

BROWN COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER  
BROWN COUNTY  
REGULAR AUDIT  
FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2024 AND 2023



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Board of Education  
Brown County Educational Service Center  
9231 B Hamer Road  
Georgetown, Ohio 45121

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Brown County Educational Service Center, prepared by Millhuff-Stang, CPA, Inc., for the audit period July 1, 2022 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. The Brown County Educational Service Center is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

KEITH FABER  
Ohio Auditor of State

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

January 27, 2026

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**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
**Brown County**  
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*For the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023*

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**Independent Auditor's Report**

Board of Education  
Brown County Educational Service Center  
9231 B Hamer Road  
Georgetown, Ohio 45121

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

***Opinions***

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Brown County Educational Service Center, Brown County, Ohio (the Educational Service Center), as of and for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Educational Service Center's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Brown County Educational Service Center, Brown County, Ohio, as of June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the years then ended in accordance with 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 (*Government Auditing Standards*). 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 Educational Service Center, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

***Emphasis of Matter***

As discussed in Note 17, to the financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the District. We did not modify our opinion regarding this matter.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these 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 Educational Service Center'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 Educational Service Center'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 Educational Service Center'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***

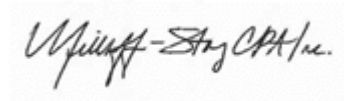
Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, the schedules of the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability, the schedules of the District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset), and the schedules of District contributions be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, 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 September 10, 2025 on our consideration of the Educational Service Center'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 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 Educational Service Center'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 Educational Service Center's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Millhuff-Stang CPA/Inc.", is positioned above the printed name of the firm.

Millhuff-Stang, CPA, Inc.  
Wheelersburg, Ohio

September 10, 2025

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*  
*(Unaudited)*

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As management of the Brown County Educational Service Center (Educational Service Center), we offer readers of the Educational Service Center's basic financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here to enhance their understanding of the Educational Service Center's financial performance.

### **Financial Highlights**

- The Educational Service Center's liabilities and deferred inflows of resources exceeded its assets and deferred outflows of resources at June 30, 2024 by \$7,796,380. This deficit is primarily due to the recognition of net pension and other postemployment benefit (OPEB) liabilities, which is further discussed in the notes to the basic financial statements.
- The Educational Service Center's net position of governmental activities decreased \$152,488.
- General revenues accounted for \$410,336 or 4 percent of total revenues. Program specific revenues in the form of charges for services and sales and operating grants and contributions accounted for \$8,998,292 or 96 percent of total revenues of \$9,408,628.
- The Educational Service Center had \$9,561,116 in expenses related to governmental activities; \$8,998,292 of these expenses were offset by program specific revenues.

### **Using This Annual 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 Educational Service Center as a financial whole, or an entire operating entity.

The statement of net position and statement of activities provide information about the activities of the Educational Service Center as a whole, presenting both an aggregate view of the Educational Service Center's finances and a longer-term view of those finances. Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. These statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as the amount of funds available for future spending. The fund financial statements also look at the Educational Service Center's most significant funds with all other nonmajor funds presented in total in one column.

### **Reporting the Educational Service Center as a Whole**

One of the most important questions asked about the Educational Service Center is "How did we do financially during fiscal year 2024." The statement of net position and the statement of activities, which appear first in the Educational Service Center's financial statements, report information on the Educational Service Center as a whole and its activities in a way that helps answer this question. These statements include all assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows/outflows of resources using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by private sector companies. All current year revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report net position and changes to net position. This change informs the reader whether the Educational Service Center's financial position, as a whole, has improved or diminished. In evaluating the overall financial health, the user of these financial statements needs to take into account nonfinancial factors that also impact the Educational Service Center's financial well-being. Some factors may be financial while others, such as mandated educational programs, are nonfinancial factors.

All of the Educational Service Center's programs and services are reported as governmental activities, which include instruction and support services.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*  
(Unaudited)

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**Reporting the Educational Service Center's Most Significant Funds**

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial statements provide detailed information about the Educational Service Center's major funds. The Educational Service Center uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions. However, these fund financial statements focus on the Educational Service Center's major fund, which is the General Fund.

*Governmental Funds.* All of the Educational Service Center'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 the modified accrual basis of accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can be readily converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Educational Service Center's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps to determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance educational support services. The relationship (or difference) between governmental activities (reported in the statement of net position and the statement of activities) and governmental funds is reconciled in the financial statements.

*Fiduciary Funds.* The Educational Service Center's only fiduciary fund is a custodial fund. These activities are excluded from the Educational Service Center's other financial statements because the assets cannot be utilized by the Educational Service Center to finance its operations. Fiduciary funds use the accrual basis of accounting.

*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.

**The Educational Service Center as a Whole**

As stated previously, the statement of net position provides the perspective of the Educational Service Center as a whole. Table 1 provides a summary of the Educational Service Center's net position for 2024 compared to 2023.

Table 1  
Net Position  
Governmental Position

|                                | 2024        | 2023        |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Assets:                        |             |             |
| Current and Other Assets       | \$3,025,905 | \$3,020,896 |
| Capital Assets, Net            | 676,118     | 128,605     |
| Total Assets                   | 3,702,023   | 3,149,501   |
| Deferred Outflows of Resources | 2,681,197   | 2,876,270   |
| Liabilities:                   |             |             |
| Current and Other Liabilities  | 1,240,770   | 1,112,042   |
| Long-Term Liabilities          | 10,778,414  | 10,030,297  |
| Total Liabilities              | 12,019,184  | 11,142,339  |
| Deferred Inflows of Resources  | 2,160,416   | 2,527,324   |

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*  
(Unaudited)

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Table 1  
Net Position  
Governmental Position  
(Continued)

|                                  | 2024                 | 2023                 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Net Position:                    |                      |                      |
| Net Investment in Capital Assets | \$80,888             | \$67,870             |
| Restricted for Other Purposes    | 1,995                | 56,093               |
| Unrestricted (Deficit)           | <u>(7,879,263)</u>   | <u>(7,767,855)</u>   |
| Total Net Position               | <u>(\$7,796,380)</u> | <u>(\$7,643,892)</u> |

Current and other assets increased between years due primarily to increases in materials and supplies inventory and accounts receivable, which were partially offset by a decrease in the net OPEB asset. Capital assets, net increased due to an addition for an intangible right to use leased asset, which was partially offset by current year depreciation and amortization. Current and other liabilities increased between years due to an increase in accrued wages and benefits and intergovernmental payable. Long-term liabilities increased due to an increase in the Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the state-wide net pension liability the Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the state-wide net OPEB liability and the addition of a lease payable for an intangible right to use asset. Deferred outflows and inflows of resources changed due to changes as reported by the retirement systems based on actuarially determined amounts related to the Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the state-wide net pension/OPEB liability (asset).

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023.

Table 2  
Changes in Net Position  
Governmental Activities

|  | 2024             | 2023             |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Revenues                               |                  |                  |
| Program Revenues:                      |                  |                  |
| Charges for Services and Sales         | \$7,887,477      | \$7,410,161      |
| Operating Grants and Contributions     | <u>1,110,815</u> | <u>1,163,769</u> |
| Total Program Revenues                 | 8,998,292        | 8,573,930        |
| General Revenues:                      |                  |                  |
| Grants and Entitlements not Restricted | 273,162          | 302,857          |
| Investment Earnings                    | 136,756          | 94,609           |
| Miscellaneous                          | <u>418</u>       | <u>6,321</u>     |
| Total General Revenues                 | <u>410,336</u>   | <u>403,787</u>   |
| Total Revenues                         | 9,408,628        | 8,977,717        |

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*  
(Unaudited)

Table 2  
Changes in Net Position  
Governmental Activities  
(Continued)

|                                    | 2024          | 2023          |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Program Expenses:                  |               |               |
| Instruction                        |               |               |
| Regular                            | \$20,966      | \$16,727      |
| Special                            | 4,819,262     | 4,576,001     |
| Support Services                   |               |               |
| Pupils                             | 2,687,272     | 2,636,471     |
| Instructional Staff                | 852,818       | 782,767       |
| Board of Education                 | 46,687        | 63,937        |
| Administration                     | 518,318       | 461,149       |
| Fiscal                             | 322,712       | 326,275       |
| Operation and Maintenance of Plant | 29,225        | 0             |
| Central                            | 260,819       | 200,116       |
| Interest                           | 3,037         | 6,117         |
| Total Expenses                     | 9,561,116     | 9,069,560     |
| Change in Net Position             | (152,488)     | (91,843)      |
| Net Position at Beginning of Year  | (7,643,892)   | (7,552,049)   |
| Net Position at End of Year        | (\$7,796,380) | (\$7,643,892) |

Charges for services and sales increased between years due primarily to an increase in contract services paid by member school districts. Operating grants and contributions decreased between years due to an decrease in ESSER grant monies received.

Many expenses decreased significantly between years due to an decrease in expenses related to pension activity and OPEB activity. For fiscal year 2024, pension and OPEB expenses recognized amounted to \$898,689 whereas expenses recognized in the prior year amounted to \$1,098,797. This resulted in a net decrease in expenses of \$200,108, which was allocated amongst various expense functions. Certain expenses increased related to the additional contract services provided to member districts, including increased payroll-related costs.

The statement of activities shows the cost of program services and the charges for services and sales and operating grants and contributions offsetting those services. Table 3 shows, for governmental activities, the total cost of services and the net cost of services. That is, it identifies the cost of these services supported by general revenues of the Educational Service Center.

Table 3  
Total and Net Cost of Program Services  
Governmental Activities

|                  | 2024                      |                         | 2023                      |
|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|                  | Total Cost of<br>Services | Net Cost of<br>Services | Total Cost of<br>Services |
| Instruction      | \$4,840,228               | \$189,703               | \$4,592,728               |
| Support Services | 4,717,851                 | 370,084                 | 4,470,715                 |
| Interest         | 3,037                     | 3,037                   | 6,117                     |
| Total Expenses   | \$9,561,116               | \$562,824               | \$9,069,560               |
|                  |                           |                         | \$495,630                 |

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*  
*(Unaudited)*

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**The Educational Service Center's Funds**

Governmental funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. All governmental funds had total revenues and other financing sources of \$9,989,484 and expenditures of \$10,018,210.

The General Fund had \$8,976,135 in revenues and other financing sources and \$8,948,992 in expenditures, resulting in an increase in fund balance of \$27,143, resulting from an increase in contract revenues outpacing the increase in expenditures for the fund.

**General Fund Budget Highlights**

The Educational Service Center is not required under Ohio law to file budgetary information with the State Department of Education. No budgetary information is presented because the Governing Board did not approve estimated revenues or adopt appropriations.

**Capital Assets**

At the end of fiscal year 2024, the Educational Service Center had \$676,118 invested in its capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization. Table 4 shows the fiscal year 2024 balances compared to 2023.

Table 4  
Capital Assets  
(Net of Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization)  
Governmental Activities

|                               | 2024             | 2023             |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Furniture and Equipment       | \$80,888         | \$67,870         |
| Intangible Right to Use Lease | 595,230          | 60,735           |
|                               | <u>\$676,118</u> | <u>\$128,605</u> |

Changes in capital assets from the prior year resulted from current year additions and depreciation and amortization expense. See note 5 to the basic financial statements for more detailed information related to capital assets.

**Debt**

At June 30, 2023, the Educational Service Center's outstanding debt obligations included a lease payable in the amount of \$595,230. See note 11 to the basic financial statements for more detailed information related to debt.

**Contacting the Educational Service Center's Financial Management**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, creditors, and investors with a general overview of the Educational Service Center's financial condition and to show the Educational Service Center's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Liz Dunn, Treasurer, Brown County Educational Service Center, 9231 Hamer Road, Georgetown, Ohio 45121.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Statement of Net Position*  
June 30, 2024

|   | Governmental<br>Activities |
|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                               |                            |
| Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents  | \$2,178,062                |
| Materials and Supplies Inventory            | 224,008                    |
| Accrued Interest                            | 3,989                      |
| Accounts Receivable                         | 92,002                     |
| Intergovernmental Receivable                | 75,529                     |
| Prepaid Items                               | 13,405                     |
| Net OPEB Asset                              | 438,910                    |
| Depreciable Capital Assets, Net             | 676,118                    |
| <i>Total Assets</i>                         | 3,702,023                  |
| <b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>       |                            |
| Pensions                                    | 1,811,174                  |
| OPEB  | 870,023                    |
| <i>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</i> | 2,681,197                  |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                          |                            |
| Accounts Payable                            | 22,856                     |
| Accrued Wages and Benefits                  | 1,032,420                  |
| Intergovernmental Payable                   | 181,475                    |
| Matured Compensated Absences Payable        | 4,019                      |
| Long-Term Liabilities:                      |                            |
| Due Within One Year                         | 66,794                     |
| Due in More Than One Year                   | 1,007,369                  |
| Net Pension Liability                       | 8,569,542                  |
| Net OPEB Liability                          | 1,134,709                  |
| <i>Total Liabilities</i>                    | 12,019,184                 |
| <b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>        |                            |
| Pensions                                    | 770,163                    |
| OPEB  | 1,390,253                  |
| <i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>  | 2,160,416                  |
| <b>Net Postion</b>                          |                            |
| Net Investment in Capital Assets            | 80,888                     |
| Restricted for Other Purposes               | 1,995                      |
| Unrestricted (Deficit)                      | (7,879,263)                |
| <i>Total Net Position</i>                   | (\$7,796,380)              |

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

|                                      |                    |                    |                    |           |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| <i>Total Governmental Activities</i> | <u>\$9,561,116</u> | <u>\$7,887,477</u> | <u>\$1,110,815</u> | (562,824) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|

|  |         |
|--|---------|
| Grants and Entitlements not Restricted<br>to Specific Programs | 273,162 |
| Investment Earnings  | 136,756 |
| Miscellaneous  | 418     |
|  | <hr/>   |

|                                       |                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Change in Net Position</i>         | (152,488)            |
| <i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i> | <u>(7,643,892)</u>   |
| <i>Net Position End of Year</i>       | <u>(\$7,796,380)</u> |

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.



**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Balance Sheet*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*June 30, 2024*

|   | General<br>Fund    | Nonmajor<br>Funds | Total<br>Governmental<br>Funds |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                                     |                    |                   |                                |
| Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents        | \$2,178,062        | \$0               | \$2,178,062                    |
| Materials and Supplies Inventory                  | 224,008            | 0                 | 224,008                        |
| Accrued Interest Receivable                       | 3,989              | 0                 | 3,989                          |
| Accounts Receivable                               | 92,002             | 0                 | 92,002                         |
| Interfund Receivable                              | 48,115             | 0                 | 48,115                         |
| Intergovernmental Receivable                      | 0                  | 75,529            | 75,529                         |
| Prepaid Items                                     | 11,410             | 1,995             | 13,405                         |
| <i>Total Assets</i>                               | <u>\$2,557,586</u> | <u>\$77,524</u>   | <u>\$2,635,110</u>             |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                |                    |                   |                                |
| Accounts Payable                                  | \$14,996           | \$7,860           | \$22,856                       |
| Accrued Wages and Benefits Payable                | 1,017,572          | 14,848            | 1,032,420                      |
| Interfund Payable                                 | 0                  | 48,115            | 48,115                         |
| Intergovernmental Payable                         | 176,768            | 4,707             | 181,475                        |
| Matured Compensated Absences Payable              | 4,019              | 0                 | 4,019                          |
| <i>Total Liabilities</i>                          | <u>1,213,355</u>   | <u>75,530</u>     | <u>1,288,885</u>               |
| <b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>              |                    |                   |                                |
| Unavailable Revenue - Interest                    | 3,989              | 0                 | 3,989                          |
| Unavailable Revenue - Customer Sales and Services | 8,615              | 0                 | 8,615                          |
| Unavailable Revenue - Intergovernmental           | 0                  | 1,770             | 1,770                          |
| <i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>        | <u>12,604</u>      | <u>1,770</u>      | <u>14,374</u>                  |
| <b>Fund Balances</b>                              |                    |                   |                                |
| Nonspendable                                      | 235,418            | 1,995             | 237,413                        |
| Assigned  | 98,763             | 0                 | 98,763                         |
| Unassigned (Deficit)                              | 997,446            | (1,771)           | 995,675                        |
| <i>Total Fund Balances</i>                        | <u>1,331,627</u>   | <u>224</u>        | <u>1,331,851</u>               |
| <i>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</i>        | <u>\$2,557,586</u> | <u>\$77,524</u>   | <u>\$2,635,110</u>             |

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to*  
*Net Position of Governmental Activities*  
*June 30, 2024*

|                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Governmental Fund Balances | \$1,331,851 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|

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

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

|   |           |         |
|---|-----------|---------|
| Capital assets                            | 944,579   |         |
| Accumulated depreciation and amortization | (268,461) |         |
| Total                                     |           | 676,118 |

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

|                             |       |        |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------|
| Interest                    | 3,989 |        |
| Customer Sales and Services | 8,615 |        |
| Intergovernmental           | 1,770 |        |
| Total                       |       | 14,374 |

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) is not due and payable (receivable) in the current period. Therefore, the liability (asset) and related deferred inflows/outflows are not reported in governmental funds:

|                           |             |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Deferred outflows-pension | 1,811,174   |             |
| Deferred outflows-OPEB    | 870,023     |             |
| Deferred inflows-pension  | (770,163)   |             |
| Deferred inflows-OPEB     | (1,390,253) |             |
| Net pension liability     | (8,569,542) |             |
| Net OPEB asset            | 438,910     |             |
| Net OPEB liability        | (1,134,709) |             |
| Total                     |             | (8,744,560) |

Some liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds. Those liabilities consist of:

|                      |           |             |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------|
| Lease payable        | (595,230) |             |
| Compensated absences | (478,933) |             |
| Total                |           | (1,074,163) |

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Net Position of Governmental Activities | (\$7,796,380) |
|---|---------------|

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

|  | General<br>Fund | Nonmajor<br>Funds | Total<br>Governmental<br>Funds |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Revenues</b>                              |                 |                   |                                |
| Intergovernmental                            | \$368,858       | \$1,013,349       | \$1,382,207                    |
| Interest                                     | 132,767         | 0                 | 132,767                        |
| Tuition and Fees                             | 303,580         | 0                 | 303,580                        |
| Customer Sales and Services                  | 7,575,282       | 0                 | 7,575,282                      |
| Miscellaneous                                | 418             | 0                 | 418                            |
| <i>Total Revenues</i>                        | 8,380,905       | 1,013,349         | 9,394,254                      |
| <b>Expenditures</b>                          |                 |                   |                                |
| Current                                      |                 |                   |                                |
| Instruction                                  |                 |                   |                                |
| Regular                                      | 20,608          | 0                 | 20,608                         |
| Special                                      | 4,310,182       | 459,559           | 4,769,741                      |
| Support Services                             |                 |                   |                                |
| Pupils                                       | 2,386,445       | 236,263           | 2,622,708                      |
| Instructional Staff                          | 586,106         | 239,870           | 825,976                        |
| Board of Education                           | 46,540          | 0                 | 46,540                         |
| Administration                               | 503,737         | 0                 | 503,737                        |
| Fiscal                                       | 261,563         | 52,759            | 314,322                        |
| Operation and Maintenance of Plant           | 0               | 24,939            | 24,939                         |
| Central                                      | 167,760         | 28,767            | 196,527                        |
| Capital Outlay                               | 602,279         | 27,061            | 629,340                        |
| Debt Service:                                |                 |                   |                                |
| Principal                                    | 60,735          | 0                 | 60,735                         |
| Interest                                     | 3,037           | 0                 | 3,037                          |
| <i>Total Expenditures</i>                    | 8,948,992       | 1,069,218         | 10,018,210                     |
| <i>Excess of Revenues Under Expenditures</i> | (568,087)       | (55,869)          | (623,956)                      |
| <b>Other Financing Sources</b>               |                 |                   |                                |
| Inception of Lease                           | 595,230         | 0                 | 595,230                        |
| <i>Total Other Financing Sources</i>         | 595,230         | 0                 | 595,230                        |
| <i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>           | 27,143          | (55,869)          | (28,726)                       |
| <i>Beginning Fund Balances, July 1</i>       | 1,304,484       | 56,093            | 1,360,577                      |
| <i>Ending Fund Balances, June 30</i>         | \$1,331,627     | \$224             | \$1,331,851                    |

