

**LIBERTY LOCAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

SINGLE AUDIT REPORT

**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Zupka & Associates
Certified Public Accountants



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Board of Education
Liberty Local School District
4115 Shady Road
Youngstown, Ohio 44505

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

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

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

April 25, 2025

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**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO
SINGLE AUDIT REPORT
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Liberty Local School District
Trumbull County
4115 Shady Road
Youngstown, Ohio 44505

To the Members of the Board of Education:

Report on the Financial Statements

Opinions

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

In our opinion, the 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 Liberty Local School District as of June 30, 2024, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with 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 (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

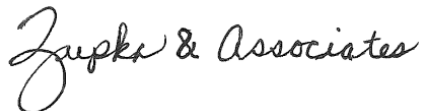
Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the Management's Discussion and Analysis, the Schedule of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual (Non-GAAP Budgetary Basis) – General Fund, and the Schedules of Net Pension and Postemployment Benefit Liabilities and Pension and Postemployment Benefit Contributions, as listed in the table of contents, 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 is presented for purposes of additional analysis 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, 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 30, 2025, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and on 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.



Zupka & Associates
Certified Public Accountants

January 30, 2025

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**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for fiscal year 2024 are as follows:

- Outstanding long-term obligations decreased \$301,056 from fiscal year 2023. The decrease was due to a decrease in net pension liability coupled with slight increases in net OPEB liability and other long-term obligations.
- The School District's enrollment decreased from fiscal year 2023 to fiscal year 2024.
- The School District has three Emergency Levies that need to be renewed every five years. These levies must pass by majority vote of the community in order for the School District to keep collecting their related tax revenue.

Using this Financial Report

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

Reporting the School District as a Whole

Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities

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

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

In the statement of net position and the statement of activities, the governmental activities include the School District's programs and services, including instruction, support services, operation and maintenance of plant, pupil transportation, extracurricular activities, and food service operations.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

Reporting the School District's Most Significant Funds

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the School District's major funds. The School District uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions. However, these fund financial statements focus on the School District's most significant funds. The School District's major governmental funds are the general and bond retirement fund. All of the funds of the School District are governmental.

Governmental Funds

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

Notes to the Basic Financial Statements

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

Required Supplementary Information

The required supplementary information provides detailed information regarding the School District's general fund budgetary information, proportionate share of the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability/asset of the retirement systems. It also includes a ten year schedule of the School District's contributions to the retirement systems to fund pension and OPEB obligations.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

The School District as a Whole

The statement of net position provides the perspective of the School District as a whole. The following table provides a summary of the School District's net position at June 30, 2024 and 2023.

	Net Position	
	Governmental Activities 2024	Governmental Activities 2023
<u>Assets</u>		
Current and other assets	\$ 20,806,521	\$ 20,443,576
Net OPEB asset	946,726	1,287,186
Capital assets, net	<u>10,218,375</u>	<u>10,243,865</u>
Total assets	<u>31,971,622</u>	<u>31,974,627</u>
<u>Deferred outflows of resources</u>		
Pension	2,690,128	3,185,447
OPEB	<u>569,155</u>	<u>318,012</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>3,259,283</u>	<u>3,503,459</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>		
Current liabilities	1,607,019	2,892,497
Long-term liabilities:		
Due within one year	274,649	259,242
Due in more than one year:		
Net pension liability	13,299,665	13,687,878
Net OPEB liability	861,253	704,913
Other amounts	<u>4,884,414</u>	<u>4,969,004</u>
Long-term liabilities	<u>19,319,981</u>	<u>19,621,037</u>
Total liabilities	<u>20,927,000</u>	<u>22,513,534</u>
<u>Deferred inflows of resources</u>		
Property taxes levied for the next fiscal year	9,236,789	9,674,316
Pension	1,439,153	1,984,358
OPEB	<u>1,647,746</u>	<u>2,079,567</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>12,323,688</u>	<u>13,738,241</u>
<u>Net position</u>		
Net investment in capital assets	8,599,361	8,450,648
Restricted	4,969,793	3,886,140
Unrestricted (deficit)	<u>(11,588,937)</u>	<u>(13,110,477)</u>
Total net position (deficit)	<u>\$ 1,980,217</u>	<u>\$ (773,689)</u>

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

In accordance with GASB 68 and GASB 75, the School District's statements prepared on an accrual basis of accounting include an annual pension expense and an annual OPEB expense for their proportionate share of each plan's *change* in net pension liability and net OPEB liability, respectively, not accounted for as deferred inflows/outflows. By comparing assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources, one can see the overall position of the School District has improved as evidenced by the increase in net position. Changes in the net investment in capital assets and unrestricted net position were the main contributors to the change in net position.

Current assets increased mainly due to an increase in cash and cash equivalents, decrease in intergovernmental receivables, and decrease in property tax receivables. The increase in cash and cash equivalents is due to the increase in the receipt of federal grants as well as the increase in expenditures. The decrease in intergovernmental receivables can be attributed to a decrease in federal grants carrying into the new fiscal year compared to the prior year. The decrease in the net OPEB asset represents the School District's proportionate share of the funded benefits. The decrease in capital assets was due to current year additions offset by an additional year of depreciation being charged.

The School District had a decrease in total liabilities which can be attributed primarily to a decrease in the net pension liability and accounts payable. The net pension liability decrease represents the School District's proportionate share of the unfunded benefits. As indicated previously, changes in pension benefits, assumptions, contribution rates, and return on investments affect the balance of the net pension and net OPEB liabilities. The effect of these changes is amortized over time with the amounts that still needing to be amortized reported as deferred outflows and inflows related to pension and OPEB. Accounts payable decreased due to contracts payable for a School District Construction project that was outstanding at June 30, 2023.

The following table shows the change in net position for fiscal years 2024 and 2023.

	Change in Net Position	
	Governmental Activities <u>2024</u>	Governmental Activities <u>2023</u>
<u>Revenues</u>		
Program revenues:		
Charges for services and sales	\$ 622,162	\$ 784,096
Operating grants and contributions	4,422,300	5,155,189
Capital grants and contributions	298,926	17,512
General revenues:		
Property taxes	8,697,463	8,589,821
Grants and entitlements	6,144,325	5,650,199
Investment earnings	189,107	78,381
Miscellaneous	<u>105,191</u>	<u>174,700</u>
Total revenues	<u>20,479,474</u>	<u>20,449,898</u>
		- Continued

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

	Change in Net Position - (Continued)	
	Governmental Activities 2024	Governmental Activities 2023
<u>Expenses</u>		
Program expenses:		
Instruction:		
Regular	7,630,728	8,397,060
Special	2,567,453	2,178,278
Support services:		
Pupil	865,799	871,006
Instructional staff	367,035	355,257
Board of education	28,196	19,709
Administration	1,442,527	1,583,419
Fiscal	485,701	471,411
Operations and maintenance	2,084,897	1,186,060
Pupil transportation	750,960	804,401
Central	135,151	129,551
Food service operations	695,343	523,295
Other non-instructional services	28,900	30,713
Extracurricular activities	442,445	439,552
Interest and fiscal charges	200,433	206,321
Total	17,725,568	17,196,033
Change in net position	2,753,906	3,253,865
Net position (deficit) at beginning of year	(773,689)	(4,027,554)
Net position (deficit) at end of year	<u>\$ 1,980,217</u>	<u>\$ (773,689)</u>

Governmental Activities

The School District relies heavily upon property taxes and the State School Foundation Program to support its operations. The School District also actively solicits and receives additional grant and entitlement funds to help offset operating costs. The decrease in operating grants is due to less ESSER funding in fiscal year 2024 compared to fiscal year 2023. One of the largest grants received was the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief grants. There was an increase in property tax collections when compared to the prior year due to an increase in assessed values. The decrease in charges for services and sales can be attributed to the drop in tuition and fees revenue in fiscal year 2024.

Instructional expenses compose the largest portion of all program expenses for the School District. These expenses pay for teacher salaries and benefits, which increase at set levels every year based on negotiated agreements. Overall, total governmental expenses increased \$529,535 due to the standard increases in expenses across the board.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

The statement of activities shows the cost of program services and the charges for services and grants offsetting those services. The following table 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 grants and entitlements.

	Total Cost of Services <u>2024</u>	Net Cost of Services <u>2024</u>	Total Cost of Services <u>2023</u>	Net Cost of Services <u>2023</u>
Program expenses				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$ 7,630,728	\$ 6,214,282	\$ 8,397,060	\$ 6,630,160
Special	2,567,453	1,233,289	2,178,278	1,225,042
Support services:				
Pupil	865,799	540,472	871,006	442,737
Instructional staff	367,035	155,535	355,257	153,157
Board of education	28,196	28,196	19,709	19,709
Administration	1,442,527	1,405,154	1,583,419	1,394,254
Fiscal	485,701	485,701	471,411	471,411
Operations and maintenance	2,084,897	1,103,805	1,186,060	(41,408)
Pupil transportation	750,960	694,314	804,401	502,691
Central	135,151	135,151	129,551	129,551
Food service operations	695,343	(130,913)	523,295	(222,700)
Other non-instructional services	28,900	(8,889)	30,713	6,900
Extracurricular activities	442,445	325,650	439,552	321,411
Interest and fiscal charges	200,433	200,433	206,321	206,321
Total	<u>\$ 17,725,568</u>	<u>\$ 12,382,180</u>	<u>\$ 17,196,033</u>	<u>\$ 11,239,236</u>

The dependence upon general revenues for governmental activities is apparent. The majority of instructional activities are supported through taxes and other general revenues.

