



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE  
**KEITH FABER**





**SOUTHERN OHIO CAREER ACADEMY  
ROSS COUNTY  
JUNE 30, 2024**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Southern Ohio Career Academy  
Ross County  
30 East Main Street  
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

To the Board of Directors:

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### ***Opinion***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### ***Required Supplementary Information***

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

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 16, 2025, on our consideration of the School's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the School's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Faber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Keith" and last name "Faber" clearly distinguishable.

Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio  
May 16, 2025

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**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*  
*(Unaudited)*

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The discussion and analysis of Southern Ohio Career Academy's (the School) financial performance provides an overall review of the School's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the School'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's financial performance.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is an element of the reporting model adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in their *Statement No. 34 Basic Financial Statements – and Management's Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Governments* issued June 1999. Certain comparative information between the current and prior year is required to be presented in the MD&A. However, because this is the first year of financial reporting for the School, comparative information does not exist. Subsequent reports will include comparative information.

### **Financial Highlights**

Key financial highlights for the School for the fiscal year 2024 are as follows:

- Fiscal year 2024 was the first year of operations for the School.
- Total Net Position was negative \$212,200 in 2024.
- Total assets were \$160,086 and total liabilities were \$404,805 during 2024.

### **Using this Financial Report**

This report consists of the financial statements, notes to the financial statements, required supplementary information and notes to the required supplementary information. The financial statements include a Statement of Net Position, a Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Position, and a Statement of Cash Flows.

### **Statement of Net Position**

The Statement of Net Position answers the question of how well the School performed financially during 2024. This statement includes all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and net position, both financial and capital and current and long-term, using the accrual basis of accounting, which is the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all revenues earned and expenses incurred during the year, regardless of when the cash is received or expended.

**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*  
*(Unaudited)*

Table 1 provides a summary of the School's Net Position for fiscal year 2024 and 2023.

**(Table 1)**  
**Statement of Net Position**

	2024	2023	Change
<b>Assets</b>			
Current Assets	\$ 18,269	\$ -	\$ 18,269
Capital Assets Being Depreciated/ Amortized, Net	141,817	207,303	(65,486)
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>160,086</u>	<u>207,303</u>	<u>(47,217)</u>
 <b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	 <u>32,519</u>	 <u>-</u>	 <u>32,519</u>
 <b>Liabilities</b>			
Current Liabilities	332,381	68,006	264,375
Long Term Liabilities	72,424	139,297	(66,873)
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>404,805</u>	<u>207,303</u>	<u>197,502</u>
 <b>Net Position</b>			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	2,520	-	2,520
Unrestricted	(214,720)	-	(214,720)
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>\$ (212,200)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (212,200)</u>

Although fiscal year 2024 was the first year of operation for the School, certain transactions took place before July 1, 2023 and are reflected in above table.

Current assets were \$18,269 in 2024 representing cash and receivables. Capital assets are from a building lease and equipment. Total liabilities constitute accounts payable, pension obligation payable, and lease payable. Deferred outflows represent contributions to SERS and STRS that are subsequent to the measurement date (see Notes 7 and 8).

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**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*  
*(Unaudited)*

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**Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position**

Table 2 shows the change in Net Position at June 30, 2024.

**(Table 2)**  
**Change in Net Position**

	<u>2024</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 388,866
Non-Operating Revenue	<u>64,244</u>
Total Revenue	<u>453,110</u>
Operating Expenses	651,417
Non-Operating Expenses	<u>13,893</u>
Total Expenses	<u>665,310</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>\$ (212,200)</u>

The School's operating revenues are based on the School's full-time equivalent (FTE). The School's most significant expense was purchased services which mainly consists of management fees and reimbursed employee costs paid pursuant to the management agreement in place between the School and its management company. The agreement provides that specific percentages of the revenues received by the School will be paid back to the management company to fund operations (see Note 11).

**Capital Assets**

The School's capital asset balance was \$141,817 in 2024. For more information see Note 5.

