OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
**KEITH FABER**

**DARKE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER**
**DARKE COUNTY**
**JUNE 30, 2023**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
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# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Darke County Educational Service Center
Darke County
5279 Education Drive
Greeneville, Ohio 45331

To the Board of Education:

## Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

### *Opinions*

We have audited the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Darke County Educational Service Center, Darke County, Ohio (the Educational Service Center), as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 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 cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Educational Service Center, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position thereof for the fiscal year then ended in accordance with the cash-basis of accounting described in Note 2.

### *Basis for Opinions*

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards,* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the 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 - Accounting Basis*

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

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

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

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

***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted to opine on the financial statements as a whole that collectively comprise the Educational Service Center's basic financial statements.

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

The budgetary comparison schedules for the General and Title VI-B Funds are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements.

Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied to the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, these schedules are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

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

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated September 11, 2024, on our consideration of the Educational Service Center's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the 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.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

September 11, 2024

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**Darke County Educational Service Center**

*Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis*

*June 30, 2023*

| | Governmental Activities |
|---|---|
| **Assets** | |
| Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents | $1,901,700 |
| *Total Assets* | $1,901,700 |
| **Net Position** | |
| Restricted for: | |
| Other Purposes | 101,347 |
| Unrestricted | 1,800,353 |
| *Total Net Position* | $1,901,700 |

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**Darke County Educational Service Center**
*Statement of Activities - Cash Basis*
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

| | | Program Cash Receipts | | Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Cash Disbursements | Charges for Services and Sales | Operating Grants and Contributions | Governmental Activities |
| **Governmental Activities** | | | | |
| Instruction: | | | | |
| Regular | $289,446 | $74,462 | $193,511 | ($21,473) |
| Special | 1,931,204 | 1,805,816 | 200,910 | 75,522 |
| Support Services: | | | | |
| Pupil | 2,662,453 | 1,934,267 | 908,283 | 180,097 |
| Instructional Staff | 986,303 | 515,116 | 459,581 | (11,606) |
| Board of Education | 90,734 | 28,973 | 0 | (61,761) |
| Administration | 262,704 | 0 | 0 | (262,704) |
| Fiscal | 105,749 | 0 | 0 | (105,749) |
| Operation and Maintenance of Plant | 109,587 | 32,913 | 17,307 | (59,367) |
| Pupil Transportation | 84,605 | 0 | 102,388 | 17,783 |
| Central | 19,686 | 20,582 | 0 | 896 |
| Extracurricular Activities | 1,592 | 2,240 | 0 | 648 |
| Capital Outlay | 20 | 0 | 0 | (20) |
| Intergovernmental | 574,822 | 584,097 | 0 | 9,275 |
| *Total Governmental Activities* | 7,118,905 | 4,998,466 | 1,881,980 | (238,459) |
| | | **General Receipts** | | |
| | | Grants and Entitlements Not Restricted to Specific Programs | | 263,528 |
| | | Interest | | 24,728 |
| | | Miscellaneous | | 46,944 |
| | | *Total General Receipts* | | 335,200 |
| | | Change in Net Position | | 96,741 |
| | | *Net Position Beginning of Year* | | 1,804,959 |
| | | *Net Position End of Year* | | $1,901,700 |

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

**Darke County Educational Service Center**

*Statement of Cash Basis Assets and Fund Balances*
*Governmental Funds*
*June 30, 2023*

| | General | Permanent Improvement | Other Governmental Funds | Total Governmental Funds |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Assets** | | | | |
| Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents | $910,464 | $799,428 | $191,808 | $1,901,700 |
| **Fund Balances** | | | | |
| Fund Balances: | | | | |
| Nonspendable | 7,857 | 0 | 0 | 7,857 |
| Restricted | 0 | 0 | 93,490 | 93,490 |
| Committed | 0 | 799,428 | 105,291 | 904,719 |
| Assigned | 65,144 | 0 | 0 | 65,144 |
| Unassigned | 837,463 | 0 | (6,973) | 830,490 |
| *Total Fund Balances* | $910,464 | $799,428 | $191,808 | $1,901,700 |

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

## Darke County Educational Service Center

*Statement of Cash Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Cash Basis Fund Balances*
*Governmental Funds*
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

| | General | Title VI-B | Permanent Improvement | Other Governmental Funds | Total Governmental Funds |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Receipts** | | | | | |
| Intergovernmental | $263,528 | $772,999 | $0 | $1,108,982 | $2,145,509 |
| Interest | 24,728 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 24,728 |
| Tuition and Fees | 4,044,672 | 0 | 0 | 104,876 | 4,149,548 |
| Extracurricular Activities | 2,240 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2,240 |
| Customer Sales and Services | 172,410 | 0 | 0 | 664,667 | 837,077 |
| Miscellaneous | 56,144 | 0 | 0 | 400 | 56,544 |
| *Total Receipts* | 4,563,722 | 772,999 | 0 | 1,878,925 | 7,215,646 |
| **Disbursements** | | | | | |
| Current: | | | | | |
| Instruction: | | | | | |
| Regular | 0 | 0 | 0 | 289,446 | 289,446 |
| Special | 1,651,709 | 0 | 36,393 | 243,102 | 1,931,204 |
| Support Services: | | | | | |
| Pupil | 1,773,648 | 772,999 | 0 | 115,806 | 2,662,453 |
| Instructional Staff | 547,161 | 0 | 0 | 439,142 | 986,303 |
| Board of Education | 90,734 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 90,734 |
| Administration | 262,704 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 262,704 |
| Fiscal | 105,749 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 105,749 |
| Operation and Maintenance of Plant | 89,477 | 0 | 7,384 | 12,726 | 109,587 |
| Pupil Transportation | 0 | 0 | 0 | 84,605 | 84,605 |
| Central | 19,686 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 19,686 |
| Extracurricular Activities | 1,592 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,592 |
| Capital Outlay | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 20 |
| Intergovernmental | 0 | 0 | 0 | 574,822 | 574,822 |
| *Total Disbursements* | 4,542,460 | 772,999 | 43,797 | 1,759,649 | 7,118,905 |
| *Net Change in Fund Balances* | 21,262 | 0 | (43,797) | 119,276 | 96,741 |
| *Fund Balances Beginning of Year* | 889,202 | 0 | 843,225 | 72,532 | 1,804,959 |
| *Fund Balances End of Year* | $910,464 | $0 | $799,428 | $191,808 | $1,901,700 |