Financial Analysis of the Government's Funds

Governmental Funds

Information about the School District's major funds begins with the balance sheet. These funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. All governmental funds had total revenues and other financing sources of \$21,099,568 and expenditures and other financing uses of \$18,748,531. The general fund had an increase in fund balance even while both revenues and expenditures increased. The property tax revenue increase can be attributed to the rise in assessed values as well as intergovernmental revenue increased. The School District continued to utilize grants such as the ESSER grants to reduce general fund expenditures for the fiscal year. The bond retirement fund had an increase in fund balance mainly due to an increase in investment revenue compared to the prior year.

General Fund Budgeting Highlights

The School District's budget is prepared according to Ohio law and is based on accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements and encumbrances. The most significant fund to be budgeted is the main operating fund of the School District, the general fund. During the course of fiscal year 2024, the School District amended its general fund budget numerous times. The School District uses site- based budgeting and the budgeting systems are designed to tightly control total site budgets but provide flexibility for site management.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

For the general fund, the final budget basis revenue estimate was higher than the original budget estimate. The difference can be attributed to an increase in property taxes and interest revenues. These revenue line items fluctuate year to year and are budgeted on a conservative basis to avoid revenue overestimation. Actual revenue was in line with final budget basis revenue. The final budget appropriations were higher than the original budget appropriations of the general fund. The change was attributed to an increase in regular instruction and administration support services. The School District's actual expenditures were in line with the final budgeted appropriations.

Capital Assets and Debt Administration

Capital Assets

At the end of fiscal year 2024, the School District had \$10,218,375 invested in land, land improvements, buildings and improvements, furniture and fixtures, vehicles and intangible right-to-use assets (net of accumulated depreciation/amortization). The following table shows fiscal year 2024 balances compared to 2023.

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

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>	
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Land	\$ 349,160	\$ 349,160
Land improvements	563,553	497,207
Buildings and improvements	7,343,643	6,248,095
Furniture and fixtures	1,211,788	1,291,875
Vehicles	673,578	755,323
Intangible right-to-use assets	76,653	102,204
Construction in progress	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000,001</u>
Total	<u>\$ 10,218,375</u>	<u>\$ 10,243,865</u>

The decrease in capital assets was due to additions not exceeding current year depreciation/amortization expense in the current year. For more information about the School District's capital assets, see Note 8 to the basic financial statements.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

Debt Administration

At June 30, 2024, the School District had \$18,120,532 in long-term liabilities outstanding. Of this total, \$182,283 is due within one year and \$17,938,249 is due in greater than one year. The following table summarizes the bonds outstanding.

Outstanding Debt, at Year-End

	Governmental Activities	
	2024	2023
2019 Energy Savings Project Note	\$ 1,171,139	\$ 1,258,908
2019 Turf Athletic Field Note	359,863	422,994
2011 Energy Conservation Improvement Bonds	2,327,350	2,327,350
Net Pension Liability	13,299,665	13,687,878
Net OPEB Liability	861,253	704,913
Asset Retirement Obligation	13,250	13,250
Leases Payable	88,012	111,315
Total	<u>\$ 18,120,532</u>	<u>\$ 18,526,608</u>

During fiscal year 2019, the School District issued long-term notes for an energy savings project and for a turf athletic field. The 2011 energy conservation improvement bonds were issued to provide for energy improvements to various School District buildings.

The School District's overall legal debt margin was \$29,828,958 with an unvoted debt margin of \$323,144. For more information about the School District's long-term obligations, see Note 9 to the basic financial statements for additional information.

School District Outlook

The Board of Education and administration closely monitor revenues and expenditures in accordance with its financial forecast. The financial future of the School District will continue to face challenges. These challenges stem from issues that are at both the local and State levels. The local challenges will continue to exist, as the School District must rely heavily on property taxes to fund its operations.

Due to the unsettled issues in school funding, management is required to plan carefully and prudently to provide the resources to meet student needs over the next several years.

In conclusion, all of the School District's financial abilities will be needed to meet the challenges of the future.

Contacting the School District's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, investors and creditors with a general overview of the School District's finances and to show the School District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information contact Stacy Foster, Interim Treasurer, Liberty Local School District, 4115 Shady Road, Youngstown, Ohio 44505-1395.

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**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION
JUNE 30, 2024

	Governmental Activities
Assets:	
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	\$ 7,586,773
Cash with fiscal agent	2,390,026
Receivables:	
Property taxes	10,457,924
Accounts	2,000
Intergovernmental	318,702
Prepayments	23,124
Materials and supplies inventory	20,499
Inventory held for resale	7,473
Net OPEB asset	946,726
Capital assets:	
Nondepreciable capital assets	349,160
Depreciable capital assets, net	9,869,215
Capital assets, net	10,218,375
Total assets	31,971,622
Deferred outflows of resources:	
Pension	2,690,128
OPEB	569,155
Total deferred outflows of resources	3,259,283
Liabilities:	
Accounts payable	17,256
Accrued wages and benefits payable	1,312,380
Intergovernmental payable	40,813
Pension and postemployment benefits payable	213,508
Accrued interest payable	21,988
Unearned revenue	1,074
Long-term liabilities:	
Due within one year	274,649
Due in more than one year:	
Net pension liability	13,299,665
Net OPEB liability	861,253
Other amounts due in more than one year	4,884,414
Total liabilities	20,927,000
Deferred inflows of resources:	
Property taxes levied for the next fiscal year	9,236,789
Pension	1,439,153
OPEB	1,647,746
Total deferred inflows of resources	12,323,688
Net position:	
Net investment in capital assets	8,599,361
Restricted for:	
Capital projects	833,995
OPEB	946,726
Honors program - nonexpendable	17,144
Debt service	2,266,427
State funded programs	54,653
Food service operations	739,143
Student activities	49,673
Other purposes	62,032
Unrestricted (deficit)	(11,588,937)
Total net position	\$ 1,980,217

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, 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	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
Governmental activities:					
Instruction:					
Regular	\$ 7,630,728	\$ 87,416	\$ 1,329,030	\$ -	\$ (6,214,282)
Special	2,567,453	114,148	1,220,016	-	(1,233,289)
Support services:					
Pupil	865,799	-	325,327	-	(540,472)
Instructional staff	367,035	-	211,500	-	(155,535)
Board of education	28,196	-	-	-	(28,196)
Administration	1,442,527	-	37,373	-	(1,405,154)
Fiscal	485,701	-	-	-	(485,701)
Operations and maintenance	2,084,897	220,452	461,714	298,926	(1,103,805)
Pupil transportation	750,960	628	56,018	-	(694,314)
Central	135,151	-	-	-	(135,151)
Operation of non-instructional services:					
Food service operations	695,343	86,711	739,545	-	130,913
Other non-instructional services	28,900	-	37,789	-	8,889
Extracurricular activities	442,445	112,807	3,988	-	(325,650)
Interest and fiscal charges	200,433	-	-	-	(200,433)
Totals	\$ 17,725,568	\$ 622,162	\$ 4,422,300	\$ 298,926	(12,382,180)

General revenues:

Property taxes levied for:

 General purposes

8,550,365

 Capital outlay

147,098

Grants and entitlements not restricted

 to specific programs

6,144,325

Investment earnings

189,107

Miscellaneous

105,191

Total general revenues

15,136,086

Change in net position

2,753,906

Net position (deficit) at beginning of year

(773,689)

Net position at end of year

\$ 1,980,217

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2024

	General	Bond Retirement	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:				
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,774,736	\$ -	\$ 1,751,269	\$ 7,526,005
Cash with fiscal agent	-	2,390,026	-	2,390,026
Receivables:				
Property taxes	10,291,208	-	166,716	10,457,924
Accounts	2,000	-	-	2,000
Interfund loans	289,854	-	-	289,854
Intergovernmental	22,691	-	296,011	318,702
Prepayments	23,124	-	-	23,124
Materials and supplies inventory	18,699	-	1,800	20,499
Inventory held for resale	-	-	7,473	7,473
Restricted assets:				
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	60,768	-	-	60,768
Total assets	<u>\$ 16,483,080</u>	<u>\$ 2,390,026</u>	<u>\$ 2,223,269</u>	<u>\$ 21,096,375</u>
Liabilities:				
Accounts payable	\$ 11,159	\$ -	\$ 6,097	\$ 17,256
Accrued wages and benefits payable	1,174,981	-	137,399	1,312,380
Compensated absences payable	40,728	-	-	40,728
Intergovernmental payable	39,104	-	1,709	40,813
Pension and postemployment benefits payable	187,310	-	26,198	213,508
Interfund loans payable	-	113,068	176,786	289,854
Unearned revenue	-	-	1,074	1,074
Total liabilities	<u>1,453,282</u>	<u>113,068</u>	<u>349,263</u>	<u>1,915,613</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:				
Property taxes levied for the next fiscal year	9,089,272	-	147,517	9,236,789
Delinquent property tax revenue not available	1,163,403	-	18,584	1,181,987
Intergovernmental revenue not available	22,691	-	40,133	62,824
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>10,275,366</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>206,234</u>	<u>10,481,600</u>
Fund balances:				
Nonspendable:				
Materials and supplies inventory	18,699	-	1,800	20,499
Prepays	23,124	-	-	23,124
Permanent fund - Honors Program	-	-	17,144	17,144
Unclaimed monies	60,768	-	-	60,768
Restricted:				
Debt service	-	2,276,958	-	2,276,958
Capital improvements	-	-	815,411	815,411
Food service operations	-	-	767,960	767,960
Non-public schools	-	-	33,243	33,243
State funded programs	-	-	21,410	21,410
Extracurricular	-	-	49,673	49,673
Other purposes	-	-	1,264	1,264
Assigned:				
Student instruction	36,898	-	-	36,898
Student and staff support	202,906	-	-	202,906
Unassigned (deficit)	4,412,037	-	(40,133)	4,371,904
Total fund balances	<u>4,754,432</u>	<u>2,276,958</u>	<u>1,667,772</u>	<u>8,699,162</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows and fund balances	<u>\$ 16,483,080</u>	<u>\$ 2,390,026</u>	<u>\$ 2,223,269</u>	<u>\$ 21,096,375</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

