016 is not available.

(2) Includes surcharge.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Ross Local School District, Ohio

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)/Liability

State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio

Last Eight Fiscal Years (1) (2)

Year	District's Proportion of the Net OPEB (Asset)/Liability	District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)/Liability	District's Covered Payroll	District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)/Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB (Asset)/Liability
2024	0.10206082%	(\$1,984,942)	\$14,104,629	(14.07%)	168.52%
2023	0.10475678%	(2,712,501)	13,389,986	(20.26%)	230.73%
2022	0.10821132%	(2,281,547)	13,880,571	(16.44%)	174.73%
2021	0.10886033%	(1,913,220)	13,340,657	(14.34%)	182.13%
2020	0.10644616%	(1,763,004)	12,566,571	(14.03%)	174.74%
2019	0.10241350%	(1,645,680)	11,613,429	(14.17%)	176.00%
2018	0.09779546%	3,815,618	10,683,257	35.72%	47.10%
2017	0.09659177%	5,165,753	10,214,657	50.57%	37.30%

(1) The schedule is intended to show information for the past 10 years and the additional years' information will be displayed as it becomes available. Information prior to 2017 is not available.

(2) Amounts presented as of the District's measurement date which is the prior fiscal year end.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Ross Local School District, Ohio

Required Supplementary Information

Schedule of the District's Contributions for Net OPEB (Asset)/Liability

State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio

Last Nine Fiscal Years (1)

Year	District's Contractually Required Contribution	District's Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	District's Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	District's Covered Payroll	District's Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$14,319,429	0.00%
2023	0	0	0	14,104,629	0.00%
2022	0	0	0	13,389,986	0.00%
2021	0	0	0	13,880,571	0.00%
2020	0	0	0	13,340,657	0.00%
2019	0	0	0	12,566,571	0.00%
2018	0	0	0	11,613,429	0.00%
2017	0	0	0	10,683,257	0.00%
2016	0	0	0	10,214,657	0.00%

(1) The schedule is intended to show information for the past 10 years and the additional years' information will be displayed as it becomes available. Information prior to 2016 is not available.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Ross Local School District, Ohio
 Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance
 Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis)
 For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

	General Fund			
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance from Final Budget
Revenues:				
Taxes	\$15,868,806	\$16,701,314	\$16,701,792	\$478
Tuition and Fees	797,159	838,979	839,003	24
Investment Earnings	135,077	142,163	142,167	4
Intergovernmental	12,173,778	12,812,437	12,812,804	367
Extracurricular Activities	208,201	219,124	219,130	6
Other Revenues	708,694	745,874	745,895	21
Total Revenues	<u>29,891,715</u>	<u>31,459,891</u>	<u>31,460,791</u>	<u>900</u>
Expenditures:				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	14,377,261	14,673,563	14,673,615	(52)
Special	3,045,230	3,107,989	3,108,000	(11)
Other	62,808	64,103	64,103	0
Support Services:			0	
Pupil	1,896,591	1,935,678	1,935,685	(7)
Instructional Staff	345,849	352,977	352,978	(1)
General Administration	69,238	70,665	70,665	0
School Administration	2,758,257	2,815,102	2,815,112	(10)
Fiscal	984,804	1,005,099	1,005,103	(4)
Business	7,646	7,804	7,804	0
Operations and Maintenance	3,536,680	3,609,567	3,609,580	(13)
Pupil Transportation	2,099,829	2,143,104	2,143,112	(8)
Central	117,610	120,034	120,034	0
Operation of Non-Instructional Services	40	41	41	0
Extracurricular Activities	728,556	743,570	743,573	(3)
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	117,694	120,120	120,120	0
Interest and Fiscal Charges	7,893	8,056	8,056	0
		0		
Total Expenditures	<u>30,155,986</u>	<u>30,777,472</u>	<u>30,777,581</u>	<u>(109)</u>
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	<u>(264,271)</u>	<u>682,419</u>	<u>683,210</u>	<u>791</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>(264,271)</u>	<u>682,419</u>	<u>683,210</u>	<u>791</u>
Fund Balance Beginning of Year, (includes prior year encumbrances appropriated)	<u>4,861,638</u>	<u>4,861,638</u>	<u>4,861,638</u>	<u>0</u>
Fund Balance - End of Year	<u>\$4,597,367</u>	<u>\$5,544,057</u>	<u>\$5,544,848</u>	<u>\$791</u>

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

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

Note 1 - Budgetary Process

All funds, except custodial funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The major documents prepared are the tax budget, the appropriations resolution and the certificate of estimated resources which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The tax budget demonstrates a need for existing or increased tax rates. The certificate of estimated resources establishes a limit on the amount that the Board of Education may appropriate. The appropriation resolution is Board's authorization to spend resources and sets annual limits on expenditures plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by Board. The legal level of control has been established by Board at the fund level. Any budgetary modifications at this level may only be made by resolution of the Board of Education. During the course of the current fiscal year, the District amended its budget at several times, however none were significant.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in revenue are identified by the School District Treasurer. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts 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 issued during the fiscal year 2024.

