

**CLEVELAND ACADEMY OF
SCHOLARSHIP, TECHNOLOGY AND
LEADERSHIP ENTERPRISE
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

SINGLE AUDIT

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024





65 East State Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
ContactUs@ohioauditor.gov
800-282-0370

Board of Directors
Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise
3950 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

We have reviewed the *Independent Auditor's Report* of the Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise, Cuyahoga County, prepared by Rea & Associates, Inc., for the audit period July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. Based upon this review, we have accepted these reports in lieu of the audit required by Section 117.11, Revised Code. The Auditor of State did not audit the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, we are unable to express, and do not express an opinion on them.

Our review was made in reference to the applicable sections of legislative criteria, as reflected by the Ohio Constitution, and the Revised Code, policies, procedures and guidelines of the Auditor of State, regulations and grant requirements. The Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise 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

June 04, 2025

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**CLEVELAND ACADEMY OF SCHOLARSHIP, TECHNOLOGY AND LEADERSHIP
ENTERPRISE
CUYAHOGA COUNTY**

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors
Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County
3950 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise (the “School”), Cuyahoga County, Ohio, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School’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 financial position of the Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, as of June 30, 2024, and the changes in financial position and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

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

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the School’s ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise

Independent Auditor's Report

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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 opinion. 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'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's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

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

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, and pension and other post-employment benefit schedules, as listed in the table of contents, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise

Independent Auditor's Report

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considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements. The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (Schedule) as required by Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations 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 basic 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 in the audit of 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 GAAS. In our opinion, the Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated March 26, 2025 on our consideration of the School's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is 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'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's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Rea & Associates, Inc.

Rea & Associates, Inc.

Cleveland, Ohio

March 26, 2025

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Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

Our management's discussion and analysis of the Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise's (the School) financial performance provides an overall review of the School's financial activities for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The intent of this discussion and analysis is to look at the School's financial performance as a whole; readers should also review the basic financial statements and notes to the basic financial statements to enhance their understanding of the School's financial performance.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) is an element of reporting model adopted by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) in their Statement No. 34 Basic Financial Statements – and Management's Discussion and Analysis – for State and Local Government issued June 1999. Certain comparative information between the current year and the prior year is required to be presented in the MD&A.

Financial Highlights

Key Financial Highlights for the School for the 2024 school year are as follows:

- In total, net position increased \$1,040,437 from 2023.
- Total assets increased \$878,028 during 2024.
- Total liabilities decreased \$96,772 during 2024.

The net pension liability (NPL) is the largest single liability reported by the School at June 30, 2024, and is reported pursuant to GASB Statement 68, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions—an Amendment of GASB Statement 27*. In a prior period, the School also adopted GASB Statement 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions*. For reasons discussed below, many end users of this financial statement will gain a clearer understanding of the School's actual financial condition by adding deferred inflows related to pension and OPEB, the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability to the reported net position and subtracting deferred outflows related to pension and OPEB and the net OPEB asset.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board standards are national and apply to all government financial reports prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Prior accounting for pensions (GASB 27) and postemployment benefits (GASB 45) focused on a funding approach. This approach limited pension and OPEB costs to contributions annually required by law, which may or may not be sufficient to fully fund each plan's net pension/OPEB liability. GASB 68 and GASB 75 take an earnings approach to pension and OPEB accounting; however, the nature of Ohio's statewide pension/OPEB plans and state law governing those systems requires additional explanation in order to properly understand the information presented in these statements.

GASB 68 and GASB 75 require the net pension liability and the net OPEB asset/liability to equal the School's proportionate share of each plan's collective:

1. Present value of estimated future pension/OPEB benefits attributable to active and inactive employees' past service.
2. Minus plan assets available to pay these benefits.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

GASB notes that pension and OPEB obligations, whether funded or unfunded, are part of the “employment exchange” – that is, the employee is trading his or her labor in exchange for wages, benefits, and the promise of a future pension and other postemployment benefits. GASB noted that the unfunded portion of this promise is a present obligation of the government, part of a bargained-for benefit to the employee, and should accordingly be reported by the government as a liability since they received the benefit of the exchange. However, the School is not responsible for certain key factors affecting the balance of these assets/liabilities. In Ohio, the employee shares the obligation of funding pension benefits with the employer. Both employer and employee contribution rates are capped by State statute. A change in these caps requires action of both Houses of the General Assembly and approval of the Governor. Benefit provisions are also determined by State statute. The Ohio revised Code permits, but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients. The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits.

The employee enters the employment exchange with the knowledge that the employer’s promise is limited not by contract but by law. The employer enters the exchange also knowing that there is a specific, legal limit to its contribution to the retirement system. In Ohio, there is no legal means to enforce the unfunded liability of the pension/OPEB plan *as against the public employer*. State law operates to mitigate/lessen the moral obligation of the public employer to the employee, because all parties enter the employment exchange with notice as to the law. For STRS, the plan’s fiduciary net OPEB position was sufficient to cover the plan’s total OPEB liability resulting in a net OPEB asset for fiscal year 2024 that is allocated to each school based on its proportionate share. The retirement system is responsible for the administration of the pension and OPEB plans.

Most long-term liabilities have set repayment schedules or, in the case of compensated absences (i.e. sick and vacation leave), are satisfied through paid time-off or termination payments. There is no repayment schedule for the net pension liability or the net OPEB liability reported by the retirement boards. As explained above, changes in benefits, contribution rates, and return on investments affect the balance of these liabilities, but are outside the control of the local government. In the event that contributions, investment returns, and other changes are insufficient to keep up with required payments, State statute does not assign/identify the responsible party for the unfunded portion. Due to the unique nature of how the net pension liability and the net OPEB liability are satisfied, these liabilities are separately identified within the long-term liability section of the statement of net position.

In accordance with GASB 68 and GASB 75, the School’s statements include an annual pension expense and an annual OPEB expense for their proportionate share of each plan’s change in net pension liability and net OPEB asset/liability, respectively, not accounted for as deferred inflows/outflows of resources.

Using This Financial Report

This financial report contains the management’s discussion and analysis, the basic financial statements, notes to the basic financial statements, required supplementary information and notes to the required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include a statement of net position, statement of revenues, expenses and change in net position, and a statement of cash flows. As the School reports its operations using enterprise fund accounting, all financial transactions and accounts are reported as one activity. Therefore, the entity-wide and the fund presentation information is the same.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

Statement of Net Position

The Statement of Net Position answers the question of how the School did financially during 2024. This statement includes all assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources, both financial and capital, and short-term and long-term using the accrual basis of accounting and economic resource focus, which is similar to the accounting used by most private-sector companies. This basis of accounting takes into account all revenues and expenses during the year, regardless of when the cash is received or paid.

Table 1 provides a summary of the School's Net Position for fiscal years 2024 and 2023.

(Table 1)
Statement of Net Position

	2024	2023	Change
Assets			
Current Assets	\$ 3,686,411	\$ 2,520,050	\$ 1,166,361
Capital Assets, Net	1,534,113	1,830,244	(296,131)
Other Noncurrent Assets	<u>204,873</u>	<u>197,075</u>	<u>7,798</u>
<i>Total Assets</i>	<u>5,425,397</u>	<u>4,547,369</u>	<u>878,028</u>
 Deferred Outflows of Resources	 <u>1,073,089</u>	<u>1,088,689</u>	<u>(15,600)</u>
 Liabilities			
Current Liabilities	472,236	581,106	(108,870)
Long-Term Liabilities:			
Net Pension Liability	2,523,752	2,325,402	198,350
Net OPEB Liability	161,989	152,394	9,595
Other	<u>1,490,606</u>	<u>1,686,453</u>	<u>(195,847)</u>
<i>Total Long-Term Liabilities</i>	<u>4,176,347</u>	<u>4,164,249</u>	<u>12,098</u>
<i>Total Liabilities</i>	<u>4,648,583</u>	<u>4,745,355</u>	<u>(96,772)</u>
 Deferred Inflows of Resources	 <u>609,150</u>	<u>690,387</u>	<u>(81,237)</u>
 Net Position			
Net Investment in Capital Assets	(97,050)	(75,680)	(21,370)
Restricted	204,873	52,535	152,338
Unrestricted	<u>1,132,930</u>	<u>223,461</u>	<u>909,469</u>
<i>Total Net Position</i>	<u>\$ 1,240,753</u>	<u>\$ 200,316</u>	<u>\$ 1,040,437</u>

Current assets increased primarily due to an increase in cash from operations in addition to an increase in grant funding receivables due to increased federal grants. Capital assets decreased primarily due to depreciation/ammortization. The decrease in current liabilities was primarily the result of a decrease in accrued wages and benefits. Other long-term liabilities decreased due to lease payments made during the fiscal year.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

There was a significant change in net pension/OPEB liability/asset for the School. These fluctuations are due to changes in the retirement systems' unfunded liabilities that are passed through to the School's financial statements. All components of pension and OPEB accruals contribute to the fluctuations in deferred outflows/inflows and NPL/NOL/NOA and are described in more detail in their respective notes.

Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Change in Net Position

Table 2 shows the change in Net Position for fiscal years 2024 and 2023.

(Table 2)
Change in Net Position

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Change</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 4,154,163	\$ 3,771,024	\$ 383,139
Non-Operating Revenue	<u>1,021,188</u>	<u>1,238,858</u>	<u>(217,670)</u>
Total Revenue	<u>5,175,351</u>	<u>5,009,882</u>	<u>165,469</u>
Operating Expenses	4,049,379	4,177,751	(128,372)
Non-Operating Expenses	<u>85,535</u>	<u>95,063</u>	<u>(9,528)</u>
Total Expenses	<u>4,134,914</u>	<u>4,272,814</u>	<u>(137,900)</u>
Change In Net Position	<u>\$ 1,040,437</u>	<u>\$ 737,068</u>	<u>\$ 303,369</u>

The School's operating revenue is based on the School's full-time equivalent (FTE) which increased as a result of changes for the Fair School Funding plan. Non-operating revenue decreased due to a decrease in COVID-19 funding. The School's most significant expense, purchased services, is primarily a result of the management agreement in place between the School and Educational Empowerment Group, LLC. The agreement provides that specific percentages of the revenues received by the School will be paid to Educational Empowerment Group, LLC to fund operations (See Note 7).

The decrease in operating expenses was the result of a combination of a decrease in special education related expenses, decreased federal grant funding that was paid to EEG as per above and lastly from changes in net pension/OPEB related accruals. As previously indicated, the pension and OPEB accruals are explained in detail within their respective notes.

Capital Assets

The School's capital assets balance decreased \$296,131 due to depreciation/ammortization. See Note 5.

Debt

As of the fiscal year-end, the School's lease and judgment payables decreased in comparison with the prior fiscal year due to payments made during the fiscal year. For more information on debt, see Note 14 to the basic financial statements.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Management's Discussion and Analysis
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024
(Unaudited)

Current Financial Issues

The School received revenue for 297 students in 2024 and 320 in fiscal year 2023. State law governing community schools allows for the School to have open enrollment across traditional school district boundaries.

The School receives its support almost entirely from state aid on a per pupil basis. The School receives additional revenues from grant subsidies.

Although there is a possibility that state aid will be cut in future years due to the economic climate, the School feels that the relationship with the management company will insulate them from any significant change. The relationship brings stability to the School since specific percentages of revenues are payable to the management company (See Note 7).

Contacting the School's Financial Management

This financial report is designed to provide our readers with a general overview of the School's finances and to show the School's accountability for the money it receives. If you have questions about this report or need additional information, contact the Fiscal Officer at 3320 West Market Street, Suite 300, Fairlawn, Ohio 44333.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise

Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Statement of Net Position

June 30, 2024

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 3,498,250
Accounts Receivable	2,038
Grant Funding Receivable	151,621
Prepaid Insurance	13,553
Intergovernmental Receivable	20,949
<i>Total Current Assets</i>	<u>3,686,411</u>

Noncurrent Assets

Security Deposit	28,500
Net OPEB Asset	176,373
Capital Assets, Net	1,534,113
<i>Total Noncurrent Assets</i>	<u>1,738,986</u>

Total Assets

5,425,397

DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Pension	910,900
OPEB	162,189
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>1,073,089</u>

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	253,639
Unearned Revenue	11,047
Grant Payable	1,159
Judgment Payable	24,000
Interest Payable	6,609
Lease Payable	175,782
<i>Total Current Liabilities</i>	<u>472,236</u>

Long Term Liabilities

Net Pension Liability	2,523,752
Net OPEB Liability	161,989
Lease Payable	1,455,381
Judgment Payable	35,225
<i>Total Long Term Liabilities</i>	<u>4,176,347</u>

Total Liabilities

4,648,583

DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

Pension	233,694
OPEB	375,456
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>609,150</u>

NET POSITION

Net Investment in Capital Assets	(97,050)
Restricted for Other Purposes	28,500
Restricted for OPEB	176,373
Unrestricted	1,132,930
Total Net Position	<u>\$ 1,240,753</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

OPERATING REVENUES

State Aid	\$ 4,131,495
Other Operating Revenue	1,629
Casino Revenue	<u>21,039</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>4,154,163</u>

OPERATING EXPENSES

Board Compensation	3,187
Purchased Services	3,065,531
Pension and OPEB	411,879
Materials and Supplies	226,855
Depreciation/Amortization	302,761
Other Expenses	<u>39,166</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>4,049,379</u>
Operating Income (Loss)	<u>104,784</u>

NON-OPERATING REVENUES (EXPENSES)

Federal and State Grants	1,021,188
Interest Expense	<u>(85,535)</u>
Total Net Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses)	<u>935,653</u>
Change in Net Position	1,040,437
Net Position Beginning of Year	<u>200,316</u>
Net Position End of Year	<u>\$ 1,240,753</u>

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Statement of Cash Flows
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Cash Received From State Aid	\$ 4,152,534
Cash Received Other Operating Sources	1,629
Cash Payments For Goods And Services	(3,551,000)
Other Cash Payments	(38,331)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	<u>564,832</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Cash Payments for Principal	(281,391)
Cash Payments for Interest	(86,408)
Net Cash Used for Capital Financing Activities	<u>(367,799)</u>

CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Cash Received From Grant Programs	1,120,116
Payments on Judgment Payables	(24,000)
Net Cash Provided by Noncapital Financing Activities	<u>1,096,116</u>

Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents 1,293,149

Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Year 2,205,101

Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Year \$ 3,498,250

RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME (LOSS) TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Operating Income (Loss) \$ 104,784

ADJUSTMENTS TO RECONCILE OPERATING INCOME (LOSS) TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Depreciation/Amortization 302,761

Changes in Assets, Liabilities, and Deferred Outflows/Inflows:

Accounts Receivable	(2,038)
Intergovernmental Receivable	563
Prepays	835
Deferred Outflows of Resources	15,600
Deferred Inflows of Resources	(81,237)
Net OPEB Asset	20,702
Net Pension/OPEB Liability	207,945
Accounts Payable	18,229
State Grant Payable	(22,491)
Intergovernmental Payable	<u>(821)</u>

Total Adjustments 460,048

Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities \$ 564,832

NON-CASH FINANCING ACTIVITIES

During fiscal year 2024, the School modified a lease for the right-to-use building. \$ 6,630

See accompanying notes to the basic financial statements.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise

Cuyahoga County, Ohio

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

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL AND REPORTING ENTITY

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise, Inc. (the School) is a federal tax exempt 501(c)(3) and state nonprofit corporation established pursuant to Ohio Rev. Code Chapters 3314 and 1702 to maintain and provide a school exclusively for any educational, literary, scientific and related teaching service. The School, which is part of the State's education program, is independent of any school district. The School may sue and be sued, acquire facilities as needed, and contract for any services necessary for the operation of the School.

The School contracts with Educational Empowerment Group, LLC (EEG, LLC) for most of its functions (see note 7).

The School signed a contract with The Educational Resource Consultants of Ohio, Inc. (ERCO) (Sponsor) to operate for a period from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2021 and renewed through June 30, 2028. The School operates under a self-appointing, five-member Board of Directors (the Board). The School's Code of Regulations specify that vacancies that arise on the Board will be filled by the appointment of a successor director by a majority vote of the then existing directors. The Board is responsible for carrying out the provisions of the contract with the Sponsor, which include, but are not limited to, state-mandated provisions regarding student population, curriculum, academic goals, performance standards, admission standards, and qualifications of teachers. The School has two instructional/support facilities, which are leased by EEG, LLC. The facilities are staffed with teaching personnel employed by EEG, LLC.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

Basis of Presentation

The School's financial statements consist of a Statement of Net Position, a Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position, and a Statement of Cash Flows. Enterprise fund reporting focuses on the determination of the change in Net Position, financial position and cash flows.