**Long Term Obligations**

As of fiscal year-end, the School's long-term liabilities were \$139,297. See Note 6 for more information.

**Contacting the School's Financial Management**

This financial report is designed to provide our readers with a general overview of the School's finances and to show the School's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact the Fiscal Officer at 30 East Main Street, Chillicothe, Ohio 45601.

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**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Statement of Net Position*  
*June 30, 2024*

**ASSETS**

Current Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,166
State Aid Receivable	5,656
Grant Receivable	1,700
Pension Obligation Receivable	9,747
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	<u>18,269</u>

Noncurrent Assets

Capital Assets being Depreciated/Amortized, Net	141,817
<i>Total Noncurrent Assets</i>	<u>141,817</u>

<b>Total Assets</b>	<u>160,086</u>
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**DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES**

Pension	30,956
OPEB	1,563
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<u>32,519</u>

**LIABILITIES**

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	261,723
Pension Obligation Payable	3,785
Lease Payable	66,873
<i>Total Current Liabilities</i>	<u>332,381</u>

Long Term Liabilities

Lease Payable	72,424
<i>Total Long Term Liabilities</i>	<u>72,424</u>

<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>404,805</u>
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**NET POSITION**

Net Investment in Capital Assets	2,520
Unrestricted	(214,720)
<b>Total Net Position</b>	<u>\$ (212,200)</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Change in Net Position*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

**OPERATING REVENUES**

State Basic Aid	\$ 387,428
Casino Revenue	1,438
	<hr/>
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>388,866</b>
	<hr/>

**OPERATING EXPENSES**

Purchased Services	518,632
Pension & OPEB	(780)
Supplies and Materials	45,461
Depreciation/Amortization	76,511
Other	11,593
	<hr/>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>651,417</b>
	<hr/>
<b>Operating Income (Loss)</b>	<b>(262,551)</b>
	<hr/>

**NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)**

Federal and State Grants	64,244
Interest and Fiscal Charges	(13,893)
	<hr/>
<b>Net Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)</b>	<b>50,351</b>
	<hr/>
<b>Change in Net Position</b>	<b>(212,200)</b>
	<hr/>
<b>Net Position Beginning of Year</b>	<b>-</b>
	<hr/>
<b>Net Position End of Year</b>	<b>\$ (212,200)</b>
	<hr/> <hr/>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Statement of Cash Flows*  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

**CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Cash Received From State Aid	\$ 383,210
Cash Payments for Goods and Services	(340,071)
Other Cash Payments	(11,593)
	<hr/>
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	31,546
	<hr/>

**CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES**

Cash Payments for Capital Acquisitions	(11,025)
Cash Payments for Debt Principal	(68,006)
Cash Payments for Interest	(13,893)
	<hr/>
Net Cash Used for Capital Financing Activities	(92,924)
	<hr/>

**CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES**

Cash Received From Grant Programs	62,544
	<hr/>
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,166
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year	<hr/> -
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year	<hr/> \$ 1,166
	<hr/>

**RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING LOSS TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Operating Loss	\$ (262,551)
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**ADJUSTMENTS TO RECONCILE OPERATING LOSS TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

Depreciation	76,511
Changes in Assets, Liabilities, and Deferred Outflows:	
State Aid Receivable	(5,656)
Pension Obligation Receivable	(9,747)
Deferred Outflows of Resources	(32,519)
Accounts Payable	261,723
Pension Obligation Payable	3,785
	<hr/>
Total Adjustments	294,097
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Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$ 31,546
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See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

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**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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

Southern Ohio Career Academy (the "School") is a nonprofit corporation established pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Chapters 1702 and 3314 to address the needs of students in ninth through the twelfth grade. The School is nonsectarian in its programs, admission policies, employment practices and all other operations. The School may sue and be sued, acquire facilities as needed, and contract for any services necessary for the operation for the School.