The appropriation resolution is subject to amendment by the Board throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation resolution for that fund that covered the entire year, including amounts automatically carried forward from prior years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by Board during the year. At the close of each fiscal year, the unencumbered balance of each appropriation reverts to the respective fund from which it was appropriated and becomes subject to future appropriation. Encumbered appropriations are carried forward to the succeeding fiscal year and are not reappropriated.

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

1. Revenues are recorded when received in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP basis).
2. Expenditures are recorded when paid in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when the liability is incurred (GAAP basis).
3. Encumbrances are treated as expenditures for all funds (budget basis) rather than as an assignment of fund balance for governmental fund types and expendable trust funds (GAAP basis).
4. Advances in and advances out are operating transactions (budget basis) as opposed to balance sheet transactions.

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

The following table summarizes the adjustments necessary to reconcile the GAAP basis to the budgetary basis for the general fund.

Net Change in Fund Balance	
	<u>General</u>
GAAP Basis	\$1,815,962
Revenue Accruals	(346,280)
Expenditure Accruals	(139,994)
Encumbrances	(646,478)
Budget Basis	<u><u>\$683,210</u></u>

Note 2 - Net Pension Liability

School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Changes in Benefit Terms:

2023-2024: There were no changes in benefit terms since the prior measurement period.

2022: Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) increased from 0.50% to 2.50%.

2020-2021: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for this fiscal year.

2019: With the authority granted the Board under Senate Bill 8, the Board has enacted a three year COLA delay for future benefit recipients commencing benefits on or after April 1, 2018.

2018: SERS changed from a fixed 3.00% annual increase to a Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) based on the change in the Consumer Price Index Index (CPI-W), with a cap of 2.50% and a floor of 0.00%.

2014-2017: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for these fiscal years.

Changes in Assumptions:

2023-2024: The following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

(1) Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) was increased from 2.00% to 2.50% for calendar year 2024.

2022: The following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- (1) The assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.00% to 2.40%,
- (2) Payroll growth assumption was reduced from 3.50% to 1.75%,
- (3) Assumed real wage growth was increased from 0.50% to 0.85%,
- (4) Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) was reduced from 2.50% to 2.00%,
- (5) The discount rate was reduced from 7.50% to 7.00%,
- (6) Rates of withdrawal, compensation, participation, spouse coverage assumption, retirement, and disability were updated to reflect recent experience, and,
- (7) Mortality among active members, service retirees and beneficiaries, and disabled members were updated.

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

2018-2021: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

2017: The following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- (1) The assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%,
- (2) Payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.00% to 3.50%,
- (3) Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75% to 0.50%,
- (4) Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience,
- (5) Mortality among active members was updated to RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five year age set-back for both males and females,
- (6) Mortality among service retired members, and beneficiaries was updated to the following RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120% of male rates, and 110% of female rates,
- (7) Mortality among disabled members was updated to RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90% for male rates and 100% for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement, and
- (8) The discount rate was reduced from 7.75% to 7.50%.

2014-2016: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Changes in Benefit Terms:

2019-2024: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for these fiscal years.

2018: STRS decreased the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to zero.

2014-2017: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for these fiscal years.

Changes in Assumptions:

2024: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

2023: The following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- (1) Post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table:
 - a. Adjusted 110.0% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020
- (2) Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table:
 - a. Adjusted 95.0% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020
- (3) Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Disable Annuitant Table:
 - a. Projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020
- (4) Projected salary increases changed from 2.50% to 12.50% to 2.50% to 8.50%

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

2022: There were changes in assumptions since the prior measurement date, which the discount rate was adjusted to 7.00% from 7.45%.

2019-2021: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

2018: The following changes of assumptions affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- (1) The long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%,
- (2) The inflation assumption was lowered from 2.75% to 2.50%,
- (3) The payroll growth assumption was lowered to 3.00%,
- (4) Total salary increases rate was lowered by decreasing the merit component of the individual salary increases, in addition to a decrease of 0.25% due to lower inflation,
- (5) The healthy and disabled mortality assumptions were updated to the RP-2014 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2016, and
- (6) Rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.