Enterprise accounting is used to account for operations that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises where the intent is that the costs (expenses) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting

The accounting and financial reporting treatment applied to a fund is determined by its measurement focus. Enterprise accounting uses a flow of economic resources measurement focus. With this measurement focus, all assets and deferred outflows of resources as well as all liabilities and deferred inflows of resources are included on the Statement of Net Position.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise

Cuyahoga County, Ohio

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

Operating statements present increases (i.e., revenues) and decreases (i.e., expenses) in Net Position. The accrual basis of accounting is utilized for reporting purposes. Revenues are recognized when they are earned, and expenses are recognized when they are incurred.

Budgetary Process

Community schools are statutorily required to adopt a budget by Ohio Revised Code 3314.032(C). However, unlike traditional public schools located in the State of Ohio, community schools are not required to follow the specific budgetary process and limits set forth in the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705, unless specifically provided in the contract between the School and its Sponsor. The contract between the School and its Sponsor does not require the School to follow the provisions Ohio Revised Code Chapter 5705; therefore, no budgetary information is presented in the basic financial statements.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

All cash received by the School is maintained in a demand deposit account.

Intergovernmental Revenues

The School currently participates in the State Foundation Program, and casino tax distributions, which are reflected under “Operating revenues” on the Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position. Revenues received from these programs are recognized as operating revenue in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Non-exchange transactions, in which the School receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlements, and contributions. Grants, entitlements, and contributions are recognized as non-operating revenues in the accounting period in which all eligibility requirements have been met.

Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted; matching requirements, in which the School must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose; and expenditure requirements, in which the resources are provided to the School on a reimbursement basis.

Capital Assets and Depreciation/Amortization

For purposes of recording capital assets, the Board has a capitalization threshold of \$5,000. Depreciation is computed by the straight-line method. Donated capital assets are recorded at their acquisition value as of the date received. The useful lives are as follows:

<u>Asset</u>	<u>Useful Life</u>
Computers and Software	3 Years
Furniture and Fixtures	5 Years
Equipment	5 Years
Textbooks	5 Years

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The School is reporting intangible right to use assets related to a leased building. This intangible asset is being amortized in a systematic and rational manner over the shorter of the lease term or the useful life of the underlying asset.

Use of Estimates

In preparing the financial statements, management is sometimes required to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent deferred outflows and deferred inflows at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Net Position

Net position represents the difference between assets and deferred outflows of resources and liabilities and deferred inflows of resources. Net investment in capital assets consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation/amortization, reduced by the outstanding balances of any borrowing used for the acquisition, construction, or improvements of those assets. Net position is reported as restricted when there are limitations imposed on their use either through the enabling legislation or through external restrictions imposed by creditors, grantors, or laws and regulations of other governments. There was no net position restricted for enabling legislation at fiscal year-end. The School applies restricted resources first when an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net position is available.

Operating Revenues and Expenses

Operating revenues are those revenues that are generated directly from the School's primary activities. For the School, these revenues are primarily state aid payments. Operating expenses are necessary costs incurred to provide the goods and services that are the primary activities of the School. Revenues and expenses not meeting this definition are reported as non-operating.

Pensions and Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB)

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

Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources

In addition to assets, the statement of net position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. Deferred outflows of resources represent a consumption of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. For the School, deferred outflows of resources are reported on the statement of net position for pension and OPEB. The deferred outflows of resources related to pension and OPEB plans are explained in Notes 10 and 11.

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In addition to liabilities, the statement of net position report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. Deferred inflows of resources represent an acquisition of net assets that applies to a future period and will not be recognized until that time. For the School, deferred inflows of resources include pension and OPEB, which are reported on the statement of net position. (See Notes 10 and 11).

Exchange and Non-Exchange Transactions

Revenue resulting from exchange transactions, in which each party gives and receives essentially equal value, is recorded on the accrual basis when the exchange takes place. Non-exchange transactions, in which the School receives value without directly giving equal value in return, include grants, entitlements, and donations. Revenue from grants, entitlements and donations is recognized in the fiscal year in which all eligibility requirements have been satisfied. Eligibility requirements include timing requirements, which specify the year when the resources are required to be used or the fiscal year when use is first permitted, matching requirements, in which the School must provide local resources to be used for a specified purpose and expenditures requirements, in which the resources are provided to the School on a reimbursement basis.

Prepaid Items

Payments made to vendors for services that will benefit periods beyond fiscal year end, are recorded as prepaid items using the consumption method. A current asset for the prepaid amount is recorded at the time of purchase by the School and an expense is recorded when used.

NOTE 3 – IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the School has implemented certain provisions of GASB Statement No. 99, *Omnibus 2022* and GASB Statement No. 100, *Accounting Changes and Error Corrections*.

GASB Statement No. 99 enhances comparability in accounting and financial reporting and improves the consistency of authoritative literature by addressing (1) practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements and (2) accounting and financial reporting for financial guarantees. The implementation of certain provisions of GASB Statement No. 99 that relate to financial guarantees and the classification and reporting of derivative instruments within the scope of Statement 53 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School.

GASB Statement No. 100 enhances accounting and financial reporting requirements for accounting changes and error corrections to provide a more understandable, reliable, relevant, consistent, and comparable information for making decisions or assessment accountability. The implementation of GASB Statement No. 100 did not have an effect on the financial statements of the School.

NOTE 4 - DEPOSITS

At fiscal year-end, \$3,248,250 of the School's bank balance was uninsured and uncollateralized.

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For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024***NOTE 5 - CAPITAL ASSETS AND AMORTIZATION**

As of June 30, 2024, the School's capital assets activity was follows:

	Balance 6/30/2023	Additions	Deletions	Balance 6/30/2024
<i>Capital Assets, Being Depreciated/Amortized:</i>				
Leased Asset - Building (intangible)	\$ 2,429,136	\$ 6,630	\$(322,805)	\$ 2,112,961
Computers and Software	141,139	-	-	141,139
Furniture and Fixtures	6,015	-	-	6,015
Equipment	132,181	-	-	132,181
Textbooks	25,905	-	-	25,905
<i>Total Capital Assets, Being Depreciated/Amortized</i>	<u>2,734,376</u>	<u>6,630</u>	<u>(322,805)</u>	<u>2,418,201</u>
<i>Less Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization:</i>				
Leased Asset - Building (intangible)	(598,892)	(302,761)	322,805	(578,848)
Computers and Software	(141,139)	-	-	(141,139)
Furniture and Fixtures	(6,015)	-	-	(6,015)
Equipment	(132,181)	-	-	(132,181)
Textbooks	(25,905)	-	-	(25,905)
<i>Total Accumulated Depreciation/Amortization</i>	<u>(904,132)</u>	<u>(302,761)</u>	<u>322,805</u>	<u>(884,088)</u>
<i>Capital Assets, Net</i>	<u>\$ 1,830,244</u>	<u>\$ (296,131)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,534,113</u>

NOTE 6 - RECEIVABLES

Receivables at June 30, 2024 consisted of accounts receivable, grant funding and intergovernmental receivables arising from grants, entitlements, and overpayments to SERS and STRS. All receivables are considered collectible in full.

NOTE 7 - AGREEMENT WITH EDUCATIONAL EMPOWERMENT GROUP, LLC

Effective July 1, 2020, the School entered into a management agreement (Agreement) with Educational Empowerment Group, LLC (EEG, LLC), which is an educational consulting and management company. The term of the Agreement with EEG, LLC is for 3 years and will renew for additional successive three (3) year terms, or other such renewal period agreed upon by the parties in writing and allowed by law, unless one party notifies the other party no later than six months prior to the term expiration date of its intention to not renew the Agreement. Substantially all functions of the School have been contracted to EEG, LLC. EEG, LLC is responsible and accountable to the School's Board of Directors for the administration and operation of the School. The School is required to pay EEG, LLC a monthly continuing fee of 16 percent of the School's "Qualified gross revenues," defined in the Agreement as, all revenues and income received by the School except for charitable contributions. The continuing fee is paid to EEG, LLC based on the qualified gross revenues.

EEG, LLC will be responsible for procuring the educational program at the School, which include but are not limited to, salaries and benefits of all personnel, curriculum materials, textbooks, library books, computers and other equipment, software, supplies, building payments, maintenance, capital, and insurance which are then invoiced to the school or reimbursed to EEG, LLC.

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NOTE 8 - SPONSORSHIP FEES

Under Paragraph D(4) of the sponsor contract with ERCO, it states that the School "...shall pay to the Sponsor, the amount of three percent (3%) of all state funds received each year, in consideration for the time, organization, oversight, fees and costs of the Sponsor pursuant to this contract." Such fees are paid to the ERCO monthly.