RECONCILIATION OF TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCES TO
NET POSITION OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES
JUNE 30, 2024

Total governmental fund balances		\$ 8,699,162
<i>Amounts reported for governmental activities on the statement of net position are different because:</i>		
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the funds.		10,218,375
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current-period expenditures and therefore are deferred inflows in the funds.		
Property taxes receivable	\$ 1,181,987	
Intergovernmental receivable	62,824	
Total		1,244,811
Accrued interest payable is not due and payable in the current period and therefore is not reported in the funds.		(21,988)
The net pension/OPEB assets & liabilities are not due and payable in the current period; therefore, the assets, liabilities and related deferred inflows/outflows are not reported in governmental funds.		
Deferred outflows - pension	2,690,128	
Deferred inflows - pension	(1,439,153)	
Net pension liability	(13,299,665)	
Deferred outflows - OPEB	569,155	
Deferred inflows - OPEB	(1,647,746)	
Net OPEB asset	946,726	
Net OPEB liability	(861,253)	
Total		(13,041,808)
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds.		
General obligation bonds	(2,327,350)	
Leases payable	(88,012)	
Compensated absences	(1,158,721)	
Asset retirement obligation	(13,250)	
Notes payable	(1,531,002)	
Total		(5,118,335)
Net position of governmental activities		<u><u>\$ 1,980,217</u></u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	General	Bond Retirement	(Formerly Major) Permanent Improvement	(Formerly Major) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Revenues:						
Property taxes	\$ 8,590,568	\$ -			\$ 150,182	\$ 8,740,750
Intergovernmental	7,013,014	-			4,011,066	11,024,080
Investment earnings	77,665	111,442			9,585	198,692
Tuition and fees	288,472	-			-	288,472
Extracurricular	2,000	-			111,435	113,435
Rental income	220,452	-			-	220,452
Charges for services	-	-			86,711	86,711
Contributions and donations	1,500	-			5,539	7,039
Miscellaneous	103,691	-			3,676	107,367
Total revenues	<u>16,297,362</u>	<u>111,442</u>			<u>4,378,194</u>	<u>20,786,998</u>
Expenditures:						
Current:						
Instruction:						
Regular	6,633,537	-			1,176,219	7,809,756
Special	2,090,756	-			509,798	2,600,554
Support services:						
Pupil	735,756	-			140,814	876,570
Instructional staff	206,249	-			159,958	366,207
Board of education	28,644	-			-	28,644
Administration	1,482,458	-			23,182	1,505,640
Fiscal	534,425	-			-	534,425
Operations and maintenance	1,174,622	-			773,396	1,948,018
Pupil transportation	724,544	-			19,157	743,701
Central	109,600	-			-	109,600
Operation of non-instructional services:						
Food service operations	-	-			690,703	690,703
Other non-instructional services	7,741	-			36,032	43,773
Extracurricular activities	292,856	-			162,162	455,018
Facilities acquisition and construction	-	-			347,007	347,007
Debt service:						
Principal retirement	174,203	-			-	174,203
Interest and fiscal charges	75,268	126,874			-	202,142
Total expenditures	<u>14,270,659</u>	<u>126,874</u>			<u>4,038,428</u>	<u>18,435,961</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>2,026,703</u>	<u>(15,432)</u>			<u>339,766</u>	<u>2,351,037</u>
Other financing sources (uses):						
Transfers in	-	165,000			147,570	312,570
Transfers (out)	(312,570)	-			-	(312,570)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(312,570)</u>	<u>165,000</u>			<u>147,570</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balances	1,714,133	149,568			487,336	2,351,037
Fund balances (deficits) as previously reported	3,040,299	2,127,390	707,764	(226,550)	699,222	6,348,125
Adjustment - changes in major fund to nonmajor fund	-	-	(707,764)	226,550	481,214	-
Fund balances at beginning of year, as adjusted	<u>3,040,299</u>	<u>2,127,390</u>			<u>1,180,436</u>	<u>6,348,125</u>
Fund balances at end of year	<u>\$ 4,754,432</u>	<u>\$ 2,276,958</u>			<u>\$ 1,667,772</u>	<u>\$ 8,699,162</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES
AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Net change in fund balances - total governmental funds	\$	2,351,037
<i>Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities are different because:</i>		
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation/amortization expense.		
Capital asset additions	\$ 814,958	
Current year depreciation/amortization	<u>(840,448)</u>	
Total		(25,490)
Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.		
Property taxes	(43,287)	
Intergovernmental	(177,329)	
Other revenue	<u>(86,908)</u>	
Total		(307,524)
Repayment of note and lease principal is an expenditure in the governmental funds, but the repayment reduces long-term liabilities on the statement of net position.		
		174,203
In the statement of activities, interest is accrued on outstanding bonds, whereas in governmental funds, an interest expenditure is reported when due. The following items resulted in additional interest being reported in the statement of activities:		
Change in accrued interest payable	<u>1,709</u>	
Total		1,709
Contractually required contributions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds; however, the statement of net position reports these amounts as deferred outflows.		
Pension	1,223,747	
OPEB	<u>33,873</u>	
Total		1,257,620
Except for amounts reported as deferred inflows/outflows, changes in the net pension/OPEB liability/asset are reported as pension/OPEB expense in the statement of activities.		
Pension	(785,648)	
OPEB	<u>152,291</u>	
Total		(633,357)
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities, such as compensated absences, do not require the use of current financial resources and therefore are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.		
		<u>(64,292)</u>
Change in net position of governmental activities	\$	<u>2,753,906</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Liberty Local School District (the "School District") is a body politic and corporate established for the purpose of exercising the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. The School District is located in Northeast Ohio, in Trumbull County, in the greater metropolitan Youngstown area.

The School District operates under a locally-elected five-member Board form of government and provides educational services as mandated by State and Federal agencies. The Board of Education controls the School District's elementary school and middle/high school staffed by 59 non-certified personnel, 91 certificated personnel, and 11 administrators, who provide services to 1,222 students and other community members.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the 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. Following are the more significant of the School District's accounting policies.

A. Reporting Entity

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

Non-public Schools Within the School District boundaries, there are various non-public schools. Current State legislature provides funding to these non-public schools. These monies are received and disbursed on behalf of the non-public school by the Treasurer of the School District, as directed by the non-public school. These transactions are reported in a special revenue fund and as a governmental activity of the School District.

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

The School District is associated with two jointly governed organizations. These organizations are the Northeast Ohio Management Information Network and the Trumbull Career and Technical Center. These organizations are presented in Note 11 to the basic financial statements.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

B. Basis of Presentation

The School District's basic financial statements consist of government-wide statements, including a statement of net position and a statement of activities and fund financial statements which provide a more detailed level of financial information.

Government-wide Financial Statements The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the School District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government. These statements usually distinguish between those activities of the School District that are governmental and those that are considered business-type. The School District, however, has no business-type activities.

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

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

C. Fund Accounting

The School District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. In reporting its financial activities, the School District uses governmental funds.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

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

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

General Fund The general fund is the operating fund of the School District and is used to account for and report all financial resources except those required to be accounted for and reported 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.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

Bond Retirement Fund The bond retirement fund accounts for and reports the accumulation of property tax revenues restricted for the payment of principal and interest and fiscal charges on general obligation debt.

Other governmental funds of the School District are used to account for:

Nonmajor special revenue funds - Special revenue funds are used to account for and report the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are restricted or committed to expenditure for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects.

Nonmajor capital projects funds - Capital projects funds are used to account for and report financial resources that are restricted, committed, or assigned to expenditure for capital outlays, including the acquisition or construction of capital facilities and other capital assets.

Nonmajor permanent funds - Permanent funds are used to account for and report resources that are restricted to the extent that only earnings, and not principal, may be used for purposes that support the reporting government's programs – that is, for the benefit of the government or its citizenry.

D. Measurement Focus

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

Fund Financial Statements All governmental funds are accounted for using a flow of current financial resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, only current assets and deferred outflows of resources and current liabilities and deferred inflows of resources, generally are included on the balance sheet. The statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances reports on the sources (e.g., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (e.g., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

E. Basis of Accounting

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

Revenues – Exchange and Non-Exchange Transactions Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place. On a modified accrual basis, revenue is recorded in the fiscal year in which the resources are measurable and become available. Available means that the resources will be collected within the current fiscal year or are expected to be collected soon enough thereafter to be used to pay liabilities of the current fiscal year. For the School District, available means expected to be received within sixty days of fiscal year-end.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

Nonexchange transactions, in which the School District receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include property taxes, grants, entitlements, and donations. On an accrual basis, revenue from property taxes is recognized in the fiscal year in which the taxes are levied (see Note 5). Revenue from grants, entitlements and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the School District must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose, and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the School District on a reimbursement basis. On a modified accrual basis, revenue from nonexchange transactions must also be available before it can be recognized.