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*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 | (\$28,726) |
|--|------------|

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

Capital outlays are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of capital assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation/amortization expense. The amounts of capital asset additions and depreciation/amortization

|  |          |         |
|--|----------|---------|
| Capital asset additions                    | 629,340  |         |
| Current year depreciation and amortization | (81,827) |         |
| Total                                      |          | 547,513 |

Because some revenues will not be collected for several months after the Educational Service Center's fiscal year ends, they are not considered "available" revenues and are not reported as revenues in the funds.

|                             |       |        |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------|
| Interest                    | 3,989 |        |
| Customer Sales and Services | 8,615 |        |
| Intergovernmental           | 1,770 |        |
| Total                       |       | 14,374 |

Contractually required contributions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. However, the statement of net position reports these amounts as deferred outflows.

|         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| Pension | 737,251 |         |
| OPEB    | 49,416  |         |
| Total   |         | 786,667 |

Except for amounts reported as deferred inflows/outflows, changes in the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) are reported as pension/OPEB expense (gain) in the statement of activities.

|         |           |           |
|---------|-----------|-----------|
| Pension | (905,010) |           |
| OPEB    | 6,321     |           |
| Total   |           | (898,689) |

Repayment of long-term debt is reported as an expenditure in governmental funds, but the repayment reduces the long-term liabilities in the statement of net position. In the current fiscal year, this amount consists of:

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Lease Payments | 60,735 |
|----------------|--------|

Other financing sources in the governmental funds that increase long-term liabilities in the statement of net position are not reported as revenues in the statement of activities:

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Inception of Lease | (595,230) |
|--------------------|-----------|

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

|                                  |          |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Increase in compensated absences | (39,132) |          |
| Total                            |          | (39,132) |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities | (152,488) |
|---|-----------|

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See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Statement of Fiduciary Net Position*  
June 30, 2024

|   | Custodial<br>Fund          |
|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>   |                            |
| Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents                      | \$10,582,154               |
| Accounts Receivable   | <u>1,603,934</u>           |
| <i>Total Assets</i>   | 12,186,088                 |
| <b>Liabilities</b>  |                            |
| Accounts Payable  | <u>1,632,596</u>           |
| <i>Total Liabilities</i>  | 1,632,596                  |
| <b>Net Position</b>   |                            |
| Restricted for Individuals, Organizations and Other Governments | <u>10,553,492</u>          |
| <i>Total Net Position</i>                                       | <u><u>\$10,553,492</u></u> |

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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|                                       | Custodial<br>Fund          |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Additions</b>                      |                            |
| Amounts Received as Fiscal Agent      | <u>\$25,769,952</u>        |
| <i>Total Additions</i>                | 25,769,952                 |
| <b>Deductions</b>                     |                            |
| Distributions as Fiscal Agent         | <u>22,792,109</u>          |
| <i>Total Deductions</i>               | <u>22,792,109</u>          |
| <i>Change in Net Position</i>         | 2,977,843                  |
| <i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i> | <u>7,575,649</u>           |
| <i>Net Position End of Year</i>       | <u><u>\$10,553,492</u></u> |

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**Note 1 – Description of the Educational Service Center and Reporting Entity**

The Brown County Educational Service Center (the Educational Service Center) operates under a Governing Board as defined by Section 3313.01 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Brown County Governing Board was chartered to operate by the State Board of Education on June 10, 1968. The Governing Board consists of five members elected at large for staggered four-year terms. The Educational Service Center is an administrative entity providing supervision and certain other services to local school districts located in Brown County. The Educational Service Center employs 55 certified and 119 classified staff members and provides services to the local and exempted village school districts.

**Reporting Entity**

A reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the Educational Service Center consists of all funds, departments, boards and agencies that are not legally separate from the Educational Service Center. For the Brown County Educational Service Center, this includes general operations, preschool, as well as teacher and student developmental activities.

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

The Educational Service Center participates in a jointly governed organization, insurance purchasing pool, and public entity shared risk and insurance purchasing pool. These organizations are discussed in Note 12 to the basic financial statements. These organizations are:

Jointly Governed Organization

Hamilton Clermont Cooperative Information Technology Center

Insurance Purchasing Pools

Cincinnati USA Chamber of Commerce Group Rating Plan

Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA)

Public Entity Shared Risk and Insurance Purchasing Pool

Brown County Schools Benefits Consortium

**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

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

## **Brown County Educational Service Center**

### *Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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#### **Basis of Presentation**

The Educational Service Center'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 Educational Service Center as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the Educational Service Center, except for fiduciary funds. The statements usually distinguish between those activities of the Educational Service Center that are governmental in nature and those that are considered business-type; however, the Educational Service Center has no business-type activities.

The Statement of Net Position presents the financial condition of the governmental activities of the Educational Service Center at fiscal year-end. The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each program or function of the Educational Service Center's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and are 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. Revenues which are not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues of the Educational Service Center, 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 Educational Service Center.

#### Fund Financial Statements

During the fiscal year, the Educational Service Center segregates transactions related to certain Educational Service Center 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 Educational Service Center 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. Fiduciary funds are reported by type.

#### **Fund Accounting**

The Educational Service Center uses funds to maintain its financial records during the fiscal year. The funds of the Educational Service Center are divided into two categories: governmental and fiduciary.

#### Governmental Funds

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

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



## **Brown County Educational Service Center**

### *Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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

#### Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds and custodial funds. Trust funds are distinguished from custodial funds by the existence of a trust agreement or equivalent arrangements that has certain characteristics. Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund. The Educational Service Center's only fiduciary fund is a custodial fund. The custodial fund accounts for activities related to the 125 Plan and the Brown County Schools Benefits Consortium.

#### **Measurement Focus**

##### Government-wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are prepared using a flow of economic resources measurement focus. All assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows and outflows of resources associated with the operation of the Educational Service Center are included on the Statement of Net Position. The Statement of Activities presents increases (e.g., revenues) and decreases (e.g., 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, current liabilities, certain 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 (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

#### **Basis of Accounting**

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. Government-wide financial statements and the financial statements of the fiduciary funds 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 bases of accounting arise in the recognition of revenue, the recording of deferred inflows and outflows 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. "Measurable" means that the amount of the transaction can be determined, and "available" means that the resources are collectible 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 Educational Service Center, available means expected to be received within 60 days of fiscal year-end.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the Educational Service Center receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlements and donations. Revenue from grants, entitlements and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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requirements, which specify the fiscal year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted; matching requirements, in which the Educational Service Center must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose; and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Educational Service Center on a reimbursement basis. On a modified accrual basis, revenue from non-exchange transactions must also be available before it can be recognized.

Under the modified accrual basis, interest, customer sales and services, and grants are considered to be both measurable and available at fiscal year-end.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statements of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The Educational Service Center reports in the government-wide statement of net position deferred outflows of resources for amounts related to pensions and other postemployment benefits. Amounts related to pensions will be further discussed in Notes 8 and 9.

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 position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The Educational Service Center reports deferred inflows of resources for unavailable revenue, pensions, and other postemployment benefits. 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 Educational Service Center, unavailable revenue includes intergovernmental grants, customer sales and services, and interest. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period the amounts become available. Amounts related to pensions and other postemployment benefits will be further discussed in Notes 8 and 9.

Expenses/Expenditures

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

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

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

To improve cash management, all cash received by the Educational Service Center, except cash held as fiscal agent for the Brown County Schools Benefits Consortium, is pooled in central bank accounts. Separate accounts are maintained for the Brown County Schools Benefits Consortium but are included in the accounting records of the Educational Service Center. Individual fund integrity is maintained through Educational Service Center records. Interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents," on the financial statements.

During fiscal year 2024, investments were limited to the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAR Ohio). STAR 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 Educational Service Center measures their 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.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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For the fiscal year 2024, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, 24 hours advanced noticed 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.

Following Ohio statutes, the Governing Board has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest revenue credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2024 amounted to \$132,767.

Investments of the cash management pool and investments with original maturities of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the Educational Service Center are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents.

**Interfund Balances**

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

**Prepaid Items**

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

**Inventory**

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

**Capital Assets**

All capital assets of the Educational Service Center are general capital assets that are associated with governmental activities. 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.

Capital assets are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost which is determined by indexing the current replacement cost back to the year of acquisition) and are updated for additions and retirements during the fiscal year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their acquisition values as of the date received. The Educational Service Center maintains a capitalization threshold of \$1,500. The Educational Service Center does not possess any infrastructure.

All reported capital assets are depreciated. Depreciation of furniture and equipment is computed using the straight-line method over five to twenty years. Amortization of intangible right to use lease assets is computed using the straight-line method over the lease term of five years, which is the shorter of the lease term or the useful life of the underlying asset.

**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 Educational Service Center will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means. The Educational Service Center records a liability for accumulated unused vacation time when earned for all employees with more than one year of service.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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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 Educational Service Center 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 Educational Service Center's termination policy. The Educational Service Center records a liability for accumulated unused sick leave for all employees after 10 years of current service with the Educational Service Center.

The entire compensated absences liability is reported on the government-wide financial statements.

On the governmental fund financial statements, compensated absences are recognized as a liability and expenditures to the extent that payments come due each period upon the occurrence of employee resignations and retirements. These amounts are recorded in the account "Matured Compensated Absences Payable" in the fund from which the employees will be paid.

**Accrued Liabilities and Long-Term Obligations**

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

**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 (gain), 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.

**Fund Balance**

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Educational Service Center 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 are 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.

*Committed* - The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by the highest level of formal action (resolution) of the Educational Service Center Board. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board 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

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

*Assigned* - Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the Educational Service Center for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the Educational Service Center Board. State statute authorizes the Treasurer to assign fund balance purchases on order provided such amounts have been lawfully appropriated.

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

The Educational Service Center 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.

**Net Position**

Net position represents the difference between all other elements in a statement of financial position. The investment in capital assets component of net position consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization, reduced by outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the Educational Service Center or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments.

The Educational Service Center applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

**Internal Activity**

Internal 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 and are eliminated from the Statement of Activities. 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. The Educational Service Center reported no interfund transfers for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024.

**Budgetary Process**

No budgetary information is presented because the Governing Board did not approve estimated revenues or adopt appropriations. Under Ohio law, Educational Service Centers are not required to file budgetary information with the State Department of Education.

**Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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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.

**Flow-Through Grants**

The Educational Service Center is the primary recipient of grants which are passed through or spent on behalf of the local and exempted village school districts. When the Educational Service Center has a financial or administrative role in the grants, the grants are reported as revenues and intergovernmental expenditures/expenses. For fiscal year 2024, the Educational Service Center had no flow through grants.

**Note 3 – Deposits and Investments**

Monies held by the Educational Service Center are classified by State statute into three categories.

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

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

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

Interim monies held by the Educational Service Center 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 obligations or security issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and Government National Mortgage Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;
3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and with certain limitations, including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met;
5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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division are made only through eligible institutions;

7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAROhio); 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.

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 Educational Service Center 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.

**Investments**

As of June 30, 2024, the Educational Service Center only had investments in STAR Ohio.

| Measurement/Investment     | Measurement<br>Amount | Average<br>Maturity |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Net Asset Value Per Share: |                       |                     |
| STAR Ohio                  | \$9,025,065           | 60 Days             |

Interest Rate Risk

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

Credit Risk

STAR Ohio carries a rating of AAAM by Standard and Poor's. Ohio law requires that STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. The Educational Service Center has no investment policy that addresses credit risk.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The Educational Service Center places no limit on the amount it may invest in any one issuer.

**Note 4 – Receivables**

Receivables at June 30, 2024 consisted of amounts due from other school districts and governmental agencies. All receivables are considered collectible in full and will be received within one year. The Educational Service Center had the following intergovernmental receivables:



**Brown County Educational Service Center***Notes to the Basic Financial Statements**For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

| <i>Governmental Activities</i> | <i>Amount</i>   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Nonmajor Funds:</i>         |                 |
| Early Childhood Education      | \$2,484         |
| ESSER                          | 69,187          |
| IDEA Early Childhood           | 3,858           |
| Total                          | <u>\$75,529</u> |

**Note 5 – Capital Assets**

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

|   | Balance at<br>6/30/23 | Additions        | Deletions  | Balance at<br>6/30/24 |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Governmental Activities</i>                |                       |                  |            |                       |
| Capital Assets Being Depreciated/Amortization |                       |                  |            |                       |
| Furniture and Equipment                       | \$134,830             | \$34,110         | (\$2,805)  | \$166,135             |
| Intangible Right to Use Lease*                | 183,214               | 595,230          | 0          | 778,444               |
| Total   | 318,044               | 629,340          | (2,805)    | 944,579               |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization    |                       |                  |            |                       |
| Furniture and Equipment                       | (66,960)              | (21,092)         | 2,805      | (85,247)              |
| Intangible Right to Use Lease*                | (122,479)             | (60,735)         | 0          | (183,214)             |
| Total   | (189,439)             | (81,827)         | 2,805      | (268,461)             |
| Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net   | <u>\$128,605</u>      | <u>\$547,513</u> | <u>\$0</u> | <u>\$676,118</u>      |

Depreciation and amortization expense was charged to governmental functions as follows:

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Instruction:                            |                 |
| Special                                 | \$188           |
| Support Services:                       |                 |
| Pupils                                  | 543             |
| Instructional Staff                     | 13,556          |
| Administration                          | 1,100           |
| Fiscal                                  | 120             |
| Operation and Maintenance of Plant      | 4,286           |
| Central                                 | 62,034          |
| Total Depreciation/Amortization Expense | <u>\$81,827</u> |

\*Of the current year depreciation/amortization total of \$81,827, \$60,735 is presented as central expense on the Statement of Activities related to the Educational Service Center's intangible asset of building use, which is included as an Intangible Right to Use Lease. With the implementation of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 87, "Leases", a lease meeting the criteria of this statement requires the lessee to recognize the lease liability and an intangible right to use asset.

**Note 6 – State and Local School District Funding**

The Educational Service Center, under State law, provides services to local school districts within its territory. Each city, local and exempted village school district that entered into an agreement with the Educational Service Center is considered to be provided services. The cost of the services is determined by formula under State law. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce apportions the costs for all services among the Educational Service Center's city, local and exempted school districts based on each school's total student count. The Department of Education



**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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and Workforce deducts each school district's amount from their State Foundation Program settlements and remits the amount to the Educational Service Center. The Educational Service Center may provide additional services if the majority of local and client school districts agree to the services and the apportionment of the costs to all of the client school districts.

The Educational Service Center received funding from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce using a funding model which is based on student count. This amount is paid from State resources. The Department of Education and Workforce also deducts from the State Foundation Program settlement of each of the Educational Service Center's local and client school districts an amount equal to \$6.50 times the school district's total student count and remits this amount to the Educational Service Center.

The Educational Service Center may contract with city, exempted village, local, joint vocational or cooperative education school districts to provide special education and related services or career-technical education services. The individual boards of education pay the costs for these services directly to the Service Center.

**Note 7 – Risk Management**

**Liability Insurance**

The Educational Service Center is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During fiscal year 2024, the Educational Service Center contracted with Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA) for liability, property, and automobile liability insurance coverage and paid its premium to SORSA. The premium paid to SORSA for fiscal year 2024 was \$9,874.

Liberty Mutual maintains a \$20,000 public official bond for the Treasurer.

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

**Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan**

For fiscal year 2024, the Educational Service Center participated in the Cincinnati USA Chamber of Commerce group rating program (GRP), an insurance purchasing pool (See Note 12). The intent of the GRP is to achieve the benefit of a reduced premium for the Educational Service Center by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the GRP. The workers' compensation experience of the participants is calculated as one experience, and a common premium rate is applied to all school districts in the GRP. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the GRP rather than its individual rate. Participation in the GRP is limited to school districts that can meet the GRP's selection criteria. The firm of Sheakley UniComp provides administrative, cost control, and actuarial services to the GRP.

**Employee Medical and Dental Benefits**

The Educational Service Center participates in the Brown County Schools Benefits Consortium (the Consortium), a public entity shared risk and insurance purchasing pool (Note 12) consisting of nine districts. The Consortium has elected to have United Healthcare provide medical coverage purchased as a group through the Consortium. Dental coverage is being provided through a shared risk pool based on member districts' number of employees. The Educational Service Center is responsible for providing a current listing of enrolled employees and for providing timely pro-rata payments of premiums to the Consortium for employee health coverage and dental benefits. The Consortium is responsible for the management and operations of the program. Upon termination from the Consortium, for any reason, the terminated member relinquishes their portion of equity in the Consortium's cash pool.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**Note 8 – Defined Benefit Pension Plans**

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

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

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) reported on the statement of net position represents a liability to (asset for) employees for pensions/OPEB. 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 pension/OPEB is a present obligation because it was created as a result of employment exchanges that already have occurred.

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) represents the Educational Service Center'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 Educational Service Center's obligation for these liabilities to annually required payments. The Educational Service Center cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the Educational Service Center 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 health care to eligible benefit recipients.

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/OPEB contribution outstanding at the end of the year is included in intergovernmental payable on both the accrual and modified accrual bases of accounting.

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See note 9 for the required OPEB disclosures.

**School Employees Retirement System (SERS)**

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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

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

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

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

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the Educational Service Center 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 Educational Service Center's contractually required contributions to SERS were \$406,960 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount, \$50,763 was reported as an intergovernmental payable.

### **State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)**

Plan Description – Educational Service Center licensed teachers and other certified faculty members participate in STRS Ohio, 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](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

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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

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

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

The Combined Plan offers features of both the DB Plan and the DC Plan. In the Combined Plan, 12 percent of the 14 percent member rate is deposited into the member's DC account and the remaining 2 percent is applied to the DB Plan. Member contributions to the DC Plan are allocated among investment choices by the member, and contributions to the DB Plan from the employer and the member are used to fund the defined benefit payment at a reduced level from the regular DB Plan. The defined benefit portion of the Combined Plan payment is payable to a member on or after age 60 with five years of service. The defined contribution portion of the account may be taken as a lump sum payment or converted to a lifetime monthly annuity at age 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 fiscal year 2024 employer and employee contribution rate of 14 percent was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For fiscal year 2024, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The Educational Service Center's contractually required contributions to STRS were \$330,291 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount, \$68,218 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

**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 Educational Service Center's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Educational Service Center'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 |                     |                     |              |
| Current Measurement Date                | 0.06713600%         | 0.022567660%        |              |
| Proportion of the Net Pension Liability |                     |                     |              |
| Prior Measurement Date                  | <u>0.07050140%</u>  | <u>0.021174440%</u> |              |
| Change in Proportionate Share           | <u>-0.00336540%</u> | <u>0.001393220%</u> |              |
| Proportionate Share of the Net          |                     |                     |              |
| Pension Liability                       | \$3,709,610         | \$4,859,932         | \$8,569,542  |
| Pension Expense                         | \$540,057           | \$364,953           | \$905,010    |

At June 30, 2024, the Educational Service Center 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>       |
|---|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Deferred Outflows of Resources</i>       |                  |                    |                    |
| Differences between expected and            |                  |                    |                    |
| actual experience                           | \$159,450        | \$177,182          | \$336,632          |
| Changes of assumptions                      | 26,278           | 400,243            | 426,521            |
| Changes in proportion and differences       |                  |                    |                    |
| between Educational Service Center          |                  |                    |                    |
| contributions and proportionate share       |                  |                    |                    |
| of contributions                            | 135,175          | 175,595            | 310,770            |
| Educational Service Center contributions    |                  |                    |                    |
| subsequent to the measurement date          | <u>406,960</u>   | <u>330,291</u>     | <u>737,251</u>     |
| Total Deferred Outflows of Resources        | <u>\$727,863</u> | <u>\$1,083,311</u> | <u>\$1,811,174</u> |
| <i>Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>        |                  |                    |                    |
| Differences between expected and            |                  |                    |                    |
| actual experience                           | \$0              | \$10,784           | \$10,784           |
| Changes of assumptions                      | 0                | 301,268            | 301,268            |
| Net difference between projected and        |                  |                    |                    |
| actual earnings on pension plan investments | 52,141           | 14,565             | 66,706             |
| Changes in proportion and differences       |                  |                    |                    |
| between Educational Service Center          |                  |                    |                    |
| contributions and proportionate share       |                  |                    |                    |
| of contributions                            | <u>141,629</u>   | <u>249,776</u>     | <u>391,405</u>     |
| Total Deferred Inflows of Resources         | <u>\$193,770</u> | <u>\$576,393</u>   | <u>\$770,163</u>   |

\$737,251 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from Educational Service Center contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense (gain) as follows:

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

|                             | <u>SERS</u>      | <u>STRS</u>      | <u>Total</u>     |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Fiscal Year Ending June 30: |                  |                  |                  |
| 2025                        | \$112,212        | (\$85,943)       | \$26,269         |
| 2026                        | (191,745)        | (256,030)        | (447,775)        |
| 2027                        | 203,897          | 513,694          | 717,591          |
| 2028                        | <u>2,769</u>     | <u>4,906</u>     | <u>7,675</u>     |
| Total                       | <u>\$127,133</u> | <u>\$176,627</u> | <u>\$303,760</u> |

**Actuarial Assumptions - SERS**

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

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

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

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

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Inflation                                    | 2.4 percent  |
| Future Salary Increases, including inflation | 3.25 percent to 13.58 percent  |
| COLA or Ad Hoc COLA                          | 2.00 percent, on or after<br>April 1, 2018, COLAs for future<br>retirees will be delayed for three<br>years following commencement |
| Investment Rate of Return                    | 7.00 percent net of<br>System expenses   |
| Actuarial Cost Method                        | Entry Age Normal<br>(Level Percent of Payroll)   |

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



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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:

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

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

|   | 1% Decrease<br>(6.00%) | Current<br>Discount Rate<br>(7.00%) | 1% Increase<br>(8.00%) |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability | \$5,475,194            | \$3,709,610                         | \$2,222,441            |

**Actuarial Assumptions - STRS**

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

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

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|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Inflation                         | 2.50 percent  |
| Projected Salary Increases        | From 2.50 percent to 8.50 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 are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110 percent for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95 percent for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Disable Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

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

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

| 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.

