



**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

SINGLE AUDIT

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY
JUNE 30, 2023**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR’S REPORT

Northeastern Local School District
Defiance County
05855 Domersville Road
Defiance, Ohio 43512-6703

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, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Northeastern Local School District, Defiance County, Ohio (the District), as of and for the 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, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the 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 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 February 14, 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

February 14, 2024

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**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION - CASH BASIS
JUNE 30, 2023

		Governmental Activities
Assets:		
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	\$	14,206,762
Investments		1,220
		14,207,982
Total assets		14,207,982
 Net position:		
Restricted for:		
Capital projects		225,526
Classroom facilities maintenance		906,804
State funded programs		86,826
Federally funded programs		75,000
Food service operations		233,714
Student activities		128,450
Other purposes		20,951
Unrestricted		12,530,711
		12,530,711
Total net position	\$	14,207,982

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

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

	Program Cash Receipts			Net (Disbursements) Receipts and Changes in Net Position	
	Cash Disbursements	Charges for Services and Sales	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Governmental Activities
Governmental activities:					
Instruction:					
Regular	\$ 5,954,245	\$ 456,533	\$ 88,344		\$ (5,409,368)
Special	1,919,054	54,509	420,793		(1,443,752)
Vocational	152,772		262		(152,510)
Other	125,744				(125,744)
Support services:					
Pupil	1,005,001		194,042		(810,959)
Instructional staff	723,539				(723,539)
Board of education	99,903				(99,903)
Administration	954,429	9,700	2,471		(942,258)
Fiscal	155,173				(155,173)
Operations and maintenance	1,250,817		113,089	\$ 75,000	(1,062,728)
Pupil transportation	1,032,233		9,599		(1,022,634)
Central	54,313		5,140		(49,173)
Operation of non-instructional services:					
Food service operations	580,664	317,894	278,704		15,934
Other non-instructional services	36,409		467		(35,942)
Extracurricular activities	638,165	264,209	24,008	375,463	25,515
Facilities acquisition and construction	1,736,458				(1,736,458)
Debt service:					
Principal retirement	1,008,000				(1,008,000)
Interest and fiscal charges	937,309				(937,309)
Total governmental activities	\$ 18,364,228	\$ 1,102,845	\$ 1,136,919	\$ 450,463	(15,674,001)
General receipts:					
Property taxes levied for:					
				General purposes	10,655,694
				Debt service	1,253,073
				Classroom facilities maintenance	170,292
				Payment in lieu of taxes	6,025
				Grants and entitlements not restricted to specific programs	3,677,054
				Investment earnings	310,211
				Miscellaneous	39,865
				Total general receipts	16,112,214
				Change in net position	438,213
				Net position at beginning of year	13,769,769
				Net position at end of year	\$ 14,207,982

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

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

	General Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Assets:			
Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents	\$ 12,208,149	\$ 1,998,613	\$ 14,206,762
Investments		1,220	1,220
Total assets	\$ 12,208,149	\$ 1,999,833	\$ 14,207,982
Fund balances:			
Restricted:			
Capital improvements		\$ 225,526	\$ 225,526
Classroom facilities maintenance	\$ 7,937	906,804	914,741
Food service operations		233,714	233,714
State funded programs		86,826	86,826
Federally funded programs		75,000	75,000
Extracurricular activities		128,450	128,450
Other purposes		13,014	13,014
Committed:			
Capital improvements		937,643	937,643
Assigned:			
Student instruction	134,163		134,163
Staff and staff support	217,952		217,952
Facilities acquisition and construction	46,890		46,890
Subsequent year's appropriations	1,726,782		1,726,782
Non-instructional services	20,430		20,430
Unassigned (deficit)	10,053,995	(607,144)	9,446,851
Total fund balances	\$ 12,208,149	\$ 1,999,833	\$ 14,207,982

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

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

	General Fund	Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receipts:			
Property taxes	\$ 10,655,694	\$ 1,423,365	\$ 12,079,059
Intergovernmental	3,843,961	1,011,844	4,855,805
Investment earnings	272,213	37,998	310,211
Tuition and fees	499,752		499,752
Extracurricular	20,990	264,209	285,199
Rental income	3,145		3,145
Charges for services		317,894	317,894
Contributions and donations	398,326	24,012	422,338
Payment in lieu of taxes	6,025		6,025
Miscellaneous	13,144	9,869	23,013
Total receipts	15,713,250	3,089,191	18,802,441
Disbursements:			
Current:			
Instruction:			
Regular	5,645,549	308,696	5,954,245
Special	1,583,939	335,115	1,919,054
Vocational	152,772		152,772
Other	125,744		125,744
Support services:			
Pupil	827,537	177,464	1,005,001
Instructional staff	580,070	143,469	723,539
Board of education	98,260	1,643	99,903
Administration	953,479	950	954,429
Fiscal	137,348	17,825	155,173
Operations and maintenance	1,151,070	99,747	1,250,817
Pupil transportation	1,032,233		1,032,233
Central	50,643	3,670	54,313
Operation of non-instructional services:			
Food service operations		580,664	580,664
Other non-instructional services	36,409		36,409
Extracurricular activities	310,827	327,338	638,165
Facilities acquisition and construction	567,179	1,169,279	1,736,458
Debt service:			
Principal retirement	358,000	650,000	1,008,000
Interest and fiscal charges	86,304	851,005	937,309
Total disbursements	13,697,363	4,666,865	18,364,228
Excess of receipts over (under) disbursements	2,015,887	(1,577,674)	438,213
Other financing sources (uses):			
Transfers in		526,780	526,780
Transfers (out)	(526,780)		(526,780)
Advances in	3,500		3,500
Advances (out)		(3,500)	(3,500)
Total other financing sources (uses)	(523,280)	523,280	
Net change in fund balances	1,492,607	(1,054,394)	438,213
Fund balances at beginning of year	10,715,542	3,054,227	13,769,769
Fund balances at end of year	\$ 12,208,149	\$ 1,999,833	\$ 14,207,982