2014-2017: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

Note 3 - Net OPEB (Asset)/Liability

School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Changes in Benefit Terms:

2024: Effective January 1, 2024, the non-Medicare disability health care subsidy amounts will change to reflect amounts equal to that of service retirees by years of service.

2017-2023: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for these fiscal years.

Changes in Assumptions:

2024: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

- (1) Discount Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	4.08%
Measurement Date	4.27%
- (2) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.69%
Measurement Date	3.86%
- (3) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	4.08%
Measurement Date	4.27%
- (4) The assumption for percent of pre-Medicare eligible retirees who choose the Wraparound plan increased from 10% to 20%.
- (5) The health care trend assumption on retiree premiums was updated to not apply trend to the \$35 surcharge.

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

- (6) The morbidity factors were updated based on the Society of Actuaries' June 2013 research report Health Care Costs—From Birth to Death by Dale Yamamoto and from the ASOP 6 practice note developed by the American Academy of Actuaries.
- (7) An assumption was added to assume that 15% of pre-65 retirees who waive will elect coverage upon Medicare eligibility.

2023: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

- (1) Discount Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	2.27%
Measurement Date	4.08%
- (2) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	1.92%
Measurement Date	3.69%
- (3) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	2.27%
Measurement Date	4.08%
- (4) Health care trend rates were updated.

2022: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

- (1) Discount Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	2.63%
Measurement Date	2.27%
- (2) Investment Rate of Return:

Prior Measurement Date	7.50%
Measurement Date	7.00%
- (3) Assumed Rate of Inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	3.00%
Measurement Date	2.40%
- (4) Payroll Growth Assumption:

Prior Measurement Date	3.50%
Measurement Date	1.75%
- (5) Assumed Real Wage Growth:

Prior Measurement Date	0.50%
Measurement Date	0.85%
- (6) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	2.45%
Measurement Date	1.92%
- (7) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	2.63%
Measurement Date	2.27%
- (8) Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience.
- (9) Rate of health care participation for future retirees and spouses was updated to reflect recent.
- (10) Mortality among active members was updated to the following:
 - a. PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table.

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

(11) Mortality among service retired members was updated to the following:

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

(12) Mortality among beneficiaries was updated to the following:

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

(13) Mortality among disabled member was updated to the following:

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

(14) Mortality rates are projected using a fully generational projection with Scale MP-2020.

2021: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

(1) Discount Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.22%
Measurement Date	2.63%

(2) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.13%
Measurement Date	2.45%

(3) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	3.22%
Measurement Date	2.63%

2020: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

(1) Discount Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.70%
Measurement Date	3.22%

(2) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.62%
Measurement Date	3.13%

(3) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	3.70%
Measurement Date	3.22%

2019: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

(1) Discount Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.63%
Measurement Date	3.70%

(2) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Prior Measurement Date	3.56%
Measurement Date	3.62%

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

(3) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Prior Measurement Date	3.63%
Measurement Date	3.70%

2018: Amounts reported for the fiscal year incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented below:

(1) Discount Rate:

Fiscal Year 2018	3.63%
Fiscal Year 2017	2.98%

(2) Municipal Bond Index Rate:

Fiscal Year 2018	3.56%
Fiscal Year 2017	2.92%

(3) Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:

Fiscal Year 2018	3.63%
Fiscal Year 2017	2.98%

2017: The following changes of assumptions affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- (1) The assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25% to 3.00%,
- (2) Payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.00% to 3.50%,
- (3) Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75% to 0.50%,
- (4) Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience,
- (5) Mortality among active members was updated to RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five year age set-back for both males and females,
- (6) Mortality among service retired members, and beneficiaries was updated to the following RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120% of male rates, and 110% of female rates, and
- (7) Mortality among disabled members was updated to RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90% for male rates and 100% for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement.

State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Changes in Benefit Terms:

2024: Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience as well as benefit changes effective January 1, 2024. The change in the subsidy percentage and the base amount for all retiree Non-Medicare Eligible (NME) participants, from 2.2% per year in last year's valuation to 2.5% per year, capped at 75%, as well as the unfreezing of the NME subsidy, the removal of the 6% cap on the year over year subsidy increase for Medicare Eligible (ME) participants, the changes in deductible and office visits copays for Aetna's Medicare Advantage plan, and updates in the medical and PBM vendor contracts. In addition, there were benefit changes related to the change in eligibility for unreduced Pension benefits.

2023: Salary increase rates were updated based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021 and were changed from age based to service based. Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience.