Under the modified accrual basis, the following revenue sources are considered to be both measurable and available at fiscal year-end: property taxes available as an advance, investment earnings/interest, tuition, grants, fees and rentals.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources In addition to assets, the statements of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represents a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. For the School District, deferred outflows of resources are reported on the government-wide statement of net position for pension and OPEB plans. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are explained in Notes 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 period and will not be recognized until that time. For the School District, deferred inflows of resources include property taxes, pension, OPEB plans and unavailable revenue. Property taxes represent amounts for which there is an enforceable legal claim as of June 30, 2024, but which were levied to finance fiscal year 2025 operations. These amounts have been recorded as a deferred inflow on both the government-wide statement of net position and the governmental fund financial statements. Unavailable revenue is reported only on the governmental funds balance sheet and represents receivables which will not be collected within the available period. For the School District, unavailable revenue includes delinquent property taxes, intergovernmental revenues and tuition and fees. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period the amounts become available. The details of these unavailable revenues are identified on the reconciliation of total governmental fund balances to net position of governmental activities found on page 17. Deferred inflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are reported on the government-wide statement of net position (see Notes 13 and 14).

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

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

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

F. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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. Interest in the pool is presented as "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents" on the financial statements.

Investments were limited to money market mutual funds and STAR Ohio. Investments are reported at fair value which is based on quoted market prices.

STAR Ohio (the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio) is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 79, *Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants*. The School District measures its investment in STAR Ohio at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

There were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, 24 hours advance notice for deposits and withdrawals of \$100 million or more is appreciated. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$250 million per day.

The School District utilizes a financial institution to set aside the mandatory sinking fund payments required for the energy conservation improvement qualified school construction bonds. The balances in these accounts are presented as "cash and cash equivalents with fiscal agent."

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Education has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Investment Earnings/Interest revenue credited to the general fund during fiscal year 2024 amounted to \$77,665, of which \$15,158 is assigned from other School District funds.

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

G. Prepaids

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

H. Inventory

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

I. Restricted Assets

Assets are reported as restricted when limitations on their use change in nature or normal understanding of the availability of the asset. Such constraints are either externally imposed by creditors, contributors, grantors, laws of other governments, or imposed by law through constitutional provisions. Restricted assets in the general fund represent money set aside as unclaimed monies.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

J. Capital Assets

The School District's only capital assets are general capital assets. These assets generally result from expenditures in the governmental funds. These assets are reported in the governmental activities column of the government-wide statement of net position but are not reported in the fund financial statements.

All capital assets (except for intangible right-to-use assets which are discussed below) are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost) and updated for additions and retirements during the year. The School District was able to estimate the historical cost for the initial reporting of assets by backtrending (i.e., estimating the current replacement cost of the asset to be capitalized and using an appropriate price-level index to deflate the cost to the acquisition year or estimated acquisition year.) Donated capital assets are recorded at their acquisition values as of the date received. The School District maintains a capitalization threshold of \$5,000. 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.

All reported capital assets, except land and construction in progress, are depreciated/amortized. Improvements are depreciated/amortized over the remaining useful lives of the related capital assets. Depreciation/amortization is computed using the straight-line method over the following useful lives:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Governmental Activities Estimated Lives</u>
Land improvements	20 years
Buildings and improvements	10 - 50 years
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	5 - 15 years
Vehicles	7 - 10 years
Intangible right-to-use assets	2 - 6 years

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

K. Compensated Absences

Vacation benefits are accrued as a liability as the benefits are earned if the employees' rights to receive compensation are attributable to services already rendered and it is probable that the employer will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means. The School District records a liability for accumulated unused vacation time when earned for 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 School District records a liability for accumulated unused sick leave for all employees with ten years of service at any age within the School District.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

L. Leases Payable

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

Lessee At the commencement of a lease, the School District initially measures the lease liability at the present value of payments expected to be made during the lease term. Subsequently, the lease liability is reduced by the principal portion of lease payments made. The lease asset is initially measured as the initial amount of the lease liability, adjusted for lease payments made at or before the lease commencement date, plus certain initial direct costs. Subsequently, the lease asset is amortized on a straight-line basis over its useful life. Lease assets are reported with other capital assets and lease liabilities are reported with long-term debt on the statement of net position.

M. Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Debt

All payables accrued liabilities and long-term obligations are reported in the government-wide financial statements. In general, governmental fund payables and accrued liabilities that, once incurred, are paid in a timely manner and in full from current financial resources, are reported as obligations of the funds; however, compensated absences that will be paid from governmental funds are reported as a liability in the fund financial statements only to the extent that they are due for payment during the current fiscal year. Long-term notes, bonds, and leases are recognized as a liability on the fund financial statements when due. Net pension/OPEB liabilities should be recognized in the governmental funds to the extent that benefit payments are due and payable and the pension/OPEB plans' fiduciary net position is not sufficient for payment of those benefits.

N. Internal Activity

Transfers between governmental funds are eliminated on the government-wide financial statements. Internal events that are allocations of overhead expenses from one function to another or within the same function are eliminated on the statement of activities. Interfund payments for services provided and used are not eliminated.

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

O. Fund Balance

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

Nonspendable The nonspendable fund balance category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The "not in spendable form" criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash.

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

Committed The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by the highest level formal action (resolution) of the School District Board of Education. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the School District Board of Education removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts. Committed fund balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

Assigned Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the School District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. These amounts are assigned by the School District Board of Education. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the School District Board of Education or by a School District official delegated that authority by State statute. State statute authorizes the Treasurer to assign fund balance for purchases on order provided such amounts have been lawfully appropriated. The Board of Education assigned fund balance for special trust and public school support.

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

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.

P. Net Position

Net position represents the difference between all other elements in a statement of financial position. 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 improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. Restricted net position for OPEB plans represent the corresponding restricted asset amounts after considering the related deferred outflows and deferred inflows. Net position restricted for other purposes include resources restricted for other local grants and unclaimed monies.

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

Q. Interfund Balances

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

R. Unearned Revenue

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

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

S. Estimates

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

T. Budgetary Data

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

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 and final budgeted amounts in the budgetary statements reflect the amounts in the amended certificate when the original and final appropriations were passed by the Board of Education. Prior to June 30, the Board requested and received an amended certificate in which estimated revenue matched actual revenue for the fiscal year.

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

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLANCE

A. Change in Accounting Principles

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

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

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLANCE - (Continued)

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

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

B. Deficit Fund Balances

Fund balances at June 30, 2024 included the following individual fund deficits:

<u>Nonmajor governmental funds</u>	<u>Deficit</u>
Public school preschool	\$ 502
Title I	35,617
Title IV-A	4,014

The general fund is liable for any deficit in these funds and provides transfers when cash is required, not when accruals occur. The deficit fund balances resulted from adjustments for accrued liabilities.

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

1. United States Treasury bills, bonds, notes, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury, or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligation or security issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and Government National Mortgage Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

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

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

Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the treasurer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

A. Deposits

Custodial Credit Risk 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.

At June 30, 2024, the carrying amount of all School District deposits was \$2,517,525. Based on criteria described in GASB Statement No. 40, Deposits and Investments Risk Disclosures, as of June 30, 2024, \$500,000 of the School District's bank balance of \$2,809,577 was covered by Federal Depository Insurance and \$1,385,746 was uninsured and collateralized with securities held by the pledging financial institution's trust department or agent, but not in the School District's name, and \$923,831 was uninsured and uncollateralized. The School District's financial institution participates in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS) and was approved for a reduced collateral floor of 50 percent resulting in the uninsured and uncollateralized balance.

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 percent of the deposits being secured; or

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

B. Investments

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

		<u>Investment Maturities</u>			Percent of
<u>Measurement/ Investment type</u>	<u>Measurement value</u>	<u>6 months or less</u>	<u>Maturity</u>	<u>Standard & Poor's Rating</u>	<u>Total Investment</u>
Fair value:					
US Government					
Money Market	\$ 2,390,026	\$ 2,390,026	1 Day	AAAm	32.04%
Amortized cost:					
STAR Ohio	<u>5,069,248</u>	<u>5,069,248</u>	<u>38.5 Days</u>	<u>AAAm</u>	<u>67.96%</u>
Total	<u>\$ 7,459,274</u>	<u>\$ 7,459,274</u>			

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 preceding chart identifies the School District's recurring fair value measurements as of June 30, 2024. The money market mutual funds are measured at fair value using quoted market prices (Level 1 inputs).

Credit Risk Ohio law requires that STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. The School District has no investment policy that addresses credit risk.

Interest Rate Risk The School District has no investment policy that addresses interest rate risk. State statute requires that an investment mature within five years from the date purchase, unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the School District, and that an investment must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

NOTE 5 - PROPERTY TAXES

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

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real and public utility property located in the School District. Real property tax revenues received in calendar year 2024 represent the collection of calendar year 2023 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2024 were levied after April 1, 2023, on the assessed values as of January 1, 2023, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State statute at 35 percent of appraised market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semiannually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 5 - PROPERTY TAXES - (Continued)

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

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

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

The amount available as an advance at June 30, 2024 and 2023 were:

	<u>June 30, 2024</u>	<u>June 30, 2023</u>
Major governmental fund:		
General fund	\$ 38,533	\$ 97,119
Nonmajor governmental fund:		
Permanent improvement fund	615	1,748

The amount of second-half real property taxes available for advance at fiscal year-end can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent.