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS AND CHANGES IN
FUND BALANCE - BUDGET AND ACTUAL - BUDGET 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	\$ 10,932,600	\$ 10,932,600	\$ 10,655,694	\$ (276,906)
Intergovernmental	3,126,700	3,675,130	3,843,961	168,831
Investment earnings	(1,500)	48,500	272,213	223,713
Tuition and fees	322,565	433,565	499,752	66,187
Rental income	1,000	3,500	3,145	(355)
Contributions and donations	15,000	393,649	392,979	(670)
Payment in lieu of taxes	35,700	35,700	6,025	(29,675)
Miscellaneous	10,750	10,750	13,144	2,394
Total receipts	<u>14,442,815</u>	<u>15,533,394</u>	<u>15,686,913</u>	<u>153,519</u>
Disbursements:				
Current:				
Instruction:				
Regular	6,726,258	6,704,795	5,816,325	888,470
Special	1,620,562	1,842,046	1,585,850	256,196
Vocational	157,001	162,002	152,772	9,230
Other	178,571	178,571	125,744	52,827
Support services:				
Pupil	1,087,996	1,026,790	828,966	197,824
Instructional staff	843,855	830,844	592,343	238,501
Board of education	174,527	178,497	98,518	79,979
Administration	986,909	1,006,015	941,973	64,042
Fiscal	788,645	788,646	138,111	650,535
Operations and maintenance	1,457,833	1,623,594	1,309,924	313,670
Pupil transportation	1,349,982	1,243,482	1,032,962	210,520
Central	701,403	947,521	50,643	896,878
Operation of non-instructional services				
Other non-instructional services	33,444	86,104	56,839	29,265
Extracurricular activities	354,744	354,744	310,827	43,917
Facilities acquisition and construction	634,869	644,869	614,069	30,800
Debt service:				
Principal		358,000	358,000	
Interest and fiscal charges		86,350	86,304	46
Total disbursements	<u>17,096,599</u>	<u>18,062,870</u>	<u>14,100,170</u>	<u>3,962,700</u>
Excess of receipts over (under) disbursements	<u>(2,653,784)</u>	<u>(2,529,476)</u>	<u>1,586,743</u>	<u>4,116,219</u>
Other financing sources (uses):				
Refund of prior year's expenditures	25,000	43,500	53,857	10,357
Refund of prior year's receipts	(25,000)	(25,000)		25,000
Transfers (out)	(300,000)	(526,780)	(526,780)	
Advances in			3,500	3,500
Advances (out)	(25,000)	(25,000)		25,000
Proceeds from sale of assets	4,800	4,800		(4,800)
Total other financing sources (uses)	<u>(320,200)</u>	<u>(528,480)</u>	<u>(469,423)</u>	<u>59,057</u>
Net change in fund balance	(2,973,984)	(3,057,956)	1,117,320	4,175,276
Fund balance at beginning of year	10,120,334	10,120,334	10,120,334	
Prior year encumbrances appropriated	<u>551,060</u>	<u>551,060</u>	<u>551,060</u>	
Fund balance at end of year	<u>\$ 7,697,410</u>	<u>\$ 7,613,438</u>	<u>\$ 11,788,714</u>	<u>\$ 4,175,276</u>

SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

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

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Northeastern Local School District (the District) is a body politic and corporate established for the purpose of exercising the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio. Northeastern Local School District is a local school district as defined by §3311.03 of the Ohio Revised Code. The District operates under an elected Board of Education (5 members) and is responsible for the provision of public education to residents of the District. The Board oversees the operations of the District's three instructional/support facilities which are staffed by 47 noncertified and 81 certified part-time and full-time teaching personnel. The District's average daily membership for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 was 1,012 students.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As discussed in the Basis of Accounting section of this note, 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.

A. 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 primary government of the District 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.

The following organizations are not part of the reporting entity and are excluded from the accompanying financial statements but described due to their relationship with the District:

Jointly Governed Organizations

Northwest Ohio Computer Association

The District is a participant in the Northwest Ohio Computer Association (NWOCA). NWOCA is an association of public school districts within the boundaries of Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, Williams and Wood Counties. The organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions among member school districts. NWOCA is governed by the Northern Buckeye Education Council and its participating members.

The NWOCA Assembly consists of a superintendent from each participating educational entity and a representative from the fiscal agent. The Assembly elects the Council. NWOCA is governed by a Council chosen from two representatives from each of the six counties in which the member educational entities are located and the representative from the member educational entity serving as fiscal agent for NWOCA. The degree of control exercised by any participating educational entity is limited to its representation on the Board. All payments made by the District for services received are made to the Northern Buckeye Educational Council. Total disbursements made by the District to NWOCA during this fiscal year were \$181,964. Financial information can be obtained from Tammy Butler, who serves as Treasurer, at 209 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, Ohio 43502.

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

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

Northern Buckeye Education Council

The Northern Buckeye Education Council (NBEC) was established in 1979 to foster cooperation among various educational entities located in Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Williams Counties. NBEC is organized under Ohio laws as a regional council of governments pursuant to a written agreement entered into by its member educational entities and bylaws adopted by the representatives of the member educational entities. NBEC is governed by an elected Board consisting of two representatives from each of the six counties in which the member educational entities are located.

The Board is elected from an Assembly consisting of a representative from each participating educational entity. Total disbursements made by the District to NBEC during this fiscal year were \$250. To obtain financial information write to the Northern Buckeye Education Council, Tammy Butler, at 209 Nolan Parkway, Archbold, Ohio 43502.

Four County Career Center

The Four County Career Center is a distinct political subdivision of the State of Ohio operated under the direction of a Board consisting of five representatives from the Northwest Ohio Educational Service Center—one each from the counties of Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Williams and one additional representative; one representative from each of the city school districts; and one representative from each of the exempted village school districts. The Four County Career Center possesses its own budgeting and taxing authority. Total disbursements made by the District to the Four County Career Center during this fiscal year were \$61,093. To obtain financial information write to the Four County Career Center, Connie Nicely, who serves as Treasurer, at 22-900 State Route 34, Archbold, Ohio 43502.

State Support Team Region 1

The State Support Team Region 1 (SSTR1) provides specialized core work related to building regional capacity for district, building, and community school implementation of the Ohio Improved Process (OIP) at a high level. The service region of the SSTR1 includes Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Henry, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood Counties. House Bill 115 established the Educational Resource System and required the creation of a coordinated, integrated, and aligned system to support state and school district efforts to improve school effectiveness and student achievement. Resulting from House Bill 115, the Ohio Department of Education established a 16-region system consisting of a State Support Team for each of the 16 regions, which has a fiscal agent for each region. The fiscal agent for the SSTR1 is the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West. The SSTR1 Executive Director and Single Point of Contact is Lynn McKahan. Contract information is available at www.sstr1.org. Financial information can be obtained from the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West, 2275 Collingwood, Toledo, Ohio 43620.

