



OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2023**

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Hardin Northern Local School District
Hardin County
11589 State Route 81
Dola, Ohio 45835

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 Hardin Northern Local School District, Hardin County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Hardin Northern Local School District, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position thereof and the budgetary comparison for the General Fund 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 District, and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Emphasis of Matter - Accounting Basis

Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the District 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 District's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

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

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

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

Supplementary Information

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

The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the 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, this schedule is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated April 9, 2024, on our consideration of the District's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

April 9, 2024

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**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - CASH BASIS
JUNE 30, 2023

	<u>Governmental Activities</u>
Assets:	
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 8,756,406</u>
Net position:	
Restricted for:	
Classroom facilities maintenance	\$ 82,391
Debt service	176,864
State funded programs	166,524
Federally funded programs	10,534
Food service operations	102,647
Extracurricular	100,950
Other purposes	6,466
Unrestricted	<u>8,110,030</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 8,756,406</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - CASH BASIS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	Disbursements	Program Receipts			Net (Disbursements)
		Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Receipts and Changes in Net Position
					Governmental Activities
Governmental activities:					
Instruction:					
Regular	\$ 2,889,453	\$ 49,393	\$ 187,192	\$ -	\$ (2,652,868)
Special	618,804	51,145	323,515	-	(244,144)
Vocational	321,516	-	39,369	-	(282,147)
Other	5,662	-	5,147	-	(515)
Support services:					
Pupil	430,139	-	234,475	-	(195,664)
Instructional staff	344,783	-	48,235	21,178	(275,370)
Board of education	54,098	-	-	-	(54,098)
Administration	558,125	-	-	-	(558,125)
Fiscal	248,066	-	-	-	(248,066)
Operations and maintenance	1,361,060	-	30,562	26,738	(1,303,760)
Pupil transportation	262,034	-	10,788	-	(251,246)
Central	42,793	-	-	-	(42,793)
Operation of non-instructional services:					
Food service operations	291,700	106,702	171,561	-	(13,437)
Extracurricular activities	376,246	116,440	11,964	-	(247,842)
Debt service:					
Principal retirement	125,000	-	-	-	(125,000)
Interest and fiscal charges	74,940	-	-	-	(74,940)
Total governmental activities	\$ 8,004,419	\$ 323,680	\$ 1,062,808	47,916	(6,570,015)

General receipts:

Property taxes levied for:	
General purposes	1,990,366
Debt service	188,411
Capital outlay	94,331
Classroom facilities maintenance	23,813
Payments in lieu of taxes	285,220
Income taxes levied for:	
General purposes	1,361,490
Grants and entitlements not restricted to specific programs	2,876,632
Investment earnings	329,544
Miscellaneous	8,736
Total general receipts	7,158,543

Change in net position 588,528

Net position at beginning of year 8,167,878

Net position at end of year \$ 8,756,406

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND FUND BALANCES - CASH BASIS
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
JUNE 30, 2023

	General	Permanent Improvement	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:				
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	\$ 6,368,057	\$ 1,787,801	\$ 600,548	\$ 8,756,406
Fund balances:				
Restricted:				
Debt service	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 176,864	\$ 176,864
Classroom facilities maintenance	-	-	82,391	82,391
Food service operations	-	-	102,647	102,647
State funded programs	-	-	166,524	166,524
Federally funded programs	-	-	10,534	10,534
Extracurricular	-	-	100,950	100,950
Other purposes	-	-	6,466	6,466
Assigned:				
Student instruction	56,269	-	-	56,269
Student and staff support	245,416	-	-	245,416
Extracurricular activities	1,000	-	-	1,000
Capital improvements	-	1,787,801	-	1,787,801
Unassigned	6,065,372	-	(45,828)	6,019,544
Total fund balances	\$ 6,368,057	\$ 1,787,801	\$ 600,548	\$ 8,756,406

