

WEST HOLMES LOCAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT
HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO

SINGLE AUDIT

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED
JUNE 30, 2023



Rea & associates

www.reacpa.com

OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE
KEITH FABER



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Columbus, Ohio 43215
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(800) 282-0370

The Board of Education
West Holmes Local School District
28 West Jackson Street
Millersburg, OH 44654

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of West Holmes Local School District, Holmes County, prepared by Rea & Associates, Inc., for the audit period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. West Holmes Local School District is responsible for compliance with these laws and regulations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Keith Faber'.

Keith Faber
Auditor of State
Columbus, Ohio

December 19, 2023

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**WEST HOLMES LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO**

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June 30, 2023*

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HOLMES COUNTY, OHIO
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Independent Auditor's Report

The Board of Education
West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
28 W. Jackson St.
Millersburg, Ohio 44654

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the West Holmes Local School District, Holmes County, Ohio (the School District), as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective cash-basis financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the School District, as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in cash-basis financial position 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 for the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are required to be independent of the School 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 School 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 general 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 statement that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

We applied no procedures to Management's Discussion & Analysis as listed in the table of contents. Accordingly, we express no opinion or any other assurance on it.

In connection with our audit of the basic financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the basic financial statements, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards*

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 18, 2023, on our consideration of the School 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 School 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 School District's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Rea & Associates, Inc.

Rea & Associates, Inc.
Millersburg, Ohio
October 18, 2023

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West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

The discussion and analysis of the West Holmes Local School District's (the "School District") financial performance provides an overall review of the School District's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the School District's performance as a whole; readers should also review the notes to the basic financial statements and the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the School District's financial performance.

Financial Highlights

Key financial highlights for 2023 are as follows:

- Net position increased \$669,649 over 2022.
- During the fiscal year, outstanding debt decreased due to principal payments on maturing obligations.

Using this Annual Report

This annual report consists of a series of financial statements and notes to those statements. The statements are organized so the reader can understand the West Holmes Local School District as a whole entire operating entity. The statements then proceed to provide an increasingly detailed look at specific financial activities.

The *Statement of Net Position and Statement of Activities* provide information about the activities of the whole School District, presenting both an aggregate view of the School District's finances and a longer-term view of those finances. Fund financial statements provide the next level of detail. For governmental funds, these statements tell how services were financed in the short-term as well as what remains for future spending. The fund financial statements also look at the School District's most significant funds with all other nonmajor funds presented in total in one column. In the case of the West Holmes Local School District, the general fund is by far the most significant fund.

Basis of Accounting

The School District has elected to present its financial statements on the cash basis of accounting. This cash basis of accounting is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. The cash basis of accounting involves the measurement of cash and cash equivalents and changes in cash and cash equivalents resulting from cash receipt and disbursement transactions.

Essentially, the only assets reported on this strictly cash receipt and disbursement basis presentation in a statement of net position will be cash and cash equivalents. The statement of activities reports cash receipts and disbursements, or in other words, the sources and uses of cash and cash equivalents. Therefore, when reviewing the financial information and discussion within this annual report, the reader should keep in mind the limitations resulting from the use of the cash basis of accounting.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Reporting the School District as a Whole

Statement of Net Position and the Statement of Activities

While the basic financial statements contain the large number of funds used by the School District to provide programs and activities, the view of the School District as a whole looks at all financial transactions and asks the question, "How did we do financially during fiscal year 2023?" The *Statement of Net Position* and the *Statement of Activities* answer this question.

These two statements report the School District's net position and changes in net position. This change in net position is important because it tells the reader that, for the School District as a whole, the financial position of the School District has improved or diminished. The causes of this change may be the result of many factors, some financial, some not. Non-financial factors include the School District's property tax base, current property tax laws in Ohio which restrict revenue growth, facility conditions, required educational programs, and other factors.

In the *Statement of Net Position* and the *Statement of Activities*, Governmental Activities include the School District's programs and services, including instruction, support services, extracurricular activities, and non-instructional services, i.e., food service operations.

Reporting the School District's Most Significant Funds

Fund Financial Statements

Fund financial reports provide detailed information about the School District's major funds. The School District uses many funds to account for a multitude of financial transactions; however, these fund financial statements focus on the School District's most significant funds. The School District has one major governmental fund and that is the general fund.

Governmental Funds Most of the School District's activities are reported in governmental funds, which focus on how money flows into and out of those funds and the balances left at year-end available for spending in future periods. These funds are reported using the cash basis of accounting. The governmental fund statements provide a detailed short-term view of the School District's general government operations and the basic services it provides. Governmental fund information helps determine whether there are more or less financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance educational programs.

Proprietary Fund The School District maintains one type of proprietary fund. Internal service funds are an accounting device used to accumulate and allocate costs internally among the School District's various functions. The School District uses an internal service fund to account for its health insurance benefits. Because this service predominately benefits governmental functions, it has been included within the governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Reporting the School District's Fiduciary Responsibilities

The School District acts in a trustee capacity as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governmental units and/or other funds. These activities are reported in a custodial fund. These activities are excluded from the School District's other financial statements because the assets cannot be utilized by the School District to finance its operations.

The School District as a Whole

Table 1 provides a summary of the School District's net position for fiscal year 2023 compared to 2022.

Table 1
Net Position –Cash Basis

	Governmental Activities		
	2023	2022	Change
Assets			
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 17,334,487	\$ 16,664,838	\$ 669,649
Net Position			
Restricted for:			
Capital Outlay	1,246,106	1,131,391	114,715
Debt Service	612,817	618,551	(5,734)
Other Purposes	1,206,926	964,728	242,198
Unrestricted	14,268,638	13,950,168	318,470
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<i>\$ 17,334,487</i>	<i>\$ 16,664,838</i>	<i>\$ 669,649</i>

A portion of the School District's net position represents resources that are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used. The balance of government-wide unrestricted net position may be used to meet the government's ongoing obligations to students and creditors.

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West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Table 2 shows the changes in net position for fiscal year 2023 as compared to fiscal year 2022.

Table 2
Changes in Net Position –Cash Basis

	Governmental Activities		
	2023	2022	Change
Receipts			
Program Receipts			
Charges for Services and Sales	\$ 1,078,825	\$ 731,386	\$ 347,439
Operating Grants, Contributions and Interest	3,619,265	4,584,161	(964,896)
<i>Total Program Receipts</i>	<u>4,698,090</u>	<u>5,315,547</u>	<u>(617,457)</u>
General Receipts			
Property Taxes	13,970,810	12,753,190	1,217,620
Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs	12,845,072	12,798,682	46,390
Investment Earnings	399,345	42,396	356,949
Miscellaneous	402,495	224,076	178,419
<i>Total General Receipts</i>	<u>27,617,722</u>	<u>25,818,344</u>	<u>1,799,378</u>
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>32,315,812</u>	<u>31,133,891</u>	<u>1,181,921</u>
Program Disbursements			
Instruction:			
Regular	11,126,466	11,691,766	(565,300)
Special	5,321,830	5,101,394	220,436
Vocational	420,673	393,695	26,978
Student Intervention Services	60,974	103,466	(42,492)
Other	1,969	-	1,969
Support Services:			
Pupils	1,445,164	1,290,437	154,727
Instructional Staff	800,619	874,300	(73,681)
Board of Education	1,420,541	53,652	1,366,889
Administration	2,161,406	2,089,111	72,295
Fiscal	606,598	586,522	20,076
Business	19,481	14,587	4,894
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	2,618,397	2,488,424	129,973
Pupil Transportation	1,823,434	1,677,164	146,270
Central	80,161	78,192	1,969
Operation of Non-Instructional Services:			
Food Service Operations	1,102,995	1,121,357	(18,362)
Extracurricular Activities	1,180,222	1,033,850	146,372
Capital Outlay	429,064	254,635	174,429
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	975,000	940,000	35,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	51,169	84,188	(33,019)
<i>Total Program Disbursements</i>	<u>31,646,163</u>	<u>29,876,740</u>	<u>1,769,423</u>
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	669,649	1,257,151	(587,502)
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	16,664,838	15,407,687	1,257,151
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 17,334,487</u>	<u>\$ 16,664,838</u>	<u>\$ 669,649</u>