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

The School was authorized by the Ohio Department of Education beginning July 1, 2023. The School entered a contract with Buckeye Community Hope Foundation as its sponsor through June 30, 2028.

Southern Ohio Career Academy operates as a brick and mortar under the management of EEG OCA, LLC (EEG). The mission of the School is to empower students by integrating rigorous classroom instruction with diverse career pathways. The curriculum prepares the students for higher education, development of essential life skills and the acquirement of certified occupational and employment skills.

The School operates under the direction of a self-appointed, five-member Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is responsible for carrying out provisions of the contract which include, but are not limited to, State-mandated provisions regarding student populations, curriculum, academic goals, performance standards, admission standards, and qualifications of teachers.

The School's management believes these financial statements present all activities for which the School is financially accountable.

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

The financial statements of the School have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles as applied to governmental nonprofit organizations. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The more significant of the School's accounting policies are described below.

***Basis of Presentation***

The School's financial statements consist of a Statement of Net Position, a Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Change in Net Position, and a Statement of Cash Flows. Enterprise fund reporting focuses on the determination of the change in Net Position, financial position and cash flows.

Auditor of State of Ohio Bulletin No. 2000-005 requires the presentation of all financial activity to be reported within one enterprise fund for year-end reporting purposes.

**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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Enterprise accounting is used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent is that the costs (expenses) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

***Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting***

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and deferred outflows of resources as well as all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are included on the Statement of Net Position. Operating statements present increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in Net Position. The accrual basis of accounting is utilized for reporting purposes. Revenues are recognized when they are earned, and expenses are recognized when they are incurred.

***Budgetary Process***

Community schools are statutorily required to adopt a budget by Ohio Revised Code 3314.032(C). However, unlike traditional public schools located in the State of Ohio, Community Schools are not required to follow the specific budgetary process and limits set forth in the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705, unless specifically provided in the contract between the School and its Sponsor. The contract between the School and its Sponsor does not require the School to follow the provisions Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705; therefore, no budgetary information is presented in the basic financial statements.

***Cash***

All cash received by the School is maintained in a demand deposit account.

***Intergovernmental Revenues***

The School currently participates in the State Foundation Program and casino tax distributions which are reflected under "Operating revenues" on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Change in Net Position. Revenues received from these programs are recognized as operating revenue in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the School receives value without directly giving equal value in return, includes grants. Grants are recognized as non-operating revenues in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted; matching requirements, in which the School must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose; and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the School on a reimbursement basis.

**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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***Use of Estimates***

In preparing the financial statements, management is sometimes required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent deferred outflows and deferred inflows at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

***Capital Assets***

For purposes of recording capital assets, the Board has a capitalization threshold of \$5,000. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over three years for equipment.

The School is reporting intangible right-to-use asset related to a leased building. This intangible asset is being amortized in a systematic and rational manner over the shorter of the lease term or the useful life of the underlying asset.

***Net Position***

Net position represents the difference between assets and deferred outflows of resources and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction, or improvements of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws and regulations of other governments. There was no net position restricted for enabling legislation at fiscal year-end. The School applies restricted resources first when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

***Operating Revenues and Expenses***

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

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

For purposes of measuring the deferred outflows of resources related to pension/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.

**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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***Deferred Outflows of Resources***

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. For the School, deferred outflows of resources are reported on the statement of net position for pension and OPEB. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are explained in Notes 7 and 8.

**NOTE 3 - DEPOSITS**

The School's deposits are fully insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).

**NOTE 4 – GRANT FUNDING RECEIVABLE**

The School has recorded the grant funding receivable to account for incurred expenses for state and federal grants, but not received as of the end of the fiscal year. These are considered fully collectable and will be received in the next fiscal year.

**NOTE 5 - CAPITAL ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION**

As of June 30, 2024, the School has the following in capital assets.