NOTE 9 - PURCHASED SERVICES

For the year ended June 30, 2024, purchased service expenses were as follows:

Purchased Services	Amount
Direct Expenses:	
Personnel Services	\$ 1,539,386
Professional Services	1,150,728
Building Services	116,869
Food Service	135,241
Sponsor Services	123,307
Total	<u>\$ 3,065,531</u>

NOTE 10 - DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS

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

Net Pension Liability/Net OPEB Liability (Asset)

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

The net pension/OPEB liability (asset) represents the School'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.

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

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GASB 68/75 assumes the liability is solely the obligation of the employer, because (1) they benefit from employee services; and (2) State statute requires funding to come from these employers. All pension contributions to date have come solely from these employers (which also includes pension costs paid in the form of withholdings from employees). The retirement systems may allocate a portion of the employer contributions to provide for these OPEB benefits. In addition, health care plan enrollees pay a portion of the health care costs in the form of a monthly premium. State statute requires the retirement systems to amortize unfunded pension liabilities within 30 years. If the pension amortization period exceeds 30 years, each retirement system's board must propose corrective action to the State legislature. Any resulting legislative change to benefits or funding could significantly affect the net pension/OPEB liability (asset). Resulting adjustments to the net pension/OPEB liability (asset) would be effective when the changes are legally enforceable. The Ohio Revised Code permits but does not require the retirement systems to provide healthcare to eligible benefit recipients.

The proportionate share of each plan's unfunded benefits is presented as a long-term *net pension/OPEB liability (asset)*. Any liability for the contractually required pension contribution outstanding at the end of the year is included in *accounts payable*.

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

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Plan Description – School 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.

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 CPI-W, not to exceed 2.5 percent and with a floor of 0 percent. A three-year COLA suspension was in effect for all benefit recipients for the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. The Retirement Board approved a 2.5 percent COLA for calendar year 2023.

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Funding Policy – Plan members are required to contribute 10 percent of their annual covered salary and the School is required to contribute 14 percent of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and employers are established and may be amended by the SERS’ Retirement Board up to statutory maximum amounts of 10 percent for plan members and 14 percent for employers. The Retirement Board, acting with the advice of the actuary, allocates the employer contribution rate among four of the System’s funds (Pension Trust Fund, Death Benefit Fund, Medicare B Fund, and Health Care Fund). For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024, the allocation to pension, death benefits, and Medicare B was 14.0 percent. For fiscal year 2024, the Retirement Board did not allocate any employer contribution to the Health Care Fund.

The School’s contractually required contribution to SERS was \$73,785 for fiscal year 2024.

Plan Description - State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)

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

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

The DB Plan offers an annual retirement allowance based on final average salary multiplied by a percentage that varies based on years of service. Effective August 1, 2015, the calculation is 2.2 percent of final average salary for the five highest years of earnings multiplied by all years of service. In April 2017, the Retirement Board made the decision to reduce COLA granted on or after July 1, 2017, to 0 percent upon a determination by its actuary that it was necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the retirement system. Benefit recipients’ base benefit and past cost-of living increases are not affected by this change. Effective July 1, 2022, a one-time ad-hoc COLA of 3 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2023 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2018. Effective July 1, 2023, a one-time ad-hoc COLA of 1 percent of the base benefit was granted to eligible benefit recipients to begin on the anniversary of their retirement benefit in fiscal year 2024 as long as they retired prior to July 1, 2019. Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 3307.67(E) the STRS Ohio Retirement Board may adjust the COLA upon a determination by the board’s actuary that a change will not materially impair the fiscal integrity of the system or is necessary to preserve the fiscal integrity of the system. Eligibility changes will be phased in until August 1, 2023, when retirement eligibility for unreduced benefits will be five years of service credit and age 65, or 34 years of service credit at any age.

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

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

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

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

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

Funding Policy – Employer and member contribution rates are established by the State Teachers Retirement Board and limited by Chapter 3307 of the Ohio Revised Code. The 2024 employer and employee contribution rate of 14 percent was equal to the statutory maximum rates. For 2024, the full employer contribution was allocated to pension.

The School's contractually required contribution to STRS was \$169,349 for fiscal year 2024.

Pension Liabilities, Pension Expense, and Deferred Outflows/Inflows of Resources Related to Pensions

The net pension liability was measured as of June 30, 2023, and the total pension liability used to calculate the net pension liability was determined by an independent actuarial valuation as of that date. The School'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 and pension expense:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net Pension Liability:			
Current Measurement Date	0.0103306%	0.00906867%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.0117117%	0.00761103%	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.0013811%</u>	<u>0.00145764%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net			
Pension Liability	\$ 570,819	\$ 1,952,933	\$ 2,523,752
Pension Expense	\$ 17,220	\$ 407,237	\$ 424,457

Other than contributions made subsequent to the measurement date and differences between projected and actual earnings on investments; deferred inflows/outflows of resources are recognized in pension expense beginning in the current period, using a straight-line method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining services lives of all employees that are provided with pensions, determined as of

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the beginning of the measurement period. Net deferred inflows/outflows of resources pertaining to the differences between projected and actual investment earnings are similarly recognized over a closed five-year period.

At June 30, 2024, the School reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pensions from the following sources:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and			
Actual Experience	\$ 24,534	\$ 71,201	\$ 95,735
Changes of Assumptions	4,043	160,835	164,878
Changes in Proportion and Differences between			
School Contributions and Proportionate	Share of Contributions	407,153	407,153
School Contributions Subsequent to the	Measurement Date	73,785	169,349
	<u>102,362</u>	<u>808,538</u>	<u>910,900</u>
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and			
Actual Experience	\$ -	\$ 4,331	\$ 4,331
Net Difference between Projected and			
Actual Earnings on Pension Plan Investments	8,024	5,853	13,877
Changes of Assumptions	-	121,062	121,062
Changes in Proportion and Differences between			
School Contributions and Proportionate	Share of Contributions	94,424	94,424
	<u>102,448</u>	<u>131,246</u>	<u>233,694</u>
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources			

\$243,134 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to pension resulting from school contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction of the net pension liability in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to pension will be recognized in pension expense as follows:

Fiscal Year Ending June 30:	SERS	STRS	Total
2025	\$ (55,811)	\$ 148,374	\$ 92,563
2026	(41,478)	59,191	17,713
2027	22,992	252,414	275,406
2028	<u>426</u>	<u>47,964</u>	<u>48,390</u>
Total	<u>(73,871)</u>	<u>507,943</u>	<u>434,072</u>

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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potential modifications, as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

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

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

Key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation, prepared as of June 30, 2023, and 2022 are presented below:

Inflation	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of System expenses
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
COLA or Ad Hoc COLA	2.0 percent, on or after April 1, 2018, COLAs for future retirees will be delayed for three years following commencement

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 Pension Plan Investments has been determined by using a building-block approach and assumes a time horizon, as defined in SERS' Statement of Investment Policy. A forecasted rate of inflation serves as the baseline for the return expectation. Various real return premiums over the baseline inflation rate have been established for each asset class. The long-term expected nominal rate of return has been determined by calculating an arithmetic weighted average of the expected real return premiums for each asset class, adding the projected inflation rate, and adding the expected return from rebalancing uncorrelated asset classes. As of June 30, 2023:

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Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00 %	0.75 %
US Equity	24.75	4.82
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	5.19
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	5.98
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	2.24
Private Equity	12.00	7.49
Real Estate/Real Assets	17.00	3.70
Private Debt/Private Credit	<u>5.00</u>	5.64
Total	<u>100.00 %</u>	

Discount Rate The total pension liability for 2023 was calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent. The discount rate did not use a municipal bond rate. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed employers would contribute the actuarially determined contribution rate of projected compensation over the remaining 21-year amortization period of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. The actuarially determined contribution rate of fiscal year 2023 was 14.00 percent. Projected inflows from investment earnings were calculated using the long term assumed investment rate of return, 7.00 percent. Based on those assumptions, the plan's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefits to determine the total pension liability. The annual money weighted rate of return, calculated as the internal rate of return on pension plan investments, for fiscal year 2023 was 6.90 percent.

Sensitivity of the School'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's proportionate share of the net pension liability calculated using the discount rate of 7.00 percent, as well as what the School'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.

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 842,499	\$ 570,819	\$ 341,980

Actuarial Assumptions - STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2023, and 2022, actuarial valuation, are presented below:

Inflation	2.50 percent
Salary Increases	From 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent, based on service
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent
Payroll Increases	3.00 percent
Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)	0.00 percent, effective July 1, 2017

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

Actuarial assumptions used in the June 30, 2023, valuation, 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	<u>100.00 %</u>	

*Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

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

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

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

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 3,003,178	\$ 1,952,933	\$ 1,064,712

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Assumption and Benefit Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date The discount rate remained at 7.00 percent for June 30, 2023, valuation. Demographic assumptions were changed based on the actuarial experience study for the period July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2021.