Group Purchasing Pools

Employee Insurance Benefits Program

The District participates in a group health insurance pool through the Northern Buckeye Health Plan (NBHP), Northwest Division of Optimal Health Initiative Consortium (OHI) Insurance Benefits Program. NBHP is a joint self-insurance arrangement created pursuant to the authority vested in Ohio Revised Code §9.833. NBHP is a public entity shared risk pool consisting of educational entities throughout the State. NBHP is governed by OHI and its participating members. Total disbursements made by the District to NBHP/OHI for employee insurance benefits during this fiscal year were \$1,697,731. Financial information can be obtained from Northern Buckeye Health Plan/OHI, Charlie LeBoeuf, Treasurer, at 201 East 5th Street, Suite 2100, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

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

Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan

The District participates in a group-rating plan for workers' compensation as established under Section 4123.29 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Northern Buckeye Health Plan, Northern Division of Ohio Health Initiatives (OHI) Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (WCGRP) is an insurance purchasing pool. The group was formed to create a workers' compensation group rating plan which would allow employers to group together to achieve a potentially lower premium rate than they may otherwise be able to acquire as individual employers. OHI has created a workers' compensation group rating and risk management program which will potentially reduce the workers' compensation premiums for the District.

OHI has retained Sheakley Uniservice as the servicing agent to perform administrative, actuarial, cost control, claims, and safety consulting services and unemployment claims services for program participants. During this fiscal year, the District's enrollment fee of \$218 was used to cover the costs of administering the program.

Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority

The District participates in the Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA), which was established in 2002 pursuant to Articles of Incorporation filed under Chapter 1702 of the Ohio Revised Code – Non-Profit Corporations and functioning under authority granted by Section 2744.081 of the Ohio Revised Code. SORSA's purpose is to provide a joint self-insurance pool to assist member school districts in preventing and reducing losses and injuries to property and persons which might result in claims being made against members of SORSA, their employees or officers. The District paid \$85,873 for those services to SORSA during fiscal year 2023.

A nine-person Board of Directors manages the business and affairs of SORSA and is elected annually by the members of the pool. The Board of Directors consists of superintendents, treasurers, or business managers from the participating school districts. The District works with First Insurance Group, a local agent, as a liaison between SORSA and the District. SORSA employs an Executive Director, Program Manager, Risk Control Manager, and Claims Manager. Claims are handled in-house by Claims Manager, Greg Gilliam. Additional information can be obtained from SORSA at 555 Metro Place North, Suite 645, Dublin, Ohio, 43017 or by calling 866-767-7299.

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

B. Basis of Accounting

Although required by Ohio Administrative Code Section 117-2-03(B) to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with GAAP, the District chooses to prepare its financial statements and notes on the cash basis of accounting. The cash basis of accounting is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than GAAP. Receipts are recognized when received in cash rather than when earned, and disbursements are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred.

Budgetary presentations report budgetary cash disbursements when a commitment is made (i.e. when an encumbrance is approved). The difference between disbursements reported in the fund and entity wide statements and disbursements reported in the budgetary statements are due to current year encumbrances being added to disbursements reported on the budgetary statements.

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

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

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

C. Fund Accounting

The District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the year. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. There are three categories of funds: governmental, proprietary, and fiduciary. The District has no proprietary or fiduciary funds.

Governmental Funds

Governmental funds are those through which most governmental functions typically are financed. Governmental fund reporting focuses on the sources, uses and balances of current financial resources. Expendable assets are assigned to the various governmental funds according to the purposes for which they may or must be used. The following is the District's major governmental fund:

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

Other governmental funds of the District are used to account for and report grants and other resources whose use is restricted, committed, or assigned to a particular purpose.

D. Basis of Presentation

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

Government-Wide Financial Statements

The Statement of Net Position – 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. Governmental activities generally are financed through taxes, intergovernmental receipts, or other nonexchange transactions.

The Statement of Net Position – Cash Basis presents the cash balance of the governmental activities of the District at fiscal year end. The Statement of Activities – Cash Basis compares disbursements with program receipts for each function or program of the District's governmental activities. Disbursements are reported by function. A function is a group of related activities designed to accomplish a major service or regulatory program for which the government is responsible. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the program's goods or services, grants and contributions restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program, and receipts of interest earned on grants that are required to be used to support a particular program. General receipts are all receipts not classified as program receipts, with certain limited exceptions. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each governmental function is self-financing on a cash basis or draws from the general receipts of the District.

Fund Financial Statements

The District segregates transactions related to certain District functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid in financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. 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.

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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(Continued)

E. Budgets

The budgetary process is prescribed by provisions of the Ohio Revised Code and entails the preparation of budgetary documents within an established timetable. The major documents prepared are the alternate tax budget, the certificate of estimated resources, and the appropriation resolution, all of which are prepared on the budgetary basis of accounting. The certificate of estimated resources and the appropriations resolution are subject to amendment throughout the year with the legal restriction that appropriations cannot exceed estimated resources, as certified. All funds, other than custodial funds, are legally required to be budgeted and appropriated. The legal level of budgetary control selected by the Board is at the fund, function, object level within the General Fund and the fund, special cost center level for all other funds. Any budgetary modifications at this level may only be made by resolution of the Board of Education. Budgetary allocations below these levels are made by the Treasurer.

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

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

The District is required to use the encumbrance method of accounting by virtue of Ohio law. Under this system, purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for the expenditure of funds are recorded in order to reserve the portion of the applicable appropriation. Expenditures plus encumbrances may not legally exceed appropriations. Encumbrances at year end are reported as a reservation of fund balance for subsequent-year expenditures for governmental funds.

At the close of each fiscal year, the unencumbered balance of each appropriation reverts to the respective fund from which it was appropriated and becomes subject to future appropriations. The encumbered appropriation balance is carried forward to the succeeding fiscal year and need not be re-appropriated.

F. Cash and Investments

To improve cash management, cash received by the District is pooled and invested. Monies for all funds are maintained in this pool with the exception of debt proceeds utilized for construction of new District facilities. Individual fund integrity is maintained through the District's records. Interest in the pool is presented as "Equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents" on the basic financial statements.

Investments of the District's cash management pool and investments with original maturities 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 were not purchased from the pool are reported as investments.

Investments are reported as assets. Accordingly, purchases of investments are not recorded as disbursements, and sales of investments are not recorded as receipts. Gains or losses at the time of sale are recorded as receipts or negative receipts (contra revenue), respectively.

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FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)

During fiscal year 2023, investments were limited to investments in federal agency securities, negotiable certificates of deposit, U.S. Treasury Obligations, a money market mutual fund, and the State Treasury Asset Reserve of Ohio (STAR Ohio). Investments are reported at cost, except for the money market mutual fund and STAR Ohio. The money market mutual fund is recorded at the amount reported by U.S. Bank at June 30, 2023.

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

There were no limitations or restrictions on any participant withdrawals due to redemption notice periods, liquidity fees, or redemption gates. However, notice must be given 24 hours in advance of all deposits and withdrawals exceeding \$100 million. 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.