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

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



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|   | 1% Decrease<br>(6.00%) | Current<br>Discount Rate<br>(7.00%) | 1% Increase<br>(8.00%) |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability | \$7,473,499            | \$4,859,932                         | \$2,649,569            |

**Social Security System**

Effective July 1, 1991, all employees not otherwise covered by the School Employees Retirement System or the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio have an option to choose Social Security or the School Employees Retirement System. As of June 30, 2024, one member of the Board of Education have elected Social Security. The Board's liability is 6.2 percent of wages paid.

**Note 9 – Defined Benefit OPEB Plans**

See note 8 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

**School Employees Retirement System (SERS)**

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

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

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund 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

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provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the Educational Service Center's surcharge obligation was \$49,416.

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 Educational Service Center's contractually required contribution to SERS for health care was \$49,416 for fiscal year 2024. Of this amount, \$49,416 was reported as an intergovernmental payable.

**State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)**

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

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

**Net OPEB Liability (Asset), OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB**

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

|   | SERS                | STRS                | Total       |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)  |                     |                     |             |
| Current Measurement Date                      | 0.06887690%         | 0.022567660%        |             |
| Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)  |                     |                     |             |
| Prior Measurement Date                        | 0.07189350%         | 0.021174440%        |             |
| Change in Proportionate Share                 | <u>-0.00301660%</u> | <u>0.001393220%</u> |             |
| Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability | \$1,134,709         | \$0                 | \$1,134,709 |
| Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset     | \$0                 | (\$438,910)         | (\$438,910) |
| OPEB Expense (Gain)                           | \$696               | (\$7,017)           | (\$6,321)   |

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At June 30, 2024, the Educational Service Center 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>       |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Deferred Outflows of Resources</i>   |                    |                  |                    |
| Differences between expected and actual experience  | \$2,363            | \$683            | \$3,046            |
| Changes of assumptions  | 383,677            | 64,657           | 448,334            |
| Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments  | 8,795              | 783              | 9,578              |
| Changes in proportionate share and difference between Educational Service Center contributions and proportionate share of contributions | 342,485            | 17,164           | 359,649            |
| Educational Service Center contributions subsequent to the measurement date   | 49,416             | 0                | 49,416             |
| Total Deferred Outflows of Resources  | <u>\$786,736</u>   | <u>\$83,287</u>  | <u>\$870,023</u>   |
| <i>Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>  |                    |                  |                    |
| Differences between expected and actual experience  | \$585,211          | \$66,942         | \$652,153          |
| Changes of assumptions  | 322,268            | 289,587          | 611,855            |
| Changes in proportionate share and difference between Educational Service Center contributions and proportionate share of contributions | 119,285            | 6,960            | 126,245            |
| Total Deferred Inflows of Resources   | <u>\$1,026,764</u> | <u>\$363,489</u> | <u>\$1,390,253</u> |

\$49,416 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from Educational Service Center contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability or increase in the net OPEB 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 (gain) as follows:

|                             | <u>SERS</u>        | <u>STRS</u>        | <u>Total</u>       |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fiscal Year Ending June 30: |                    |                    |                    |
| 2025                        | (\$98,874)         | (\$113,709)        | (\$212,583)        |
| 2026                        | (78,197)           | (59,653)           | (137,850)          |
| 2027                        | (34,571)           | (23,154)           | (57,725)           |
| 2028                        | (28,515)           | (31,512)           | (60,027)           |
| 2029                        | (27,869)           | (28,888)           | (56,757)           |
| Thereafter                  | <u>(21,418)</u>    | <u>(23,286)</u>    | <u>(44,704)</u>    |
| Total                       | <u>(\$289,444)</u> | <u>(\$280,202)</u> | <u>(\$569,646)</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

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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<br>(Level Percent of Payroll) |
| Fiduciary Net Position is Projected to be Depleted | 2048   |
| Municipal Bond Index Rate:                         |  |
| Measurement Date                                   | 3.86 percent                                   |
| Prior Measurement Date                             | 3.69 percent                                   |
| Single Equivalent Interest Rate:                   |  |
| Measurement Date                                   | 4.27 percent                                   |
| Prior Measurement Date                             | 4.08 percent                                   |
| Health Care Cost Trend Rate                        |  |
| Medical Trend Assumption:                          |  |
| Measurement Date                                   | 6.75 percent to 4.40 percent                   |
| Prior Measurement Date                             | 7.00 percent 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 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

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of return, 7.00 percent, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

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

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

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

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|  | 1% Decrease<br>(3.27%)                        | Current<br>Discount Rate<br>(4.27%)                     | 1% Increase<br>(5.27%)                        |
|--|---|---|---|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability | \$1,450,483                                   | \$1,134,709   | \$885,709                                     |
|  | 1% Decrease<br>(5.75% decreasing<br>to 3.40%) | Current<br>Trend Rate<br>(6.75% decreasing<br>to 4.40%) | 1% Increase<br>(7.75% decreasing<br>to 5.40%) |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability | \$833,632                                     | \$1,134,709   | \$1,533,678                                   |

**Actuarial Assumptions – STRS**

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

|                            | June 30, 2023   | June 30, 2022   |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Projected Salary Increases | Varies by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 percent           | Varies by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 percent           |
| Investment Rate of Return  | 7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation | 7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation |
| Payroll Increases          | 3.00 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 are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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

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

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

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

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

**Sensitivity of the Educational Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate** The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2023, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00 percent, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent) or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using 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<br/>(6.00%)</u> | <u>Current<br/>Discount Rate<br/>(7.00%)</u> | <u>1% Increase<br/>(8.00%)</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset | (\$371,480)                    | (\$438,910)                                  | (\$497,634)                    |

|  | <u>1% Decrease</u> | <u>Current<br/>Trend Rate</u> | <u>1% Increase</u> |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset | (\$500,359)        | (\$438,910)                   | (\$364,895)        |

**Note 10 – Employee Benefits**

**Compensated Absences**

The criteria for determining vacation and sick leave benefits are derived from State laws. Eligible classified employees earn 10 to 30 days of vacation per fiscal year, depending upon length of service. Administrators earn 10 to 30 days of vacation per fiscal year, depending upon length of service. Teachers do not earn vacation time. Accumulated, unused vacation time is paid to classified employees and administrators upon termination of

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

employment.

Teachers, administrators and classified employees earn sick leave at the rate of one and one-fourth days per month. There is no limit as to the accumulation of the number of sick days. Upon retirement, payment is made for 25 percent of the employees' accumulated sick leave with a maximum payment being limited to 50 days. Unused personal days are converted to sick days for all employees on June 30<sup>th</sup> of each fiscal year.

**Other Employee Benefits**

The Educational Service Center provides term life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance to all of its full-time employees through Metlife.

**Note 11 – Long-Term Obligations**

The changes in the Educational Service Center's long-term obligations during fiscal year 2024 were as follows:

|                                | Balance at<br>6/30/23 | Increase    | Decrease    | Balance at<br>6/30/24 | Due Within<br>One Year |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Governmental Activities</i> |                       |             |             |                       |                        |
| Net Pension Liability          |                       |             |             |                       |                        |
| SERS                           | \$3,813,264           | \$0         | (\$103,654) | \$3,709,610           | \$0                    |
| STRS                           | 4,707,105             | 152,827     | 0           | 4,859,932             | 0                      |
| Total Net Pension Liability    | 8,520,369             | 152,827     | (103,654)   | 8,569,542             | 0                      |
| Net OPEB Liability             |                       |             |             |                       |                        |
| SERS                           | 1,009,392             | 125,317     | 0           | 1,134,709             | 0                      |
| Total Net OPEB Liability       | 1,009,392             | 125,317     | 0           | 1,134,709             | 0                      |
| Compensated Absences           | 439,801               | 214,958     | (175,826)   | 478,933               | 25,595                 |
| Lease Payable                  | 60,735                | 595,230     | (60,735)    | 595,230               | 41,199                 |
| Total                          | \$10,030,297          | \$1,088,332 | (\$340,215) | \$10,778,414          | \$66,794               |

Leases Payable – The Educational Service Center has an outstanding agreement to lease space for operation. Due to the implementation of GASB 87, this lease has met the criteria of a lease thus requiring it to be recorded by the Educational Service Center. A summary of the principal and interest amounts for the remaining lease is as follows:

| Year      | Principal | Interest  |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2025      | \$41,199  | \$29,762  |
| 2026      | 44,679    | 27,702    |
| 2027      | 48,360    | 25,468    |
| 2028      | 52,255    | 23,050    |
| 2029      | 56,374    | 20,437    |
| 2030-2034 | 352,363   | 55,358    |
| Total     | \$595,230 | \$181,777 |

The Educational Service Center pays obligations related to employee compensation from the fund benefitting from their service. Compensated absences will be paid from the general fund. There is no repayment schedule for the net pension/OPEB liability. However, employer pension contributions are made from the same funds from which employees are paid. For additional information related to the net pension/OPEB liability, see notes 8 and 9.



**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**Note 12 – Jointly Governed Organization, Insurance Purchasing Pools, and Public Entity Shared Risk Pool**

**Jointly Governed Organization**

The Educational Service Center is a participant in the Hamilton Clermont Cooperative Information Technology Center (HCC) which is a computer consortium. HCC is an association of 32 public school districts within the boundaries of Hamilton, Clermont and surrounding counties. HCC 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 school districts. The Governing Board of HCC consists of the superintendents and/or treasurers of the participating districts. HCC is not accumulating significant financial resources nor is it experiencing fiscal stress that may cause an additional financial benefit to or burden on members in the future. During fiscal year 2024, the Educational Service Center paid HCC \$6,655 for various services. Financial information can be obtained from the Director at 1007 Cottonwood Drive, Loveland, Ohio 45140.

**Insurance Purchasing Pools**

The Educational Service Center participates in the Cincinnati USA Chamber of Commerce Group Rating Program, an insurance purchasing pool. Each year, the Educational Service Center pays an enrollment fee to Sheakley to cover the costs of administering the program.

The Educational Service Center participates in the Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA), an Ohio non-profit organization formed by Ohio school districts to provide cost effective pooled insurance to its members. SORSA is a self-funded, group insurance consortium that offers property, electronic data processing, boiler and machinery, crime, general liability, automobile liability and physical damage, and school board errors and omissions insurance coverage. SORSA is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of representatives of school districts that participate in the program.

Premiums are paid on an annual basis. Pursuant to participation agreements with SORSA, each member agrees to pay all funding rates associated with the coverage elected; as such funding rates are set and billed to the members by SORSA. The assigned funding rates consist of the following components: administrative fees, stop loss fees, expected claims costs, and reserves. Reserves are determined by an independent actuary and allocated based on expected claim activity. Rates are calculated to cover the administrative expenses and expected claims costs of the program as well as provide additional member equity. Financial information can be obtained from SORSA's Executive Director at 555 Metro Place North, Suite 645, Dublin, Ohio 43017.

**Public Entity Shared Risk and Insurance Purchasing Pool**

The Brown County Schools Benefits Consortium, a public entity shared risk and insurance purchasing pool, currently operates to provide medical insurance (insurance purchasing pool) and dental coverage (public entity shared risk pool) to enrolled employees of the Consortium members and to eligible dependents of those enrolled employees. Six Brown County school districts (Eastern, Fayetteville-Perry, Georgetown, Ripley Union Lewis Huntington, Southern Hills Career and Technical Center, and Western Brown Schools) and two Highland County school districts (Bright Local and Lynchburg-Clay Local School District) along with the Brown County Educational Service Center have entered into an agreement to form the Brown County Schools Benefits Consortium. The Consortium is governed by a nine member board consisting of the superintendents of each participating school district along with the superintendent of the Brown County Educational Service Center. The overall objectives of the Consortium are to formulate and administer a program of medical and dental insurance for the benefit of the Consortium members' employees and their dependents. The Consortium contracts with United Healthcare to provide medical insurance directly to Consortium member employees. The Educational Service Center pays premiums to the Consortium based on employee membership. For dental coverage the Consortium acts as a public entity shared risk pool. Each member district pays dental premiums based on the Consortium estimates of future claims. If the member district's dental claims exceed its premiums, there is no individual supplemental assessment; on the other hand, if the member district's claims are low, it will not receive a refund. Dental coverage was administered through a third-

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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party administrator, Dental Care Plus, through December 31, 2022. Beginning January 1, 2023, dental coverage is administered through Guardian. Participating member districts pay an administrative fee to the fiscal agent to cover the costs associated with the administering of the Consortium. To obtain financial information write to the Brown County Educational Service Center at 931 Hamer Road, Georgetown, Ohio 45121.

**Note 13 – Contingencies**

**Grants**

The Educational Service Center received financial assistance from federal and State agencies in the form of grants. The expenditure of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the General Fund or other applicable funds. However, the effect of any such disallowed claims on the overall financial position of the Educational Service Center at June 30, 2024, if applicable, cannot be determined at this time.

**School Foundation**

Educational Service Center Foundation is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) is legislatively required to adjust/reconcile funding as enrollment information is updated by schools throughout the State, which can extend past the fiscal year end. As of the date of this report, additional DEW adjustments for fiscal year 2024 have been finalized. No additional adjustment was recorded for fiscal year 2024.

**Litigation**

The Educational Service Center is currently party to litigation. Although the outcome of this litigation is not presently determinable, it is the opinion of the Educational Service Center's counsel that resolution of this matter will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the Educational Service Center.

**Note 14- Significant Commitments**

**Encumbrances**

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

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| <i>Major Fund:</i>    |                  |
| General               | \$113,722        |
| <i>Nonmajor Fund:</i> |                  |
| ESSER                 | 89,927           |
| Total                 | <u>\$203,649</u> |

**Note 15 – Fund Balances**

Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the Educational Service Center is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental funds and nonmajor governmental funds are presented below:

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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|                            | General<br>Fund    | Nonmajor<br>Governmental<br>Funds | Total<br>Governmental<br>Funds |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Nonspendable</i>        |                    |                                   |                                |
| Inventory                  | \$224,008          | \$0                               | \$224,008                      |
| Prepaid Items              | 11,410             | 1,995                             | 13,405                         |
| <i>Total Nonspendable</i>  | 235,418            | 1,995                             | 237,413                        |
| <br><i>Assigned to</i>     |                    |                                   |                                |
| Purchases on Order         | 98,763             | 0                                 | 98,763                         |
| <br><i>Unassigned</i>      | 997,446            | (1,771)                           | 995,675                        |
| <b>Total Fund Balances</b> | <b>\$1,331,627</b> | <b>\$224</b>                      | <b>\$1,331,851</b>             |

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**Note 16 – Interfund Activity**

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

|                            | Interfund<br>Receivable | Interfund<br>Payable |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Major Fund:</i>         |                         |                      |
| General                    | \$48,115                | \$0                  |
| <br><i>Nonmajor Funds:</i> |                         |                      |
| Early Childhood            | 0                       | 688                  |
| ESSER                      | 0                       | 47,427               |
| <br>Total                  | <u>\$48,115</u>         | <u>\$48,115</u>      |

The balance due to the General Fund are a result of negative cash balances in other funds, which is due to timing differences in the receiving of grant monies. The General Fund is responsible for any deficit in these funds and interfund transactions were established to cover these expenditures. The purpose for the interfund balances is to eliminate the negative cash balances in these funds until grant monies are received.