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - CASH BASIS
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	<u>General</u>	<u>Permanent Improvement</u>	<u>Nonmajor Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Receipts:				
Property taxes	\$ 1,990,366	\$ 94,331	\$ 212,224	\$ 2,296,921
Income taxes	1,361,490	-	-	1,361,490
Intergovernmental	3,182,132	10,244	782,061	3,974,437
Investment earnings	325,016	-	4,528	329,544
Tuition and fees	100,409	-	-	100,409
Extracurricular	-	-	113,408	113,408
Charges for services	-	-	106,702	106,702
Contributions and donations	-	-	2,382	2,382
Payment in lieu of taxes	285,220	-	-	285,220
Miscellaneous	11,897	-	10,537	22,434
Total receipts	<u>7,256,530</u>	<u>104,575</u>	<u>1,231,842</u>	<u>8,592,947</u>
Disbursements:				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	2,688,692	-	200,761	2,889,453
Special	424,060	-	194,744	618,804
Vocational	321,516	-	-	321,516
Other	-	-	5,662	5,662
Support services:				
Pupil	345,128	-	85,011	430,139
Instructional staff	276,543	-	68,240	344,783
Board of education	54,098	-	-	54,098
Administration	558,125	-	-	558,125
Fiscal	241,959	1,839	4,268	248,066
Operations and maintenance	628,212	617,526	115,322	1,361,060
Pupil transportation	262,034	-	-	262,034
Central	42,793	-	-	42,793
Operation of non-instructional services:				
Food service operations	-	-	291,700	291,700
Extracurricular activities	240,259	-	135,987	376,246
Debt service:				
Principal retirement	-	-	125,000	125,000
Interest and fiscal charges	-	-	74,940	74,940
Total disbursements	<u>6,083,419</u>	<u>619,365</u>	<u>1,301,635</u>	<u>8,004,419</u>
Excess of receipts over disbursements	<u>1,173,111</u>	<u>(514,790)</u>	<u>(69,793)</u>	<u>588,528</u>
Other financing sources (uses):				
Transfers in	-	700,000	40,575	740,575
Transfers (out)	<u>(700,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(40,575)</u>	<u>(740,575)</u>
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(700,000)</u>	<u>700,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net change in fund balances	473,111	185,210	(69,793)	588,528
Fund balances at beginning of year	<u>5,894,946</u>	<u>1,602,591</u>	<u>670,341</u>	<u>8,167,878</u>
Fund balances at end of year	<u>\$ 6,368,057</u>	<u>\$ 1,787,801</u>	<u>\$ 600,548</u>	<u>\$ 8,756,406</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL (BUDGETARY BASIS)
GENERAL FUND
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>			Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
Receipts:				
Property taxes	\$ 1,915,850	\$ 1,900,000	\$ 1,990,366	\$ 90,366
Income taxes	1,210,842	1,325,000	1,361,490	36,490
Intergovernmental	3,149,740	3,112,133	3,182,132	69,999
Investment earnings	7,588	305,000	325,016	20,016
Tuition and fees	16,800	98,000	100,408	2,408
Payment in lieu of taxes	289,271	287,000	285,220	(1,780)
Miscellaneous	2,042	2,000	5,286	3,286
Total receipts	<u>6,592,133</u>	<u>7,029,133</u>	<u>7,249,918</u>	<u>220,785</u>
Disbursements:				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	2,560,629	2,789,152	2,726,855	62,297
Special	584,462	483,580	424,060	59,520
Vocational	369,757	359,370	339,731	19,639
Support services:				
Pupil	408,762	364,947	345,189	19,758
Instructional staff	364,741	347,889	331,178	16,711
Board of education	69,434	69,434	54,306	15,128
Administration	556,757	560,518	560,233	285
Fiscal	223,617	268,029	245,622	22,407
Operations and maintenance	794,704	656,659	644,991	11,668
Pupil transportation	380,946	459,764	423,091	36,673
Central	30,943	37,055	42,793	(5,738)
Extracurricular activities	187,795	194,910	238,231	(43,321)
Total disbursements	<u>6,532,547</u>	<u>6,591,307</u>	<u>6,376,280</u>	<u>215,027</u>
Excess of receipts over disbursements	<u>59,586</u>	<u>437,826</u>	<u>873,638</u>	<u>435,812</u>
Other financing sources (uses):				
Refund of prior year's disbursements	-	-	111	111
Transfers (out)	-	(700,000)	(700,000)	-
Sale of capital assets	2,000	2,000	3,450	1,450
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>2,000</u>	<u>(698,000)</u>	<u>(696,439)</u>	<u>1,561</u>
Net change in fund balance	61,586	(260,174)	177,199	437,373
Fund balance at beginning of year	5,689,061	5,689,061	5,689,061	-
Prior year encumbrances appropriated	199,113	199,113	199,113	-
Fund balance at end of year	<u>\$ 5,949,760</u>	<u>\$ 5,628,000</u>	<u>\$ 6,065,373</u>	<u>\$ 437,373</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Hardin Northern Local School District (the "District") is organized under Article VI, Sections 2 and 3 of the Constitution of the State of Ohio. The District operates under an elected Board of Education (5 members) elected at-large for staggered four year terms. The District provides educational services as authorized by State statute and/or federal guidelines. The District was established in 1952 and serves an area of approximately eighty-eight miles. It is located in Hardin and Hancock Counties and includes all of Blanchard and Washington Townships and portions of Pleasant, Cessna, Van Buren and Jackson Townships. The District employs 39 certified employees, 15 classified employees and 9 administrators to provide services to 375 students in grades K through 12 and various community groups.

Reporting Entity

The reporting entity has been defined in accordance with GASB Statement No. 14, "The Financial Reporting Entity" as amended by GASB Statement No. 39, "Determining Whether Certain Organizations Are Component Units" and GASB Statement No. 61, "The Financial Reporting Entity: Omnibus an amendment of GASB Statements No. 14 and No. 34". The reporting entity is composed of the primary government and component units. The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards and agencies that are not legally separate from the District. For the District, this includes general operations, food service, and student related activities of the District.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the District is financially accountable. The District is financially accountable for an organization if the District appoints a voting majority of the organization's Governing Board and (1) the District is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or (2) the District is legally entitled to or can otherwise access the organization's resources; or (3) the District is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of, or provide financial support to, the organization; or (4) the District is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the District in that the District approves the budget, the issuance of debt or the levying of taxes. Certain organizations are also included as component units if the nature and significance of the relationship between the primary government and the organization is such that exclusion by the primary government would render the primary government's financial statements incomplete or misleading. Based upon the application of these criteria, the District has no component units. The basic financial statements of the reporting entity include only those of the District (the primary government).

The following organizations are described due to their relationship to the District:

JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

Western Ohio Computer Organization (WOCO)

WOCO is a jointly governed organization composed of 28 school districts, 3 educational service centers, 3 parochial schools and 4 community schools. It was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to the administrative and instructional functions among member districts. Each of the governments of these schools supports WOCO based upon a per pupil charge dependent upon the software package utilized. In the event of dissolution of the organization, all current members will share in net obligations or asset liquidations in a ratio proportionate to their last twelve months financial contributions. WOCO is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of superintendents of the members school districts.

The degree of control exercised by any participating school district is limited to its representation on the board. In accordance with GASB Statements Nos. 14 and 61, the Center does not have an equity interest in WOCO as the residual interest in the net resources of an organization upon dissolution is not equivalent to an equity interest. Financial information can be obtained from Donn Walls, who serves as Director, at 129 East Court Street, Sidney, Ohio 45365.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT - (Continued)

Apollo Career Center (the Career Center)

The Career Center is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio, which provides vocational education to students. The Career Center is operated under the direction of a Board consisting of one representative from each of the participating school districts' elected boards. The degree of control exercised by the School District is limited to its representation on the Board. The Board is its own budgeting and taxing authority. Financial information can be obtained from the Apollo Career Center, 3325 Shawnee Road, Lima, Ohio 45806.

Hardin County Schools Consortium Local Professional Development Committee (the Consortium)

The Consortium is an association of five school districts within Hardin County. The Consortium was formed to plan, promote, and facilitate effective and efficient professional educator license renewal standards and staff development activities. The governing board of the Consortium consists of fifteen members, eight of which are teachers and seven of which are administrators. Financial information can be obtained from Keith Thomas, Midwest Regional Education Service Center, 1973 State Rt. 47, Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311.

INSURANCE POOLS

CompManagement Workers' Compensation Group Rating (the Group)

The District participates in the CompManagement Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program (the "Group"). Each year, the participants in the Group pay an enrollment fee to cover the costs of administering the program. Participation in the Group is limited to participants that can meet the Group's selection criteria.

Hardin County School Employees' Health and Welfare Benefit Plan and Trust

The Hardin County School Employees' Health and Welfare Benefit Plan and Trust (the "Trust") is a public entity shared risk pool consisting of seven school districts, and the Ada Public Library. The Trust is organized as a Voluntary Employee Benefit Association under Section 501 (c)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code and provides medical, dental, vision and life insurance benefits to the employees of the participants. Each participant's superintendent is appointed to an Administrative Committee which advises the Trustee, Ohio Bank, concerning aspects of the administration of the Trust.