Under existing Ohio statutes all investment earnings are assigned to the General Fund unless statutorily required to be credited to a specific fund. The Board of Education has, by resolution, specified the funds to receive an allocation of interest earnings. Interest revenue credited to the General Fund during fiscal year 2023 amounted to \$272,213, which includes \$22,549 assigned from other District funds.

G. Inventory and Prepaid Items

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

H. Capital Assets

Acquisition of property, plant, and equipment purchased are recorded as disbursements when paid. These items are not reflected as assets on the accompanying financial statements under the cash basis of accounting. Depreciation has not been reported for any capital assets.

I. Accumulated 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. Employer Contributions to Cost-Sharing Plans

The District recognizes the disbursement for employer contributions to cost-sharing pension plans when they are paid. As described in Notes 8 and 9, the employer contributions include portions of pension benefits and other postemployment benefits (OPEB).

K. 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 payments.

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)

Since recording a capital asset when entering into a capital lease is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay expenditure is reported at inception. Lease payments are reported when paid.

L Subscription Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITAs)

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

The District has SBITAs under noncancelable arrangements (as defined by GASB 96). SBITA payables are not reflected under the District's cash basis of accounting. SBITA disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

M. Fund Cash Balance

Fund 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 balance category includes amounts that cannot be spent because they are not in spendable form, or are legally or contractually required to be maintained intact. The “not in spendable form” criterion includes items that are not expected to be converted to cash. It also includes the long-term amount of interfund loans.

Restricted – Fund 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.

Committed – The committed fund 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. 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 balance also incorporates contractual obligations to the extent that existing resources in the fund have been specifically committed for use in satisfying those contractual requirements.

Assigned – Amounts in the assigned fund balance classification are intended to be used by the 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 balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. These amounts are assigned by the District's Board of Education. In the General Fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the District Board of Education, or a District official delegated by that authority by resolution or by State statute. State statute authorizes the District's Treasurer to assign fund balances for purchases on order provided such amounts have been lawfully appropriated.

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

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(Continued)

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

N. Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes include resources restricted for food service operations, music and athletic programs, and federal and state grants restricted to cash disbursement for specified purposes. All other net position that does not meet the definition of restricted are reported as unrestricted net position.

The District's policy is to first apply restricted resources when a cash disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net positions are available.

O. Interfund Transactions

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. Interfund transfers between governmental funds are eliminated in the statement of activities.

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.

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.

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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.

C. Deficit Fund Balances

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

Nonmajor Governmental Funds	Deficit
Title I	\$ 133,234
Title IV-A	16,763
Title II-A	15,174
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief	441,973

The General Fund is liable for any deficit in these funds and provides transfers when cash is required. The deficit fund balances resulted from the advance spending of approved grant monies.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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(Continued)

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 upon the District 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 market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement must exceed the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily, and that the term of the agreement must not exceed thirty days;
4. Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio, or legal governments, 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 are met;
5. Time certificates of deposit or savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts;
6. No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in 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, (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 forty percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time if training requirements have been met.

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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(Continued)

Protection of the District's deposits is provided by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), by eligible securities pledged by the financial institution as security for repayment, or by the financial institution's participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OCPS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledge 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 \$100 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 \$6,887,116 and the bank balance was \$7,047,856. Of the bank balance, \$6,724,679 was covered by the FDIC, \$11,282 was covered by specific collateral pledged by the financial institution, and \$311,895 was covered by pooled collateral through the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS). Although all statutory requirements for the deposit of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the District to a successful claim by the FDIC.

C. Investments

As of June 30, 2023, the District had the following investments:

Investment type	Carrying Value	NAV/ Fair Value	Investment Maturities (at NAV/Fair Value)		
			12 months or less	13 to 24 months	Greater than 24 months
FHLB Notes	\$ 1,074,647	\$ 1,016,483		\$ 857,863	\$ 158,620
Negotiable CD's	2,875,376	2,683,441	\$ 1,779,500	903,941	
U.S. Treasury Obligations	389,938	390,481	390,481		
STAR Ohio	1,890,033	1,890,033	1,890,033		
Money Market Mutual Fund	1,090,772	1,090,772	1,090,772		
Total	\$ 7,320,766	\$ 7,071,210	\$ 5,150,786	\$ 1,761,804	\$ 158,620

The weighted average maturity of investments is 1.18 years.

STAR Ohio is measured at net asset value (NAV), the District's investment in a money market mutual fund is valued using quoted market prices in active markets (Level 1 inputs), and the remaining investments are valued using quoted market prices in markets that are not considered to be active, dealer quotations or alternative pricing sources for similar assets or liabilities for which all significant inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly (Level 2 inputs).

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Interest Rate Risk: Interest rate risk is the risk potential purchasers of debt securities will not agree to pay face value for those securities if interest rates subsequently increase. As a means of limiting its exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates and according to state law, the District's investment policy limits investment portfolio maturities to five years or less.

Credit Risk: The District's investments in federal agency securities and U.S. Treasury obligations were rated AA+ and Aaa by Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Services, respectively. 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 service rating. The negotiable CD's and money market mutual fund were not rated.

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 investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The negotiable CD's are covered by FDIC. The federal agency securities, U.S. Treasury obligations, and money market mutual fund are exposed to custodial credit risk in that they are uninsured, unregistered and held by the counterparty's trust department or agent, but not in the District's name. 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>Carrying Value</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
FHLB Notes	\$ 1,074,647	14.68
Negotiable CD's	2,875,376	39.27
U.S. Treasury Obligations	389,938	5.33
STAR Ohio	1,890,033	25.82
Money Market Mutual Fund	1,090,772	14.90
Total	<u>\$ 7,320,766</u>	<u>100.00</u>

D. Reconciliation of Cash to the Statement of Net Position

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

<u>Cash and Investments Per Note</u>	
Carrying amount of deposits	\$ 6,887,116
Investments	7,320,766
Cash on hand	100
Total	<u>\$ 14,207,982</u>
<u>Cash and Investments per Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis</u>	
Governmental activities	<u>\$ 14,207,982</u>

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

NOTE 5 – INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS

A. Interfund Transfers

Interfund transfers for the year ended June 30, 2023, consisted of the following, as reported on the fund statements:

Transfers in	Transfers out	Amount
Nonmajor Governmental Funds	General Fund	\$ 526,780

Transfers are used to move revenues from the fund that statute or budget required to collect them to the fund that statute or budget requires to expend them and to use unrestricted revenues collected in the General Fund to finance various programs accounted for in other funds in accordance with budgetary authorizations. Interfund transfers between governmental funds are eliminated on the government-wide financial statements.