	6/30/2023*	Additions	Deletions	6/30/2024
Capital Assets Being Depreciated/Amortized				
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment	\$ -	\$ 11,025	\$ -	\$ 11,025
Intangible Right to Use Asset - Building	207,303	-	-	207,303
Total Capital Assets Being Depreciated/Amortized	207,303	11,025	-	218,328
Less Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization:				
Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment	-	(3,675)	-	(3,675)
Intangible Right to Use Asset - Building	-	(72,836)	-	(72,836)
Total Less Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization	-	(76,511)	-	(76,511)
Total Capital Assets Being Amortized, Net	\$ 207,303	\$ (65,486)	\$ -	\$ 141,817

\*Although fiscal year 2024 is the first year of operations for the school, certain transactions took place before July 1, 2023 and are therefore being reflected as beginning balances.

**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

**NOTE 6 – LONG-TERM LIABILITIES**

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

	Balance 6/30/2023*	Additions	Reductions	Balance 6/30/2024	Due Within One Year
Lease Payable	\$ 207,303	\$ -	\$ (68,006)	\$ 139,297	\$ 66,873
<i>Total Long-Term Liabilities</i>	<u>\$ 207,303</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (68,006)</u>	<u>\$ 139,297</u>	<u>\$ 66,873</u>

\*Although fiscal year 2024 is the first year of operations for the school, certain transactions took place before July 1, 2023 and are therefore being reflected as beginning balances.

The School has an outstanding agreement to lease building space. The future lease payments were discounted based on the interest rate implicit in the lease or using the School's incremental borrowing rate. This discount is being amortized over the life of the lease. A summary of the principal and interest amounts for the remaining lease is as follows:

	Lease Payments	
Fiscal Year	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 66,873	\$ 8,727
2026	72,424	3,176
	<u>\$ 139,297</u>	<u>\$ 11,903</u>

**NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS**

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

***Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)***

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

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

**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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The Ohio Revised Code limits the School's obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The School cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the School 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 proportionate share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a long-term *net pension/OPEB liability (asset)*. Any liability for the contractually required pension contribution outstanding at the end of the year is included in *accounts payable*.

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 8 for the required OPEB disclosures.

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

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

The School's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$11,953 for fiscal year 2024.

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

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

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

The DB Plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0 percent upon a determination by its actuary that it was necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients' base benefit and past cost-of living increases are not affected by this change. Effective July 1, 2022, a one-time ad-hoc COLA of 3 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2023 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2018. Effective July 1, 2023, a one-time ad-hoc COLA of 1 percent of

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the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2024 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2019. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3307.67(E) the STRS Ohio Retirement Board may adjust the COLA upon a determination by the board's actuary that a change will not materially impair the fiscal integrity of the system or is necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the system. Eligibility charges will be phased in until August 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 34 years of service credit at any age.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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The School's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$19,003 for fiscal year 2024.

***Deferred Outflows Related to Pensions***

Pension liabilities, pension expense, and deferred inflows/outflows of resources (with the exception of deferred outflows of resources related to School contributions subsequent to the measurement date), and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions are not applicable to the School at June 30, 2024, due to the School not being in operation during the measurement period.

	SERS	STRS	Total
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>			
School Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	\$ 11,953	\$ 19,003	\$ 30,956
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<b>\$ 11,953</b>	<b>\$ 19,003</b>	<b>\$ 30,956</b>

\$30,956 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from School 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.

***Actuarial Assumptions - SERS***

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

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

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

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

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Inflation	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of System expenses
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.0 percent, on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement

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

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

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

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

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***Actuarial Assumptions - STRS***

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

Inflation	2.50 percent
Salary Increases	From 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent, based on service
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0.00 percent, effective July 1, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Assumption and Benefit Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date*** Demographic assumptions were changed based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021.

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**NOTE 8 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS**

See Note 7 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

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

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

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

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2024, no allocation was made to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2024, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2.00 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.50 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the

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health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the School's surcharge obligation was \$1,563. The surcharge, added to the allocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The School's contractually required contribution to SERS was equal to its surcharge obligation for fiscal year 2024.