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

For fiscal year 2023, School District's operating grants, contributions and interest decreased by \$964,896 due to a decrease in grants received through the Ohio Department of Education for the National School Lunch Program. This change in funding resulted in a increased charges for services. Board of education expenses increased by \$1,366,889 in fiscal year 2023 due to the purchase of land during the year.

The School District's Funds

The School District's governmental funds are accounted for using the cash basis of accounting.

	Fund Balance 6/30/2023	Fund Balance 6/30/2022	Increase (Decrease)
General	\$ 13,158,447	\$ 13,333,779	\$ (175,332)
Other Governmental	3,065,849	2,714,670	351,179
Total	\$ 16,224,296	\$ 16,048,449	\$ 175,847

The general fund's fund balance decreased in 2023. This was due to an increase in disbursements over receipts for the fiscal year.

General Fund Budgeting Highlights

The School District's budget is prepared according to Ohio law and is based on accounting for certain transactions on a basis of cash receipts, disbursements, and encumbrances. The most significant budgeted fund is the general fund.

Original Budget Compared to Final Budget For fiscal year 2023, the School District increased its budgeted receipts by \$1,934,167. The School District increased its budgeted appropriations by \$1,000,000.

Final Budget Compared to Actual Results No significant variances were noted between final budgeted amounts and actual receipts. Actual disbursements were \$842,799 less than final budgeted appropriations as cost savings were recognized by the School District.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Debt Administration

Debt

The debt decreased due to principal payments paid during the year. The School District had long-term obligations outstanding at June 30, 2023 and 2022. For further information regarding the School District's debt, refer to Note 9 of the basic financial statements.

Current Issues

The West Holmes Local School District secured its last new operating levy on August 5, 2008, the first new issue since 1994. After repeated levy attempts prior to August 2008, budget cuts were made reducing staffing levels by over 25 positions. Staffing is evaluated annually while reviewing educational needs to serve approximately 2000 students each year. It is always the goal of the Board of Education and School District administration to make levy dollars last as long as possible. Multiple changes are happening with legislation that have a direct effect on half of the School District's operating income, state foundation revenue. The key is to balance the budget while meeting the state's requirements for academic improvement. Failure to meet academic improvements may result in financial penalties in order for the state to keep local districts from prioritizing budget needs over instructional needs. Funding shifts from the state's allocation into targeted areas requires us to look for areas to meet new spending requirements without growing the budget. In 2018-2019, the district announced the closing of Clark Elementary due to declining enrollment and needs for services in that geographic area. Those students will attend Killbuck Elementary, making the Killbuck enrollment comparable to numbers over the previous 10 years.

The School District receives 50 percent of its General Fund revenue from State and Local sources and 50 percent from local and miscellaneous sources, a split that is becoming more reliant on local taxes and miscellaneous sources. Because the School District depends on State and Local Revenue, all legislative action in the biennium budgets are critical to the long-term solvency of the School District. The district will continue to make decisions consistent with updated legislation and changes in funding at the state and federal levels. The School District has applied and utilized all federal funding available through COVID and are addressing the learning loss of students through the addition of staff members for more student-centered educational options in smaller settings.

From a State funding perspective, the State of Ohio was found by the Ohio Supreme Court in March, 1997 to be operating an unconstitutional education system, one that was neither "adequate" nor "equitable". Since 1997, the State has directed its tax revenue growth toward school districts with little property tax wealth, which has always helped the School District. Funding was flat for several years with changes now fluctuating mostly because of enrollment changes.

Through the elimination of tangible personal property in House Bill 66 and the discontinuation of the replacement dollars in House Bill 1, the School District has lost more than \$2,300,000 since 2006. The replacement was slated to last until 2018 but the formula changed last biennium by the State of Ohio, drastically reducing and ultimately eliminating any collections or replacements for the tangible personal property/Commercial Alternative Tax (CAT).

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

The School District has controlled expenses very well in tough economic times where all costs are increasing. This has become more difficult with the many mandates and rising utility costs, increased special education services required for our students, and significant increases in all services due to the economy. The changes in the health care plan effective for Fiscal Year 2005 improved the School District's financial position in terms of employee benefits. The School District was fortunate to not have increases in the board share premiums from Fiscal Years 2007 through 2014 due to the health of the self-insurance plan and are limited to ten percent in any year. The School District has also negotiated with both the teacher's and non-teaching unions a maximum of a ten percent allowed increase from Aultcare to maintain the current benefit design. Any increases above that threshold will require a change in benefit design. This allows the School District to budget and control health care costs a rate lower than industry trends for medical insurance. The School District has new three-year negotiated agreements effective starting with school year 2022-2023.

The School District's Board of Education has received approval from the Holmes County Budget Commission to shift inside milage to the permanent improvement fund for future capital improvements. This shift alone would result in a tax increase, however, with the boards current collection plans and an expiring bond levy, taxpayers will not see a tax increase as a result of the mileage shift.

Contacting the School District's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our citizens, taxpayers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the School District's finances and to show the School District's accountability for the money it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact Jamie Mullet, Treasurer of West Holmes Local School District, 28 W Jackson Street, Millersburg, OH 44654 or jmullet@westholmes.org.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Statement of Net Position - Cash Basis
June 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities
Assets	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 17,334,487
Net Position	
Restricted for:	
Capital Outlay	\$ 1,246,106
Debt Service	612,817
Other Purposes	1,206,926
Unrestricted	14,268,638
<i>Total Net Position</i>	\$ 17,334,487

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
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, Contributions and Interest	Governmental Activities
Governmental Activities				
Instruction:				
Regular	\$ 11,126,466	\$ 50,237	\$ 555,222	\$ (10,521,007)
Special	5,321,830	78,370	1,336,641	(3,906,819)
Vocational	420,673	-	-	(420,673)
Student Intervention Services	60,974	-	61,040	66
Other	1,969	-	1,971	2
Support Services:				
Pupils	1,445,164	-	639,134	(806,030)
Instructional Staff	800,619	-	128,681	(671,938)
Board of Education	1,420,541	-	-	(1,420,541)
Administration	2,161,406	-	183,098	(1,978,308)
Fiscal	606,598	-	-	(606,598)
Business	19,481	-	-	(19,481)
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	2,618,397	-	164,708	(2,453,689)
Pupil Transportation	1,823,434	-	12,809	(1,810,625)
Central	80,161	-	-	(80,161)
Operation of Non-Instructional Services:				
Food Service Operations	1,102,995	460,774	535,761	(106,460)
Extracurricular Activities	1,180,222	489,444	200	(690,578)
Capital Outlay	429,064	-	-	(429,064)
Debt Service:				
Principal Retirement	975,000	-	-	(975,000)
Interest and Fiscal Charges	51,169	-	-	(51,169)
Totals	<u>\$ 31,646,163</u>	<u>\$ 1,078,825</u>	<u>\$ 3,619,265</u>	<u>(26,948,073)</u>