B. Interfund Loans

Interfund fund advances consisted of \$3,500 from the Nonmajor Governmental Funds to the General Fund. The District also repaid a prior year advance in the amount of \$1,500 from the Public School Support Fund to the General Fund. Since the Public School Support Fund rolls up into the General Fund for financial reporting purposes it was eliminated on the financial statements.

NOTE 6 – PROPERTY TAXES

Property taxes are levied and assessed on a calendar year basis, while the District’s 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 are received in the first half of the following fiscal year.

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real property and public utility property located within the District. Real property tax receipts received in calendar year 2023 represent collections 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 market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semiannually. If paid annually, payment is due December 31; if paid semiannually, the first payment is due December 31, with the remainder payable by June 20. Under certain circumstances, State statute permits alternate payment dates to be established.

Public utility property tax receipts received in calendar year 2023 represent collections of calendar year 2022 taxes. Public utility real and tangible 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 Defiance County. The County Auditor periodically advances to the District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2022, 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:

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(Continued)

	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	\$ 218,920,170	51.44	\$ 222,686,430	52.27
Public utility personal	<u>206,630,590</u>	<u>48.56</u>	<u>203,403,620</u>	<u>47.73</u>
Total	<u>\$ 425,550,760</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>\$ 426,090,050</u>	<u>100.00</u>
Tax rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation	\$48.40		\$48.40	

NOTE 7 – 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. The District participates in the Schools of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority, Inc. for insurance coverage.

Coverages provided are as follows:

Property Insurance	\$ 350,000,000
Equipment Breakdown	350,000,000
Automobile Liability	15,000,000
Wrongful Acts	15,000,000
Crime Coverage	1,000,000
General Liability:	
Per Occurrence	15,000,000
Total Per Year	17,000,000

Settled claims have not exceeded this commercial coverage in any of the past three years and there has been no significant reduction in insurance coverage from last year.

B. Employee Insurance Benefits Program

The District participates in the Northern Buckeye Health Plan, Northwest Division of Optimal Health Initiative (OHI) Insurance Benefits Program (the Program), a public entity shared risk pool consisting of school districts within Defiance, Fulton, Henry, and Williams Counties and other eligible governmental entities. The District pays monthly premiums to OHI for the benefits offered to its employees, which includes health, dental, and vision insurance plans. Northern Buckeye Health Plan is responsible for the management and operations of the program. The agreement for the Program provides for additional assessments to participants if the premiums are insufficient to pay the program costs for the fiscal year. Upon withdrawal from the Program, a participant is responsible for any claims not processed and paid and any related administrative costs.

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(Continued)

C. Workers' Compensation Group Program

The District participates in the Northern Buckeye Health Plan (NBHP), Northern Division of Ohio Health Initiatives Workers' Compensation Group Rating Plan (the Plan), an insurance purchasing pool. The Plan is intended to reduce premiums for the participants. The workers' compensation experience of the participating school districts is calculated as one experience and a common premium rate is applied to all school districts in the Plan. Each participant pays its workers' compensation premium to the State based on the rate for the Plan rather than its individual rate. The Plan is governed by NBPH and the governing members of the Plan. The Executive Director of the NBHP coordinates the management and administration of the program.

NOTE 8 – DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability/Asset

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

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

The Ohio Revised Code limits the 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 9 for the required OPEB disclosures.

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FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023
(Continued)

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, 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 percent for the first thirty years of service and 2.5 percent for years of service credit over 30. Final average salary is the average of the highest three years of salary.

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

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the District is required to contribute 14 percent of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS’ Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10 percent for plan members and 14 percent for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System’s funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14 percent. 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 \$225,898 for fiscal year 2023.

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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(Continued)

Plan Description – State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description – District licensed teachers and other faculty members participate in STRS Ohio, a cost-sharing multiple-employer public employee retirement system administered by STRS. STRS provides retirement and disability benefits to members and death and survivor benefits to beneficiaries. STRS issues a stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about STRS' fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by writing to STRS, 275 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 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 Plan. Benefits are established by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3307.

The DB plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0 percent upon a determination by its actuary that it was necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients' base benefit and past cost of living increases are not affected by this change. Effective July 1, 2022, an ad-hoc COLA of 3 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2023 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2018. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 35 years of service credit and at least age 60.

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

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

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

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

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

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 2023 employer and employee contribution rate of 14 percent was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For 2023, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The District’s contractually required contribution to STRS was \$796,027 for fiscal year 2023.

Net Pension Liability

The net pension liability (asset) 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 and pension expense:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the net pension liability prior measurement date	0.04291910%	0.04464861%	
Proportion of the net pension liability current measurement date	0.04240780%	0.04290352%	
Change in proportionate share	-0.00051130%	-0.00174509%	
Proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 2,293,744	\$ 9,537,506	\$ 11,831,250

Actuarial Assumptions – SERS

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

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

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

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

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

	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.4 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.0 percent, on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of System expenses
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)

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

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

The long-term return expectation for the Pension Plan Investments has been determined 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	100.00 %	

Discount Rate – The total pension liability for 2022 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed the contributions from employers and from the members would be computed based on contribution requirements as stipulated by State statute. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.00 percent).

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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(Continued)

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 percent, as well as what each plan’s net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent), or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current rate.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
	6.00%	7.00%	8.00%
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 3,376,281	\$ 2,293,744	\$ 1,381,721

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

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

	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.50 percent
Salary Increases	From 2.5 percent to 12.5 percent based on age
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent
Cost-of-living adjustments (COLA)	0.0 percent, effective July 1, 2017

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

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

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

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

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NOTES TO THE BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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(Continued)

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 percent and is net of investment expenses. Over a 30-year period, STRS investment consultant indicates that the above target allocations should generate a return above the actuarial rate of return, without net value added by management.

Discount Rate – The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumes that member and employer contributions will be made at the statutory contribution rates in accordance with the rates described previously. For this purpose, only employer contributions that are intended to fund benefits of current plan members and their beneficiaries are included. Based on those assumptions, STRS fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments to current plan members as of June 30, 2022. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments of 7.00 percent was applied to all periods of projected benefit 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 District's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00 percent, as well as what the District's proportionate share of the net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent) or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease 6.00%	Current Discount Rate 7.00%	1% Increase 8.00%
District's proportionate share of the net pension liability	\$ 14,407,700	\$ 9,537,506	\$ 5,418,830

Changes Between Measurement Date and Reporting Date – STRS approved a one-time 1.00 percent 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 9 – DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

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

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

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

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

Funding Policy – State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For 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, prorated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2023, this amount was \$25,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.5 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care surcharge. For fiscal year 2023, the District's surcharge obligation was \$27,176.