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements

## NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER AND REPORTING ENTITY

The Darke County Educational Service Center (the "Educational Service Center") is located in Greenville, Ohio, the county seat. The Educational Service Center supplies supervisory, special education, administrative, and other services to the Mississinawa Valley, Ansonia, Arcanum-Butler, Franklin Monroe and Tri-Village Local School Districts, the Bradford Exempted Village School District, and the Greenville City School District. The Educational Service Center furnishes leadership and consulting services designed to strengthen the school districts in areas they are unable to finance or staff independently.

The Educational Service Center operates under a locally-elected Board form of government consisting of five members elected at-large for staggered four-year terms. The Educational Service Center has 52 support staff employees, 16 certified teaching personnel and 4 administrative employees that provide services to the local, exempted village and city 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 basic 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 Darke County Educational Service Center, this includes general operations, and student related activities.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the Educational Service Center is financially accountable and for which a financial benefit or burden relationship exists. 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) it is able to impose its will on the organization or (2) 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 is financially accountable for an organization if an organization is fiscally dependent on the Educational Service Center and there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefit to, or impose specific financial burdens on the Educational Service Center regardless of whether the organization has a separately elected governing board, a governing board appointed by a higher level of government, or a jointly appointed board. Component units may also include organizations that do not otherwise meet the criteria for inclusion if it is determined that their exclusion would be misleading. The Educational Service Center has no component units.

The Educational Service Center participates in three jointly governed organizations, one insurance purchasing pool, and one shared risk pool. These organizations are discussed in Notes 8, 9, and 10 to the basic financial statements. These organizations are:

Jointly Governed Organizations:
- Southwest Ohio Computer Association
- Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council
- Miami Valley Career Technology Center

Insurance Purchasing Pool:
- Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan

Shared Risk Pool:
- Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Cooperative Benefit Plan Trust

## NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Although required by Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03 (B) to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, the Educational Service Center chooses to prepare its financial statements and notes in accordance with the cash basis of accounting.

The Educational Service Center recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

Budgetary presentations report budgetary expenditures when a commitment is made (i.e., when an encumbrance is approved). Differences between disbursements reported in the fund and entity wide statements versus budgetary expenditures are due to encumbrances outstanding at the end of the fiscal year.

### *A. Fund Accounting*

The Educational Service Center uses funds to maintain its financial records during the fiscal year. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid management by segregating transactions related to certain Educational Service Center functions or activities. A fund is a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. The Educational Service Center has only governmental funds.

The following are the Educational Service Center's major funds:

> ***General Fund*** - The General Fund accounts for all financial resources except for restricted resources requiring a separate accounting. The General Fund balance is available for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to Ohio law.
>
> ***Title VI-B Fund*** – The Title VI-B Fund accounts for a grant to assist in providing an appropriate public education to all children with disabilities.
>
> ***Permanent Improvement Fund*** – The Permanent Improvement Fund accounts for all transactions related to the acquiring, constructing, or improving of permanent improvements.

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

### *B. Basis of Presentation*

The Educational Service Center's basic financial statements consist of a government-wide statement of net position and a statement of activities, and fund financial statements providing more detailed financial information.

**NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES** (continued)

***Government-wide Financial Statement of Activities:*** 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 primary government, except for fiduciary funds.

The statement of net position presents the cash balances of the governmental activities of the Educational Service Center at fiscal year end.

The government-wide statement of activities compares disbursements with program receipts for each function of the Educational Service Center's governmental activities. These disbursements are specifically associated with a service, program or department and are therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services and grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing on the cash basis or draws from the Educational Service Center's general receipts.

***Fund Financial Statements:*** Fund financial statements report detailed information about the Educational Service Center. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column.

### *C. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments*

The Educational Service Center pools cash from all funds for investment purposes. Interest in the pool is presented as "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents" on the financial statements. During fiscal year 2023, the Educational Service Center's cash equivalents included negotiable certificates of deposits.

The Educational Service Center values negotiable certificates of deposit at cost.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Education specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest revenue credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2023 was $24,728, including $14,320 assigned from other Educational Service Center funds.

For presentation on the financial statements, investments of the Educational Service Center's cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less when purchased are deemed cash equivalents. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months are reported as investments.

Purchases are not recorded as disbursements and sales are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or negative receipts (contra revenue), respectively.

### *D. Inventory and Prepaid Items*

On the cash basis of accounting, inventories of supplies are reported as disbursements when purchased.

**NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES** (continued)

***E. Capital Assets***

Acquisitions of property, plant and equipment are recorded as disbursements when paid. The financial statements do not report these assets.

***F. Compensated Absences***

In certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment, employees are entitled to cash payments for unused leave. Unpaid leave is not reflected as a liability under the Educational Service Center's cash basis of accounting.

***G. Fund Balance***

Fund Balance is reported as restricted when enabling legislation or creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments have imposed limitations on its use. The Educational Service Center first applies restricted resources when a disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted fund balance is available.