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

Plan Description – The State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio (STRS) administers a cost-sharing Health Plan administered for eligible retirees who participated in the defined benefit or combined pension plans offered by STRS. Ohio law authorizes STRS to offer this plan. Benefits include hospitalization, physicians' fees, prescription drugs and partial reimbursement of monthly Medicare Part B premiums. Health care premiums were reduced by a Medicare Part B premium credit beginning in 2023. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting [www.strsoh.org](http://www.strsoh.org) or by calling (888) 227-7877.

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

***Deferred Outflows Related to OPEB***

OPEB liabilities, OPEB assets, OPEB expense, and deferred inflows/outflows of resources (with the exception of deferred outflows of resources related to School contributions subsequent to the measurement date), and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB are not applicable to the School at June 30, 2024, due to the School not being in operation during the measurement period.

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>			
School Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	\$ 1,563	\$ -	\$ 1,563
<b>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>	<u>\$ 1,563</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,563</u>

\$1,563 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from School contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction to the net OPEB liability in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

***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,

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employment terminations). Actuarially determined amounts are subject to continual review and potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

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

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

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

Inflation	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including Inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expense
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
Fiduciary Net Position is Projected to be Depleted	2048
Municipal Bond Index Rate	
Measurement Date	3.86 percent
Prior Measurement Date	3.69 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate	
Measurement Date	4.27 percent
Prior Measurement Date	4.08 percent
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	
Medicare	5.125 to 4.40 percent
Pre-Medicare	6.75 to 4.40 percent
Medical Trend Assumption	
Measurement Date	6.75 to 4.40 percent
Prior Measurement Date	7.00 to 4.40 percent

Mortality rates among healthy retirees were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Mortality rates for contingent survivors were based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Contingent Survivor mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 105.5 percent for males and adjusted 122.5 percent for females. Mortality rates for actives is based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below

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Median Employee mortality table. Mortality rates are projected using a fully generational projection with Scale MP-2020.

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

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial five-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and was adopted by the Board on April 15, 2021. Several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a long-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return (expected return, net of investment expense and inflation) were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.00 percent, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The capital market assumptions developed by the investment consultant are intended for use over a 10-year horizon and may not be useful in setting the long-term rate of return for funding pension plans which covers a longer timeframe. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

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

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 %	

***Actuarial Assumptions – STRS***

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

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	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Projected Salary Increases	Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent	Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent	3.00 percent
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent	7.00 percent
Health Care Cost Trends		
Medical		
Pre-Medicare	7.50 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	7.50 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate
Medicare	-10.94 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	-68.78 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	-11.95 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	9.00 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate
Medicare	1.33 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	-5.47 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

#### **NOTE 9 - RISK MANAGEMENT**

##### ***Property and Liability***

The School is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft or damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The School's management company contracted with a commercial insurance company for property and general liability insurance on behalf of the School. Settled claims have not exceeded insurance coverage in the fiscal year.

##### ***Director and Officer***

Coverage has been purchased by the School with a \$1,000,000 aggregate limit.

#### **NOTE 10 – SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT**

The Sponsor for the School, during fiscal year 2024, was the Buckeye Community Hope Foundation. In accordance with the sponsorship contract between the Sponsor and the School and in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3314.03, the School will pay a sponsorship fee to the Sponsor of an amount not to exceed three percent of the total State Foundation Program payments during the fiscal year for oversight and monitoring.

#### **NOTE 11 – MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

The School contracted with The Educational Empowerment Group, LLC (EEG OCA, LLC) for academic and business services. This contract expires on June 30, 2026 and shall automatically renew for three additional terms of three years. Management fees are calculated as 16 percent of the School's Foundation payments received by the School from the State of Ohio based on its revenue per student. EEG OCA, LLC will be responsible for procuring the educational program at the School, which include but are not limited to, salaries and benefits for all personnel, curriculum materials, textbooks, library books, computers and other equipment, software, supplies, building payments, maintenance, capital and insurance, which are then invoiced to the School or reimbursed to EEG OCA, LLC.