**Note 17 – Subsequent Event**

On January 15, 2025, the Educational Service Center accepted Adams County Ohio Valley Local School District as a member school district.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the Educational Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability*  
*Last Ten Fiscal Years*

|  | 2015        | 2016        | 2017        | 2018        | 2019        | 2020        | 2021        | 2022         | 2023         | 2024         |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>State Teachers Retirement System</i>  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |              |              |              |
| Educational Service Center's proportion of the net pension liability   | 0.01821580% | 0.01769088% | 0.01852055% | 0.01862016% | 0.02122682% | 0.02132628% | 0.02258689% | 0.022085781% | 0.021174440% | 0.022567660% |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability  | \$4,430,712 | \$4,889,241 | \$6,199,387 | \$4,423,260 | \$4,667,302 | \$4,716,179 | \$5,465,224 | \$2,823,866  | \$4,707,105  | \$4,859,932  |
| Educational Service Center's covered payroll   | \$1,855,246 | \$1,854,743 | \$1,937,571 | \$2,118,821 | \$2,455,814 | \$2,494,543 | \$2,737,786 | \$1,965,050  | \$2,012,893  | \$2,247,950  |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll | 238.8%      | 263.6%      | 320.0%      | 208.8%      | 190.1%      | 189.1%      | 199.6%      | 143.7%       | 233.8%       | 216.2%       |
| Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability   | 74.7%       | 72.1%       | 66.8%       | 75.3%       | 77.3%       | 77.4%       | 75.5%       | 87.8%        | 78.9%        | 80.0%        |
| <i>School Employees Retirement System</i>  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |              |              |              |
| Educational Service Center's proportion of the net pension liability   | 0.03659200% | 0.03572920% | 0.04212930% | 0.04696730% | 0.04834080% | 0.04912140% | 0.05532050% | 0.06271720%  | 0.070501400% | 0.067136000% |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability  | \$1,851,900 | \$2,038,742 | \$3,083,477 | \$2,806,192 | \$2,768,566 | \$2,939,019 | \$3,659,014 | \$2,314,083  | \$3,813,264  | \$3,709,610  |
| Educational Service Center's covered payroll   | \$1,066,732 | \$1,094,370 | \$1,337,321 | \$1,493,564 | \$1,684,533 | \$1,717,985 | \$1,781,993 | \$2,109,357  | \$2,478,971  | \$2,571,721  |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll | 173.6%      | 186.3%      | 230.6%      | 187.9%      | 164.4%      | 171.1%      | 205.3%      | 109.7%       | 153.8%       | 144.2%       |
| Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability   | 71.7%       | 69.2%       | 63.0%       | 69.5%       | 71.4%       | 70.9%       | 68.6%       | 82.9%        | 75.8%        | 76.1%        |

The amounts presented are as of the Educational Service Center's measurement date, which is the prior fiscal year end.  
See the accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the Educational Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)*  
*Last Eight Fiscal Years*

|   | 2017        | 2018        | 2019        | 2020        | 2021        | 2022        | 2023         | 2024         |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>State Teachers Retirement System</i>   |             |             |             |             |             |             |              |              |
| Educational Service Center's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset)   | 0.01852055% | 0.01862016% | 0.02122682% | 0.02132628% | 0.02258689% | 0.02208578% | 0.021174440% | 0.022567660% |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)  | \$990,484   | \$726,490   | (\$341,093) | (\$353,214) | (\$396,964) | (\$465,661) | (\$548,277)  | (\$438,910)  |
| Educational Service Center's covered payroll  | \$1,937,571 | \$2,118,821 | \$2,455,814 | \$2,494,543 | \$2,737,786 | \$1,965,050 | \$2,012,893  | \$2,247,950  |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll | 51.1%       | 34.3%       | -13.9%      | -14.2%      | -14.5%      | -23.7%      | -27.2%       | -19.5%       |
| Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability (asset)   | 37.3%       | 47.1%       | 176.0%      | 174.7%      | 182.1%      | 174.7%      | 230.7%       | 168.5%       |
| <i>School Employees Retirement System</i>   |             |             |             |             |             |             |              |              |
| Educational Service Center's proportion of the net OPEB liability   | 0.04230980% | 0.04756990% | 0.04907550% | 0.05033170% | 0.05749660% | 0.06464900% | 0.07189350%  | 0.06887690%  |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability  | \$1,205,986 | \$1,276,651 | \$1,361,487 | \$1,265,736 | \$1,249,589 | \$1,223,535 | \$1,009,392  | \$1,134,709  |
| Educational Service Center's covered payroll  | \$1,337,321 | \$1,493,564 | \$1,684,533 | \$1,717,985 | \$1,781,993 | \$2,109,357 | \$2,478,971  | \$2,571,721  |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll | 90.2%       | 85.5%       | 80.8%       | 73.7%       | 70.1%       | 58.0%       | 40.7%        | 44.1%        |
| Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability   | 11.5%       | 12.5%       | 13.6%       | 15.6%       | 18.2%       | 24.1%       | 30.3%        | 30.0%        |

The amounts presented are as of the Educational Service Center's measurement date, which is the prior fiscal year end.

Information not available prior to 2017.

See the accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of Educational Service Center Contributions*  
*Last Ten Fiscal Years*

|  | 2015        | 2016        | 2017        | 2018        | 2019        | 2020        | 2021        | 2022        | 2023        | 2024        |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>State Teachers Retirement System</i>                              |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Contractually required contribution - pension                        | \$259,664   | \$271,260   | \$296,635   | \$343,814   | \$349,236   | \$383,290   | \$275,107   | \$281,805   | \$314,713   | \$330,291   |
| Contractually required contribution - OPEB                           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Contractually required contribution - total                          | 259,664     | 271,260     | 296,635     | 343,814     | 349,236     | 383,290     | 275,107     | 281,805     | 314,713     | 330,291     |
| Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution | 259,664     | 271,260     | 296,635     | 343,814     | 349,236     | 383,290     | 275,107     | 281,805     | 314,713     | 330,291     |
| Contribution deficiency (excess)                                     | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         |
| Educational Service Center's covered payroll                         | \$1,854,743 | \$1,937,571 | \$2,118,821 | \$2,455,814 | \$2,494,543 | \$2,737,786 | \$1,965,050 | \$2,012,893 | \$2,247,950 | \$2,359,221 |
| Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll - pension           | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      |
| Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll - OPEB              | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       |
| Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll - total             | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      |
| <i>School Employees Retirement System</i>                            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Contractually required contribution - pension                        | \$144,238   | \$187,225   | \$209,099   | \$227,412   | \$231,928   | \$249,479   | \$295,310   | \$347,056   | \$360,041   | \$406,960   |
| Contractually required contribution - OPEB (1)                       | 8,974       | 0           | 0           | 8,423       | 8,590       | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Contractually required contribution - total                          | 153,212     | 187,225     | 209,099     | 235,835     | 240,518     | 249,479     | 295,310     | 347,056     | 360,041     | 406,960     |
| Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution | 153,212     | 187,225     | 209,099     | 235,835     | 240,518     | 249,479     | 295,310     | 347,056     | 360,041     | 406,960     |
| Contribution deficiency (excess)                                     | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         |
| Educational Service Center's covered payroll                         | \$1,094,370 | \$1,337,321 | \$1,493,564 | \$1,684,533 | \$1,717,985 | \$1,781,993 | \$2,109,357 | \$2,478,971 | \$2,571,721 | \$2,906,857 |
| Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll - pension           | 13.18%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 13.50%      | 13.50%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      |
| Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll - OPEB              | 0.82%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.50%       | 0.50%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       |
| Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll - total             | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      |

(1) Excludes surcharge.

See the accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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**State Teachers Retirement System**

**Pension**

**Changes in benefit terms**

There were no changes to benefit terms for fiscal years 2015 through 2017. For fiscal year 2018, the cost of living adjustment (COLA) was reduced to 0 percent effective July 1, 2017. There were no changes to benefit terms for fiscal years 2019 through 2024.

**Changes in assumptions**

There were no changes in assumptions for fiscal years 2015 through 2017.

For fiscal year 2018, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- Inflation assumptions were lowered from 2.75 percent to 2.5 percent.
- Investment return assumptions were lowered from 7.75 percent to 7.45 percent.
- Total salary increases rates were lowered by decreasing merit component of the individual salary increases, as well as by 0.25 percent due to lower inflation.
- Payroll growth assumptions were lowered from 3.5 percent to 3.0 percent.
- Updated the health and disability mortality assumption to the RP-2014 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2016.
- Rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.

There were no changes in assumptions for fiscal years 2019 through 2021.

For fiscal year 2022, the following was the most significant change of assumptions that affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- Investment rate of return and discount rate of return assumptions were lowered from 7.45 percent to 7.0 percent.

For fiscal year 2023, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- Updated the health and disability mortality assumption to the PUB-2010 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2020.
- The projected salary increases changed from 12.50 percent at age 20 to 2.50 percent at age 65 to varying by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 percent.

There were no changes in assumptions for fiscal year 2024.

**OPEB**

**Changes in benefit terms**

There were no changes to benefit terms for fiscal year 2017.

For fiscal year 2018, STRS has the following changes in benefit terms since the previous measurement date:

- The HealthSpan HMO plans were eliminated.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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- The subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was reduced to 1.9 percent per year of service from 2.1 percent.
- Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were discontinued for survivors and beneficiaries who were age 65 by 2008 and either receiving a benefit or named as a beneficiary as of January 1, 2008.
- The remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be phased out over a three-year period.

For fiscal year 2019, the following was the most significant change in benefit terms that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients increased from 1.9 percent to 1.944 percent per year of service effective January 1, 2019. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium increased effective January 1, 2019 and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were scheduled to be discontinued beginning January 1, 2020, though the STRS Board voted in June 2019 to extend the current Medicare Part B partial reimbursement for one year.

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

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

For fiscal year 2022, the non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2022 from 2.055 percent to 2.1 percent per year of service. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2022. The Medicare Part D Subsidy was updated to reflect it is expected to be negative in calendar year 2022. The Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

There were no changes to benefit terms for fiscal years 2023 and 2024.

#### Changes in assumptions

There were no changes in assumptions for fiscal year 2017.

For fiscal year 2018, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The discount rate was increased from 3.26 percent to 4.13 percent based on the methodology defined under GASB 74.
- The long-term rate of return was reduced to 7.45 percent.
- Valuation-year per capita health costs were updated.
- The percentage of future retirees electing each option was updated based on current data.
- The assumed future trend rates were modified.
- Decrement rates including mortality, disability, retirement, and withdrawal were modified.
- The assumed percentage of future disabled retirees assumed to elect health coverage was decreased from 84 percent to 65 percent, and the assumed percentage of terminated vested participants assumed to elect health coverage at retirement was decreased from 47 percent to 30 percent.



**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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- The assumed salary scale was modified.

For fiscal year 2019, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The discount rate increased from a 4.13 percent blended discount rate to 7.45 percent.
- The health care trend assumption rate changed from 6 to 11 percent initial, 4.5 percent ultimate to:
  - Medical Medicare – 5 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Medical Pre-Medicare – 6 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Medicare – -5.23 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Pre-Medicare – 8 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate

For fiscal year 2020, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The health care trend assumption rate changed as follows:
  - Medical Medicare – from 5 percent to 4.93 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Medical Pre-Medicare – from 6 percent to 5.87 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Medicare – from -5.23 percent to 9.62 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Pre-Medicare – from 8 percent to 7.73 initial, 4 percent ultimate

For fiscal year 2021, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The health care trend assumption rate changed as follows:
  - Medical Medicare – from 4.93 percent to -6.69 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Medical Pre-Medicare – from 5.87 percent to 5 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Medicare – from 9.62 percent to 11.87 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Pre-Medicare – from 7.73 percent to 6.5 initial, 4 percent ultimate

For fiscal year 2022, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The discount rate increased from 7.45 percent to 7.0 percent.
- The health care trend assumption rate changed as follows:
  - Medical Medicare – from -6.69 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate to -16.18 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Medicare – from 11.87 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate to 29.98 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate

For fiscal year 2023, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The health care trend assumption rate changed as follows:
  - Medical Pre-Medicare – from 5.00 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate to 7.50 percent initial, 3.94 percent ultimate
  - Medical Medicare – from -16.18 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate to -68.78 percent initial, 3.94 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Pre-Medicare – from 6.50 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate to 9.00 percent initial, 3.94 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Medicare – from 29.98 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate to -5.47 percent initial, 3.94 percent ultimate
- Updated the health and disability mortality assumption to the PUB-2010 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2020.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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- The projected salary increases changed from 12.50 percent at age 20 to 2.50 percent at age 65 to varying by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 percent.

For fiscal year 2024, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The health care trend assumption rate changed as follows:
  - Medical Pre-Medicare – from 7.50 percent initial, 3.94 percent ultimate to 7.50 percent initial, 4.14 percent ultimate
  - Medical Medicare – from -68.78 percent initial, 3.94 percent ultimate to -10.94 percent initial, 4.14 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Pre-Medicare – from 9.00 percent initial, 3.94 percent ultimate to -11.95 percent initial, 4.14 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Medicare – from -5.47 percent initial, 3.94 percent ultimate to 1.33 percent initial, 4.14 percent ultimate

### **School Employees Retirement System**

#### **Pension**

##### **Changes in benefit terms**

There were no changes to benefit terms for fiscal years 2015 through 2017.

For fiscal year 2018, the following were the most significant changes in benefit that affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- The cost-of-living adjustment was changed from a fixed 3.00 percent to a cost-of-living adjustment that is indexed to CPI-W not greater than 2.5 percent with a floor of 0 percent beginning January 1, 2018. In addition, with the authority granted the Board under HB 49, the Board has enacted a three-year COLA suspension for benefit recipients in calendars 2018, 2019, and 2020.

There were no changes to benefit terms for fiscal years 2019 through 2021.

For fiscal year 2022, the following was the most significant change in benefit that affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- The cost-of-living adjustment was changed from 2.5 percent to 2.0 percent.

For fiscal year 2023, the following was the most significant change in benefit that affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- The cost-of-living adjustment was changed from 2.0 percent to 2.5 percent.

There were no changes to benefit terms for fiscal year 2024.

##### **Changes in assumptions**

There were no changes in assumptions for fiscal years 2015 through 2017.

For fiscal year 2018, the following changes were made to the actuarial assumptions as identified. These new assumptions compared with those used in fiscal year 2016 and prior are presented below:

- Assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25 percent to 3.0 percent

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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- Payroll Growth Assumption was reduced from 4.0 percent to 3.5 percent
- Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75 percent to 0.5 percent
- Investment rate of return was reduced from 7.75 percent to 7.5 percent
- Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience.
- 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. The above rates represent the base rates used.
- 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 percent of male rates, and 110 percent of female rates.
- Mortality among disabled member was updated to the following:
  - RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90 percent for male rates and 100 percent for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement.

There were no changes in assumptions for fiscal years 2019 through 2021.

For fiscal year 2022, the following changes were made to the actuarial assumptions as identified. These new assumptions compared with those used in fiscal year 2021 and prior are presented below:

- Assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.0 percent to 2.4 percent
- Payroll Growth Assumption was reduced from 3.5 percent to 3.25 percent
- Investment rate of return was reduced from 7.5 percent to 7.0 percent
- Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience.
- Mortality among members was updated to the following:
  - PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females.
- Mortality among disabled members was updated to the following:
  - 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.

There were no changes in assumptions for fiscal years 2023 and 2024.

## **OPEB**

### Changes in benefit terms

There were no changes to benefit terms for fiscal years 2017 through 2024.

### Changes in assumptions

For fiscal year 2017, the following was the most significant change of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- Assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25 percent to 3.0 percent
- Payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.0 percent to 3.5 percent
- Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75 percent to 0.5 percent
- Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience.
- 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.
- Mortality among service retired members, and beneficiaries was updated to the following:

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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- RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection with Scale BB, 120% of male rates, and 110% of female rates.
- 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.

For fiscal year 2018, the following was the most significant change of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The discount rate was increased from 2.98 percent to 3.63 percent.
- The municipal bond index rate increased from 2.92 percent to 3.56 percent.
- The single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation increased from 2.98 percent to 3.63 percent.

For fiscal year 2019, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The discount rate was changed from 3.63 percent to 3.70 percent.
- The municipal bond index rate increased from 3.56 percent to 3.62 percent.
- The single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation increased from 3.63 percent to 3.70 percent.
- The medical trend assumption rate changed as follows:
  - Medicare – 2018 – 5.50 to 5.00 percent, 2019 – 5.375 to 4.75 percent
  - Pre-Medicare – 2018 – 7.50 to 5.00 percent, 2019 – 7.25 to 4.75

For fiscal year 2020, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The municipal bond index rate decreased from 3.62 percent to 3.13 percent.
- The single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation decreased from 3.70 percent to 3.22 percent.
- The medical trend assumption rate changed as follows:
  - Medicare – 2019 – 5.375 to 4.75 percent, 2020 – 5.25 to 4.75 percent
  - Pre-Medicare – 2019 – 7.25 to 4.75, 2020 – 7 to 4.75 percent

For fiscal year 2021, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The municipal bond index rate decreased from 3.13 percent to 2.45 percent.
- The single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation decreased from 3.22 percent to 2.63 percent.

For fiscal year 2022, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The inflation rate decreased from 3.0 percent to 2.4 percent.
- Projected salary increases decreased from 3.5 percent to 3.25 percent.
- Investment rate of return decreased from 7.5 percent to 7.0 percent.
- The municipal bond index rate decreased from 2.45 percent to 1.92 percent.
- The single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation decreased from 2.63 percent to 2.27 percent.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024*

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- The medical trend assumption rate changed as follows:
  - Medicare – 2020 – 5.25 to 4.75 percent, 2022 – 5.125 to 4.4 percent
  - Pre-Medicare – 2020 – 7 to 4.75 percent, 2022 – 6.75 to 4.4 percent
- Mortality among members was updated to the following:
  - PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females.
- Mortality among disabled members was updated to the following:
  - 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.

For fiscal year 2023, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The municipal bond index rate increased from 1.92 percent to 3.69 percent.
- The single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation increased from 2.27 percent to 4.08 percent.

For fiscal year 2024, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The municipal bond index rate increased from 3.69 percent to 3.86 percent.
- The single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation increased from 4.08 percent to 4.27 percent.
- The medical trend assumption decreased from 7.00 percent to 6.75 percent.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*  
*(Unaudited)*

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As management of the Brown County Educational Service Center (Educational Service Center), we offer readers of the Educational Service Center's basic financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. We encourage readers to consider the information presented here to enhance their understanding of the Educational Service Center's financial performance.

### **Financial Highlights**

- The Educational Service Center's liabilities and deferred inflows of resources exceeded its assets and deferred outflows of resources at June 30, 2023 by \$7,643,892. This deficit is primarily due to the recognition of net pension and other postemployment benefit (OPEB) liabilities, which is further discussed in the notes to the basic financial statements.
- The Educational Service Center's net position of governmental activities decreased \$91,843.
- General revenues accounted for \$403,787 or 4 percent of total revenues. Program specific revenues in the form of charges for services and sales and operating grants and contributions accounted for \$8,573,930 or 96 percent of total revenues of \$8,977,717.
- The Educational Service Center had \$9,069,560 in expenses related to governmental activities; \$8,573,930 of these expenses were offset by program specific revenues.

### **Using This Annual 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 Educational Service Center as a financial whole, or an entire operating entity.

The statement of net position and statement of activities provide information about the activities of the Educational Service Center as a whole, presenting both an aggregate view of the Educational Service Center's finances and a longer-term view of those finances. Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. These statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as the amount of funds available for future spending. The fund financial statements also look at the Educational Service Center's most significant funds with all other nonmajor funds presented in total in one column.

### **Reporting the Educational Service Center as a Whole**

One of the most important questions asked about the Educational Service Center is "How did we do financially during fiscal year 2023?" The statement of net position and the statement of activities, which appear first in the Educational Service Center's financial statements, report information on the Educational Service Center as a whole and its activities in a way that helps answer this question. These statements include all assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows/outflows of resources using the accrual basis of accounting similar to the accounting used by private sector companies. All current year revenues and expenses are taken into account regardless of when cash is received or paid.

These two statements report net position and changes to net position. This change informs the reader whether the Educational Service Center's financial position, as a whole, has improved or diminished. In evaluating the overall financial health, the user of these financial statements needs to take into account nonfinancial factors that also impact the Educational Service Center's financial well-being. Some factors may be financial while others, such as mandated educational programs, are nonfinancial factors.

All of the Educational Service Center's programs and services are reported as governmental activities, which include instruction and support services.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*  
(Unaudited)

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## **Reporting the Educational Service Center's Most Significant Funds**

### Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial statements provide detailed information about the Educational Service Center's major funds. The Educational Service Center uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions. However, these fund financial statements focus on the Educational Service Center's major fund, which is the General Fund.

*Governmental Funds.* All of the Educational Service Center'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 the modified accrual basis of accounting, which measures cash and all other financial assets that can be readily converted to cash. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the Educational Service Center's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps to determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance educational support services. The relationship (or difference) between governmental activities (reported in the statement of net position and the statement of activities) and governmental funds is reconciled in the financial statements.

*Fiduciary Funds.* The Educational Service Center's only fiduciary fund is a custodial fund. These activities are excluded from the Educational Service Center's other financial statements because the assets cannot be utilized by the Educational Service Center to finance its operations. Fiduciary funds use the accrual basis of accounting.

*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.

## **The Educational Service Center as a Whole**

As stated previously, the statement of net position provides the perspective of the Educational Service Center as a whole. Table 1 provides a summary of the Educational Service Center's net position for 2023 compared to 2022.