Fund Balance is reported as committed when the Board of Education of the Educational Service Center has placed constraints on the use of resources by resolution. Committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the Board of Education removes or changes the specified use by taking the same action (resolution) it employed to previously commit those amounts.

Fund Balance is reported as assigned when the Treasurer has encumbered resources not already committed to be used for a specific purpose.

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 resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

The Educational Service Center applies committed resources first and then assigned resources when a disbursement is incurred for purposes which committed, assigned and unassigned fund balance is available.

The non-spendable 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. It also includes the long-term amount of interfund loans.

***H. Net Position***

Net position is reported as restricted when enabling legislation or creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments have imposed limitations on its use.

The Educational Service Center first applies restricted resources when a disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position are available.

**NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES** (continued)

### *I. Interfund Activity*

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as receipts in the seller funds and as disbursements in the purchasing funds. Nonexchange flows of cash from one fund to another are reported as interfund transfers. Interfund transfers are reported as other financing sources/uses in governmental funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented on the financial statements.

### *J. Budgetary Data*

The Educational Service Center adopts its budget on or before the start of the new fiscal year. Included in the budget are the estimated resources and expenditures for each fund. Upon review by the Educational Service Center's Board, the annual appropriation resolution is adopted. All funds are appropriated.

The Governing Board has elected the legal level of control for appropriations to be at the fund level for all funds. Prior to the passage of the annual appropriation measure, the Educational Service Center may pass a temporary appropriation measure to meet the ordinary expenditures of the Educational Service Center. Budgetary controls implemented by the Educational Service Center require that the appropriation resolution, by fund, be within the estimated resources, and the total of expenditures and encumbrances may not exceed the appropriations totals at the levels of control established by the Board. Any revisions that alter the total of any fund appropriation must be approved by the Governing Board of the Educational Service Center. During the year, one supplemental appropriation measure was enacted.

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the year if the Educational Service Center Treasurer projects increases or decreases in receipts. The amounts reported as original budget in the budgetary comparative schedules reflect the amounts in the certificate when the original appropriations were adopted. The amounts reported as the final budget in the budgetary comparison schedules reflect the amounts in the amended certificate at the time the final appropriations were passed.

The Board may amend appropriations throughout the year. The amounts reported as the original budget reflect the first appropriation for that fund covering the entire fiscal year, including amounts automatically carried over from the prior year. The amounts reported as the final budget represent the final appropriations the Board passed during the year.

Formal budgetary integration is employed as a management control device during the year for all funds.

### *K. Pass-Through Grants*

The Educational Service Center is the primary recipient of grants which are passed through or spent on behalf of the school districts within the county. For fiscal year 2023, these funds included the Title VI-B Grant and the Early Childhood Grant.

**NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES** (continued)

***L. Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)***

For purposes of measuring the net pension/OPEB liability, information about the fiduciary net position of the pension/OPEB plans and additions to/deductions from their fiduciary net positon 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.

***M. Leases and SBITAs***

For fiscal year 2023, GASB Statement No 96, *Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements* (SBITA) was effective. This GASB pronouncement had no effect on beginning net position/fund balance.

The Educational Service Center is the lessee in various leases related to copiers under noncancelable leases. Lease payables are not reflected under the Educational Service Center's cash basis of accounting. Lease disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

The Educational Service Center has entered into noncancelable SBITA contracts (as defined by GASB 96) for several types of software including contracts related to financial systems and curriculum. Subscription liabilities are not reflected under the Educational Service Center's cash basis of accounting. Subscription disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

***N. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Pension Plans***

The Educational Service Center recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 6 and 7, the employer contributions include portions for pension benefits and for other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

**NOTE 3 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

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

Active deposits are public deposits determined to be necessary to meet current demands upon the Educational Service Center 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 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.

**NOTE 3 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS** (continued)

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 obligation or security issued by any federal government agency or instrumentality including, but not limited to, the Federal National Mortgage Association, Federal Home Loan Bank, Federal Farm Credit Bank, Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and Government National Mortgage Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;

3. Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;

4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and with certain limitations, including a requirement for maturity within ten years of the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met;

5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;

6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;

7. The State Treasurer's investment pool (STAR Ohio); and

8. Certain bankers' acceptances (for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days) and commercial paper (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.

**NOTE 3 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS** (continued)

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.

***Deposits***

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of bank failure, the Educational Service Center will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. At year end, $0 of the Educational Service Center's bank balance of $1,236,352 was exposed to custodial credit risk because it was uninsured and collateralized.

The Educational Service Center has no deposit policy for custodial risk beyond the requirements of State statute. Ohio law requires that deposits either be insured or be protected by:

> Eligible securities pledged to the Educational Service Center and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured; or
>
> Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS requires the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State. The Educational Service Center's financial institution was approved for a reduced collateral rate of 50 percent through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System.

***Investments***

As of June 30, 2023, the Educational Service Center had the following investments:

| | Measurement Value | Maturity |
|---|---|---|
| Negotiable Certificate of Deposit | $249,000 | October 23, 2025 |
| Negotiable Certificate of Deposit | $249,000 | February 18, 2026 |
| Negotiable Certificate of Deposit | $248,000 | July 21, 2026 |

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

***Credit Risk*** The negotiable certificates of deposit are not rated. The Educational Service Center has no investment policy dealing with investment credit risk beyond the requirements in state statute.

**NOTE 3 – DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS** (continued)

***Custodial Credit Risk*** For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the Educational Service Center will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The certificates of deposit are fully insured by FDIC. The Educational Service Center has no investment policy dealing with investment custodial risk beyond the requirements of ORC 135.14 (M)(2) which states, "Payment for investments shall be made only upon the delivery of securities representing such investments to the treasurer, investing authority, or qualified trustee. If the securities transferred are not represented by a ticket, payment shall be made only upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian by the treasurer, governing board, or qualified trustee."