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**NOTE 12 – CONTINGENCIES**

***Grants***

Amounts received from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. Any disallowed costs may require refunding to the grantor. Amounts which may be disallowed, if any, are not presently determinable. However, in the opinion of the School, any such disallowed claims will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the School.

***Litigation***

The School is not a party to legal proceedings that, in the opinion of management, would have a material adverse effect on the financial statements.

**NOTE 13 – FEDERAL TAX-EXEMPT STATUS**

The School is a nonprofit corporation that has been determined by the Internal Revenue Service to be exempt from federal income taxes as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**NOTE 14 – PURCHASED SERVICES**

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, purchased service expenses were as follows:

<u>Purchased Services</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Personnel Services	\$ 279,765
Professional Services	170,953
Building Services	10,479
Food Services	13,065
Sponsor Services	13,065
Utilities	31,305
Total	<u>\$ 518,632</u>

**NOTE 15 - MANAGEMENT COMPANY EXPENSES**

Educational Empowerment Group, LLC and its affiliates have incurred the expenses on behalf of the School. Overhead charges are assigned to the School based on a percentage of full time equivalent head count. These charges represent the indirect cost of services provided in the operation of the School. Such services include, but are not limited to facilities management, equipment, operational support services, management and management consulting, board relations, human resources management, training and orientation, financial reporting and compliance, purchasing and procurement, education services, technology support, marketing and communications.

**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**NOTE 16 – MANAGEMENT PLAN**

For the fiscal year 2024, the School had an operating loss of \$262,551 and a negative net position of \$212,200. Management is taking steps towards increasing student enrollment and containing costs, which would provide additional State funding and reduce expenses respectively, enabling the School to gain financial stability.

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**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the School's Contributions - Pension*  
*Last Fiscal Year (1)*

	<b>2024</b>
<b><i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i></b>	
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 11,953
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(11,953)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 85,379
Pension Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	14.00%
<b><i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i></b>	
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 19,003
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(19,003)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 135,736
Pension Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	14.00%

(1) Fiscal year 2024 was the School's first year of operation.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the School's Contributions - OPEB*  
*Last Fiscal Year (1)*

	<u>2024</u>
<b><i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i></b>	
Contractually Required Contribution (2)	\$ 1,563
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(1,563)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 85,379
OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (1)	1.83%
 <b><i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i></b>	
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ -
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>-</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 135,736
OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	0.00%

(1) Fiscal year 2024 was the School's first year of operation.

(2) Includes Surcharge

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**NOTE 1 - NET PENSION LIABILITY**

***Changes in Assumptions – STRS***

The assumptions are presented as follows:

	<u>Fiscal Year 2023</u>
Inflation	2.50%
Projected Salary Increases	From 2.50% to 12.50% based on age
Investment Rate of Return, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00%
Payroll Increases	3.00%

***Changes in Benefit Terms - STRS***

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

**NOTE 2 - NET OPEB LIABILITY (ASSET)**

***Changes in Assumptions – SERS***

The assumptions are presented as follows:

	<u>Fiscal Year 2023</u>
Inflation	2.40%
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25% to 13.58%
Investment Rate of Return, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00%

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

<u>Assumption</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u> <u>2024</u>
Municipal Bond Index Rate	3.86%
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation	4.27%

**Southern Ohio Career Academy**  
**Ross County, Ohio**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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***Changes in Assumptions – STRS***

For fiscal year 2023, the projected salary increases were changed from age based (2.5 percent to 12.50 percent) to service based (2.5 percent to 8.5 percent).

***Changes in Benefit Terms – STRS***

Effective January 1, 2024, Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience as well as benefit changes.