Each participant decides which plans offered by the Administrative Committee will be extended to its employees. Participation in the Trust is by written application subject to the acceptance by the Administrative Committee and payment of monthly premiums. Financial information can be obtained from the Jefferson Health Plan. Contact Mark Schlagheck, Chief Fiscal Officer, 2023 Sunset Boulevard, Steubenville, OH 43952, or visit thejeffersonhealthplan.org or call (740) 792-4010.

The Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA)

SORSA is an Ohio non-profit organization formed by Ohio School Districts to provide cost effective pooled insurance to its members. SORSA is a self-funded, group insurance consortium, governed by a Board of Directors comprised of representatives of school districts that participate in the program. Coverage is offered for property, electronic data processing, boiler and machinery, crime, general liability, automobile liability and physical damage, and school board errors and omissions insurance coverage. Financial information can be obtained from the Executive Director at 555 Metro Place North, Suite 645, Dubin, Ohio 43017.

RELATED ORGANIZATION

Hardin Northern Public Library (the Library)

The Library is a distinct subdivision of the State of Ohio created under Chapter 3375 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Library is governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Hardin Northern Board of Education. The Board of Trustees possesses its own contracting and budgeting authority, hires and fires personnel, and does not depend on the District for operational subsidies. Although the District serves as the taxing authority, its role is limited to a ministerial function. The determination to request approval of a tax, the rate, and the purpose are discretionary decisions made solely by the Board of Trustees. Financial information can be obtained from the Hardin Northern Public Library, Fiscal Officer, P.O. Box 114, 153 North Main Street, Dunkirk, Ohio 45836.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As discussed in Note 2.C, these financial statements are presented on the cash basis of accounting. The cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). GAAP includes all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements. In cases where these cash basis statements contain items that are the same as, or similar to, those items in financial statements prepared in conformity with GAAP, similar informative disclosures are provided. The following are the Districts more significant accounting policies.

A. Basis of Presentation

Government-Wide Financial Statements - The statement of net position – cash basis and the statement of activities – cash basis display information about the District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds.

The government-wide statement of activities compares disbursements with program receipts for each function or program of the District’s governmental activities. These disbursements are those that 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 goods or services offered by the program and grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program. Receipts which are not classified as program receipts are presented as general receipts of the District. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each business segment or governmental function is self-financing on the cash basis or draws from the general receipts of the District.

All cash assets and net cash position associated with the operation of the District are included on the statement of net position – cash basis.

Fund Financial Statements - Fund financial statements report detailed information about the District. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds rather than reporting funds by type. Each major fund is presented in a separate column, and all nonmajor funds are aggregated into one column. Fiduciary funds are reported by fund type. The District had no fiduciary funds at June 30, 2023.

B. Fund Accounting

The District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid management by segregating transactions related to certain District functions or activities. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. There are three categories of funds: governmental, proprietary and fiduciary.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions typically are financed. The District classifies funds financed primarily from taxes, intergovernmental receipts (e.g. grants) and other non-exchange transactions as governmental funds. Expendable cash assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. The following are the District’s major governmental funds:

General fund - The general fund is used to account for and report all financial receipts not accounted for and reported in another fund. The general fund balance is available for any purpose provided it is disbursed or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

Permanent Improvement fund - The permanent improvement fund is used to account for resources that are restricted for the acquisition, construction or improvement of permanent assets. The fund balance of this fund is restricted for capital improvements.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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

The nonmajor governmental funds of the District are used to account for (a) financial receipts that are restricted, committed, or assigned to disbursements for capital outlays for maintenance of school facilities, (b) specific receipts that are restricted or committed to disbursements for specified purposes other than debt service or capital projects, and (c) financial receipts that are restricted, committed, or assigned to disbursements for principal and interest

PROPRIETARY FUNDS

Proprietary funds are used to account for the ongoing activities which are similar to those often found in the private sector. The District has no proprietary funds.

FIDUCIARY FUNDS

Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into four classifications: pension trust funds, investment trust funds, private purpose trust funds and custodial funds. Trust funds are distinguished from custodial funds by the existence of a trust agreement or equivalent arrangements that have certain characteristics. Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund. The District has no fiduciary funds.

C. Basis of Accounting

Although Ohio Administrative Code § 117-2-03(B) requires the District's financial report to follow GAAP, the District chooses to prepare its financial statements and notes in accordance with the cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than GAAP. The District recognizes receipts when received in cash rather than when earned and recognizes disbursements when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

These statements include adequate disclosure of material matters, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in the preceding paragraph.

Budgetary presentations report budgetary cash disbursements when a commitment is made (i.e. when an encumbrance is approved). For the general fund, the difference between disbursements reported in the fund statement disbursements reported in the budgetary statement are due to current year encumbrances being added to disbursements reported on the budgetary statement.

D. Budgetary Process

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

The certificate of estimated resources may be amended during the year if projected increases or decreases in revenue are identified by the District Treasurer. The amounts reported as the original and final budgeted amounts in the budgetary statements reflect the amounts in the certificate when the original and final appropriations were adopted.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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

The appropriation resolution is subject to amendment by the Board throughout the year with the restriction that appropriations may not exceed estimated revenues. The amounts reported as the original budgeted amounts reflect the first appropriation for that fund that covered the entire year, including amounts automatically carried over from prior years. The amounts reported as the final budgeted amounts represent the final appropriation amounts passed by the Board during the year.

E. Cash and Investments

To improve cash management, all cash received by the District is pooled in a central bank account. Monies for all funds are maintained in this account or temporarily used to purchase short-term investments. Individual fund integrity is maintained through District's records. Each fund's interest in the pool is presented as "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents" on the financial statements.

During fiscal year 2023, the District invested in STAR Ohio. STAR Ohio (the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio), is an investment pool managed by the State Treasurer's Office which allows governments within the State to pool their funds for investment purposes. STAR Ohio is not registered with the SEC as an investment company, but has adopted Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), Statement No. 79, "Certain External Investment Pools and Pool Participants." The District measures their investment in STAR Ohio at the net asset value (NAV) per share provided by STAR Ohio. The NAV per share is calculated on an amortized cost basis that provides an NAV per share that approximates fair value.