***Concentration of Credit Risk*** The Educational Service Center places no limit on the amount it may invest in any one issuer. As of June 30, 2023, 33 percent of the Educational Service Center's investments were in a USB Bank certificate of deposit, 33 percent were in a Texas Exchange Bank certificate of deposit, and 33 percent were in a BMO Harris Bank certificate of deposit.

**NOTE 4 –PRIMARY REVENUE SOURCES**

There are two primary sources of operating revenue for the Educational Service Center: payments made directly to the Educational Service Center by districts that have contracted with the Educational Service Center for services (recorded as Customer Sales and Services) and State Foundation Distributions. State Foundation Distributions for Educational Service Centers come from two sources: State Funds and tranfers of funds from local school districts.

**State Foundation Distributions – State Support**

State Support Funds are reported as Intergovernmental Revenue and consist of the following:

***A) State Operating Subsidy*** – This funding is calculated based on the size of the ESC in terms of the number of students served. It is comprised of a base amount of $356,250 plus the product of $24.72 times the number of students in excess of 5,000 and up to 35,000 and an additional per pupil amount of $30.90 times the number of students in excess of 35,000. 33.33% of the difference between this calculation and the Funding Base (FY 2020 funding) is added to the Funding Base to get to the State Operating Subsidy.

***B) Gifted Unit Funding*** – This funding is calculated based on the state approved gifted units as of 06/05/23. This payment is based on 68.73% of the calculated amount to stay within the statewide appropriation.

***C) Special Education Transportation Funding*** – This is a reimbursement to service providers for the transportation of students with special needs. The calculation of this funding is based actual expenditures reported for the prior year on the T-2 report multiplied by the state minimum share of 33.33%. Service providers receive 100% of the calculated amount.

**State Foundation Distributions – Transfers**

Local Funds Transfers are reported as Tuition and Fees and consist of the following:

***A) District Per Pupil Transfer*** – This funding is $6.50 per pupil applied to the enrollment of client school districts.

**NOTE 5 – RISK MANAGEMENT**

***B) Preschool Special Education Funding Transfer*** – This funding is based on the parameters for the calculation of preschool funding for client districts and the count of preschool children. Educational Service Centers receive 100% of the calculated funding amount.

***C) Contracts Paid by Districts -*** This funding is based on contracts between local districts and the Educational Service Center where both parties have agreed to have the contract payments settled through foundation funding.

***A. Property and Liability***

The Educational Service Center has obtained commercial insurance for the following risks:

| | |
|---|---|
| Building and Contents – replacement cost | $4,468,975 |
| Automobile Liability | 1,000,000 |
| General Liability | 1,000,000 |
| Computer Liability | 1,000,000 |
| Legal Liability | 1,000,000 |

There has been no significant reduction in insurance coverage from last fiscal year. Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in the past three years.

***B. Workers' Compensation***

For fiscal year 2023, the Educational Service Center participated in the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (GRP), an insurance purchasing pool (Note 9). 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 participants 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. Total savings are then calculated and each participant's individual performance is compared to the overall savings percent of the GRP. A participant will then either receive money from or be required to contribute to the "Equity Pooling Fund". This "equity pooling fund" arrangement insures that each participant shares equally in the overall performance of the GRP. Participation in the GRP is limited to those that can meet the GRP's selection criteria. The firm of Integrated Comp, Inc. provides administrative, cost control, and actuarial services to the GRP.

***C. Medical and Other Insurance Benefits***

For fiscal year 2023, the Educational Service Center participated in the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Cooperative Benefit Plan Trust (Trust), a risk sharing pool (Note 10). The Educational Service Center pays monthly premiums to the Trust for employee medical, dental, vision, and life insurance benefits. The Trust is responsible for the management and operations of the program. Upon withdrawal from the Trust, a participant is responsible for the payment of all Trust liabilities to its employees, dependents, and designated beneficiaries accruing as a result of withdrawal.

## NOTE 6 – PENSION PLANS

The net pension liability is disclosed as a commitment and not reported on the face of the financial statements as a liability because of the use of the cash basis framework.

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

***Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability***

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

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) represent the 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.

Ohio Revised Code limits the Educational Service Center's obligation for this liability 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 remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 7 for the required OPEB disclosures.

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

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

**NOTE 6 – PENSION PLANS** (continued)

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

Annual retirement benefits are calculated based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on year 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 14.00 percent. None of the employer contribution was allocated to the Health Care Fund for fiscal year 2023.

The Educational Service Center's contractually required contribution to SERS was $126,427 for fiscal year 2023.

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

Plan Description – Educational Service Center licensed teachers and other 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 Web site at www.strsoh.org.

**NOTE 6 – PENSION PLANS** (continued)

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 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 at any 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 that 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.

**NOTE 6 – PENSION PLANS** (continued)

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 contribution to STRS was $439,883 for fiscal year 2023.

***Net Pension Liability***

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 projected contributions of all participating entities. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

| | SERS | STRS | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Proportion of the Net Pension Liability Prior Measurement Date | 0.01489990% | 0.01823277% | |
| Proportion of the Net Pension Liability Current Measurement Date | 0.02084920% | 0.02049594% | |
| Change in Proportionate Share | 0.00594930% | 0.00226317% | |
| Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability | $1,127,687 | $4,556,273 | $5,683,960 |

***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.

**NOTE 6 – PENSION PLANS** (continued)

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:

| | June 30, 2022 |
|---|---|
| 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 April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement |
| Investment Rate of Return | 7.00 percent net of System expenses |
| Actuarial Cost Method | Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll) |

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

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

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.