For fiscal year 2023, health care trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience





65 East State Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
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800-282-0370

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

Southern Ohio Career Academy  
Ross County  
30 East Main Street  
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

To the Board of Directors:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the Southern Ohio Career Academy, Ross County, Ohio (the School) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated May 16, 2025.

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

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

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

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

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

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

***Purpose of This Report***

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



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio  
May 16, 2025



65 East State Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov  
800-282-0370

## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Southern Ohio Career Academy  
Ross County  
30 East Main Street  
Chillicothe, Ohio 45601

To the Board of Education:

Ohio Rev. Code § 117.53 states “the auditor of state shall identify whether the school district or community school has adopted an anti-harassment policy in accordance with Section 3313.666 of the Revised Code. This determination shall be recorded in the audit report. The auditor of state shall not prescribe the content or operation of any anti-harassment policy adopted by a school district or community school.”

Accordingly, we have performed the procedures enumerated below solely to assist the Board in evaluating whether Southern Ohio Career Academy (the School) has adopted an anti-harassment policy in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 3313.666 and Ohio Rev. Code § 3314.03(a)(11)(d) for the period ended June 30, 2024. Management is responsible for complying with this requirement.

The Board has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of providing assistance in the evaluation of whether the School has adopted an anti-harassment policy in accordance with Ohio Rev. Code § 3313.666. No other party acknowledged the appropriateness of the procedures. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of the report and may not meet the needs of all users of the report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of the Board. Consequently; we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

1. We inspected the Board minutes and observed that the Board adopted an anti-harassment policy at its meeting on September 23, 2023.

Ohio Rev. Code § 3313.666(B) and Ohio Rev. Code § 3314.03(a)(11)(d) specifies the following requirements must be included in anti-harassment policies. We inspected the policy for proper inclusion of these requirements:

1. A statement prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying of any student on school property, on a school bus, or at school-sponsored events and expressly providing for the possibility of suspension of a student found responsible for harassment, intimidation, or bullying by an electronic act;
2. A definition of harassment, intimidation, or bullying that includes the definition in division (A) of Ohio Rev. Code § 3313.666. The act defines that term as “any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both (1) causes mental or physical harm to the other student, (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student,” and violence within a dating relationship.;
3. A procedure for reporting prohibited incidents;

4. A requirement that school personnel report prohibited incidents of which they are aware to the school principal or other administrator designated by the principal;
5. A requirement that the custodial parent or guardian of any student involved in a prohibited incident be notified and, to the extent permitted by section 3319.321 of the Revised Code and the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974," 88 Stat. 571, 20 U.S.C. 1232q, as amended, have access to any written reports pertaining to the prohibited incident;
6. A procedure for documenting any prohibited incident that is reported;
7. A procedure for responding to and investigating any reported incident;
8. A strategy for protecting a victim from new or additional harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and from retaliation following a report, including a means by which a person may report an incident anonymously;
9. A disciplinary procedure for any student guilty of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, which shall not infringe on any student's rights under the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States;
10. A statement prohibiting students from deliberately making false reports of harassment, intimidation, or bullying and a disciplinary procedure for any student responsible for deliberately making a false report of that nature;
11. A requirement that the administration semiannually provide the president of the district board a written summary of all reported incidents and post the summary on its web site, if the district has a web site, to the extent permitted by section 3319.321 of the Revised Code and the "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974," 88 Stat. 571, 20 U.S.C. 1232q, as amended.

We were engaged by the School to perform this agreed-upon procedure engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the AICPA and the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on compliance with the anti-harassment policy. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of the School and to meet our ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the ethical requirements established by the Comptroller General of the United States' *Government Auditing Standards* related to our agreed upon procedures engagement.



Keith Faber  
Auditor of State  
Columbus, Ohio  
May 16, 2025

# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**SOUTHERN OHIO CAREER ACADEMY**

**ROSS 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 6/10/2025**

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

This report is a matter of public record and is available online at  
[www.ohioauditor.gov](http://www.ohioauditor.gov)