The surcharge added to the allocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The District's contractually required contribution to SERS was \$27,176 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.

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

Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

The net OPEB liability (asset) was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total OPEB liability used to calculate the net OPEB liability (asset) was determined by an actuarial valuation as of that date. The 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. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the net OPEB (Asset):			
Prior Measurement Date	0.04392310%	0.04464861%	
Current Measurement Date	0.04316430%	0.04290352%	
Change in proportionate share	-0.00075880%	-0.00174509%	
Proportionate share of the:			
Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ 606,031	\$ (1,110,915)	\$ (504,884)

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.

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

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	June 30, 2022
Inflation	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	
Wage Increases	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expense, including inflation
Fiduciary Net Position is Projected to be Depleted	2044
Municipal Bond Index Rate:	
Measurement Date	3.69 percent
Prior Measurement Date	1.92 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation	
Measurement Date	4.08 percent
Prior Measurement Date	2.27 percent
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	
Medicare	5.125 to 4.40 percent
Pre-Medicare	6.75 to 4.40 percent
Medical Trend Assumption	7.00 to 4.40 percent

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

Mortality rates for contingent survivors were based on the PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Contingent Survivors mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 105.5 percent for males and adjusted 122.5 percent for females. Mortality rates for actives is based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table.

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

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial five-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2016 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board in 2021. Several factors 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 percent, by weighting the expected future real rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and then adding expected inflation. The capital market assumptions developed by the investment consultant are intended for use over a 10-year horizon and may not be useful in setting the long-term rate of return for funding pension plans which covers a longer timeframe. The assumption is intended to be a long-term assumption and is not expected to change absent a significant change in the asset allocation, a change in the inflation assumption, or a fundamental change in the market that alters expected returns in future years.

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

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

Sensitivity of the 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 of SERS, what SERS’ net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1 percentage point lower (3.08 percent) and higher (5.08 percent) than the current discount rate (4.08 percent). Also shown is what SERS’ net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are 1 percentage point lower (6.00 percent decreasing to 3.40 percent) and higher (8.00 percent decreasing to 5.40 percent) than the current rate (7.00 percent decreasing to 4.40 percent).

	1% Decrease (3.08%)	Current Discount Rate (4.08%)	1% Increase (5.08%)
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 752,700	\$ 606,031	\$ 487,630
	1% Decrease (6.00% decreasing to 3.40%)	Current Trend Rate (7.00% decreasing to 4.40%)	1% Increase (8.00% decreasing to 5.40%)
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB liability	\$ 467,359	\$ 606,031	\$ 787,160

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

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

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

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

	June 30, 2022	June 30, 2021
Projected Salary Increases	Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent	Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 12.50 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3 percent	3 percent
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent	7.00 percent
Health Care Cost Trends		
Medical		
Pre-Medicare	7.50 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	5.00 percent initial 4 percent ultimate
Medicare	-68.78 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	-16.18 percent initial 4 percent ultimate
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	9.0 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	6.50 percent initial 4 percent ultimate
Medicare	-5.47 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate	29.98 percent initial 4 percent ultimate

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

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

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

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

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

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

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

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

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

Discount Rate – The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability was 7.00 percent as of June 30, 2022. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed STRS continues to allocate no employer contributions to the health care fund. Based on 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 percent was applied to all periods of projected health care costs to determine the total OPEB liability as of June 30, 2022.

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

	<u>1% Decrease (6.00%)</u>	<u>Current Discount Rate (7.00%)</u>	<u>1% Increase (8.00%)</u>
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset)	\$ (1,027,012)	\$ (1,110,915)	\$ (1,182,785)

	<u>1% Decrease</u>	<u>Current Trend Rate</u>	<u>1% Increase</u>
District's proportionate share of the net OPEB (asset)	\$ (1,152,289)	\$ (1,110,915)	\$ (1,058,690)

NOTE 10 – COMPENSATED ABSENCES

Employees earn vacation at rates specified under State of Ohio law and based on credited service. Clerical, Technical, and Maintenance and Operation employees with one or more years of service are entitled to vacation ranging from 10 to 20 days. Employees with less than one year of service earn no vacation. Employees are permitted to carry over vacation leave if approved by the Superintendent.

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

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

All employees are entitled to a sick leave credit equal to one and one-quarter days for each month of service (earned on a pro rata basis for less than full-time employees). This sick leave will either be absorbed by time off due to illness or injury or, within certain limitations, be paid to the employee upon retirement. The amount paid to an employee upon retirement is limited to one-fourth of the accumulated sick leave to a maximum of 61.25 days for certified employees and 61.25 days for non-certified employees.

NOTE 11 – LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

During fiscal year 2023, the following changes occurred in the District’s long-term obligations:

	Balance Outstanding 06/30/22	Reductions	Balance Outstanding 06/30/23	Amounts Due in One Year
Governmental activities:				
<u>General obligation bonds:</u>				
Series 2015 refunding	\$ 1,935,000	\$ (455,000)	\$ 1,480,000	\$ 465,000
Series 2018A	12,030,000	(115,000)	11,915,000	125,000
Series 2018B	8,210,000	(80,000)	8,130,000	85,000
Note payable - financed purchased (direct financing)	5,573,000	(358,000)	5,215,000	364,000
Total long-term obligations	<u>\$ 27,748,000</u>	<u>\$ (1,008,000)</u>	<u>\$ 26,740,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,039,000</u>

Series 2015 Refunding General Obligation Bonds

On June 23, 2015, the District issued general obligation bonds to advance refund the outstanding Series 2005 current interest bonds. These bonds are general obligations of the District, for which its full faith and credit is pledged. The source of payment is derived from proceeds of a voted debt tax levy.

The issuance proceeds of \$4,046,950 were used to purchase securities which were placed in an irrevocable trust to provide resources for all future debt service payments on the refunded debt. This refunded debt is considered defeased (in-substance). At June 30, 2023, \$1,605,000 of defeased debt was outstanding.

This issue is comprised of current interest bonds, par value \$4,105,000, bearing an annual interest rate of 2.18 percent. Interest payments on the current interest bonds are due on June 1 and December 1 of each year. The final maturity stated in the issue is December 1, 2026.

Series 2018A and 2018B General Obligation Bonds

On March 20, 2018, the District issued the Series 2018A and Series 2018B general obligation bonds to provide resources for school facilities construction and improvement. These bonds are general obligations of the District, for which its full faith and credit is pledged. The source of payment is derived from proceeds of a voted debt tax levy.