For fiscal year 2023, there were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, 24 hours notice in advance of all deposits and withdrawals exceeding \$100 million is encouraged. STAR Ohio reserves the right to limit the transaction to \$250 million, requiring the excess amount to be transacted the following business day(s), but only to the \$250 million limit. All accounts of the participant will be combined for these purposes.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Education has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest receipts credited to the general fund during year 2023 amounted to \$325,016, which includes \$86,253 assigned from other funds.

For presentation on the financial statements, investments of the cash management pool and investments with an original maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the District are considered to be cash equivalents. Investments with an initial maturity of more than three months that are not purchased from the pool are reported as investments.

An analysis of the District's deposits and investment at year end is provided in Note 4.

F. Inventory and Prepaid Items

The District reports cash disbursements for inventory and prepaid items when paid. These items are not reflected as assets in the accompanying financial statements.

G. Capital Assets

Acquisitions of property, plant, and equipment purchased are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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

H. Interfund Balances

On fund financial statements, the District reports advances in and advances out for interfund loans. These items are not reflected as assets and liabilities in the accompanying fund financial statements under the cash basis of accounting. Advances are eliminated in the governmental activities column on the statement of net position.

I. Compensated Absences

Compensated absences of the District consist of vacation leave and sick leave. Employees are entitled to cash payments for unused vacation and sick leave in certain circumstances, such as upon leaving employment. Unpaid vacation and sick leave are not reflected as liabilities under the cash basis of accounting.

J. Long-Term Obligations

Bonds and other long-term obligations are not recognized as a liability in the financial statements under the cash basis of accounting. These statements report proceeds of debt when cash is received, and debt service disbursements for debt principal and interest payments. Since recording a capital asset (including the intangible right to use) when entering into a financed purchase transaction, or Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangement (SBITA) is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay expenditure is reported at inception. Financed purchase payments and SBITA payments are reported when paid.

K. Fund Cash Balance

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

Nonspendable - The nonspendable fund cash balance classification includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form or legally required to be maintained intact. The District had no nonspendable fund cash balances at June 30, 2023.

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

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

Assigned - Amounts in the assigned fund cash balance classification are intended to be used by the District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted nor committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund cash balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the District Board of Education, which includes giving the Treasurer the authority to constrain monies for intended purposes.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

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

Unassigned - Unassigned fund cash 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 only used to report a deficit fund cash balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed, or assigned.

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

L. Restricted Assets

Assets are reported as restricted assets when limitations on their use change the normal understanding of the availability of the asset. Such constraints are either imposed by creditors, contributors, grantors, or laws of other governments or imposed by enabling legislation. The District did not have any restricted cash assets at June 30, 2023.

M. Net Cash Position

Net cash position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. The District did not have any net cash position restricted by enabling legislation at June 30, 2023.

N. Interfund Activity

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

O. Extraordinary and Special Items

Extraordinary items are transactions or events that are both unusual in nature and infrequent in occurrence. Special items are transactions or events that are within the control of the Board of Education and that are either unusual in nature or infrequent in occurrence. Neither type of transaction occurred during fiscal year 2023.

P. Pensions/Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

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

Q. Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs)

The District has Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs) under noncancelable arrangements. SBITA payables are not reflected under the District's cash basis of accounting. SBITA disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE

A. Change in Accounting Principles

For fiscal year 2023, the District has implemented GASB Statement No. 91, "Conduit Debt Obligations", GASB Statement No. 94, "Public-Private and Public-Public Partnerships and Availability Payment Arrangements", GASB Statement No. 96, "Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements", certain questions and answers of GASB Implementation Guide 2021-1 and certain paragraphs of GASB Statement No. 99, "Omnibus 2022".

GASB Statement No. 91 provides a single method of reporting conduit debt obligations by issuers and eliminate diversity in practice associated with (1) commitments extended by issuers, (2) arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations, and (3) related note disclosures. This Statement achieves those objectives by clarifying the existing definition of a conduit debt obligation; establishing that a conduit debt obligation is not a liability of the issuer; establishing standards for accounting and financial reporting of additional commitments and voluntary commitments extended by issuers and arrangements associated with conduit debt obligations; and improving required note disclosures. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 91 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

GASB Statement No. 94 is to improve financial reporting by addressing issues related to public-private and public partnership arrangements (PPPs). As used in this Statement, a PPP is an arrangement in which a government (the transferor) contracts with an operator (a governmental or nongovernmental entity) to provide public services by conveying control of the right to operate or use a nonfinancial asset, such as infrastructure or other capital asset (the underlying PPP asset), for a period of time in an exchange or exchange-like transaction. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 94 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the District.

GASB Statement No. 96 provides guidance on the accounting and financial reporting for subscription-based information technology arrangements (SBITAs) for government end users (governments). This Statement (1) defines a SBITA; (2) establishes that a SBITA results in a right-to-use subscription asset—an intangible asset—and a corresponding subscription liability; (3) provides the capitalization criteria for outlays other than subscription payments, including implementation costs of a SBITA; and (4) requires note disclosures regarding a SBITA. To the extent relevant, the standards for SBITAs are based on the standards established in Statement No. 87, Leases, as amended. The notes to the basic financial statements include the disclosure requirements under the Statement.

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

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

B. Compliance

Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(B) requires the District to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. However, the District prepared its basic 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 basic financial statements omit assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, net position/fund balances, and disclosures that, while material, cannot be determined at this time. The District can be fined and various other administrative remedies may be taken against the District.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 3 - ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE - (Continued)

C. Deficit Fund Balances

Fund balances at June 30, 2023 included the following individual fund deficits:

<u>Nonmajor funds</u>	<u>Deficit</u>
ESSER	\$ 21,587
IDEA Part B	10,909
Title I	11,502
Supporting Effective Instruction	1,830

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

State statutes classify monies held by the District into three categories.

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

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

Interim deposits are deposits of interim monies. Interim monies are those monies which are not needed for immediate use, but which will be needed before the end of the current period of designation of depositories.

Interim deposits must be evidenced by time certificates of deposit maturing not more than one year from the date of deposit or by savings or deposit accounts including passbook accounts.

Interim monies may be deposited or invested in the following securities:

1. United States Treasury Notes, Bills, Bonds, or any other obligation or security issued by the United States Treasury or any other obligation guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States;
2. Bonds, notes, debentures, or any other obligations or securities 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 that the fair 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 that the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, and with certain limitations including a requirement for maturity within ten years from the date of settlement, bonds and other obligations of political subdivisions of the State of Ohio, if training requirements have been met;
5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in items (1) and (2) above 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, the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAR Ohio);
8. Certain bankers' acceptances for a period not to exceed one hundred eighty days) and commercial paper notes (for a period not to exceed two hundred seventy days) in an amount not to exceed 40 percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met.