General Receipts

Property Taxes Levied for:

General Purposes	12,487,595
Debt Service	925,119
Capital Outlay	558,096
Grants and Entitlements not Restricted to Specific Programs	12,845,072
Investment Earnings	399,345
Miscellaneous	402,495

Total General Receipts 27,617,722

Change in Net Position 669,649

Net Position Beginning of Year 16,664,838

Net Position End of Year \$ 17,334,487

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Statement of Assets and Fund Balances - Cash Basis
Governmental Funds
June 30, 2023

	<u>General</u>	<u>Other Governmental Funds</u>	<u>Total Governmental Funds</u>
Assets			
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>\$ 13,158,447</u>	<u>\$ 3,065,849</u>	<u>\$ 16,224,296</u>
Fund Balances			
Restricted	-	3,195,492	3,195,492
Assigned	465,267	-	465,267
Unassigned	<u>12,693,180</u>	<u>(129,643)</u>	<u>12,563,537</u>
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<u>\$ 13,158,447</u>	<u>\$ 3,065,849</u>	<u>\$ 16,224,296</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Reconciliation of Total Governmental Fund Balances to
Net Position of Governmental Activities - Cash Basis
June 30, 2023

Total Governmental Fund Balances \$ 16,224,296

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

An internal service fund is used by management to charge the costs of insurance to individual funds. The assets of the internal service fund are included in governmental activities in the statement of net position.

1,110,191

Net Position of Governmental Activities

\$ 17,334,487

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes
in Fund Balances - Cash Basis - Governmental Funds
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	General	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
Receipts			
Property and Other Local Taxes	\$ 12,487,595	\$ 1,483,215	\$ 13,970,810
Intergovernmental	12,679,408	3,760,121	16,439,529
Investment Income	399,345	16	399,361
Tuition and Fees	107,984	-	107,984
Extracurricular Activities	45,590	251,967	297,557
Gifts and Donations	1,734	23,058	24,792
Charges for Services	-	460,774	460,774
Rent	10,851	201,659	212,510
Miscellaneous	327,244	75,251	402,495
<i>Total Receipts</i>	<u>26,059,751</u>	<u>6,256,061</u>	<u>32,315,812</u>
Disbursements			
Current:			
Instruction:			
Regular	10,797,567	531,422	11,328,989
Special	4,017,863	1,392,082	5,409,945
Vocational	426,831	-	426,831
Student Intervention Services	-	60,974	60,974
Other	-	1,969	1,969
Support Services:			
Pupils	1,329,934	134,733	1,464,667
Instructional Staff	681,299	135,212	816,511
Board of Education	1,420,541	-	1,420,541
Administration	1,992,759	211,895	2,204,654
Fiscal	576,876	33,305	610,181
Business	19,484	-	19,484
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	2,380,283	276,834	2,657,117
Pupil Transportation	1,757,596	107,423	1,865,019
Central	82,729	-	82,729
Extracurricular Activities	684,438	498,352	1,182,790
Operation of Non-Instructional Services:			
Food Service Operations	66,883	1,065,448	1,132,331
Capital Outlay	-	429,064	429,064
Debt Service:			
Principal Retirement	-	975,000	975,000
Interest and Fiscal Charges	-	51,169	51,169
<i>Total Disbursements</i>	<u>26,235,083</u>	<u>5,904,882</u>	<u>32,139,965</u>
<i>Net Change in Fund Balances</i>	(175,332)	351,179	175,847
<i>Fund Balances Beginning of Year</i>	<u>13,333,779</u>	<u>2,714,670</u>	<u>16,048,449</u>
<i>Fund Balances End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 13,158,447</u>	<u>\$ 3,065,849</u>	<u>\$ 16,224,296</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio

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

Net Change in Fund Balances - Total Governmental Funds	\$	175,847
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*Amounts reported for governmental activities in the
statement of activities are different because:*

Internal service funds charge insurance costs to other funds. The entity-wide statements eliminate governmental fund expenditures and related internal service fund charges. Governmental activities report allocated net internal service fund receipts (disbursements).		<u>493,802</u>
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<i>Change in Net Position of Governmental Activities</i>	\$	<u><u>669,649</u></u>
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See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in
Cash Basis Fund Balance - Budget and Actual (Budget Basis)
General Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	<u>Budgeted Amounts</u>		<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance with Final Budget</u>
	<u>Original</u>	<u>Final</u>		
Receipts and Other Financing Sources	\$ 24,065,833	\$ 26,000,000	\$ 25,992,554	\$ (7,446)
Disbursements and Other Financing Uses	<u>26,454,691</u>	<u>27,454,691</u>	<u>26,611,892</u>	<u>842,799</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	(2,388,858)	(1,454,691)	(619,338)	835,353
<i>Fund Balance Beginning of Year</i>	12,742,366	12,742,366	12,742,366	-
Prior Year Encumbrances Appropriated	<u>454,699</u>	<u>454,699</u>	<u>454,699</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Fund Balance End of Year</i>	<u>\$ 10,808,207</u>	<u>\$ 11,742,374</u>	<u>\$ 12,577,727</u>	<u>\$ 835,353</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Statement of Fund Net Position - Cash Basis
Proprietary Fund
June 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities - Internal Service Fund
Assets	
Equity in Pooled Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,110,191
Net Position	
Unrestricted	\$ 1,110,191

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Statement of Receipts, Disbursements and Changes in Fund Net Position - Cash Basis
Proprietary Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Governmental Activities - Internal Service Fund
Operating Receipts	
Charges for Services	\$ 4,814,875
Other Operating Receipts	71,818
<i>Total Operating Receipts</i>	4,886,693
Operating Disbursements	
Purchased Services	950,249
Claims	3,442,642
<i>Total Operating Disbursements</i>	4,392,891
<i>Operating Income (Loss)</i>	493,802
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	616,389
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	\$ 1,110,191

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

West Holmes Local School district
Holmes County, Ohio
Statement of Changes in Fiduciary Net Position - Cash Basis
Fiduciary Fund
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Custodial
Deductions	
Extracurricular Distributions to Other Governments	\$ 2,688
<i>Change in Net Position</i>	(2,688)
<i>Net Position Beginning of Year</i>	2,688
<i>Net Position End of Year</i>	\$ -

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND REPORTING ENTITY

The West Holmes Local School District (the “School District”) was established for the purpose of exercising the rights and privileges conveyed to it by the constitution and laws of the State of Ohio.

The School District is a local school district as defined by Section 3311.03 of the Ohio Revised Code. The School District operates under an elected Board of Education, consisting of five members, and is responsible for providing public education to residents of the School District.

Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is required to be composed of the primary government, component units, and other organizations that are included to ensure that the financial statements of the School District are not misleading. The primary government consists of all funds, departments, boards, and agencies that are not legally separate from the School District. For West Holmes Local School District, this includes general operations, food service and student related activities of the School District.