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

	2023 Second Half Collections		2024 First Half Collections	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Agricultural/residential and other real estate	\$ 238,709,420	95.51	\$ 311,639,000	96.44
Public utility personal	<u>11,217,780</u>	<u>4.49</u>	<u>11,505,470</u>	<u>3.56</u>
Total	<u>\$ 249,927,200</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>\$ 323,144,470</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation	\$47.05		\$43.95	

NOTE 6 - TAX ABATEMENTS ENTERED INTO BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS

School District property taxes were reduced by \$37,999 under community reinvestment area agreements entered into by Liberty Township.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 7 - RECEIVABLES

Receivables at June 30, 2024, consisted of property taxes, accounts, and intergovernmental grants. All receivables are considered collectible in full due to the ability to foreclose for the nonpayment of taxes, the stable condition of State programs, and the current year guarantee of federal funds. All receivables except property taxes are expected to be received within one year. Property taxes, although ultimately collectible, include some portion of delinquencies that will not be collected within one year.

NOTE 8 - CAPITAL ASSETS

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

	Balance <u>June 30, 2023</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Disposals</u>	Balance <u>June 30, 2024</u>
Governmental activities:				
<i>Capital assets, not being depreciated/amortized:</i>				
Land	\$ 349,160	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 349,160
Construction in progress	<u>1,000,001</u>	<u>322,099</u>	<u>(1,322,100)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total capital assets, not being depreciated/amortized	<u>1,349,161</u>	<u>322,099</u>	<u>(1,322,100)</u>	<u>349,160</u>
<i>Capital assets, being depreciated/amortized:</i>				
Land improvements	2,085,804	290,580	-	2,376,384
Buildings and improvements	17,431,261	1,485,954	-	18,917,215
Furniture and fixtures	5,854,948	30,925	-	5,885,873
Vehicles	1,498,233	7,500	-	1,505,733
Intangible right-to-use assets:				
Equipment	<u>127,755</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>127,755</u>
Total capital assets, being depreciated/amortized	<u>26,998,001</u>	<u>1,814,959</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,812,960</u>
<i>Less: accumulated depreciation/amortization:</i>				
Land improvements	(1,588,597)	(224,234)	-	(1,812,831)
Buildings and improvements	(11,183,166)	(390,406)	-	(11,573,572)
Furniture and fixtures	(4,563,073)	(111,012)	-	(4,674,085)
Vehicles	(742,910)	(89,245)	-	(832,155)
Intangible right-to-use assets:				
Equipment	<u>(25,551)</u>	<u>(25,551)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(51,102)</u>
Total accumulated depreciation/amortization	<u>(18,103,297)</u>	<u>(840,448)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(18,943,745)</u>
Governmental activities capital assets, net	<u>\$ 10,243,865</u>	<u>\$ 1,296,610</u>	<u>\$ (1,322,100)</u>	<u>\$ 10,218,375</u>

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 8 - CAPITAL ASSETS - (Continued)

* Depreciation/Amortization expense was charged to governmental functions as follows:

Instruction:

Regular	\$ 177,540
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Support services:

Staff	6,352
Operations & Maintenance	616,017
Pupil Transportation	10,243
Central Services	25,551
Food Service Operations	2,071
Extracurricular Activities	<u>2,674</u>

Total depreciation/amortization expense	<u>\$ 840,448</u>
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NOTE 9 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

Original issue amounts and interest rates of the School District's debt issues were as follows:

Debt Issue	Interest Rate	Original Amount	Year of Maturity
2019 Energy Savings Project Note	4.08%	\$ 1,539,628	2034
2019 Turf Athletic Field Note	4.35%	\$ 650,000	2029
2011 Energy Conservation Improvement Bonds:			
Term Bonds	5.43%	\$ 2,327,350	2025

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 9 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS - (Continued)

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

	Balance June 30, 2023	Additions	Reductions	Balance June 30, 2024	Amounts Due in One Year
Governmental Activities:					
Long-Term Notes from direct borrowings:					
2019 Energy Savings Project Note	\$ 1,258,908	\$ -	\$ (87,769)	\$ 1,171,139	\$ 91,386
2019 Turf Athletic Field Note	422,994	-	(63,131)	359,863	65,910
<i>Total Long-Term Notes from direct borrowings</i>	<u>1,681,902</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(150,900)</u>	<u>1,531,002</u>	<u>157,296</u>
General Obligation Bonds:					
2011 Energy Conservation Improvement Bonds	<u>2,327,350</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,327,350</u>	<u>-</u>
Other Long-Term Obligations					
Net Pension Liability:					
SERS	2,637,045	179,776	-	2,816,821	-
STRS	<u>11,050,833</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(567,989)</u>	<u>10,482,844</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Net Pension Liability	13,687,878	179,776	(567,989)	13,299,665	-
Net OPEB Liability					
SERS	704,913	156,340	-	861,253	-
Lease	111,315	-	(23,303)	88,012	24,987
Compensated Absences	1,094,429	182,450	(77,430)	1,199,449	92,366
Asset Retirement Obligation	<u>13,250</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,250</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Total Other Long-Term Obligations</i>	<u>15,611,785</u>	<u>518,566</u>	<u>(668,722)</u>	<u>15,461,629</u>	<u>117,353</u>
<i>Total Governmental Activities Long-Term Liabilities</i>	<u>\$ 19,621,037</u>	<u>\$ 518,566</u>	<u>\$ (819,622)</u>	<u>\$ 19,319,981</u>	<u>\$ 274,649</u>

On January 22, 2019, the School District issued a \$1,539,628 long-term note to provide for an energy savings project. The note is a direct borrowing from the Branch Banking and Trust Company. The primary source of repayment of this obligation is through the utility cost savings. The energy savings project was capitalized. The note was issued for a 16 year period with final maturity on November 1, 2034. The note will be repaid from the general fund.

On January 22, 2019, the School District issued a \$650,000 long-term note to provide for a turf athletic field. The note is a direct borrowing from the Branch Banking and Trust Company. The primary source of repayment of this obligation is through maintenance cost savings related to no longer maintaining a grass field. The note was issued for a ten year period with final maturity on April 1, 2029. The note will be repaid from the general fund.

The School District's outstanding long-term notes from direct borrowings related to governmental activities of \$1,531,002 contain a provision that in the event of default, the lender may, without any further demand or notice (a) declare the unpaid principal components of the base payments immediately due and payable, (b) proceed by appropriate court action to enforce the School District's performance of the applicable covenants of the agreement or to recover the breach thereof, (c) require the lender to pay over any balance remaining in the project fund to be applied against outstanding required payments in any manner they may reasonably deem appropriate, and (d) avail itself of all available remedies under the agreement, including execution as provided in the agreement, and recovery of attorneys' fees and other expenses.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 9 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS - (Continued)

On December 14, 2010, the School District issued \$2,327,350 in energy conservation improvement qualified school construction bonds to provide for energy improvements to various School District buildings. The primary source of repayment of this obligation is through energy savings as a result of the improvements. The improvements were not capitalized. The bonds were issued for a fifteen year period and are subject to mandatory sinking fund payments. The School District may elect to receive payment directly from the Secretary of the United States Treasury equal to 97 percent of the corresponding interest payable on this issue. The bonds will be repaid from the bond retirement debt service fund.

The School District has entered into lease agreements for the intangible right-to-use equipment. Due to the implementation of GASB Statement No. 87, the School District will report an intangible capital asset and corresponding liability for the future scheduled payments under the lease. The lease payments will be paid from the general fund.

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

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 24,987	\$ 5,369	\$ 30,356
2026	26,793	3,563	30,356
2027	28,730	1,626	30,356
2028	7,502	88	7,590
Total	<u>\$ 88,012</u>	<u>\$ 10,646</u>	<u>\$ 98,658</u>

Compensated absences will be paid from the general fund and the food service, ESSER and title I special revenue funds. The asset retirement obligations will be paid from the general fund. There is no repayment schedule for the net pension liability and net OPEB liability; however, employer pension and OPEB contributions are made from the following funds: general fund and food service, other grants, auxiliary, public school preschool, ESSER, title I special revenue funds. For additional information related to the net pension liability and net OPEB liability, see Notes 13 and 14. The lease will be paid from the general fund.

The overall debt margin of the School District as of June 30, 2024, was \$29,828,958 with an unvoted debt margin of \$323,144.

Principal and interest requirements to retire the notes and general obligation bonds outstanding at June 30, 2024, are as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year ending June 30,</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ 157,296	\$ 61,819	\$ 219,115
2026	163,963	55,151	219,114
2027	170,913	48,200	219,113
2028	178,159	40,955	219,114
2029	185,712	33,402	219,114
2030-2034	607,218	84,012	691,230
2035	67,741	1,382	69,123
Total	<u>\$ 1,531,002</u>	<u>\$ 324,921</u>	<u>\$ 1,855,923</u>

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 9 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS - (Continued)

2011 Energy Conservation Improvement Bonds

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total</u>
2025	\$ -	\$ 126,375	\$ 126,375
2026	<u>2,327,350</u>	<u>63,188</u>	<u>2,390,538</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,327,350</u>	<u>\$ 189,563</u>	<u>\$ 2,516,913</u>

NOTE 10 - INTERFUND BALANCES AND TRANSFERS

- A. Interfund transfers for the year ended June 30, 2024, consisted of the following, as reported on the fund financial statements:

<u>Transfers from the general fund to:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bond retirement fund	\$ 165,000
Nonmajor governmental funds	<u>147,570</u>
Total	<u>\$ 312,570</u>

Transfers are used to move revenues from the fund that statute or budget required to collect them to the fund that statute or budget requires to expend them and to use unrestricted revenues collected in the general fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorizations.

Interfund transfers between governmental funds are eliminated for reporting in the statement of activities. All transfers were made in compliance with Ohio Revised Code Sections 5705.14, 5705.15 and 5705.16.