NOTE 11 - DEFINED BENEFIT OPEB PLANS

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

Plan Description - School Employees Retirement System (SERS)

Health Care Plan Description - The School contributes to the SERS Health Care Fund, administered by SERS for non-certificated retirees and their beneficiaries. For GASB 75 purposes, this plan is considered a cost-sharing other postemployment benefit (OPEB) plan. SERS' Health Care Plan provides healthcare benefits to eligible individuals receiving retirement, disability, and survivor benefits, and to their eligible dependents. Members who retire after June 1, 1986, need 10 years of service credit, exclusive of most types of purchased credit, to qualify to participate in SERS' health care coverage. The following types of credit purchased after January 29, 1981, do not count toward health care coverage eligibility: military, federal, out-of-state, municipal, private school, exempted, and early retirement incentive credit. In addition to age and service retirees, disability benefit recipients and beneficiaries who are receiving monthly benefits due to the death of a member or retiree, are eligible for SERS' health care coverage. Most retirees and dependents choosing SERS' health care coverage are over the age of 65 and therefore enrolled in a fully insured Medicare Advantage plan; however, SERS maintains a traditional, self-insured preferred provider organization for its non-Medicare retiree population. For both groups, SERS offers a self-insured prescription drug program. Health care is a benefit that is permitted, not mandated, by statute. The financial report of the Plan is included in the SERS Annual Comprehensive Financial Report which can be obtained on SERS' website at www.ohsers.org under Employers/Audit Resources.

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

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

Funding Policy - State statute permits SERS to fund the health care benefits through employer contributions. Each year, after the allocation for statutorily required pensions and benefits, the Retirement Board may allocate the remainder of the employer contribution of 14 percent of covered payroll to the Health Care Fund in accordance with the funding policy. For fiscal year 2024, no allocation was made to health care. An additional health care surcharge on employers is collected for employees earning less than an actuarially determined minimum compensation amount, pro-rated if less than a full year of service credit was earned. For fiscal year 2024, this amount was \$30,000. Statutes provide that no employer shall pay a health care surcharge greater than 2.00 percent of that employer's SERS-covered payroll; nor may SERS collect in aggregate more than 1.50 percent of the total statewide SERS-covered payroll for the health care

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surcharge. For fiscal year 2024, the School's surcharge obligation was \$2,913. The surcharge, added to the allocated portion of the 14 percent employer contribution rate is the total amount assigned to the Health Care Fund. The School's contractually required contribution to SERS was equal to its surcharge obligation for fiscal year 2024.

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. Health care premiums were reduced by a Medicare Part B premium credit beginning in 2023. The Plan is included in the report of STRS which can be obtained by visiting www.strsoh.org or by calling (888) 227-7877.

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

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

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

	SERS	STRS	Total
Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset):			
Current Measurement Date	0.0098328%	0.00906867%	
Prior Measurement Date	0.0108542%	0.00761103%	
Change in Proportionate Share	<u>-0.0010214%</u>	<u>0.00145764%</u>	
Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability (Asset)			
OPEB Liability (Asset)	\$ 161,989	\$ (176,373)	
OPEB Expense	\$ 11,218	\$ (26,618)	\$ (15,400)

Other than contributions made subsequent to the measurement date and differences between projected and actual earnings on investments; deferred inflows/outflows of resources are recognized in OPEB expense beginning in the current period, using a straight-line method over a closed period equal to the average of the expected remaining services lives of all employees that are provided with pensions, determined as of the beginning of the measurement period. Net deferred inflows/outflows of resources pertaining to the differences between projected and actual investment earnings are similarly recognized over a closed five-year period.

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At June 30, 2024, the School reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Deferred Outflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 338	\$ 275	\$ 613
Net Difference between Projected and Actual Earnings on OPEB Plan Investments	1,254	315	1,569
Changes of Assumptions	54,771	25,982	80,753
Changes in Proportion and Differences between School Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	69,329	7,012	76,341
School Contributions Subsequent to the Measurement Date	2,913	-	2,913
Total Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$ 128,605</u>	<u>\$ 33,584</u>	<u>\$ 162,189</u>
Deferred Inflows of Resources			
Differences between Expected and Actual Experience	\$ 83,547	\$ 26,903	\$ 110,450
Changes of Assumptions	46,011	116,365	162,376
Changes in Proportion and Differences between School Contributions and Proportionate Share of Contributions	94,946	7,684	102,630
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	<u>\$ 224,504</u>	<u>\$ 150,952</u>	<u>\$ 375,456</u>

\$2,913 reported as deferred outflows of resources related to OPEB resulting from Academy contributions subsequent to the measurement date will be recognized as a reduction/addition to the net OPEB liability/asset in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Other amounts reported as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows:

	SERS	STRS	Total
Fiscal Year Ending June 30:			
2025	\$ (6,117)	\$ (47,766)	\$ (53,883)
2026	(14,235)	(23,250)	(37,485)
2027	(16,316)	(9,880)	(26,196)
2028	(17,376)	(13,356)	(30,732)
2029	(19,429)	(12,371)	(31,800)
Thereafter	<u>(25,339)</u>	<u>(10,745)</u>	<u>(36,084)</u>
Total	<u>\$ (98,812)</u>	<u>\$ (117,368)</u>	<u>\$ (216,180)</u>

Actuarial Assumptions - SERS

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

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

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

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

	June 30, 2023
Inflation	2.40 percent
Future Salary Increases, including Inflation	3.25 percent to 13.58 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent net of investment expense
Actuarial Cost Method	Entry Age Normal (Level Percent of Payroll)
Fiduciary Net Position is Projected to be Depleted	2048
Municipal Bond Index Rate	
Measurement Date	3.86 percent
Prior Measurement Date	3.69 percent
Single Equivalent Interest Rate	
Measurement Date	4.27 percent
Prior Measurement Date	4.08 percent
Health Care Cost Trend Rate	
Medicare	5.125 to 4.40 percent
Pre-Medicare	6.75 to 4.40 percent
Medical Trend Assumption	
Measurement Date	6.75 to 4.40 percent
Prior Measurement Date	7.00 to 4.40 percent

Mortality rates among healthy retirees were based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Mortality rates for contingent survivors were based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Contingent Survivor mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 105.5 percent for males and adjusted 122.5 percent for females. Mortality rates for actives is based on PUB-2010 General Amount Weighted Below Median Employee mortality table. Mortality rates are projected using a fully generational projection with Scale MP-2020.

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

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

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

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

Asset Class	Target Allocation	Long-Term Expected Real Rate of Return
Cash	2.00 %	0.75 %
US Equity	24.75	4.82
Non-US Equity Developed	13.50	5.19
Non-US Equity Emerging	6.75	5.98
Fixed Income/Global Bonds	19.00	2.24
Private Equity	12.00	7.49
Real Estate/Real Assets	17.00	3.70
Private Debt/Private Credit	5.00	5.64
Total	100.00 %	

Discount Rate The discount rate used to measure the total OPEB liability at June 30, 2023, was 4.27 percent. The discount rate used to measure total OPEB liability prior to June 30, 2023, was 4.08 percent. The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that contributions will be made from members and the 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 be depleted in 2048 by SERS' actuaries. The Fidelity General Obligation 20-year Municipal Bond Index Rate was used in the determination of the single equivalent interest rate for both the June 30, 2022, and the June 30, 2023, total OPEB liability. The Municipal Bond Index rate is the single rate that will generate a present value of benefit payments equal to the sum of the present value determined by the long-term expected rate of return, and the present value determined by discounting those benefits after the date of depletion. The Municipal Bond Index Rate is 3.86 percent at June 30, 2023, and 3.69 percent at June 30, 2022.

Sensitivity of the School'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 (3.27 percent) and higher (5.27 percent) than the current discount rate (4.27 percent). Also shown is what the net OPEB liability would be based on health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower (5.75 percent decreasing to 3.40 percent) and higher (7.75 percent decreasing to 5.40 percent) than the current rate (6.75 percent decreasing to 4.40 percent).