Component units are legally separate organizations for which the School District is financially accountable. The School District is financially accountable for an organization if the School District appoints a voting majority of the organization’s governing board and 1) the School District is able to significantly influence the programs or services performed or provided by the organization; or 2) the School District is legally obligated or has otherwise assumed the responsibility to finance the deficits of or provided financial support to the organization; or the School District is obligated for the debt of the organization. Component units may also include organizations that are fiscally dependent on the School District in that the School District approves the budget, the issuance of debt, or the levying of taxes. The School District has no component units.

The School District is involved with the Tri-County Computer Service Association (TCCSA) and the Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center, which are defined as jointly governed organizations. Additional information concerning the jointly governed organizations is presented in Note 10.

Management believes the financial statements included in the report represent all of the activities of the School District over which the School District has the ability to exercise direct operating control.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

As discussed further in the Basis of Accounting section of this note, these financial statements are presented on a cash basis of accounting. This cash basis of accounting differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP). Generally accepted accounting principles include all relevant Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements, which have been applied to the extent they are applicable to the cash basis of accounting.

A. Basis of Presentation

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

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Government-wide Financial Statements The statement of net position and the statement of activities display information about the School District as a whole. These statements include the financial activities of the primary government, except for fiduciary funds. The activity of the internal service fund is also eliminated to avoid "doubling up" receipts and disbursements.

The statement of net position presents the cash balance of the governmental activities of the School District at fiscal year-end. The statement of activities presents a comparison between direct disbursements and program receipts for each program or function of the School District's governmental activities. Direct disbursements are those that are specifically associated with a service, program, or department and therefore clearly identifiable to a particular function. Program receipts include charges paid by the recipient of the goods or services offered by the program, grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular program, and interest earned on grants that is required to be used to support a particular program. Receipts which are not classified as program receipts are presented as general receipts of the School District, with certain limitations. The comparison of direct disbursements with program receipts identifies the extent to which each business segment or governmental function is self-financing or draws from the general receipts of the School District.

Fund Financial Statements During the fiscal year, the School District segregates transactions related to certain School District functions or activities in separate funds in order to aid financial management and to demonstrate legal compliance. Fund financial statements are designed to present financial information of the School District at this more detailed level. The focus of governmental fund financial statements is on major funds. Each major fund is presented in a separate column. Nonmajor funds are aggregated and presented in a single column. The internal service fund is presented in a single column on the face of the proprietary fund statements. Fiduciary funds are reported by type.

B. Fund Accounting

The School District uses funds to maintain its financial records during the fiscal 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.

Governmental Funds The School District classifies funds financed primarily from taxes, intergovernmental receipts (e.g. grants), and other nonexchange transactions as governmental funds. The following is the School District's major governmental fund:

General Fund The general fund accounts for all financial resources except those required to be accounted for in another fund. The general fund balance is available to the School District for any purpose provided it is expended or transferred according to the general laws of Ohio.

The other governmental funds of the School District account for grants and other resources to which the School District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources.

Proprietary Fund Type Proprietary funds are used to account for the School District's ongoing organizations and activities which are similar to those found in the private sector. Proprietary funds are classified either as enterprise or internal service.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Internal Service Fund The internal service fund accounts for the financing of services provided by one department or agency to other departments or agencies of the School District on a cost reimbursement basis. The School District's only internal service fund accounts for a self-insurance program for employee health benefits.

Fiduciary Funds Fiduciary fund reporting focuses on net position and changes in net position. The fiduciary fund category is split into the following four classifications: pension (and other employee benefit) trust funds, investment trust funds, private-purpose trust funds and custodial funds. Trust funds are distinguished from custodial funds by the existence of a trust agreement or equivalent arrangements that has certain characteristics. Custodial funds are used to report fiduciary activities that are not required to be reported in a trust fund.

The School District's fiduciary fund is a custodial fund. The custodial fund is used to account for assets held by the School District for OHSAA athletic tournaments.

C. Basis of Accounting

The School District's financial statements are prepared using the cash basis of accounting. Receipts are recorded in the School District's financial records and reported in the financial statements when cash is received rather than when earned and disbursements are recorded when cash is paid rather than when liability is incurred.

As a result of the use of the cash basis of accounting, certain assets and their related revenues (such as accounts receivable and receipt for billed or provided services not yet collected) and certain liabilities and their related expenses (such as accounts payable and disbursements for goods or services received but not yet paid, and accrued liabilities and the related disbursements) are not recorded in these financial statements.

D. Budgetary Data

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

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

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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

E. Cash and Cash Equivalents

To improve cash management, all cash received by the School District is pooled. Monies for all funds, including proprietary funds, are maintained in this pool. Individual fund integrity is maintained through the School District records. Each fund's interest in the pool is presented as "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents" on the balance sheet.

Investments of the School District's cash management pool and investments with a maturity of three months or less at the time they are purchased by the School District are presented on the financial statements as "equity in pooled cash and cash equivalents." Investments with an original maturity of more than three months that are not made from the pool are reported as investments.

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

For the fiscal year 2023, 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.

Following Ohio statutes, the Board of Education has, by resolution, specified the general fund to receive allocation of interest earnings. Interest receipts credited to the general fund during fiscal year 2023 amounted to \$399,345 with \$83,837 assigned from other funds.

F. Inventory and Prepaid Items

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

G. Capital Assets

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

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

H. Interfund Receivables/Payables

The School District reports advances-in and advances-out for interfund loans. These items are not reflected as assets and liabilities in the accompanying financial statements.

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 used by the School District.

J. Pensions and OPEB

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

K. Long-Term Obligations

The School District's cash basis financial statements do not report liabilities for bonds and other long-term obligations. Proceeds of debt are reported when cash is received and principal and interest payments are reported when paid. Since recording a capital asset (including the intangible right to use) when entering into a lease, SBITA or financed purchase transaction is not the result of a cash transaction, neither an other financing source nor a capital outlay disbursement is reported at inception. Lease, SBITA and financed purchase payments are reported when paid.

L. Interfund Transactions

Exchange transactions between funds are reported as receipts in the seller funds and as disbursements in the purchaser funds. Subsidies 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 and after nonoperating receipts/cash disbursements in proprietary funds. Repayments from funds responsible for particular cash disbursements to the funds that initially paid for them are not presented in the financial statements.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

M. Net Position

Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through constitutional provisions or enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors or laws or regulations of other governments. Net position restricted for other purposes include instructional activities, food service operations and grants.

The School District applies restricted resources when a cash disbursement is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

N. Fund Balance

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions*, the School District classifies its fund balance based on the purpose for which the resources were received and the level of constraint placed on the resources. 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 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 placed on the use of resources are either externally imposed by creditors (such as through debt covenants), grantors, contributors or laws or regulations of other governments or is imposed by law through constitutional provisions.

Committed – The committed fund balance classification includes amounts that can be used only for the specific purposes imposed by a formal action (resolution) of the School District Board of Education. Those committed amounts cannot be used for any other purpose unless the School 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 School District for specific purposes but do not meet the criteria to be classified as restricted or committed. In governmental funds other than the general fund, assigned fund balance represents the remaining amount that is not restricted or committed. In the general fund, assigned amounts represent intended uses established by policies of the School District Board of Education. The Board of Education has by resolution authorized the Treasurer to assign fund balance. The Board of Education may also assign fund balance as it does when appropriating fund balance to cover a gap between estimated receipt and appropriations in the subsequent year’s appropriated budget.