Table 1  
Net Position  
Governmental Position

|                                | 2023        | 2022        |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Assets:                        |             |             |
| Current and Other Assets       | \$3,020,896 | \$2,550,485 |
| Capital Assets, Net            | 128,605     | 156,703     |
| Total Assets                   | 3,149,501   | 2,707,188   |
| Deferred Outflows of Resources | 2,876,270   | 2,864,225   |
| Liabilities:                   |             |             |
| Current and Other Liabilities  | 1,112,042   | 1,026,126   |
| Long-Term Liabilities          | 10,030,297  | 6,871,202   |
| Total Liabilities              | 11,142,339  | 7,897,328   |
| Deferred Inflows of Resources  | 2,527,324   | 5,226,134   |

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*  
(Unaudited)

Table 1  
Net Position  
Governmental Position  
(Continued)

|                                  | 2023                 | 2022                 |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Net Position:                    |                      |                      |
| Net Investment in Capital Assets | \$67,870             | \$34,372             |
| Restricted for Other Purposes    | 56,093               | 0                    |
| Unrestricted (Deficit)           | <u>(7,767,855)</u>   | <u>(7,586,421)</u>   |
| Total Net Position               | <u>(\$7,643,892)</u> | <u>(\$7,552,049)</u> |

Current and other assets increased between years due primarily to increases in cash and cash equivalents and the net OPEB asset. Capital assets, net decreased due to depreciation and the disposal of some equipment, which was partially offset by an addition for equipment. Current and other liabilities increased between years due to an increase in accrued wages and benefits and intergovernmental payable. Long-term liabilities increased due to an increase in the Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the state-wide net pension liability, which was partially offset by a decrease in Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the state-wide net OPEB liability. Deferred outflows and inflows of resources changed due to changes as reported by the retirement systems based on actuarially determined amounts related to the Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the state-wide net pension/OPEB liability (asset).

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2023 and 2022.

Table 2  
Changes in Net Position  
Governmental Activities

|  | 2023             | 2022             |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Revenues                               |                  |                  |
| Program Revenues:                      |                  |                  |
| Charges for Services and Sales         | \$7,410,161      | \$7,002,870      |
| Operating Grants and Contributions     | <u>1,163,769</u> | <u>551,243</u>   |
| Total Program Revenues                 | <u>8,573,930</u> | <u>7,554,113</u> |
| General Revenues:                      |                  |                  |
| Grants and Entitlements not Restricted | 302,857          | 197,293          |
| Investment Earnings                    | 94,609           | 6,946            |
| Miscellaneous                          | <u>6,321</u>     | <u>25,563</u>    |
| Total General Revenues                 | <u>403,787</u>   | <u>229,802</u>   |
| Total Revenues                         | 8,977,717        | 7,783,915        |



**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*  
(Unaudited)

Table 2  
Changes in Net Position  
Governmental Activities  
(Continued)

|                                    | 2023          | 2022          |
|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Program Expenses:                  |               |               |
| Instruction                        |               |               |
| Regular                            | \$16,727      | \$346,192     |
| Special                            | 4,576,001     | 3,604,452     |
| Support Services                   |               |               |
| Pupils                             | 2,636,471     | 1,969,690     |
| Instructional Staff                | 782,767       | 538,040       |
| Board of Education                 | 63,937        | 47,675        |
| Administration                     | 461,149       | 381,802       |
| Fiscal                             | 326,275       | 271,641       |
| Operation and Maintenance of Plant | 0             | 70,198        |
| Pupil Transportation               | 0             | 8,958         |
| Central                            | 200,116       | 122,778       |
| Interest and Fiscal Charges        | 6,117         | 9,692         |
| Total Expenses                     | 9,069,560     | 7,371,118     |
| Change in Net Position             | (91,843)      | 412,797       |
| Net Position at Beginning of Year  | (7,552,049)   | (7,964,846)   |
| Net Position at End of Year        | (\$7,643,892) | (\$7,552,049) |

Charges for services and sales increased between years due primarily to an increase in contract services paid by member school districts. Operating grants and contributions increased between years due to an increase in ESSER and early childhood grants revenues as well as the receipt of a safety grant.

Many expenses increased or decreased significantly between years due to an increase in expenses related to pension activity and a decrease to OPEB activity. For fiscal year 2023, pension and OPEB expenses recognized amounted to \$1,098,797 whereas expenses recognized in the prior year amounted to \$390,148. This resulted in a net increase in expenses of \$708,649, which was allocated amongst various expense functions. Certain expenses increased related to the additional contract services provided to member districts and the additional funding received for ESSER and the early childhood program.

The statement of activities shows the cost of program services and the charges for services and sales and operating grants and contributions offsetting those services. Table 3 shows, for governmental activities, the total cost of services and the net cost of services. That is, it identifies the cost of these services supported by general revenues of the Educational Service Center.

Table 3  
Total and Net Cost of Program Services  
Governmental Activities

|                             | 2023                      |                         | 2022                      |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
|                             | Total Cost of<br>Services | Net Cost of<br>Services | Total Cost of<br>Services |
| Instruction                 | \$4,592,728               | \$244,535               | \$3,950,644               |
| Support Services            | 4,470,715                 | 244,978                 | 3,410,782                 |
| Interest and Fiscal Charges | 6,117                     | 6,117                   | 9,692                     |
| Total Expenses              | \$9,069,560               | \$495,630               | \$7,371,118               |
|                             |                           |                         | (\$182,995)               |

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Management's Discussion and Analysis*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*  
*(Unaudited)*

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**The Educational Service Center's Funds**

Governmental funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. All governmental funds had total revenues of \$8,995,230 and expenditures of \$8,675,838.

The General Fund had \$7,887,672 in revenues and \$7,629,493 in expenditures, resulting in an increase in fund balance of \$258,179, resulting from an increase in contract revenues outpacing the increase in expenditures for the fund.

**General Fund Budget Highlights**

The Educational Service Center is not required under Ohio law to file budgetary information with the State Department of Education. No budgetary information is presented because the Governing Board did not approve estimated revenues or adopt appropriations.

**Capital Assets**

At the end of fiscal year 2023, the Educational Service Center had \$128,605 invested in its capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation. Table 4 shows the fiscal year 2023 balances compared to 2022.

Table 4  
Capital Assets  
(Net of Accumulated Depreciation)  
Governmental Activities

|                               | 2023             | 2022             |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Furniture and Equipment       | \$67,870         | \$34,372         |
| Intangible Right to Use Lease | 60,735           | 122,331          |
|                               | <u>\$128,605</u> | <u>\$156,703</u> |

Changes in capital assets from the prior year resulted from current year deletions and depreciation expense, which were partially offset by additions to furniture and equipment. See note 5 to the basic financial statements for more detailed information related to capital assets.

**Debt**

At June 30, 2023, the Educational Service Center's outstanding debt obligations included a lease payable in the amount of \$60,735. See note 11 to the basic financial statements for more detailed information related to debt.

**Contacting the Educational Service Center's Financial Management**

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, creditors, and investors with a general overview of the Educational Service Center's financial condition and to show the Educational Service Center's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Liz Dunn, Treasurer, Brown County Educational Service Center, 9231 Hamer Road, Georgetown, Ohio 45121.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Statement of Net Position*  
*June 30, 2023*

|   | Governmental<br>Activities  |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                               |                             |
| Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents  | \$2,180,859                 |
| Materials and Supplies Inventory            | 201,802                     |
| Accounts Receivable                         | 5,758                       |
| Intergovernmental Receivable                | 73,447                      |
| Prepaid Items                               | 10,753                      |
| Net OPEB Asset                              | 548,277                     |
| Depreciable Capital Assets, Net             | <u>128,605</u>              |
| <i>Total Assets</i>                         | 3,149,501                   |
| <b>Deferred Outflows of Resources</b>       |                             |
| Pensions                                    | 2,138,235                   |
| OPEB  | <u>738,035</u>              |
| <i>Total Deferred Outflows of Resources</i> | 2,876,270                   |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                          |                             |
| Accounts Payable                            | 11,899                      |
| Accrued Wages and Benefits                  | 932,793                     |
| Intergovernmental Payable                   | 167,350                     |
| Long-Term Liabilities:                      |                             |
| Due Within One Year                         | 84,548                      |
| Due in More Than One Year                   | 415,988                     |
| Net Pension Liability                       | 8,520,369                   |
| Net OPEB Liability                          | <u>1,009,392</u>            |
| <i>Total Liabilities</i>                    | 11,142,339                  |
| <b>Deferred Inflows of Resources</b>        |                             |
| Pensions                                    | 978,638                     |
| OPEB  | <u>1,548,686</u>            |
| <i>Total Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>  | 2,527,324                   |
| <b>Net Postion</b>                          |                             |
| Net Investment in Capital Assets            | 67,870                      |
| Restricted for Other Purposes               | 56,093                      |
| Unrestricted (Deficit)                      | <u>(7,767,855)</u>          |
| <i>Total Net Position</i>                   | <u><u>(\$7,643,892)</u></u> |

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Statement of Activities*  
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

|                                      | Program Revenues   |  |                                       | Net Revenues<br>(Expenses)<br>and Changes<br>in Net Position |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|
|                                      | Expenses           | Charges for<br>Services and Sales                              | Operating Grants<br>and Contributions | Governmental<br>Activities                                   |
| <b>Governmental Activities</b>       |                    |  |                                       |  |
| Instruction                          |                    |  |                                       |  |
| Regular                              | \$16,727           | \$13,059   | \$0                                   | (\$3,668)  |
| Special                              | 4,576,001          | 3,888,268  | 446,866                               | (240,867)  |
| Support Services                     |                    |  |                                       |  |
| Pupils                               | 2,636,471          | 2,207,576  | 270,456                               | (158,439)  |
| Instructional Staff                  | 782,767            | 419,010  | 345,814                               | (17,943)   |
| Board of Education                   | 63,937             | 61,648   | 0                                     | (2,289)  |
| Administration                       | 461,149            | 429,479  | 0                                     | (31,670)   |
| Fiscal                               | 326,275            | 261,215  | 48,633                                | (16,427)   |
| Operation and Maintenance of Plant   | 0                  | 0  | 52,000                                | 52,000   |
| Central                              | 200,116            | 129,906  | 0                                     | (70,210)   |
| Interest and Fiscal Charges          | 6,117              | 0  | 0                                     | (6,117)  |
| <i>Total Governmental Activities</i> | <u>\$9,069,560</u> | <u>\$7,410,161</u>   | <u>\$1,163,769</u>                    | <u>(495,630)</u>   |
|                                      |                    | <b>General Revenues</b>  |                                       |  |
|                                      |                    | Grants and Entitlements not Restricted<br>to Specific Programs |                                       | 302,857  |
|                                      |                    | Investment Earnings  |                                       | 94,609   |
|                                      |                    | Miscellaneous  |                                       | 6,321  |
|                                      |                    | <i>Total General Revenues</i>                                  |                                       | <u>403,787</u>   |
|                                      |                    | <i>Change in Net Position</i>                                  |                                       | (91,843)   |
|                                      |                    | <i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>                          |                                       | <u>(7,552,049)</u>   |
|                                      |                    | <i>Net Position End of Year</i>                                |                                       | <u><u>(\$7,643,892)</u></u>                                  |

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Balance Sheet*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*June 30, 2023*

|  | General<br>Fund    | Nonmajor<br>Funds | Total<br>Governmental<br>Funds |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>                              |                    |                   |                                |
| Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents | \$2,128,859        | \$52,000          | \$2,180,859                    |
| Materials and Supplies Inventory           | 201,802            | 0                 | 201,802                        |
| Accounts Receivable                        | 5,758              | 0                 | 5,758                          |
| Interfund Receivable                       | 44,358             | 0                 | 44,358                         |
| Intergovernmental Receivable               | 16,931             | 56,516            | 73,447                         |
| Prepaid Items                              | 10,053             | 700               | 10,753                         |
| <i>Total Assets</i>                        | <u>\$2,407,761</u> | <u>\$109,216</u>  | <u>\$2,516,977</u>             |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                         |                    |                   |                                |
| Accounts Payable                           | \$11,756           | \$143             | \$11,899                       |
| Accrued Wages and Benefits Payable         | 925,299            | 7,494             | 932,793                        |
| Interfund Payable                          | 0                  | 44,358            | 44,358                         |
| Intergovernmental Payable                  | 166,222            | 1,128             | 167,350                        |
| <i>Total Liabilities</i>                   | <u>1,103,277</u>   | <u>53,123</u>     | <u>1,156,400</u>               |
| <b>Fund Balances</b>                       |                    |                   |                                |
| Nonspendable                               | 211,855            | 700               | 212,555                        |
| Restricted                                 | 0                  | 55,393            | 55,393                         |
| Assigned                                   | 60,450             | 0                 | 60,450                         |
| Unassigned                                 | 1,032,179          | 0                 | 1,032,179                      |
| <i>Total Fund Balances</i>                 | <u>1,304,484</u>   | <u>56,093</u>     | <u>1,360,577</u>               |
| <i>Total Liabilities and Fund Balances</i> | <u>\$2,407,761</u> | <u>\$109,216</u>  | <u>\$2,516,977</u>             |

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to*  
*Net Position of Governmental Activities*  
*June 30, 2023*

---

|                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Governmental Fund Balances | \$1,360,577 |
|----------------------------------|-------------|

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

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

|                                       |           |         |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Capital assets                        | 318,044   |         |
| Accumulated depreciation/amortization | (189,439) |         |
| Total                                 | 128,605   | 128,605 |

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) is not due and payable (receivable) in the current period. Therefore, the liability (asset) and related deferred inflows/outflows are not reported in governmental funds:

|                           |             |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Deferred outflows-pension | 2,138,235   |             |
| Deferred outflows-OPEB    | 738,035     |             |
| Deferred inflows-pension  | (978,638)   |             |
| Deferred inflows-OPEB     | (1,548,686) |             |
| Net pension liability     | (8,520,369) |             |
| Net OPEB asset            | 548,277     |             |
| Net OPEB liability        | (1,009,392) |             |
| Total                     | (8,632,538) | (8,632,538) |

Some liabilities are not due and payable in the current period and therefore are not reported in the funds. Those liabilities consist of:

|                      |           |           |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Lease payable        | (60,735)  |           |
| Compensated absences | (439,801) |           |
| Total                | (500,536) | (500,536) |

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Net Position of Governmental Activities | (\$7,643,892) |
|---|---------------|

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances*  
*Governmental Funds*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

|   | General<br>Fund    | Nonmajor<br>Funds | Total<br>Governmental<br>Funds |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Revenues</b>                                   |                    |                   |                                |
| Intergovernmental                                 | \$364,188          | \$1,107,558       | \$1,471,746                    |
| Interest  | 94,609             | 0                 | 94,609                         |
| Tuition and Fees                                  | 218,839            | 0                 | 218,839                        |
| Customer Sales and Services                       | 7,203,715          | 0                 | 7,203,715                      |
| Miscellaneous                                     | 6,321              | 0                 | 6,321                          |
| <i>Total Revenues</i>                             | <i>7,887,672</i>   | <i>1,107,558</i>  | <i>8,995,230</i>               |
| <b>Expenditures</b>                               |                    |                   |                                |
| Current   |                    |                   |                                |
| Instruction                                       |                    |                   |                                |
| Regular   | 17,477             | 0                 | 17,477                         |
| Special   | 3,948,681          | 385,158           | 4,333,839                      |
| Support Services                                  |                    |                   |                                |
| Pupils  | 2,238,222          | 249,534           | 2,487,756                      |
| Instructional Staff                               | 443,159            | 318,829           | 761,988                        |
| Board of Education                                | 63,333             | 0                 | 63,333                         |
| Administration                                    | 450,354            | 0                 | 450,354                        |
| Fiscal  | 265,934            | 44,846            | 310,780                        |
| Central   | 133,108            | 0                 | 133,108                        |
| Capital Outlay                                    | 1,512              | 47,978            | 49,490                         |
| Debt Service:                                     |                    |                   |                                |
| Principal   | 61,596             | 0                 | 61,596                         |
| Interest  | 6,117              | 0                 | 6,117                          |
| <i>Total Expenditures</i>                         | <i>7,629,493</i>   | <i>1,046,345</i>  | <i>8,675,838</i>               |
| <i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>                | <i>258,179</i>     | <i>61,213</i>     | <i>319,392</i>                 |
| <i>Beginning Fund Balances (Deficits), July 1</i> | <i>1,046,305</i>   | <i>(5,120)</i>    | <i>1,041,185</i>               |
| <i>Ending Fund Balances, June 30</i>              | <i>\$1,304,484</i> | <i>\$56,093</i>   | <i>\$1,360,577</i>             |

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*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, 2023*

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds | \$319,392 |
|--|-----------|

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

Capital outlays are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. However, in the statement of activities, the cost of capital assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation expense. The amounts of capital asset additions and depreciation are:

|                           |          |          |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| Capital asset additions   | 49,490   |          |
| Current year depreciation | (77,337) |          |
| Total                     |          | (27,847) |

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Governmental funds only report the disposal of capital assets to the extent proceeds are received from the sale. In the statement of activities, a loss is reported for each disposal. | (251) |
|--|-------|

Because some revenues will not be collected for several months after the Educational Service Center's fiscal year ends, they are not considered "available" revenues and are not reported as revenues in the funds.

|                             |          |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|
| Customer Sales and Services | (12,393) |          |
| Intergovernmental           | (5,120)  |          |
| Total                       |          | (17,513) |

Contractually required contributions are reported as expenditures in governmental funds. However, the statement of net position reports these amounts as deferred outflows.

|         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| Pension | 674,754 |         |
| OPEB    | 49,237  |         |
| Total   |         | 723,991 |

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 | (1,157,882) |             |
| OPEB    | 59,085      |             |
| Total   |             | (1,098,797) |

Repayment of long-term debt is reported as an expenditure in governmental funds, but the repayment reduces the long-term liabilities in the statement of net position. In the current fiscal year, this amount consists of:

|                |        |        |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| Lease Payments | 61,596 |        |
| Total          |        | 61,596 |

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

|                                  |          |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Increase in compensated absences | (52,414) |          |
| Total                            |          | (52,414) |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities | (\$91,843) |
|---|------------|

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.



**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Statement of Fiduciary Net Position*  
*June 30, 2023*

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|   | Custodial<br>Fund         |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Assets</b>   |                           |
| Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents                      | \$9,118,409               |
| Accounts Receivable   | <u>20,240</u>             |
| <i>Total Assets</i>   | 9,138,649                 |
| <b>Liabilities</b>  |                           |
| Accounts Payable  | <u>1,563,000</u>          |
| <i>Total Liabilities</i>  | 1,563,000                 |
| <b>Net Position</b>   |                           |
| Restricted for Individuals, Organizations and Other Governments | <u>7,575,649</u>          |
| <i>Total Net Position</i>                                       | <u><u>\$7,575,649</u></u> |

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

|                                       | Custodial<br>Fund         |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Additions</b>                      |                           |
| Amounts Received as Fiscal Agent      | <u>\$22,451,085</u>       |
| <i>Total Additions</i>                | 22,451,085                |
| <b>Deductions</b>                     |                           |
| Distributions as Fiscal Agent         | <u>24,890,707</u>         |
| <i>Total Deductions</i>               | <u>24,890,707</u>         |
| <i>Change in Net Position</i>         | (2,439,622)               |
| <i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i> | <u>10,015,271</u>         |
| <i>Net Position End of Year</i>       | <u><u>\$7,575,649</u></u> |

See the accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 1 – Description of the Educational Service Center and Reporting Entity**

The Brown County Educational Service Center (the Educational Service Center) operates under a Governing Board as defined by Section 3313.01 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Brown County Governing Board was chartered to operate by the State Board of Education on June 10, 1968. The Governing Board consists of five members elected at large for staggered four-year terms. The Educational Service Center is an administrative entity providing supervision and certain other services to local school districts located in Brown County. The Educational Service Center employs 46 certified and 111 classified staff members and provides services to the local and exempted village school districts.

**Reporting Entity**

A reporting entity is comprised of the primary government, component units and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements are not misleading. The primary government of the Educational Service Center consists of all funds, departments, boards and agencies that are not legally separate from the Educational Service Center. For the Brown County Educational Service Center, this includes general operations, preschool, as well as teacher and student developmental activities.

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

The Educational Service Center participates in a jointly governed organization, insurance purchasing pool, and public entity shared risk and insurance purchasing pool. These organizations are discussed in Note 12 to the basic financial statements. These organizations are:

Jointly Governed Organization

Hamilton Clermont Cooperative Information Technology Center

Insurance Purchasing Pools

Cincinnati USA Chamber of Commerce Group Rating Plan

Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA)

Public Entity Shared Risk and Insurance Purchasing Pool

Brown County Schools Benefits Consortium

**Note 2 – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

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

## **Brown County Educational Service Center**

### *Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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#### **Basis of Presentation**

The Educational Service Center'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 Educational Service Center as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the Educational Service Center, except for fiduciary funds. The statements usually distinguish between those activities of the Educational Service Center that are governmental in nature and those that are considered business-type; however, the Educational Service Center has no business-type activities.