Protection of the 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.

Investments in stripped principal or interest obligations, reverse repurchase agreements and derivatives are prohibited. The issuance of taxable notes for the purpose of arbitrage, the use of leverage and short selling are also prohibited. Except as noted above, an investment must mature within five years from the date of purchase unless matched to a specific obligation or debt of the District, and must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity. Investments may only be made through specified dealers and institutions. Payment for investments may be made only upon delivery of the securities representing the investments to the Treasurer or, if the securities are not represented by a certificate, upon receipt of confirmation of transfer from the custodian.

A. Cash on Hand

At fiscal year end, the District had \$1,964 in undeposited cash on hand which is included on the financial statements of the District as part of "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents".

B. Deposits with Financial Institutions

At June 30, 2023, the carrying amount of all District deposits was \$123,509 and the bank balance of all District deposits was \$171,295. The bank balance of, \$171,295 was covered by the FDIC.

C. Investments

As of June 30, 2023, the District had the following investment and maturity:

<u>Investment type</u>	<u>NAV</u>	<u>Investment Maturity 6 months or less</u>
STAR Ohio	<u>\$ 8,630,933</u>	<u>\$ 8,630,933</u>

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 substantially increase. The District has no policy limiting investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates. State statute requires that an investment mature within five years from the date of purchase, unless matched to an specific obligation or debt of the District, and that investment must be purchased with the expectation that it will be held to maturity.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS - (Continued)

Credit Risk: STAR Ohio carries a rating of AAAM by Standard & Poor's. Ohio law requires that STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. The District's investment policy does not address credit risk beyond the requirements of State statutes.

Custodial Credit Risk: For an investment, custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the District will not be able to recover the value of its investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The District has no investment policy dealing with investment custodial risk beyond the requirement in State statute that prohibits payment for investments prior to the delivery of the securities representing such investments to the Treasurer or qualified trustee.

Concentration of Credit Risk: The District places no limit on the amount that may be invested in any one issuer. The following table includes the percentage of each investment type held by the District at June 30, 2023:

<u>Investment type</u>	<u>NAV</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
STAR Ohio	\$ 8,630,933	\$ 100.00

D. Reconciliation of Cash and Investments to the Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis

The following is a reconciliation of cash and investments as reported in the note disclosure above to cash and investments as reported on the statement of net position as of June 30, 2023:

<u>Cash and investments per note disclosure</u>	
Carrying amount of deposits	\$ 123,509
Investments	8,630,933
Cash on hand	<u>1,964</u>
Total	<u>\$ 8,756,406</u>
 <u>Cash and investments per statement of net position</u>	
Governmental activities	<u>\$ 8,756,406</u>

NOTE 5 - INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS

A. Transfers

Transfers for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, as reported on the fund statements, consist of the following:

<u>Transfers in</u>	<u>Transfers out</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Permanent Improvement fund	General fund	\$ 700,000
Nonmajor governmental fund	Nonmajor governmental fund	<u>40,575</u>
Total		<u>\$ 740,575</u>

Transfers are used to move cash receipts from the fund that statute or budget required to collect them to the fund that statute or budget requires to disburse them and to use unrestricted cash receipts collected in the general fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorizations. Transfer activity in nonmajor governmental funds was to transfer the remaining balance of the classroom facilities fund to the classroom facilities maintenance fund. All transfers were made in compliance with Ohio Revised Code Sections 5705.14, 5705.15 and 5705.16.

Interfund transfers between governmental funds are eliminated on the government-wide financial statements; therefore, no transfers are reported in the statement of activities.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 6 - PROPERTY TAXES

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

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real property and public utility property. Real property tax receipts received in calendar year 2023 represent the collection of calendar year 2022 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2023 were levied after April 1, 2022, on the assessed values as of January 1, 2022, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State statute at 35 percent of appraised fair value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semiannually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established. Public utility property tax revenues received in calendar year 2023 represent the collection of calendar year 2022 taxes. Public utility real and personal property taxes received in calendar year 2023 became a lien on December 31, 2021, were levied after April 1, 2022, and are collected with real property taxes. Public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value; public utility tangible personal property is currently assessed at varying percentages of true value.

The District receives property taxes from Hardin and Hancock Counties. The County Auditors periodically advance to the District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2023, are available to finance fiscal year 2023 operations. The amount available to be advanced can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent.

The assessed values upon which the fiscal year 2023 taxes were collected are:

	2022 Second Half Collections		2023 First Half Collections	
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Agricultural/residential and other real estate	\$ 71,351,280	87.09	\$ 72,545,830	86.78
Public utility personal	<u>10,574,710</u>	<u>12.91</u>	<u>11,048,180</u>	<u>13.22</u>
Total	<u>\$ 81,925,990</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>\$ 83,594,010</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation	\$40.45		\$39.65	

NOTE 7 - INCOME TAX

The District levies a voted tax of 1¾% for general operations on the income of residents and of estates. The tax was effective on January 1, 1991 and is a continuing tax. Employers of residents are required to withhold income tax on compensation and remit the tax to the State. Taxpayers are required to file an annual return. The State makes quarterly distributions to the District after withholding amounts for administrative fees and estimated refunds. Income tax receipts are credited to the general fund.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 8 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

A. During fiscal year 2023, the following changes occurred in governmental activities long-term obligations:

	Balance Outstanding <u>06/30/22</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	Balance Outstanding <u>06/30/23</u>	Amounts Due in <u>One Year</u>
Governmental Activities:					
Refunding school improvement bond 2020, 3.30%	\$ 2,455,000	\$ -	\$ (125,000)	\$ 2,330,000	\$ 130,000
Total governmental activities	<u>\$ 2,455,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ (125,000)</u>	<u>\$ 2,330,000</u>	<u>\$ 130,000</u>

In May of 2020, the District issued \$2,685,000 in general obligation bonds for the refunding of the 2008 school improvement bonds. This refunding resulted in bond issuance costs of \$33,477 and payments to refunded bond escrow agent of \$2,745,873 and was undertaken to reduce the combined total debt service payments over a seventeen-year period by \$243,921. These current interest bonds have a final maturity of December 1, 2036 and an interest rate of 3.30%. Interest payments on the current interest bonds are due on June 1 and December 1 of each year. Payments of principal and interest are recorded as cash disbursements of the bond retirement fund (a nonmajor governmental fund).