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

2022: The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2022 from 2.055% to 2.100%. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2022. The Medicare Part D subsidy was updated to reflect it is expected to be negative in CY2022. The Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

2021: There was no change to the claims costs process. Claim curves were updated to reflect the projected fiscal year end 2021 premium based on June 30, 2020 enrollment distribution. The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2021 from 1.984% to 2.055% per year of service. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2021. The Medicare subsidy percentages were adjusted effective January 1, 2021 to 2.1% for the AMA Medicare plan. The Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

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

2019: The subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was increased from 1.900% to 1.944% per year of service effective January 1, 2019. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2019 and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 1, 2020. The Board is extending the current Medicare Part B partial reimbursement program for one year. Under this program, benefit recipients currently enrolled in the STRS Ohio Health Care Program and Medicare Part B receive \$29.90 per month to reimburse a portion of the Medicare Part B premium. The reimbursement was set to be reduced to \$0 beginning January 1, 2020. This impacts about 85,000 benefit recipients.

2018: The subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was reduced from 2.10% to 1.90% per year of service. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were discontinued for certain survivors and beneficiaries and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 1, 2019.

2017: There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for this fiscal year.

Changes in Assumptions:

2024: Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience as well as benefit changes effective January 1, 2024. The change in the subsidy percentage and the base amount for all retiree Non-Medicare Eligible (NME) participants, from 2.2% per year in last year's valuation to 2.5% per year, capped at 75%, as well as the unfreezing of the NME subsidy, the removal of the 6% cap on the year over year subsidy increase for Medicare Eligible (ME) participants, the changes in deductible and office visits copays for Aetna's Medicare Advantage plan, and updates in the medical and PBM vendor contracts. In addition, there were benefit changes related to the change in eligibility for unreduced Pension benefits.

2023: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for these fiscal years.

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

2022: There were changes in assumptions since the prior measurement date, which the discount rate was adjusted to 7.00% from 7.45%.

2021: There were changes in assumptions during the measurement year, which decreased the total OPEB liability by approximately \$0.26 billion. The assumption changes included changes in healthcare costs and trends.

2020: There were changes in assumptions during the measurement year, which increased the total OPEB liability by approximately \$0.04 billion. The assumption changes included changes in healthcare costs and trends.

2019: The discount rate was increased from the blended rate of 4.13% to the long-term expected rate of return of 7.45% based on the methodology defined under GASB Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB). Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated.

2018: The discount rate was increased from 3.26% to 4.13% based on the methodology defined under GASB Statement No. 74, Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans (OPEB) and the long term expected rate of return was reduced from 7.75% to 7.45%. Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated, and the salary scale was modified. The percentage of future retirees electing each option was updated based on current data and the percentage of future disabled retirees and terminated vested participants electing health coverage were decreased. The assumed mortality, disability, retirement, withdrawal and future health care cost trend rates were modified along with the portion of rebated prescription drug costs.

2017: There were no changes in methods and assumptions used in the calculation of actuarial determined contributions for this fiscal year.

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**ROSS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUTLER COUNTY
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

FEDERAL GRANTOR Pass Through Grantor Program / Cluster Title	Assistance Listing Number	Pass Through Entity Identifying Number	Total Federal Expenditures
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE</u>			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce:</i>			
Child Nutrition Cluster:			
Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution):			
National School Lunch Program	10.555	3L60	\$76,630
Cash Assistance:			
School Breakfast Program	10.553	3L70	65,103
National School Lunch Program	10.555	3L60	394,668
COVID-19 National School Lunch Program	10.555	3L60	72,646
Total National School Lunch Program			<u>467,314</u>
Special Milk Program for Children	10.556	3L60	<u>1,961</u>
Total Child Nutrition Cluster			<u>611,008</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			<u>611,008</u>
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</u>			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce:</i>			
Special Education Cluster:			
Special Education-Grants to States	84.027	3M20	649,317
Special Education-Preschool Grants	84.173	3C50	<u>11,427</u>
Total Special Education Cluster			<u>660,744</u>
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund	84.425U	3HS0	87,183
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	3Y60	63,960
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	3M00	231,722
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	3H10	<u>42,296</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education			<u>1,085,905</u>
<u>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY</u>			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Facilities Construction Commission:</i>			
COVID-19 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	21.027	5CV3	<u>383,965</u>
Total U.S. Department of the Treasury			<u>383,965</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards			<u>\$2,080,878</u>

See accompanying notes to the schedule of expenditures of federal awards.