- B. Interfund balances at June 30, 2024 as reported on the fund statements, consist of the following interfund loans receivables and payable:

<u>Receivable fund</u>	<u>Payable fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>
General fund	Bond retirement fund	\$ 113,068
General fund	Nonmajor governmental funds	<u>176,786</u>
Total		<u>\$ 289,854</u>

The primary purpose of the interfund balances is to cover costs in specific funds where revenues were not received by June 30. These interfund balances will be repaid once the anticipated revenues are received. All interfund balances are expected to be repaid within one year.

Interfund balances between governmental funds are eliminated on the government-wide financial statements; therefore, no internal balances at June 30, 2024 are reported on the statement of net position.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 11 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

Northeast Ohio Management Information Network (NEOMIN)

NEOMIN is a jointly governed organization among thirty-one school districts in Trumbull and Ashtabula Counties. The jointly governed organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among member districts. Each of the districts supports NEOMIN based upon a per pupil charge. The School District paid \$60,016 to NEOMIN during fiscal year 2024.

The Governing board consists of ten members: The Trumbull and Ashtabula County superintendents (permanent members), three superintendents from Ashtabula County participating school districts, three superintendents from Trumbull County participating school districts, and two treasurer (one from each County). The School District was not represented on the Governing Board during fiscal year 2024. The Board exercises total control over the operations of NEOMIN including budgeting, appropriating, contracting and designating management. The degree of control exercised by any participating school district is limited to its representation on the Governing Board. To obtain a copy of NEOMIN's financial statements, write to the NEOMIN, 528 Educational Highway, Warren, Ohio 44483.

Trumbull Career and Technical Center

The Trumbull Career and Technical Center (the Center) is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio providing vocational needs of the students. The Center is operated under the direction of a Board consisting of one representative from each of the twenty participating school districts' elected boards, which possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. The Board exercises total control over the operations of the Trumbull Career and Technical Center including budgeting, appropriating, contracting and designating management. The degree of control exercised by any participating school district is limited to its representation on the Governing Board. To obtain financial information, write to the Trumbull Career and Technical Center Treasurer, at 528 Educational Highway, Warren, Ohio 44483.

NOTE 12 - RISK MANAGEMENT

A. Property and Liability

The School District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The School District maintains comprehensive commercial insurance coverage for real property, building contents, vehicles and general liability.

General liability insurance is maintained in the amount of \$5,000,000 for each occurrence and \$7,000,000 in the aggregate. The School District maintains fleet insurance in the amount of \$5,000,000 for any one accident or loss. The School District maintains replacement cost insurance on buildings and contents in the amount of \$71,960,078.

Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years. There have not been significant reductions in coverage from last year.

B. Employee Health Benefits

Effective January 1, 2014, the School District elected to provide employee medical/surgical, prescription drug and vision insurance through a fully funded program with the Ohio School Benefits Consortium and Medical Mutual. Effective January 1, 2016, the School District elected to provide dental through Delta Dental. Monthly premium rates increased to the following effective 5/1/24: \$3,185.82 for family coverage, \$2,288.88 for employee plus spouse, \$1,888.18 for employee plus children and \$1,081.58 for single coverage. Employees pay 10 percent of the medical and dental premiums per month. Vision insurance premiums are fully paid by the School District.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 12 - RISK MANAGEMENT - (Continued)

C. Worker's Compensation

The School District pays the State Worker's Compensation System a premium for employee injury coverage. The premium is calculated by multiplying the monthly total gross payroll times the contribution rate established by Worker's Compensation for the School District. This rate is calculated based on accident history and administrative costs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The proportionate share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a long-term *net pension/OPEB liability (asset)* on the accrual basis of accounting. Any liability for the contractually required pension contribution outstanding at the end of the year is included in pension and postemployment benefit payable on both the accrual and modified accrual bases of accounting.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

The School District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$277,506 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount, \$24,159 is reported as pension and postemployment benefit payable.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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 fiscal year 2024 employer and employee contribution rate of 14% was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For fiscal year 2024, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The School District's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$946,241 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount, \$155,476 is reported as pension and postemployment benefit payable.

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 School District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the School District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

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

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the net pension liability prior measurement date	0.048754900%	0.049711070%	
Proportion of the net pension liability current measurement date	<u>0.050978400%</u>	<u>0.048678310%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>0.002223500%</u>	<u>-0.001032760%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 2,816,821	\$ 10,482,844	\$ 13,299,665
Pension expense	\$ 162,166	\$ 623,482	\$ 785,648

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

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deferred outflows of resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 121,073	\$ 382,184	\$ 503,257
Changes of assumptions	19,953	863,320	883,273
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	79,851	-	79,851
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>277,506</u>	<u>946,241</u>	<u>1,223,747</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 498,383</u>	<u>\$ 2,191,745</u>	<u>\$ 2,690,128</u>

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deferred inflows of resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ -	\$ 23,261	\$ 23,261
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments	39,592	31,419	71,011
Changes of assumptions	-	649,830	649,830
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/change in proportionate share	<u>99,086</u>	<u>595,965</u>	<u>695,051</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>\$ 138,678</u>	<u>\$ 1,300,475</u>	<u>\$ 1,439,153</u>

\$1,223,747 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

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

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2025	\$ (47,116)	\$ (358,020)	\$ (405,136)
2026	(76,187)	(578,933)	(655,120)
2027	203,402	989,714	1,193,116
2028	<u>2,100</u>	<u>(107,732)</u>	<u>(105,632)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 82,199</u>	<u>\$ (54,971)</u>	<u>\$ 27,228</u>

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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

Wage inflation:	
Current measurement date	2.40%
Prior measurement date	2.40%
Future salary increases, including inflation:	
Current measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Prior measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
COLA or ad hoc COLA:	
Current measurement date	2.00%
Prior measurement date	2.00%
Investment rate of return:	
Current measurement date	7.00% net of system expenses
Prior measurement date	7.00% net of system expenses
Discount rate:	
Current measurement date	7.00%
Prior measurement date	7.00%
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal (level percent of payroll)

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

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

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

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

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TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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

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

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

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

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 4,157,481	\$ 2,816,821	\$ 1,687,567

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 13 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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

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

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

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 16,120,294	\$ 10,482,844	\$ 5,715,104

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

NOTE 14 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

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

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 14 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14% of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, SERS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2024, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2% of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5% of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the School District's surcharge obligation was \$33,873.

The surcharge added to the allocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The School District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$33,873 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount, \$33,873 is reported as pension and postemployment benefit payable.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

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

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

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

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 14 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset prior measurement date	0.050207000%	0.049711070%	
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset current measurement date	<u>0.052278100%</u>	<u>0.048678310%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>0.002071100%</u>	<u>-0.001032760%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 861,253	\$ -	\$ 861,253
Proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ -	\$ (946,726)	\$ (946,726)
OPEB expense	\$ (118,295)	\$ (33,996)	\$ (152,291)

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

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deferred outflows of resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 1,795	\$ 1,476	\$ 3,271
Net difference between projected and actual earnings on OPEB plan investments	6,677	1,690	8,367
Changes of assumptions	291,219	139,470	430,689
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	79,202	13,753	92,955
Contributions subsequent to the measurement date	<u>33,873</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>33,873</u>
Total deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 412,766</u>	<u>\$ 156,389</u>	<u>\$ 569,155</u>
	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deferred inflows of resources			
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ 444,177	\$ 144,399	\$ 588,576
Changes of assumptions	244,605	624,638	869,243
Difference between employer contributions and proportionate share of contributions/ change in proportionate share	<u>188,689</u>	<u>1,238</u>	<u>189,927</u>
Total deferred inflows of resources	<u>\$ 877,471</u>	<u>\$ 770,275</u>	<u>\$ 1,647,746</u>

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 14 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

\$33,873 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from School District contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability/asset in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

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

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2025	\$ (152,052)	\$ (268,023)	\$ (420,075)
2026	(142,159)	(126,946)	(269,105)
2027	(100,414)	(48,351)	(148,765)
2028	(63,107)	(65,552)	(128,659)
2029	(43,041)	(59,822)	(102,863)
Thereafter	<u>2,195</u>	<u>(45,192)</u>	<u>(42,997)</u>
Total	<u>\$ (498,578)</u>	<u>\$ (613,886)</u>	<u>\$ (1,112,464)</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.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 14 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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

Wage inflation:	
Current measurement date	2.40%
Prior measurement date	2.40%
Future salary increases, including inflation:	
Current measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Prior measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Investment rate of return:	
Current measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Prior measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Municipal bond index rate:	
Current measurement date	3.86%
Prior measurement date	3.69%
Single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:	
Current measurement date	4.27%
Prior measurement date	4.08%
Medical trend assumption:	
Current measurement date	6.75 to 4.40%
Prior measurement date	7.00 to 4.40%

In 2023, the following mortality assumptions were used:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 14 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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

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

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

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

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 14 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 1,100,928	\$ 861,253	\$ 672,260

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 632,733	\$ 861,253	\$ 1,164,073

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

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

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

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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NOTE 14 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

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

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 14 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

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

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 801,280	\$ 946,726	\$ 1,073,394
	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Trend Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
School District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 1,079,272	\$ 946,726	\$ 787,076

NOTE 15 – OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

A. Compensated Absences

The criteria for determining vacation and sick leave benefits are derived from negotiated agreements and State laws. Classified employees earn five to twenty-eight days of vacation per year, depending upon length of service and seniority. Accumulated unused vacation time is paid to classified employees upon termination of employment. Teachers do not earn vacation.