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

**NOTE 6 – PENSION PLANS** (continued)

***Discount Rate*** The total pension liability for 2022 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.

| | 1% Decrease (6.00%) | Current Discount Rate (7.00%) | 1% Increase (8.00%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability | $1,659,901 | $1,127,687 | $679,304 |

***Actuarial Assumptions - STRS***

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

| | June 30, 2022 |
|---|---|
| Inflation | 2.50 percent |
| Salary increases | From 2.5 percent to 12.5 percent based on age |
| 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) | 0.0 percent, effective July 1, 2017 |

For 2022, post-retirement 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. 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.

**NOTE 6 – PENSION PLANS** (continued)

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:

| 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% | |

* 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 as of June 30, 2022. 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, 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.

**NOTE 6 – PENSION PLANS** (continued)

***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 (6.00%) | Current Discount Rate (7.00%) | 1% Increase (8.00%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net pension liability | $6,882,870 | $4,556,273 | $2,588,693 |

**NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS**

The net OPEB liability (asset) is not reported on the face of the financial statements as a liability (asset) because of the use of the cash basis framework.

See Note 6 for a description of the OPEB liability.

### *Plan Description - 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 under Employers/Audit Resources.

**NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS** (continued)

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 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 $17,126.

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 was $17,126 for fiscal year 2023.

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

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

Funding Policy – Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307 authorizes STRS to offer the Plan and gives the Retirement Board discretionary authority over how much, if any, of the health care costs will be absorbed by STRS. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan. 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 fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, STRS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care.

**NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS** (continued)

***Net OPEB Liability (Asset)***

The net OPEB liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability 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:

| | SERS | STRS | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) Prior Measurement Date | 0.01540780% | 0.01823277% | |
| Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) Current Measurement Date | 0.02140060% | 0.02049594% | |
| Change in Proportionate Share | 0.00599280% | 0.00226317% | |
| Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset) | $300,467 | ($530,708) | ($230,241) |

***Actuarial Assumptions - SERS***

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

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

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

**NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS** (continued)

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

| | June 30, 2022 |
|---|---|
| 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 expense, 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 |

For 2022, 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 2015 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board in 2021. Several factors are considered in evaluating the long-term rate of return assumption including long-term historical data, estimates inherent in current market data, and a 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.

**NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS** (continued)

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

| Asset Class | Target Allocation | Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return |
|---|---|---|
| Cash | 2.00 % | (0.45) % |
| 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 | 100.00 % | |

***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 prior to June 30, 2022, 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, 2022 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.

| | 1% Decrease (3.08%) | Current Discount Rate (4.08%) | 1% Increase (5.08%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability | $373,184 | $300,467 | $241,764 |

**NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS** (continued)

| | 1% Decrease | Current Trend Rate | 1% Increase |
|---|---|---|---|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability | $231,714 | $300,467 | $390,269 |

***Actuarial Assumptions - STRS***

Key methods and assumptions used in the June 30, 2022, 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 percent of rates for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

**NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS** (continued)

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:

| 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% | |

* Target allocation percentage is effective as of July 1, 2022. Target weights will be 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 actual rate of return, without net value added by management.

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

**NOTE 7 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS** (continued)

| | 1% Decrease (6.00%) | Current Discount Rate (7.00%) | 1% Increase (8.00%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset | ($490,626) | ($530,708) | ($565,042) |

| | 1% Decrease | Current Trend Rate | 1% Increase |
|---|---|---|---|
| Educational Service Center's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset | ($550,473) | ($530,708) | ($505,759) |

## NOTE 8 – JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

### *A. Southwest Ohio Computer Association*

The Educational Service Center is a participant in the SouthWest Ohio Computer Association (SWOCA), which is a computer consortium. SWOCA is an association of public school districts and educational service centers within the boundaries of Butler, Hamilton, Warren, Montgomery, Preble, and Darke Counties. The organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among members. The governing board of SWOCA consists of one representative from each entity plus one representative from the fiscal agent. The Board exercises total control over the operations of the Association including budgeting, appropriating, contracting, and designating management. Each member's degree of control is limited to its representation on the Board. The Educational Service Center paid SWOCA $11,578 for services provided during the fiscal year. Financial information can be obtained from Todd Yohey, Executive Director of SWOCA, at 3611 Hamilton-Middletown Road, Hamilton, Ohio 45011.

### *B. Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council*

The Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council (SOEPC) is a purchasing cooperative made up of nearly 130 school districts in 18 counties. The purpose of the cooperative is to obtain prices for quality merchandise and services commonly used by schools. All member districts are obligated to pay all fees, charges, or other assessments as established by the SOEPC.

The Council exercises total control over the operations of the Council, including budgeting, appropriating, contracting, and designating management. Each member's degree of control is limited to its representation on the Council. Each member district has one voting representative. Title to any and all equipment, furniture and supplies purchased by the SOEPC is held in trust for the member districts. Any district withdrawing from the SOEPC forfeits its claim to any and all SOEPC assets. One year prior notice is necessary for withdrawal from the group. During this time, the withdrawing member is liable for all member obligations. Payments to SOEPC are made from the General Fund. During fiscal year 2023, the Educational Service Center did not have to pay any membership fee to SOEPC. To obtain financial information, write to the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council, Ken Swink, who serves as Director, at 303 Corporate Center Drive, Suite 208, Vandalia, Ohio 45377.

## NOTE 8 – JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS (continued)

### *C. Miami Valley Career Technology Center*

The Miami Valley Career Technology Center is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio operated under the direction of a Board consisting of representatives from seventeen of the twenty-six participating school districts' elected boards, which possess its own budgeting and taxing authority. One member is appointed from the following city, local, and/or exempted village school districts: Miamisburg, Milton-Union, Vandalia, Tipp City, Huber Heights, Trotwood-Madison, Carlisle, Eaton, Versailles, Northmont, and West Carrollton. Three members are appointed from the Montgomery County Educational Service Center and one is appointed from each of the following Educational Service Centers: Miami, Preble and Darke. The Educational Service Center did not make any payments to the Miami Valley Career Technology Center during fiscal year 2023. To obtain financial information, write to the Miami Valley Career Technology Center, Bradley McKee, who serves as Treasurer, at 6800 Hoke Road, Clayton, Ohio 45315.