The following is a summary of the District's future annual debt service requirements for long-term obligations:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	Refunding School Improvement Bonds	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2024	\$ 130,000	\$ 71,008
2025	140,000	66,776
2026	140,000	62,308
2027	145,000	57,762
2028	150,000	53,138
2029 - 2033	820,000	191,545
2034 - 2037	<u>805,000</u>	<u>52,669</u>
Total	<u>\$ 2,330,000</u>	<u>\$ 555,206</u>

B. Legal Debt Margin

The Ohio Revised Code provides that voted net general obligation debt of the District shall never exceed 9% of the total assessed valuation of the District. The code further provides that unvoted indebtedness shall not exceed 1/10 of 1% of the property valuation of the District. The code additionally states that unvoted indebtedness related to energy conservation debt shall not exceed 9/10 of 1% of the property valuation of the District. The assessed valuation used in determining the District's legal debt margin has been modified by House Bill 530 which became effective March 30, 2006. In accordance with House Bill 530, the assessed valuation used in the District's legal debt margin calculation excluded tangible personal property used in business, telephone or telegraph property, interexchange telecommunications company property, and personal property owned or leased by a railroad company and used in railroad operations. The effects of these debt limitations at June 30, 2023, are a voted debt margin of \$5,370,325 (including available funds of \$176,864) and an unvoted debt margin of \$83,594.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 9 - RISK MANAGEMENT

A. Comprehensive

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. For fiscal year 2023, the District contracted with the Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA) for the following insurance coverage:

<u>Type of Coverage</u>	<u>Coverage</u>
Buildings and contents - replacement cost	\$ 25,994,047
General Liability:	
Per occurrence	15,000,000
Aggregate	17,000,000
Vehicle Liability	15,000,000
Uninsured Motorist	1,000,000
Public Employees Dishonesty	1,000,000

Settled claims have not exceeded commercial coverage in any of the past three years. There were no significant reductions in coverage from the prior year.

B. Workers' Compensation

The District participates in the CompManagement Workers' Compensation Group Rating Program (the "Group"). Each year, the participants in the Group pay an enrollment fee to cover the costs of administering the program. Participation in the Group is limited to participants that can meet the Group's selection criteria.

C. Employee Health Benefits

The District participates in the Hardin County School Employees' Health and Welfare Benefit Plan and Trust (the "Trust"), a public entity shared risk pool consisting of seven local school districts, and the Ada Public Library (See Note 1.). Each participating member pays premiums to the Trust for employee medical, dental, life and vision coverage. The Trust is responsible for the management and operation of the program. Upon withdrawal, the District is responsible for the payment of all Trust liabilities to its employees, dependents, and designated beneficiaries accruing as a result of the withdrawal.

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability/Asset

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

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

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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

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 net pension/net OPEB liability (asset) are not reported on the face of the financial statements, but rather are disclosed in the notes because of the use of the cash basis framework.

The remainder of this note includes the required pension disclosures. See Note 11 for the required OPEB disclosures.

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. Beginning April 1, 2018, new benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. Upon resumption of the COLA, it will be indexed to the percentage increase in the CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5% and with a floor of 0%. In 2022, the Board of Trustees approved a 2.5% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for eligible retirees and beneficiaries in 2023.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Funding Policy - Plan members are required to contribute 10.00% of their annual covered salary and the District is required to contribute 14.00% of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS' Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10.00% for plan members and 14.00% for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System's funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.00%. For fiscal year 2023, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$104,594 for fiscal year 2023.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

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

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.20% of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0 percent upon a determination by its actuary that it was necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients' base benefit and past cost-of-living increases are not affected by this change. Effective July 2, 2022, an ad-hoc COLA of 3 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2023 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2018. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit and at least age 60.

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

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

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

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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

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

Funding Policy - Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The fiscal year 2023 employer and employee contribution rate of 14% was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For fiscal year 2023, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The District's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$402,720 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 District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the District's share of contributions to the pension plan relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the net pension liability prior measurement date	0.019864100%	0.021086932%	
Proportion of the net pension liability current measurement date	<u>0.018755000%</u>	<u>0.020557950%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>-0.001109100%</u>	<u>-0.000528982%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 1,014,416	\$ 4,570,058	\$ 5,584,474

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.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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

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

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

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

In 2022, 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% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

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

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

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

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

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

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

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

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 1,493,172	\$ 1,014,416	\$ 611,071

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

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

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%	12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount rate of return	7.00%	7.00%
Payroll increases	3.00%	3.00%
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%	0.00%

For the June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Disable Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

For the prior measurement date, post-retirement mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Tables with 50% of rates through age 69, 70% of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90% of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100% of rates thereafter, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Tables, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016. Post-retirement disabled mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Disabled Mortality Tables with 90% of rates for males and 100% 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 Ohio's investment consultant develops an estimate range for the investment return assumption based on the target allocation adopted by the Retirement Board. The target allocation and long-term expected rate of return for each major asset class are summarized as follows:

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

* Target allocation percentage is effective as of 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% and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS Ohio's investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - (Continued)

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00% 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 the rates described previously. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS Ohio'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 pension plan investments of 7.00% was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability as of June 30, 2022.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate - The following table represents the net pension liability as of June 30, 2022, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current assumption:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 6,903,694	\$ 4,570,058	\$ 2,596,525

Changes Between Measurement Date and Reporting Date - STRS approved a one-time 1.00% cost-of-living adjustment to eligible benefit recipients effective July 1, 2023. It is unknown what effect this change will have on the net pension liability.

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

See Note 10 for a description of the net OPEB liability (asset).

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description - The District contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 75 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. SERS' Health Care Plan provides healthcare benefits to eligible individuals receiving retirement, disability, and survivor benefits, and to their eligible dependents. Members who retire after June 1, 1986, need 10 years of service credit, exclusive of most types of purchased credit, to qualify to participate in SERS' health care coverage. 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.

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.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14% of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, SERS did not allocate any employer contributions to post-employment health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2023, this amount was \$25,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2% of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5% of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2023, the District's surcharge obligation was \$10,975.

The surcharge added to the allocated portion of the 14% employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$10,975 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 Medicare Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting www.strsoh.org or by calling (888) 227-7877.