The issuances are comprised of current interest bonds, par value \$21,150,000, bearing annual interest rates ranging from 2.0 percent to 5.0 percent. Interest payments on the bonds are due on May 1 and November 1 of each year. The final maturity date is November 1, 2054.

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

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

Note Payable – Financed Purchase

On September 14, 2021, the District signed a note payable agreement with The Farmers & Merchants State Bank to finance the construction, improvement, and furnishing and equipping of school facilities. The note principal was \$6,000,000 and is payable over a fifteen year period with interest at 1.6 percent. Interest payments are due each June 1 and December 1, and the final maturity date is December 1, 2035. The debt payments are made from the General Fund.

The scheduled payments of principal and interest on debt outstanding at June 30, 2023 are as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30,	General Obligation Bonds			Note Payable - Financed Purchase		
	Principal	Interest	Total	Principal	Interest	Total
2024	\$ 675,000	\$ 832,878	\$ 1,507,878	\$ 364,000	\$ 80,528	\$ 444,528
2025	720,000	813,532	1,533,532	370,000	74,656	444,656
2026	745,000	791,738	1,536,738	376,000	68,688	444,688
2027	330,000	772,477	1,102,477	382,000	62,624	444,624
2028	305,000	757,307	1,062,307	388,000	56,464	444,464
2029 - 2033	1,925,000	3,522,035	5,447,035	2,034,000	186,480	2,220,480
2034 - 2038	2,660,000	2,971,185	5,631,185	1,301,000	31,432	1,332,432
2039 - 2043	3,275,000	2,362,910	5,637,910			
2044 - 2048	3,975,000	1,663,017	5,638,017			
2049 - 2053	4,755,000	863,732	5,618,732			
2054 - 2055	2,160,000	81,750	2,241,750			
Total	<u>\$ 21,525,000</u>	<u>\$ 15,432,561</u>	<u>\$ 36,957,561</u>	<u>\$ 5,215,000</u>	<u>\$ 560,872</u>	<u>\$ 5,775,872</u>

Legal Debt Margin

The Ohio Revised Code provides that voted net general obligation debt of the District shall never exceed 9 percent of the total assessed valuation of the District. The code further provides that unvoted indebtedness shall not exceed 1/10 of 1 percent 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 percent 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 \$16,822,031 and an unvoted debt margin of \$426,078.

NOTE 12 – SET-ASIDE REQUIREMENTS

The District is required by State statute to annually set aside, in the General Fund, an amount based on a statutory formula for the acquisition and construction of capital improvements. Amounts not spent by the end of the fiscal year or offset by similarly restricted resources received during the fiscal year must be held in cash at fiscal year-end. These amounts must be carried forward to be used for the same purpose in future years.

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.

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

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

	<u>Capital Improvements</u>
Set-aside balance June 30, 2022	
Current year set-aside requirement	\$ 234,900
Current year qualifying expenditures	(955,429)
Current year offsets	<u>(172,598)</u>
Total	<u>\$ (893,127)</u>
Set-aside balance June 30, 2023	<u><u> </u></u>

NOTE 13 – BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

While the District is 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 Changes in Fund Balance – Budget and Actual – Budget 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 budgetary 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 disbursement, as opposed to assigned or committed fund balance (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 reconcile the budget basis statement to the cash basis statement are as follows:

Net Change in Fund Balance

	<u>General Fund</u>
Budget basis	\$ 1,117,320
Funds budgeted elsewhere	(2,170)
Adjustment for encumbrances	<u>377,457</u>
Cash basis	<u><u>\$ 1,492,607</u></u>

Certain funds that are legally budgeted in separate Special Revenue Funds are considered part of the General Fund on a cash basis. This includes the Public School Support Fund.

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 balance. At year end, the District’s commitments for encumbrances in the governmental funds were as follows:

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

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

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Year-End Encumbrances</u>
General	\$ 377,457
Nonmajor governmental	<u>635,112</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,012,569</u>

NOTE 15 – CONTINGENCIES

A. Grants

Amounts grantor agencies pay to the District are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor, principally the federal government. Grantors may require refunding any disallowed costs. Management cannot presently determine amounts grantors may disallow. However, based on prior experience, management believes any refunds would be immaterial.

B. Litigation

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

NOTE 16 – TAX ABATEMENTS

Defiance County provide tax abatements through Community Reinvestment Areas (CRAs) and Enterprise Zones (EZones).

CRA – Under the authority of Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 3735.67, the CRA program is an economic development tool administered by municipal and county governments that provides real property tax exemptions for property owners who renovate existing or construct new buildings. CRA’s are areas of land in which property owners can receive tax incentives for investing in real property improvements. Under the CRA program, local governments petition to the Ohio Development Services Agency (OSDA) for confirmation of a geographical area in which investment in housing is desired. Once an area is confirmed by the OSDA, local governments may offer real property tax exemptions to taxpayers that invest in that area. Property owners in the CRA can receive temporary tax abatements for renovation of existing structures and new construction in these areas. Property owners apply to the local legislative authority for approval to renovate or construct in the CRA. Upon approval and certification of completion, the amount of the abatement is deducted from the individual or entity’s property tax bill.

EZone – Under the authority of ORC Sections 5709.62 and 5709.63, the Ezone program is an economic development tool administered by municipal and county governments that provides real and personal property tax exemptions to businesses making investments in Ohio. An Ezone is a designated area of land in which businesses can receive tax incentives in the form of tax exemptions on qualifying new investment. An Ezone's geographic area is identified by the local government involved in the creation of the zone. Once the zone is defined, the local legislative authority participating in the creation must petition the OSDA. The OSDA must then certify the area for it to become an active Enterprise Zone. The local legislative authority negotiates the terms of the Enterprise Zone Agreement (the Agreement) with the business, which may include tax sharing with the Board of Education. Legislation must then be passed to approve the Agreement. All Agreements must be finalized before the project begins and may contain provisions for the recoupment of taxes should the individual or entity fail to perform. The amount of the abatement is deducted from the business’s property tax bill.