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	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 207,070	\$ 161,989	\$ 126,443
	1% Decrease	Current Trend Rate	1% Increase
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 119,008	\$ 161,989	\$ 218,946

Actuarial Assumptions – STRS

Key methods and assumptions used in the latest actuarial valuation, reflecting experience study results used in the June 30, 2023, and 2022, actuarial valuation are presented below:

	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2022
Projected Salary Increases	Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent	Varies by service from 2.5 percent to 8.5 percent
Investment Rate of Return	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00 percent, net of investment expenses, including inflation
Payroll Increases	3 percent	3 percent
Discount Rate of Return	7.00 percent	7.00 percent
Health Care Cost Trends		
Medical		
Pre-Medicare	7.50 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	7.50 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate
Medicare	-10.94 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	-68.78 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate
Prescription Drug		
Pre-Medicare	-11.95 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	9.00 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate
Medicare	1.33 percent initial 4.14 percent ultimate	-5.47 percent initial 3.94 percent ultimate

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

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

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

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

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

*Final target weights reflected at October 1, 2022.

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

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

Sensitivity of the School'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, 2023, calculated using the current period discount rate assumption of 7.00 percent, as well as what the net OPEB asset would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is one percentage point lower (6.00 percent) or one percentage point higher (8.00 percent) than the current assumption. Also shown is the net OPEB asset as if it were calculated using health care cost trend rates that are one percentage point lower or one percentage point higher than the current health care cost trend rates.

	Current		
	1% Decrease	Discount Rate	1% Increase
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	\$ (149,277)	\$ (176,373)	\$ (199,971)
<hr/>			
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB (Asset)	Current		
	1% Decrease	Trend Rate	1% Increase
	\$ (201,066)	\$ (176,373)	\$ (146,631)

Assumption Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date The discount rate remained unchanged at 7.00 percent for the June 30, 2023, valuation.

Benefit Term Changes Since the Prior Measurement Date Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experiences as well as benefit changes effective January 1, 2024.

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Notes to the Basic Financial Statements
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NOTE 12 - RISK MANAGEMENT

Property and Liability - The School is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft or damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. As part of its management agreement with EEG, LLC, EEG, LLC has contracted with an insurance company for property and general liability insurance pursuant to the Management Agreement (see note 7). There have been no settlements claims exceeding coverage in the past three years, nor has there been a reduction in insurance coverage from the prior year.

Director and Officer - Coverage has been purchased by the School with a \$2,000,000 aggregate limit and a \$5,000, \$15,000, or \$50,000 deductible, depending on the claim.

Worker's Compensation – The school is responsible for paying the State Worker's Compensation System a premium for employee injury coverage.

NOTE 13 - CONTINGENCIES

Grants

Amounts received from grantor agencies are subject to audit and adjustment by the grantor. Any disallowed costs may require refunding to the grantor. Amounts which may be disallowed, if any, are not presently determinable. However, in the opinion of the School, any such any such adjustments will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position of the School.

Litigation

In 2015, the School was named a defendant in a civil suit filed in the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court, involving a lease agreement dispute. In August 2016, a judgment was granted in favor of the plaintiff, against the School, in the amount of \$313,555. In October 2016, the Court granted the School's motion to stay execution pending an appeal. On December 18, 2019, both parties signed a settlement agreement that the School will pay the plaintiff \$168,000 payable in 84 equal payments of \$2,000 beginning January 2020. See Note 14 for additional details.

NOTE 14 – LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

During the fiscal year, the following activity occurred in long-term liabilities:

	Balance			Balance	Amount Due
	June 30, 2023	Additions	Deductions	June 30, 2024	One Year
Judgments Payable	\$ 83,225	\$ -	\$ (24,000)	\$ 59,225	\$ 24,000
Lease Payable - Building	1,905,924	6,630	(281,391)	1,631,163	175,782
<i>Total Long-Term Liabilities</i>	<i>\$ 1,989,149</i>	<i>\$ 6,630</i>	<i>\$ (305,391)</i>	<i>\$ 1,690,388</i>	<i>\$ 199,782</i>

The School has outstanding agreements to lease building space. Due to the implementation of GASB Statement 87, these leases have met the criteria of leases thus requiring them to be recorded by the School. The future lease payments were discounted based on the interest rate implicit in the lease or using the School's incremental borrowing rate. This discount is being amortized over the life of the lease.

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A summary of the principal and interest amounts for the remaining leases is as follows:

Fiscal Year	Lease Payments	
	Principal	Interest
2025	\$ 175,782	\$ 75,018
2026	130,999	67,001
2027	137,427	60,573
2028	144,170	53,830
2029	151,245	46,755
2030-2034	875,106	114,894
2035-2039	16,434	66
	<u>\$ 1,631,163</u>	<u>\$ 418,137</u>

NOTE 15 - MANAGEMENT COMPANY EXPENSES

As of June 30, 2024, Educational Empowerment, LLC and its affiliates incurred the following cash basis expenses on behalf of the School:

CASTLE	Regular Instruction (1100 Function codes)	Special Instruction (1200 Function codes)	Support Services (2000 Function Codes)	Non-Instructional (3000 through 7000 Function Codes)	Total
<i>Direct expenses:</i>					
Salaries & wages (100 object codes)	\$ 879,333	\$ 281,553	\$ 454,097	\$ 36,213	\$ 1,651,196
Employees' benefits (200 object codes)	-	-	-	4,926	4,926
Professional & technical services (410 object codes)	-	-	-	15,286	15,286
Property services (420 object codes)	-	-	-	6,009	6,009
Contracted craft or trade services (460 object codes)	-	-	-	4,331	4,331
Supplies (500 object codes)	-	-	-	11,649	11,649
Other direct costs (All other object codes)	-	-	-	50,784	50,784
Overhead	-	-	-	361,158	361,158

Overhead charges are assigned to the School based on a percentage of the gross revenue received per student from the State of Ohio. These charges represent the indirect cost of services provided in the operation of the School. Such services include, but are not limited to facilities management, equipment, operational support services, management and management consulting, board relations, human resources management, training and orientation, financial reporting and compliance, purchasing and procurement, education services, technology support, marketing and communications.

Required Supplementary Information

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2024	2023	2022	2021
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>				
School's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.0103306%	0.0117117%	0.0139091%	0.0121440%
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 570,819	\$ 633,460	\$ 513,205	\$ 803,230
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 409,843	\$ 437,500	\$ 480,107	\$ 420,148
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	139.28%	144.79%	106.89%	191.18%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	76.06%	75.82%	82.86%	68.55%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>				
School's Proportion of the Net Pension Liability	0.00906867%	0.00761103%	0.00675423%	0.00615916%
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability	\$ 1,952,933	\$ 1,691,942	\$ 863,589	\$ 1,490,298
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 1,224,893	\$ 989,471	\$ 833,429	\$ 743,314
School's Proportionate Share of the Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	159.44%	170.99%	103.62%	200.49%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	80.02%	78.90%	87.80%	75.50%

Note: The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date, which is the prior fiscal year.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
0.0109149%	0.0067557%	0.0050594%	0.0073036%	0.0079317%	0.0113090%
\$ 653,058	\$ 386,911	\$ 302,288	\$ 534,556	\$ 452,590	\$ 572,342
\$ 382,978	\$ 234,496	\$ 158,721	\$ 226,821	\$ 253,642	\$ 331,934
170.52%	165.00%	190.45%	235.67%	178.44%	172.43%
70.85%	71.36%	69.50%	62.98%	69.16%	71.70%
0.00516124%	0.00310932%	0.00253323%	0.00533654%	0.00593697%	0.00562466%
\$ 1,141,377	\$ 683,670	\$ 601,774	\$ 1,786,301	\$ 1,640,805	\$ 1,368,112
\$ 605,950	\$ 353,479	\$ 278,500	\$ 567,271	\$ 486,000	\$ 618,885
188.36%	193.41%	216.08%	314.89%	337.61%	221.06%
77.40%	77.31%	75.30%	66.80%	72.10%	74.70%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School's Contributions - Pension
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2024	2023	2022	2021
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>				
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 73,785	\$ 57,378	\$ 61,250	\$ 67,215
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(73,785)</u>	<u>(57,378)</u>	<u>(61,250)</u>	<u>(67,215)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 527,036	\$ 409,843	\$ 437,500	\$ 480,107
Pension Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>				
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ 169,349	\$ 171,485	\$ 138,526	\$ 116,680
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(169,349)</u>	<u>(171,485)</u>	<u>(138,526)</u>	<u>(116,680)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 1,209,636	\$ 1,224,893	\$ 989,471	\$ 833,429
Pension Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
\$ 56,720	\$ 51,702	\$ 31,657	\$ 22,221	\$ 31,755	\$ 33,430
<u>(56,720)</u>	<u>(51,702)</u>	<u>(31,657)</u>	<u>(22,221)</u>	<u>(31,755)</u>	<u>(33,430)</u>
<u><u>\$ -</u></u>					
\$ 420,148	\$ 382,978	\$ 234,496	\$ 158,721	\$ 226,821	\$ 253,642
14.00%	13.50%	13.50%	14.00%	14.00%	13.18%
\$ 104,064	\$ 84,833	\$ 49,487	\$ 38,990	\$ 79,418	\$ 68,040
<u>(104,064)</u>	<u>(84,833)</u>	<u>(49,487)</u>	<u>(38,990)</u>	<u>(79,418)</u>	<u>(68,040)</u>
<u><u>\$ -</u></u>					
\$ 743,314	\$ 605,950	\$ 353,479	\$ 278,500	\$ 567,271	\$ 486,000
14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%	14.00%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)
Last Eight Fiscal Years (1)