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

Net OPEB Liability/Asset

The net OPEB liability/asset was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total OPEB liability/asset used to calculate the net OPEB liability/asset was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The District's proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset was based on the District's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset prior measurement date	0.020229300%	0.021086932%	
Proportion of the net OPEB liability/asset current measurement date	<u>0.018908700%</u>	<u>0.020557950%</u>	
Change in proportionate share	<u>-0.001320600%</u>	<u>-0.000528982%</u>	
Proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 265,480	\$ -	\$ 265,480
Proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ -	\$ (532,314)	\$ (532,314)

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.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 11 - 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:

Wage inflation:	
Current measurement date	2.40%
Prior measurement date	2.40%
Future salary increases, including inflation:	
Current measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Prior measurement date	3.25% to 13.58%
Investment rate of return:	
Current measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Prior measurement date	7.00% net of investment expense, including inflation
Municipal bond index rate:	
Current measurement date	3.69%
Prior measurement date	1.92%
Single equivalent interest rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation:	
Current measurement date	4.08%
Prior measurement date	2.27%
Medical trend assumption:	
Current measurement date	7.00 to 4.40%
Prior measurement date	
Medicare	5.125 to 4.400%
Pre-Medicare	6.750 to 4.400%

In 2022, 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% for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35% for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3% for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8% for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

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

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

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial 5-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2016 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 long-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%, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The capital market assumptions developed by the investment consultant are intended for use over a 10-year horizon and may not be useful in setting the long-term rate of return for funding pension plans which covers a longer timeframe. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

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

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

Discount Rate - The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2022, was 4.08%. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2022, was 2.27%. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the System at the contribution rate of 1.50% of projected covered payroll each year, which includes a 1.50% payroll surcharge and no contributions from the basic benefits plan. Based on these assumptions, the OPEB plan's fiduciary net position was projected to become insufficient to make all projected future benefit payments of current System members by SERS actuaries. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is used in the determination of the SEIR for both the June 30, 2022 and the June 30, 2021 total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is 3.69% at June 30, 2022 and 1.92% at June 30, 2021.

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate and Changes in the Health Care Cost Trend Rates - The net OPEB liability is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and the health care cost trend rate. The following table presents the net OPEB liability, what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.08%) and higher (5.08%) than the current discount rate (4.08%). Also shown is what the 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 (7.00% decreasing to 4.40%).

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 329,730	\$ 265,480	\$ 213,613

	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 204,733	\$ 265,480	\$ 344,826

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation, compared with June 30, 2021 actuarial valuation, are presented below:

	June 30, 2022		June 30, 2021	
Inflation	2.50%		2.50%	
Projected salary increases	Varies by service from 2.50% to 8.50%		12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65	
Investment rate of return	7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation		7.00%, net of investment expenses, including inflation	
Payroll increases	3.00%		3.00%	
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.00%		0.00%	
Discount rate of return	7.00%		7.00%	
Blended discount rate of return	N/A		N/A	
Health care cost trends				
	Initial	Ultimate	Initial	Ultimate
Medical				
Pre-Medicare	7.50%	3.94%	5.00%	4.00%
Medicare	-68.78%	3.94%	-16.18%	4.00%
Prescription Drug				
Pre-Medicare	9.00%	3.94%	6.50%	4.00%
Medicare	-5.47%	3.94%	29.98%	4.00%

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

For the June 30, 2022 actuarial valuation, for healthy retirees the post-retirement mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Healthy Annuitant Mortality Table, adjusted 110% for males, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020; pre-retirement mortality rates are based on Pub-2010 Teachers Employee Table adjusted 95% for females, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020. For disabled retirees, mortality rates are based on the Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

For the prior measurement date, for healthy retirees the mortality rates are based on the RP-2014 Annuitant Mortality Tables with 50% of rates through age 69, 70% of rates between ages 70 and 79, 90% of rates between ages 80 and 84, and 100% 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 Tables with 90% of rates for males and 100% 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.

Assumption Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - The discount rate remained unchanged at 7.00% for the June 30, 2022 valuation.

Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date - Salary increase rates were updated based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021 and were changed from age based to service based.

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

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

* Target allocation percentage is effective as of 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% and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS Ohio's investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

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

Sensitivity of the District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount and Health Care Cost Trend Rate - The following table represents the net OPEB asset as of June 30, 2022, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00%, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00%) or one percentage point higher (8.00%) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS - (Continued)

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 492,110	\$ 532,314	\$ 566,752
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB asset	\$ 552,139	\$ 532,314	\$ 507,289

NOTE 12 - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

While reporting financial position, results of operations, and changes in fund balance on the cash basis, the budgetary basis as provided by law is based upon accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements and encumbrances.

The statement of receipts, disbursements and change in fund balance - budget and actual (budgetary basis) presented for the general fund is presented on the budgetary basis to provide a meaningful comparison of actual results with the budget.

The major differences between the budget basis and the cash basis are that:

- (a) In order to determine compliance with Ohio law, and to reserve that portion of the applicable appropriation, total outstanding encumbrances (budget basis) are recorded as the equivalent of a cash disbursement, as opposed to assigned fund cash balance for that portion of outstanding encumbrances (cash basis); and,
- (b) Some funds are included in the general fund (cash basis), but have separate legally adopted budgets (budget basis).

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

Net Change in Fund Cash Balance

	<u>General fund</u>
Budget basis	\$ 177,199
Funds budgeted elsewhere	133
Adjustment for encumbrances	295,779
Cash basis	\$ 473,111

Certain funds that are legally budgeted in separate fund classifications are considered part of the general fund on a cash basis. This includes the public school support fund.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

**NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

NOTE 13 - CONTINGENCIES

A. Grants

The District receives significant financial assistance from numerous federal, state and local agencies in the form of grants. The disbursement 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 District. However, in the opinion of management, any such disallowed claims will not have a material effect on the financial position of the District.

B. Litigation

The District is involved in no material litigation as either plaintiff or defendant.

C. Foundation Funding

School District foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is legislatively required to adjust/reconcile funding as enrollment information is updated by schools throughout the State, which can extend past the fiscal year end. As a result, the District owes \$19.88 to the ODE. This amount has not been included in the financial statements.

NOTE 14 - OTHER COMMITMENTS

The District utilizes encumbrance accounting as part of its budgetary controls. Encumbrances outstanding at year end may be reported as part of restricted, committed, or assigned classifications of fund cash balance. At year end, the District's commitments for encumbrances in the governmental funds were as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Year-End Encumbrances</u>
General	\$ 296,079
Permanent improvement	1,055,135
Nonmajor governmental	<u>66,115</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,417,329</u>

NOTE 15 - SET-ASIDES

The District is required by State law to annually set-aside certain general fund cash receipt amounts, as defined by statutory formula, for the acquisition and construction of capital improvements. Amounts not spent by the end of the fiscal year or offset by similarly restricted resources received during the year must be held in cash at fiscal year-end. This amount must be carried forward to be used for the same purpose in future years. Disbursements and offsets exceeding the set-aside requirement may not be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY, OHIO**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

NOTE 15 - SET-ASIDES - (Continued)

The following cash-basis information describes the change in the fiscal year-end set-aside amount for capital improvements. Disclosure of this information is required by State statute.