The Statement of Net Position presents the financial condition of the governmental activities of the Educational Service Center at fiscal year-end. The Statement of Activities presents a comparison between direct expenses and program revenues for each program or function of the Educational Service Center's governmental activities. Direct expenses are those that are specifically associated with a service, program or department and are 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. Revenues which are not classified as program revenues are presented as general revenues of the Educational Service Center, 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 Educational Service Center.

#### Fund Financial Statements

During the fiscal year, the Educational Service Center segregates transactions related to certain Educational Service Center 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 Educational Service Center 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. Fiduciary funds are reported by type.

#### **Fund Accounting**

The Educational Service Center uses funds to maintain its financial records during the fiscal year. The funds of the Educational Service Center are divided into two categories: governmental and fiduciary.

#### Governmental Funds

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

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

## **Brown County Educational Service Center**

### *Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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

#### Fiduciary Funds

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds and custodial funds. Trust funds are distinguished from custodial funds by the existence of a trust agreement or equivalent arrangements that has certain characteristics. Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund. The Educational Service Center's only fiduciary fund is a custodial fund. The custodial fund accounts for activities related to the 125 Plan and the Brown County Schools Benefits Consortium.

#### **Measurement Focus**

##### Government-wide Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements are prepared using a flow of economic resources measurement focus. All assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows and outflows of resources associated with the operation of the Educational Service Center are included on the Statement of Net Position. The Statement of Activities presents increases (e.g., revenues) and decreases (e.g., 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, current liabilities, certain 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 (i.e., revenues and other financing sources) and uses (i.e., expenditures and other financing uses) of current financial resources. This approach differs from the manner in which the governmental activities of the government-wide financial statements are prepared. Governmental fund financial statements therefore include a reconciliation with brief explanations to better identify the relationship between the government-wide statements and the statements for governmental funds.

#### **Basis of Accounting**

Basis of accounting determines when transactions are recorded in the financial records and reported on the financial statements. Government-wide financial statements and the financial statements of the fiduciary funds 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 bases of accounting arise in the recognition of revenue, the recording of deferred inflows and outflows 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. "Measurable" means that the amount of the transaction can be determined, and "available" means that the resources are collectible 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 Educational Service Center, available means expected to be received within 60 days of fiscal year-end.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the Educational Service Center receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlements and donations. Revenue from grants, entitlements and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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requirements, which specify the fiscal year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted; matching requirements, in which the Educational Service Center must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose; and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the Educational Service Center on a reimbursement basis. On a modified accrual basis, revenue from non-exchange transactions must also be available before it can be recognized.

Under the modified accrual basis, interest, customer sales and services, and grants are considered to be both measurable and available at fiscal year-end.

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statements of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The Educational Service Center reports in the government-wide statement of net position deferred outflows of resources for amounts related to pensions and other postemployment benefits. Amounts related to pensions will be further discussed in Notes 8 and 9.

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 position that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The Educational Service Center reports deferred inflows of resources for unavailable revenue, pensions, and other postemployment benefits. 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 Educational Service Center, unavailable revenue includes intergovernmental grants and customer sales and services. These amounts are deferred and recognized as an inflow of resources in the period the amounts become available. Amounts related to pensions and other postemployment benefits will be further discussed in Notes 8 and 9.

Expenses/Expenditures

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

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

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

To improve cash management, all cash received by the Educational Service Center, except cash held as fiscal agent for the Brown County Schools Benefits Consortium, is pooled in central bank accounts. Separate accounts are maintained for the Brown County Schools Benefits Consortium but are included in the accounting records of the Educational Service Center. Individual fund integrity is maintained through Educational Service Center records. Interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents," on the financial statements.

During fiscal year 2023, investments were limited to the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAR Ohio). STAR 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 Educational Service Center measures their 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.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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For the fiscal year 2023, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. Twenty-four hours advanced noticed is appreciated for deposits and redemptions of \$100 million or more. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$250 million per day. All accounts of the participant will be combined for these purposes.

Following Ohio statutes, the Governing Board has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest revenue credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2023 amounted to \$94,609.

Investments of the cash management pool and investments with original maturities of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the Educational Service Center are presented on the financial statements as cash equivalents.

**Interfund Balances**

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

**Prepaid Items**

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond June 30, 2023 are recorded as prepaid items using the consumption method. A current asset for the prepaid amount is recorded at the time of purchase and an expenditure/expense is recorded in the fiscal year in which services are consumed.

**Inventory**

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

**Capital Assets**

All capital assets of the Educational Service Center are general capital assets that are associated with governmental activities. 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.

Capital assets are capitalized at cost (or estimated historical cost which is determined by indexing the current replacement cost back to the year of acquisition) and are updated for additions and retirements during the fiscal year. Donated capital assets are recorded at their acquisition values as of the date received. The Educational Service Center maintains a capitalization threshold of \$1,500. The Educational Service Center does not possess any infrastructure.

All reported capital assets are depreciated. Depreciation of furniture and equipment is computed using the straight-line method over five to twenty years. Depreciation of intangible right to use lease assets is computed using the straight-line method over the lease term of five years, which is the shorter of the lease term or the useful life of the underlying asset.

## **Brown County Educational Service Center**

### *Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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#### **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 Educational Service Center will compensate the employees for the benefits through paid time off or some other means. The Educational Service Center 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 Educational Service Center 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 Educational Service Center's termination policy. The Educational Service Center records a liability for accumulated unused sick leave for all employees after 10 years of current service with the Educational Service Center.

The entire compensated absences liability is reported on the government-wide financial statements.

On the governmental fund financial statements, compensated absences are recognized as a liability and expenditures to the extent that payments come due each period upon the occurrence of employee resignations and retirements. These amounts are recorded in the account "Matured Compensated Absences Payable" in the fund from which the employees will be paid. The Educational Service Center had no matured compensated absences to report at June 30, 2023.

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

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

#### **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.

#### **Fund Balance**

Fund balance is divided into five classifications based primarily on the extent to which the Educational Service Center 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 are 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.



## **Brown County Educational Service Center**

### *Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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*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.

*Committed* - The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by the highest level of formal action (resolution) of the Educational Service Center Board. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board 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 Educational Service Center for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by the Educational Service Center Board. State statute authorizes the Treasurer to assign fund balance purchases on order provided such amounts have been lawfully appropriated.

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

The Educational Service Center 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.

### **Net Position**

Net position represents the difference between all other elements in a statement of financial position. The investment in capital assets component of net position consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization, reduced by outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction, or improvement of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation adopted by the Educational Service Center or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments.

The Educational Service Center applies restricted resources when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

### **Internal Activity**

Internal 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 and are eliminated from the Statement of Activities. 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. The Educational Service Center reported no interfund transfers for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Budgetary Process**

No budgetary information is presented because the Governing Board did not approve estimated revenues or adopt appropriations. Under Ohio law, Educational Service Centers are not required to file budgetary information with the State Department of Education.

**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.

**Flow-Through Grants**

The Educational Service Center is the primary recipient of grants which are passed through or spent on behalf of the local and exempted village school districts. When the Educational Service Center has a financial or administrative role in the grants, the grants are reported as revenues and intergovernmental expenditures/expenses. For fiscal year 2023, the Educational Service Center had no flow through grants.

**Note 3 – Deposits and Investments**

Monies held by the Educational Service Center are classified by State statute into three categories.

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

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

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

Interim monies held by the Educational Service Center 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 obligations 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;

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and with certain limitations, including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met;
5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAROhio); 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.

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 Educational Service Center 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.

**Investments**

As of June 30, 2023, the Educational Service Center only had investments in STAR Ohio.

| <u>Measurement/Investment</u> | <u>Measurement<br/>Amount</u> | <u>Average<br/>Maturity</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Net Asset Value Per Share:    |                               |                             |
| STAR Ohio                     | \$9,366,376                   | 60 Days                     |

Interest Rate Risk

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

Credit Risk

STAR Ohio carries a rating of AAAM by Standard and Poor's. Ohio law requires that STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. The Educational Service Center has no investment policy that addresses credit risk.

Concentration of Credit Risk

The Educational Service Center places no limit on the amount it may invest in any one issuer.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

**Note 4 – Receivables**

Receivables at June 30, 2023 consisted of amounts due from other school districts and governmental agencies. All receivables are considered collectible in full and will be received within one year. The Educational Service Center had the following intergovernmental receivables:

| <i>Governmental Activities</i> | <i>Amount</i>   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Major Fund:</i>             |                 |
| General Fund                   | \$16,931        |
| <i>Nonmajor Fund:</i>          |                 |
| Extended Learning and Recovery | 56,516          |
| Total                          | <u>\$73,447</u> |

**Note 5 – Capital Assets**

Capital assets activity for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 was as follows:

|   | Balance at<br>6/30/22 | Additions         | Deletions      | Balance at<br>6/30/23 |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Governmental Activities</i>              |                       |                   |                |                       |
| Capital Assets Being Depreciated/Amortized  |                       |                   |                |                       |
| Furniture and Equipment                     | \$91,776              | \$49,490          | (\$6,436)      | \$134,830             |
| Intangible Right to Use Lease*              | 183,214               | 0                 | 0              | 183,214               |
| Total                                       | <u>274,990</u>        | <u>49,490</u>     | <u>(6,436)</u> | <u>318,044</u>        |
| Less Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization  |                       |                   |                |                       |
| Furniture and Equipment                     | (57,404)              | (15,741)          | 6,185          | (66,960)              |
| Intangible Right to Use Lease*              | (60,883)              | (61,596)          | 0              | (122,479)             |
| Total                                       | <u>(118,287)</u>      | <u>(77,337)</u>   | <u>6,185</u>   | <u>(189,439)</u>      |
| Governmental Activities Capital Assets, Net | <u>\$156,703</u>      | <u>(\$27,847)</u> | <u>(\$251)</u> | <u>\$128,605</u>      |

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

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Instruction:                            |                 |
| Special                                 | \$658           |
| Support Services:                       |                 |
| Pupils                                  | 894             |
| Instructional Staff                     | 11,769          |
| Administration                          | 1,100           |
| Fiscal                                  | 120             |
| Central                                 | 62,796          |
| Total Depreciation/Amortization Expense | <u>\$77,337</u> |

\*Of the current year depreciation/amortization total of \$77,337, \$61,596 is presented as central expense on the Statement of Activities related to the Educational Service Center's intangible asset of building use, which is included as an Intangible Right to Use Lease. With the implementation of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 87, "Leases", a lease meeting the criteria of this statement requires the lessee to recognize the lease liability and an intangible right to use asset.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Note 6 – State and Local School District Funding**

The Educational Service Center, under State law, provides services to local school districts within its territory. Each city, local and exempted village school district that entered into an agreement with the Educational Service Center is considered to be provided services. The cost of the services is determined by formula under State law. The State Department of Education apportions the costs for all services among the Educational Service Center's city, local and exempted school districts based on each school's total student count. The Department of Education deducts each school district's amount from their State Foundation Program settlements and remits the amount to the Educational Service Center. The Educational Service Center may provide additional services if the majority of local and client school districts agree to the services and the apportionment of the costs to all of the client school districts.

Beginning in fiscal year 2022, the Educational Service Center received funding from the State Department of Education using a new funding model which is based on student count. Any change in funding was subject to a phase in percentage of 16.67 percent for fiscal year 2022 and 33.33 percent for fiscal year 2023. This amount is paid from State resources. The State Department of Education also deducts from the State Foundation Program settlement of each of the Educational Service Center's local and client school districts an amount equal to \$6.50 times the school district's total student count and remits this amount to the Educational Service Center.

The Educational Service Center may contract with city, exempted village, local, joint vocational or cooperative education school districts to provide special education and related services or career-technical education services. The individual boards of education pay the costs for these services directly to the Service Center.

**Note 7 – Risk Management**

**Liability Insurance**

The Educational Service Center is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. During fiscal year 2023, the Educational Service Center contracted with Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA) for liability, property, and automobile liability insurance coverage and paid its premium to SORSA. The premium paid to SORSA for fiscal year 2023 was \$10,379.

Liberty Mutual maintains a \$20,000 public official bond for the Treasurer.

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

**Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan**

For fiscal year 2023, the Educational Service Center participated in the Cincinnati USA Chamber of Commerce group rating program (GRP), an insurance purchasing pool (See Note 12). The intent of the GRP is to achieve the benefit of a reduced premium for the Educational Service Center by virtue of its grouping and representation with other participants in the GRP. The workers' compensation experience of the participants is calculated as one experience, and a common premium rate is applied to all school districts in the GRP. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the GRP rather than its individual rate. Participation in the GRP is limited to school districts that can meet the GRP's selection criteria. The firm of Sheakley UniComp provides administrative, cost control, and actuarial services to the GRP.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**Employee Medical and Dental Benefits**

The Educational Service Center participates in the Brown County Schools Benefits Consortium (the Consortium), a public entity shared risk and insurance purchasing pool (Note 12) consisting of nine districts. The Consortium has elected to have United Healthcare provide medical coverage purchased as a group through the Consortium. Dental coverage is being provided through a shared risk pool based on member districts' number of employees. The Educational Service Center is responsible for providing a current listing of enrolled employees and for providing timely pro-rata payments of premiums to the Consortium for employee health coverage and dental benefits. The Consortium is responsible for the management and operations of the program. Upon termination from the Consortium, for any reason, the terminated member relinquishes their portion of equity in the Consortium's cash pool.

**Note 8 – 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/OPEB liability (asset) reported on the statement of net position represents a liability to (asset for) employees for pensions/OPEB. 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 Educational Service Center'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 Educational Service Center's obligation for these liabilities to annually required payments. The Educational Service Center cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the Educational Service Center 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) on the accrual basis of accounting. Any liability for the contractually-required pension/OPEB contribution outstanding at the end of the year is included in intergovernmental payable on both the accrual and modified accrual bases of accounting.

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See note 9 for the required OPEB disclosures.



**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**School Employees Retirement System (SERS)**

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

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

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the Educational Service Center 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, 2023, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.0 percent. For fiscal year 2023, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The Educational Service Center's contractually required contributions to SERS were \$360,041 for fiscal year 2023. Of this amount, \$42,355 was reported as an intergovernmental payable.

**State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)**

Plan Description – Educational Service Center licensed teachers and other certified faculty members participate in STRS Ohio, 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](http://www.strsoh.org).

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. 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, an 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. 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 their member contributions and 9.53 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 4.47 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 fiscal year 2023 employer and employee contribution rate of 14 percent was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For fiscal year 2023, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The Educational Service Center's contractually required contributions to STRS were \$314,713 for fiscal year 2023. Of this amount, \$64,673 is reported as an intergovernmental payable.



**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

**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, 2022 and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Educational Service Center's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the Educational Service Center'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 |                    |                      |              |
| Current Measurement Date                | 0.07050140%        | 0.021174440%         |              |
| Proportion of the Net Pension Liability |                    |                      |              |
| Prior Measurement Date                  | <u>0.06271720%</u> | <u>0.022085781%</u>  |              |
| Change in Proportionate Share           | <u>0.00778420%</u> | <u>-0.000911341%</u> |              |
| Proportionate Share of the Net          |                    |                      |              |
| Pension Liability                       | \$3,813,264        | \$4,707,105          | \$8,520,369  |
| Pension Expense                         | \$586,562          | \$571,320            | \$1,157,882  |

At June 30, 2023, the Educational Service Center 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>       |
|---|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Deferred Outflows of Resources</i>       |                  |                    |                    |
| Differences between expected and            |                  |                    |                    |
| actual experience                           | \$154,442        | \$60,256           | \$214,698          |
| Changes of assumptions                      | 37,627           | 563,299            | 600,926            |
| Net difference between projected and        |                  |                    |                    |
| actual earnings on pension plan investments | 0                | 163,798            | 163,798            |
| Changes in proportion and differences       |                  |                    |                    |
| between Educational Service Center          |                  |                    |                    |
| contributions and proportionate share       |                  |                    |                    |
| of contributions                            | 376,831          | 107,228            | 484,059            |
| Educational Service Center contributions    |                  |                    |                    |
| subsequent to the measurement date          | <u>360,041</u>   | <u>314,713</u>     | <u>674,754</u>     |
| Total Deferred Outflows of Resources        | <u>\$928,941</u> | <u>\$1,209,294</u> | <u>\$2,138,235</u> |
| <i>Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>        |                  |                    |                    |
| Differences between expected and            |                  |                    |                    |
| actual experience                           | \$25,033         | \$18,006           | \$43,039           |
| Changes of assumptions                      | 0                | 424,002            | 424,002            |
| Net difference between projected and        |                  |                    |                    |
| actual earnings on pension plan investments | <u>133,064</u>   | <u>378,533</u>     | <u>511,597</u>     |
| Total Deferred Inflows of Resources         | <u>\$158,097</u> | <u>\$820,541</u>   | <u>\$978,638</u>   |

\$674,754 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from Educational Service Center contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the year ending June 30, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

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|                             | SERS             | STRS            | Total            |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Fiscal Year Ending June 30: |                  |                 |                  |
| 2024                        | \$257,425        | (\$61,041)      | \$196,384        |
| 2025                        | 122,330          | (89,827)        | 32,503           |
| 2026                        | (190,087)        | (252,467)       | (442,554)        |
| 2027                        | 221,135          | 477,375         | 698,510          |
| Total                       | <u>\$410,803</u> | <u>\$74,040</u> | <u>\$484,843</u> |

**Actuarial Assumptions - SERS**

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

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

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, 2022 are presented below:

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

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

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

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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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.

| <u>Asset Class</u>          | <u>Target<br/>Allocation</u> | <u>Long-Term Expected<br/>Real Rate of Return</u> |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Cash                        | 2.00 %                       | (0.45) %  |
| US Equity                   | 24.75                        | 5.37  |
| Non-US Equity Developed     | 13.50                        | 6.22  |
| Non-US Equity Emerging      | 6.75                         | 8.22  |
| Fixed Income/Global Bonds   | 19.00                        | 1.20  |
| Private Equity              | 11.00                        | 10.05   |
| Real Estate/Real Assets     | 16.00                        | 4.87  |
| Multi-Asset Strategy        | 4.00                         | 3.39  |
| Private Debt/Private Credit | 3.00                         | 5.38  |
| Total                       | <u>100.00 %</u>              |   |

**Discount Rate** The total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.00 percent). Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability.

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

|   | <u>1% Decrease<br/>(6.00%)</u> | <u>Current<br/>Discount Rate<br/>(7.00%)</u> | <u>1% Increase<br/>(8.00%)</u> |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability | \$5,612,943                    | \$3,813,264                                  | \$2,297,059                    |

**Actuarial Assumptions - STRS**

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

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

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|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Inflation                         | 2.50 percent   |
| Salary increases                  | From 2.5 percent to 12.5 percent<br>based on age                 |
| Investment Rate of Return         | 7.00 percent, net of investment<br>expenses, including inflation |
| Discount Rate of Return           | 7.00 percent   |
| Payroll Increases                 | 3.00 percent   |
| Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA) | 0.0 percent, effective July 1, 2017                              |

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

For 2021, post-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50 percent of rates through age 69, 70 percent of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90 percent of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100 percent of rates, thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Table with 90 percent of rates for males and 100 percent of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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

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

\*Target allocation percentage is effective July 1, 2022. Target weights were phased in over a 3 month period concluding on October 1, 2022.

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

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

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

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payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2022. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit payment to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2022.

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

|   | 1% Decrease<br>(6.00%) | Current<br>Discount Rate<br>(7.00%) | 1% Increase<br>(8.00%) |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability | \$7,110,722            | \$4,707,105                         | \$2,674,389            |

**Social Security System**

Effective July 1, 1991, all employees not otherwise covered by the School Employees Retirement System or the State Teachers Retirement System of Ohio have an option to choose Social Security or the School Employees Retirement System. As of June 30, 2023, one member of the Board of Education have elected Social Security. The Board's liability is 6.2 percent of wages paid.