Unassigned – Unassigned fund balance is the residual classification for the general fund and includes all spendable amounts not contained in the other classifications. In other governmental funds, the unassigned classification is used only to report a deficit balance resulting from overspending for specific purposes for which amounts had been restricted, committed or assigned.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

The School District applies restricted resources first when disbursements 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 disbursements are incurred for purposes for which amounts in any of the unrestricted fund balance classifications could be used.

O. Operating Receipts and Disbursements

Operating receipts are those receipts that are generated directly from the primary activity of the proprietary fund. For the School District, these receipts are charges for services for self-insurance programs. Operating disbursements are necessary costs incurred to provide the goods or services that are the primary activity of the fund. All receipts and disbursements not meeting these definitions are classified as non-operating.

P. Implementation of New Accounting Principles

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 School District is party to various SBITAs; however, liabilities are not reflected under the School District's cash basis of accounting. SBITA disbursements are recognized when they are paid.

Q. Leases

The School District is the lessee/lessor in various leases under noncancelable leases. Lease receivables/payables are not reflected under the School District's cash basis of accounting. Lease revenue/disbursements are recognized when they are received/paid.

NOTE 3 - BUDGETARY BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

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 budget basis and the cash basis are that:

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

The following table summarizes the adjustments necessary to reconcile the cash basis statement to the budgetary basis statement for the general fund.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Net Change in Fund Balance

Cash Basis		\$	(175,332)
Funds Budgeted Elsewhere**			18,445
Adjustment for Encumbrances			(462,451)
			(462,451)
Budget Basis		\$	(619,338)

** As part of Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 54, *Fund Balance Reporting*, 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 4 - DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

State statutes classify monies held by the School District into three categories:

Active deposits are public deposits necessary to meet current demands on the treasury. Such monies must be maintained either as cash in the School 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 two-year period of designation of depositories. Inactive deposits must either be evidenced by certificates of deposit maturing not later than the end of the current period of designation of depositories, or by savings or deposit accounts including, but not limited to, passbook accounts.

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

Protection of the School 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 institutions participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution.

Interim monies can 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, Government National Mortgage Association, and Student Loan Marketing Association. All federal agency securities shall be direct issuances of federal government agencies or instrumentalities;

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

- 3) Written repurchase agreements in the securities listed above provided that the market value of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement exceeds the principal value of the agreement by at least two percent and be marked to market daily with the term of the agreement not exceeding thirty days;
- 4) Bonds and other obligations of the State of Ohio;
- 5) No-load money market mutual funds consisting exclusively of obligations described in division (1) or (2) of this section and repurchase agreements secured by such obligations, provided that investments in securities described in this division are made only through eligible institutions;
- 6) The State Treasurer's investment pool (Star Ohio);
- 7) Certain bankers' acceptance and commercial paper notes for a period not to exceed one hundred and eighty days and two hundred and seventy days, respectively, in an amount not to exceed forty percent of the interim monies available for investment at any one time; and
- 8) Under limited circumstances, corporate debt interests rated in either of the two highest rating classifications by at least two nationally recognized rating agencies.

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

Deposits - At year-end, \$14,068,101 of the School District's bank balance of \$17,337,847 was exposed to custodial credit risk. Although the securities were held by the pledging financial institutions' trust department in the School District's name and all statutory requirements for the investment of money had been followed, noncompliance with Federal requirements could potentially subject the School District to a successful claim by the FDIC.

Custodial Credit Risk Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that in the event of a bank failure, the School District will not be able to recover deposits or collateral securities that are in possession of an outside party.

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

- Eligible securities pledged to the School District and deposited with a qualified trustee by the financial institution as security for repayment whose market value at all times shall be at least 105 percent of the deposits being secured; or

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

- Participation in the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS), a collateral pool of eligible securities deposited with a qualified trustee and pledged to the Treasurer of State to secure the repayment of all public monies deposited in the financial institution. OPCS required the total market value of the securities pledged to be 102 percent of the deposits being secured or a rate set by the Treasurer of State.

Investments

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

Investment Type	Measurement Amount	Investment Maturity 6 Months or Less	Percent of Total
Net Asset Value (NAV):			
STAR Ohio	\$ 6,288	\$ 6,288	100%

Interest Rate Risk. As a means of limiting its exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates and according to state law, the School District’s investment policy limits investment portfolio maturities to two years or less for investments with a fixed interest rate, and one year or less for investments with a variable interest rate.

STAR Ohio is an investment pool operated by the Ohio State Treasurer. It is unclassified since it is not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form. Ohio law requires STAR Ohio maintain the highest rating provided by at least one nationally recognized standard rating service. The weighted average of maturity of the portfolio held by STAR Ohio as of June 30, 2023, is 39 days and carries a rating of AAAM by S&P Global Ratings.

Concentration of Credit Risk. The School District places no limit on the amount that may be invested in any one issuer.

NOTE 5 - PROPERTY TAXES

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

Property taxes include amounts levied against all real and public utility property located in the School District. Real property tax revenue received in calendar year 2023 represents collections of calendar year 2022 taxes. Real property taxes received in calendar year 2023 were levied after April 1, 2022, on the assessed value listed as of January 1, 2022, the lien date. Assessed values for real property taxes are established by State law at 35 percent of appraised market value. Real property taxes are payable annually or semi-annually. 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.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Public utility property tax revenue received in calendar 2023 represents collections of calendar year 2022 taxes. Public utility real and tangible personal property taxes received in calendar year 2023 became a lien December 31, 2021, were levied after April 1, 2022 and are collected in 2022 with real property taxes. Public utility real property is assessed at 35 percent of true value; public utility tangible personal property currently is assessed at varying percentages of true value.

The School District receives property taxes from Holmes, Wayne, Coshocton, and Ashland Counties. The County Auditors periodically advance to the School District its portion of the taxes collected. Second-half real property tax payments collected by the County by June 30, 2023, are available to finance fiscal year 2024 operations. The amount available to be advanced can vary based on the date the tax bills are sent.

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

	2022 Second Half Collections		2023 First Half Collections	
	Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
Real Estate	\$ 439,541,400	88%	\$ 536,507,440	90%
Public Utility Personal Property	57,927,590	12%	62,692,100	10%
Total	\$ 497,468,990	100%	\$ 599,199,540	100%
Full Tax Rate per \$1,000 of assessed valuation	\$ 32.42		\$ 31.10	

NOTE 6 - RISK MANAGEMENT

A. Property and Liability

The School 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. All board members, administrators, and employees are covered under a school district liability policy. Additionally, the School District carries a \$2,000,000 blanket umbrella policy. The limits of this coverage are \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$3,000,000 in aggregate. Settlements have not exceeded insurance coverage in any of the last three years. There have not been significant reductions in coverage from the prior year.

The Superintendent has a \$25,000 position bond. The Treasurer is covered under a surety bond in the amount of \$50,000.

B. Employee Medical Benefits

The School District has established a limited risk management program for its medical insurance program. Premiums are paid into the self-insurance fund and are available to pay claims and administrative costs. A stop-loss insurance contract with a private insurance carrier covers specific liability claims in excess of \$75,000, and aggregate claims in excess of \$4,475,967.