Each employee earns sick leave at the rate of one and one-fourth days per month. Upon retirement for both certified and classified employees, payment is made for twenty-five percent of the total sick leave accumulation up to a maximum of 65 days for employees with less than 300 total accumulated sick days; payment is made for one hundred days for employees with 300 or more total accumulated sick days. An employee receiving such payment must meet the retirement provisions set by STRS and SERS.

B. Life Insurance Benefits

The School District provides life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance in the amount of \$75,000 to certified and classified employees and 2 times their salary for principals, treasurer and superintendent receive 2 times their salary plus pick up.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 16 - CONTINGENCIES

A. Grants

The School District received financial assistance from federal and State agencies in the form of grants. The expenditure of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and is subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the General Fund or other applicable funds. However in the opinion of management, 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.

B. Foundation Funding

Foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. Traditional districts must comply with minimum hours of instruction, instead of a minimum number of school days each year. The funding formula the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (ODEW) is legislatively required to follow will continue to adjust as enrollment information is updated by the School District, which can extend past the fiscal year-end. As of the date of this report, ODEW has not finalized the impact of enrollment adjustments to the June 30, 2024 Foundation funding for the School District; therefore, the financial statement impact is not determinable at this time. ODEW and management believe this will result in either a receivable to or liability of the School District.

C. Litigation

The School District is a party to legal proceedings. The School District management is of the opinion that ultimate disposition of these claims and legal proceedings will not have a material effect, if any, on the financial condition of the School District and that the School District has adequate liability insurance coverage to protect itself against any material loss.

NOTE 17 - SET-ASIDES

The School District is required by State statute to annually set aside in the general fund an amount based on a statutory formula for the acquisition and construction of capital improvements. Amounts not spent by the end of the fiscal year 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 fiscal year end set-aside amounts for capital acquisition. Disclosure of this information is required by State statute.

	<u>Capital Improvements</u>
Set-aside balance June 30, 2023	\$ -
Current year set-aside requirement	264,451
Current year qualifying disbursements	(226,000)
Current year offsets	(168,060)
Total	<u>\$ (129,609)</u>
Balance carried forward to fiscal year 2025	<u>\$ -</u>
Set-aside balance June 30, 2024	<u>\$ -</u>

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 17 - SET-ASIDES - (Continued)

Although the School District had qualifying disbursements and offsets during the fiscal year that reduced the capital acquisition set-aside amounts below zero, these extra amounts will not be used to reduce the set-aside requirements of future years. The negative amounts will not be presented as being carried forward to the next fiscal year.

NOTE 18 - ENCUMBERANCES

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

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Year-End Encumbrances</u>
General fund	\$ 162,974
Nonmajor governmental funds	<u>130,162</u>
Total	<u>\$ 293,136</u>

NOTE 19 - ASSET RETIREMENT

The Governmental Accounting Standard Board's (GASB) Statement No. 83, *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations*, provides guidance related to asset retirement obligations (AROs). An ARO is a legally enforceable liability associated with the retirement of a tangible capital asset. The Bureau of Underground Storage Tank Regulations (BUSTR) regulates petroleum and hazardous substances stored in underground storage tanks. These regulations are included in Ohio Administrative Code Section 1301-7-9 and require a School District classified as an "owner" or "operator," to remove from the ground any underground storage tank (UST) that is not in use for a year or more. A permit must first be obtained for that year it is not being used. Once the UST is removed, the soil in the UST cavity and excavated material must be tested for contamination. This asset retirement obligation (ARO) of \$13,250 associated with the School District's underground storage tanks was estimated by the School District. The UST is fully depreciated. The School District maintains insurance related to any potential pollution remediation associated with the USTs.

NOTE 20 - COVID-19

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

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (NON-GAAP BUDGETARY BASIS)
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual Amounts</u>	<u>Variance with</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Budgetary</u>	<u>Final Budget -</u>
			<u>Basis</u>	<u>over (under)</u>
				<u>Actual Amounts</u>
Budgetary revenues and other financing sources	\$ 14,745,029	\$ 16,637,484	\$ 16,637,484	\$ -
Budgetary expenditures and other financing uses	14,666,125	15,097,429	15,097,429	-
Net change in fund balance	78,904	1,540,055	1,540,055	-
Budgetary fund balance at beginning of year	3,952,512	3,952,512	3,952,512	-
Prior year encumbrances appropriated	20,681	20,681	20,681	-
Budgetary fund balance at end of year	<u>\$ 4,052,097</u>	<u>\$ 5,513,248</u>	<u>\$ 5,513,248</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

Fiscal Year (1)	School District's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	School District's Covered Payroll	School 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	0.050978400%	\$ 2,816,821	\$ 1,957,207	143.92%	76.06%
2023	0.048754900%	2,637,045	1,891,464	139.42%	75.82%
2022	0.054139700%	1,997,599	1,824,214	109.50%	82.86%
2021	0.056283000%	3,722,676	1,994,157	186.68%	68.55%
2020	0.058532400%	3,502,096	2,020,911	173.29%	70.85%
2019	0.055355200%	3,170,295	1,884,133	168.26%	71.36%
2018	0.055346800%	3,306,849	1,779,100	185.87%	69.50%
2017	0.051949500%	3,802,224	1,636,343	232.36%	62.98%
2016	0.052118600%	2,973,938	1,556,844	191.02%	69.16%
2015	0.054798000%	2,773,296	1,592,328	174.17%	71.70%

Fiscal Year	Contractually Required Contributions	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	School District's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$ 277,506	\$ (277,506)	\$ -	\$ 1,982,186	14.00%
2023	274,009	(274,009)	-	1,957,207	14.00%
2022	264,805	(264,805)	-	1,891,464	14.00%
2021	255,390	(255,390)	-	1,824,214	14.00%
2020	279,182	(279,182)	-	1,994,157	14.00%
2019	272,823	(272,823)	-	2,020,911	13.50%
2018	254,358	(254,358)	-	1,884,133	13.50%
2017	249,074	(249,074)	-	1,779,100	14.00%
2016	229,088	(229,088)	-	1,636,343	14.00%
2015	205,192	(205,192)	-	1,556,844	13.18%

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

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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

LAST TEN FISCAL YEARS

Fiscal Year (1)	School District's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	School District's Covered Payroll	School 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	0.048678310%	\$ 10,482,844	\$ 6,564,464	159.69%	80.02%
2023	0.049711070%	11,050,833	6,500,229	170.01%	78.88%
2022	0.050991250%	6,519,688	6,245,793	104.39%	87.78%
2021	0.053050280%	12,836,280	6,364,907	201.67%	75.48%
2020	0.053833570%	11,904,971	6,451,236	184.54%	77.40%
2019	0.053472670%	11,757,439	6,100,743	192.72%	77.31%
2018	0.051973520%	12,346,422	5,775,414	213.78%	75.30%
2017	0.051508810%	17,241,551	5,469,000	315.26%	66.80%
2016	0.049703070%	13,736,474	5,213,393	263.48%	72.10%
2015	0.050768830%	12,348,736	5,144,243	240.05%	74.70%

Fiscal Year	Contractually Required Contributions	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	School District's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$ 946,241	\$ (946,241)	\$ -	\$ 6,758,864	14.00%
2023	919,025	(919,025)	-	6,564,464	14.00%
2022	910,032	(910,032)	-	6,500,229	14.00%
2021	874,411	(874,411)	-	6,245,793	14.00%
2020	891,087	(891,087)	-	6,364,907	14.00%
2019	903,173	(903,173)	-	6,451,236	14.00%
2018	854,104	(854,104)	-	6,100,743	14.00%
2017	808,558	(808,558)	-	5,775,414	14.00%
2016	765,660	(765,660)	-	5,469,000	14.00%
2015	729,875	(729,875)	-	5,213,393	14.00%

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

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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

LAST EIGHT AND TEN FISCAL YEARS

Fiscal Year (1) (2)	School District's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	School District's Covered Payroll	School 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	0.052278100%	\$ 861,253	\$ 1,957,207	44.00%	30.02%
2023	0.050207000%	704,913	1,891,464	37.27%	30.34%
2022	0.055616400%	1,052,585	1,824,214	57.70%	24.08%
2021	0.058299800%	1,267,045	1,994,157	63.54%	18.17%
2020	0.059752500%	1,502,649	2,020,911	74.36%	15.57%
2019	0.056153900%	1,557,861	1,884,133	82.68%	13.57%
2018	0.056009500%	1,503,148	1,779,100	84.49%	12.46%
2017	0.052476900%	1,495,786	1,636,343	91.41%	11.49%

Fiscal Year	Contractually Required Contributions	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	School District's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$ 33,873	\$ (33,873)	\$ -	\$ 1,982,186	1.71%
2023	37,251	(37,251)	-	1,957,207	1.90%
2022	34,602	(34,602)	-	1,891,464	1.83%
2021	34,766	(34,766)	-	1,824,214	1.91%
2020	36,957	(36,957)	-	1,994,157	1.85%
2019	45,490	(45,490)	-	2,020,911	2.25%
2018	39,741	(39,741)	-	1,884,133	2.11%
2017	29,811	(29,811)	-	1,779,100	1.68%
2016	25,832	(25,832)	-	1,636,343	1.58%
2015	39,002	(39,002)	-	1,556,844	2.51%

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

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

Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

SCHEDULES OF THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

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

LAST EIGHT AND TEN FISCAL YEARS

Fiscal Year (1) (2)	School District's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	School District's Covered Payroll	School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability/(Asset)
2024	0.048678310%	\$ (946,726)	\$ 6,564,464	14.42%	168.52%
2023	0.049711070%	(1,287,186)	6,500,229	19.80%	230.73%
2022	0.050991250%	(1,075,108)	6,245,793	17.21%	174.73%
2021	0.053050280%	(932,357)	6,364,907	14.65%	182.10%
2020	0.053833570%	(891,613)	6,451,236	13.82%	174.74%
2019	0.053472670%	(859,253)	6,100,743	14.08%	176.00%
2018	0.051973520%	2,027,814	5,775,414	35.11%	47.10%
2017	0.051508810%	2,754,705	5,469,000	50.37%	37.30%

Fiscal Year	Contractually Required Contributions	Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contributions	Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	School District's Covered Payroll	Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll
2024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,758,864	0.00%
2023	-	-	-	6,564,464	0.00%
2022	-	-	-	6,500,229	0.00%
2021	-	-	-	6,245,793	0.00%
2020	-	-	-	6,364,907	0.00%
2019	-	-	-	6,451,236	0.00%
2018	-	-	-	6,100,743	0.00%
2017	-	-	-	5,775,414	0.00%
2016	-	-	-	5,469,000	0.00%
2015	-	-	-	5,213,393	0.00%

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

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

Additional years will be displayed as they become available.