**Note 9 – Defined Benefit OPEB Plans**

See note 8 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

**School Employees Retirement System (SERS)**

**Health Care Plan Description** - The Educational Service Center 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.

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

**Funding Policy** - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

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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 2023, 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 2023, this amount was \$25,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2023, the Educational Service Center's surcharge obligation was \$49,237.

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 Educational Service Center's contractually required contribution to SERS for health care was \$49,237 for fiscal year 2023. Of this amount, \$49,237 was reported as an intergovernmental payable.

**State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)**

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

**Funding Policy** – Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. All benefit recipients pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. Under Ohio law, funding for post-employment health care may be deducted from employer contributions, currently 14 percent of covered payroll. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

**Net OPEB Liability (Asset), OPEB Expense, and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB**

The net OPEB liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The Educational Service Center's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on the Educational Service Center's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share and OPEB expense (gain):

|   | SERS        | STRS          | Total       |
|---|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)  |             |               |             |
| Current Measurement Date                      | 0.07189350% | 0.021174440%  |             |
| Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)  |             |               |             |
| Prior Measurement Date                        | 0.06464900% | 0.022085781%  |             |
| Change in Proportionate Share                 | 0.00724450% | -0.000911341% |             |
| Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability | \$1,009,392 | \$0           | \$1,009,392 |
| Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset     | \$0         | (\$548,277)   | (\$548,277) |
| OPEB Expense (Gain)                           | \$23,248    | (\$82,333)    | (\$59,085)  |

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At June 30, 2023, the Educational Service Center 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>       |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Deferred Outflows of Resources</i>   |                    |                  |                    |
| Differences between expected and actual experience  | \$8,485            | \$7,947          | \$16,432           |
| Changes of assumptions  | 160,556            | 23,355           | 183,911            |
| Net difference between projected and actual earnings on pension plan investments  | 5,247              | 9,543            | 14,790             |
| Changes in proportionate share and difference between Educational Service Center contributions and proportionate share of contributions | 439,767            | 33,898           | 473,665            |
| Educational Service Center contributions subsequent to the measurement date   | 49,237             | 0                | 49,237             |
| Total Deferred Outflows of Resources  | <u>\$663,292</u>   | <u>\$74,743</u>  | <u>\$738,035</u>   |
| <i>Deferred Inflows of Resources</i>  |                    |                  |                    |
| Differences between expected and actual experience  | \$645,681          | \$82,339         | \$728,020          |
| Changes of assumptions  | 414,363            | 388,781          | 803,144            |
| Changes in proportionate share and difference between Educational Service Center contributions and proportionate share of contributions | 17,313             | 209              | 17,522             |
| Total Deferred Inflows of Resources   | <u>\$1,077,357</u> | <u>\$471,329</u> | <u>\$1,548,686</u> |

\$49,237 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from Educational Service Center contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net OPEB liability or increase in the net OPEB asset in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

|                             | <u>SERS</u>        | <u>STRS</u>        | <u>Total</u>       |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fiscal Year Ending June 30: |                    |                    |                    |
| 2024                        | (\$110,810)        | (\$109,275)        | (\$220,085)        |
| 2025                        | (111,880)          | (108,129)          | (220,009)          |
| 2026                        | (90,196)           | (58,373)           | (148,569)          |
| 2027                        | (43,956)           | (24,131)           | (68,087)           |
| 2028                        | (36,320)           | (31,985)           | (68,305)           |
| Thereafter                  | <u>(70,140)</u>    | <u>(64,693)</u>    | <u>(134,833)</u>   |
| Total                       | <u>(\$463,302)</u> | <u>(\$396,586)</u> | <u>(\$859,888)</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

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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, 2022 are presented below:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Inflation  | 2.40 percent  |
| Future Salary Increases, including inflation   |   |
| Wage Increases   | 3.25 percent to 13.58 percent                                 |
| Investment Rate of Return  | 7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation |
| Fiduciary Net Position is Projected to be Depleted   | 2044  |
| Municipal Bond Index Rate:   |   |
| Measurement Date   | 3.69 percent  |
| Prior Measurement Date   | 1.92 percent  |
| Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation |   |
| Measurement Date   | 4.08 percent  |
| Prior Measurement Date   | 2.27 percent  |
| Health Care Cost Trend Rate  |   |
| Medicare   | 5.125 to 4.40 percent   |
| Pre-Medicare   | 6.75 to 4.40 percent  |
| Medical Trend Assumption   | 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 Median Employee mortality table.

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

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial five-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2016 through 2020 and was adopted by the Board in 2021. Several factors



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are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a log-normal distribution analysis in which best-estimate ranges of expected future real rates of return were developed by the investment consultant for each major asset class. These ranges were combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return, 7.00 percent, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The capital market assumptions developed by the investment consultant are intended for use over a 10-year horizon and may not be useful in setting the long-term rate of return for funding pension plans which covers a longer timeframe. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

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

| <u>Asset Class</u>          | <u>Target<br/>Allocation</u> | <u>Long-Term Expected<br/>Real Rate of Return</u> |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Cash                        | 2.00 %                       | (0.45) %  |
| US Equity                   | 24.75                        | 5.37  |
| Non-US Equity Developed     | 13.50                        | 6.22  |
| Non-US Equity Emerging      | 6.75                         | 8.22  |
| Fixed Income/Global Bonds   | 19.00                        | 1.20  |
| Private Equity              | 11.00                        | 10.05   |
| Real Estate/Real Assets     | 16.00                        | 4.87  |
| Multi-Asset Strategy        | 4.00                         | 3.39  |
| Private Debt/Private Credit | 3.00                         | 5.38  |
| Total                       | <u>100.00 %</u>              |   |

**Discount Rate** The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2022 was 4.08 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability at June 30, 2021 was 2.27 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the contribution rate of 1.50 percent of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50 percent payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to become insufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current System members by SERS actuaries. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is used in the determination of the SEIR for both the June 30, 2022 and the June 30, 2021 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 is 3.69 percent at June 30, 2022 and 1.92 percent at June 30, 2021.

**Sensitivity of the Educational Service Center'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 of SERS, what SERS' net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.08%) and higher (5.08%) than the current discount rate (4.08%). Also shown is what SERS' net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (6.00% decreasing to 3.40%) and higher (8.00% decreasing to 5.40%) than the current rate.

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|  | 1% Decrease<br>(3.08%)                        | Current<br>Discount Rate<br>(4.08%)                     | 1% Increase<br>(5.08%)                        |
|--|---|---|---|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability | \$1,253,680                                   | \$1,009,392   | \$812,185                                     |
|  | 1% Decrease<br>(6.00% decreasing<br>to 3.40%) | Current<br>Trend Rate<br>(7.00% decreasing<br>to 4.40%) | 1% Increase<br>(8.00% decreasing<br>to 5.40%) |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability | \$778,423                                     | \$1,009,392   | \$1,311,076                                   |

**Actuarial Assumptions – STRS**

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2022, actuarial valuation and the June 30, 2021, actuarial valuation are presented below:

|                            | June 30, 2022   | June 30, 2021   |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Projected salary increases | Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent             | Varies by age from 2.5 percent to 12.50 percent               |
| Investment Rate of Return  | 7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation | 7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation |
| Payroll Increases          | 3 percent   | 3 percent   |
| Discount Rate of Return    | 7.00 percent  | 7.00 percent  |
| Health Care Cost Trends    |   |   |
| Medical                    |   |   |
| Pre-Medicare               | 7.50 percent initial<br>3.94 percent ultimate                 | 5.00 percent initial<br>4 percent ultimate                    |
| Medicare                   | -68.78 percent initial<br>3.94 percent ultimate               | -16.18 percent initial<br>4 percent ultimate                  |
| Prescription Drug          |   |   |
| Pre-Medicare               | 9.00 percent initial<br>3.94 percent ultimate                 | 6.50 percent initial<br>4 percent ultimate                    |
| Medicare                   | -5.47 percent initial<br>3.94 percent ultimate                | 29.98 percent initial<br>4 percent ultimate                   |

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

For 2022, 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.

For 2021, healthy retirees the mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Table with 50 percent of rates through age 69, 70 percent of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90 percent of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100 percent of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Table with 90 percent of rates for males and 100

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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percent of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022, valuation are based on the results of an actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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

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

\*Target allocation percentage is effective July 1, 2022. Target weights were phased in over a 3 month period concluding on October 1, 2022.

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

**Discount Rate** The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.00 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes STRS continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2022. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on health care plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected health care costs to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2022.

**Sensitivity of the Educational Service Center'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, 2022, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00 percent, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent) or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

|  | <u>1% Decrease<br/>(6.00%)</u> | <u>Current<br/>Discount Rate<br/>(7.00%)</u> | <u>1% Increase<br/>(8.00%)</u> |
|--|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset | (\$506,867)                    | (\$548,277)                                  | (\$583,747)                    |

|  | <u>1% Decrease</u> | <u>Current<br/>Trend Rate</u> | <u>1% Increase</u> |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset | (\$568,696)        | (\$548,277)                   | (\$522,502)        |

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

**Note 10 – Employee Benefits**

**Compensated Absences**

The criteria for determining vacation and sick leave benefits are derived from State laws. Eligible classified employees earn 10 to 30 days of vacation per fiscal year, depending upon length of service. Administrators earn 10 to 30 days of vacation per fiscal year, depending upon length of service. Teachers do not earn vacation time. Accumulated, unused vacation time is paid to classified employees and administrators upon termination of employment.

Teachers, administrators and classified employees earn sick leave at the rate of one and one-fourth days per month. There is no limit as to the accumulation of the number of sick days. Upon retirement, payment is made for 25 percent of the employees' accumulated sick leave with a maximum payment being limited to 50 days. Unused personal days are converted to sick days for all employees on June 30<sup>th</sup> of each fiscal year.

**Other Employee Benefits**

The Educational Service Center provides term life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance to all of its full-time employees through Metlife.

**Note 11 – Long-Term Obligations**

The changes in the Educational Service Center's long-term obligations during fiscal year 2023 were as follows:

|                                | Balance at<br>6/30/22 | Increase    | Decrease    | Balance at<br>6/30/23 | Due Within<br>One Year |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Governmental Activities</i> |                       |             |             |                       |                        |
| Net Pension Liability          |                       |             |             |                       |                        |
| SERS                           | \$2,314,083           | \$1,499,181 | \$0         | \$3,813,264           | \$0                    |
| STRS                           | 2,823,866             | 1,883,239   | 0           | 4,707,105             | 0                      |
| Total Net Pension Liability    | 5,137,949             | 3,382,420   | 0           | 8,520,369             | 0                      |
| Net OPEB Liability             |                       |             |             |                       |                        |
| SERS                           | 1,223,535             | 0           | (214,143)   | 1,009,392             | 0                      |
| Total Net OPEB Liability       | 1,223,535             | 0           | (214,143)   | 1,009,392             | 0                      |
| Compensated Absences           | 387,387               | 204,395     | (151,981)   | 439,801               | 23,813                 |
| Lease Payable                  | 122,331               | 0           | (61,596)    | 60,735                | 60,735                 |
| Total                          | \$6,871,202           | \$3,586,815 | (\$427,720) | \$10,030,297          | \$84,548               |

Leases Payable – The Educational Service Center has an outstanding agreement to lease space for operation. Due to the implementation of GASB 87, this lease has met the criteria of a lease thus requiring it to be recorded by the Educational Service Center. A summary of the principal and interest amounts for the remaining lease is as follows:

| Year  | Principal | Interest |
|-------|-----------|----------|
| 2024  | \$60,735  | \$3,037  |
| Total | \$60,735  | \$3,037  |

The Educational Service Center pays obligations related to employee compensation from the fund benefitting from their service. Compensated absences will be paid from the general fund. There is no repayment schedule for the net pension/OPEB liability. However, employer pension contributions are made from the same funds from which employees

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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are paid. For additional information related to the net pension/OPEB liability, see notes 8 and 9.

**Note 12 – Jointly Governed Organization, Insurance Purchasing Pools, and Public Entity Shared Risk Pool**

**Jointly Governed Organization**

The Educational Service Center is a participant in the Hamilton Clermont Cooperative Information Technology Center (HCC) which is a computer consortium. HCC is an association of 31 public school districts within the boundaries of Hamilton, Clermont and surrounding counties. HCC 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 school districts. The Governing Board of HCC consists of the superintendents and/or treasurers of the participating districts. HCC is not accumulating significant financial resources nor is it experiencing fiscal stress that may cause an additional financial benefit to or burden on members in the future. During fiscal year 2023, the Educational Service Center paid HCC \$6,610 for various services. Financial information can be obtained from the Director at 1007 Cottonwood Drive, Loveland, Ohio 45140.

**Insurance Purchasing Pools**

The Educational Service Center participates in the Cincinnati USA Chamber of Commerce Group Rating Program, an insurance purchasing pool. Each year, the Educational Service Center pays an enrollment fee to Sheakley to cover the costs of administering the program.

The Educational Service Center participates in the Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA), an Ohio non-profit organization formed by Ohio school districts to provide cost effective pooled insurance to its members. SORSA is a self-funded, group insurance consortium that offers property, electronic data processing, boiler and machinery, crime, general liability, automobile liability and physical damage, and school board errors and omissions insurance coverage. SORSA is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of representatives of school districts that participate in the program.

Premiums are paid on an annual basis. Pursuant to participation agreements with SORSA, each member agrees to pay all funding rates associated with the coverage elected; as such funding rates are set and billed to the members by SORSA. The assigned funding rates consist of the following components: administrative fees, stop loss fees, expected claims costs, and reserves. Reserves are determined by an independent actuary and allocated based on expected claim activity. Rates are calculated to cover the administrative expenses and expected claims costs of the program as well as provide additional member equity. Financial information can be obtained from SORSA's Executive Director at 555 Metro Place North, Suite 645, Dublin, Ohio 43017.

**Public Entity Shared Risk and Insurance Purchasing Pool**

The Brown County Schools Benefits Consortium, a public entity shared risk and insurance purchasing pool, currently operates to provide medical insurance (insurance purchasing pool) and dental coverage (public entity shared risk pool) to enrolled employees of the Consortium members and to eligible dependents of those enrolled employees. Six Brown County school districts (Eastern, Fayetteville-Perry, Georgetown, Ripley Union Lewis Huntington, Southern Hills Career and Technical Center, and Western Brown Schools) and two Highland County school districts (Bright Local and Lynchburg-Clay Local School District) along with the Brown County Educational Service Center have entered into an agreement to form the Brown County Schools Benefits Consortium. The Consortium is governed by a nine member board consisting of the superintendents of each participating school district along with the superintendent of the Brown County Educational Service Center. The overall objectives of the Consortium are to formulate and administer a program of medical and dental insurance for the benefit of the Consortium members' employees and their dependents. The Consortium contracts with United Healthcare to provide medical insurance directly to Consortium member employees. The Educational Service Center pays premiums to the Consortium based on employee membership. For dental coverage the Consortium acts as a public entity shared risk pool. Each member district pays dental premiums based on the Consortium estimates of future claims. If the member district's dental claims exceed its premiums, there is no individual supplemental assessment; on the other hand, if

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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the member district's claims are low, it will not receive a refund. Dental coverage was administered through a third-party administrator, Dental Care Plus, through December 31, 2022. Beginning January 1, 2023, dental coverage is administered through Guardian. Participating member districts pay an administrative fee to the fiscal agent to cover the costs associated with the administering of the Consortium. To obtain financial information write to the Brown County Educational Service Center at 931 Hamer Road, Georgetown, Ohio 45121.

**Note 13 – Contingencies**

**Grants**

The Educational Service Center received financial assistance from federal and State agencies in the form of grants. The expenditure of funds received under these programs generally requires compliance with terms and conditions specified in the grant agreements and are subject to audit by the grantor agencies. Any disallowed claims resulting from such audits could become a liability of the General Fund or other applicable funds. However, the effect of any such disallowed claims on the overall financial position of the Educational Service Center at June 30, 2023, if applicable, cannot be determined at this time.

**School Foundation**

Educational Service Center Foundation is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) is legislatively required to adjust/reconcile funding as enrollment information is updated by schools throughout the State, which can extend past the fiscal year end. As of the date of this report, additional DEW adjustments for fiscal year 2023 have been finalized. No additional adjustments were recorded for fiscal year 2023.

**Litigation**

The Educational Service Center is currently party to litigation. Although the outcome of this litigation is not presently determinable, it is the opinion of the Educational Service Center's counsel that resolution of this matter will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the Educational Service Center.

**Note 14- Significant Commitments**

**Encumbrances**

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

|                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Major Fund:</i>           |                  |
| General                      | \$72,206         |
| <i>Nonmajor Fund:</i>        |                  |
| Miscellaneous Federal Grants | 51,997           |
| Total                        | <u>\$124,203</u> |

**Note 15 – Fund Balances**

Fund balance is classified as nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the Educational Service Center is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in the governmental funds. The constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental funds and nonmajor governmental funds are presented below:

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

|                            | General<br>Fund    | Nonmajor<br>Governmental<br>Funds | Total<br>Governmental<br>Funds |
|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Nonspendable</i>        |                    |                                   |                                |
| Inventory                  | \$201,802          | \$0                               | \$201,802                      |
| Prepaid Items              | 10,053             | 700                               | 10,753                         |
| <i>Total Nonspendable</i>  | 211,855            | 700                               | 212,555                        |
| <br><i>Restricted for</i>  |                    |                                   |                                |
| Other Purposes             | 0                  | 55,393                            | 55,393                         |
| <br><i>Assigned to</i>     |                    |                                   |                                |
| Purchases on Order         | 60,450             | 0                                 | 60,450                         |
| <br><i>Unassigned</i>      | 1,032,179          | 0                                 | 1,032,179                      |
| <b>Total Fund Balances</b> | <b>\$1,304,484</b> | <b>\$56,093</b>                   | <b>\$1,360,577</b>             |

**Note 16 – Interfund Activity**

Interfund balances at June 30, 2023 consist of the following individual interfund receivables and payables:

|                           | Interfund<br>Receivable | Interfund<br>Payable |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Major Fund:</i>        |                         |                      |
| General                   | \$44,358                | \$0                  |
| <br><i>Nonmajor Fund:</i> |                         |                      |
| ESSER Grant               | 0                       | 44,358               |
| <br>Total                 | <b>\$44,358</b>         | <b>\$44,358</b>      |

The balance due to the General Fund are a result of negative cash balances in other funds, which is due to timing differences in the receiving of grant monies. The General Fund is responsible for any deficit in these funds and interfund transactions were established to cover these expenditures. The purpose for the interfund balances is to eliminate the negative cash balances in these funds until grant monies are received.

**Note 17 – 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 2023, the Educational Service Center received COVID-19 funding. The Educational Service Center will continue to spend available COVID-19 funding consistent with the applicable program guidelines.

**Note 18 – Change in Accounting Principles**

For fiscal year 2023, the Educational Service Center implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 96, "Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements".

**Brown County Educational Service Center**

*Notes to the Basic Financial Statements*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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GASB Statement No. 96 provides accounting and financial reporting guidance for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs). It is based on the standards established in Statement 87, “Leases”. It:

- Defines a SBITA as a contract that conveys control of the right to use a SBITA vendor’s IT software, alone or in combination with tangible capital assets (the underlying IT assets), as specified in the contract for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction;
- Requires governments with SBITAs to recognize a right-to-use subscription asset—an intangible asset—and a corresponding subscription liability (with an exception for short-term SBITAs—those with a maximum possible term of 12 months); and
- Provides guidance related to outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs, and requirements for note disclosures related to a SBITA.

These changes were considered in the preparation of the Educational Service Center’s 2023 financial statements; however, there was no effect on beginning net position/fund balance nor was note disclosure presentation required.

**Note 19 – Subsequent Event**

On January 15, 2025, the Educational Service Center accepted Adams County Ohio Valley Local School District as a member school district.