## NOTE 9 – GROUP INSURANCE PURCHASING POOL

### *Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan*

The Educational Service Center participates in the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Council Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (GRP), an insurance purchasing pool. The GRP's business and affairs are conducted by an eleven member committee consisting of various GRP representatives that are elected by the general assembly. Either the superintendent or treasurer from each participating school district serves on the general assembly. Each fiscal year, the participating School Districts pay an enrollment fee to the GRP to cover the costs of administering the program.

## NOTE 10 – SHARED RISK POOL

### *Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Cooperative Benefit Plan Trust*

The Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Cooperative Benefit Plan Trust (Trust) is a public entity shared risk pool. The trust is organized as a Voluntary Employee Benefit Association under Section 501 (c) (9) Internal Revenue Code and provides medical, dental, and vision insurance benefits to the employees of the participants. The Trust is governed by the Southwest Ohio Educational Purchasing Council and it's participating members. Each participant decides which plans offered by the Trust will be extended to its employees. Participation in the Trust is by written application subject to the acceptance by the Trust and payment of monthly premiums. Financial information can be obtained from the Southwestern Ohio Educational Purchasing Cooperative, 303 Corporate Center Dr., Suite 208, Vandalia, OH 45377.

## NOTE 11 – CONTINGENCIES

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

## NOTE 12 – OTHER EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Employees may elect to participate in the Ohio Public Employees Deferred Compensation Program. The plan was created in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 457. Participation is on a voluntary payroll deduction basis. The plan permits deferral of compensation until future years. According to the plan, the deferred compensation is not available until termination, retirement, death or an unforeseeable emergency.

## NOTE 13 – COMPLIANCE

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

## NOTE 14 – FUND BALANCE

Fund balance of the governmental funds is classified as non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned, and/or unassigned based on the constraints imposed on the use of the resources.

The constraints placed on fund balance for the major governmental funds and all other governmental funds at June 30, 2023, were as follows:

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**NOTE 14 – FUND BALANCE** (continued)

| Fund Balance | General | Permanent Improvement | Other Governmental Funds | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Nonspendable:** | | | | | |
| Unclaimed Monies | $7,857 | | | | $7,857 |
| **Total Nonspendable** | 7,857 | | | | 7,857 |
| **Restricted for:** | | | | | |
| Professional Development | | | $36,156 | | 36,156 |
| Prevention Grant | | | 609 | | 609 |
| Drug Education | | | 2,176 | | 2,176 |
| Education Improvement | | | 6,300 | | 6,300 |
| School Helpline | | | 7,079 | | 7,079 |
| Safety Grants | | | 4,582 | | 4,582 |
| Expanded Workforce | | | 4,000 | | 4,000 |
| Ramco Grant | | | 24 | | 24 |
| Extended Learning Grant | | | 13,608 | | 13,608 |
| Decolores EANS | | | 11,760 | | 11,760 |
| Technology | | | 7,196 | | 7,196 |
| **Total Restricted** | | | 93,490 | | 93,490 |
| **Committed to:** | | | | | |
| Daycare | | | 105,291 | | 105,291 |
| Future Capital Requirements | | $799,428 | | | 799,428 |
| **Total Committed** | | 799,428 | 105,291 | | 904,719 |
| **Assigned for:** | | | | | |
| Unpaid Obligations | 50,248 | | | | 50,248 |
| Camp Link | 4,157 | | | | 4,157 |
| Special Education Fieldtrips | 1,120 | | | | 1.120 |
| Staff Development | 4,543 | | | | 4,543 |
| DarkeNet | 5,076 | | | | 5,076 |
| **Total Assigned** | 65,144 | | | | 65,144 |
| **Unassigned** | 837,463 | | (6,973) | * | 830,490 |
| **Total Fund Balance** | $910,464 | $799,428 | $191,808 | | $1,901,700 |

*At June 30, 2023, the Educational Service Center had a deficit fund balance in the following funds:

| | |
|---|---|
| Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund | ($1,917) |
| Governor's Education Relief Fund | (5,056) |
| | ($6,973) |

The deficit balances were due to the timing between grant receipts and disbursements in the grant funds. The General Fund is liable for any deficits in these funds and will provide transfers when cash is required, not when accruals occur.

**Darke County Educational Service Center**
*Budgetary Comparison Schedule*
*General Fund*
*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

| | Budgeted Amounts | | | Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Original | Final | Actual | |
| **Receipts** | | | | |
| Intergovernmental | $250,000 | $250,000 | $263,528 | $13,528 |
| Interest | 10,500 | 10,500 | 24,728 | 14,228 |
| Tuition and Fees | 3,994,456 | 4,494,456 | 4,044,672 | (449,784) |
| Charges for Services | 165,000 | 165,000 | 167,583 | 2,583 |
| Miscellaneous | 27,000 | 27,000 | 46,944 | 19,944 |
| *Total Receipts* | 4,446,956 | 4,946,956 | 4,547,455 | (399,501) |
| **Disbursements** | | | | |
| Current: | | | | |
| Instruction: | | | | |
| Special | 1,576,916 | 2,298,041 | 1,653,708 | 644,333 |
| Support Services: | | | | |
| Pupil | 1,835,627 | 1,837,627 | 1,797,052 | 40,575 |
| Instructional Staff | 523,671 | 524,171 | 548,413 | (24,242) |
| Board of Education | 99,107 | 99,107 | 96,123 | 2,984 |
| Administration | 217,497 | 217,497 | 270,204 | (52,707) |
| Fiscal | 112,075 | 112,075 | 105,749 | 6,326 |
| Operation and Maintenance of Plant | 37,128 | 287,128 | 307,362 | (20,234) |
| Central | 19,520 | 20,895 | 19,686 | 1,209 |
| *Total Disbursements* | 4,421,541 | 5,396,541 | 4,798,297 | 598,244 |
| *Net Change in Fund Balance* | 25,415 | (449,585) | (250,842) | 198,743 |
| *Fund Balance Beginning of Year* | 809,419 | 809,419 | 809,419 | 0 |
| Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated | 70,742 | 70,742 | 70,742 | 0 |
| *Fund Balance End of Year* | $905,576 | $430,576 | $629,319 | $198,743 |