	2024	2023	2022	2021
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>				
School's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability	0.0098328%	0.0108542%	0.0134740%	0.0115000%
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability	\$ 161,989	\$ 152,394	\$ 255,003	\$ 249,935
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 409,843	\$ 437,500	\$ 480,107	\$ 420,148
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	39.52%	34.83%	53.11%	59.49%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	30.02%	30.34%	24.08%	18.17%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>				
School's Proportion of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	0.00906867%	0.00761103%	0.00675400%	0.00615900%
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset)	\$ (176,373)	\$ (197,075)	\$ (142,403)	\$ (108,244)
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 1,224,893	\$ 989,471	\$ 833,429	\$ 743,314
School's Proportionate Share of the Net OPEB Liability/(Asset) as a Percentage of its Covered Payroll	-14.40%	-19.92%	-17.09%	-14.56%
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total OPEB Liability	168.52%	230.73%	174.73%	182.10%

(1) Information prior to 2017 is not available.

Note: The amounts presented for each fiscal year were determined as of the measurement date, which is the prior fiscal year.

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

2020	2019	2018	2017
0.0102440%	0.0063430%	0.0049914%	0.0068845%
\$ 257,618	\$ 175,961	\$ 133,956	\$ 196,233
\$ 382,978	\$ 234,496	\$ 158,721	\$ 226,821
67.27%	75.04%	84.40%	86.51%
15.57%	13.57%	12.46%	11.49%
0.00516100%	0.00310900%	0.00253323%	0.00533654%
\$ (85,479)	\$ (49,964)	\$ 98,837	\$ 285,400
\$ 605,950	\$ 353,479	\$ 278,500	\$ 567,271
-14.11%	-14.13%	35.49%	50.31%
174.70%	176.00%	47.10%	37.30%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of the School's Contributions - OPEB
Last Ten Fiscal Years

	2024	2023	2022	2021
<i>School Employees Retirement System (SERS)</i>				
Contractually Required Contribution (1)	\$ 2,913	\$ 2,886	\$ 1,354	\$ 4,646
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>(2,913)</u>	<u>(2,886)</u>	<u>(1,354)</u>	<u>(4,646)</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 527,036	\$ 409,843	\$ 437,500	\$ 480,107
OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (1)	0.55%	0.70%	0.31%	0.97%
<i>State Teachers Retirement System (STRS)</i>				
Contractually Required Contribution	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contributions in Relation to the Contractually Required Contribution	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>
School's Covered Payroll	\$ 1,209,636	\$ 1,224,893	\$ 989,471	\$ 833,429
OPEB Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

(1) Includes surcharge

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
\$ 2,177	\$ 3,755	\$ 2,329	\$ 2,060	\$ 1,266	\$ 3,224
<u>(2,177)</u>	<u>(3,755)</u>	<u>(2,329)</u>	<u>(2,060)</u>	<u>(1,266)</u>	<u>(3,224)</u>
<u><u>\$ -</u></u>					
\$ 420,148	\$ 382,978	\$ 234,496	\$ 158,721	\$ 226,821	\$ 253,642
0.52%	0.98%	0.99%	1.30%	0.56%	1.27%
 \$ -	 \$ 0				
<u><u>\$ -</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 0</u></u>				
<u><u>\$ -</u></u>					
\$ 743,314	\$ 605,950	\$ 353,479	\$ 278,500	\$ 567,271	\$ 486,000
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

See accompanying notes to the required supplementary information.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

NOTE 1 - NET PENSION LIABILITY

There were no changes in assumptions or benefit terms for the fiscal years reported unless otherwise stated below:

Changes in Assumptions - SERS

Amounts reported in 2022 incorporate changes in assumptions used by SERS in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation. These assumptions compared with those used in prior years are presented as follows:

	<u>Fiscal Year 2022</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2021-2017</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2016 and Prior</u>
Wage Inflation	2.40%	3.00%	3.25%
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25% to 13.58%	3.50% to 18.20%	4.00% to 22.00%
Investment Rate of Return	7.00% net of system expenses	7.50% net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.75% net of investment expenses, including inflation

Beginning in 2022, amounts reported use mortality rates based on the PUB-2010 General Employee Amount Weighted Below Median Healthy Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 1 year and adjusted 94.20 percent for males and set forward 2 years and adjusted 81.35 percent for females. Mortality among disabled members were based upon the PUB-2010 General Disabled Retiree mortality table projected to 2017 with ages set forward 5 years and adjusted 103.3 percent for males and set forward 3 years and adjusted 106.8 percent for females. Future improvement in mortality rates is reflected by applying the MP2020 projection scale generationally.

Beginning in fiscal year 2018, on each anniversary of the initial retirement, the allowance of all retirees and survivors may be increased by the annual rate of increase in the CPI-W measured as of the June preceding the beginning of the applicable calendar year. The annual rate of increase shall not be less than 0 percent nor greater than 2.5 percent.

Amounts report for 2017 through 2021 use mortality rates that are based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with fully generational projection and a five-year age set-back for both males and females. Amounts reported for fiscal year 2016 and prior, use mortality assumptions that are based on the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Table set back one year for both men and women. Special mortality tables were used for the period after disability retirement.

Changes in Benefit Terms - SERS

For fiscal year 2022, COLA were increased from 2.00 percent to 2.50 percent.

For fiscal year 2021, COLA were reduced from 2.50 percent to 2.00 percent.

For fiscal year 2018, the cost-of-living adjustment was changed from a fixed 3.00 percent to a cost-of-living adjustment that is indexed to CPI-W not greater than 2.50 percent with a floor of zero percent beginning January 1, 2018. In addition, with the authority granted the Board under HB 49, the Board has enacted a three-year COLA suspension for benefit recipients in calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Changes in Assumptions – STRS

Beginning with fiscal year 2022, amounts reported incorporate changes in assumptions and changes in benefit terms used by STRS in calculating the total pension liability in the latest actuarial valuation. These new assumptions compared with those used in fiscal years 2018-2021 and fiscal year 2017 and prior are presented as follows:

	<u>Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2021-2018</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2017 and Prior</u>
Inflation	2.50%	2.50%	2.75%
Projected Salary Increases	From 2.50% to 12.50% based on age	From 12.50% at age 20 to 2.50% at age 65	From 12.25% at age 20 to 2.75% at age 70
Investment Rate of Return, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00%	7.45%	7.75%
Payroll Increases	3.00%	3.00%	3.50%

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

Beginning with fiscal year 2018, post-retirement mortality rates for healthy retirees were based on the RP2014 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. 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. Pre-retirement mortality rates are based on RP-2014 Employee Mortality Table, projected forward generationally using mortality improvement scale MP-2016.

For fiscal year 2017 and prior actuarial valuation, mortality rates were based on the RP-2000 Combined Mortality Table (Projection 2022—Scale AA) for Males and Females. Males' ages are set-back two years through age 89 and no set back for age 90 and above. Females younger than age 80 are set back four years, one year set back from age 80 through 89, and no set back from age 90 and above.

Changes in Benefit Terms - STRS

For fiscal year 2023, the Board approved a one-time 3 percent COLA effective on the anniversary of a benefit recipient's retirement date for those eligible during fiscal year 2023 and eliminated the age 60 requirement to receive unreduced retirement that was scheduled to go into effect August 1, 2026.

For fiscal year 2018, the COLA was reduced to zero.