**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the Educational Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability*  
*Last Ten Fiscal Years*

|  | 2014        | 2015        | 2016        | 2017        | 2018        | 2019        | 2020        | 2021        | 2022         | 2023         |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>State Teachers Retirement System</i>  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |              |              |
| Educational Service Center's proportion of the net pension liability   | 0.01821580% | 0.01821580% | 0.01769088% | 0.01852055% | 0.01862016% | 0.02122682% | 0.02132628% | 0.02258689% | 0.022085781% | 0.021174440% |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability  | \$5,277,836 | \$4,430,712 | \$4,889,241 | \$6,199,387 | \$4,423,260 | \$4,667,302 | \$4,716,179 | \$5,465,224 | \$2,823,866  | \$4,707,105  |
| Educational Service Center's covered payroll   | \$1,819,615 | \$1,855,246 | \$1,854,743 | \$1,937,571 | \$2,118,821 | \$2,455,814 | \$2,494,543 | \$2,737,786 | \$1,965,050  | \$2,012,893  |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll | 290.1%      | 238.8%      | 263.6%      | 320.0%      | 208.8%      | 190.1%      | 189.1%      | 199.6%      | 143.7%       | 233.8%       |
| Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability   | 69.3%       | 74.7%       | 72.1%       | 66.8%       | 75.3%       | 77.3%       | 77.4%       | 75.5%       | 87.8%        | 78.9%        |
| <i>School Employees Retirement System</i>  |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |              |              |
| Educational Service Center's proportion of the net pension liability   | 0.03659200% | 0.03659200% | 0.03572920% | 0.04212930% | 0.04696730% | 0.04834080% | 0.04912140% | 0.05532050% | 0.06271720%  | 0.070501400% |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability  | \$2,176,009 | \$1,851,900 | \$2,038,742 | \$3,083,477 | \$2,806,192 | \$2,768,566 | \$2,939,019 | \$3,659,014 | \$2,314,083  | \$3,813,264  |
| Educational Service Center's covered payroll   | \$1,242,189 | \$1,066,732 | \$1,094,370 | \$1,337,321 | \$1,493,564 | \$1,684,533 | \$1,717,985 | \$1,781,993 | \$2,109,357  | \$2,478,971  |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability as a percentage of its covered payroll | 175.2%      | 173.6%      | 186.3%      | 230.6%      | 187.9%      | 164.4%      | 171.1%      | 205.3%      | 109.7%       | 153.8%       |
| Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability   | 65.5%       | 71.7%       | 69.2%       | 63.0%       | 69.5%       | 71.4%       | 70.9%       | 68.6%       | 82.9%        | 75.8%        |

The amounts presented are as of the Educational Service Center's measurement date, which is the prior fiscal year end.  
See the accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of the Educational Service Center's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)*  
*Last Seven Fiscal Years*

|   | 2017        | 2018        | 2019        | 2020        | 2021        | 2022         | 2023         |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>State Teachers Retirement System</i>   |             |             |             |             |             |              |              |
| Educational Service Center's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset)   | 0.01852055% | 0.01862016% | 0.02122682% | 0.02132628% | 0.02258689% | 0.022085781% | 0.021174440% |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset)  | \$990,484   | \$726,490   | (\$341,093) | (\$353,214) | (\$396,964) | (\$465,661)  | (\$548,277)  |
| Educational Service Center's covered payroll  | \$1,937,571 | \$2,118,821 | \$2,455,814 | \$2,494,543 | \$2,737,786 | \$1,965,050  | \$2,012,893  |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll | 51.1%       | 34.3%       | -13.9%      | -14.2%      | -14.5%      | -23.7%       | -27.2%       |
| Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability (asset)   | 37.3%       | 47.1%       | 176.0%      | 174.7%      | 182.1%      | 174.7%       | 230.7%       |
| <i>School Employees Retirement System</i>   |             |             |             |             |             |              |              |
| Educational Service Center's proportion of the net OPEB liability   | 0.04230980% | 0.04756990% | 0.04907550% | 0.05033170% | 0.05749660% | 0.06464900%  | 0.07189350%  |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability  | \$1,205,986 | \$1,276,651 | \$1,361,487 | \$1,265,736 | \$1,249,589 | \$1,223,535  | \$1,009,392  |
| Educational Service Center's covered payroll  | \$1,337,321 | \$1,493,564 | \$1,684,533 | \$1,717,985 | \$1,781,993 | \$2,109,357  | \$2,478,971  |
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability (asset) as a percentage of its covered payroll | 90.2%       | 85.5%       | 80.8%       | 73.7%       | 70.1%       | 58.0%        | 40.7%        |
| Plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total OPEB liability   | 11.5%       | 12.5%       | 13.6%       | 15.6%       | 18.2%       | 24.1%        | 30.3%        |

The amounts presented are as of the Educational Service Center's measurement date, which is the prior fiscal year end.

Information not available prior to 2017.

See the accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Required Supplementary Information*  
*Schedule of Educational Service Center Contributions*  
*Last Ten Fiscal Years*

|  | 2014        | 2015        | 2016        | 2017        | 2018        | 2019        | 2020        | 2021        | 2022        | 2023        |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <i>State Teachers Retirement System</i>                              |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Contractually required contribution - pension                        | \$241,182   | \$259,664   | \$271,260   | \$296,635   | \$343,814   | \$349,236   | \$383,290   | \$275,107   | \$281,805   | \$314,713   |
| Contractually required contribution - OPEB                           | 18,590      | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Contractually required contribution - total                          | 259,772     | 259,664     | 271,260     | 296,635     | 343,814     | 349,236     | 383,290     | 275,107     | 281,805     | 314,713     |
| Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution | 259,772     | 259,664     | 271,260     | 296,635     | 343,814     | 349,236     | 383,290     | 275,107     | 281,805     | 314,713     |
| Contribution deficiency (excess)                                     | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         |
| Educational Service Center's covered payroll                         | \$1,855,246 | \$1,854,743 | \$1,937,571 | \$2,118,821 | \$2,455,814 | \$2,494,543 | \$2,737,786 | \$1,965,050 | \$2,012,893 | \$2,247,950 |
| Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll - pension           | 13.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      |
| Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll - OPEB              | 1.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       |
| Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll - total             | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      |
| <i>School Employees Retirement System</i>                            |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |             |
| Contractually required contribution - pension                        | \$147,849   | \$144,238   | \$187,225   | \$209,099   | \$227,412   | \$231,928   | \$249,479   | \$295,310   | \$347,056   | \$360,041   |
| Contractually required contribution - OPEB (1)                       | 1,474       | 8,974       | 0           | 0           | 8,423       | 8,590       | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           |
| Contractually required contribution - total                          | 149,323     | 153,212     | 187,225     | 209,099     | 235,835     | 240,518     | 249,479     | 295,310     | 347,056     | 360,041     |
| Contributions in relation to the contractually required contribution | 149,323     | 153,212     | 187,225     | 209,099     | 235,835     | 240,518     | 249,479     | 295,310     | 347,056     | 360,041     |
| Contribution deficiency (excess)                                     | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         | \$0         |
| Educational Service Center's covered payroll                         | \$1,066,732 | \$1,094,370 | \$1,337,321 | \$1,493,564 | \$1,684,533 | \$1,717,985 | \$1,781,993 | \$2,109,357 | \$2,478,971 | \$2,571,721 |
| Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll - pension           | 13.86%      | 13.18%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 13.50%      | 13.50%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      |
| Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll - OPEB              | 0.14%       | 0.82%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.50%       | 0.50%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       | 0.00%       |
| Contributions as a percentage of covered payroll - total             | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      | 14.00%      |

(1) Excludes surcharge.

See the accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**State Teachers Retirement System**

**Pension**

**Changes in benefit terms**

There were no changes to benefit terms for fiscal years 2015 through 2017. For fiscal year 2018, the cost of living adjustment (COLA) was reduced to 0 percent effective July 1, 2017. There were no changes to benefit terms for fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

**Changes in assumptions**

There were no changes in assumptions for fiscal years 2015 through 2017.

For fiscal year 2018, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- Inflation assumptions were lowered from 2.75 percent to 2.5 percent.
- Investment return assumptions were lowered from 7.75 percent to 7.45 percent.
- Total salary increases rates were lowered by decreasing merit component of the individual salary increases, as well as by 0.25 percent due to lower inflation.
- Payroll growth assumptions were lowered from 3.5 percent to 3.0 percent.
- Updated the health and disability mortality assumption to the RP-2014 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2016.
- Rates of retirement, termination and disability were modified to better reflect anticipated future experience.

There were no changes in assumptions for fiscal years 2019 through 2021.

For fiscal year 2022, the following was the most significant change of assumptions that affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- Investment rate of return and discount rate of return assumptions were lowered from 7.45 percent to 7.0 percent.

For fiscal year 2023, the following was the most significant change of assumptions that affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- Updated the health and disability mortality assumption to the PUB-2010 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2020.
- The projected salary increases changed from 12.50 percent at age 20 to 2.50 percent at age 65 to varying by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 percent.

**OPEB**

**Changes in benefit terms**

There were no changes to benefit terms for fiscal year 2017.

For fiscal year 2018, STRS has the following changes in benefit terms since the previous measurement date:

- The HealthSpan HMO plans were eliminated.
- The subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was reduced to 1.9 percent per year of service from 2.1 percent.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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- Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were discontinued for survivors and beneficiaries who were age 65 by 2008 and either receiving a benefit or named as a beneficiary as of January 1, 2008.
- The remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be phased out over a three-year period.

For fiscal year 2019, the following was the most significant change in benefit terms that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients increased from 1.9 percent to 1.944 percent per year of service effective January 1, 2019. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium increased effective January 1, 2019 and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were scheduled to be discontinued beginning January 1, 2020, though the STRS Board voted in June 2019 to extend the current Medicare Part B partial reimbursement for one year.

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

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

For fiscal year 2022, the non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2022 from 2.055 percent to 2.1 percent per year of service. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2022. The Medicare Part D Subsidy was updated to reflect it is expected to be negative in calendar year 2022. The Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely.

There were no changes to benefit terms for fiscal year 2023.

Changes in assumptions

There were no changes in assumptions for fiscal year 2017.

For fiscal year 2018, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The discount rate was increased from 3.26 percent to 4.13 percent based on the methodology defined under GASB 74.
- The long-term rate of return was reduced to 7.45 percent.
- Valuation-year per capita health costs were updated.
- The percentage of future retirees electing each option was updated based on current data.
- The assumed future trend rates were modified.
- Decrement rates including mortality, disability, retirement, and withdrawal were modified.
- The assumed percentage of future disabled retirees assumed to elect health coverage was decreased from 84 percent to 65 percent, and the assumed percentage of terminated vested participants assumed to elect health coverage at retirement was decreased from 47 percent to 30 percent.
- The assumed salary scale was modified.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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For fiscal year 2019, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The discount rate increased from a 4.13 percent blended discount rate to 7.45 percent.
- The health care trend assumption rate changed from 6 to 11 percent initial, 4.5 percent ultimate to:
  - Medical Medicare – 5 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Medical Pre-Medicare – 6 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Medicare – -5.23 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Pre-Medicare – 8 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate

For fiscal year 2020, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The health care trend assumption rate changed as follows:
  - Medical Medicare – from 5 percent to 4.93 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Medical Pre-Medicare – from 6 percent to 5.87 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Medicare – from -5.23 percent to 9.62 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Pre-Medicare – from 8 percent to 7.73 initial, 4 percent ultimate

For fiscal year 2021, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The health care trend assumption rate changed as follows:
  - Medical Medicare – from 4.93 percent to -6.69 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Medical Pre-Medicare – from 5.87 percent to 5 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Medicare – from 9.62 percent to 11.87 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Pre-Medicare – from 7.73 percent to 6.5 initial, 4 percent ultimate

For fiscal year 2022, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The discount rate increased from 7.45 percent to 7.0 percent.
- The health care trend assumption rate changed as follows:
  - Medical Medicare – from -6.69 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate to -16.18 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Medicare – from 11.87 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate to 29.98 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate

For fiscal year 2023, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The health care trend assumption rate changed as follows:
  - Medical Pre-Medicare – from 5.00 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate to 7.50 percent initial, 3.94 percent ultimate
  - Medical Medicare – from -16.18 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate to -68.78 percent initial, 3.94 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Pre-Medicare – from 6.50 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate to 9.00 percent initial, 3.94 percent ultimate
  - Prescription Drug Medicare – from 29.98 percent initial, 4 percent ultimate to -5.47 percent initial, 3.94 percent ultimate
- Updated the health and disability mortality assumption to the PUB-2010 mortality tables with generational improvement scale MP-2020.
- The projected salary increases changed from 12.50 percent at age 20 to 2.50 percent at age 65 to varying by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 percent.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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**School Employees Retirement System**

**Pension**

**Changes in benefit terms**

There were no changes to benefit terms for fiscal years 2015 through 2017.

For fiscal year 2018, the following were the most significant changes in benefit that affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- The cost-of-living adjustment was changed from a fixed 3.00 percent to a cost-of-living adjustment that is indexed to CPI-W not greater than 2.5 percent with a floor of 0 percent beginning January 1, 2018. In addition, with the authority granted the Board under HB 49, the Board has enacted a three-year COLA suspension for benefit recipients in calendars 2018, 2019, and 2020.

There were no changes to benefit terms for fiscal years 2019 through 2021.

For fiscal year 2022, the following was the most significant change in benefit that affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- The cost-of-living adjustment was changed from 2.5 percent to 2.0 percent.

For fiscal year 2023, the following was the most significant change in benefit that affected the total pension liability since the prior measurement date:

- The cost-of-living adjustment was changed from 2.0 percent to 2.5 percent.

**Changes in assumptions**

There were no changes in assumptions for fiscal years 2015 through 2017.

For fiscal year 2018, the following changes were made to the actuarial assumptions as identified. These new assumptions compared with those used in fiscal year 2016 and prior are presented below:

- Assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25 percent to 3.0 percent
- Payroll Growth Assumption was reduced from 4.0 percent to 3.5 percent
- Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75 percent to 0.5 percent
- Investment rate of return was reduced from 7.75 percent to 7.5 percent
- Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience.
- 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. The above rates represent the base rates used.
- 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 percent of male rates, and 110 percent of female rates.
- Mortality among disabled member was updated to the following:
  - RP-2000 Disabled Mortality Table, 90 percent for male rates and 100 percent for female rates, set back five years is used for the period after disability retirement.

There were no changes in assumptions for fiscal years 2019 through 2021.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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For fiscal year 2022, the following changes were made to the actuarial assumptions as identified. These new assumptions compared with those used in fiscal year 2021 and prior are presented below:

- Assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.0 percent to 2.4 percent
- Payroll Growth Assumption was reduced from 3.5 percent to 3.25 percent
- Investment rate of return was reduced from 7.5 percent to 7.0 percent
- Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience.
- Mortality among members was updated to the following:
  - PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females.
- Mortality among disabled members was updated to the following:
  - 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.

There were no changes in assumptions for fiscal year 2023.

## **OPEB**

### Changes in benefit terms

There were no changes to benefit terms for fiscal years 2017 through 2023.

### Changes in assumptions

For fiscal year 2017, the following was the most significant change of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- Assumed rate of inflation was reduced from 3.25 percent to 3.0 percent
- Payroll growth assumption was reduced from 4.0 percent to 3.5 percent
- Assumed real wage growth was reduced from 0.75 percent to 0.5 percent
- Rates of withdrawal, retirement and disability were updated to reflect recent experience.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

For fiscal year 2018, the following was the most significant change of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The discount rate was increased from 2.98 percent to 3.63 percent.
- The municipal bond index rate increased from 2.92 percent to 3.56 percent.
- The single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation increased from 2.98 percent to 3.63 percent.



**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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For fiscal year 2019, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The discount rate was changed from 3.63 percent to 3.70 percent.
- The municipal bond index rate increased from 3.56 percent to 3.62 percent.
- The single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation increased from 3.63 percent to 3.70 percent.
- The medical trend assumption rate changed as follows:
  - Medicare – 2018 – 5.50 to 5.00 percent, 2019 – 5.375 to 4.75 percent
  - Pre-Medicare – 2018 – 7.50 to 5.00 percent, 2019 – 7.25 to 4.75

For fiscal year 2020, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The municipal bond index rate decreased from 3.62 percent to 3.13 percent.
- The single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation decreased from 3.70 percent to 3.22 percent.
- The medical trend assumption rate changed as follows:
  - Medicare – 2019 – 5.375 to 4.75 percent, 2020 – 5.25 to 4.75 percent
  - Pre-Medicare – 2019 – 7.25 to 4.75, 2020 – 7 to 4.75 percent

For fiscal year 2021, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The municipal bond index rate decreased from 3.13 percent to 2.45 percent.
- The single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation decreased from 3.22 percent to 2.63 percent.

For fiscal year 2022, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The inflation rate decreased from 3.0 percent to 2.4 percent.
- Projected salary increases decreased from 3.5 percent to 3.25 percent.
- Investment rate of return decreased from 7.5 percent to 7.0 percent.
- The municipal bond index rate decreased from 2.45 percent to 1.92 percent.
- The single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation decreased from 2.63 percent to 2.27 percent.
- The medical trend assumption rate changed as follows:
  - Medicare – 2020 – 5.25 to 4.75 percent, 2022 – 5.125 to 4.4 percent
  - Pre-Medicare – 2020 – 7 to 4.75 percent, 2022 – 6.75 to 4.4 percent
- Mortality among members was updated to the following:
  - PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females.
- Mortality among disabled members was updated to the following:
  - 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.

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
*Notes to the Required Supplementary Information*  
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

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For fiscal year 2023, the following were the most significant changes of assumptions that affected the total OPEB liability since the prior measurement date:

- The municipal bond index rate increased from 1.92 percent to 3.69 percent.
- The single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation increased from 2.27 percent to 4.08 percent.

**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***

Independent Auditor's Report

Board of Education  
Brown County Educational Service Center  
9231 B Hamer Road  
Georgetown, Ohio 45121

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 Brown County Educational Service Center, Brown County, Ohio (the Educational Service Center) as of and for the years ended June 30, 2024 and 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Educational Service Center's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated September 10, 2025, wherein we noted that for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the financial impact of COVID-19 and the continuing emergency measures may impact subsequent periods of the Educational Service Center.

**Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the Educational Service Center's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Educational Service Center's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Educational Service Center'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 Educational Service Center's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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

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

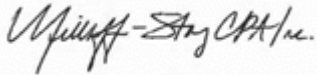
As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Educational Service Center's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a 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*.

### **Educational Service Center's Response to Findings**

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

### **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Educational Service Center'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 Educational Service Center's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Millhuff-Stang, CPA, Inc.  
Wheelersburg, Ohio

September 10, 2025

**Brown County Educational Service Center**  
**Brown County**  
*Schedule of Findings and Responses*  
*For the Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023*

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| <b>FINDINGS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS<br/>REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GAGAS</b> |
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**Finding Number 2024-001**

**Material Weakness – Financial Reporting**

A monitoring system by the Educational Service Center should be in place to prevent or detect misstatements for the accurate presentation of the financial statements. During testing we identified custodial accounts payable and related expenses that were understated in fiscal year 2023. This adjustment required reversal in fiscal year 2024. For fiscal year 2024 custodial accounts receivable and related revenues were understated. These items were deemed material and adjustments were posted to the financial statements. In addition, we identified misstatements of custodial accounts payable and related disbursements in fiscal year 2024 and misstatement of custodial accounts receivable and related revenue in 2023. Further we identified restricted for net OPEB asset misclassified as unrestricted net position for both fiscal years 2023 and 2024. These amounts were deemed immaterial by auditors and members of management; therefore correction was waived.

We recommend the Center implement additional monitoring procedures and work with their compilation consultants to correct this issue going forward.

**Center Response:**

The Treasurer will work with the compiler to correct this issue in the future.

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# OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



**BROWN COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER**

**BROWN COUNTY**

## **AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION**

This is a true and correct copy of the report, which is required to be filed pursuant to Section 117.26, Revised Code, and which is filed in the Office of the Ohio Auditor of State in Columbus, Ohio.



**Certified for Release 2/10/2026**

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)