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

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

The CRA and EZone agreements affect the property tax receipts collected and distributed to the District. During fiscal year 2023, the District's property tax revenues were reduced as a result of these agreements as follows:

<u>Tax Abatement Program</u>	<u>Taxes Abated</u>
CRA	\$ 36,080
EZone	<u>3,659</u>
Total	<u>\$ 39,739</u>

NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY

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

FEDERAL GRANTOR <i>Pass Through Grantor</i> Program / Cluster Title	Federal AL Number	Provided to Subrecipients	Total Federal Expenditures
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education</i>			
<u>Child Nutrition Cluster:</u>			
School Breakfast Program			
Cash Assistance	10.553		\$ 59,603
National School Lunch Program			
Cash Assistance	10.555		288,263
Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution)	10.555		37,534
COVID-19 National School Lunch Program	10.555		32,741
Total National School Lunch Program			<u>358,538</u>
Total Child Nutrition Cluster			<u>418,141</u>
COVID-19 Pandemic EBT Administrative Costs	10.649		<u>628</u>
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture			<u>418,769</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education</i>			
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010		158,540
<u>Special Education Cluster:</u>			
Special Education Grants to States	84.027	\$ 231,456	231,456
Special Education Preschool Grants	84.173	6,901	6,901
Total Special Education Cluster		<u>238,357</u>	<u>238,357</u>
Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367		23,847
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424		16,763
COVID-19 Education Stabilization Fund			
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER I)	84.425D		23,664
Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II)	84.425D		441,973
Total Education Stabilization Fund			<u>465,637</u>
Total U.S. Department of Education		<u>238,357</u>	<u>903,144</u>
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards		<u>\$ 238,357</u>	<u>\$ 1,321,913</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE 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 Northeastern Local School District, Defiance County, Ohio (the District) under programs of the federal government for the 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 to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE D – SUBRECIPIENTS

The District passes certain federal awards received from the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to other governments or not-for-profit agencies (subrecipients). As Note B describes, the District reports expenditures of Federal awards to subrecipients when paid in cash.

As a pass-through entity, the District has certain compliance responsibilities, such as monitoring its subrecipients to help assure they use these subawards as authorized by laws, regulations, and the provisions of contracts or grant agreements, and that subrecipients achieve the award's performance goals.

NOTE E – 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 F – 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 G – TRANSFERS BETWEEN PROGRAM YEARS

Federal regulations require schools to obligate certain federal awards by June 30. However, with ODE'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. Transferred</u>
COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER)	84.425U	\$ 1,019,140

NOTE H – COVID-19 ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS (ESSER I)

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, the District expended \$10,093 for the COVID-19 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER I) grant, AL #84.425D that was inadvertently not included on the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022.

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

Northeastern Local School District
Defiance County
05855 Domersville Road
Defiance, Ohio 43512-6703

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, the major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of Northeastern Local School District, Defiance County, Ohio, (the District) as of and for the 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 February 14, 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 and therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. We identified a certain deficiency in internal control, described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2023-002 that we consider to be a material weakness.

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 matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards* and which is described in the accompanying schedule of findings as item 2023-001.

District's Response to Findings

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

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

February 14, 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

Northeastern Local School District
Defiance County
05855 Domersville Road
Defiance, Ohio 43512-6703

To the Board of Education:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Northeastern Local School District, Defiance County, Ohio's, (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 Northeastern Local School District's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2023. Northeastern 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, Northeastern 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 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

February 14, 2024

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**NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
DEFIANCE COUNTY**

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

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

<i>(d)(1)(i)</i>	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unmodified
<i>(d)(1)(ii)</i>	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	Yes
<i>(d)(1)(ii)</i>	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
<i>(d)(1)(iii)</i>	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	Yes
<i>(d)(1)(iv)</i>	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
<i>(d)(1)(iv)</i>	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
<i>(d)(1)(v)</i>	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unmodified
<i>(d)(1)(vi)</i>	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?	No
<i>(d)(1)(vii)</i>	Major Programs (list):	Child Nutrition Cluster Special Education Cluster
<i>(d)(1)(viii)</i>	Dollar Threshold: Type A/B Programs	Type A: > \$ 750,000 Type B: all others
<i>(d)(1)(ix)</i>	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

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

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

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 the 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 annual financial statements according to generally accepted accounting principles.

Officials' Response:

See Corrective Action Plan

FINDING NUMBER 2023-002

Material Weakness – Financial Reporting

In our audit engagement letter, as required by AU-C Section 210, *Terms of Engagement*, paragraph .06, management acknowledged its responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of their financial statements; this responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to preparing and fairly presenting financial statements free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error as discussed in AU-C Section 210 paragraphs .A14 & .A16.

The District inappropriately recorded \$452,066 of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief grant disbursements in the General Fund. This should have been recorded in the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Nonmajor Governmental Fund. Audit adjustments are reflected in the financial statements and in the accounting records correcting the misstatement.

This error was the result of inadequate policies and procedures in reviewing the financial statements. Failure to complete accurate financial statements and notes to the financial statements could lead to the Board making misinformed decisions.

The District should adopt policies and procedures, including a final review of the financial statements and notes to the financial statements by the Treasurer and the Board, to help identify and correct errors and omissions.

Officials' Response:

See Corrective Action Plan

3. FINDINGS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None

Northeastern Local School District

MICHAEL BOFF
Board Member

05855 DOMERSVILLE ROAD
DEFIANCE, OHIO 43512
(419) 497-3461 / (419)497-2005 FAX

JOHN HIGBEA
Board Member

SHAUN MACK
Board Member

BRAD SINES
Board Member

ERIC WIEMKEN
Board Member

NICOLE WELLS
Superintendent

SARA BUCHHOP
Treasurer

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

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2022-001	This finding was first reported in 2008. Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 and Ohio Admin. Code § 117-2-03(B) for reporting on a basis other than generally accepted accounting principles.	Not corrected and reissued as Finding 2023-001 in this report.	This finding reoccurred since the District has determined that it is more cost effective to report financial results on a basis other than GAAP. The Board feels that the information contained in such statements is sufficient.
2022-002	This finding was first reported in 2022. Ohio Rev. Code § 5705.39 for appropriations exceeding estimated resources.	Partially corrected and reissued in the Management Letter.	Additional errors occurred and were not detected. The District will ensure appropriations do not exceed estimated resources for all District funds.

Northeastern Local School District

MICHAEL BOFF
Board Member

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DEFIANCE, OHIO 43512
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Board Member

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Board Member

ERIC WIEMKEN
Board Member

NICOLE WELLS
Superintendent

SARA BUCHHOP
Treasurer

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

Finding Number: 2023-001
Planned Corrective Action: Management believes reporting on a basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) is more cost efficient. The District will continue to report on an OCBOA (Other Comprehensive Basis of Accounting) basis for future audits.
Anticipated Completion Date: N/A
Responsible Contact Person: Sara Buchhop, Treasurer/CFO

Finding Number: 2023-002
Planned Corrective Action: The Treasurer will ensure expenditures are posted to the proper funds.
Anticipated Completion Date: June 30, 2024
Responsible Contact Person: Sara Buchhop, Treasurer/CFO

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



NORTHEASTERN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

DEFIANCE COUNTY

AUDITOR OF STATE OF OHIO CERTIFICATION

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



Certified for Release 2/27/2024

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