See accompanying notes to the budgetary comparison schedules

**Darke County Educational Service Center**

*Budgetary Comparison Schedule*

*Title VI-B Fund*

*For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023*

| | Budgeted Amounts | | | Variance with Final Budget |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Original | Final | Actual | Positive (Negative) |
| **Receipts** | | | | |
| Intergovernmental | $843,479 | $884,134 | $772,999 | ($111,135) |
| **Disbursements** | | | | |
| Current: | | | | |
| Support Services: | | | | |
| Pupil | 843,479 | 884,134 | 772,999 | 111,135 |
| *Total Disbursements* | 843,479 | 884,134 | 772,999 | 111,135 |
| *Excess of Receipts Over Disbursements* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *Fund Balance Beginning of Year* | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| *Fund Balance End of Year* | $0 | $0 | $0 | $0 |

See accompanying notes to the budgetary comparison schedules

## NOTE 1 – BUDGETARY PROCESS

There are no budgetary requirements for educational service centers identified in the Ohio Revised Code nor does the State Department of Education specify any budgetary guidelines to be followed.

The Educational Service Center is no longer required under State statute to file budgetary information with the State Department of Education. However, the Educational Service Center Board does follow the budgetary process for control purposes. This is done by adopting an annual appropriation resolution which is the Governing Board's authorization to spend resources and set annual limits on the expenditures plus encumbrances at the level of control selected by the Governing Board. The level of control has been established by the Governing Board at the fund level for all funds. The Board also approves estimated resources.

Throughout the fiscal year, appropriations and estimated resources may be amended or supplemented as circumstances warrant. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts on the budgetary schedules reflect the amounts on the first appropriation resolution for that fund that covered the entire fiscal year, including amounts automatically carried forward from the prior fiscal years, and the amended certificate that was in affect at that time. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts on the budgetary statements represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the Governing Board during the fiscal year and the amended certificate that was in affect at that time.

## NOTE 2 – BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on the basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The budgetary comparison schedules presented for the General and Title VI-B Funds are prepared on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget. The differences between the budgetary basis and the cash basis are:

(1) outstanding year-end encumbrances are treated as expenditures (budget) rather than as an assignment of fund balance (cash), and,

(2) difference in perspective arises from some funds being included in the general fund (cash basis), but have separate legally adopted budgets (budget basis).

The following table summarizes the adjustments necessary to reconcile the cash basis statement to the budgetary basis schedule for the General Fund and the Title VI-B Fund.

| Net Changes in Fund Balance | General Fund | Title VI-B Fund |
|---|---|---|
| Cash Basis | $21,262 | $0 |
| Adjustment for Encumbrances | (264,743) | 0 |
| Difference in Perspective | (7,361) | 0 |
| Budget Basis | ($250,842) | $0 |

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**DARKE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER**
**DARKE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS**
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

| **FEDERAL GRANTOR**<br>***Pass Through Grantor***<br>**Program / Cluster Title** | **Federal**<br>**AL**<br>**Number** | **(1) (2)**<br>**Total Federal**<br>**Expenditures** |
|---|---|---|
| **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** | | |
| ***Passed Through Ohio Department of Education*** | | |
| Special Education Cluster (IDEA) | | |
| Special Education Grants to States | 84.027 | 772,999 |
| Special Education Preschool Grants | 84.173 | 35,169 |
| Total Special Education Cluster (IDEA) | | 808,168 |
| | | |
| COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund: | | |
| Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund | 84.425C | 87,260 |
| Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund | 84.425D | 50,139 |
| American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund | 84.425U | 473,776 |
| Total COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund | | 611,175 |
| | | |
| Total U.S. Department of Education | | **1,419,343** |
| | | |
| **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES** | | |
| ***Passed Through Ohio Child Care Resource and Referral Assocation*** | | |
| CCDF Cluster | | |
| COVID-19 Child Care and Development Block Grant | 93.575 | 233,700 |
| Total CCDF Cluster | | 233,700 |
| | | |
| Total U.S. Department of Health & Human Services | | **233,700** |
| | | |
| **Total Expenditures of Federal Awards** | | **$1,653,043** |

(1) There were no pass through entity identifying numbers.
(2) There were no amounts passed through to subrecipients.

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.*

**DARKE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER**
**DARKE COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS**
**2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)**
**FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

## NOTE A – BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Darke County Educational Service Center (the Educational Service Center) under programs of the federal government for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The information on this Schedule is prepared in accordance with the requirements of Title 2 U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Because the Schedule presents only a selected portion of the operations of the Educational Service Center, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in net position of the Educational Service Center.

## NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Expenditures reported on the Schedule are reported on the cash basis of accounting. Such expenditures are recognized following the cost principles contained in Uniform Guidance wherein certain types of expenditures may or may not be allowable or may be limited as to reimbursement.