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NOTE 7 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

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

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) represents the School 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 plan’s fiduciary net position. The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) calculation is dependent on critical long-term variables, including estimated average life expectancies, earnings on investments, cost of living adjustments and others. While these estimates use the best information available, unknowable future events require adjusting this estimate annually.

Ohio Revised Code limits the School District’s obligation for this liability to annually required payments. The School District cannot control benefit terms or the manner in which pensions/OPEB are financed; however, the School 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 all funding to come from these employers. All contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). State statute requires the pension plans to amortize unfunded liabilities (assets) within 30 years. If the amortization period exceeds 30 years, each pension plan’s board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension/OPEB liability (asset). Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio revised Code permits, but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients.

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

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description – School District non-teaching employees participate in SERS, a statewide, cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan administered by SERS. SERS provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits, to plan members and beneficiaries. Authority to establish and amend benefits is provided by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3309.

SERS issues a publicly available, stand-alone financial report that includes financial statements, required supplementary information and detailed information about SERS’ fiduciary net position. That report can be obtained by visiting the SERS website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

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Age and service requirements for retirement are as follows:

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

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

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

An individual whose benefit effective date is before April 1, 2018, is eligible for a cost of living adjustment (COLA) on the first anniversary date of the benefit. New benefit recipients must wait until the fourth anniversary of their benefit for COLA eligibility. The COLA is added each year to the base benefit amount on the anniversary date of the benefit. The COLA is indexed to the percentage increase in the CPIW, 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 calendar years 2018, 2019, and 2020. SERS approved a 2.5 percent COLA for calendar year 2022.

Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the School 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 14.0 percent. SERS did not allocate employer contributions to the Health Care Fund for fiscal year 2023.

The School District’s contractually required contribution to SERS was \$501,621 for fiscal year 2023.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

Plan Description – School 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 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43215-3771, by calling (614) 227-4090, or by visiting the STRS Web site 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.

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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. Effective August 1, 2017 – July 1, 2019, any member could retire with reduced benefits who had (1) five years of service credit and age 60; (2) 27 years of service credit and age 55; or (3) 30 years of service credit regardless of age. Effective August 1, 2019 – July 1, 2021, any member may retire with reduced benefits who has (1) five years of service credit and age 60; (2) 28 years of service credit and age 55; or (3) 30 years of service credit regardless of age. Eligibility changes will continue to be phased in until August 1, 2026, 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 actuarially reduced benefits will be phased in until August 1, 2026, when retirement eligibility will be five years of qualifying service credit and age 60, or 30 years of service credit at any age.

The DC Plan allows members to place all their member contributions and 9.53 percent of the 14 percent employer contributions into an investment account. Investment allocation decisions are determined by the member. The remaining 4.47 percent of the 14 percent employer rate is allocated to the defined benefit plan unfunded liability. A member is eligible to receive a monthly retirement benefit at age 50 and termination of employment. The member may elect to receive a lifetime monthly annuity or a lump sum withdrawal.

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

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

A DB or Combined Plan member with five or more years of credited service who is determined to be disabled may qualify for a disability benefit. New members 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.

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The statutory employer rate is 14 percent and the statutory member rate is 14 percent of covered payroll. The School District was required to contribute 14 percent; the entire 14 percent was the portion used to fund pension obligations. The 2023 contribution rates were equal to the statutory maximum rates.

The School District's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$1,743,823 for fiscal year 2023.

Pension Liabilities

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2022, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an independent actuarial valuation as of that date. The School District's proportion of the net pension liability was based on the employer's share of employer contributions in the pension plan relative to the total employer contributions of all participating employers. Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.0938130%	0.09545500%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.1037010%	0.09524800%	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.0098880%</u>	<u>0.00020700%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 5,074,131	\$ 21,219,726	\$ 26,293,857

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 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. Future benefits for all current plan members were projected through 2137.

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

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Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2021, are presented below:

Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percentage of Payroll, Closed)
Inflation	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expense, including inflation
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.00 percent, on and after April 1, 2018, COLA's for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement

For 2022 and 2021, Mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward two years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward five years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward three years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

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

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

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

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

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Discount Rate Total pension liability was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The discount rate determination does not use a municipal bond rate. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that employers would contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate of projected compensation over the remaining 23-year amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long-term assumed investment rate of return (7.00 percent). Based on those assumptions, the plan’s fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability. The annual money-weighted rate of return, calculated as the internal rate of return on pension plan investments was negative 1.93 percent.

Sensitivity of the School 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 School District’s proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent, as well as what the School District’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
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 7,468,887	\$ 5,074,131	\$ 3,056,592

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

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

Inflation	2.50 percent
Salary Increases	Varies by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 percent
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0.00 percent

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

Inflation	2.50 percent
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
Projected Salary Increases	12.50 percent at age 20 to 2.50 percent at age 65
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustments	0.00 percent

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

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

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 valuation, were based on the results of the latest available actuarial experience study, which is for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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

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

*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 employer and member contributions will be made at statutory contribution rates of 14 percent each. 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.

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Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on 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 School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate The following table represents the School District's proportionate share of the net pension liability as of June 30, 2022, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00 percent, as well as what the School 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 assumption:

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 32,055,343	\$ 21,219,726	\$ 12,056,224

Assumption and Benefit Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date The discount rate was adjusted to 7.00 percent for the June 30, 2022 valuation.

Demographic assumptions were changed based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2021.

NOTE 8 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

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

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

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

Access to health care for retirees and beneficiaries is permitted in accordance with Section 3309 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Health Care Fund was established and is administered in accordance with Internal Revenue Code Section 105(e). SERS' Retirement Board reserves the right to change or discontinue any health plan or program. Active employee members do not contribute to the Health Care Plan.

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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 health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2023, this amount was \$25,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2.0 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 School District's surcharge obligation was \$68,785.

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. Medicare Part B partial premium reimbursements will be continued indefinitely. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting www.strsoh.org or by calling (614) 227-4090.

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

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 School District's proportion of the net OPEB liability (asset) was based on the School District's share of contributions to the respective retirement systems relative to the contributions of all participating entities.

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Following is information related to the proportionate share:

	<u>SERS</u>	<u>STRS</u>	<u>Total</u>
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset):			
Current Measurement Date	0.096307%	0.095455%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.106822%	0.095248%	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.010515%</u>	<u>0.000207%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ 1,352,165	\$ (2,471,648)	

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:

Inflation	2.40 percent
Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expense, including inflation
Municipal Bond Index Rate	
Measurement Date	1.92 percent
Prior Measurement Date	3.69 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate	
Measurement Date	2.27 percent, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation
Prior Measurement Date	4.08 percent, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	
Medicare	7.00 percent - 4.40 percent

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Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation date of June 30, 2021, are presented below:

Inflation	2.40 percent
Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expense, including inflation
Municipal Bond Index Rate	
Measurement Date	1.92 percent
Prior Measurement Date	2.45 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate	
Measurement Date	2.27 percent, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation
Prior Measurement Date	2.63 percent, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	
Pre-Medicare	6.750 percent - 4.40 percent
Medicare	5.125 percent - 4.40 percent

For 2022 and 2021, mortality rates were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weight Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward two years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward five years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward three years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP-2020 projection scale generationally.