	<u>Capital Improvements</u>
Set-aside balance June 30, 2022	\$ -
Current year set-aside requirement	84,374
Current year offset	<u>(84,374)</u>
Total	<u>\$ -</u>
Balance carried forward to fiscal year 2024	<u>\$ -</u>
Set-aside balance June 30, 2023	<u>\$ -</u>

NOTE 16 – SUBSEQUENT EVENT

On February 20, 2024 the District’s Board approved a renovation project for the football field which will include new home stands, a new irrigation system and a new field. Total project is estimated to cost around \$1.8 million. Transfers from the General Fund to the Permanent Improvement Fund will be made to cover the costs of the project. Completion date is estimated in August 2024.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN COUNTY**

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

FEDERAL GRANTOR Pass Through Grantor Program / Cluster Title	Federal AL Number	Total Federal Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE		
<i>(Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce)</i>		
Child Nutrition Cluster:		
Non- Cash Assistance (Food Distribution)		
National School Lunch Program	10.555	21,802
Cash Assistance:		
School Breakfast Program	10.553	40,013
National School Lunch Program	10.555	128,103
Total Child Nutrition Cluster		<u>189,918</u>
COVID-19 Pandemic EBT Administrative Costs	10.649	<u>628</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		<u>190,546</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		
<i>(Direct Program)</i>		
Rural Education	84.358	29,609
<i>(Passed Through Ohio Department of Education and Workforce)</i>		
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	92,611
Special Education Cluster (IDEA):		
Special Education_Grants to States	84.027	120,043
Special Education_Preschool Grants	84.173	1,649
Total Special Education Cluster (IDEA)		<u>121,692</u>
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	16,077
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	8,740
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund		
COVID-19 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER II Fund)	84.425D	97,804
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER Fund)	84.425U	196,660
Total COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund		<u>294,464</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education		<u>563,193</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY		
<i>(Passed Through Ohio Facilities Construction Commission)</i>		
COVID-19 Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	21.027	<u>37,382</u>
Total U.S. Department of the Treasury		<u>37,382</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards		<u><u>\$791,121</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN 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 Hardin Northern Local School District (the District) 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 District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in net position of the District.

NOTE B – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

NOTE C – INDIRECT COST RATE

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

NOTE D - CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

The District commingles cash receipts from the U.S. Department of Agriculture with similar State grants. When reporting expenditures on this Schedule, the District assumes it expends federal monies first.

NOTE E – FOOD DONATION PROGRAM

The District reports commodities consumed on the Schedule at the entitlement value. The District allocated donated food commodities to the respective program that benefitted from the use of those donated food commodities.

NOTE F - TRANSFERS BETWEEN PROGRAM YEARS

Federal regulations require schools to obligate certain federal awards by June 30. However, with Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's consent, schools can transfer unobligated amounts to the subsequent fiscal year's program. The District transferred the following amounts from 2023 to 2024 programs:

<u>Program Title</u>	<u>AL Number</u>	<u>Amt.</u> <u>Transferred</u>
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010	\$ 2,181
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367	\$ 393
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424	\$ 1,320

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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

Hardin Northern Local School District
Hardin County
11589 State Route 81
Dola, Ohio 45835

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 Hardin Northern Local School District, Hardin County, (the District) as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated April 9, 2024, wherein we noted the District 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 District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the District's internal control.

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

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

Efficient • Effective • Transparent

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the District's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed an instance of noncompliance or other matter that is required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2023-001.

District's Response to Finding

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

Purpose of This Report

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



Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

April 9, 2024

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



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

Hardin Northern Local School District
Hardin County
11589 State Route 81
Dola, Ohio 45835

To the Board of Education

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

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

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

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of Compliance

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

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

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

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

Report on Internal Control Over Compliance

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

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

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

April 9, 2024

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**HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HARDIN 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):	Child Nutrition Cluster (ALN 10.553 and 10.555) COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund (ALN 84.425D and 84.425U)
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A/B Programs	Type A: > \$ 750,000 Type B: all others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR § 200.520?	No

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

FINDING NUMBER 2023-001

Noncompliance Citation

Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38(A) 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 District to file annual financial reports which are prepared using generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

The District prepared financial statements that, although formatted similar to financial statements prescribed by 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 District 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 District's ability to evaluate and monitor the overall financial condition of the District. To help provide the users with more meaningful financial statements, the District should prepare its financial statements according to generally accepted accounting principles.

OFFICIALS' RESPONSE:

The cost of reporting in GAAP form exceeds the value of the report in the opinion of the Board of Education.

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS
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None



**HARDIN NORTHERN
LOCAL SCHOOLS
11589 STATE ROUTE 81
DOLA, OHIO 45835
419 – 759 - 2331**

Practicing ‘Polar Bear Guts, Resilience, Integrity, Tenacity’ (GRIT) Every Day

Andrew Cano
Superintendent
Ext. 1210

Brennon Hattery
Treasurer
Ext. 1208

Josh Kauffman
7 – 12 Principal
Ext. 1206

Brett Halsey
K – 6 Principal
Ext. 1204

Brady Mast
Athletic Director
Ext. 1211

Brian Webb
Maintenance
Coordinator
Ext. 1218

Andy Emerine
Technology
Coordinator
Ext. 1027

Andy Ayers
Cafeteria
Coordinator
Ext. 1219

Mike Crist
Transportation
Coordinator
Ext. 1506

SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS

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) – Failed to file annual financial reports using generally accepted accounting principles. This was first reported for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013.	Not Corrected	The Board of Education maintains that the cost of reporting in compliance with GAAP is cost prohibitive in relation to the benefit it provides.

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

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Finding Number:

2023-001

Planned Corrective Action:

The District acknowledges this requirement but will continue to report on a cash basis in order to save resources for the District.

Anticipated Completion Date:

N/A

Responsible Contact Person:

Brennon Hattery, Treasurer

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



HARDIN NORTHERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HARDIN COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

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



Certified for Release 5/9/2024

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

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