Fiscal year 2017 and prior, COLA was 2 percent simple applied as follows: for members retiring before August 1, 2013, 2 percent per year; for members retiring August 1, 2013 or later, 2 percent COLA commences on fifth anniversary of retirement date

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

NOTE 2 - NET OPEB LIABILITY (ASSET)

Changes in Assumptions – SERS

Amounts reported incorporate changes in assumptions and changes in benefit terms used by SERS in calculating the total OPEB liability in the latest actuarial valuation. These new assumptions compared with those used in fiscal year 2021 and prior are presented below:

	<u>Fiscal Years 2023 and 2022</u>	<u>Fiscal Years 2021-2017</u>
Inflation	2.40%	3.00%
Future Salary Increases, including inflation	3.25% to 13.58%	3.50% to 18.20%
Investment Rate of Return, net of investment expenses, including inflation	7.00%	7.50%

Amounts reported incorporate changes in key methods and assumptions used in calculating the total OPEB liability as presented as follows:

<u>Assumption</u>	<u>Fiscal Year</u>							
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Municipal Bond Index Rate	3.86%	3.69%	1.92%	2.45%	3.13%	3.62%	3.56%	2.92%
Single Equivalent Interest Rate, net of plan investment expense, including price inflation	4.27%	4.08%	2.27%	2.63%	3.22%	3.70%	3.63%	2.98%

Changes in Assumptions – STRS

For fiscal year 2023, the projected salary increases were changed from age based (2.5 percent to 12.50 percent) to service based (2.5 percent to 8.5 percent).

For fiscal year 2022, the discount rate was decreased from 7.45 percent to the long-term expected rate of return of 7.00.

For fiscal year 2019, the discount rate was increased from the blended rate of 4.13 percent to the long-term expected rate of return of 7.45.

For fiscal year 2018, the blended discount rate was increased from 3.26 percent to 4.13 percent. Valuation year per capita health care costs were updated, and the salary scale was modified. The percentage of future retirees electing each option was updated based on current data and the percentage of future disabled retirees and terminated vested participants electing health coverage were decreased. The assumed mortality, disability, retirement, withdrawal and future health care cost trend rates were modified along with the portion of rebated prescription drug costs.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology, and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Notes to the Required Supplementary Information
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2024

Changes in Benefit Terms – STRS

Effective January 1, 2024, Healthcare trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience as well as benefit changes.

For fiscal year 2023, health care trends were updated to reflect emerging claims and recoveries experience

For fiscal year 2022, there was no change to the claims costs process. Claim curves were updated to reflect the projected fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, premium based on June 30, 2021, enrollment distribution. The non-Medicare subsidy percentage was increased effective January 1, 2022, from 2.055 percent to 2.1 percent per year of service. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2022. The Medicare Part D Subsidy was updated to reflect it is expected to be negative in calendar year 2022. The Part B monthly reimbursement elimination date was postponed indefinitely

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

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

For fiscal year 2019, the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was increased from 1.9 percent to 1.944 percent per year of service effective January 1, 2019. The non-Medicare frozen subsidy base premium was increased effective January 1, 2019 and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 1, 2020.

For fiscal year 2018, the subsidy multiplier for non-Medicare benefit recipients was reduced from 2.1 percent to 1.9 percent per year of service. Medicare Part B premium reimbursements were discontinued for certain survivors and beneficiaries and all remaining Medicare Part B premium reimbursements will be discontinued beginning January 2019. This was subsequently extended, see above paragraph.

**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 Directors
Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County
3950 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*), the financial statements of the Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the "School") as of and for the year ended June 30, 2024, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the School's basic financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 26, 2025.

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered the School'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 opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the School's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the School'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 entity'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.

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise
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*
Page 2 of 2

Report on Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the School's financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

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'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's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rea & Associates, Inc." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rea & Associates, Inc.
Cleveland, Ohio
March 26, 2025

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

To the Board of Directors
Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise
Cuyahoga County, Ohio
3950 Prospect Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

We have audited Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise's (the "School"), Cuyahoga County, Ohio, compliance requirements identified as subject to audit in the OMB *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of the School's major federal programs for the year ended June 30, 2024. The School's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

In our opinion, the School 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, 2024.

Basis for Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

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

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

Responsibilities of Management for Compliance

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

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and
Report on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance
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requirements of laws, statutes, regulations, rules and provisions of contracts or grant agreements applicable to the School's federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibility 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'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'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'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'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'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

Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise
Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program and
Report on Internal Control Over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance
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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.
Cleveland, Ohio
March 26, 2025

CLEVELAND ACADEMY OF SCHOLARSHIP, TECHNOLOGY, AND LEADERSHIP ENTERPRISE
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

Federal Grantor/ Pass-Through Grantor/ Program Title	Assistance Listing #	Pass-through Agency Award Number	Grant Year	Expenditures	Amount Paid to Subrecipients
U. S. Department of Education					
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education & Workforce:</i>					
Title I-A Improving Basic Programs	84.010A	N/A	2023	\$ 21,004	\$ -
Title I-A Improving Basic Programs	84.010A	N/A	2024	140,698	-
Title I Non-Competitive	84.010A	N/A	2023	9,107	-
Title I Non-Competitive	84.010A	N/A	2024	58,027	-
Title I - Expanding Opportunities Grant	84.010A	N/A	2024	29,137	-
<i>Total Title I</i>				<u>257,973</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Special Education Cluster:</i>					
IDEA Part B	84.027A	N/A	2023	7,824	-
IDEA Part B	84.027A	N/A	2024	<u>74,882</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Total Special Education Cluster</i>				<u>82,706</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Education Stabilization Fund:</i>					
COVID-19: Education Stabilization Fund (ESSER II)	84.425D	N/A	2023	27,076	-
COVID-19: Education Stabilization Fund (ARP ESSER)	84.425U	N/A	2023	2,565	-
COVID-19: Education Stabilization Fund (ARP ESSER)	84.425U	N/A	2024	<u>477,081</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Total Education Stabilization Fund</i>				<u>506,722</u>	<u>-</u>
Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Achievement	84.424A	N/A	2024	10,611	-
Title IV-A - Stronger Connections	84.424F	N/A	2024	<u>9,500</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Total Title IV</i>				<u>20,111</u>	<u>-</u>
Title II-A Supporting Effective Instruction	84.367A	N/A	2023	2,015	-
Title II-A Supporting Effective Instruction	84.367A	N/A	2024	<u>10,839</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Total Title II-A</i>				<u>12,854</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Total U.S. Department of Education</i>				<u>880,366</u>	<u>-</u>
U. S. Department of Agriculture					
<i>Passed Through Ohio Department of Education & Workforce:</i>					
<i>Child Nutrition Cluster:</i>					
<i>Cash Assistance:</i>					
School Breakfast Program	10.553	N/A	2024	28,960	-
National School Lunch Program	10.555	N/A	2023	10,352	-
National School Lunch Program	10.555	N/A	2024	<u>77,112</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Total Child Nutrition Cluster</i>				<u>116,424</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Total U.S. Department of Agriculture</i>				<u>116,424</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE				<u>\$ 996,790</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this schedule.

CLEVELAND ACADEMY OF SCHOLARSHIP, TECHNOLOGY, AND LEADERSHIP ENTERPRISE
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO
NOTES TO THE SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
2 CFR 200.510(B)(6)
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

NOTE A - BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards (the Schedule) includes the federal award activity of Cleveland Academy of Scholarship, Technology and Leadership Enterprise, Cuyahoga County, Ohio (the School) under programs of the federal government for the year ended June 30, 2024. 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, it is not intended to and does not present the financial position, changes in net position, or cash flows of the School.

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

NOTE E - TRANSFER BETWEEN PROGRAM YEARS

The School generally must spend Federal assistance within 15 months of receipt. However with Ohio Department of Education & Workforce (ODEW) approval, the School can transfer (carry over) unspent Federal assistance to the succeeding year, thus allowing the School a total of 27 months to spend the assistance. During fiscal year 2024, the ODEW authorized the following transfers:

AL Number / Grant Title	Grant Year	Transfer Out	Transfer In
84.010A Title I	2023	\$ 708	
84.010A Title I	2024		\$ 708
84.367A Title II-A	2023	2,481	
84.367A Title II-A	2024		2,481
84.424A Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment	2023	1,594	
84.424A Title IV-A Student Support and Academic Enrichment	2024		1,594

CLEVELAND ACADEMY OF SCHOLARSHIP, TECHNOLOGY, AND LEADERSHIP ENTERPRISE
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
2 CFR §200.515
JUNE 30, 2024

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)?	No
(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): Education Stabilization Fund: COVID-19 – ESSER II /COVID-19 – ARP ESSER	AL # 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?	Yes

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

None were noted.

3. FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS FOR FEDERAL AWARDS

None were noted.

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OHIO AUDITOR OF STATE KEITH FABER



CLEVELAND ACADEMY OF SCHOLARSHIP, TECHNOLOGY & LEADERSHIP ENTERPRISE

CUYAHOGA 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 6/17/2025

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

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