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

The long-term expected rate of return on plan assets is reviewed as part of the actuarial five-year experience study. The most recent study covers fiscal years 2016 through 2020, and was adopted by the Board on April 15, 2021.

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

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For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return</u>
Cash	2.00 %	(0.45) %
US Equity	24.75	5.37
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	6.22
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	8.22
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	1.20
Private Equity	11.00	10.05
Real Estate/Real Assets	16.00	4.87
Multi-Asset Strategies	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 plan 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 School 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 and what the net OPEB liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (3.08 percent) and higher (5.08 percent) than the current discount rate (4.08 percent).

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Also shown is what the net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are one 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	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 1,679,404	\$ 1,352,165	\$ 1,087,986
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 1,042,758	\$ 1,352,165	\$ 1,756,290

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

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

Salary Increases	Varies by service from 2.50 percent to 8.50 percent	
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent	
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation	
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent	
Health Care Cost Trend Rates		
Medical	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Ultimate</u>
Pre-Medicare	7.50 percent	3.94 percent
Medicare	-68.78 percent	3.94 percent
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	9.00 percent	3.94 percent
Medicare	-5.47 percent	3.94 percent

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

Inflation	2.50 percent	
Projected Salary Increases	12.50 percent at age 20 to 2.50 percent at age 65	
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent	
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation	
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent	
Health Care Cost Trend Rates		
Medical	<u>Initial</u>	<u>Ultimate</u>
Pre-Medicare	5.00 percent	4.00 percent
Medicare	-16.18 percent	4.00 percent
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	6.50 percent	4.00 percent
Medicare	29.98 percent	4.00 percent

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

In 2022, for 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 Pub-2010 Teachers Disabled Annuitant Table projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2020.

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

The actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2022 valuation were adopted by the board from the results of an actuarial experience study for July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021. An actuarial experience study is done on a quinquennial basis.

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

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target Allocation*</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected 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	100.00 %	

*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.

**Ten 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.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

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

Sensitivity of the School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Asset to Changes in the Discount Rate 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 of June 30, 2022, calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower and one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	1% Decrease	Current Discount Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ (2,284,973)	\$ (2,471,648)	\$ (2,631,550)
		Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School District's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ (2,563,700)	\$ (2,471,648)	\$ (2,355,454)

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

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

Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience.

NOTE 9 - LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

The changes in the School District's long-term obligations during the fiscal year consist of the following:

	Outstanding 6/30/2022	Additions	Reductions	Outstanding 6/30/2023	Amounts Due in One Year
Governmental Activities:					
<i>2014 School Improvement Refunding Bonds</i>	\$1,980,000	\$ -	\$(975,000)	\$1,005,000	\$1,005,000

On July 23, 2014, the School District issued \$8,235,000 of general obligation bonds. The bonds advance refunded \$8,415,000 of outstanding 2005 School Improvement General Obligation Bonds. The bonds were issued for a 10 year period with final maturity at December 1, 2023 with an interest rate of 1.5 percent to 4.0 percent.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

At the date of refunding, \$8,533,839 (including premium and after underwriting fees, and other issuance costs) was deposited in an irrevocable trust to provide for all future debt service payments on the refunded 2005 School Improvement Bonds.

These refunding bonds were issued with a premium of \$511,888 which was reported as receipts at the time of issuance. The refunding resulted in a difference between the net carrying amount of the debt and the acquisition price of \$358,468. The issuance resulted in a difference (savings) between the cash flows required to service the old debt and the cash flows required to service the new debt of \$943,659. The issuance resulted in an economic gain of \$867,667. As a result, the refunded bonds are considered to be defeased. The refunded bonds were called on December 1, 2014 and therefore, the principal balance outstanding on the defeased bonds was \$0 at June 30, 2023.

Series 2014 Refunding Bonds		
Fiscal Year	Principal	Interest
2024	\$ 1,005,000	\$ 20,100
	\$ 1,005,000	\$ 20,100

NOTE 10 - JOINTLY GOVERNED ORGANIZATIONS

A. Tri-County Computer Service Association (TCCSA)

TCCSA is a jointly governed organization comprised of 23 school districts, created as a regional council of governments pursuant to State statute. The jointly governed organization was formed for the purpose of applying modern technology with the aid of computers and other electronic equipment to administrative and instructional functions for member districts. Each of the governments of these districts support TCCSA based on a per pupil charge dependent upon the software package utilized. The TCCSA assembly consists of a superintendent or designated representative from each participating district and a representative from the fiscal agent. TCCSA is governed by a board of directors chosen from the general membership of the TCCSA assembly. The board of directors consists of a representative from the fiscal agent, the chairman of each operating committee, and at least an assembly member from each county from which participating districts are located. Financial information can be obtained by contacting the Treasurer at the Tri-County Educational Service Center, located in Wooster, Ohio which serves as fiscal agent.

B. Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center (Career Center)

The Career Center, a joint vocational school established by the Ohio Revised Code, is a jointly governed organization providing vocational services to its 11 member school districts. The Career Center is governed by a board of education comprised of 11 members appointed by the participating schools. The Board controls the financial activity of the Career Center and reports to the Ohio Department of Education and the Auditor of State of Ohio. The continued existence of the Career Center is not dependent on the School District's continued participation and no measurable equity interest exists.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 11 – CONTINGENCIES AND SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENTS

A. Grants

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

B. Litigation

The School District is not party to any claims or lawsuits that would, in the School District's opinion, have a material effect of the basic financial statements.

C. Encumbrance Commitments

Outstanding encumbrances for governmental funds include \$465,268 in the general fund and \$1,126,102 in the non-major governmental funds.

D. School District Funding

School District foundation funding is based on the annualized full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of each student. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is legislatively required to adjust/reconcile funding as enrollment information is updated by schools throughout the State, which can extend past the fiscal year end. As of the date of this report, additional ODE adjustments for fiscal year 2023 are not finalized. As a result, the impact of future FTE adjustments on the fiscal year 2023 financial statements is not determinable, at this time.

NOTE 12 - SET-ASIDES

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

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

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Capital Improvements
Set-aside Restricted Balance as of June 30, 2022	\$ -
Current Year Set-aside Requirement	415,598
Current Year Offsets	(605,596)
Totals	\$ (189,998)
Balance Carried Forward to Fiscal Year 2024	\$ -
Set-aside Restricted Balance as of June 30, 2023	\$ -

Although the School District had offsets during the fiscal year that reduced the set-aside amount to below zero for the capital improvement set-aside, this amount may not be used to reduce the set-aside requirement for future years. This negative balance is therefore not presented as being carried forward to future years.

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West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 13 - FUND BALANCE

Fund balance can be classified as non-spendable, restricted, committed, assigned and/or unassigned based primarily on the extent to which the School District is bound to observe constraints imposed upon the use of the resources in governmental funds.