## NOTE C – INDIRECT COST RATE

The Educational Service Center has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

## NOTE D – FEDERAL AWARDS ADMINSTRED FOR OTHER GOVERNMENTS

The Educational Service Center has applied for and administers grants on behalf of member school districts. The Educational Service Center reports these grants on their Schedule and they are subject to audit during the Educational Service Center's annual audit according to the Uniform Guidance. Grant year 2022 and 2023 awards to the Educational Service Center that were allocated to, and benefited member school districts are as follows:

| District | Special Education-Grants to States |
|---|---|
| Ansonia Local School District | $299,396.61 |
| Arcanum-Butler Local School District | 432,448.59 |
| Franklin Monroe Local School District | 216,915.87 |
| Mississinawa Valley Local School District | 299,090.41 |
| Tri-Village Local School District | 337,455.08 |
| Total Grants | $1,585,306.56 |

| District | Special Education-Preschool Grants |
|---|---|
| Ansonia Local School District | $8,316.57 |
| Arcanum-Butler Local School District | 8,646.96 |
| Franklin Monroe Local School District | 3,279.33 |
| Greenville City School District | 36,593.09 |
| Mississinawa Valley Local School District | 6,209.16 |
| Tri-Village Local School District | 6,333.23 |
| Total Grants | $69,378.34 |

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER

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800-282-0370

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

Darke County Educational Service Center
Darke County
5279 Education Drive
Greenville, Ohio 45331

To the Board of Education:

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to the financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Darke County Educational Service Center, Darke County, (the Educational Service Center) as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 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 11, 2024, wherein we noted the Educational Service Center uses a special purpose framework other than generally accepted accounting principles.

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

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the 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. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

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

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the 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 an instance of noncompliance or other matters that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2023-001.

***Educational Service Center's Response to Finding***

*Government Auditing Standards* requires the auditor to perform limited procedures on the Educational Service Center's response to the finding identified in our audit and described in the accompanying schedule of findings and/or corrective action plan. 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.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

September 11, 2024

65 East State Street
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800-282-0370

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

Darke County Educational Service Center
Darke County
5279 Education Drive
Greenville, Ohio 45331

To the Board of Education:

**Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program**

***Opinion on Each Major Federal Program***

We have audited the Darke County Educational Service Center's, Darke County, (the Educational Service Center) compliance with the types of compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the Darke County Educational Service Center's major federal programs for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The Darke County Educational Service Center's major federal programs are identified in the *Summary of Auditor's Results* section of the accompanying schedule of findings.

In our opinion, the Darke County Educational Service Center complied, in all material respects, with the compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

***Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program***

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

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

***Responsibilities of Management for Compliance***

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

***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance***

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

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

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

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

**Report on Internal Control Over Compliance**

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

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

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

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

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

September 11, 2024

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**DARKE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER**
**DARKE COUNTY**

**SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS**
**2 CFR § 200.515**
**JUNE 30, 2023**

## 1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *(d)(1)(i)* | **Type of Financial Statement Opinion** | Unmodified |
| *(d)(1)(ii)* | **Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?** | No |
| *(d)(1)(ii)* | **Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?** | No |
| *(d)(1)(iii)* | **Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?** | Yes |
| *(d)(1)(iv)* | **Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?** | No |
| *(d)(1)(iv)* | **Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?** | No |
| *(d)(1)(v)* | **Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion** | Unmodified |
| *(d)(1)(vi)* | **Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?** | No |
| *(d)(1)(vii)* | **Major Programs (list):** | Special Education Cluster (AL #84.027, 84.173)<br><br>COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund (AL #84.425C, 84.425D, 84.425U) |
| *(d)(1)(viii)* | **Dollar Threshold: Type A\B Programs** | Type A: > $ 750,000<br>Type B: all others |
| *(d)(1)(ix)* | **Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR § 200.520?** | No |

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

**FINDING NUMBER 2023-001**

**Noncompliance**

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

**FINDING NUMBER 2023-001**
**(Continued)**

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

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

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

**Officials' Response:**

The Darke County Educational Service Center uses "Other Comprehensive Basis of Accounting" financial statements that conform to the requirement of GASB 34. Using this method does not affect the opinion issued by our independent auditors; rather the basis used is explained in their report. Also, using "Other Comprehensive Basis of Accounting" financial statements does not affect the Educational Service Center's credit rating.

| 3. FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS |
|---|

**None**

## SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
## 2 CFR 200.511(b)
## JUNE 30, 2023

| Finding Number | Finding Summary | Status | Additional Information |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2022-001 | **Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38** and **Ohio Admin. Code § 117-2-03(B)** – Failure to file GAAP report | Not Corrected – reissued as Finding 2023-001 | The Darke County Educational Service Center uses "Other Comprehensive Basis of Accounting" financial statements that conform to the requirement of GASB 34. Using this method does not affect the opinion issued by our independent auditors; rather the basis used is explained in their report. Also, using "Other Comprehensive Basis of Accounting" financial statements does not affect the Educational Service Center's credit rating. Therefore, the Darke County Educational Service Center does not believe a corrective action is needed. |
| 2022-002 | **2 CFR § 200.430** and **2 CFR § 200.303** – Ineffective internal controls over wages rates for Education Stabilization Fund | Corrective Action Taken and Finding is Fully Corrected | N/A |







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DARKE COUNTY
Educational Service Center

**CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**
**2 CFR § 200.511(c)**
**JUNE 30, 2023**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Finding Number:** | 2023-001 |
| **Planned Corrective Action:** | No Corrective Action Plan – The Darke County Educational Service Center will continue using “Other Comprehensive Basis of Accounting” financial statements. |
| **Anticipated Completion Date:** | N/A |
| **Responsible Contact Person:** | Kerry Borger, Treasurer |





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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER

**DARKE COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER**

**DARKE 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 9/26/2024**

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