**ROSS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUTLER COUNTY
NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE A - BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Ross Local School District (the District) under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2024. The information on this Schedule is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows 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 allowed 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 fair value. The District allocated donated food commodities to the respective program that benefitted from the use of those donated food commodities.



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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**

Ross Local School District
Butler County
3371 Hamilton Cleves Road
Ross, Ohio 45013

To the Board of Education:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Ross Local School District, Butler 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 January 22, 2026.

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 opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

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

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2024-001 that we consider to be a significant deficiency.

Ross Local School District
Butler County
Independent Auditor's Report On Internal Control Over
Financial Reporting And On Compliance And Other Matters
Required By *Government Auditing Standards*
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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 no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

District's Response to Finding

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

Purpose of This Report

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
Ohio Auditor of State



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

January 22, 2026



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

Ross Local School District
Butler County
3371 Hamilton Cleves Road
Ross, Ohio 45013

To the Board of Education:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Ross Local School District's, Butler County, (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 Ross Local School District's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. Ross 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, Ross 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.

Ross Local School District

Butler 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

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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

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

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

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

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

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

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

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

Ross Local School District

Butler 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

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

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

KEITH FABER
Ohio Auditor of State



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

January 22, 2026

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ROSS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
BUTLER 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)?	Yes
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(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):	10.553/10.555/10.556 Child Nutrition Cluster 84.027/84.173 Special Education Cluster (IDEA)
(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

Significant Deficiency

Sound accounting practices require that when designing the public office's system of internal control and the specific control activities, management should ensure adequate security of assets and records and verify the existence and valuation of assets and liabilities and periodically reconcile them to the accounting records.

FINDING NUMBER 2024-001
(Continued)

The reconciliation of cash (bank) balances to accounting system records (book) is the most basic and primary control process performed. Lack of completing an accurate and timely reconciliation may allow for accounting errors, theft, and fraud to occur without timely detection.

The Treasurer is responsible for reconciling the book (fund) balance to the total bank balance on a monthly basis, and the Board and/or other administrator are responsible for reviewing the reconciliations and related support.

Due to a lack of controls over the financial recording and reporting process we noted the following during testing. Monthly bank to book reconciliations were prepared by the Treasurer. The Auditor of State noted inconsistencies with the June 30, 2024, reconciliation and brought them to the Treasurer's attention. The District hired a consulting firm which identified \$327,031 of various mispostings throughout the year. After working on the reconciliation, the reconciliation showed an unreconciled difference of \$42,422 carried forward from prior years.

Failure to accurately reconcile monthly increases the possibility that the District will not be able to identify, assemble, analyze, classify, and record its transactions correctly or to document compliance with finance related legal and contractual requirements. Further, the lack of accurate monthly reconciliations increases the risk of theft/fraud over the cash cycle and could lead to inaccurate reporting in the annual financial statements.

The Treasurer should establish and implement control procedures to ensure all transactions are properly recorded and monthly bank to book cash reconciliations are prepared in a timely manner, which include all bank accounts and all fund balances. Variances should be investigated, documented and corrected. In addition, the Board and/or other administrator should review the monthly cash reconciliations including the related support (such as reconciling items) and document the reviews.

Officials' Response:

The District recognizes the importance of a monthly reconciliation process as an essential and effective control to ensure the bank statements and financial statements are balanced on an ongoing basis. The District experienced a significant turnover in the Treasurer's position between FY21 and FY24, with four different Treasurers across those four fiscal years, resulting in reconciliation of prior fiscal years not being balanced from one year to the next. We've worked on an ongoing basis over the past two years with a consultant accountant to examine and recreate those reconciliations, ensuring compliance and an effective monthly reconciliation process is in place moving forward.

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None noted.

Ross Local School District

SUPERINTENDENT (513) 863-1253

TREASURER (513) 863-1250

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ROSS MIDDLE SCHOOL
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Hamilton, Ohio 45013
(513) 863-1251

ROSS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
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Hamilton, Ohio 45013
(513) 868-4550

ELDA ELEMENTARY
3980 Hamilton-Cleves Rd.
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
(513) 738-1972

MORGAN ELEMENTARY
3427 Chapel Rd.
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
(513) 738-1986

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

Finding Number:

2024-001

Planned Corrective Action:

We've worked on an ongoing basis with a consultant accountant to examine and recreate prior years' monthly reconciliations, ensuring compliance and that an effective monthly reconciliation process is in place moving forward.

Anticipated Completion Date:

03/31/2026

Responsible Contact Person:

Steve Castator, Treasurer

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



ROSS LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUTLER 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 2/3/2026

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Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at
www.ohioauditor.gov