The constraints placed on fund balance for the general fund and all other governmental funds are presented as follows:

	General	Other Governmental Funds	Total
Restricted for:			
Debt Service	\$ -	\$ 612,817	\$ 612,817
Capital Outlay	-	1,246,106	1,246,106
Extracurricular Activities	-	279,391	279,391
Food Service Operations	-	364,659	364,659
Federal and State Grant Programs	-	653,407	653,407
Other Purposes	-	39,112	39,112
Total Restricted	-	3,195,492	3,195,492
Assigned for:			
Encumbrances:			
Instruction	237,238	-	237,238
Support Services	217,574	-	217,574
Extracurricular Activities	10,455	-	10,455
Total Assigned	465,267	-	465,267
Unassigned	12,693,180	(129,643)	12,563,537
<i>Total Fund Balance</i>	<i>\$ 13,158,447</i>	<i>\$ 3,065,849</i>	<i>\$ 16,224,296</i>

		Deficit Fund Balance
<i>Non-major Special Revenue Funds:</i>		
Title VI-B	\$	84,643
Miscellaneous State Grants		45,000
	\$	129,643

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

NOTE 14 – COMPLIANCE

Ohio Administrative Code, Section 117-2-03 (B), requires the School District to prepare its annual financial report in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. However, the School District prepared its financial statements on a cash basis, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The accompanying financial statements omit assets, 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 School District can be fined and various other administrative remedies may be taken against the School District.

NOTE 15 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

On October 16, 2023, the Board of Education and the Holmes County Budget Commission approved shifting 2.9 mills of inside milage to the permanent improvement fund. This shift will not impact or change the 20-mil floor calculation.

**Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance
and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with
*Government Auditing Standards***

To the Board of Education
West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
28 W. Jackson St.
Millersburg, Ohio 44654

We have audited, in accordance with 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, the cash-basis financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the West Holmes Local School District, Holmes County, Ohio, (the School District) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School District's basic financial statements and have issued our report thereon dated October 18, 2023, wherein we noted the School 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 School 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 School District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the School 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 School District's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

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

Compliance and Other Matters

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

School District's Response to the Finding

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

Purpose of this Report

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

Rea & Associates, Inc.

Rea & Associates, Inc.
Millersburg, Ohio
October 18, 2023

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

To the Board of Education
West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
28 W. Jackson St.
Millersburg, Ohio 44654

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited West Holmes Local School District's, Holmes County, Ohio (the School 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 the School District's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2023. The School District's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompany *Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs*.

In our opinion, the 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 School 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 School District's compliance with the compliance requirements referred to above.

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

The School 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 School 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 School 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 School 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 School 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 School 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 School 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 that testing based on the requirements of the Uniform Guidance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.

Rea & Associates, Inc.

Rea & Associates, Inc.
Millersburg, Ohio
October 18, 2023

**WEST HOLMES LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOLMES COUNTY
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023**

FEDERAL GRANTOR <i>Pass Through Grantor</i> Program / Cluster Title	Assistance Listing Number	Total Federal Expenditures	Subrecipients
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education</i>			
Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies	84.010A	\$ 637,617	\$ -
Title I Expanding Opportunities Grant	84.010A	26,893	-
Total Title I		664,510	-
Special Education Cluster:			
Special Education - IDEA Part B	84.027A	532,820	-
Special Education - Preschool Grants (F)	84.173A	18,327	-
COVID-19: Special Education - IDEA Part B	84.027X	90,009	-
COVID-19: Special Education - Preschool Grants	84.173X	6,160	-
Total Special Education Cluster		647,316	-
Supportive Effective Instruction State Grants	84.367A	123,849	-
School-Based Mental Health Services	84.184H	628	-
Title III English Learner (F)	84.365A	3,320	-
Student Support and Academic Enrichment Program	84.424A	79,866	-
COVID-19: Education Stabilization Fund (ESSER II)	84.425D	112,337	-
COVID-19: Education Stabilization Fund (ARP ESSER)	84.425U	1,021,466	-
Total COVID-19: Education Stabilization Fund		1,133,803	-
Total U.S. Department of Education		2,653,292	-
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE			
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education</i>			
Child Nutrition Cluster:			
Cash Assistance			
School Breakfast Program	10.553	86,465	-
National School Lunch Program	10.555	507,099	-
COVID-19: National School Lunch Program	10.555	47,204	-
		640,768	-
Non-Cash Assistance (Food Distribution)			
National School Lunch Program	10.555	91,297	-
Total Child Nutrition Cluster		732,065	-
Total U.S. Department of Agriculture		732,065	-
Total Expenditures of Federal Awards		\$ 3,385,357	\$ -

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

**WEST HOLMES LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOLMES COUNTY**

**NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR 200.510(b)(6)
FOR THE 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 West Holmes Local School District, Holmes County, Ohio, (the School 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 School District, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position or changes in net position of the School 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 School District has elected not to use the 10-percent de minimis indirect cost rate as allowed under the Uniform Guidance.

NOTE D - CHILD NUTRITION CLUSTER

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

NOTE E – FOOD DONATION PROGRAM

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

NOTE F – CONSORTIUM GRANT EXPENDITURES

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023, the School District passed/transferred grant fund allocations to the Tri-County Educational Service Center for Title III English Learner and Special Education – Preschool grants totaling \$3,820 and \$18,327, respectively.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
2 CFR Section 200.515
June 30, 2023

1. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS

(d)(1)(i)	Type of Financial Statement Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	No
(d)(1)(ii)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	None reported
(d)(1)(iii)	Was there any reported material noncompliance at the financial statement level (GAGAS)?	Yes
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any material weaknesses in internal control reported for major federal programs?	No
(d)(1)(iv)	Were there any significant deficiencies in internal control reported for major federal programs?	None reported
(d)(1)(v)	Type of Major Programs' Compliance Opinion	Unmodified
(d)(1)(vi)	Are there any reportable findings under 2 CFR § 200.516(a)?	No
(d)(1)(vii)	Major Programs (list): Title I Education Stabilization Fund, COVID 19	ALN 84.010A 84.425D/84.425U
(d)(1)(viii)	Dollar Threshold: Type A/B Programs	Type A: > \$750,000 Type B: All Others
(d)(1)(ix)	Low Risk Auditee under 2 CFR §200.520?	No

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

Finding Number: 2023-001

Noncompliance – Annual Financial Report

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.

West Holmes Local School District
Holmes County, Ohio
Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs (Continued)
2 CFR Section 200.515
June 30, 2023

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

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

Pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code § 117.38 the School 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 School District's ability to evaluate and monitor the overall financial condition of the School District. To help provide the users with more meaningful financial statements, the School District should prepare its annual financial statements according to generally accepted accounting principles.

Officials' Response: See Corrective Action Plan.

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS
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None Noted.



WEST HOLMES LOCAL SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
28 WEST JACKSON STREET • MILLERSBURG, OHIO 44654

Corrective Action Plan
2 CFR Section 200.511(c)
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023

Finding Number	Planned Corrective Action	Anticipated Completion Date	Responsible Contact Person
2023-001	The School District plans to continue reporting on the cash basis of accounting due to the cost requirement of preparing these financial statements according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).	N/A	Jamie Mullet, Treasurer



WEST HOLMES LOCAL SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
28 WEST JACKSON STREET • MILLERSBURG, OHIO 44654

Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
2 CFR Section 200.511(b)
June 30, 2023

Finding Number	Finding Summary	Status	Additional Information
2022-001	Material Noncompliance – Ohio Admin. Code Section 117-2-03(B)/Ohio Revised Code 117.38, Prepare Annual Financial Report in Accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (Initially reported in fiscal year 2015)	Not Corrected	The School District filed their financial statements on an OCBOA basis. See finding 2023-001 and the Corrective Action Plan.

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



WEST HOLMES LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOLMES 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 1/2/2024

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