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 1 - BUDGETARY PROCESS

While 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 and disbursements.

The statement of revenue, expenditures and changes in fund balance - budget and actual (non-GAAP budgetary basis) presented for the general fund is presented on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The major differences between the budget basis and the GAAP basis are that:

- (a) Revenues and other financing sources are recorded when received in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when susceptible to accrual (GAAP basis);
- (b) Expenditures and other financing uses are recorded when paid in cash (budget basis) as opposed to when the liability is incurred (GAAP basis);
- (c) In order to determine compliance with Ohio law, and to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, total outstanding encumbrances (budget basis) are recorded as the equivalent of an expenditure, as opposed to assigned or committed fund balance for that portion of outstanding encumbrances not already recognized as an account payable (GAAP basis); and
- (d) Some funds are included in the general fund (GAAP basis), but have separate legally adopted budgets (budget basis).

The adjustments necessary to convert the results of operations for the year on the budget basis to the GAAP basis is as follows:

Net Change in Fund Balance

	<u>General fund</u>
Budget basis	\$ 1,540,055
Net adjustment for revenue accruals	(117,709)
Net adjustment for expenditure accruals	87,970
Net adjustment for other sources/uses	41,032
Funds budgeted elsewhere	(189)
Adjustments for encumbrances	<u>162,974</u>
GAAP Basis	<u><u>\$ 1,714,133</u></u>

As part of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, "Fund Balance Reporting", certain funds that are legally budgeted in separate special revenue funds are considered part of the general fund. This includes the special trust fund, public school support fund and unclaimed monies fund.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 2 - PENSIONS & OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

PENSION

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO

Change in benefit terms:

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

Change in assumptions:

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 2 - PENSIONS & OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) - (Continued)

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

STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO

Change in benefit terms:

- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2015.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2016.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from the amounts reported for fiscal year 2017.
- For fiscal year 2018, STRS decreased the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to zero.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2019.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2020.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2021.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2022.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2023.
- There were no changes in benefit terms from amounts previously reported for fiscal year 2024.

Changes in assumptions:

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 2 - PENSIONS & OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) - (Continued)

OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB)

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (SERS) OF OHIO

Change in benefit terms:

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

Change in assumptions:

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 2 - PENSIONS & OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) - (Continued)

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

STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM (STRS) OF OHIO

Change in benefit terms:

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO**

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

NOTE 2 - PENSIONS & OTHER POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) - (Continued)

Change in assumptions:

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

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

Federal Grantor/ Pass-Through Grantor/ Program or Cluster Title	Assistance Listing Number	Expenditures	Non-Cash Expenditures
<u>U.S. Department of Agriculture</u>			
<i>Passed through Ohio Department of Education</i>			
Child Nutrition Cluster:			
School Breakfast Program	10.553	\$ 161,286	\$ 0
National School Lunch Program	10.555	434,202	47,703
COVID-19 National School Lunch Program	10.555	38,785	0
Total Child Nutrition Cluster		<u>634,273</u>	<u>47,703</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		<u>634,273</u>	<u>47,703</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	298,926	0
Total U.S. Department of the Treasury		<u>298,926</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>U.S. Department of Education</u>			
<i>Passed through Ohio Department of Education</i>			
Title I - Grants to Local Educational Agencies - Non-Competitive - FY 23	84.010	22,336	0
Title I - Grants to Local Educational Agencies - FY 23	84.010	91,579	0
Title I - Grants to Local Educational Agencies - FY 24	84.010	548,592	0
Title I - Grants to Local Educational Agencies - Neglected - FY 24	84.010	145,939	0
Title I - Grants to Local Educational Agencies -			
Expanding Opportunities for Each Child - FY 23	84.010A	2,110	0
Title I - Grants to Local Educational Agencies -			
Expanding Opportunities for Each Child - FY 24	84.010A	15,246	0
Total ALN #84.010		<u>825,802</u>	<u>0</u>
Special Education Cluster (IDEA):			
Special Education - Grants to States -IDEA Part B - FY 24	84.027	335,787	0
IDEA Early Childhood Special Education - FY 24	84.173	6,132	0
Total Special Education Cluster (IDEA)		<u>341,919</u>	<u>0</u>
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	62,421	0
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program - Title IV-A - FY 23	84.424	1,379	0
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program - Title IV-A - FY 24	84.424	51,044	0
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program - Stronger Connections Grant - FY 24	84.424F	38,637	0
Total ALN #84.424		<u>91,060</u>	<u>0</u>
Education Stabilization Fund -			
COVID-19 - Governor Emergency Relief - School Based Health	84.425C	58,452	0
COVID 19 - ESSER II	84.425D	32,878	0
COVID 19 - ARP ESSER	84.425U	2,079,729	0
COVID 19 - ARP Homeless	84.425W	3,691	0
Total ALN #84.425		<u>2,174,750</u>	<u>0</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education		<u>3,495,952</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS		<u>\$ 4,429,151</u>	<u>\$ 47,703</u>

See accompanying notes to the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO
NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

NOTE 1: BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of the Liberty Local School District under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2024. The information in this Schedule is presented 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 Liberty Local School District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in net position of the Liberty Local School District.

NOTE 2: 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 the Uniform Guidance, wherein certain types of expenditures are not allowable or are limited as to reimbursement.

NOTE 3: INDIRECT COST RATE

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

NOTE 4: CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

Cash receipts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture are commingled with State grants. It is assumed federal monies are expended first.

NOTE 5: FOOD DONATION PROGRAM

Program regulations do not require the District to maintain separate inventory records for purchased food and food received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This non-monetary assistance (expenditures) is reported in the Schedule at the fair value of the commodities received.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT
OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

Liberty Local School District
Trumbull County
4115 Shady Road
Youngstown, Ohio 44505

To the Members of 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, the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Liberty Local School District, Trumbull 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 30, 2025.

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) to determine the audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

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

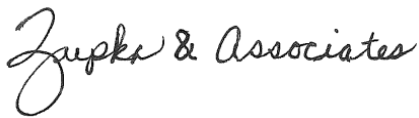
Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not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

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 determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Purpose of This Report

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Zupka & Associates".

Zupka & Associates
Certified Public Accountants

January 30, 2025

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

Liberty Local School District
Trumbull County
4115 Shady Road
Youngstown, Ohio 44505

To the Members of the Board of Education:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the Liberty Local School District, Trumbull County, Ohio's (the District) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the District's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. The District's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs.

In our opinion, the Liberty Local School District complied, in all material respects, with the types of 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 an 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 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 Liberty Local School District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. Our audit does not provide a legal determination of the Liberty Local School District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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 to the Liberty Local School District's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

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

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

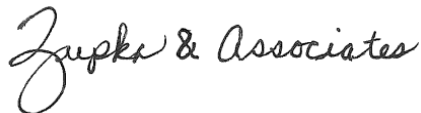
Report on Internal Control over Compliance

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.

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 that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Zupka & Associates".

Zupka & Associates
Certified Public Accountants

January 30, 2025

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
UNIFORM GUIDANCE
JUNE 30, 2024**

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

2024(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unmodified
2024(ii)	Were there any material control weaknesses reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
2024(ii)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
2024(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
2024(iv)	Were there any material internal control weaknesses reported for major federal programs?	No
2024(iv)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
2024(v)	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinions	Unmodified
2024(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR 200.516(a)?	No
2024(vii)	Major Programs (list): Title I - Grants to Local Education Agencies - ALN #84.010 Education Stabilization Fund: COVID-19 - Governor Emergency Relief - School Based Health - ALN #84.425C COVID-19 - ESSER II - ALN #84.425D COVID-19 - ESSER III ARP - ALN #84.425U	
2024(viii)	Dollar Threshold: A/B Program	Type A: \$750,000 Type B: All Others
2024(ix)	Low Risk Auditee?	Yes

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

None.

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None.

**LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
TRUMBULL COUNTY, OHIO
SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024**

The prior audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, contained two audit findings.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Finding Summary</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Additional Information</u>
2023-001	Significant Deficiency - Financial Reporting	Fully Corrected	None
2023-002	Material Non-Compliance - Contract Bidding Process	Fully Corrected	None

Management letter recommendations have been corrected, repeated, or procedures instituted to prevent occurrences in this audit period.

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



LIBERTY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

TRUMBULL 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 5/8/2025

65 East State Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-466-4514 or 800-282-0370

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